Outpatient surgery, also known as ambulatory surgery, day surgery, day case surgery, or same-day surgery, is surgery that does not require an overnight hospital stay. Surgery patients may enter and exit the facility on the same day, hence the term "outpatient." Greater convenience and lower expenses are benefits of outpatient surgery over inpatient surgery. A self-contained unit within a hospital (also known as a hospital outpatient department), a freestanding self-contained unit (also known as an ambulatory surgical centre), a physician’s office, or another facility are all possible locations for outpatient surgery.

61 Outpatient surgeries have become more common in various nations during the late 20th and early 21st centuries. In 2012, 65% of hospital procedures in the United States were performed on an outpatient basis, up from 54% in 1992. Outpatient surgery is as safe as or even safer than inpatient surgery, according to studies. For instance, the likelihood of complications, the likelihood of post-operative hospitalisation or readmission, and the likelihood of pain and infection following outpatient surgery are all similar to those following inpatient surgery. Nevertheless, news articles have cast doubt on the safety of outpatient surgery conducted in ambulatory surgical facilities (such as those discussing Joan Rivers’ passing in 2014 after an outpatient treatment).

Ambulatory surgery centres, often referred to as outpatient surgery centres, same-day surgery centres, or surgicenters, are hospitals where surgical procedures are carried out without necessitating an overnight hospital stay. Typically, such operation is less difficult than those needing hospitalisation. Avoiding hospitalization can result in cost savings to the party responsible for paying for the patient’s health care.

These facilities focus on delivering outpatient surgery, including specific pain treatment and diagnostic procedures (such as eye muscle surgery). The services offered can generally be categorised as procedures. These can be regarded as procedures that are more involved than those carried out in the typical doctor’s office but not to the point where a hospital stay is necessary. A specialised hospital and an ambulatory surgery centre frequently offer comparable services and support comparable treatments. The same procedures or slightly more sophisticated ones may be provided by the speciality hospital, and the specialty hospital frequently permits an overnight stay. Patients who have not been admitted to the ASC for another operation are not often given access to emergency services by ASCs. Ambulatory surgery is expanding throughout the world and it is considered that at least 75%, if not more, of all operations/procedures will ultimately be carried out in ambulatory surgery centres/units.

Procedures

In the United States’ 5,300 ASCs as of 2011, physicians conducted more than 23 million procedures annually. Many treatments that were previously only carried out in hospitals started being performed in ASCs in the 1980s and 1990s. Currently, ASCs do a lot of procedures on the knee, shoulder, eyes, spine, and other body parts. As of 2016, the three most frequent procedures in ASCs in the United States covered by Medicare were colonoscopy with biopsy (6.8%), upper gastrointestinal endoscopy (8.2%), and cataract surgery with intraocular lens insert (18.7% of total operations).