

Northumbria Research Link

Citation: Crossland, David, Jackson, Sue, Hamilton, Leslie, Lyall, Rosalind, Hasan, Asif, Burn, John and O'Sullivan, John (2005) Patient attitudes to sternotomy and thoracotomy scars. *The Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon*, 53 (2). pp. 93-95. ISSN 0171-6425

Published by: Georg Thieme Verlag

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-2004-830422> <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-2004-830422>>

This version was downloaded from Northumbria Research Link:
<https://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/223/>

Northumbria University has developed Northumbria Research Link (NRL) to enable users to access the University's research output. Copyright © and moral rights for items on NRL are retained by the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. Single copies of full items can be reproduced, displayed or performed, and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided the authors, title and full bibliographic details are given, as well as a hyperlink and/or URL to the original metadata page. The content must not be changed in any way. Full items must not be sold commercially in any format or medium without formal permission of the copyright holder. The full policy is available online: <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/policies.html>

This document may differ from the final, published version of the research and has been made available online in accordance with publisher policies. To read and/or cite from the published version of the research, please visit the publisher's website (a subscription may be required.)



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE



UniversityLibrary

Patient Attitudes to Sternotomy and Thoracotomy Scars

D. S. Crossland, S. P. Jackson, R. Lyall, J. R. L. Hamilton, A. Hasan, J. Burn, J. J. O'Sullivan

Abstract

Background:

There are no data comparing patient attitudes to sternotomy and thoracotomy scars following surgery for congenital heart disease (CHD).

Methods:

Two hundred and one patients with a scar from CHD surgery (105 sternotomy, 36 thoracotomy, and 60 both scars) had a structured interview to explore attitudes to their scar.

Results:

Comparable proportions of each group reported that they did not like or hated their scar (23/105 [22 %] sternotomy, 9/36 [25 %] thoracotomy, 17/60 [28 %] both scars). Significantly more patients stated that they were embarrassed by and/or their choice of clothing was affected by a thoracotomy scar (20/36, 56 %) than those with a sternotomy scar (36/105, 34 %), $p = 0.04$. This was also seen when comparing sternotomy alone with both scars (36/105 [34 %] vs. 34/60 [57 %], $p = 0.008$).

Conclusions:

Adults who have undergone surgery for CHD are more likely to have a negative attitude to a thoracotomy than a sternotomy scar. Before a change in surgical approach is considered based on patient preferences, the acceptability and psychological impact of the different scars following surgery needs formal study.