The Effect of Prosthetic Joint Infection on Long-Term Work Status and Quality of Life
Katherine A Lygrisse, Caleigh Ann Pope, Nicholas Bedard1, Antonia F Chen, Ran Schwarzkopf2
1University of Iowa Health Care, 2NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital, Hospital For Joi

INTRODUCTION:
The impact of a prosthetic joint infection (PJI) and need for revision surgeries can be taxing on patients and effect their long-term ability to perform daily tasks and return to work. This study sought to determine the long-term effects PJI has on patients’ lives following primary total joint arthroplasty (TJA).

METHODS:
A retrospective review of 21,457 patients who underwent primary TJA from 2013-2019 was conducted. Patients who met the Musculoskeletal Infection Society (MSIS) criteria were included to answer a questionnaire regarding the effect PJI had on their work-status, mental status, and physical functioning. Questions were dichotomous (yes/no) or asked on a 3-point or 5-point Likert scale.

RESULTS:
There were 130 qualified patients and 30 completed the questionnaire (23.1%). Prior to their PJI, 17 patients worked (56.7%, 17/30) and after PJI, only 12 continued to work (70.6%, 12/17). Of the five that did not continue to work, two retired and three stated they were disabled due to their PJI (17.6%, 3/17). Of the 30 PJI patients, two were placed on formal disability due to their PJI (6.7%, 2/30). Concerning physical function, 20/30 patients rated their physical health as the same or better compared to before their PJI and 10/30 rated it as worse (66.7% and 33.3%, respectively). Thirty-three percent of patients stated they could completely carry out their daily activities (10/30), 23% mostly (7/30), 23% moderately (7/30), 16% a little (5/30), and 3% not at all (1/30). However, the majority stated that they could carry out their activities the same or better than prior to their PJI (70.0%, 21/30). In total, 10/30 patients wished they did not have their initial TJA (33.3%).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:
Two-thirds of PJI patients do not regret undergoing their initial TJA, but one-third do regret it after having a PJI. Overall, the majority of patients maintained their work-status and physical function post-PJI.