

**THE ECONOMICS OF MEDICAL TOURISM: RISKS, DRIVERS AND A FRAMEWORK FOR EXPORTING
JOINT REPLACEMENT**

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ABSTRACT

People are traveling in search of medical care, and recent reports in the media and in academic journals suggest that medical tourism represents a new era in healthcare. In this paper we aim to develop a framework to understand the possibilities and risks of medical tourism. In doing, so we will newly define Arthroplasty Tourism to describe a growing, specific subset of arthritic patients traveling for joint replacement. Next, using an economic model of comparative analysis to be called Healthcare 3.0, we will identify the current problems of surgery in healthcare, and solutions that are either viable or exaggerations. We will then elaborate on the drivers of Arthroplasty Tourism from a model of supply and demand. Finally, we identify the unique risks that need to be managed and the necessary operational components to create an inbound Arthroplasty Tourism program.

Keywords: *medical tourism, risk, joint replacement*