

The Cost of Maternity for Women in Orthopaedic Surgery

As the number of woman orthopaedic surgeons increases, the need for maternity leave guidelines grows

However, there is a dearth of literature on the maternity leave experiences of woman orthopaedic surgeons



Online survey completed by 801 female orthopaedic surgeons



Level of practice at conception



Lengths of leave offered and taken



Cost incurred

Overall, length of leave taken is higher than that given, and the costs are significant

Leave offered

Leave taken



Average 4 weeks per child



\$2,583 Saving per week



Average 8 weeks per child



\$3,252 Cost per week

While surgeons in training incur lower costs, they also return to work sooner

	During training		Completed training
	Resident	Fellow	Attending
 Average length of leave taken	Approx. 6 weeks per child	Approx. 8 weeks per child	Approx. 10 weeks per child
 Average cost incurred	Approx. \$154		Approx. \$45,350

There is no single solution to the maternity leave challenges faced by female orthopaedic surgeons and policies should be based on considerations of the complex practicalities of different surgeons