forms in routine clinical practice will not have been fully assessed.

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Competing interests: WH and NB have performed a trial of self-completed agenda forms in primary care with colleagues, which is yet to report.

The palliative role of orthopaedics

Orthopaedic procedures can help terminally ill patients and are underused

Palliative care for patients with cancer is well established and provides important benefits. Orthopaedic interventions in terminal care are, however, underused in the United Kingdom, despite the fact that conditions that are amenable to orthopaedic intervention occur often in the terminal stages of cancer. Though the evidence base for many orthopaedic palliative interventions is not strong, since there are no trials, clinical experience and expert consensus opinion suggest that such interventions can ease the