Aim: To assess the validity and cover rate of the Swedish hernia register.

Material and Methods: Annual validation of the Swedish Hernia Register has been carried out since the start in 1992 and since 2013 in a more standardized way to allow a systematic data collection and evaluation. 10% of all participating units are randomly selected each year in a specific region of Sweden, ensuring a systematic validation of all regions from North to South. Data from 2013 to 2018 was analyzed regarding data quality and from 2014 to 2018 regarding cover rate. All operations registered at the validated clinics was checked against the Swedish Hernia Register to assess cover rate. 50 operations were randomly selected at each clinic and data in the Swedish Hernia register was compared to the medical records to evaluate data quality.

Results: In total 55 participating units were evaluated and 73764 variables compared to medical records. Cover rate between 2014 to 2018 was 97% and proportion of correct variables was 98%. Most frequent errors where ASA-grade, date at which the patient was put on the waiting list and postoperative complications.

Conclusions: This unique validation of a national hernia register show a high cover rate and good quality of data. Efforts to maintain and improve national registers are of great importance. Research with data from the Swedish hernia register should be evaluated on the basis of the results presented in this study.