Meta-analysis reveals considerable room for improving patient satisfaction following total hip arthroplasty (THA)

Looking at 100 studies (38,526 patients), researchers found that excellent satisfaction was obtained in only approximately half of patients.

Study design

To determine the proportion of patients satisfied after THA, a systematic literature review was conducted of relevant clinical studies published from 2007 onwards with >10 patients undergoing this procedure.

From 3,165 publications identified using the Embase and PubMed search engines, 100 were considered eligible (38,526 patients): 61 identified ‘satisfied’ patients only, eight ‘very satisfied’ patients only, 26 identified both ‘satisfied’ and ‘very satisfied’ patients, and five identified patients reporting ‘excellent’ satisfaction.

Researchers then performed a proportional meta-analysis using a random effects model, with the final results presented as proportions and 95% confidence intervals.

Key results

- Proportion of patients considering themselves ‘satisfied,’ ‘very satisfied,’ or as having ‘excellent’ results are provided in the accompanying Figure.

Conclusion

Although patients are generally satisfied after THA, results from this meta-analysis indicate that there is a meaningful population of approximately 6.3% who are dissatisfied. Even among patients who are satisfied, just over half consistently rated their THA as ‘excellent’. This indicates that there remains considerable room for further improving satisfaction scores, which could have wide-ranging implications including improved surgical outcomes, higher reimbursement, enhanced engagement with health care services, and increased patient loyalty.

Study citation

*Davis E, Saunders C. Patient Satisfaction after Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty: Can the Bar be Raised? A Systematic Literature and Meta-Analysis. Poster presented at: 2nd World Arthroplasty Congress; April 19-21, 2018; Rome, Italy.
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**Significant improvements in patient satisfaction**

with an approximately 20% relative increase in patients who rated their satisfaction as excellent following THR with POLARSTEM when compared to all other cementless stems (p = <0.001), as reported by the UK National Joint Registry of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

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