



Landmark Study Dispels Hip Implant Myth

Conventional hip implants *can* last 30 years and beyond, according to one of the longest running medical device research programmes on record.

Stryker UK monitored the progress of patients who received their Exeter hip replacement in the early 1970s, with results showing that, into the 33rd year of follow-up, there was a nine out of ten survivorship rate for the hip (91.46%) using revision for aseptic stem loosening as the end point.

In another study tracking the progress of patients who received the updated Exeter Universal hip, 100% of the stems were still intact into the fifteenth year of follow-up.

The results exceed the success rates of those deemed 'best' by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) which says that 90% of hip implants should last at least 10 years.

"These are quite remarkable outcomes that, for the first time, prove beyond doubt that conventional hip implants can be effective

and long lasting which is great news for patients – particularly younger people," said Peter Bradley Managing Director of Stryker UK.

The study was undertaken by researchers working at the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Centre in Exeter, UK, where the prosthesis was designed and developed in 1969. Commenting on the implications of the ongoing research Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Mr Graham Gie said that, with appropriate surgical techniques and positioning of the device, there was every reason to believe the majority of Exeter implants would last more than 30 years.

Details of the clinical data will be presented to surgeons from around the world attending a symposium on the Exeter implant at the Princess Elizabeth Centre on June 20th and 21st when computer navigation will be discussed. Surgeons at the Centre are to start using computer navigated surgery to place the Exeter hip implant

more accurately.

Navigation has the potential to make the positioning of components more consistent and reduce the likelihood of the patient requiring revision surgery in the future.

"Surgeons have taken this unique device with a proven track record stretching back 33-years and, for the benefit of the patient, combined it with state of the art technology," said Peter Bradley. "This is a great example of the way Stryker is continually looking to increase, even further, the reliability of the Exeter hip replacement."

This year will see the 500,000th person (worldwide) benefiting from an Exeter hip the basic design of which has remained substantially unchanged since 1969.

The success of implanting the Exeter in younger patients finally dispels the myth that conventional hip replacements are short term and temporary and should only be used with older patients.