

Revision Total Hip Replacement

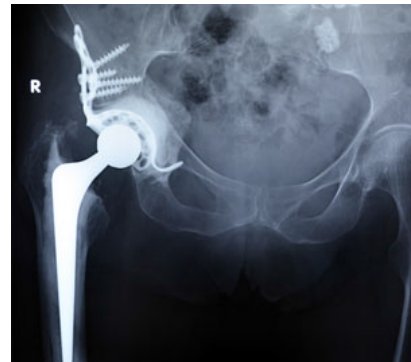


A Total Hip Replacement (THR) has been one of the most successful operations in treating the pain of arthritis and restoring mobility and level of function. While THR is a durable operation in the majority of patients, a hip replacement is a mechanical device with parts that are assembled before and during the operation and as with any other mechanical device, a total hip replacement can be subject to various forms of mechanical or biological failure. Some of these conditions may require a re-operation to replace part or all of the THR components and this is known as a revision.

The majority of THR have a life-span of 15-20 years and most patients who have a THR retain it for life. However THR performed at a younger age, complications such as loosening, infection, fracture or recurrent dislocation and premature failure of some devices eg metal-on-metal components require earlier revision.

The main influence of success of a revision THR is to have a thorough understanding of the mechanical and biological reasons why the primary THR failed. During your review you may need multiple blood tests, xrays, CT scan, bone scan, biopsy or other tests to diagnose the reason behind the failure of the primary THR.

A revision THR is typically performed under general or spinal anaesthesia. Surgery is usually performed through the same incision but may need some extension. It is a more complex procedure, during revision surgery, the surgeon may need to remove or exchange one or more parts of the hip replacement. The parts that are not attached to the bone can be safely exchanged with minimal to no removal of the patient's bone. However, if the metallic parts in contact with the bone need to be changed, some bone loss generally occurs. Often because there is a reduced amount of bone to place the new total hip into. Extra bone may be required and this is usually received from a bone bank (specially treated and processed donor bone) or artificial bone substitute may be required. Special instruments and components including custom made components may be required depending on the amount of deformity and damage. Revision total hip replacement takes longer than a standard total hip replacement and has a slightly higher complication rate. The prosthesis may also not last as long as a primary hip replacement.



Many surgeons who perform primary THR do not perform revision procedures due to their complexity. Dr Khatib has undertaken subspecialist training in the field of revision hip and knee replacement at a world famous centre, St Michael's Hospital, in Toronto, Canada. If you already have a THR and you are developing symptoms in your hip we recommend that you present to your local general practitioner for review and if appropriate a referral can be made to Dr Khatib for review at one of our practice locations.