Safe Activity participation Following Elective Total hip replacement – SafeT

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INTRODUCTION: Total hip replacement (THR) is one of the most common elective surgeries performed, with increasing demand among younger patients as survivorship improves. Few evidence-based guidelines exist to guide recommendations on safe activity participation following THR. The purpose of this prospective study was to identify whether intensity of physical activity following THR was associated with pain, functional outcome scores, or early revision surgery within 10 years of the index procedure.

METHODS: This study was approved by the institutional review board, and all patients provided informed consent. A novel parallel-design prospective cohort study consisted of two groups undergoing THR: one recruited pre-operatively (Cohort 1), and another at 5-7 years post-op (Cohort 2). Each group was followed for five years. Demographic variables including age, gender and BMI were included, surgical data were collected, and activity data including duration and intensity of activities (categorized A to F, with increasing intensity and complexity of motion), PROMs, and pain scores were recorded at each visit. The primary outcome was a change in hip pain with increasing activity intensity; secondary outcomes included decreased activity duration, increased revisions, or a change in PROMs with respect to specific activities.

RESULTS SECTION: 1098 patients were included in this study (Cohort 1: 588 patients, Cohort 2: 510 patients). A regression analysis showed no significant interaction between activity intensity, hip pain, and temporal variables. 15.6% of participants participated in the highest intensity activities (Category E and F). Participants undertaking high-intensity activity showed no significant decrease in activity duration over time, no change in PROMs, and no increased revision rates compared to other groups. Analysis of individual activities revealed that certain activities (snowboarding, squash, tennis, and backpacking) were more strongly correlated with hip pain, while others (snorkeling, swimming, home weights, aquafit, cross-country skiing, sledding) were strongly negatively correlated with hip pain. Based on this regression, activities were reclassified by their risk of being associated with hip pain (Figure 1). Data were represented visually using an online Tableau.

DISCUSSION: In conclusion, this study showed that most activities are safe for participation following THR. Participation in higher intensity activities was not associated with worse hip pain or outcomes.

SIGNIFICANCE/CLINICAL RELEVANCE: Surgeons can counsel patients that certain activities (snowboarding, squash, tennis, and backpacking) may be associated with hip pain, but not an increased 10-year revision rate.

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IMAGES AND TABLES:

