Assessment of adult hip dysplasia and the outcome of surgical treatment

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LIST OF PAPERS
The doctoral thesis is based on the following papers, referred to in the text by Roman numerals (I-VII):

I. Troelsen A, Rømer L, Kring S, Elmengaard B, Søballe K. Assessment of hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis: Variability of different methods. Acta Radiol 2010;51:187-193.

II. Troelsen A, Jacobsen S, Rømer L, Søballe K. Weightbearing anteroposterior pelvic radiographs are recommended in DDH assessment. Clin Orthop Relat Res 2008;466:813-819.

III. Troelsen A, Rømer L, Jacobsen S, Ladelund S, Søballe K. Cranial acetabular retroversion is common in DDH in the weightbearing position. Acta Orthop 2010;81(4):436-441.

IV. Troelsen A, Jacobsen S, Bolvig L, Gelineck J, Rømer L, Søballe K. Ultrasound versus MR arthrography in acetabular labral tear diagnostics. Acta Radiol 2007;48:1004-1010.

V. Troelsen A, Mechlenburg I, Gelineck J, Bolvig L, Jacobsen S, Søballe K. What is the role of clinical tests and ultrasound in acetabular labral tear diagnostics? Acta Orthop 2009;80:314-318.

VI. Troelsen A, Elmengaard B, Søballe K. Medium-term outcome of periacetabular osteotomy and predictors of conversion to total hip replacement. J Bone Joint Surg Am 2009;91:2169-2179.

VII.Mechlenburg I, Nyengaard JR, Gelineck J, Søballe K, Troelsen A Cartilage thickness in the hip joint measured by MRI and stereology before and after periacetabular osteotomy. Clin Orthop Relat Res 2010;468:1884-1890.

ABSTRACT
Hip dysplasia and hip joint deformities in general are recognized as possible precursors of osteoarthritic development. Early and correct identification of hip dysplasia is important in order to offer timely joint preserving treatment. In the contemporary literature, several controversies exist, and some of these were the focus of this doctoral thesis. Categorized into subjects, the major findings and their possible importance are listed below.

Diagnostic assessment of hip dysplasia
A multi-observer study quantified the variability of different methods for diagnostic assessment of hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis and resulted in general recommendations regarding diagnostic assessment of hip dysplasia. Pelvic tilt was shown to differ significantly between the supine and weight-bearing positions in patients with dysplastic hip joints. This is a finding that adds controversy to the application of neutral pelvic positioning during assessment of hip deformities because pelvic tilt affects the appearance of acetabular version. Weight-bearing assessment of acetabular version showed the presence of retroversion in 33% of dysplastic hips. The establishment of retroversion as a rather frequent entity in dysplastic hips is contradictory to the historical finding that hip dysplasia is characterized by insufficient anterior and lateral coverage. In general, the findings have important implications for orthopedic surgeons and radiologists dealing with diagnostic assessment of painful hips in young adults, and for surgeons planning and performing joint-preserving periacetabular osteotomies.

Assessment of acetabular labral tears in hip dysplasia
The roles of ultrasound and clinical tests in acetabular labral tear diagnostics were established. After overcoming an initial learning curve, ultrasound investigation was highly reliable in diagnosing labral tears, whereas only a positive impingement or FABER test was reliable in identifying a labral tear. It seems that non-invasive and rapid ultrasound examination performed by an experienced examiner can potentially alter the traditional diagnostic algorithm in which magnetic resonance arthrography remains the gold standard.

Periacetabular osteotomy for surgical treatment of hip dysplasia in adults
Encouraging hip joint survival and clinical outcome were reported at medium-term follow-up after periacetabular osteotomy. The small number of studies reporting the outcome beyond a 5-year follow-up is in contrast to the wide application of the periacetabular osteotomy. The performed analysis of predictors of

conversion to total hip replacement following periacetabular osteotomy documented the importance of different biomechanical and degenerative factors. Knowledge about factors predicting early conversion to total hip replacement has the potential to refine patient selection and to improve treatment by periacetabular osteotomy. Cartilage thickness was documented to be preserved up to 2½ years after periacetabular osteotomy. All but 1 hip joint had acetabular labral tears, thus indicating that the presence of labral tears does not accelerate cartilage degeneration after periacetabular osteotomy.

1. INTRODUCTION

In 1939, Wiberg outlined a new paradigm for hip dysplasia research (1). He called attention to hip dysplasia as a possible precursor of premature osteoarthritic development. Among the most important contributors to this paradigm in the half century that followed were Stulberg and Harris, Cooperman et al., Hasegawa et al., and Murphy et al., who all investigated the suggestions of Wiberg on the association between hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis (2-6).

The understanding that structural hip deformity may cause osteoarthritis was also the focus of other important research of the 1960s. Murray, followed by Solomon and Harris, suggested that structural hip deformities of the proximal femur (i.e. pistol grip deformities) were associated with osteoarthritic development (7-12). The understanding that proximal femoral and acetabular deformities give rise to disturbed biomechanics and early degeneration has been addressed by Ganz and colleagues by introducing the concept of femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) (13-14).

Contemporary research into hip dysplasia was founded by the introduction of the periacetabular osteotomy (PAO) for the treatment of symptomatic hip dysplasia in adults by Ganz and colleagues in 1988 (15). The systematic understanding of the role of the acetabular labrum and of the pathological biomechanics characterizing the dysplastic hip joint was initiated by a description of the "acetabular rim syndrome" by Klaue et al. a few years later (35). Research efforts have been progressive, but more than 20 years later controversies and unanswered questions still exist.

The aims of the studies presented in this doctoral thesis were inspired by these controversies, unanswered questions, and questions not yet asked in the contemporary research on hip dysplasia. Diagnostic assessment and treatment of structural hip deformity make a thorough radiographic understanding an important tool. In this thesis focus has been on the contemporary controversies of reliability of radiographic assessment, optimal positioning of the patient for pelvic radiography and assessment, and acetabular retroversion in hip dysplasia and the issues related to the dependence of these factors on pelvic positioning (I-III). In accordance with the present intense interest in labral pathology of, the aim of part of the research has been to ascertain the possible role of ultrasound and clinical examination in acetabular labral tear diagnostics (IV-V). Based on a 20-year follow-up of periacetabular osteotomies, it seems that the procedure can successfully preserve selected dysplastic hip joints (73). However, few data about the medium- and long-term efficacy of PAO have been forthcoming, and knowledge about predictors of outcome following this major surgical procedure remains sparse. These subjects and the role of acetabular labral tears for the outcome of treatment of hip dysplasia have been investigated in this doctoral thesis (VI-VII).

Figure 2.1.
A section of an anteroposterior pelvic radiograph showing the right hip. Hip dysplasia is present, and the center-edge angle of Wiberg is ≤20°.

2. A SHORT OVERVIEW OF HIP DYSPLASIA

2.1 Pathoanatomy and pathological biomechanics

Hip dysplasia is characterized by a steep and shallow acetabulum and insufficient acetabular coverage of the femoral head (Figure 2.1). Because of the decreased area of acetabular and femoral head contact, load forces on the joint increase. Acetabular structural change is often transmitted distally during development, and excessive femoral neck anteversion and varying degrees of coxa valga can result (30-34,38-40). To further complicate the 3-dimensional pathoanatomy of hip dysplasia, it has been documented that varying degrees of acetabular retroversion coexist in as many as 40% of the hips (41-42).

For decades it has been speculated that hip joint deformity could cause osteoarthritis (2-12). During the past decade, knowledge of the pathologically altered biomechanics caused by hip deformities and which lead to osteoarthritis of the hip joint has grown exponentially. The biomechanical concept of FAI has been introduced, and it is now commonly accepted that repeated collisions between the acetabular rim and the femoral head or femoral head-neck junction with time cause tearing of the labrum and subsequent joint deterioration (13,14,17-28). Hip dysplasia is one of the hip deformities found to be associated with FAI and osteoarthritic development. General joint instability and a shearing kind of impingement may cause repeated, chronic overload of the acetabular rim, with possible tearing of the labrum and subsequent destruction of adjacent cartilage. In classical cases, the lack of coverage has an anterolateral location, and this is the most frequent location of labral tears in dysplastic hips (35-37).

2.2 Epidemiology and risk of osteoarthritis

Few population-based prevalence estimates of hip joint deformities including hip dysplasia exist (45-47,52). Gosvig et al. and Jacobsen et al. report population-based prevalence estimates of hip dysplasia by studying the Copenhagen Osteoarthritis Substudy with 4151 included individuals (47,52). Standardized weightbearing anteroposterior (AP) pelvic radiographs were obtained, and using a center-edge (CE) angle of ≤ 20° as radiographic cut-off Gosvig et al. reported hip dysplasia in 4.3 % of males and 3.6 % of females (52). These prevalences of hip dysplasia are grossly similar to that previously reported in both sexes (45-46).

The evidence that hip dysplasia can cause osteoarthritic development through pathologically altered biomechanics resulting in labral tearing is primarily derived from clinical observations in small, highly selected cohorts (16,34-37,56-58). In a study of 96 symptomatic dysplastic hip joints, Jessel et al. identified the presence of an acetabular labral tear as an independent predictor of substantial osteoarthritis (62). A few population-based risk estimates of osteoarthritic development in dysplastic hip joints exist. Reijman et al. (60) and Lane et al. (61) performed prospective population-based cohort studies. Lane et al. (61) claimed increased risk (OR: 3.3) of incident hip osteoarthritis in elderly (all > 65 years) white women with mild dysplasia (CE-angle < 30°). In the study hip dysplasia was defined as a CE angle <30°, which is not coherent with the commonly accepted cut-off values of 20° or 25° used in clinical and epidemiological studies, and only 3 subjects in the study had a CE angle < 25°.Reijman et al. (60) found an increased risk (OR: 2.4) of incident hip osteoarthritis in male and female subjects ≥ 55 years old with hip dysplasia (CE-angle < 25°). Jacobsen et al. (47,59) have previously identified hip dysplasia as a significant risk factor for osteoarthritic development in the cross-sectional population-based study setting of the Copenhagen Osteoarthritis Substudy. In the same setting Gosvig el al. (52) established risk estimates of hip dysplasia and other major hip deformities and adjusted for the risk induced by other hip deformities, which had not been done in previous studies (47,59-61). Acetabular dysplasia showed a risk ratio of 1.6, but it fell short of being a significant risk factor given the predefined level of significance (p=0.053).

Based on the results of clinical and epidemiological studies it is commonly acknowledged that hip dysplasia is associated with an increased risk of joint overload, shearing impingement, labral tearing and development of osteoarthritis. The structural deformity of hip dysplasia is considered the major contributor to the increased risk of osteoarthritis. However, it should be acknowledged that in the context of hip dysplasia a greater understanding is needed of risk factors (intrinsic and extrinsic) that can help explain why some individuals live a life span without osteoarthritic development and others develop early osteoarthritis.

2.3 The range of hip deformities

When evaluating patients with hip or groin pain the radiographic assessment of structural hip deformity is very important. An assessment should address all structural deformities. The range of hip deformities found to be associated with FAI and osteoarthritic development include hip dysplasia, a deep acetabular socket, acetabular retroversion, and pistol grip deformity of the proximal femur (14,22,29,52).

A deep acetabular socket is seen in coxa profunda and protrusio acetabuli. There is global overcoverage of the femoral head, and collisions take place between the femoral neck and the acetabular rim. The mechanism is named "pincer" type FAI, in which direct damage to the labrum occurs in the anterior part of the joint. Secondary contrecoup-like chondral damage in the posteroinferior part of the acetabulum can be seen due to leverage of the head into the acetabulum. Focal overcoverage, as seen in the acetabular retroversion, can also cause collisions between the femoral neck and the acetabular rim at the site of overcoverage. An aspherical shape of the femoral head with a prominence extending beyond the anterolateral femoral head-neck junction is characteristic of the deformity underlying "cam" type FAI. It is named a pistol grip deformity because of its appearance on anteroposterior (AP) radiographs. The head-neck offset is reduced, and the relative prominence of the head-neck junction is jammed into the acetabulum. Distinct from the damage pattern in pincer FAI is that cam FAI initially produces a progressive chondral delamination starting at the junction between the labrum and cartilage (13,14,17-28,43,44).

Only few population-based prevalence estimates of hip joint deformities exist: An overall prevalence of pistol grip deformity of 8% has been reported in an investigation of 2655 human skeletons (48). Population-based prevalence estimates by Gosvig et al. show that pistol grip deformity is predominantly a male condition (19.6% of males vs. 5.2% of females) with a male to female ratio of approximately 4:1 (52). A deep acetabular socket was found to be a common hip joint deformity in both sexes, with prevalences of 15.2% in males and 19.4% in females (52).

The evidence that these hip joint deformities can cause osteoarthritic development through FAI mechanisms is primarily derived from clinical observations in small, highly selected cohorts (13,14,18-28,53,55-58,64-66). However, in the population-based setting a deep acetabular socket (risk ratio: 2.4), and pistol grip deformity (risk ratio: 2.2) has been identified as significant risk factors for the development of osteoarthritis (52).

3. DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT OF HIP DYSPLASIA

3.1. Errors in the diagnostic assessment of hip dysplasia

Patients with symptomatic hip dysplasia may benefit from joint preserving surgery (67). Therefore, identification of these young adult patients is an important task. Delay of diagnosis may result in progression of joint degeneration into an advanced stage necessitating hip replacement surgery. Assessment of hip dysplasia includes the patient history, clinical examination, and radiographic evaluation. The AP pelvic radiograph is the traditional cornerstone of initial conventional radiographic assessment of any hip deformity (I-III). For clinical use it should be supplemented with a cross-table or frog-leg lateral view of each hip. On the AP pelvic radiograph, the most commonly used radiographic indices for assessment of hip dysplasia are the CE angle of Wiberg and the acetabular index angle of Tönnis (1,68). However, several radiographic indices can be used to describe the degree of hip dysplasia (2,4,69-71). It is widely accepted that a CE angle <25° is diagnostic of hip dysplasia in symptomatic patients in a clinical setting. A CE angle of >20° <25° is often referred to as borderline dysplasia. The cut-off value of ≤20°corresponds approximately to the lower limit of 2 standard deviations from the mean value in the population (52). Thus, this cut-off is used in the epidemiological setting of population-based surveys (47,52,59). It is also commonly accepted that an AI angle >10° is pathological. Initial assessment of osteoarthritis is important because hips with advanced stages of osteoarthritis are not candidates for joint-preserving surgery (72-74, VI). In the literature pertaining to the treatment of hip dysplasia, osteoarthritis has classically been assessed by means of the Tönnis classification (0-3) or less frequently by measuring the minimum joint space width (JSW) (72-74, VI). Computed tomography (CT) scans represent a high diagnostic standard in the assessment of hip dysplasia and aid the surgeon during preoperative planning.

Table 3.1. Agreement between assessed parameters on conventional radiographs and on CT-scan.

Observer	Parameters	Assessment of parameters vs. CT scan: Observed agreement	Weighted kappa value
No. 1	Presence of hip dysplasia (by vision)?	82%	0.62
	Presence of hip dysplasia (lines drawn)?	86%	0.71
	Presence of joint space width <2mm?	92%	0.46
	Grading osteoarthritis 0-3?	40%	0.14
	Grading osteoarthritis 0-1 vs. 2-3?	72%	0.20
No. 2	Presence of hip dysplasia (by vision)?	90%	0.80
	Presence of hip dysplasia (lines drawn)?	78%	0.55
	Presence of joint space width <2mm?	86%	0.30
	Grading osteoarthritis 0-3?	36%	-0.02
	Grading osteoarthritis 0-1 vs. 2-3?	82%	0.36
No. 3	Presence of hip dysplasia (by vision)?	80%	0.60
	Presence of hip dysplasia (lines drawn)?	84%	0.68
	Presence of joint space width < 2mm?	92%	0.46
	Grading osteoarthritis 0-3?	56%	0.25
	Grading osteoarthritis 0-1 vs. 2-3?	86%	0.39
No. 4	Presence of hip dysplasia (by vision)?	82%	0.64
	Presence of hip dysplasia (lines drawn)?	88%	0.76
	Presence of joint space width < 2mm?	88%	0.35
	Grading osteoarthritis 0-3?	60%	0.33
	Grading osteoarthritis 0-1 vs. 2-3?	84%	0.34

When assessing conventional AP pelvic radiographs for the presence of hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis, it is important to realize that assessment of the commonly used parameters has inherent intra- and inter-observer variability (75-79, II). This has implications for the intra- and intraobserver interpretation of the diagnosis of hip dysplasia and the degree of hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis. Because of these variations, opinions on the indication for joint-preserving surgery may vary.

Troelsen et al. (I) conducted a blinded, 4-observer study with each observer performing 2 assessments by vision and 2 assessments by angle construction in 50 hip joints. All measures were compared to those made on CT scan. The intra- and inter-observer variability of angle assessment was less when angles were constructed compared with assessment by vision. Intra-observer variability was confined within approximately ± 10° for assessment by vision and within approximately ± 5° to ± 7° for assessment by angle construction. Inter-observer assessments showed slightly higher variability, and a similar difference between assessments by vision and by angle construction. The observers' ability to diagnose hip dysplasia were in general improved when angles were constructed compared with assessment by vision. Assessment of osteoarthritis in general showed poor agreement with findings on CT scan, with assessment of a JSW <2mm and a dichotomized grading of the Tönnis classification in grades 0-1 and 2-3 showing the best agreement with findings on CT scan (Table 3.1). Previous studies have reported measures of intraobserver variability of the CE and AI angle of approximately ± 5° (75,79, II), which is comparable to the findings by Troelsen et al.(I). Other studies that investigated the intra- and interobserver variability for angle measures used in assessment of hip dysplasia reported the results as intraclass coefficients, which does not convey information on the actual magnitude of the variability (77,78). A Bland-Altman approach should be the means of presenting these data (105,106). The study by Troelsen et al. (I) is the first to report the variability of angle assessment by vision, and to compare the findings on conventional radiographs to that on CT scans. Troelsen et al. (I) confirmed that assessment of hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis is very reliable on CT scans, and previous studies have found similar satisfactory levels of intraobserver variability (33,34).

Some general methodological problems are involved in the assessment of angles in pelvic radiographs: Identification of anatomical landmarks may be difficult, and methods may vary between observers. This will add variability to measurements, and this is probably the reason why the inherent variability of ± 5° cannot be diminished significantly. Standardized protocols for the radiographic assessment may assist multiple observers with different experiences in achieving acceptable variability (76, I). In studies investigating the ability of observers to diagnose pathomorphologies on conventional radiographs, this inherent, increased focus on their presence may lead to more positive findings than are actually present. As an example Clohisy, et al. reported that 64% of radiographic and clinical normal hips were diagnosed as having a pathomorphological finding in a multi-observer study (76). Finally, the radiographic diagnostic assessment of hip pathomorphologies should always be evaluated in a clinical context with knowledge of the patient's medical history and the findings on clinical examination. This likely has the potential to improve the ability to correctly diagnose hip deformities, but it has not been done in radiographic reliability studies (76, I).

In conclusion, any observer, regardless of his or her level of experience, should refrain from assessment of radiographic angles using only vision. This will result in an unacceptably high variability of angle measures and a poorer ability to correctly diagnose the presence of hip dysplasia (I). One should be aware of the inherent variability of approximately ± 5° for angle measures used in the diagnostic assessment of hip dysplasia (75,79, I, II), and as a consequence consider reevaluation by CT scan in symptomatic patients in whom a CE angle of 20° to 30° has been measured on conventional pelvic radiographs (I). Angle measurements of hip dysplasia performed on a CT scan by a senior consultant radiologist represent a high radiographic standard with diminishment of variability between measurements to approximately ± 3° and excellent agreement between assessments of the presence of hip dysplasia (I). Measurement of the JSW or a dichotomized assessment of the Tönnis grade should be preferred for the most reliable assessment of osteoarthritis (I).

3.2. Weightbearing or supine assessment of hip dysplasia?

Not only intra- and interobserver variability of radiographic assessment can affect the interpretation of radiographs. The position of the pelvis during recording has also been hypothesized to affect the interpretation of AP radiographic indices (II). Previous studies have shown that AP radiographic indices of hip dysplasia are not affected beyond inherent measuring errors unless the pelvis is excessively rotated or tilted (79-81). Siebenrock et al. reported an easily understood relationship between the degree of pelvic tilt and the appearance of acetabular version on AP pelvic radiographs (82). Based on the finding of such a relationship, it has been recommended that pelvises be neutrally positioned in the supine position for radiographic assessment of acetabular deformities (82). Accordingly, well-defined limits for neutral pelvic positioning have been published and are now applied in studies pertaining to AP radiographic assessment of the

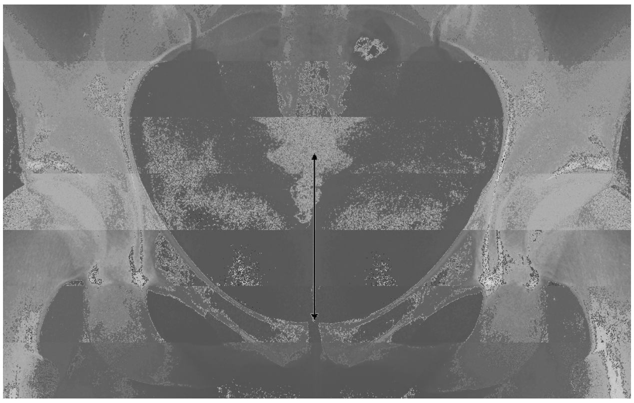

Figure 3.1.
A section of an anteroposterior pelvic radiograph showing both hip joints. The line with arrowheads marks the distance from the symphysis to the sacrococcygeal joint.

acetabular version (82-86). Clearly, the application of neutral pelvic positioning is only meaningful if pelvic tilt is not affected significantly by differing patient positioning within the physiological range of motion (i.e. repositioning from supine to weightbearing position). However, in the literature, there has been controversy regarding the effect of change of position from supine to weightbearing on pelvic tilt (87-93). Traditionally, AP pelvic radiographs have been recorded with patients in the supine position.

Troelsen et al. assessed AP radiographic indices of hip dysplasia, pelvic tilt, and acetabular version in 31 sets of supine and weightbearing pelvic radiographs (II). Small mean reductions in the CE angle (1.3° – 1.6°) and small mean increases in the AI angle (1.6° – 2.3°) were observed when repositioning from the supine to the weightbearing position. However, the changes in angle measures were contained within the inherent intraobserver variability (III). Fuchs-Winkelmann et al. (94) assessed 61 sets of supine and weightbearing radiographs, and reported a marginally bigger, significant reduction in the CE angle (3.6°) when repositioning than did Troelsen et al. Intra- and interobserver variability measures were, however, expressed by Pearson's correlation coefficients, leaving no possibility to assess the actual magnitude of the variability. Fuchs-Winkelmann et al. observed a significant mean reduction in JSW of 0.49 mm after repositioning (94). Troelsen et al. observed a significant reduction in male left hips of 0.67 mm on repositioning (II). Still, the measure in both studies is confined within the observed intra-observer variability of the JSW (II). Overall and in females, Troelsen et al. did not observe significant changes on repositioning, and this is supported by findings in other studies (95,96, II). Troelsen et al. did not find any relevant femoral head translation after repositioning from the supine to the weightbearing position (II).

Several studies have evaluated the effect of repositioning (i.e. from supine to weightbearing) on changes in pelvic tilt (Table 3.2). Using varying methods for assessment of change in pelvic tilt, some studies report no significant changes (87,90,92) and others a significant extension (backward rotation or reclination) of the pelvis of approximately 4° to 8° (88,89,91,93). To support the notion that pelvic mobility is rarely excessive during repositioning, Nishihara et al. and Babisch et al. found that pelvic tilt did not exceed a change of 10° in 90% and 83% of their cases, respectively (87,90,93). Using an indirect measure of change in pelvic tilt, Troelsen et al. reported a significant change in pelvic tilt of 13° to 14° in females and 6° to 7° in males after repositioning (II).

Table 3.2. Studies evaluating the effect of repositioning on changes in pelvic tilt

Study	No. of patients (females/males)	Description of patients	Method of assessment	Results (diff. supine to weightbearing)	Conclusion
Anda et al. 1990 (87)	40 (27/13)	Healthy young adults	Pelvic inclinometer	Females: Extension: 2.3° Males: Extension: 0.4°	No significant change[a]
Konishi et al. 1993 (88)	54 (27/27)	Normal subjects 15-79 years	Lateral x-rays correlated with AP x-rays	Females: Extension: 5° Males: Extension 5°	Significant change (p<.0001)
Eddine et al. 2001 (89)	24 (9/15)	Healthy subjects 24-41 years	Lateral x-rays: supine and standing	Females and males: Extension app. 6°-8°	Significant change (p=.0001)
Nishihara et al. 2003 (90)	101 (71/30)	Degeneration: 91 Loose THR: 10 23-81 years	Image matching between CT and AP x-ray	Females and males: Extension: 2°	No significant change
Lembeck et al. 2005 (91)	30 (13/17)	Healthy subjects 20-43 years	Pelvic inclinometer	Females and males: Extension: 4°	Significant change (p=0.02)[a]
Mayr et al. 2005 (92)	120 (60/60)	Adults volunteers 21-91 years 30 of 120 were young and healthy	Pelvic landmarks digitized percutaneously	Young and healthy; females and males: Extension: 1.0°	No significant change[a]
Babisch et al. 2008 (93)	30 (24/6)	Hip dysplasia: 17 Osteoarthritis:13	Standing lateral x-ray and supine CT scan	Females and males: Extension: 5.4°	Significant change (p<.001)
Troelsen et al. 2008 (**II**)	31 (24/7)	Unilateral (5) or bilateral (26) hip dysplasia 16-56 years	Supine and standing AP x-rays	Female: Extension: 13°-14°[b] Male: Extension: 6°-7°[b]	Significant change (p<.0001 and p=0.0042)

a: p values are calculated from the original data.
b: Values of the mean differences in distances from the symphysis to the sacrococcygeal joint are converted according to Tannast et al. (97).

A moderately strong correlation between the distance from the symphysis to the sacrococcygeal joint (used by Troelsen et al. (II)) and the degree of pelvic tilt has been reported (97) (Figure 3.1). Overall, the studies agree that an extension of the pelvis takes place on repositioning (87-93, II). Comparison of studies is not possible because a wide variety of methods are used and study populations show both intra- and interstudy heterogeneity (Table 3.2). It seems, however, that study populations with normal subjects or hip dysplasia are associated with the report of significant changes of pelvic tilt during repositioning (88,89,91,93, II). At least in patients with hip dysplasia, the often generalized instability and coverage deficiency could contribute to increased pelvic mobilization during repositioning.

It is clear that results are diverging, but despite controversy, there are studies to support the hypothesis that pelvises are significantly extended when repositioned from supine to weightbearing (88,89,91,93, II). In the light of this, the application of standardized, so-called neutral pelvic positioning (i.e. assuming no difference in pelvic tilt between supine and weightbearing positions) is controversial (82). This is further amplified by Troelsen et al. who reported that only 32% of patients in the weightbearing position were confined within the limits of neutral pelvic positioning suggested by Siebenrock et al. (82, II). Also the position of the patient was found to affect the appearance of acetabular version because 11 patients showed signs of retroversion in the supine position versus 4 patients in the weightbearing position (II). This is explained by the extension of the pelvis in connection with repositioning.

In summary, pelvic radiographs for assessment of hip deformities are usually recorded with the patient supine, and neutral pelvic positioning has been advocated (82). However, based on the present literature, a significant pelvic extension may take place after repositioning from the supine to the weightbearing position (88,89,91,93, II). Further, pain originating from prearthritic structural deformities is often attenuated or only present during function. It is thought that weightbearing radiographs secure the best coherence between symptoms, functional appearance, and hip deformities. Finally, AP radiographic indices of hip dysplasia, femoral head translation, and the JSW show only minor differences between the supine and weightbearing positions (94, II). Troelsen et al. recommend weightbearing AP pelvic radiographs for assessment of hip deformities (II).

3.3. Acetabular retroversion in hip dysplasia

Acetabular retroversion has been recognized as a possible precursor of osteoarthritic development and as a source of hip pain (43,44,86,98). The entity has been found to be associated with the presence of labral tears, and it is incorporated into the biomechanical concept of FAI as a focal overcoverage causing pincer impingement (14,56,57). The first assessment of acetabular retroversion is made on an AP pelvic radiograph by identification of a crossing of the anterior and posterior acetabular rims. Reynolds et al. described this so called "crossover" sign approximately a decade ago (98) (Figure 3.2). Jamali et al. found the crossover sign to be highly valid in assessment of acetabular retroversion on AP pelvic radiographs (99). Siebenrock et al. reported that acetabular retroversion gets more pronounced with increasing pelvic flexion (inclination or forward rotation) (82).

Historically, hip dysplasia has been described as a condition associated with lateral and anterior acetabular deficiency and acetabular anteversion (30,31,33,34,37,100). It is therefore somewhat surprising that during the last 5 to 10 years, especially the last 2 years, acetabular retroversion has been reported to coexist with hip dysplasia in a considerable minority of dysplastic hip joints (41,42,83-86,101,102, III). The reported prevalences of acetabular retroversion in dysplastic hips ranges from 15% to 42% (Table 3.3). The crossing of acetabular rims is most frequently seen in the cranial third of the dysplastic acetabulum (86,101, III). The degree of hip dysplasia, quantified by the CE angle, does not seem to differ between retroverted acetabuli and normally oriented acetabuli (42,84,86, III).

As already outlined (see section 3.2), it is controversial whether hip deformities should be assessed in AP pelvic radiographs with the pelvis neutrally positioned or in the weightbearing position. The appearance of acetabular version and its extent depend on the degree of pelvic tilt, and thus the prevalence estimates of acetabular retroversion will depend on the radiographic method applied (82, II, III). Most studies reporting the prevalence of acetabular retroversion in dysplastic hips include only radiographs if they meet certain standardized criteria with respect to pelvic tilt (Table 3.3). In light of the believed difference in pelvic tilt after repositioning and the coherence between deformities and functional appearance in the weight- bearing position, Troelsen et al. assessed the prevalence of retroversion in weightbearing AP pelvic radiographs (III). Troelsen et al. found acetabular retroversion in 33% of dysplastic hips, which is higher than the estimates of approximately 15% to 20% reported in the majority of studies (83-86,101, III). This difference is explained by the exclusion of pelvises with excessive flexion (inclination or forward rotation). That is, those pelvises are exclude that by nature are excessively flexed and therefore are prone to have a more pronounced appearance of retroversion. In general, studies report a satisfying or good intra- and inter- observer variability in the assessment of the crossover sign (99,103,104, III). Assessment of the acetabular rims and the crossover sign demands good quality radiographs. As an alternative, the ischial spine sign has been introduced as a valid indicator of acetabular retroversion (103).

The clinical importance of acetabular retroversion in hip dysplasia and its implications for performance of a redirective PAO

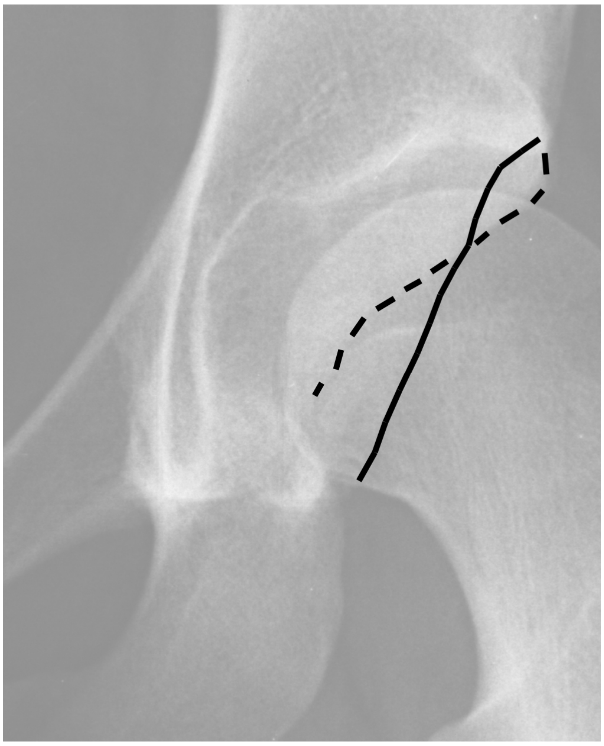

Figure 3.2.
A section of an anteroposterior pelvic radiograph showing the left hip. The dashed line marks the anterior acetabular rim and the solid line the posterior acetabular rim. A "crossover" sign is present as the dashed and solid lines intersect.

Table 3.3. Studies reporting the prevalence of acetabular retroversion in dysplastic hips.

Study	No. of hips (patients) (females/males) Age	Dysplastic hips included	Radiographs included	Prevalence of retroversion
Li and Ganz 2003 (101)	232 (199) (136/63) 30yrs (12-61)	CE angle ≤25°	Coccyx to symphysis distance was 0-2 cm	17%
Mast et al. 2004 (41)	235 (153) (125/28) NR	CE angle <20°	Coccyx to symphysis distance was ≤ 2 cm	37%
Ezoe et al. 2006 (83)	74 (64) (56/8) 36 yrs (14-54)	CE angle <20°	Sacrococcygeal joint to symphysis: distance 25-40 mm in males; 40-55 mm in females	18%
Peters et al. 2006 (102)	83 (73) (55/18) 28 yrs (15-47)	Operated hips with CE angle: -20° to 34°	NR[a]	28%
Kiyama et al. 2009 (84)	180 (155) (NR/NR) NR	Operated hips with CE angle <16°	Sacrococcygeal joint to symphysis: distance 25-40 mm in males; 40-55 mm in females	18%
Nehme et al. 2009 (42)	195 (174) (137/37) 30 yrs (15-56)	CE angle <20°	Coccyx to symphysis: distance 0-2 cm	42%
Xie et al. 2010 (85)	106 (88) (NR/NR) 38 yrs (15-52)	Operated hips with CE angle: mean app. 9°; SD app. ±8°	Sacrococcygeal joint to symphysis: distance 25-40 mm in males; 40-55 mm in females	15%
Fujii et al. 2010 (86)	96 (59) (52/7) 40 yrs (15-60)	CE angle <20°	Sacrococcygeal joint to symphysis: distance 25-40 mm in males; 40-55 mm in females	18%
Troelsen et al. 2010 (**III**)	95 (54) (44/10) 36 yrs (14-57)	CE angle <25°	Weightbearing radiographs (defined protocol)	33%

a = NR: Not reported.

are not yet fully understood. Recently, hip dysplasia with acetabular retroversion was found to be associated with an earlier onset of pain (86). Also, recent studies have stressed the importance of recognizing acetabular retroversion during preoperative planning and performance of redirective PAO (84,85,102). Failure to do so will result in continued or even aggravated retroversion with a decreased range of motion and a postoperative FAI with continued joint deterioration. Acetabular retroversion has been reported to persist in 10% to 62% of dysplastic hips following redirective procedures. (84,85,102).

In summary, the identification of acetabular retroversion in dysplastic hips potentially has important clinical and surgical implications that need further investigation. Retroverted acetabuli are surprisingly frequent in dysplastic hips (15%-42%) (41,42,83-86,101,102, III). Because the appearance of acetabular retroversion depends on the pelvic tilt (82, II, III), the position of the patient during radiographic recording is a potentially important factor that needs further exploration.

4. ASSESSMENT OF ACETABULAR LABRAL TEARS IN HIP DYSPLASIA

4.1 The role of the acetabular labrum in hip dysplasia

During the last decade, the understanding of the relationship between hip joint deformities and osteoarthritic development has increased significantly. Tearing of the acetabular labrum or the adjacent cartilage is recognized as the key to joint deterioration in all cases of biomechanically induced osteoarthritis (14). The description of acetabular labral tears associated with hip dysplasia is not new, but the actual biomechanical properties of the acetabular labrum and its role in initiation of joint degeneration have now been documented (16,35-37,107-110). The labrum is hypothesized to have a load-sharing role, at least in hip dysplasia, and to act as a seal optimizing the properties of hip joint lubrication (108,111). Furthermore, the labrum has a stabilizing function that protects against critical biomechanical alterations in the hip joint (112).

The biomechanical changes induced by the osseous deformities in hip dysplasia, together with the instability of the joint, are thought to make the acetabular labrum susceptible to overload and tearing. There is theoretical and clinical evidence that a “shearing” kind of impingement, with repeated micro trauma to the labrum, subsequent degeneration, and finally a tear or detachment of the labrum in the chondrolabral transition zone, underlies the biomechanical concept (16,35-37,113,114). Acetabular labral tears in hip dysplasia are most frequently found in the anterior region of the acetabulum, which may be explained by the demanding biomechanics, with increased joint load and a weaker mechanical structure of the labrum particularly in this region (109,110,115,116, IV,V). Another characteristic feature of the labrum is its often hypertrophic state in dysplastic hips (35,115).

Tearing of the acetabular labrum is a frequent finding in symptomatic dysplastic hips. In 170 hips with dysplasia, McCarthy and Lee found a labral tear on hip arthroscopy in 72% (113). Studies utilizing magnetic resonance arthrography (MRA) to evaluate the labrum in symptomatic dysplastic hips found labral tearing in approximately 80% (115, IV). The findings suggest that joint overload and labral tearing play an important role in the development symptoms in patients with hip dysplasia. Classical symptoms of hip dysplasia are sharp groin pain and clicking or locking of the hip, all of which correspond well with a labral tear and continuous joint overload.

4.2 The role of MR arthrography, ultrasound, and clinical tests in acetabular labral tear diagnostics

The identification of an acetabular labral tear as a cause of pain and a precursor of hip joint degeneration has focused attention on reliable diagnostic assessment. MRA has been established as the radiographic gold standard method for the diagnostic assessment of acetabular labral tears (Figure 4.1). Recent studies have reported a good ability of MRA to diagnose labral tears (117-119). Toomayan et al. performed MRA in 30 hips and found a sensitivity of 92% and specificity of 100% when MRA findings were compared with those obtained during hip arthroscopy (117). Chan et al. reported a sensitivity of 100% and an accuracy of 94% (in 18 hips undergoing subsequent hip arthroscopy) (118). Freedman et al. reported that 22 (96%) of 23 labral tears diagnosed on hip arthroscopy had been found on MRA images (119). Ziegert et al. found a detection rate of labral tears of 97.2% on MRA in 144 hips with proven tears at arthroscopy (120). Czerny et al. published the first report of its kind in 1996 (n=22 hip MRAs) and found a sensitivity of 90% and an accuracy of 91% for MRA compared with arthroscopic findings (121). In a later study, Czerny et al. showed that MRA can be used to correctly stage labral tears (122); however, the staging seems of less prognostic value (119). The intrareader reliability of MRA readings has been reported to be excellent (119,121, IV, V). In contrast to these encouraging results, Keeney et al. (n=104 hips) and Leunig et al. (n=23 hips) reported sensitivities and specificities of approximately 40% to 70% for MRA in labral tear detection (123,124). It should be acknowledged that the studies reporting the diagnostic ability of MRA often suffer methodological problems, such as, a retrospective design, with lack of a clear prospective protocol for image readings; bias induced by lack of blinding of radiologists to the arthroscopic findings; selection-induced bias because all hips may have been included in the retrospective study due to the finding of a labral tear on hip arthroscopy; and interobserver variation because several radiologists or arthroscopic surgeons had assessed the presence of the labral tears.

In the literature MRA, has been established as the radiographic gold standard in labral tear diagnostics. However, the method is time-consuming and uncomfortable for the patients. Ultrasound is widely used in musculoskeletal diagnostic radiology, and it has been hypothesized that it may have the ability to diagnose acetabular labral tears reliably (IV, V) (Figure 4.2). Few studies have investigated the ability of ultrasound examination. Mitchell et al. reported the results of 8 ultrasound examinations in hips that had arthroscopic assessment of joint pathology: in 1 of 8 examinations ultrasound diagnosed the pathology present. Given the methodological flaws of this study, conclusions cannot be drawn, and the authors make no mention of ultrasound in their suggested diagnostic approach to hip pain (125). Sofka et al. reported a subjective improvement in visualization of labral pathology by ultrasound during intra-articular steroid injections in 21 hip joints. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) without contrast was performed in 14 of the 21 hips, and on review, anterior labral tears were found in 13 hips on both MRI and ultrasound examination. The authors did not quantify the diagnostic ability of ultrasound. The study might represent a show of the potential success of ultrasound to diagnose labral pathology, but any conclusions are made invalid by the retrospective design that meant review of only cases with a positive finding of labral pathology during ultrasound examination (126). A prospective comparison of ultrasound with MRA in labral tear diagnostics was performed by Troelsen et al. (IV). Examinations were performed in 20 consecutive dysplastic hip joints presenting with pain. The prospective protocol included predefined criteria for description of labral tears and blinding of the MRA radiologist and the ultrasound radiologist to the findings of the other examiner. The corresponding findings on ultrasound and MRA are presented in Table 4.1. The resulting sensitivity was 44% and the specificity was 75%. In a subsequent

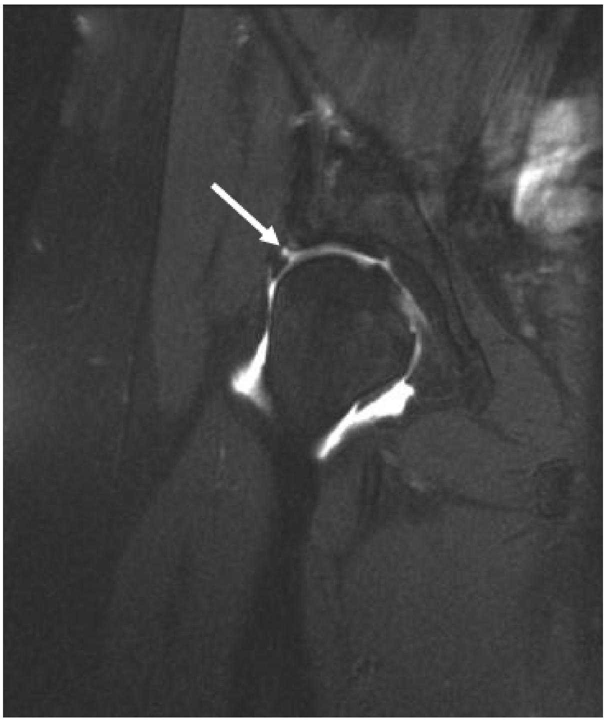

Figure 4.1.
Coronal view of hip MR arthrography visualizing an acetabular labral tear (arrow). Contrast medium is seen running through the base of the labrum.

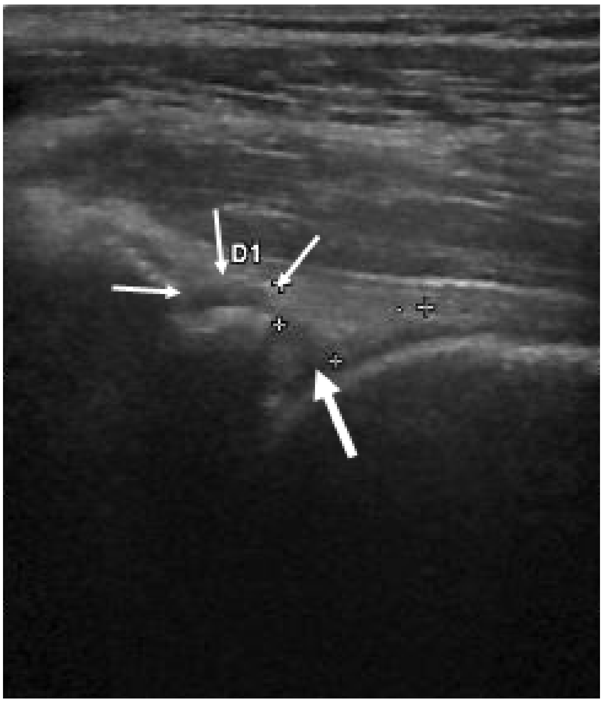

Figure 4.2.
Ultrasound examination visualizes an acetabular labral tear. There is a hypoechoic cleft running through the base of the labrum (thick arrow), and a cystic formation is visible just superior to the labrum (thin arrows). The crosses mark the limits of the labrum.

Table 4.1. Labral tear diagnostics: findings on ultrasound examination and resulting reliability measures (**IV**).

	Ultrasound: Labral tear	**Ultrasound: No labral tear**	
MRA: Labral tear	7	9	16
MRA: No labral tear	1	3	4
	8	12	20

Sensitivity (true positives)	7/16 = 44%
Specificity (true negatives)	3/4 = 75%
Positive predictive value	7/8 = 88%
Negative predictive value	3/12 = 25%

Table 4.2. Labral tear diagnostics: findings on ultrasound examination and resulting reliability measures (**V**).

	Ultrasound: Labral tear	**Ultrasound: No labral tear**	
MRA: Labral tear	16	1	17
MRA: No labral tear	1	0	1
	17	1	18

Sensitivity (true positives)	16/17 = 94%
Specificity (true negatives)	0/1 = Not reported
Positive predictive value	16/17 = 94%
Negative predictive value	0/1 = Not reported

Table 4.3. The diagnostic ability of the impingement test and the FABER test in labral tear diagnostics (**V**). The resisted straight leg raise test was positive in 1 of 18 cases and thus results were not analyzed further.

	Impingement test	**FABER test**
Sensitivity (true positives)	10/17 = 59%	7/17 = 41%
Specificity (true negatives)	1/1 = 100%	1/1 = 100%
Positive predictive value	10/10 = 100%	7/7 = 100%
Negative predictive value	1/8 = 13%	1/11 = 9%

study by Troelsen et al. (V), the authors examined the ability of ultrasound to detect labral tears, applying a protocol for the performance of examinations similar to the one used in the previous study by Troelsen et al. (IV). The hip joints of 18 patients who previously had had periacetabular osteotomies were examined. The findings on MRA and ultrasound are presented in Table 4.2. Thus, the sensitivity of ultrasound in labral tear diagnostics was 94%. The studies (IV, V) were strengthened by the prospective protocol used for the performance of the examinations, but limited by the relatively small sizes of the study cohorts, and by the fact that the radiographic findings were not verified by hip arthroscopy. However, MRA is well established as the radiographic gold standard in acetabular labral tear diagnostics, with an excellent correlation to arthroscopic findings in recent studies

(117-119). The intra- and interobserver variability of ultrasound in labral tear diagnostics remains uninvestigated.

A thorough patient history and a clinical examination should be able to raise suspicion of a labral tear as the cause of hip pain. But how reliable are commonly used clinical tests in the assessment of acetabular labral tears? Evidence in this field is limited. Narvani et al. (51) conducted a study examining 18 hips by an "internal rotation, flexion, axial compression" test and using MRA as diagnostic reference. The sensitivity was 75% and the specificity was 43%. In a study by Martin et al. (127) 6 orthopedic surgeons, specializing in hip pain, performed clinical examinations in 8 patients. The clinical examinations were performed as preferred by each specialist. Based on the clinical examination, the orthopedic surgeons agreed 63% of the time with the finding of a labral tear on the following hip arthroscopy. Troelsen et al. (V) investigated the ability of the impingement test, the FABER test, and the resisted straight leg raise test to diagnose labral tears. The clinical findings in 18 hips were compared to MRA findings of labral tears, and the diagnostic ability of the tests was calculated (Table 4.3). Of the clinical tests, the impingement test showed the best diagnostic ability, with a sensitivity of 59% and a specificity of 100%. Martin and Sekiya investigated the interrater reliability of the impingement test and the FABER test and found a moderate agreement between observers (kappa: 0.58) for the impingement test and a substantial agreement between observers (kappa: 0.63) for the FABER test (128). The few studies investigating the diagnostic ability of clinical tests are in general limited by small study populations (51,127, V). Furthermore, the study by Troelsen et al. (V) is limited by the frequent presence of a labral tear in the selected study population. The diagnostic ability of the impingement test in patients with a normal labrum is thus difficult to assess. The prospective protocol of examinations and blinding of both the clinical, ultrasound, and MRA examiners to each other's findings is a methodological strength, and one should bear in mind that patients presenting in an outpatient clinic dealing specifically with hip problems are highly selected.

In conclusion, MRA has been established as the diagnostic gold standard in acetabular labral tear diagnostics. The results of studies on the diagnostic ability of MRA have been conflicting. In the most recently published studies, however, MRA has been reported to have excellent diagnostic properties (117-119). Ultrasound is a new and promising tool in labral tear diagnostics. The improvement in the diagnostic ability of ultrasound demonstrated by a comparison of the results of the two studies by Troelsen et al. (IV, V) suggests that a learning curve is associated with the use of ultrasound in labral tear diagnostics. Even in the hands of an experienced ultrasound examiner, as in the studies by Troelsen et al., issues of creating optimal visualization and interpretation of findings represented methodological difficulties that had to be overcome during the first study (IV). Clinical examination to detect labral tears is the "every-day tool" of the orthopedic hip surgeon, and even the most widely used tests (impingement and FABER tests) are not very reliable in labral tear diagnostics (51,127, V). This issue emphasizes the need for reliable radiographic assessment. The knowledge base regarding the role of ultrasound and clinical tests in acetabular labral tear diagnostics is limited, and the role of their use in unselected cohorts remains uninvestigated.

4.3 Suggested strategy for diagnostic assessment of acetabular labral tears

Patients presenting with hip-related pain, especially sharp groin pain, and in some a history of clicking or locking of the hip joint should be suspected to have a tear of the acetabular labrum (Figure 4.3) (129,130). A weightbearing AP pelvic radiograph and a lateral view of the hips are required to diagnose coexisting hip deformities and/or osteoarthritis (129,130, II, III).

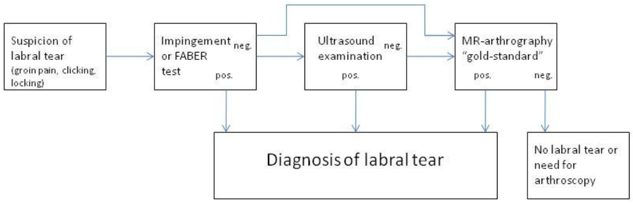

Figure 4.3.
Suggested strategy for diagnostic assessment of acetabular labral tears (**V**).

To further assess the suspicion of a labral tear in these selected patients, an impingement test and perhaps the FABER test should be carried out, because the use of these tests is supported by the literature (51,127,128, V). Both tests have been reported to have a positive predictive value of 100%, meaning that on reproduction of sharp groin pain, the patient is very likely to have a labral tear (V). Previous studies have reported ≥95% of impingement tests to be positive in patients with surgically verified labral tears (19,49,50). On the other hand, not all labral tears are diagnosed by the impingement or FABER tests (sensitivities of 59% to 75% and 41%, respectively), and a negative outcome of the tests is unreliable (51, V). In this case, further radiographic assessment is warranted.

If an experienced ultrasound examiner with interest in development of this tool in labral tear diagnostics is available, ultrasound examination can be performed to assess a potential tear of the labrum (IV, V). In the hands of an examiner who has overcome the learning curve regarding the interpretation of the examinations, the method is sensitive (94%) in diagnosing acetabular labral tears (V). A finding of labral tearing on ultrasound makes it very likely that the patient actually has a tear (positive predictive value: 94% (V)). The present literature is inconclusive regarding the reliability of not finding a labral tear and ultrasound therefore should be considered unreliable in this situation. (IV, V). Further radiographic assessment is then warranted.

MRA is the established gold standard in radiographic assessment of labral tears. The main problem related to clinical tests and ultrasound is the lack of reliability if findings are negative (51, IV,V). Thus, MRA should be performed in patients if groin pain is not produced by the impingement or FABER test and a labral tear cannot be visualized on ultrasound examination, and the patient continues to have specific hip-related pain (V). In the most recent experience with MRA, the diagnostic ability has been reported to be excellent, with sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy measures in the range of 92% to 100% (117-119). However, failure to diagnose a labral tear cannot be ruled out, and on continued suspicion, hip arthroscopy should be performed.

5. PERIACETABULAR OSTEOTOMY FOR SURGICAL TREATMENT OF HIP DYSPLASIA IN ADULTS

5.1 Periacetabular osteotomy: outcome, problems, and perspectives

Since its introduction more than 20 years ago, PAO has been adopted as the preferred contemporary joint preserving surgical treatment for symptomatic hip dysplasia in adults (15,72-

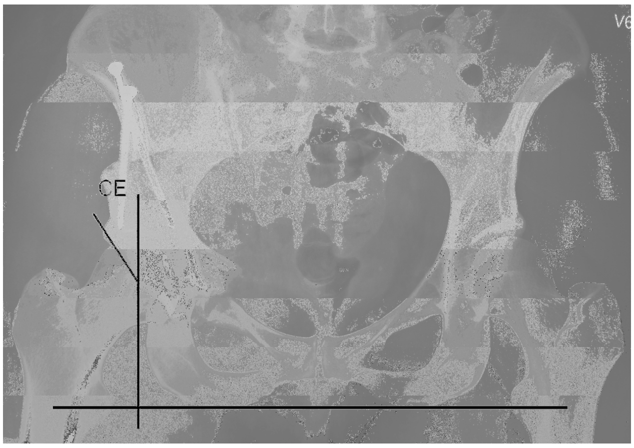

Figure 5.1.
A postoperative anteroposterior pelvic radiograph showing both hip joints. The right hip has been treated with a redirective joint preserving periacetabular osteotomy. A center-edge angle of Wiberg of 35° has been achieved. Hip dysplasia is noted in the left hip.

74,102,131-147). The clinical aims are to relieve hip joint pain, improve function and health related quality of life, and to prevent osteoarthritic development necessitating conversion to THR. The surgical aim is a 3-dimensional reorientation of the acetabulum that will optimize femoral head coverage, decrease hip joint load forces, and relieve the overload of the acetabular labrum and adjacent cartilage and soft tissues (15,72,148-150) (Figure 5.1).

Whereas numerous studies describe the short-term outcome following PAO (132-144), only a few studies report the outcome at medium- and long-term follow-up (i.e. more than a minimum follow-up of 5 years) (72-74,131, VI). This lack of studies reporting the outcome at medium- and long-term follow-up is deeply contrasted by the wide acceptance and worldwide application of this major surgical procedure. In the studies investigating the medium- and long-term outcome following PAO, the main endpoint indicating failure is conversion to THR (72-74,131, VI).

Troelsen et al. reported the medium-term clinical and radiographic outcome in 116 periacetabular osteotomies 5.2 to 9.2 years postoperatively. Seventeen hips were converted to THR, and the Kaplan-Meier hip joint survival rate with conversion to THR as endpoint was 90.5% (95% CI: 83.5-94.6) at 5 years, and 81.6% (95% CI: 69.7-89.3) at 9.2 years [VI]. Other authors reporting the medium- or long-term hip joint survivorship show rates comparable to these numbers (72-74) (Table 5.1). Further, as outlined in Table 5.1, the study groups are grossly comparable. Short-term hip joint survival rates (i.e. less than a minimum follow-up of 5 years) are most frequently reported to be >90% (132-144).

The extensive follow-up of PAO patients by Troelsen et al. comprised an interview, a clinical examination, a radiographic examination (weightbearing anterior-posterior pelvic radiograph), and Short Form (SF)-36 (151) and Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) (152) questionnaires (VI). The results of the follow-up evaluation are presented in Table 5.2. Key features of the interviews and clinical examinations were as follows: Median pain scores on the visual analog scale were 0 at rest and 1 after 15 minutes of normal walking. The groin was the most frequent location of hip-related pain or discomfort. Clicking or locking of the hip joint was seen in 25% of hip joints, and a positive impingement test was found in 18%. Hip

Table 5.1. Studies reporting the medium- or long-term outcome after periacetabular osteotomy.

Author (year)	No. hips (% females)	Hips with DDH	Follow-up Mean (range)	No. surgeons	Preoperative CE angles (range)	Hips with Tönnis 0-1	Hip joint survivorship
Kralj et al. 2005 (72)	26 (85%)	26	12 yrs (7-15)	3	Mean 15° (7-26)	81%	85% (mean 12y)
Steppacher et al.[a] 2008 (73)	75 (77%)	75	20.4 yrs (19-23)	1	Mean 6° (-24-25)	76%	KM[b] 87.6%(10y) KM[b]60.5% (20y)
Matheney et al. 2009 (74)	135 (88%)	135	9 yrs (NR[c]) (SD:±2.2)	1	Median 0° to 3° (NR[c])	82%	KM[b]84% (10y)
Troelsen et al. 2009 (**VI**)	116 (78%)	102 (14 LCPD[d])	6.8 yrs (5.2-9.2)	1	Median 11° (-29-30)	90%	KM[b]81.6%(9.2y)

a = Steppacher et al. reports the outcome of the same cohort as in the study by Siebenrock et al. 1999 (131).
b = KM is the Kaplan-Meier survivorship rate. Only Kralj et al. (72) did not report a Kaplan-Meier estimate.
c = NR: Not reported.
d = LCPD: Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease.

joint osteoarthritis and possible coexisting intraarticular problems may explain these findings. Steppacher et al. noted the impingement test was positive in 24% of hip joints at 10-year evaluation of patients undergoing PAO surgery (73). Troelsen et al. reported hip range of motion with a median hip flexion of 100° similar to the 10-year follow-up result found by Steppacher et al. (73, VI). Removal of screws was performed in 18% of the operated hips at the time of medium-term follow-up, making it a matter of importance during the initial preoperative patient information session (VI). Troelsen et al. shed new socioeconomic insights on the subject of PAO surgery because only 19% had to change jobs after surgery due to hip problems (VI).

The Harris Hip Score or the Merle d'Aubigné & Postel Score have been the preferred hip-specific functional scores in previous studies reporting the outcome of PAO surgery (72,73,102,132,133,135-137). It is doubtful whether these scores provide a satisfying assessment in joint preserving PAO surgery in young adults. Troelsen et al. assessed the outcome at medium-term follow-up after PAO surgery using the contemporary SF-36 and WOMAC scores (Table 5.2) (VI). Comparison to the few other studies using the SF-36 and WOMAC scores is compromised by different durations of follow-up and differing strategies of data transformation (72,144,145). Comparison of the SF-36 scores reported at medium-term follow-up by Troelsen et al. with normative data for Danish citizens of a relevant age group showed, not surprisingly, that the physical component score was lower in the hip patients and that the mental component scores were comparable. (151, VI). Thus, it seems that mental health is not negatively influenced by the deterioration in physical health in patients after PAO surgery at medium-term follow-up. In addition, the median total WOMAC score of 84.4 found at medium-term follow-up is satisfactory. Of studies reporting the outcome of PAO surgery at medium- to long-term follow-up, the studies by Kralj et al. (72) (using the WOMAC score) and Steppacher et al. (73) (using the Merle d'Anbigné & Postel Score) report both pre- and postoperative scores, whereas the studies by Matheney et al. (74) (using the WOMAC pain subscale) and Troelsen et al. (VI) are limited by reporting only the postoperative follow-up scores. Finally, a hip-specific patient-related outcome measure specially constructed for young patients undergoing joint preserving surgery, such as the PAO, remains to be developed.

Even though widely accepted, the use of conversion to THR as an end point is in some ways problematic. At the time of follow-up, more patients may have developed end-stage hip joint osteoarthritis or functionally compromising pain. Those hip joints may also qualify for a THR in the near future, and thus the true failure rate may be underestimated. There is no commonly accepted definition of which secondary end points to consider. Matheney et al. considered a score of ≥10 (of 20) on the WOMAC pain subscale at the time of follow-up to be a clinical failure. Consequently, an additional 12% (16 of 135) of the study group qualified as clinical failures (74). Kralj et al. reported that 8 (31%) of 26 hips

Table 5.2. The medium-term outcome following periacetabular osteotomy (**VI**).

PARAMETER	
Interview and examination (n=77)	
Primary localization of hip pain or discomfort	
Number (%), localization	26 (34%) groin; 7 (9%) trochanter 3 (4%) buttock; 2 (3%) femur
VAS pain score; median (iq-range) (range)	
At rest	0 (0-1) (0-7)
After 15 minutes of normal walking	1 (0-3) (0-10)
Clicking or locking of the hip joint	
Number (%)	19 (25%)
Pain or discomfort related to spine or lower extr.	
Number (%), condition	21 (27%) spine; 4 (5%) knee
Subsequent hardware removal	
Number (%)	14 (18%)
Change of job since surgery due to hip problems	
Number (%)	15 (19%)
Dysesthesia of the lateral femoral cut. nerve	
Number (%)	37 (48%)
Positive Impingement test	
Number (%)	14 (18%)
ROM; median (interquartile range) (range)	
Flexion	100˚ (95-120) (80-140)
Extension	15˚ (5-20) (0-30)
Abduction	45˚ (40-50) (20-60)
Adduction	20˚ (20-30) (0-50)
Internal rotation	15˚ (10-30) (0-45)
External rotation	30˚ (20-40) (5-60)
Questionnaires (n=87)	
SF-36 Physical Component Score (0-100)	
Median (iq-range) (range)	48.31 (39.34-54.65) (15.50-59.12)
SF-36 Mental Component Score (0-100)	
Median (iq-range) (range)	57.95 (51.39-61.07) (18.14-68.54)
WOMAC total score (0-100)	
Median (iq-range) (range)	84.44 (70.20-95.83) (38.05-100.00)
Radiographic (weightbearing pelvic, n=76)	
Presence of cross over sign	
Number (%)	20 (26%)
Minimal joint space width	
Mean (95% confidence interval) (range)	3.8 mm (3.5-4.1) (0.0-6.4)
Tönnis grade of osteoarthritis	
Number (%); grade	24 (32%) grade 0 38 (50%) grade 1 8 (10%) grade 2 6 (8%) grade 3

had end-stage osteoarthritis (Tönnis grade 3) or a deterioration of the WOMAC total score of >20 on medium to long-term follow-up after PAO. This group was separated from the groups of patients with an apparently satisfying clinical outcome and patients who had had a THR (72). Steppacher et al. report outcomes in the same cohort as in the study by Siebenrock et al. (131) and found that end-stage osteoarthritis (Tönnis grade 3) had developed in 5 (7%) of 68 hips. Two hips were graded as having a poor result according to the Merle d'Anbigné & Postel Score at last follow-up, but whether the hips also had end-stage osteoarthritis is unclear (73). Troelsen et al. found that end-stage osteoarthritis (Tönnis grade 3) had developed in 6 (6%) of 93 hips (VI). Patients lost to follow-up constitute another problem related to the use of conversion to THR as an end point. How many of these patients have had their PAO converted to a THR at another institution? In the study by Matheney et al. 23 (15%) of the initial 158 eligible dysplastic hips were lost to follow-up, with no trace of the hips beyond the first year after surgery (74). Kralj et al. lost track of 20 (36%) of 55 consecutive patients during their follow-up. They also excluded 9 of 35 respondents, of which 2 had a THR performed (72). Steppacher et al. lost track of 5 (7%) of 75 hips. However, 3 of these were seen at follow-up 10 to 12 years postoperatively and showed good to excellent clinical results and no conversions to THR (73). In the study by Troelsen et al. 12 (10%) of 116 hip joints were lost to follow-up (VI). However, this study bears the advantage that inquiry to the Danish Hip Arthroplasty Register (63,153) was made regarding conversion to THR in all 116 hip joints, thus optimizing the completeness of the follow-up. None of the hips lost to follow up had had a THR.

Patients lost to follow-up, unless accounted for by inquiry to a national joint arthroplasty register, add uncertainty to the reported hip joint survival rates, and evaluating a clinical and/or radiographic end point other than conversion to THR may add significantly to the failure rate. Interstudy differences concerning these issues can easily explain even significant differences in the reported survivorship rates. The lack of consensus regarding the report of outcome is problematic, and to assure a uniform, transparent and sufficient quality of studies reporting the outcome following PAO surgery, the following criteria are suggested: 1) Conversion to THR should be reported. 2) Development of end-stage osteoarthritis and/or a score of ≥10 (of 20) on the WOMAC pain subscale should be reported. 3) Inquiry to national arthroplasty registers, if possible, regarding otherwise undetected conversion to THR should be made. Otherwise, no more than 10% to 15% should be lost to follow-up. 4) Follow-up should be performed using contemporary WOMAC and/or SF-36 questionnaires.

The methodological weaknesses of the studies reporting medium- or long-term outcomes following PAO surgery can generally be attributed to their retrospective designs (72-74,131, VI). Further, they rely on conventional radiography to diagnose the presence and degree of osteoarthritis, and therefore focal or generalized cartilage deterioration may go undetected. Future studies reporting the outcome of PAO surgery should follow a strictly prospective protocol, using contemporary scoring systems, and magnetic resonance imaging to clarify the intraarticular constitution of the hip joint. Finally, with some cynicism, one might argue that the surgeons and researchers in the field of PAO orthopedics have forgotten to perform a randomized study that would determine whether patients obtain sufficient benefits by undergoing a PAO compared to, for example, conservative treatment. On the other hand, randomizing young patients with clear-cut hip dysplasia, no osteoarthritis, and invalidating pain to conservative treatment or THR would seem unethical when studies have shown that PAO surgery preserves hip joints for up to 2 decades and yields good clinical results in selected patients (72-74,131, VI).

5.2 Predictors of outcome following periacetabular osteotomy: results and methodological limitations

Increased knowledge regarding patient selection criteria and further focus on aspects of acetabular reorientation are likely to facilitate future improvements in the outcome of PAO surgery. Using mainly descriptive and comparative statistical approaches, previous studies have suggested that advanced preoperative osteoarthritis (Tönnis grades 2 to 3) is an important predictor of hip joint failure and conversion to THR (72,131-133,154). Few studies have produced actual risk estimates. Steppacher et al. found a statistically significant hazard ratio of 3.39 per Tönnis grade higher (73). Millis et al. reported a statistically significant hazard ratio of 2.19 for hips with a preoperative Tönnis grade of 2 (142). Troelsen et al. found a statistically significant hazard ratio of 5.54 if preoperative Tönnis osteoarthritis grades 2 to 3 were present (VI). In addition to the studies using conventional radiography to diagnose the Tönnis grade of osteoarthritis, Cunningham et al. found the dGEMRIC (delayed gadolinium-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging of cartilage) index, used as an early measure

Table 5.3. Crude and adjusted hazard ratios of significant predictors of conversion to THR following PAO.

Parameter	Crude Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P value	Adjusted (for pre-operative Tönnis grade) Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P value
DEMOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS				
Age at surgery Age≥45	2.91 (1.07- 7.93)	**0.04**	2.31 (0.78-6.81)	0.13
RADIOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS				
Preoperative center-edge angle Angle <0°	3.31 (1.05-10.40)	**0.04**	4.71 (1.41-15.76)	**0.01**
Postoperative center-edge angle Angle <30° or >40°	5.24 (1.18-23.26)	**0.03**	4.37 (0.98-19.56)	0.05
Preoperative Fovea-acetabulum-angle Angle <-11°	3.48 (1.05-11.57)	**0.04**	2.30 (0.64-8.29)	0.20
Postoperative acetabular sclerotic zone Width <2.5cm	5.10 (1.44-18.10)	**0.01**	6.17 (1.68-22.67)	**0.006**
Postoperative distance X X ≥2.0 cm	5.23 (1.79-15.32)	**0.003**	4.44 (1.50-13.09)	**0.007**
Postoperative distance Y Y ≥10.8 cm	4.38 (1.55-12.34)	**0.005**	4.64 (1.65-13.04)	**0.004**
Postoperative roundness index Index >0.68	5.07 (1.43-17.98)	**0.01**	3.53 (0.96-13.00)	0.06
Preoperative os acetabuli Presence of os acetabuli	4.88 (1.66-14.34)	**0.004**	3.60 (1.17-11.09)	**0.03**
Postoperative os acetabuli Presence of os acetabuli	3.34 (1.06-10.51)	**0.04**	2.38 (0.73-7.80)	0.15
Preoperative minimal joint space Width <3.0mm	3.97 (1.26-12.48)	**0.02**	1.72 (0.40-7.35)	0.47
Postoperative minimal joint space Width < 3.0mm	5.85 (2.08-16.47)	**0.001**	3.45 (0.70-17.08)	0.13
Preoperative Tönnis grade Grades 2-3	5.54 (1.89-16.24)	**0.002**	Not adjusted	
Postoperative Tönnis grade Grades 2-3	5.73 (1.96-16.78)	**0.001**	Not adjusted	
COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY PARAMETERS				
Coronal center-edge angle Angle <5°	5.20 (1.94-13.90)	**0.001**	4.40 (1.54-12.53)	**0.006**
Acetabular anteversion angle Angle <10°	6.79 (2.18-21.09)	**0.001**	4.29 (1.13-16.28)	**0.03**

of osteoarthritis, to be the most important predictor of failure of PAO surgery (143). A cost-effectiveness study supports the above findings in clinical studies because primary THR was shown to be more cost-effective than PAO in Tönnis grade 3 osteoarthritis, and in Tönnis grade 2 osteoarthritis; however, PAO did became more cost-effective if patients survived more than approximately 18 years (155). Very few hips with moderate or advanced osteoarthritis can be expected to last more than 18 years (73).

In the analysis of predictors of conversion to THR following PAO surgery, Troelsen et al. extensively analyzed demographic and radiographic (conventional and computed tomographic (CT)) pre- and postoperative parameters (1,35,68,156,157, II, VI). Using the Cox proportional hazards model and adjusting for the preoperative grade of osteoarthritis, the following 7 statistically significant predictors (1 to 5 assessed on conventional radiographs, 6 to 7 on preoperative CT-scans) were identified: 1) a preoperative CE angle of <0°, 2) a postoperative width of the acetabular sclerotic zone of <2.5 cm, 3) an x coordinate of femoral head translation of ≥2.0 cm (larger values of x means relative lateralization of the femoral head proportional to the acetabulum), 4) a y coordinate of femoral head translation of ≥10.8 cm (larger values of y means relative cranialization of the femoral head proportional to the acetabulum), 5) preoperative presence of an os acetabuli, 6) a coronal CE-angle on the CT scan of <5°, and 7)an acetabular anteversion angle of <10°. The crude and adjusted hazard ratios as well as the level of significance are presented in Table 5.3 for all predictors with a crude (unadjusted) hazard ratio differing statistically significantly from 1.0 (VI). The predictors identified can all be explained in a biomechanical paradigm: Both a low preoperative CE angle and reduced acetabular anteversion represent factors that may cause preoperative overload and preosteoarthritic lesions to the labrum and adjacent cartilage. Further, in cases with such diversions from normal anatomy, it is difficult to achieve proper acetabular reorientation. Preoperative presence of os acetabuli is evidence of advanced damage to the acetabular labrum and rim caused by overload and possible shearing impingement (35,37), and explains why these hips will eventually fail due to already extensive deterioration at the time of surgery. Increasing postoperative x and y coordinates and a narrow postoperative width of the acetabular sclerotic zone are thought to represent hip joints that will continue to overload the acetabular rim after acetabular reorientation, resulting in joint deterioration (VI).

Steppacher et al. found in their study increasing age to be a significant risk factor for conversion to THR following PAO (hazard ratio: 1.08) (73). In the study by Troelsen et al., age at surgery ≥45 years was not found to be a significant risk factor after adjustment for the preoperative Tönnis grade of osteoarthritis (VI). This implies that age itself is of less importance compared to the progression and stage of cartilage deterioration. This argument is supported by a retrospective study of 70 patients (87 hips) reviewed 2 to 13 years after PAO (minimum age at surgery 40 years) that showed a significantly increased risk of conversion to THR if Tönnis grade 2 was present preoperatively compared with Tönnis grades 0-1 (142). Somewhat surprising, Matheney et al. (74) in their multivariate logistic regression analysis identified age >35 years to be an independent predictor of failure following PAO surgery. However, in the same analysis, advanced Tönnis grades of preoperative osteoarthritis were not found to be a significant independent predictor.

One of the surgical aims of PAO is to achieve a CE angle of 30° to 40°. In the analysis of predictors of conversion to THR, Troelsen et al. found that a postoperative CE angle outside this interval was a significant risk factor when assessed in relation to the unadjusted (crude) hazard ratio, but after adjusting for the preoperative Tönnis grade of osteoarthritis (adjusted hazard ratio), the p value was adjusted to the 0.05 level (hazard ratio: 4.37) (VI). At least, the finding indicates the importance of proper reorientation. This is supported by Steppacher et al. who report that insufficient acetabular coverage, as measured by the extrusion index, is a significant risk factor (hazard ratio: 1.11) for conversion to THR (73).

In the task to identify the predictors of conversion to THR following PAO surgery, the sound methodological approach is to apply the Cox proportional hazards model. It analyzes the time-dependent association between possible predictors and the time to conversion to THR, thus taking into account the differences in "time at risk" for the operated hips in the study cohort. This method was applied in the studies by Troelsen et al. (VI) and Steppacher et al. (73). Both studies found, like numerous other studies, that an advanced stage of osteoarthritis (Tönnis grades 2-3) is a factor negatively influencing the outcome of PAO (72,131-133,142,154). Therefore Troelsen et al. appropriately adjusted for its presence in their analysis of predictors, whereas Steppacher et al. did not, and the actual effect, independent of concomitant osteoarthritis, of the predictors they identified is not clear (73, VI). Given the sample sizes of 116 hips and 75 hips in the studies by Troelsen et al. and Steppacher et al, respectively, both studies are limited in their analysis of predictors of conversion to THR by being underpowered (73, VI). The studies are therefore exploratory in nature, and the findings need to be reproduced in larger studies. On the other hand, the studies are quite sizeable when appraised in the paradigm of clinical studies evaluating PAO surgery, and they will offer guidance for future, larger studies.

In conclusion, PAO surgery should primarily be performed in hip joints with no or only slight signs of osteoarthritis (Tönnis grades 0-1). Performing a PAO in hip joints with advanced osteoarthritis should be restricted to special indications, such as young age of the patient. In addition, when selecting patients for PAO surgery, special focus should be on factors negatively influencing the biomechanical environment both pre-and postoperatively.

5.3 The role of labral tears in the surgical treatment of hip dysplasia.

The role of acetabular labral tears in the management of hip dysplasia remains a discussed and controversial issue in PAO surgery. It is generally accepted that deformities of the hip, including hip dysplasia, can cause FAI with repeated trauma to the acetabular labrum, subsequent labral tearing, and cartilage degeneration (13,14,17-28,35-37,107-110,113,114). Studies have identified the presence of labral tearing in up to 80% of symptomatic dysplastic hip joints, indicating that labral tearing is an important factor in the development of pain and the risk of joint deterioration in hip dysplasia (115, IV).

The performance of arthrotomy to address labral tears during PAO surgery is inconsistently described in the literature. A positive preoperative impingement test has been suggested by Steppacher et al. as a significant predictor of failure following PAO surgery (73). They hypothesized that the presence of a preoperative labral tear is the reason for the worsened prognosis and further suggested that performing PAO with additional arthrotomy and intraarticular intervention may improve outcome (73). However, drawing conclusions based on outcome of the impingement test is, as previously outlined, doubtful (V). Peters et al. reported the outcome of PAO in 83 hips, with a mean follow-up of 46 months, and in 11 hips with known labral tears, he reported an average Harris Hip score of 90 and no signs progressive osteoarthritis at the most recent follow-up (102). Further, Matheney et al. were not able to find that the presence of a labral tear predicted failure of the PAO in their multivariate regression analysis (74). The hip joint survival rates reported in studies in which the joint and labrum were left untouched are encouraging (140,141, VI). Arthroscopic treatment of labral tearing without addressing the hip dysplasia by means of a PAO is controversial. Treatment may cause an adverse outcome (accelerated osteoarthritis), and results beyond short-term follow-up are unknown (158).

Mechlenburg et al. (VII) measured cartilage thickness in the hip joint in 26 patients by using magnetic resonance imaging and application of a stereologic method (159) before and up to 2½ years after PAO surgery. Traction was applied to the leg undergoing magnetic resonance imaging to separate acetabular from femoral cartilage. In addition, 18 patients underwent MRA of the operated hip to diagnose acetabular labral tears. It was found that preoperative acetabular and femoral cartilage thicknesses were similar to measurements 2½ years after surgery. At measurements 1 year postoperatively, the acetabular cartilage was significantly, however marginal, thicker than at 2½ years postoperatively (1.47 mm vs. 1.35 mm). Seventeen of 18 patients undergoing MRA had an acetabular labral tear.

Some methodological limitations should be acknowledged (VII). The leg traction approach used during magnetic resonance imaging may have led to an underestimation of mean cartilage thickness due to difficulty in separating cartilages in the thickest central parts of the joint. Due to the randomization of measurements used in this stereological method, small local areas with thinning over time may go undetected, with only a marginal effect on mean cartilage thickness. This may be important because joint deterioration may initially be characterized by local cartilage damage adjacent to a labral tear. There was no mention of pre- and postoperative functional outcome measures to document the clinical effect of the PAOs performed or of the correlation of outcomes with the findings of cartilage thickness and labral tears. However, the report of pre- and postoperative visual analog scale pain scores documented the major relief of hip pain. Magnetic resonance arthrographies were not performed preoperatively and therefore it cannot be documented whether labral tears were present preoperatively. However, tears of the labrum have been documented in up to 80% of dysplastic hip joints (115, IV).

If one acknowledges that small local areas with cartilage damage may go undetected, it appears that cartilage thickness is preserved up to 2½ years following PAO surgery. None of the hips in the study had an arthrotomy and labral intervention during PAO surgery, and knowing that 17 of 18 arthrographies detected a labral tear, it seems that during short-term follow-up the presence of a labral tear does not accelerate cartilage destruction.

In conclusion, no studies of sufficient methodological value are yet available to definitively clarify whether arthrotomy and labral intervention should be performed or not. According to existing studies, both approaches can be chosen. The redistribution and decrease in load forces together with the resulting relief of overload on the acetabular rim thought to be caused by the PAO (15,54,72,148-150) may explain why pain is relieved in defiance of the presence of a labral tear and why cartilage destruction is seemingly prevented. Future prospective studies with thorough preoperative magnetic resonance-based diagnostics of labral tearing and comparison of clinical and radiographic outcome are warranted.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

Awareness of the limitations and controversies of diagnostic assessment of hip joint deformities and osteoarthritis are important because correct diagnosis has great implications for candidates for joint preserving surgery. An extensive quantification of the variability of different methods for the assessment of hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis was carried out (I). The suggestions made regarding assessment of hip dysplasia have implications for all orthopedic surgeons and radiologists dealing with painful hips in young adults. Evidence was given that in patients with hip dysplasia, pelvic tilt may differ between the supine and weightbearing positions (II). Supported by other studies (88,89,91,93), this finding questions the use of standardized neutral pelvic positioning during assessment of hip joint deformities because the AP radiographic appearance of acetabular version is affected by the degree of pelvic tilt. In an evaluation of acetabular version in dysplastic hip joints in weightbearing AP pelvic radiographs, acetabular retroversion was seen in 33% of hips (III). Awareness of the possible importance of patient positioning and of the frequent finding of acetabular retroversion in dysplastic hip joints is particularly important during assessment of hip dysplasia and the planning and performance of a joint preserving PAO. Larger scale studies recording both lateral and AP pelvic radiographs of both normally structured hips and hips with deformities are needed to shed further light on the importance of patient positioning.

Tearing of the acetabular labrum has been identified as a key feature in the initiation of early osteoarthritic development in hips with structural deformities (13,14,17-28,35-37,107-110,113,114). The role of ultrasound and various clinical tests to diagnose acetabular labral tears was established (IV, V). After overcoming an initial learning curve, ultrasound was showed to be highly reliable in diagnosing labral tears, whereas only a positive finding with the impingement or FABER tests was reliable in identifying a labral tear. Very little was previously known about the ability of these modalities to diagnose labral tears. It seems that noninvasive and rapid ultrasound examination performed by the experienced examiner can potentially alter the traditional diagnostic algorithm in which MRA remains the gold standard. However, further investigations are needed to explore the full potential of ultrasound. As experienced by orthopedic surgeons from around the world, clinical examination remains unreliable in diagnosing labral tears, even in the hands of hip specialists (127). Because this situation may never improve, supplementary radiographic examination is needed.

In line with the few other studies (72-74,131) reporting the medium- and long-term follow-up results after PAO for the treatment of hip dysplasia, encouraging hip joint survival and clinical outcome were reported (VI). The still small number of reports on the outcome beyond 5-year follow-up is contrasted by the wide application of the PAO. Surgeons and patients are awaiting further consolidation of the so far encouraging joint-preserving abilities of PAO, and various aspects, especially those perceived by the patient to be important, are undergoing investigation or remain uninvestigated. The aim should be the performance of truly prospective follow-up studies. The performed analysis of predictors of conversion to THR after PAO documented the importance of various biomechanical and degenerative factors (VI). Knowledge about factors predicting early conversion to THR has the potential to refine patient selection and to improve the potentials of PAO. The previous documentation of such factors, beyond the negative influence of preexisting hip joint osteoarthritis, was very limited. Cartilage thickness was documented to be preserved up to 2½ years after PAO (VII). All but one hip joint had acetabular labral tears, thus indicating that the presence of labral tears does not accelerate cartilage degeneration after PAO. However, the issue of labral intervention during PAO remains highly controversial. Because final conclusions cannot be drawn from the present insufficient knowledge base, a prospective, MRA-based, follow-up study assessing outcome of PAO is being conducted.

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