

## **The effect of severity and duration of osteoarthritis on postoperative outcome in total hip arthroplasty**

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### Purpose

To evaluate the radiographic degree of osteoarthritis (OA) and the duration of symptoms on the postoperative functional outcome and quality of life after a Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA).

### Material & Methods

286 patients with primary hip OA were investigated preoperatively and 12-15 months postoperatively with two questionnaires, WOMAC and EQ-5D. The degree of OA was assessed according to the Kellgren-Lawrence (KL) classification system while the preoperative OA symptom duration was divided to < 3 years and > 3 years. A linear regression analysis was used to investigate the influence after adjusting for possible confounders.

### Results

222 patients completed the study. 73 patients had KL grade 1-2 and 149 patients KL grade 3-4. There were 92 patients with symptoms < 3 years and 130 patients with symptoms > 3 years. All patients, regardless groups, improved significantly after the operation. Unadjusted analysis showed a relation between symptom duration > 3 years and better outcome. When using regression, both KL classification and symptom duration had not effect on the functional outcome or quality of life.

### Conclusion

Preoperative radiographic severity and duration of symptoms did not influence the outcome after THA and therefore should not affect the timing of operative intervention.