



New Zealand Orthopaedic Association

June 2011

New Zealand Orthopaedic Association: Statement regarding the withdrawal of DePuy ASR Hip Resurfacing with extra large metal-on-metal bearings.

The DePuy ASR hip system has been withdrawn from New Zealand, Australia, United States, Canada, United Kingdom and South Africa due to adverse results and higher than expected revision rates following total hip replacements or hip resurfacing.

In New Zealand, where only a small number of the 7000 hip replacements performed annually have used the ASR system, the incidence of this problem is very low.

According to the National Joint Registry, of the 35,000 hip replacements performed during the last five years, a total of 507 using ASR implants were undertaken. Only 18 of these were revised due to direct problems with the ASR system. (Ten other patients had revision of ASR hips for other reasons).

All orthopaedic surgeons in New Zealand have been well informed of the ASR issue and have been asked to provide advice and information to those New Zealand patients who are potentially affected. Detailed information has been provided from the manufacturer and the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association (NZOA) regularly receives updates from the British, Australian, South African, Canadian and American Orthopaedic Associations.

The NZOA is totally supportive of patients from a clinical perspective and will continue to provide all appropriate orthopaedic care. We are aware that some patients may seek additional compensation from the manufacturer. Any such claims are a matter between individual patients and the manufacturer. We will support and assist patients with clinical information for any claim for Treatment Injury from the Accident Compensation Commission.

The NZOA wishes to highlight the overall success of hip replacement. It is widely regarded as 'the best operation in the book' due to its very high success rates and life-changing benefits. The New Zealand Joint Registry confirms that we have one of the highest success rates in the world with an extremely low revision rate.

Further information from NZOA President, Gary Hooper on 027 432 6263