

Journal of Arthroplasty

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Manuscript Draft

Manuscript Number: JOA-D-15-001158R2

Title: Total hip arthroplasty improves pain and function but not physical activity

Article Type: Original Article

Keywords: Physical activity, Total Hip Arthroplasty

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Manuscript Region of Origin: Europe



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The Editors,  
Journal of Arthroplasty

6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: JOA-D-15-001158 Reubmission of Manuscript to Journal of Arthroplasty**

We have completed additional revision of this manuscript in line with the reviewers' comments. The current title of the manuscript is: **Total hip arthroplasty improves pain and function but not physical activity**

I trust that you find all necessary documentation complete with regards to the resubmission of the manuscript.

Each of the authors has read and concurred with the content of the manuscript .The material within has not been and will not be submitted for publication elsewhere except as an abstract.

All authors have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) The conception and design of the study (all authors), acquisition of data (AJ,BS, AD), or analysis and interpretation of data (All authors), (2) drafting the article (BS,AJ) or revising it critically for important intellectual content (All authors), (3) final approval of the version to be submitted (All authors).

We confirm that the work received Institutional Review Board approval before commencement.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at the above

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a yellow rectangular background. The signature appears to read 'Artaban Jeldi' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Artaban Johnson Jeldi

Golden Jubilee National Hospital and Glasgow Caledonian University

6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

JOA-D-15-001158

**Total hip arthroplasty improves pain and function but not physical activity**

We would like to thank the reviewers for their time in reviewing this manuscript and their comments. We have addressed each comment in turn as below.

Reviewer #2: Thank you for revising the analysis. The manuscript is improved. A few minor changes are required

Abstract

line 5- change 'limited' to "limit"

Line 16 -remove "However..time."

We have implemented these changes.

Discussion -

Just because PA is associated with BMI does not mean that is the cause of the habitual behaviour. If anything, you could argue habitual sedentary behaviour then influences BMI. I would change where you make this link in the Discussion and just go with BMI not time was a predictor of PA. Note - specify that it is BMI pre-op (unless you also got BMI across time).

We have examined the discussion to ensure we are not implying a causal link between PA and BMI in either direction. We have removed suggested links.

We have added additional text to ensure the reader understands we are using BMI baseline (pre-op) in our analysis.

Table 2 - is messy. better way to set out? Not sure if it was just how it printed out at my end.

We have attempted to improve the presentation of Table 2. This is difficult as we have included all model outcomes here, which requires numerous columns across all outcomes. We hope that the revision makes reading the table easier.

Reviewer #3: I agree with the authors use of mixed linear modelling for analysis to identify covariates. However, it would be useful to show p values in Table 1. Difference in PA and functional outcomes between pre- and post-3 months and post-12 months. As I suggested before, the authors could use paired t test to give these p values. I do not think it will change their conclusions, but I believe that it will add strength to the analysis.

We have added an assessment of differences between baseline and 3 and 12 month outcomes to Table 1. In examining the appropriate statistical tests to perform we found that most outcomes were normally distributed and the statistically significant differences were the same if parametric or non-parametric analysis was performed. Therefore, we have presented

unadjusted paired t test outcomes as requested by the reviewer. This highlights differences between time points for the largest number of steps in an upright bout (pre to 3 months post) and between baseline cadence and post-operative cadence at both time points. We have incorporated this into the results and discussion within the paper.

Line 189 and Table 2: Define "Time and Time<sup>2</sup>"

Here we have used Time in seconds as a predictor in the model. We have also used Time<sup>2</sup>, i.e. (Time x Time) within the model. This allows for non-linear relationships with time. We have included an additional line in the methods section:

*“(both Time and Time<sup>2</sup> terms were introduced in the model).”*

Table 2 is confusing. I think this data could be presented better.

As per the response to Reviewer 2 we have attempted to improve the presentation of Table 2. This is difficult as we have included all model outcomes here, which requires numerous columns across all outcomes. We hope that the revision makes reading the table easier.

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One of the authors is a co-inventor of activPAL and a director of PAL technologies that manufactures the activPAL devices used in this study
5. Research support from a company or supplier as a Principal Investigator (The following conflicts were disclosed)  
NONE
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7<sup>th</sup> October ,2015  
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Mr. David Allen



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7<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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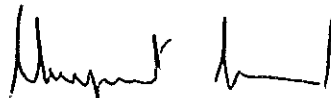
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Dr. Margaret Grant



7<sup>th</sup> October ,2015

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**Title: Total hip arthroplasty improves pain and function but not physical activity**

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## Abstract

### Background:

People with hip osteoarthritis are likely to limit physical activity (PA) engagement due to pain and lack of function. Total hip arthroplasty (THA) reduces pain and improves function, potentially allowing increased PA. PA of THA patients was quantified to 12m post-operation. The hypothesis was that post-operatively levels of PA would increase.

### Methods:

PA of 30 THA patients ( $67 \pm 7$  years) was objectively measured pre-operatively and three and 12 months post-operation. Harris Hip Score (HHS), Oxford Hip Score (OHS) and six minute walk test (6MWT) were recorded. Mixed linear modelling was used to examine relationships of outcomes with time, baseline BMI, age, gender and baseline HHS.

### Results:

Time was not a significant factor in predicting volume measures of PA, including sit-to-stand transitions, upright time and steps. Notably baseline BMI was a significant predictor of upright time, steps, largest number of steps in an upright bout, HHS and 6MWT. Baseline HHS helped predict longest upright bout, cadence of walking bouts  $>60$ s and OHS. The significant effect of participant as a random intercept in the model for PA outcomes suggested habituation from pre- to post-surgery.

### Conclusions:

Volume measures of PA did not change from pre- to 12m post-surgery despite improvement in HHS, OHS and 6MWT. Baseline BMI was a more important predictor of upright activity and stepping than time. Pre- and post-operative PA promotion could be used to modify apparently habitual low levels of PA to enable full health benefits of THA to be gained.

1 **Title: Total hip arthroplasty improves pain and function but not physical activity**

2

3 **Abstract**

4 Background:

5 People with hip osteoarthritis are likely to limit physical activity (PA) engagement due to  
6 pain and lack of function. Total hip arthroplasty (THA) reduces pain and improves function,  
7 potentially allowing increased PA. PA of THA patients was quantified to 12m post-operation.  
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11 12 months post-operation. Harris Hip Score (HHS), Oxford Hip Score (OHS) and six minute  
12 walk test (6MWT) were recorded. Mixed linear modelling was used to examine  
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15 Time was not a significant factor in predicting volume measures of PA, including sit-to-stand  
16 transitions, upright time and steps. Notably baseline BMI was a significant predictor of  
17 upright time, steps, largest number of steps in an upright bout, HHS and 6MWT. Baseline  
18 HHS helped predict longest upright bout, cadence of walking bouts >60s and OHS. The  
19 significant effect of participant as a random intercept in the model for PA outcomes  
20 suggested habituation from pre- to post-surgery.

21 Conclusions:

22 Volume measures of PA did not change from pre- to 12m post-surgery despite improvement  
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24 and stepping than time. Pre- and post-operative PA promotion could be used to modify  
25 apparently habitual low levels of PA to enable full health benefits of THA to be gained.

26

## 27 **Keywords**

28 Physical activity, Total Hip Arthroplasty

29

## 30 **List of Abbreviations**

31 THA Total hip arthroplasty

32 PA Physical activity

33 HHS Harris Hip Score

34 OHS Oxford Hip Score

35 6MWT Six minute walk test

36 BMI Body mass index

37

38

39

## 40 Introduction

41 Total hip arthroplasty (THA) leads to reduction in pain[1–3] and improvement in functional  
42 capacity[4–6] and quality of life[7,8]. Additionally THA is associated with enhanced walking  
43 endurance (longer distances covered in the 6 minute walk test[9,10]) and improved balance  
44 (faster performance of the timed-up-and-go-test[10,11]). However, there is emerging  
45 evidence that there are only small changes in free-living physical activity (PA) following  
46 surgery[12–15]. With reduction in pain, enhancement of endurance and speed of walking  
47 following THA, it might be expected that individuals would be able to participate in health  
48 enhancing PA. However, it is possible that pre-operative habitual patterns of PA are not  
49 altered. If pre-operative patterns of PA are ingrained (at low levels), then pre-operative  
50 measurements could be extremely useful in targeting person-centred interventions to  
51 disrupt these patterns, potentially enhancing long-term health prospects. While PA may  
52 have become habituated, it is possible that changes following surgery may be dependent on  
53 a range of factors. A person's gender may have an impact on surgical outcomes, as might  
54 their weight and age at the point of surgery. Also their pre-operative clinical condition may  
55 be important in determining outcomes.

56 The aim of this study was to enhance understanding of PA following THA by using objective  
57 measurement to characterise PA from pre-operation through recovery to twelve months  
58 post-operation. The relationship between PA change with time following surgery and  
59 gender, age, BMI and baseline clinical score (Harris Hip Score) was investigated. Primary  
60 physical activity outcomes included the number of sit-to-stand transitions per day, the time  
61 upright per day and the number of steps per day. Also secondary outcomes were quantified  
62 to further characterise PA (characteristics of the longest bouts of activity), walking



63 endurance (six minute walk test) and clinical outcomes (Harris Hip Score, Oxford Hip Score).  
64 The hypothesis was that all outcomes would improve following THA.

65

## 66 **Patients and Methods**

67 This was an observational cohort study. Ethical approval was obtained from the West of  
68 Scotland Research Ethics Committee 1 (12/WS/0098). The study population was all patients  
69 being seen for a primary total hip arthroplasty operation at an NHS elective arthroplasty  
70 centre. To ensure the external validity of the study results the inclusion / exclusion criteria  
71 were kept as wide as possible. Inclusion criteria for the study were patients who were able  
72 to give informed consent, were between 50-85 years old and could return for follow-up.  
73 Patients were excluded if they were undergoing a revision hip arthroplasty, had had a total  
74 hip or knee arthroplasty in the last 12 months, had extreme locomotor limitations due to  
75 cardio-pulmonary, central or peripheral nervous system deficits or spinal conditions or were  
76 diagnosed with a terminal disease (malignancy). From July to August 2012 and January to  
77 May 2013 (break in recruitment due to illness of lead investigator) all THA patients under  
78 the care of one consultant orthopaedic surgeon (n=64) were reviewed for eligibility for the  
79 study. All eligible patients (n=57) were approached for inclusion in the study. Published  
80 data to carry out an appropriate a-priori power calculation were not available. Therefore a  
81 target sample of 30 participants was set to provide a power of 0.8 to detect a difference of  
82 1SD in outcomes with a significant level of 0.05. All the study participants gave informed  
83 consent and the complete assessment was carried out by the lead author, a registered  
84 Physiotherapist.

85 Participants were operated on by a single consultant surgeon (DA) or a trainee surgeon  
86 under his direct supervision. Using a posterior approach, all participants received either a  
87 Contemporary® cemented cup or Trident® uncemented cup with an X3 polyethylene liner  
88 and an Exeter® femoral component (Stryker Orthopaedics, Michigan, USA). The peri-  
89 operative care for all participants (from pre-assessment through to discharge) followed the  
90 institution's enhanced recovery programme[16]. The aim of this programme was to  
91 accelerate patients' rehabilitation and reduce in-hospital length of stay (to 3-4 days) by  
92 implementing a multimodal anaesthetic regime combined with pre-operative education and  
93 early mobilisation.

94 Data were collected at three time points: Pre-operatively within the two weeks before  
95 operation; three months after operation; twelve months after operation.

96 PA data were collected objectively for up to seven days using the activPAL3™ monitor  
97 (50x35x7mm, 30g) (PAL Technologies Ltd. Glasgow, UK; software version 7.1.18)[17,18].

98 Data from this instrument classified activities into sedentary (sitting/lying), standing and  
99 stride events. Thus a record of posture (upright or not) and stepping activity was generated.

100 The monitor was attached to the anterior aspect of the thigh of the non-operated leg (24  
101 hour/day wear) using a waterproof surgical dressing (Duoderm extra thin hydrocolloid  
102 dressing (Convatec) or Opsite flexifix (Smith & Nephew)). When compared to video based  
103 observation the activPAL3™ has only a 0.27% difference in upright time detection and -  
104 3.34% difference for step count in adults [19] during standardised activities. Whilst the  
105 upright time detection remains good in activities of daily living (-0.19% agreement) there is  
106 considerable undercounting of small stepping activity within these activities (-86%). This  
107 undercounting of small/slow steps associated with some ADLs is emphasised by the

108 monitor's progressively poorer performance below 0.5m/s [20]. The monitor therefore  
109 records purposeful stepping activity, but is poor at recording small/slow incidental stepping.

110 Compliance with monitor wear was assessed by self-report and post-hoc data examination  
111 by the research team. Only self-reported full 24 hours periods of wear were considered for  
112 inclusion. These records were manually inspected for apparent abnormalities. Any days with  
113 apparent abnormalities were excluded.

114

115 *Primary outcome measures:*

116 The primary outcome for the study was PA. To quantify the level of PA the following three  
117 outcome measures were averaged over all 24 hour periods recorded: Sit-to-stand  
118 transitions/day; time spent upright/day (hours/day); steps/day.

119 *Secondary outcome measures:*

120 The following characteristics of the longer bouts of activity for each recording period were  
121 calculated: Duration of longest continuous upright bout over the recording period; largest  
122 number of steps in an upright bout across the recording period (not necessarily the same  
123 bout as the longest continuous upright bout); mean cadence (steps/min) of all walking bouts  
124 of longer than 60s.

125 Participants were also assessed at all time points using the Harris Hip Score[21] (completed  
126 by the lead author by measurement and interview), the Oxford Hip Score[22,23] (self-  
127 completion) and a six minute walk test [24]. The six minute walk test was conducted in a  
128 30m long corridor, which had regular rest stations at 10m intervals. The participants were

129 advised to walk up and down the corridor at a self-selected speed to achieve the maximum  
130 distance within 6 minutes. The participants were informed that they could take a break  
131 when and for how long needed at any point during the 6 minutes.

132 The age, gender, height, weight, BMI and comorbidities (from medical notes) of participants  
133 were recorded. Major complications (Death, Pulmonary Embolism/Deep vein Thrombosis,  
134 dislocation, infection, and revision) were noted.

### 135 **Data analysis and statistics**

136 Outcomes were characterised as mean (SD). Changes between baseline and 3 months and  
137 12 months post-operation were assessed using paired T tests. Additionally, to examine the  
138 change pre- to post-operation mixed linear models were used to model the relationship  
139 between each PA or clinical outcome parameter and time. As three time points were  
140 recorded time could only be modelled as quadratic (both Time and Time<sup>2</sup> terms were  
141 introduced in the model). Models were adjusted for gender, baseline BMI, age and baseline  
142 Harris Hip Score (apart from Harris Hip Score). The shape of each outcome curve over time  
143 was modelled with each outcome measurement at Level 1 and each patient at Level 2. Fixed  
144 and random effects were included at the patient level (Level 2) and measurement level  
145 (Level 1). The fixed part of each model describes the average growth curve for the sample;  
146 the random part splits variation between subjects at the higher level and variation between  
147 time in the study of the same person at the lower level. The models allowed a unique  
148 growth curve to be generated for each subject based on his or her deviation from the  
149 average curve. An unstructured covariance structure was used.

150 Models were created adding covariates sequentially and comparing models using the -  
151  $2 \times \log \text{Likelihood}$  ( $-2\text{LnL}$ ). Covariates were only retained if there was a significant  
152 improvement in  $-2\text{LnL}$  (reduction of 3.84). The maximum likelihood method was used to  
153 estimate the coefficients so that unbiased estimates of  $-2\text{LnL}$  were calculated. Once the  
154 model had been selected the restricted maximum likelihood method was used to give  
155 unbiased estimates of the coefficients. From this model predictions were made. Residuals  
156 for both level 2 and level 1 were estimated and investigated, as was the variance of the  
157 model over time. Model parameters and 95%CI are presented along with predictions.  
158 All statistical analysis was conducted in SPSS 23 (SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL) with the level of  
159 statistical significance taken to be  $p < 0.05$ .

160

## 161 **Results**

162 Thirty participants (21F/9M) were recruited to the study. The STROBE flow diagram giving  
163 recruitment pathway and reasons for non-participation is given in Figure 1. All surgeries  
164 were successfully carried out. For the duration of the study (one year follow-up) there were  
165 no major complications. Of the 30 participants, 3 did not have 12 month data (Figure 1). All  
166 30 participants' data were included in the mixed linear modelling. Pre-operatively  
167 participants' mean age was 67 years (range 50-82y), height 165cm (range 150-182cm),  
168 weight 82.9kg (range 57.8-132.6kg), BMI 31  $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$  (range 19-43 $\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ ) and Harris Hip Score  
169 50 (range 27-66) and Oxford Hip Score 15 (range 4-30). Indication for surgery in all the  
170 participants was osteoarthritis. Along with this diagnosis 13 participants had hypertension,  
171 7 had cardiac abnormalities, 4 had Diabetes Mellitus, 7 had asthma/COPD and 2 participants  
172 had previous THA on the contralateral side. A median of six days of PA data were recorded

173 at each time point. Mean and standard deviation of outcomes are presented (Table 1) with  
174 significant predictors within the mixed linear models (Table 2) and graphical evidence of  
175 trends with these significant predictors (Figure 2).

176 There were no significant differences in the primary outcomes between baseline and 3 and  
177 12 months post-operation (Table 1). However, for the secondary PA outcomes there were  
178 significant increases in the largest number of steps in an upright bout at 3 months ( $p=0.024$ )  
179 (but not 12) and in cadence at both 3 ( $p=0.028$ ) and 12 months ( $p=0.007$ ) post-operation.  
180 Harris Hip Score (HHS), Oxford Hip Score (OHS) and six minute walk test (6MWT) all  
181 demonstrated increases from baseline to 3 and 12 months post-operation (all  $p<0.001$ ).

182 When examined using mixed linear models gender was not a significant predictor of any  
183 outcomes. Age was only a significant predictor of HHS ( $b=0.38$ ,  $p=0.047$ ) with a higher age  
184 being associated with a higher HHS (Figure 2g).

185 Time was not a significant predictor of the number of sit-to-stand transitions per day,  
186 upright time per day, steps per day, longest upright bout, the largest number of steps in an  
187 upright bout or cadence based on the outcomes of the mixed modelling (Table 1 mean data,  
188 Table 2 model outcomes). However, baseline BMI was a significant predictor of upright time  
189 per day ( $b=-0.153$ ,  $p=-0.003$ ) (Figure 2a), steps per day ( $b=-263$ ,  $p=0.001$ ) (Figure 2b) and  
190 largest number of steps in an upright bout ( $b=-144$ ,  $p=0.001$ ) (Figure 2d). In each of these  
191 cases higher baseline BMI predicted a lower level of PA. Additionally baseline HHS  
192 predicted variation in the longest upright bout ( $b=0.0325$ ,  $p=0.053$ ) (Figure 2c) and the  
193 cadence of walking in bouts longer than 60s ( $b=0.696$ ,  $p=0.004$ ) (Figure 2e). For all PA  
194 outcomes except the longest upright bout random intercepts explained a significant

195 proportion of the outcome, indicating that participants tended to maintain the same level of  
196 PA in relation to the other participants across the study period.

197 Time and Time<sup>2</sup> were significant factors in the model for HHS, OHS and 6MWT outcomes (all  
198  $p < 0.001$ ). Also baseline BMI helped to predict outcomes for HHS ( $b = -0.41$ ,  $p = 0.070$ ) (Figure  
199 2f) and 6MWT ( $b = -6.09$ ,  $p = 0.03$ ) (Figure 2i) with higher baseline BMI indicating lower scores.  
200 HHS baseline value helped to describe OHS ( $b = 0.19$ ,  $p = 0.053$ ) (Figure 2h) change over the  
201 study period. There was significant variation across the study period between participants  
202 in HHS, OHS and 6MWT as indicated by significant ( $-2\text{LnL}$ ) contributions to the model of  
203 random intercepts.

204

## 205 **Discussion**

206 This study demonstrated that at one year post-operation primary THA patients had made  
207 little change to their free-living PA from pre-operation levels. This was confirmed by a lack  
208 of significant difference in the primary PA outcomes and with time not being a predictor in  
209 the mixed linear model. However, secondary PA outcomes did change, suggesting  
210 underlying modification of walking performance. Baseline BMI was a significant predictor in  
211 the model for upright time and stepping activity. The significance of the random parameter  
212 of participant within the model coupled with the lack of a significant effect of time,  
213 suggested that participants were tending to maintain the same relative volumes of PA  
214 across the study period. This appears to indicate that pre-operative PA may have become  
215 habitual and despite improvements in function of the joint, as seen in the improvement of  
216 clinical outcome measures, volumes of PA did not significantly increase post-operation.

217

218 There were a number of limitations to this study. The small size of the study and the  
219 participants being under the care of one consultant within one hospital could limit the  
220 generalisability of the results. In terms of study power, based on the standard deviation of  
221 the difference in steps per day from pre- to 12 months post-operation recorded in this study  
222 (2492), the sample used (27 full records) would have been sufficient to detect a difference  
223 of 1350 steps/day with a power of 0.8 and a confidence of 0.05. In support of the  
224 generalizability of the results, the participants' age was similar to that reported in  
225 arthroplasty registers [25,26] and similarly osteoarthritis was the main reason for operation.  
226 However, baseline BMI (mean 31kg/m<sup>2</sup>) was higher than reported elsewhere[25,27]. It is  
227 widely accepted that by 12 months post-operatively patients have gained the maximum  
228 benefit from their THA. However, it is possible that increased function is obtained at longer  
229 follow-up or that function at one year had already begun to deteriorate due to other co-  
230 morbidities. The original activPAL™ monitor has proven validity in adults [18] and older  
231 adults[17,28]. However, the step counting facility of the activPAL3™ has limitations at slow  
232 stepping speeds as it under-counts slow, short step-length steps [20,29]. Therefore, the  
233 monitor may not have reliably detected stepping which was not 'purposeful'. A further issue  
234 is that this was an observational study of a surgical intervention. Theoretically, it would  
235 have been possible to perform an RCT with a no surgery arm to examine natural progression  
236 within this population. A more subtle limitation is that this study did not measure the desire  
237 of participants to increase their level of PA post-surgery. Therefore, even with improved  
238 function participants may not have increased PA as they lacked motivation.



239 The results of this study confirm the previous reports of only small changes in PA following  
240 THA [14,15,30,31]. However, there were differences in outcomes, e.g. the current study  
241 (Table 1) found lower sit-to-stand transitions per day both pre-operatively and at 3 months  
242 post-operatively and whilst the upright time/day was similar pre-operatively, there were  
243 varying levels of agreement post-operatively compared to other studies. There were  
244 differences in participant demographics, with the current study population being older and  
245 more overweight than those of previous reports, which might explain these differences.

246 The mixed model outcomes indicated that gender did not significantly predict results for any  
247 outcome parameters within this cohort and that age was only significant within the  
248 prediction model for HHS. These results are perhaps surprising in that age might have been  
249 considered important in predicting PA as the study participants covered 50-82 years of age.  
250 However, baseline BMI or Baseline HHS appeared to be more important. Baseline BMI was  
251 a predictor of both PA and clinical score outcomes, highlighting the importance of pre-  
252 operative BMI in predicting outcomes following surgery.

253 The inclusion of the Time<sup>2</sup> term within the mixed model improved predictions of several  
254 outcomes (Harris Hip Score, Oxford Hip Score and six minute walk test), suggesting that  
255 there was a non-linear relationship with time. This is highlighted in mean scores for these  
256 outcomes where large improvements occurred to the 3 month post-operative time point,  
257 but only small changes from 3 to 12 months post-operative (Figures 2f-i).

258 In the current study additional PA measures were added to those previously reported. The  
259 longest upright bout and largest number of steps in an upright bout provide quantification  
260 of the longest times participants performed 'functional' tasks requiring the upright posture.  
261 Also cadence of stepping for bouts longer than 60s gives an insight into the intensity of

262 stepping over extended periods. Paired T test outcomes indicated no significant difference  
263 in the primary outcomes between baseline and post-operation time points. However, there  
264 were differences in the secondary PA outcome measures of the largest number of steps in  
265 an upright bout and the cadence of longer stepping bouts (>60s). These changes suggest  
266 that characteristics of PA behaviour may be improving, such as the ability to routinely walk  
267 faster (confirmed by a correspondingly higher 6MWT outcome). However, these do not  
268 appear to necessarily translate into greater volumes of overall daily activity.

269 Within the model, Time was not a significant factor in predicting longest upright bout or  
270 largest number of steps in an upright bout (Table 2), indicating that participants were not  
271 extending their loaded use of their new hip joints. Whilst cadence increased across the  
272 study period (Table 1), this was not significantly predicted by time in the model (Table 2)  
273 and still remained below that of age matched peers (93 ( $\pm$ 12) against 107 steps/min) [32–  
274 34]. The longest upright bout model did not have a significant random effect of participant  
275 suggesting that there was not a consistent ranking of participants with time (Table 2). It is  
276 possible that this outcome is highly influenced by particular social events or functional  
277 activities, pointing to a need to gather contextual information to gain a full understanding of  
278 the reasons for these patterns. However, the largest number of steps in an upright bout did  
279 have significant random effects of participant, suggesting similar volumes of stepping within  
280 one bout across the study period by participants.

281 The lack of time as a significant predictor within the model coupled with the significant  
282 random effect of participant suggests that pre-operative PA (except longest upright bout)  
283 may be habituated. Therefore, if pre-operative PA was measured, interventions could be  
284 used to target those likely to have low PA post-operatively to attempt to modify long-term

285 behaviour. Enhancing PA has demonstrated secondary benefits of improving health (e.g.  
286 lower risk of cancer, ischemic events, diabetes [35] and enhanced quality of life[36,37]). A  
287 behaviour change intervention delivered through educational material, therapy sessions  
288 etc., could be used to attempt to maximise the potential gains from THA in terms of overall  
289 health improvement. The significance of baseline BMI within several PA outcome models  
290 reinforces the need to consider this as an important factor in health promotion alongside PA  
291 promotion.

292 As expected [9,30], both HHS and OHS highlighted improvement from pre- to post-  
293 operation, as did 6MWT (values similar to previous studies [12,31]). However, there was  
294 not an accompanying increase in PA levels, indicating that these measures cannot be used  
295 as surrogates for PA, i.e. that it is necessary to measure free-living PA directly to gain insight  
296 into any changes following surgery.

297

## 298 **Conclusions**

299 In this study primary total hip arthroplasty patients did not make significant changes in the  
300 volume of PA performed at one year post-operation and it appeared that participants  
301 tended to maintain the same relative level of PA in relation to their peers. However,  
302 standard clinical outcome measures improved, showing an increase in function. This may  
303 indicate that habitual free-living PA patterns are established pre-operatively and these are  
304 not altered by the better function and pain reduction given by a THA. These results may  
305 indicate that intervention to modify habitual low levels of PA, associated with declining long

306 term health, could be necessary in a proportion of primary THA patients to allow them to  
307 fully exploit the additional function that their new joint gives them.

308

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411

## 412 **Suppliers**

413 <sup>a</sup> **Stryker Orthopaedics**, Michigan, USA: Exeter<sup>®</sup> femoral component, Contemporary<sup>®</sup> cemented cup,  
414 Trident<sup>®</sup> uncemented cup, X3 polyethylene liner.

415 <sup>b</sup> **PAL Technologies Ltd.** Glasgow, UK: activPAL3<sup>™</sup>

416

Figure 1

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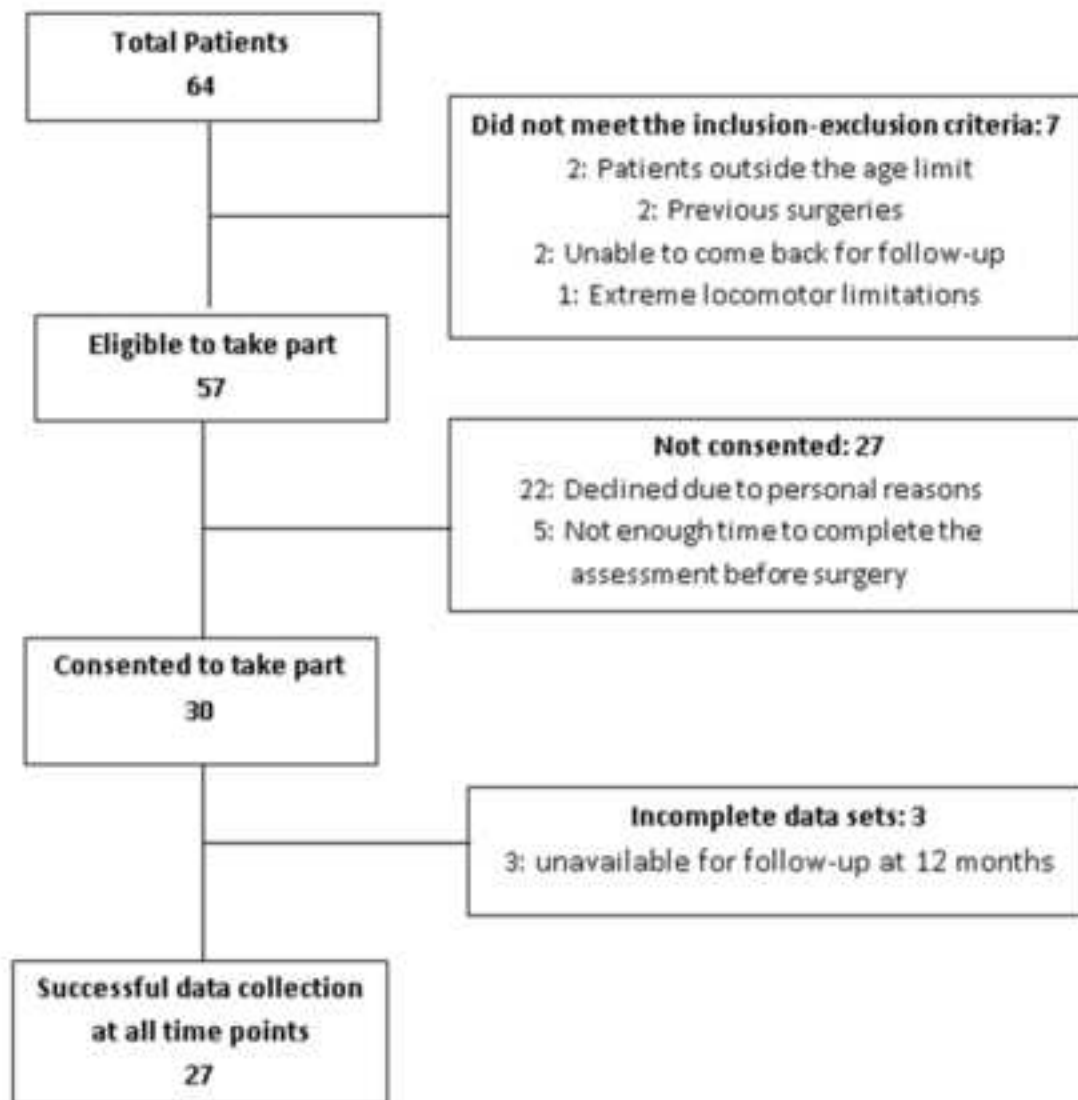
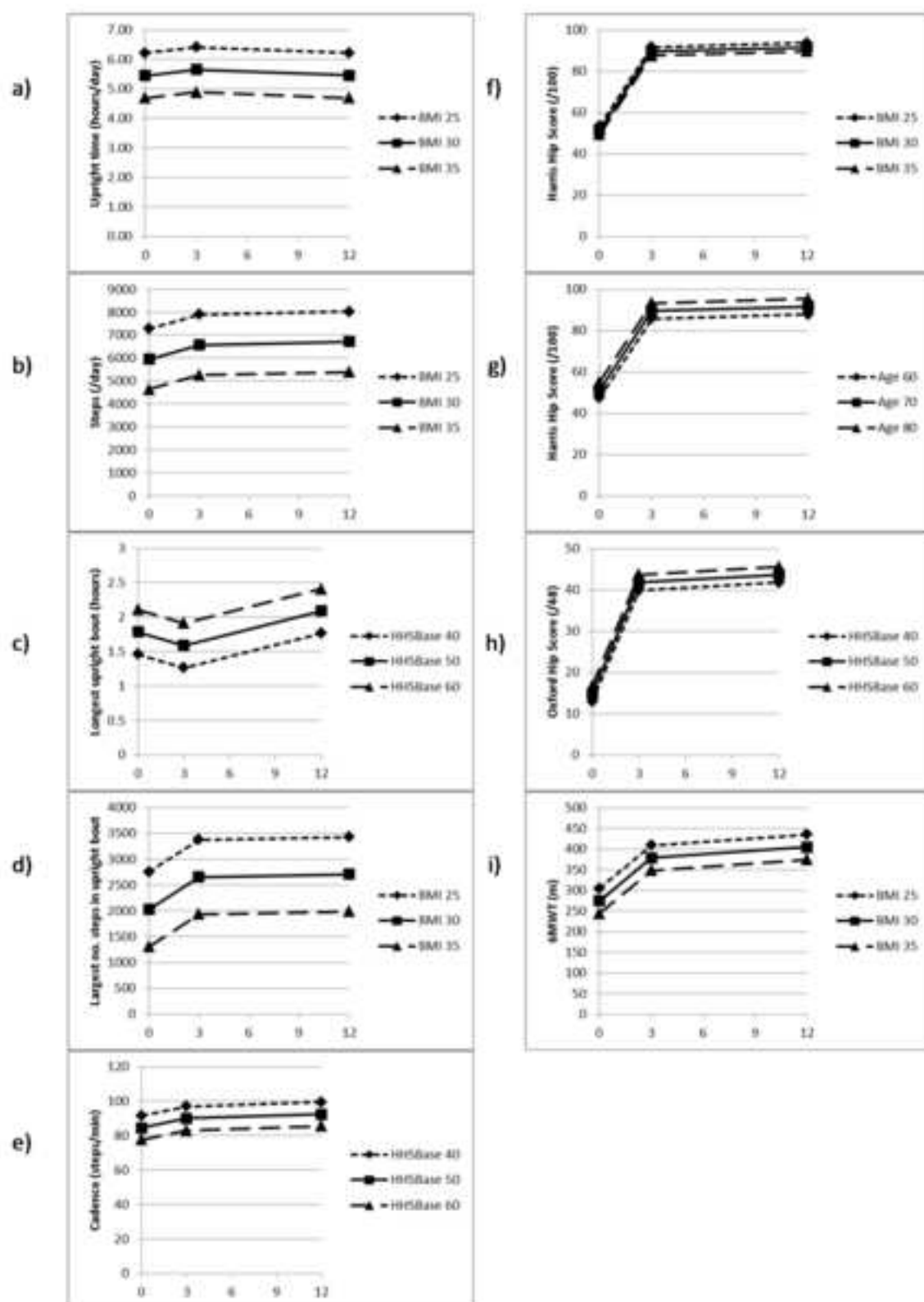




Figure 2

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## List of Figures

**Figure 1** Strobe flow chart of participant recruitment.

**Figure 2** Model outcomes for significant relationships by months-post operative. Note in figures a) to e) for illustrative purposes time and time<sup>2</sup> have been left in the models even though they were not significant (see Table 2 for significant model parameters). a) Upright time by BMI; b) Steps by BMI; c) Longest upright bout by Harris Hip Score baseline; d) Largest number of steps in an upright bout by BMI; e) Cadence of stepping bouts >60s by HHS baseline; f) Harris Hip Score by BMI; g) Harris Hip Score by age; h) Oxford Hip Score by Harris Hip Score baseline; i) Six minute walk test by BMI.

Table 1 Outcomes at each time point and unadjusted statistical differences between post- and pre-operative time points.

Outcome	Pre-operative (Mean SD)	3m Post-operative (Mean SD)	p-value	12m Post-operative (Mean SD)	p-value
Primary outcomes					
Sit-to-stand transitions (/day)	46 (11)	44 (11)	0.237	44 (11)	0.138
Upright time (hours/day)	5.35 (2.07)	5.55 (1.74)	0.406	5.42 (1.61)	0.979
Steps (/day)	5320 (3015)	5943 (2675)	0.071	6155 (2631)	0.152
Secondary outcomes					
Longest upright bout (hours)	1.78 (1.48)	1.58 (0.82)	0.462	2.09 (1.96)	0.356
Largest number of steps in an upright bout	1934 (1480)	2559 (1841)	<b>0.024*</b>	2671 (1705)	0.129
Cadence of bouts >60s (steps/min)	85 (16)	91 (13)	<b>0.028*</b>	93 (12)	<b>0.007*</b>
Harris Hip Score (/100)	50 (10)	88 (10)	<b>&lt;0.001**</b>	91 (11)	<b>&lt;0.001**</b>
Oxford Hip Score (/48)	15 (6)	42 (7)	<b>&lt;0.001**</b>	44 (6)	<b>&lt;0.001**</b>
Six minute walk test (m)	270 (93)	374 (87)	<b>&lt;0.001**</b>	399 (104)	<b>&lt;0.001**</b>

Paired sample T-test \*different from pre-operative at p<0.05, \*\*different from pre-operative at p<0.001

Table 2

Table 2 Mixed linear model results, both fixed and random parameters for all outcomes. Those elements of the model that are included produced an improvement in 2LnL of a minimum of 3.84. Variables were centred as: BMI 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, Age 70 years, HHS (Harris Hip Score) Baseline 50. Beta = change in outcome per unit of model element: Time (months), Time<sup>2</sup> (months<sup>2</sup>), BMI Baseline (kg/m<sup>2</sup>), Age (years), HHS Baseline (score/100). 95% confidence intervals of Beta are given.

Outcome	Fixed parameters												Random parameter	
	Intercept		Time		Time <sup>2</sup>		BMI Baseline		Age		HHS Baseline		Intercept	
	Beta	P value	Beta	P value	Beta	P value	Beta	P value	Beta	P value	Beta	P value	Covariance	P value
<b>Primary outcomes</b>														
Sit-to-stand transitions (/day)	44.4 (40.8,47.9)	<0.001											75.7 (40.2,142.5)	0.002
Upright time (hours/day)	5.52 (4.99,6.05)	<0.001					-0.153 (-0.248,-0.057)	0.003					1.630 (0.862,3.087)	0.002
Steps (/day)	5950 (5184,6715)	<0.001					-263 (-401,-126)	0.001					3270000 (1680000,6365000)	0.003
<b>Secondary outcomes</b>														
Longest upright bout (hours)	1.81 (1.50,2.12)	<0.001									0.0325 (-0.0004,0.0655)	0.053		
Largest number of steps in an upright bout	2453 (2023,2883)	<0.001					-144 (-221,-67)	0.001					783500 (315500,1945300)	0.031
Cadence of bouts >60s (steps/min)	89.1 (84.9,93.2)	<0.001									0.696 (0.240,1.151)	0.004	75.3 (32.8,172.4)	0.018
Harris Hip Score (/100)	51.3 (47.7,54.9)	<0.001	15.84 (13.96,17.72)	<0.001	-1.04 (-1.18,-0.89)	<0.001	-0.41 (-0.85,0.04)	0.070	0.38 (0.01,0.76)	0.047			15.47 (3.53,67.70)	0.184
Oxford Hip Score (/48)	14.9 (12.5,17.2)	<0.001	11.16 (9.99,12.33)	<0.001	-0.73 (-0.82,-0.64)	<0.001					0.19 (-0.003,0.383)	0.053	14.33 (5.85,35.11)	0.029
Six minute walk test (m)	274 (241,307)	<0.001	42.62 (30.54,54.69)	<0.001	-2.646 (-3.582,-1.709)	<0.001	-6.09 (-11.36,-0.83)	0.03					5016 (2671,9419)	0.002

### **Funding source**

This study was funded by Glasgow Caledonian University.

### **Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to thank all participants in the study and the Rehab and Orthopaedic staff of the Golden Jubilee Hospital for their support in recruitment of participant. The authors thank Dr David McDonald (Golden Jubilee National Hospital) for his contribution to the development of the research study, through the provision of advice on project development and facilitating data collection.