

## Total hip arthroplasty in younger patients: are there other options in China?

Dear Editor,

We read with interest the paper published by Kumar et al (1), in which they suggest that younger patients undergoing total hip replacement generally have a longer life expectancy and higher activity levels than older cohorts which may lead to higher revision rates. This is also highlighted by Bayliss and colleagues (2) who, using the lifetime risk of revision (LTRR), showed that there was an increased rate in younger patients.

Whilst we appreciate these concerns and accept the evidence presented, the quandary we face in China is do we have any other options to deal with the highly symptomatic (1) joint except for arthroplasty even though patients are young?

First of all, the disease spectrum of total joint arthroplasty may not be identical in China. The young patients who need total hip arthroplasty are mainly diagnosed with osteonecrosis of femoral head with 8.12 million in China (3). Other total arthroplasties, both hip and knee are due to rheumatoid arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis. The overall burden to the family and society in terms of cost, mental stress and physical disability if no arthroplasty is offered may be much more than that of a future revision which will happen in the face of ever-changing technology and which can be controlled to a certain extent by strict regulation and improved training of surgeons.

Furthermore, the preserving hip joint surgery based on the young patients individualised condition should be improved.

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