



Reply to the Letter to the Editor

Reply to the Letter to the Editor: Complications of Total Hip Arthroplasty: Standardized List, Definitions, and Stratification Developed by the Hip Society

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To the editor,

We thank Drs. Monsalvo and Bautista for their letter regarding our paper. We appreciate your concerns regarding

our exclusion of limb-length discrepancy from our list of complications.

Your letter clearly identifies our reasons for excluding limb-length discrepancies from the list of THA complications which include, lack of

consensus definition, lack of support in the expert opinion survey, and failure to be validated in the clinical case evaluation.

We acknowledge that limb-length discrepancy is a frequent cause of

(RE: Healy WL, Iorio R, Clair AJ, Pellegrini VD, Della Valle CJ, Berend KR. Complications of total hip arthroplasty: Standardized list, definitions, and stratification developed by The Hip Society. *Clin Orthop Relat Res*. 2015;474:357–364). One of the authors (WLH) certifies that he receives royalties from DePuy Orthopaedics (Warsaw, IN, USA) in an amount of USD 10,000 to USD 1,000,000. One of the authors (RI) certifies that he has a product development agreement with IMDS Kyocera (Kyoto, Japan); is on the boards of The Knee Society, The Hip Society, and the New England Orthopaedic Society; and is a reviewer/editor for the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*®, the *Journal of Arthroplasty*, and the *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons*. One of the authors (VDP) certifies that he receives royalties from DePuy Orthopaedics in an amount of USD 10,000 to USD 1,000,000 and is on the board of The Hip Society. One of the authors (CJDV) certifies that he receives research support from Biomet (Warsaw, IN, USA), CD Diagnostics (Wynnewood, PA,

USA), Smith & Nephew (Memphis, TN, USA), and Stryker (Mahwah, NJ, USA) in amounts of USD 10,000 to USD 1,000,000; is a consultant for Biomet, DePuy Orthopaedics, and Smith & Nephew and receives USD 10,000 to USD 1,000,000; and has investments in CD Diagnostics (Wynnewood, PA, USA). One of the authors (KRB) certifies that he receives royalties from, is a consultant for, and receives research support from Biomet; receives institutional research support from Biomet, Stryker (Mahwah, NJ, USA), Kinamed (Camarillo, CA, USA), Pacira (Parsippany, NJ, USA), and Piedmont Orthopaedic Society; has investments in VuMedi; is a reviewer/editor for *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*®, the *Journal of Arthroplasty*, *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgeons*, *Orthopedics*, and *Reconstructive Review*; and is on the boards of The Knee Society, American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, and Board of Specialties. All ICMJE Conflict of Interest Forms for authors and *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*® editors and board members are on file with the publication and can be viewed on request.

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patient dissatisfaction and litigation. Unfortunately, different limb-length discrepancies are associated with different patient responses and different patient-reported outcomes. The unpredictability of a threshold of limb-length discrepancy, which causes symptoms and/or an adverse patient-reported outcome, makes it a difficult condition to categorize, and,

the data regarding how much limb-length discrepancy is clinically significant is not clear. In our experience, some patients whose limb lengths are “equalized” following hip replacement operation complain of a feeling of limb-length discrepancy.

Limb-length discrepancy following hip replacement is a topic that deserves

further evaluation and consideration. When the data and information regarding limb-length discrepancy are clearer, and there is a consensus regarding definition and association with patient-reported outcome, perhaps it should be included with a list of complications following THA.

Thank you for your consideration of our work.