



Symposium: 2014 Meeting of International Society of Arthroplasty Registers

Editorial Comment: 2014 Meeting of The International Society of Arthroplasty Registers

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The International Society of Arthroplasty Registers (ISAR) was formed in 2004 at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons annual meeting. Forty national, regional, or institutional registries are presently ISAR members (11 full and 29 associate). The goal of ISAR is to “utilize the strength of cooperation and sharing of information and further enhance the capacity of individual registries to meeting their own aims and objectives. The society is involved in the development of frameworks to encourage collaborative activities and provides a support network for established and developing registries” [3].

Arthroplasty registries play an important role in patient safety and quality improvement. The value of registries is not simply to monitor implant performance but drive improvements and quality of care. This is achieved by providing feedback to surgeons, hospitals and regulatory bodies to facilitate change in practice.

It is important to appreciate that registries in themselves cannot prevent catastrophic or unexpected events, but what they can do is pick up the signals of failure at a much earlier stage than otherwise would have occurred. A good example of this was the introduction of implants with metal-on-metal



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articulations and the detection of statistically inferior outcomes within 5 years. This early detection and dissemination of information resulted in the change of implant selection and saved many patients from receiving an inferior device [4].

Many registries already support research and postmarket surveillance but new methodologies are emerging [1]. Under such a rubric, clinical trials on new and established techniques could be “nested” in national and regional registries with high coverage and data completeness. (Nesting refers to a more detailed or enhanced data set. For example, a collection of radiographs to obtain more data on the implant or intervention under observation). This

process, referred to as “Beyond Compliance” [2] has already been established in the United Kingdom. This kind of enhanced data collection will add value to registries and reduce cost compared to more traditional methods of postmarket surveillance and research.

As ISAR has grown and expanded it held its first international congress in Norway in 2012 and papers from this edition of *CORR*[®] were presented during the Third Congress in Boston, MA, USA in 2014. These papers cover a broad area of registry research including refinement and reliability of patient-related outcomes data, identifying risk factors for readmission, methodology of establishing revision risk, and the fate of the revised resurfacing.

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