“A Mile in my Shoes”

Dr Tom Joyce
School of Mechanical and Systems Engineering, Newcastle University
14th January 2012
Update from 1 October 2011

MetalHip website

http://research.ncl.ac.uk/metalhip
Tom Joyce
@metalhip_ncl Newcastle upon Tyne
Posting news about metal-on-metal hip joint failure. Tom Joyce is an internationally renowned biomedical engineer specialising in artificial joints.
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/mech/staff/profile/thomas.joyce

Tweets
Favorites  Following  Followers  Lists

metalhip_ncl Tom Joyce
Scottish media covers ASR story goo.gl/IKk4X
6 Dec

metalhip_ncl Tom Joyce
New resources section on website includes a presentation with lots of detail about ASR history and engineering analysis research.ncl.ac.uk/metalhip/resou...
2 Dec

metalhip_ncl Tom Joyce
Invited to speak to ASR patients in Ireland in New Year. Said that I would, awaiting full details of event
27 Nov

metalhip_ncl Tom Joyce
More comment in the Australian media including a DePuy ASR metal-on-metal hip patient’s view goo.gl/sefkA
25 Nov

@metalhip_ncl
15 November 2011, RTE TV, ‘Prime Time’, Ireland
22 November 2011

Australian Senate report (142 pages)

“Many people could have avoided considerable pain, suffering and diminished quality of life if the company had acted in a responsible manner to known problems with these devices”

The Senate

Community Affairs References Committee

The regulatory standards for the approval of medical devices in Australia

Australia, Sydney Morning Herald

“Harold, 84, said cobalt produced by the grinding of the metal-on-metal joint had left him with high levels in his body which he believes has caused bouts of memory loss and fatigue.”

A SENATE committee has expressed shock at the "intolerable and unacceptable" suffering caused to hundreds of patients fitted with faulty hip implants and demanded urgent action from health authorities.
'I feel robbed of my life': Hundreds of patients seek compensation after faulty hip joints leave them in agony

- NHS patients given faulty hip replacements embroiled in landmark legal battle
- 300 clients seek compensation payments ranging from £25,000 to £1m
- "It's broken up relationships and some clients have said they would consider taking their own life because of the pain"

By SADIE WHITELOCKS

Last updated at 1:29 PM on 2nd December 2011
Not a gender issue!

Women have smaller pelvises and are fitted with smaller joints

Smaller diameter resurfacings tend to wear more quickly
The High Cost of Failing Artificial Hips

His bills are “five times as much” as he paid for his home.
“The failure of the implant was nothing I had ever seen before ... it is terrible this has taken so long for this to emerge ... by writing it up (in 2006) that was the best way to disseminate the information”
Consultant Surgeon

“I was issuing a warning (in 2007). I am horrified by this. I am amazed it has taken so long to uncover”. The problem was the British regulator – then the Medical Devices Agency (MDA) – didn’t seem to care. “It was never very interested in these things”
Consultant Surgeon

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8986746/Breast-implant-scandal-the-whistleblowers.html
Another medical device in the news

PIP Breast implant
Déjà vu?

- FDA did not approve PIP implant, like they did not approve DePuy ASR resurfacing hip
- 21 Dec 2011 - MHRA said: “There is currently no evidence to support routine removal of PIP breast implants”
- 10 Jan 2012 - “Welsh NHS to replace privately-fitted PIP implants”
- 11 Jan 2012 - “the MHRA, their own regulatory authority, has approved these implants and obviously hasn't done their proper checking”
- 12 Jan 2012, The Lancet - “The only reasonable conclusion can be that the MHRA failed to do the job the public expects of it - to protect it from harm”
Interim report completed in less than two weeks over Christmas and New Year

http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/pip-implants-interim-report/
"Whatever the objective evidence on safety, many women with PIP implants will understandably be very worried about the possible implications for their health. In itself, this anxiety is a form of health risk and must be addressed with understanding and compassion by those responsible for their treatment......The NHS will support removal of PIP implants if, informed by an assessment of clinical need, risk and the impact of unresolved concerns, a woman with her doctor decides that it is right to do so. The NHS will replace the implants if the original operation was done by the NHS.....The group (ie the expert committee) endorses this offer. It expects providers in the private sector to take similar steps.
"Whatever the objective evidence on safety, many people with ASR implants will understandably be very worried about the possible implications for their health. In itself, this anxiety is a form of health risk and must be addressed with understanding and compassion by those responsible for their treatment......The NHS will support removal of ASR implants if, informed by an assessment of clinical need, risk and the impact of unresolved concerns, a woman with her doctor decides that it is right to do so. The NHS will replace the implants if the original operation was done by the NHS.....The group (ie the expert committee) endorses this offer. It expects providers in the private sector to take similar steps.
“A Mile in my Shoes”

Dr Tom Joyce
School of Mechanical and Systems Engineering,
Newcastle University
14th January 2012