

Clinical and radiological evaluation of post total hip arthroplasty patients with acetabulum defect



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ABSTRACT

Background: Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA) is one of many therapies given to hip joint injury patients. The main indication for THA in elderly patients is degenerative diseases of the joints. One of the difficulties encountered in this THA procedure is to overcome the acetabulum deficiency, with Paprosky Classification. This study aims to evaluate patients with acetabulum defect that have undergone THA at Dr. Soetomo Hospital in 2014–2016.

Methods: This was an observational retrospective study with descriptive analysis. The sample amount was 20 patients, from 80 patients who had THA procedure. Patients were evaluated based on the wear from acetabulum, migration from a cup, the presence of bone loss, heterotopic ossification, and also clinical condition based on Harris Hip Score. The presented results were analyzed by using Kruskal-Wallis on SPSS 19.0 for Windows Program.

Results: Hypothesis testing was performed on THA patients based on acetabulum defect type I, II, and III in one, two, and three years after surgery respectively. Massin Score resulted no differences with $p = 0.156$, $p = 0.574$, and $p = 0.223$. Bone Loss Classification resulted no differences with $p = 0.296$, $p = 0.287$, and $p = 0.223$. No difference on Wear Rate with $p = 0.072$, $p = 0.110$, and $p = 0.325$. There was no difference of Harris Hip Score with $p = 0.320$, $p = 0.082$, and $p = 0.472$.

Conclusion: There were no significant differences in radiological evaluation of the Migration Rate, Heterotopic Ossification or Bone Loss, Wear Rate, and on clinical evaluation of Harris Hip Score in all three groups of evaluated acetabulum defects.

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1. Introduction

Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA) is one of many therapies given to hip joint injury patients, that can increase patient's quality of life, decrease pain, and provide a functional result.¹ Degenerative diseases of the joints, including osteoarthritis or necrosis of the femoral head with major dysfunction, or sequel after proximal femoral fracture are some of the main indication for THA in elderly patients.² THA demand is increasing as the number of elderly patients increases, and the incidence of femoral neck fracture increases in elderly patients.³ Indonesia is in the top 10 countries with large elderly population.⁴ However all operative procedures have its own risks, including postoperative complications. With the increasing number of patients that undergo THA procedure, the

number of patients who experienced a complication that needs revision will also increase (Fig. 1).

Osteolysis is a response to debris caused by wear. First, debris particulates can be formed from 3 types of wear: adhesive wear, abrasive wear, and third body wear. Adhesive wear is the most important wear in the osteolytic process. Polyethylene attaches microscopically to the prosthesis and disengaged debris. Abrasive wear occurs because of friction, looks like grated, on the prosthesis that causes particulates. While third body wear occurs because of the foreign body particles in joint space that cause abrasion and wear. Osteolysis is also triggered by macrophages. With the activation of macrophages, another macrophage will be called, and secrete osteolytic factors (cytokines), including Tumor Necrosis Factor- α (TNF- α), Transforming Growth Factor- β (TGF- β), osteoclast activating factor, oxide radicals, hydrogen, peroxide, acid phosphatase, interleukins (IL-1, IL-6), and prostaglandins. Then there will be osteoclast and osteolysis activation because of the increase of TNF- α which will increase Receptor Activator of Nuclear Factor κ B (RANK), the increase of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) with Ultra-High-Molecular-Weight Polyethylene (UHMWPE) that will

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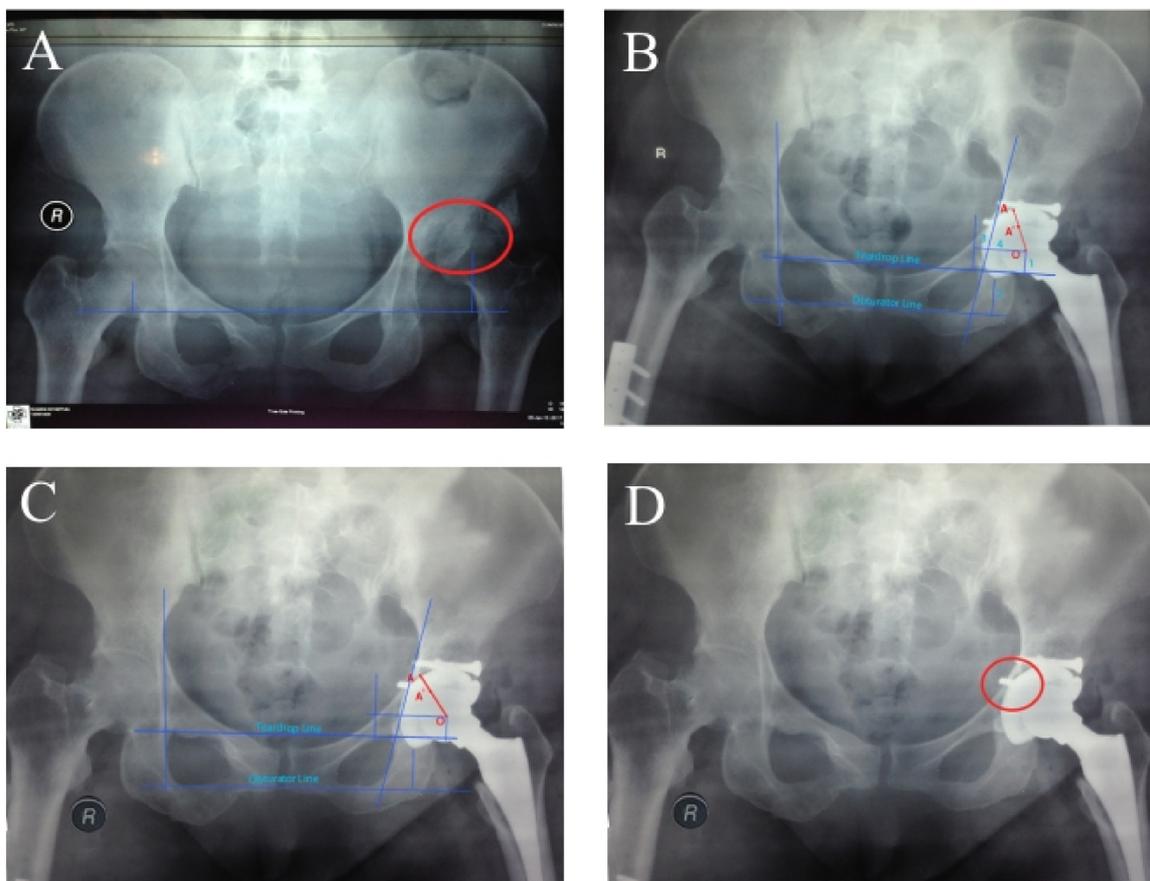


Fig. 1. (A) Preoperative X-ray of a patient with Type III Paprosky defect, marked by a significant dome destruction, with migration from center femoral head to superolateral. (B) Postoperative X-ray after THA procedure performed. Measurements to know migration of acetabulum components were (1) vertical center length from cup to teardrop line, (2) vertical length of lower border cup with obturator line, (3) horizontal length between centers from cup to vertical line of teardrop, and (4) horizontal length from center cup to Kohler's Line. (C) X-ray evaluation after 3 years of surgery. The AA' line was measured and compared the difference with AA' line from postoperative X-ray to know Wear Rate from the acetabulum. (D) X-ray evaluation after 3 years of surgery. There was radiolucent area in 50% interface of bone-cement showed possible loosening.

activate RANK and Receptor Activator of Nuclear Factor κ B Ligand (RANKL), and micromotion from prosthesis. RANKL may mediate bone resorption, also the increased transcription of RANK and RANKL genes will increase osteolysis. Then osteolysis around the prosthesis will cause a micromotion, which will lead to increased wear particle and further make the process of loosening prosthesis due to the dissemination of debris particulates worse. Hydrostatic pressure causes the dissemination of debris into effective joint space. Increased hydrostatic pressure is caused by an inflammatory response. Dissemination of debris into effective joint space will make osteolysis process wider.

A study in 2009 by Bozic found that the most frequent revision of the THA procedure was the revision of all components.⁵ The most common cause of the revision was dislocation or instability (22.5%), followed by mechanical loosening (19.7%), and infection (14.8%).⁵ It was found that revision from THA is more common than in Total Knee Arthroplasty,⁶ with dislocation and mechanical loosening that is more frequent in THA than in Total Knee Arthroplasty.⁶

The loosening aseptic from cemented acetabular component needs revision and even re-revision of the component.⁷ Beckenbaugh found the signs of loosening in 24% of cases that are evaluated, presumably due to the quality and fixation of the cement, and not because of the implant position.⁸ While Schmalzried found there was a histological bone resorption process in THA that showed a macrophage containing polyethylene debris.⁹ The study showed that debris may extend to all areas that

were in contact with a synovial fluid, including periprosthetic area around the implant.⁹

One of the difficulties encountered in this THA procedure is to overcome the acetabulum deficiency.¹⁰ Bone loss or acetabulum deficiency may occur in cases of hip arthroplasty revision because of aseptic loosening, as well as in primary cases after post infection or sequel post-trauma,¹¹ or in the treatment of the bone tumor.¹² The deficiency of the bone stock acetabulum is a technical challenge, because of the reduced support from anterior and posterior collum, and also medial wall and deficiency from the dome. In addition, the more bone loss, the more difficult it is to get the bone for the placement of the uncemented cup and the screw for fixation. Limited contact of the host bone with acetabular implant component will also inhibit osteointegration and long-term biologic fixation.¹² Paprosky is one of the most commonly used classifications for acetabulum defect, which is using assessment from radiological and clinical findings. Paprosky also provides treatment recommendations based on their classification.¹³

THA itself has many postoperative complications, one of the most common is heterotopic ossification,¹⁴ dislocations or subluxation, loosening of the acetabular or femoral components, ischiadic or femoral nerve palsy, and surgical wound infection.¹⁵ In THA revision case, Gie suggested that postoperative outcomes in patients with impacted cancellous bone graft were better than the ones using bone cement, and the result was equivalent to primary arthroplasty.¹⁶

As in Dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya has done many acetabuloplasty and THA procedure in various cases, such as hip joint osteoarthritis, either caused by sequel from post-trauma in the past or due to hip joint degeneration, or other backgrounds with various condition of preoperative acetabulum defect; therefore it is necessary to do clinical and radiological evaluation in patients with acetabulum defect that have undergone primary total hip arthroplasty in Dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya.

This study aims to evaluate patients with acetabulum defect that have undergone THA at Dr. Soetomo Hospital in 2014–2016 with radiological and clinical parameters. The more specific goal in this study is to evaluate complication emerging postoperatively in patients with acetabulum defect that have undergone THA in Dr. Soetomo Hospital by evaluating the wear from the acetabulum, migration from a cup, the presence of bone loss and heterotopic ossification, and also clinical condition based on Harris Hip Score.

2. Methods

This was an observational retrospective study with descriptive analysis. The subject of this study was patients with acetabulum defect that went on THA procedure at Dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya in 2014 until 2016. The inclusion criteria in this study are patients of Orthopedic and Traumatology Department at Dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya who went on Total Hip Arthroplasty in January 2014 until December 2016, patients were alive at the time of research, the location of patients could be traced for evaluation, and patients accepted to have the clinical and radiologic evaluation. The exclusion criteria in this study are patients who were unwilling to have evaluation, patients were deceased, the location of patients could not be traced (loss of control), and patients who had surgery or other trauma on lower extremity neuromusculoskeletal or vertebrae that do not have the association with complication of THA.

The independent variable in this study is the type of acetabulum defect based on Paprosky classification and time interval between post operation and evaluation. The dependent variables in this study are the clinical condition of patient based on Harris Hip Score; including pain, function, deformity, motion and the radiologic result of pelvic X-Ray; including migration of acetabular component, wear rate of acetabular component, bone loss or heterotopic ossification in the periacetabular region. The confounding variables are age and sex.

Evaluation was divided into clinical and radiological. Clinical evaluation was done with Harris Hip Score,¹⁷ which can evaluate based on rating scale with a maximum score of 100 points, including pain, function, deformity, and motion. The function was divided into daily activity and gait.¹⁸

Radiological evaluation was performed based on anteroposterior X-ray of pelvic after surgery, interval radiography if available, and final examination. Correction of magnification was done with measurable concentric circle template, and femoral head diameter of implant was compared with radiography measurement.¹⁹

Wear rate from acetabular component was defined with Livermore technique,²⁰ by measuring the diameter of acetabular cup at the shortest line which connects midline from femoral head to acetabular cup-cement interface. The measurement was done on the latest photo, compared with post-operation, using caliper with 0.025 mm accuracy. The difference determines linear migration from femoral head, considering the magnification difference between both photos.

Bone loss or cystic area in the periacetabular region was noted. If there was heterotopic ossification, it would be graded in Brooker classification,^{21,14} which divided into 4 classes. Class 1 is described as islands of bone within the soft tissues about the hip. Class 2 includes bone spurs originating from the pelvis or proximal end of

the femur, leaving at least 1 cm between opposing bone surfaces. Class 3 consists of bone spurs originating from the pelvis or proximal end of the femur, reducing the space between opposing bone surfaces to less than 1 cm. Class 4 shows apparent bone ankylosis of the hip.¹⁴

The first step of this study is the data were collected by recording all cases of total hip arthroplasty from operation room logbook, update collection and database of Lower Extremity Division at Dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya in 2014 until 2016. Then data were grouped by preoperative radiology result based on the condition of acetabulum defect as in Paprosky classification. Home visit in each group to evaluate clinical condition with Harris Hip Score. The last step of this study is to evaluate the radiology result with anteroposterior pelvic X-ray at Dr. Soetomo Hospital or if not possible, the examination was done in a laboratory with radiology equipment in the closest area of patient origin.

Descriptive analysis was performed using SPSS 19.0 program. Before doing the analysis, the data had been processed with cleaning, coding, tabulation, and computing input.

3. Results

In this research, there were 82 patients who had THA procedure at Dr. Soetomo Hospital in 2014–2016, with the proportion of 26 patients in 2014, 32 patients in 2015, and 24 patients in 2016. From that population, 20 patients could be evaluated, divided into 4 patients who had THA surgery in 2014, 6 patients in 2015, and 10 patients in 2016. Distribution frequency of patients evaluation who had THA is shown in Table 1.

In the distribution based on Paprosky Classification, 9 patients categorized on type 1 (45%). Most of evaluation time interval between postoperative and evaluation was 1 year or in the group undergoing THA surgery in 2016 were 10 patients (50%). In the distribution based on the migration of acetabular component with Massin Criteria, the most of it was possible loosening, about 11 patients (55%). Based on bone loss and heterotopic ossification with Brooker Classification, 15 patients (75%) categorized on class 1. And in the Harris Hip Score, patients categorized on excellent (50%) and good (50%).

Hypothesis testing was performed on THA patients in 2016 (1 year after surgery), to find differences in clinical evaluation based on Harris Hip Score and radiological evaluation based on

Table 1
Distribution frequency of patients who had THA procedure.

Parameter	N	(%)
Paprosky Classification		
Type I	9	45
Type II	7	35
Type III	4	20
Time Interval of Evaluation		
1 year	10	50
2 years	6	30
3 years	4	20
Migration of acetabular component based on Massin Criteria		
No loosening	9	45
Probable loosening	0	–
Possible loosening	11	55
Definitive loosening	0	–
Bone loss and heterotopic ossification based on Brooker Classification		
Class 1	15	75
Class 2	5	25
Class 3	0	–
Class 4	0	–
Harris Hip Score Classification		
Excellent (90–100)	10	50
Good (80–89)	10	50
Fair (70–79)	0	–
Poor (<=69)	0	–

Massin Criteria, Wear Rate, and Bone Loss Classification according to Paprosky Classification. Kruskal-Wallis test was done and showed there were no differences on Harris Hip Score ($p = 0.320$), Massin Score ($p = 0.156$), Bone Loss Classification ($p = 0.296$), Wear Rate ($p = 0.072$) based on acetabulum defect type I, type II, and type III (Tables 2–5).

The same hypothesis testing was performed on THA patients in 2015 (2 years after surgery). Kruskal-Wallis test was done and showed there were no differences on Harris Hip Score ($p = 0.082$), Massin Score ($p = 0.574$), Bone Loss Classification ($p = 0.287$), Wear Rate ($p = 0.110$) based on acetabulum defect type I, type II, and type III.

Then, hypothesis testing was performed on THA patients in 2014 (3 years after surgery). Kruskal-Wallis test was done and showed

there were no differences on Harris Hip Score ($p = 0.472$), Massin Score ($p = 0.223$), Bone Loss Classification ($p = 0.223$), Wear Rate ($p = 0.325$) based on acetabulum defect type I, type II, and type III.

4. Discussion

In this research, from 20 patients who had THA and could be evaluated, 10 of them had the procedure within last one year. According to radiological evaluation, 9 patients (45%) with acetabulum defect categorized in type 1 Paprosky classification.

Hypothesis test performed on patient which had THA in 2016 (a year post surgery), 2015 (two years postsurgery), and 2014 (three years postsurgery) to find difference result in clinical evaluation

Table 2
Hypothesis Test of Clinical Evaluation Based on Harris Hip Score.

Paprosky Classification	1 year				2 years				3 years			
	Excellent		Good		Excellent		Good		Excellent		Good	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Type I	3	60	2	40	3	100	0	0	1	100	0	0
Type II	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	0	2	100	1	50	1	50
Type III	0	0	2	100	0	0	1	100	0	0	1	100
Total	5	50	5	50	3	50	3	50	2	50	2	50
P value	0.320				0.082				0.472			

Kruskall-Wallis Test.

Table 3
Hypothesis Test of Radiological Evaluation Based on Massin Score.

Paprosky Classification	1 year				2 years				3 years			
	No Migration		Possible		No Migration		Possible		No Migration		Possible	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Type I	4	80	1	20	2	80	1	20	1	100	0	0
Type II	1	33.3	2	66.7	1	50	1	50	0	0	2	100
Type III	0	0	2	100	0	0	1	100	0	0	1	100
Total	5	50	5	50	3	50	3	50	1	25	3	75
P value	0.156				0.574				0.223			

Kruskall-Wallis Test.

Table 4
Hypothesis Test of Radiological Evaluation Based on Bone Loss Classification.

Paprosky Classification	1 year				2 years				3 years			
	Class I		Class II		Class I		Class II		Class I		Class II	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Type I	5	100	0	0	2	66.7	1	33.3	1	100	0	0
Type II	2	66.7	1	33.3	2	100	0	0	2	100	0	0
Type III	1	50	1	50	0	0	1	100	0	0	1	100
Total	5	50	5	50	4	66.7	2	33.3	3	75	1	25
P value	0.296				0.287				0.223			

Kruskall-Wallis Test.

Table 5
Hypothesis Test of Radiological Evaluation Based on Wear Rate.

Paprosky Classification	1 Year		2 Years		3 Years	
	n	Wear Rate	n	Wear Rate	n	Wear Rate
Type I	5	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	3	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	1	0.3 (0.3–0.3)
Type II	3	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	2	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	2	0.6 (0.5–0.7)
Type III	2	0.3 (0.3–0.3)	1	0.9 (0.9–0.9)	1	0.7 (0.7–0.7)
P value	0.072		0.110		0.325	

Kruskall-Wallis Test. Data presented in median (minimum-maximum).

determined by Harris Hip score and radiological evaluation determined by Massin Criteria, Wear Rate, and Bone Loss Classification in defect based on Paprosky Classification.

We found that there is no difference between radiological evaluation determined by Massin Score on acetabulum defect type I, II, and III in a year after surgery ($p = 0.156$), 2 years after surgery ($p = 0.574$), and three years after surgery ($p = 0.223$).

In 1995, Stocks et al. described that initial migration in two years post THA can predict migration in advance stage.²² It was also found that migration level can be related with continued aseptic loosening event (until 6.5 years). The acetabular cup that migrates rapidly due to implant failure, can lead faster aseptic loosening than without implant failure. This finding is similar to femoralis prosthesis report. From any measurement that has been used, the strongest predictor of continued aseptic loosening is the average rate of migration of acetabulum in the first two years.

Currently, there is no study available that associate migration rate with acetabulum defect through Paprosky classification. Our study showed that there is no significant difference among three groups of Paprosky Classification. It may be caused by the administered therapy, as Paprosky Classification recommends therapy such as bone graft according to initial defect. Therefore, it is difficult to use Paprosky classification as a predictor of prognosis in post-THA patients due to different treatment in sample of the population in this study.

Kruskal-Wallis test on Bone Loss Classification showed no difference between radiological evaluation on acetabulum defect type I, II, and III in a year after surgery ($p = 0.296$), 2 years after surgery ($p = 0.287$), and three years after surgery ($p = 0.223$).

Heterotopic Ossification (HO) is associated with arthroplasty especially in the hip joint. Iorio et al reported that HO after arthroplasty procedure had an incidence rate from 2% to 90% with an incidence of severe HO from 3% to 55% depending on the population, risk factors, prophylaxis, and the surgical techniques used.²³

There has been no study comparing HO (Bone Loss Classification) with acetabulum defect through Paprosky classification. In our study, there is no significant difference with HO among Paprosky Classification. It may be due to many risk factors that give effect to bone loss, such as demography, history of osteoarthritis, the variation of surgical approach, operation time, and loss of blood.²⁴

A recent study about HO development after arthroplasty surface replacement showed incidence ranged from 26% to 60%.²³ Randomized clinical trial comparing SRA and THA found an increase six times greater in severe HO with SRA³ although the overall incidence of HO was not statistically significant (44% for SRA, 31% for THA; $p = 0.057$).^{25, 26}

Shapiro-Wilk test on radiological evaluation data of Wear Rate gives p -value < 0.05 , it showed that data is not distributed normally. Kruskal-Wallis was tested on radiological evaluation and showed no difference on Wear Rate type I, type II and type III acetabulum defect for 1 year after surgery ($p = 0.072$), 2 years after surgery ($p = 0.110$), and 3 years after surgery ($p = 0.325$).

Kreder et al found that fracture of acetabulum posterior wall with associating fractures on posterior collum causes acetabulum defect has a poor prognosis as increased risk of hip arthritis. The anatomical reduction is not enough to revert the function to normal.²⁷ The increased risk of arthritis is related to another study conducted by Gallo stating that the acetabulum wear rate has a strong correlation with 4 (four) major factors, (1) the relative position of acetabular cup against the Kohler line; (2) increased acetabular cup abduction angle; (3) history of inflammatory and traumatic arthritis; and (4) body height. The third point is the history of pelvic arthritis into a linkable red thread, although in the study the relative position of the acetabular cup against the Kohler line is the strongest factor in predicting an increase in wear rate.²⁸

Later in the study, Gallo et al concluded that there are three factors associated with the formation of bone defects in the

acetabulum, i.e. wear rate, higher acetabulum cup location, and body height. Among the three factors, the strongest factor is the wear rate. However, no research has been done to associate the acetabulum defect by Paprosky classification by changing the wear rate. This is most likely caused by the assumption that the wear rate is damaging the integrity of the acetabulum, causing a defect, not the other way around. In this research, there is no significant correlation between acetabulum defect and wear rate. This is most likely due to the use of bone graft which affects the clinical outcome in which defects obtained before surgery are overcome so that no red thread can be drawn as a conclusion.²⁸

Clinical evaluation of patients undergoing THA was assessed using Harris Hip Score. In the distribution based on Harris Hip Score, the most distribution data is the excellent and good results, 10 patients of each (50%). Statistical test results of the Kruskal-Wallis test non-parametric test were tested on Harris Hip Score's result of the clinical evaluation result. There was no difference of clinical result of Harris Hip Score on type I, type II and type III acetabulum defect for 1 year after surgery ($p = 0.320$), 2 years after surgery ($p = 0.082$), and 3 years after surgery ($p = 0.472$).

This insignificant difference is different from the study conducted by Ho who also found clinical improvement findings but differed in terms of significance. In the study, patients underwent THA with bone graft with indication of acetabulum defects. The clinical improvement of the study was conducted using Visual Analogue Pain Scale (VAS) and Harris Hip Score (HHS). The mean VAS of the study fell from 9.5 to 3.3 ($p = 0.005$) with mean HHS increased from 32.7 to 73.9 ($p = 0.005$).²⁹ This study was supported by findings Jialiang T who received clinical improvement of pain with mean HHS score of 29 (range 20–41) before surgery to 81 (range 73–89) after surgery.³⁰ A study conducted by Philippe also found similar findings of an increase in HHS score from 36 to 71.1 with $p < 0.001$ in other words significant.³¹

We conclude that there were no significant differences in radiological evaluation of the Migration Rate, Heterotopic Ossification or Bone Loss, Wear Rate, and on clinical evaluation of Harris Hip Score in all three groups of evaluated acetabulum defects. Therefore, Paprosky Classification alone was difficult to use as a predictor of prognosis in post-THA patients regardless of other treatment factors in patients either during surgery or postoperative. We suggest for future investigation with more patient and more time for evaluation.

Conflict of interest statement

The author(s) have no conflicts of interest relevant to this article.

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