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Letter to the Editor

Comment on "Prevalence of subclinical cardiac abnormalities in patients with metal-on-metal hip replacements"

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Dear editor:

We have read the original paper entitled "Prevalence of subclinical cardiac abnormalities in patients with metal-on-metal hip replacements" written by F. Lodge et al. [1] and we have several questions:

1) The recruited and non-randomised 95 patients may not be effective to represent all 1698 patients. The rate of complications after MOM hip replacement in women was higher than men [2], in this paper, 95 MOM hip patients contained 53% male and in the 15 controls just 40% male.
2) Although the control subjects were matched with age and comorbidity, the difference between time since first MOM implant had statistical significance. However, the complications were associated with hip replacement time [3]. In the MOM group, 18 patients had undergone subsequent prosthesis removal, with a median time of 42 days since removal (mean 611 days), however, the authors did not explain whether the joint replacement was re-executed and/or which prosthesis type of the subsequent joint replacement, whether the 18 patients plasma cobalt and/or chromium levels were elevated?
3) MOM hip replacements including the total hip replacement (THA) and hip resurfacing (HR), HR is more suitable for young patients [3]. Tribocorrosion processes and bearing surfaces were the sources of metal particle generation [4], therefore, it is necessary to distinguish the young HR patients and their cobalt ion levels and cardiac function.
4) The height, weight of each group did not show in the results.

Conflicts of interest

None.

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