SYMPOSIUM: PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE HIP SOCIETY MEETINGS 2009

Hip Resurfacing Data from National Joint Registries

What Do They Tell Us? What Do They Not Tell Us?

Kristoff Corten MD, Steven J. MacDonald MD, FRCSC

Published online: 18 November 2009 © The Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons® 2009

Abstract Current-generation metal-on-metal hip resurfacing implants (SRAs) have been in widespread global use since the 1990s, and in the United States, specific implants have recently been approved for clinical use. Many recent publications describe short-term survivorship achieved by either implant-designing surgeons or high-volume centers. National joint replacement registries (NJRRs) on the other hand report survivorship achieved from the orthopaedic community at large. We therefore reviewed SRA survivorship from national registry data and compared with that reported from individual centers. Additionally, we compared SRA survivorship reported by registries and compared prognosticators for failure with those of conventional total hip arthroplasty (THA). Although resurfacing was associated with an overall increased failure rate in comparison to THA (Australian registry 5-year cumulative revision rate [CRR], 3.7% and 2.7%, respectively), there were exceptions to this. Male patients younger than 65 years with primary osteoarthritis had equivalent results with SRA and THA (Australian registry 5-year CRR, 2.5% and 2.8%, respectively). Head size over 50 mm in diameter was a predictor of surface replacement arthroplasty survivorship and only females with a head diameter of 50 mm or greater (14% of females) had a comparable survivorship to males. Diagnoses other than

One the authors (SJM) is a consultant with DePuy. The other author certifies that he has no commercial associations (eg, consultancies, stock ownership, equity interest, patent/licensing arrangements, etc) that might pose a conflict of interest in connection with the submitted article.

K. Corten, S. J. MacDonald (⊠) London Health Sciences Centre, University Campus, 339 Windermere Road, London, ON N6A 5A5, Canada e-mail: steven.macdonald@lhsc.on.ca primary osteoarthritis bear a higher risk of early revision of SRA as compared with THA. Revision of SRA does not lead to reproducible results with rerevision rates of 11% at 5 years. Given these predictors of failure, our review of data from the NJRR suggests stringent patient selection criteria might enhance the survival rates of SRA.

Introduction

The surgical techniques for contemporary primary THA are well established. Several National Joint Replacement Registries (NJRRs) have reported the intermediate- to long-term survivorship of THA [5, 13, 18, 21, 22, 38, 39]. The data collected in the NJRR have some important weaknesses, but also represent the survivorship of thousands of implants [35]. This allows for identifying various prognosticators for implant failure such as male gender, age younger than 60 years, dysplasia of the hip (DDH) or avascular necrosis (AVN) as the primary diagnosis, and certain bearing surfaces [5, 18, 38]. The longevity of the implant in young patients remains the most problematic concern [2, 20]. Unfortunately, the introduction of cementless designs has not led to a uniformly major improvement in survivorship [5, 7, 24]. Although these components often have reproducible bone ingrowth rates, the bearing has often been the weak link in the system with issues of polyethylene wear and osteolysis.

Surface replacement arthroplasty (SRA) proponents cite many proposed advantages for use in the young and active patient such as preservation of proximal femoral bone stock, improved patient function, and lower wear rates secondary to the use of metal-on-metal bearings [1, 8, 12, 31, 40]. The first generations of SRA had been abandoned with high midterm failure rates, ranging from 12% to 60% resulting from the femoral component design and the polyethylene bearing surface [3, 16, 30]. The contemporary generation hip resurfacings have recently been introduced and can be considered a relatively "new" procedure. They combine a cementless, porous-coated, monoblock acetabular component with a stemmed femoral component implanted with bone cement and a metal-on-metal bearing articulation. Short-term clinical followup reports of 4 to 7 years suggest survival rates varying between 94% and 100% (Table 1). Femoral neck fractures and aseptic loosening [1] are reportedly the most frequent causes of failure (Table 1). These early results have been published mainly from the designer centers. The experiences of these highvolume arthroplasty surgeons have led to adaptations in the surgical techniques and, consequently, the results are still "evolving" [4, 8, 26, 31, 34]. Moreover, studies of risk factors highlight the importance of surgical expertise, patient selection criteria, and good bone quality for implant survival [4, 8, 26, 31, 34]. Although resurfacing might be an alternative to conventional THA, these criteria specifically apply to SRA and could make these procedures more complex and potentially less reproducible than conventional THA. The survivorship of various SRA designs has now been published from several NJRRs [5, 28, 39] and can be compared with those of conventional THA.

We therefore reviewed reports from these NJRR's to (1) determine whether the results of SRA are indeed less reproducible than those of THA; (2) identify the failure

Table 1. Twelve reports on survival of SRA were evaluated*

modes; (3) determine whether we could identify prognosticators for early failure that might enhance survival of SRA by better patient selection; (4) determine whether the prognosticators were similar for SRA and THA; and (5) determine the survival of revisions of SRA.

Materials and Methods

We obtained data on THA and SRA from the Annual Reports of the 2008 Australian [5], the English (and Welsh) [28] Joint Replacement Registry (published in 2008), and the 2006 and 2007 Annual Swedish reports [38, 39]. We used the key words "hip replacement" and "joint replacement registries" to identify articles in PubMed that reported data from the NJRR and that had been published in the English literature between 2000 and 2009. The most recent data from the Finnish, Norwegian, and Danish NJRR on THA were derived from four published reports [13, 18, 21, 22].

We then first compared the survival and revision rates of SRA with those of aged-matched THA results. Second, we compared the different failure modes of SRA and THA. The failure modes within the first 3 to 5 years could be compared in the Swedish NJRR but were not adjusted for age [38, 39]. Third, we identified the prognosticators for failure of THA reported in the NJRR. These were (1) gender; (2) age; (3) indication for surgery; (4) fixation

Study	Device (all hybrid)	Number of hips (number of patients)	Survival		Number of	NOF (%)	Complications (%)
			Years	Percent	revisions (%)		
Designer center							
Amstutz et al. 2004 [1]	Conserve Plus	400 (355)	3.5	94.4	15 (3.5)	0.75	4.75
Beaulé et al. 2004 [8]	Conserve Plus	94 (83)	3	97	5 (5.4)	1.1	6.4
Mont et al. 2007 [26]	Conserve Plus	1016 (906)	NA	94.2	54 (5.3)	2.7	17.6
Daniel et al. 2004 [12]	McMinn/BHR	446 (384)	4; 7*	99.8	1 (0.2)	0	0.2
Treacy et al. 2005 [40]	BHR	144 (130)	5	98	3 (2.1)	1.4	3.5
McBryde et al. 2008 [23]	BHR	96 (93)	5	100	0	0	0
Jacobs et al. 2008 [17]	Cormet	57 (53)	NA	NA	3 (5.3)	7	8.8
Stulberg et al. 2008 [37]	Cormet 2000	337 (337)	2	95.3	24 (7.1)	2.4	NA
Total		2590 (2341)	4–7	94–100	105 (4)	1.7	0–18
Nondesigner center							
Back et al. 2005 [6]	BHR	230 (212)	NA	99.14	1 (0.4)	0	11
Hing et al. 2007 [15]		5-year followup results	5	99.1	1 (0.4)	0	12
Pollard et al. 2006 [29]	BHR	54 (51)	NA	94	4 (7.4)	5.6	9.3
Steffen et al. 2008 [36]	BHR	610 (532)	$4; 7^{\dagger}$	95.8; 95.1	23 (3.8)	2	3.8
Heilpern et al. 2008 [14]	BHR	110 (98)	6	96.3	4 (3.6)	1.8	7.3
Total		1004 (1000)	4–7	94–99	33 (3.3)	1.7	7–12

* One report (Hing, 2007) [15] was a followup report on the first series of Back (2005) [6]; [†]the results were reported at 4 and 7 years; SRA = surface replacement arthroplasty; BHR = Birmingham Hip Resurfacing; NOF = neck of femur fracture; NA = data not available.

mode; and (5) bearing surface. Three prognosticators were considered applicable for the survival of SRA: (1) gender; (2) age; and (3) indication for surgery. We then compared the influence of these three prognosticators on failure of SRA and THA. Finally, we searched the registries for the survivorship of the revisions of SRA.

Revision rates were estimated in the registries using the Kaplan-Meier survival analysis method [5, 28, 38, 39]. Cumulative percent revision was used in the Australian registry [5]. This term refers to the complement (in probability) of the Kaplan-Meier survivorship function at a certain time multiplied by 100 [5]. Hazard ratios were used to evaluate the relative risks related to each risk factor with adjustment for the other factors. The log-rank tests and hazard ratios reported with each curve were used for analytical comparisons of prostheses survival in the Australian Registry [5]. Multivariable Cox regression was used to estimate hazard ratios for prosthesis type, age group, gender, and indication for surgery as risk factors for revision. In all models, age was included as a categorical variable [28]. Cox regression analysis to adjust for interference between different variables and the followup period and outcome was used in the Swedish registry [39].

Results

The procedure type (SRA versus THA) was the most important predictor for implant survival of hip arthroplasty in England and Wales [28]. After adjusting for age, gender, and physical status, SRA had a fivefold increased risk for revision and a considerably higher first-year revision rate of 1.6% in comparison to cemented THA (0.3%) [28]. The relative risk for revision after SRA was more than threefold after adjustment for age, gender, diagnosis, and approach in Sweden [39]. In Australia, SRA had a higher (p < 0.001)revision rate than THA after adjustment for gender and age. The 5-year cumulative percentage revision rate (CRR) of SRA was 3.7% as opposed to 2.7% for THA (Table 2) [5]. The Birmingham Hip Resurfacing (BHR) (Smith & Nephew, Memphis, TN) was the most commonly used device with the longest followup [5, 28, 39]. The 3-year revision rate was 1.8% in England and Wales [28]. The revision burden was 3.4% for SRA in Sweden [39]. The 7-year CRR was 4.6% as opposed to 3.4% for THA in Australia [5]. The number of revisions per 100 observed component years for the BHR was 0.8 as opposed to 2.6 and 2.3 for the ASR (DePuy, Warsaw, IN) and Durom (Zimmer, Warsaw, IN), respectively [5].

Aseptic loosening (31%) and fracture (31%) accounted for 66% of revisions of SRA [28, 39] (Table 3). In THA, aseptic loosening (46%) and dislocation (19%) represented 66% of the indications for revision [38]. Fifty-five percent

 Table 2.
 The 5-year cumulative percentage revision rate (CRR) of THA and SRA was derived from the Australian NJRR [5]

Variable	THA	SRA*
Diagnosis		
Osteoarthritis	2.7	3.7
Gender		
Male	2.8	2.6
Female	2.7	6.5
Age (years)		
< 55	3	3.1
55–64	2.9	4.1
64–75	2.6	5
> 75	2.7	9.9
Gender; age (years)		
Male		
< 55	2.5	2.2
55–64	2.8	2.5
64–75	2.6	4.7
Female		
< 55	3.6	5.2
55–64	3	8
64–75	2.7	9.2
Head size (mm)		
< 44		9
45–49		5.7
50–54		2.2
> 55		1.7
Head size (mm); gender		
< 50; male		5.5
\geq 50; male		2.1
< 50; female		7.3
\geq 50; female		2

Head sizes of 50 mm or greater and male gender younger than 65 years were the most important prognosticators for better survival of SRA as compared with THA. *SRA: all SRA, BHR, and other included. CRR are only for SRA done for osteoarthritis as the primary diagnosis; SRA = surface replacement arthroplasty; NJRR = National Joint Replacement Registries; BHR = Birmingham Hip Resurfacing.

of SRA revisions were directed toward the femoral components as opposed to only 12% of THA revisions. Cup only (14%) or both component revisions (31%) accounted for 45% of SRA revisions, whereas these revisions were performed in 86% of the THA cases in patients younger than 50 years of age [38, 39].

We identified three prognostic factors that differed with SRA and THA: gender, age, and surgical indication. Male patients had a lower risk of revision of SRA than females irrespective of age [5, 39]. The 5-year CRR for females was 2.5 times higher than that of males. This difference in failure rates disappeared after adjustment for femoral

Table 3. Overview of the failure modes of SRA that were derived from the three NJRRs

Failure mode	England-Wales [28]	Sweden [39]	Australia [<mark>5</mark>]
PP fracture	44%	31%	41%
Aseptic loosening	20%	31%	NA
Pain	23%	NA	NA
Instability	4%	NA	NA
Osteolysis	4%	NA	NA
Technical issues	NA	14%	NA
Other (infection included)	12%	23%	NA

SRA = surface replacement arthroplasty; NJRR = National Joint Replacement Registries; PP = periprosthetic fracture; NA = not available.

component sizes 50 mm or greater, which were used in 14% of the female and in 84% of the male patients. In addition, within gender, head sizes 50 mm or greater were associated with a lower (p < 0.001) risk of revision at 5 years, which was comparable to the CRR of THA (Table 2) [5]. The 1-year failure rates of SRA in females (2.1%) were considerably higher than those for THA (0.3%) in Sweden [39]. The 5-year CRR of SRA in females was more than twofold higher than that of THA (Table 2) [5]. Younger females did better with THA and THA in females with an older age at the time of surgery did best [5, 28]. In males, the 1-year revision rates of SRA were 1% higher than those of THA (0.6%) [28].

At 5 years, however, the CRR of SRA (2.6%) was equal to THA (2.8%) [5]. Males younger than 64 years of age did best with SRA [5, 28]. Finally, the differences in revision rates between SRA and THA were larger in females than in males (Table 2) [5]. Patients younger than 55 years of age at the time of SRA had the lowest CRR at 1 and 5 years [5, 28]. The 5-year CRR in males younger than 65 years of age remained comparable to those younger than 55 years of age. In females, however, a dramatic increase in revision rates was seen in those between 55 and 64 years of age (Table 2) [5]. Age had an opposite effect on the 5-year CRR of SRA as compared with THA; the younger the patients undergoing SRA, the lower their 5-year CRR was as opposed to a lower CRR in older patients with THA (Table 2) [5]. The indications for SRA did not considerably vary between different NJRRs with primary osteoarthritis (OA) accounting for 94% of the indications followed by DDH (3%) and AVN (2%), which were associated with a high 5-year CRR of 12% and 6%, respectively [5, 39]. The 5-year CRR of SRA for OA was 1% higher than that of THA, whereas the 5-year CRR of SRA for DDH was four times higher than that of THA (3%) [5].

Eleven percent of the revised SRAs were rerevised within 5 years in the Australian NJRR. The rerevision rate

of SRA was 2.8 per 100 observed component years. The 1-, 3-, and 5-year CRRs were 2.9%, 8.4%, and 11.1%, respectively. These results were similar to the rerevision rate of conventional THA (8.2% at 3 years) and were higher than the 1-, 3-, and 5-year CRRs of primary THA (1.2%, 2%, and 2.7%, respectively) [5].

Discussion

The results of new technologies such as the current-generation SRA devices reported from highly specialized centers are often the best possible results and do not necessarily reflect what is achieved with general use. Registries not only capture the survival rates of SRA performed nationwide, but also capture those of conventional THA. It was our aim to evaluate and compare the midterm survivorship and the prognosticators for failure of SRA with those of THA. Specifically, we reviewed reports from these NJRRs to (1) determine whether the results of SRA are indeed less reproducible than those of THA; (2) identify the failure modes; (3) determine whether we could identify prognosticators for early failure that might enhance survival of SRA by better patient selection; (4) determine whether the prognosticators were similar for SRA and THA; and (5) determine the survival of revisions of SRA.

Registries have a number of limitations. First, the weakest potential link remains the quality of data collection. This possible hazard is efficiently bypassed in the registries with the longest track records [5, 13, 18, 21, 22, 38, 39] with capture rates exceeding 95% of cases performed. Unfortunately, the data from only a few registries are directly accessible and the data of some registries are only early followup data [5, 28, 38, 39]. Second, failure of hip arthroplasties is often multifactorial [33]. Registry data lack specific parameters important for the survival of the implant such as patient-related data (eg, body weight, femoral head cysts [1]), surgical experience [4, 19, 25, 26, 34], and surgical technique (eg, computer-assisted navigation [10, 32]). Third, most often only revision is considered a failure. Everything comes down to the definition of "failure," which in survival analysis is interpreted as an event instead of a process such as loosening of a component [11, 22]. Radiographic features such as stem shaft angle and abduction of the socket are important for failures in SRA [1, 8, 27], but their influence as a predictor for failure will not be noticed if they are not captured in the database. Postoperative complications (eg, nerve palsy [6, 26]) can be considered as important modes of failure. The overall complication rate varied from 0% to 18% in a metaanalysis of 13 trials with 3594 SRAs. The mean revision rate, however, was 3.7% (Table 1). The overall success rate would thus be an overestimation if only revision is considered as the end point. Functional parameters are especially important with regard to "failure" of SRA in the young, active patient. Some questionnaires (EO-5D index) are now implemented in the Swedish Hip Registry, but no data on SRA are currently available. It will take approximately another 3 to 5 years before sufficient prospective data will be available [22]. Therefore, taking all of these considerations together, the current "failure" rates of SRA and conventional THA, solely based on registry data with revision as the end point, may actually be an underestimation. Fourth, poorly performing implant designs become obvious from the registry data after 5 to 7 years [13, 22], if not sooner. This was reproduced with specific SRA implants [5, 39]. The differences between well-performing implants are much harder to distinguish. Nevertheless, this would be desirable because the performance of most implants is continuously improving and we strive to identify the best implants. Confounding factors other than age, gender, and diagnosis are often not considered and therefore small differences between well-performing implants must be interpreted with caution. Additionally, lower rates of revision surgery have been observed in countries with longstanding registries [9]. Registry results provide a feedback loop to the surgeons and have an impact on indications, procedures, and implants used [5, 22]. For example, since 2003, there has been little change in the proportion of females having primary THA in the Australian NJRR. However, there has been a 5% decline in females undergoing SRA over a time period of 4 years, probably indicating the early higher revision rates in females with SRA had an impact on the indications for the procedure [5]. In other words, there is some form of positive bias in general practice introduced by the use of NJRR. Finally, it is important to understand that registries may be capturing implants in different phases of their implementation. In other words, an implant that has been on the market for 10 years when a registry begins will not have any learning curve captured in the registry data compared with an implant that is released after the registry has begun. In the early years of a registry, therefore, there is a bias introduced against new implants and technologies associated with a learning curve. Some may argue that is valid and all new implants should be assessed and compared with current well-performing implants. Others may argue that this is an unfair bias potentially restricting the ability to evaluate any proposed long-term benefits of an implant by only focusing on the very short-term results. Obviously, once a registry is well-established and has been in place for many years, this becomes less of a concern as each implant's early-year results can be evaluated and compared.

Despite these limitations, registries provide an enormous amount of data with relevant information regarding survival rates that can be correlated to prognosticators such as primary diagnosis, age, and gender. The early failure rates of SRA as captured in the NJRR were somewhat higher but comparable to those reported in the literature (Table 1). However, they were substantially higher than those of THA after adjustment for age and gender.

Important information can be derived from carefully evaluating the revision data in terms of which component failed and the mode of failure. Aseptic loosening was a problem equivalent to periprosthetic fracture as an indication for revision of SRA in 31% of the cases [39], which was similar to the incidence reported in the literature [1, 6, 8, 12, 14, 15, 17, 23, 26, 29, 36, 37, 40] and 15% less than the incidence in revision of THA [38]. In SRA, 55% of the time a stem-only revision was performed. In THA, 55% of the time a cup only revision was performed. In other words, the resurfacing shells and the THA stems underwent the fewest revisions. Would the combination of both lead to fewer revisions in the younger patient population? Unfortunately, no data on large-diameter metal-on-metal THA are available yet.

The effects of gender and age on survivorship are interrelated. There was an opposite effect of gender as a prognosticator for failure of SRA in comparison to THA, which could not be detected from the published studies on SRA survival (Table 1). Females with a SRA have a higher risk for failure than age-matched males and females with a THA. In contrast, males younger than 65 years of age at the time of surgery had comparable, and even slightly improved, 5-year survival rates with SRA than with THA. In addition, it would appear that one of the most important predictors for 5-year survival of SRA was the use of component sizes 50 mm or greater in diameter. The survival rates of both females and males with these component sizes were equal to each other.

Patients with OA as the primary diagnosis for hip arthroplasty had the best survival rates and the use of SRA for DDH and AVN should be cautioned.

The premise that a revision of SRA leads to equal results of a primary THA should be cautiously reevaluated because the 5-year rerevision rates of SRA (11%) were higher than those of primary THA at 5 (2.7%) and even 7 (3.4%) years. These rerevision rates were actually equal to the rerevision rates of an all-component THA revision.

In summary, the knowledge of SRA is evolving and the techniques are changing. Despite their limitations, registries should be considered as a sensitive detection tool that can provide early data on component outcomes, often sooner than randomized, controlled trials, depending on the outcome measure being evaluated. Current registry data on SRA demonstrate an overall increased failure rate compared with THA in all patients with primary OA, with the exception of the younger male patient and patients who can accommodate

components with head sizes over 50 mm in diameter. However, males younger than 65 years of age and women with larger component sizes receiving SRA have equivalent short-term survivorship as patients receiving THA when stringent SRA criteria are adhered to. It must also be emphasized that the survivorship of a revision of a failed SRA should not be considered as equivalent to a primary THA because the rerevision rate is much higher and instead is equivalent to the rerevision rate of a failed THA.

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