

1 **Abstract**

2

3 **Objective:** To assess the variables associated with complications of total hip replacement (THR) and
4 report owner-assessed outcomes.

5 **Methods:** Entries into the British Veterinary Orthopaedic Association-Canine Hip Registry (BVOA-
6 CHR) between September 2011 and December 2012 were reviewed separately and in conjunction with
7 previous data (January 2010 – August 2011). An outcomes assessment questionnaire was used to
8 collect data from owners.

9 **Results:** Incidence of surgeon and owner reported complications were 8.2% and 4.3% respectively.
10 THR using the Biomedtrix BFX[®] cup/stem prosthesis had a greater incidence of complications
11 compared to THR using the Biomedtrix CFX[®] cup/stem prosthesis ($p=0.002$); complications were 4.48
12 times more likely when using the Biomedtrix BFX[®] cup/stem prosthesis versus the Biomedtrix CFX[®]
13 cup/stem prosthesis. THR using the Biomedtrix BFX[®] cup/stem prosthesis had a higher incidence of
14 complications compared to THR using a hybrid prosthesis (Biomedtrix BFX[®] cup/CFX[®] stem,
15 Biomedtrix CFX[®] cup/BFX[®] stem) ($p=0.046$); complications were 2.85 times more likely when using
16 the Biomedtrix BFX[®] cup/stem prosthesis versus a hybrid prosthesis. In 95% of cases, owner
17 satisfaction with the outcome of THR was 'very good' or 'good'.

18 **Conclusions:** Complication rates from the BVOA-CHR are similar to previous studies. The data
19 suggest that prosthesis type is associated with complication rate, with BioMedtrix BFX[®] (circa 2012)
20 having a high short-term complication rate.

21 **Introduction**

22

23 The BVOA-CHR (British Veterinary Orthopaedic Association-Canine Hip Registry
24 <http://www.caninehipreplacement.org>), hosted at the University of Liverpool Veterinary School, is an
25 online database established in January 2010 (Forster and others 2012). The aim of the registry is to
26 collate data from multiple veterinary referral clinics regarding techniques and complications associated
27 with canine total hip replacement (THR) through surgeon-based registration of cases, informed owner
28 consent, and prospective outcomes assessment using a client-administered online clinical metrology
29 instrument. The BVOA-CHR offers an ongoing follow-up on all cases submitted, whereby surgeons are
30 encouraged to document complications as and when necessary, months or even years after surgery.
31 A previous report by Forster and others (2012) describes 170 cases of THR. Continued submission of
32 complications associated with these cases can occur and therefore enables long-term complications of
33 THR to be reported.

34

35 THR is a successful surgical treatment for debilitating conditions of the coxofemoral joint, providing high
36 success and low complication rates. Success rates for either cemented or cementless THR have been
37 reported at 80% to 98% based on both clinical and radiographic evaluation of pain status and
38 functionality, and owner assessment (Olmstead and others 1983, Olmstead 1987, DeYoung and others
39 1992, DeYoung and others 1993, Massat and Vasseur 1994, Olmstead 1995, Marcellin-Little and others
40 1999, Skurla and others 2000). Previous results obtained from the BVOA-CHR revealed that in 94%
41 of cases owners described their satisfaction with the outcome of THR as “very good” or “good” (Forster
42 and others, 2012).

43

44 Commercial systems are available for both cemented and cementless total hip replacement
45 components. Currently commonly used implants in the United Kingdom include the cemented fixation
46 Biomedtrix CFX® cup/stem (BioMedtrix, LCC, Boonton, NJ) and cementless fixation Biomedtrix BFX®
47 cup/stem (BioMedtrix, LCC, Boonton, NJ), Helica (Innoplant veterinary, Hannover, Germany) and Kyon
48 (Kyon Pharma, Inc., Zurich, Switzerland). Cemented fixation relies on a mantle of
49 polymethylmethacrylate bone cement acting as a sealant between the implant and the bone. The CFX®
50 system provides a consistent fit regardless of femoral size and allows immediate prosthesis fixation.

51 Cementless systems rely upon osseointegration in order to achieve fixation. Cementless THR have
52 reported similar complication rates to that of cemented prostheses (DeYoung 1992, DeYoung and
53 others 1993, Guerrero and Montavon 2009). Using a combination of cemented femoral and cementless
54 acetabular components has been described as an alternative to either entirely cemented or cementless
55 implantation. (Minto and others 2011, Gemmill and others 2011).

56

57 Complication rates after THR usually range between 5 and 20% although different rates have been
58 described owing to the wide variety of systems used in different populations (Olmstead 1995, Olmstead
59 1995, Edwards and others 1997, Guerrero and Montavon 2009, Gemmill and others 2011).
60 Complications previously reported using data obtained from the BVOA-CHR included luxation, femoral
61 fracture, minor wound dehiscence, wound sepsis, protrusio acetabuli, acetabular cup displacement,
62 suspected pulmonary thromboembolism and death at end of surgery, femoral pain, femoral subsidence
63 and sciatic paresis (Forster and others, 2012). Other major complications include aseptic loosening,
64 septic loosening, femoral medullary infarction and patellar luxation. (Massat and Vasseur 1994,
65 Marcellin-Little and others 1999, Ota and others 2005, Bergh and others 2006, Marsolais and others
66 2009).

67

68 While a handful of studies reporting each system individually and their success and complication rates
69 are available, the case numbers remain relatively small. Using data obtained from the BVOA-CHR, our
70 aims were (i) to identify any significant association or correlation between patient background variables
71 (age, body weight, breed, and sex) and surgical variables (indication for surgery, prosthesis used), and
72 the incidence of complications; and (ii) using the Liverpool Osteoarthritis in Dogs (LOAD) (Hercocock and
73 others 2009, Walton and others 2013) scores from an owner-assessed outcomes questionnaire, to
74 report the owner-assessed outcome of THR.

75

76 ***Materials and Methods***

77

78 The structure and workings of the BVOA-CHR have been previously described (Forster and others,
79 2012). Briefly, information on each THR was submitted on a Microsoft Sharepoint site. Complications
80 were submitted separately and were cross-referenced to the original surgery by the registry

81 administrator. Complications were categorised as ‘catastrophic’, ‘major’ and ‘minor’ according to the
82 definitions of Cook and others (2010). Participating surgeons signed a confidentiality disclosure
83 agreement (CDA) with the University of Liverpool Veterinary School stating that the variables of
84 “surgeon” or “clinic” would not be used in data analyses. Participating surgeons were encouraged to
85 submit all operated cases to the BVOA-CHR.

86

87 Records of the BVOA-CHR database between September 2011 and December 2012 were exported to
88 an Excel spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel 2011, Microsoft) and reviewed. A total of 140 THR cases were
89 analysed with 136 cases meeting the inclusion criteria for the study; 4 cases were unavailable for the
90 use because of inaccurate or missing data on the database. These cases were collated with 170
91 records of the BVOA-CHR database between January 2010 and August 2011 (Forster and others,
92 2012), resulting in a total of 306 cases.

93

94 Complications could also be submitted by the owner, via a questionnaire. The same online owner-
95 administered outcomes assessment questionnaire was used as previously reported (Forster and others
96 2012); a questionnaire modified from the ‘Liverpool Osteoarthritis in Dogs’ (LOAD) clinical metrology
97 instrument (Walton and others 2013). Briefly, the questionnaire was divided into four sections. Section
98 A was composed of 10 questions and assessed information regarding the length of on-going mobility
99 problems, medications received, and other concurrent medical history unrelated to hip dysplasia.
100 Section B was composed of 13 questions and assessed activity and willingness to exercise before THR.
101 Section C was composed of three questions and assessed whether unilateral or bilateral THR was
102 carried out, overall owner satisfaction, and complications reported. Finally, section D was composed
103 of 13 questions and assessed activity and willingness to exercise after THR. Questions and scoring
104 were identical in sections B and D enabling a pre- and post-THR lameness score to be calculated. The
105 complete questionnaire was sent to cases where the date of surgery was between September 2011
106 and December 2012 (Group One, < 16 month follow up), whereas a modified follow-up questionnaire
107 containing only sections C and D was sent to cases where the date of surgery was prior to September
108 2011 (Group Two, 17 - 36 month follow up). For those cases without a contact email address, the
109 questionnaire was sent via postal service.

110

111 *Statistical Analysis*

112

113 The dataset was reviewed and checked for coding of all variables. Descriptive statistics were calculated
114 for each variable and data were analysed using software (SPSS Inc. SPSS Statistics for Mac, Version
115 20.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp). Statistical significance was set at $P < 0.05$. Associations between each
116 variable and the incidence of complications were assessed using logistic regression analysis.
117 Univariable binomial logistic regression was used to calculate measures of strength of association for
118 each variable with the presence of complications. A Mann Whitney U-test was performed using the
119 SPSS statistical software package to assess the significance of total lameness scores before and after
120 THR and between groups.

121

122 **Results**

123

124 One hundred and thirty six THR cases met the inclusion criteria and were reported by veterinarians via
125 online submission (September 2011 – December 2012). These new reports were collated with those
126 previously reported, resulting in a 306 cases (Forster and others 2012) (January 2010 – August 2011).

127

128 Cases were recorded by twenty-four veterinary surgeons from twenty small animal clinics within the
129 United Kingdom. The average case contribution per surgeon was 12.75 cases (range; 1- 41
130 cases/surgeon). Dogs ranged from less than 1 year to 12 years of age (mean \pm SD, 3.38 ± 2.86 years),
131 with 39% of dogs being less than two years old, and weighing 4.00–72.00 kg (mean, $28.47\text{kg} \pm 10.80$
132 kg). There were 129 female (40 intact, 89 neutered) and 177 male dogs (110 intact, 67 neutered). The
133 Labrador Retriever ($n = 91$), German Shepherd dog ($n = 43$), Crossbreed ($n = 39$), Border Collie ($n =$
134 27), Golden Retriever ($n = 16$), Rottweiler ($n = 13$), English Springer Spaniel ($n = 11$), West Highland
135 White Terrier ($n = 10$) and Cocker Spaniel ($n = 7$) were the most frequently represented breeds.
136 Indications for surgery included hip dysplasia and osteoarthritis ($n = 268$), recurrent luxation (13),
137 avascular necrosis of the femoral head (8), Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease (7), fracture (7), and traumatic
138 luxation (3). Surgical implants included BioMedtrix CFX cup/stem ($n = 140$), BioMedtrix hybrid ($n = 74$);
139 using BioMedtrix BFX cup and CFX stem ($n = 68$) or BioMedtrix CFX cup and BFX stem ($n = 6$),
140 BioMedtrix BFX cup/stem ($n = 39$), Helica ($n = 34$) and Kyon ($n = 19$). Thirty-nine dogs underwent

141 bilateral staged THR.

142

143 *Complication Rate*

144

145 The BVOA-CHR data collected since January 2010 (306 cases) was combined with information on the
146 incidence of complication, treatment and outcome gained from owner completion of their questionnaire.

147

148 The incidence of surgeon-reported surgical complication was 8.2%. The incidence of owner-reported
149 complications was 4.3%. Complications (comprising of those reported by owner and/or veterinary
150 surgeon) included luxation (n = 11), femoral fracture (9; 7 postoperative cases, 2 intraoperative cases),
151 problems associated with wound healing (9), aseptic loosening (6), acetabular fracture (2), sciatic
152 paresis (1), femoral pain (1), femoral subsidence (1), protrusio acetabuli (1) and cardiac arrest
153 (suspected pulmonary thromboembolism) (1) (Table 1.). Two catastrophic complications occurred;
154 cardiac arrest in a case with hybrid fixation (BFX cup/CFX stem), and femoral fissure that led to
155 euthanasia in a Kyon case (Table 2.). Three minor complications occurred which were all associated
156 with the CFX cup/stem prosthesis. These included sciatic pain, femoral pain and protrusio acetabuli.
157 The remaining complications (n=37) were classified as major, requiring additional surgical or medical
158 treatment. Five cases of explantation were classified as major complications based on this classification
159 system.

160

161 Eleven cases of luxation were reported (2 BFX cup/stem, 5 CFX cup/stem, 1 CFX cup/BFX stem, 2
162 Helica, 1 Kyon). Luxation was reported at 0 (n=2), 8, 10, 18, 57, 235, 300 and 302 days. In two cases
163 the time of luxation was not specified. In one case the hip had luxated during postoperative radiography;
164 excision of new bone formation, which was causing ventral impingement followed by reduction resulted
165 in a successful outcome. Two cases resulted in explantation; in one of these cases the hip had reluxated
166 on two occasions (302 days and 363 days). One case was managed with closed reduction and Ehmer
167 sling application. The remaining cases were managed via open reduction with either the same sized
168 implant or an increased femoral head/neck length.

169

170 Three cases of aseptic loosening were reported by the veterinary surgeon and three cases by the owner

171 (4 Helica, 2 BFX cup/stem). Veterinary surgeons reported aseptic loosening at 147, 202 and 418 days
172 postoperatively, all of these occurred using the Helica prosthesis. Three cases of aseptic loosening
173 were reported by the owner to have occurred in the first three months following surgery (2 BFX
174 cup/stem, 1 Helica). Revision surgery was carried out in four cases and THR explantation in two cases.

175

176 Nine femoral fractures were reported (5 BFX cup/stem, 1 CFX cup/stem, 1 BFX cup/CFX stem, 2 Kyon);
177 7 cases of postoperative femoral fracture and 2 cases of intraoperative femoral fracture or fissure
178 formation. On both occasions where the fracture occurred intraoperatively (1 CFX cup/stem, 1 BFX
179 cup/stem), successful repair was carried out using cerclage wire alone, without explantation. Femoral
180 fracture occurred 17 days after surgery using the Kyon prosthesis; the animal was euthanased. A
181 further 6 cases of femoral fracture were reported, of which 5 (3 BFX cup/stem, 1 BFX cup/CFX stem, 1
182 Kyon) were treated successfully and 1 case (BFX cup/stem) required explantation. Femoral fracture
183 occurred in 7 cases, which used a cementless femoral prosthesis (5 BFX cup/stem, 2 Kyon), and 2
184 cases using a cemented femoral prosthesis (1 CFX cup/stem, 1 BFX cup/CFX stem).

185

186 When accounting for all complications, ten cases that had complications were identified with the CFX
187 cup/stem prosthesis (10/140, 7.1%), 10 with the BFX cup/stem prosthesis (10/39, 25.6%), 8 with a
188 hybrid prosthesis (8/74, 10.8%), 6 with the Helica prosthesis (6/34, 17.6%) and 4 with the Kyon
189 prosthesis (4/19, 21.1%) (Table 3). In some cases, more than one type of complication occurred (n=3,
190 Table 1 and 2). However, statistical analysis was completed on the basis of whether the case had a
191 complication, be that one or several (Table 3). No statistical significance was identified between weight,
192 age, gender, breed nor indication for THR and the incidence of complications. A relationship between
193 prosthesis and the occurrence of complications (inclusive of catastrophic, major and minor
194 complications) was identified. THR using the BFX cup/stem prosthesis had a significantly different
195 incidence of complications compared to THR using the CFX cup/stem prosthesis ($p=0.002$). A
196 complication was 4.48 times more likely to occur when using the BFX cup/stem prosthesis versus the
197 CFX cup/stem prosthesis. THR using the BFX cup/stem prosthesis had a significantly different
198 incidence of complications compared to THR using a hybrid prosthesis ($p=0.046$). A complication was
199 2.85 times more likely to occur when using the BFX cup/stem prosthesis versus a hybrid prosthesis. Of
200 the complications which occurred using hybrid prosthesis, 7/8 complications used a BFX cup/CFX stem

201 combination. Complications included fracture of the acetabulum (n=2), wound infection (n=3), cardiac
202 arrest (n=1) and femoral fracture (n=1). One case of luxation occurred with the use of a CFX cup/BFX
203 stem prosthesis. No significant difference in complication rate was found between any of the other
204 prosthetic types.

205

206 *Owner Assessment Questionnaire*

207

208 *Group One (136 cases, < 16 month follow up)*

209

210 A total response rate of 55% was achieved for group one via the online owner assessment
211 questionnaire. 11% dogs were reported as 'not at all disabled' by their lameness before THR. A total
212 of 43% dogs were considered lame by owner assessment for 0-6 months before THR, whereas 25%
213 were lame for 6-12 months, and 32% for more than 12 months before surgery. In the last month before
214 surgery 59% of dogs were receiving 0-1 mile of exercise per day before THR, whereas 25% received
215 1-2 miles of exercise, and 16% received more than 2 miles of exercise. Of these, 34% received mainly
216 off-lead exercise, whereas 66% received mainly on-lead exercise.

217

218 In 81% of cases, owners described their satisfaction with the outcome of THR as 'very good', 14% as
219 'good', 1% as 'fair' and 4% as 'poor'. No owners rated their satisfaction as 'very poor'. There was no
220 significant difference in owner assessed lameness scores between those dogs that had undergone
221 unilateral THR and those that had undergone bilateral THR (preoperatively; p=0.30, postoperatively;
222 p=0.61). There was a statistically significant difference in owner assessed lameness scores before and
223 after THR (p<0.001) with the mean LOAD score before and after THR being 22/52 and 6/52,
224 respectively.

225

226 *Group Two (170 cases, 17 - 36 month follow up)*

227

228 85% of owners that had originally responded to the questionnaire within 24 months of surgery (1) also
229 completed the follow-up questionnaire containing sections C and D only (<36 months following surgery).

230 Three complications previously not reported by either the veterinary surgeon or the owner were

231 identified, aseptic loosening (within 3 months following surgery, n=2, BFX cup/stem prosthesis) and
232 luxation (n=1, CFX cup/stem prosthesis). The time of luxation following surgery was not provided and
233 contact with the owner to gain further information was unsuccessful.

234

235 In 88% of cases, owners described their satisfaction with the outcome of THR as 'very good', 6% as
236 'good', 5% as 'fair' and 1% as 'very poor'. No owners rated their satisfaction as 'poor'. Owner-assessed
237 lameness scores reported <24 months after THR and scores reported approximately one year later
238 (<36 months after THR) were significantly different ($p<0.01$) with the mean LOAD score within 24
239 months of THR being 5.6/52 and approximately one year later being 8.7/52. However, the score
240 reported <36 months after THR was still significantly lower than that reported prior to surgery
241 (preoperative score 18.7/52, $p<0.001$).

242

243 ***Discussion***

244

245 In 95% of cases, owners of animals that had surgery <24 months previously, described their satisfaction
246 with the outcome of THR as 'very good' or 'good'. In 94% of cases, owners of animals that had had
247 surgery <36 months previously, described their satisfaction with the outcome of THR as 'very good' or
248 'good'. The questionnaire was based on LOAD; a validated owner-completed clinical metrology
249 instrument that is recommended for the measurement of canine osteoarthritis, which has documented
250 'criterion validity' (correlation with force-platform data) (Walton and others 2013). The LOAD scores
251 reported both <24 months and <36 months after THR were significantly lower than those reported prior
252 to surgery ($p<0.001$). Seemingly, there is a high degree of owner satisfaction up to 36 months following
253 THR. We appreciate that reliance on owner perception of lameness is not always reliable (Soderman
254 2000), and that owner interpretation of lameness or the term 'disabled' may differ from that of a
255 veterinary surgeon. Interestingly, 11% of cases were reported as 'not disabled' by the owner prior to
256 THR. The potential that these animals received surgery due to radiographic assessment alone and
257 without overt clinical signs of lameness or pain exists. However, owners' opinion regarding the ability
258 to ambulate is somewhat unreliable, especially when considering cases where bilateral pelvic limb
259 lameness is present. Also, a large proportion of dogs are non-surgically managed via exercise
260 restriction prior to surgery, and therefore interpretation of lameness by the owner can be difficult.

261

262 Dogs ranged from less than one year to 12 years of age (mean \pm SD, 3.38 \pm 2.86 years), with 39% of
263 dogs being less than two years old. A substantial proportion of dogs undergoing THR are less than two
264 years old. In our opinion, prospective monitoring of the performance of THRs is of great importance if
265 we are to assess the longevity and efficacy of this intervention. Continued yearly reporting of the BVOA-
266 CHR will provide information on the success of THR prostheses in such young dogs.

267

268 There was not a significant difference in owner-assessed lameness scores between those dogs that
269 had undergone unilateral THR and those that had undergone bilateral THR (preoperatively; $p=0.30$,
270 postoperatively; $p=0.61$). However, due to the majority of cases not requiring bilateral surgery (8, 10),
271 the statistical power of this assessment was limited and data for the degree of lameness (LOAD score)
272 between the first and subsequent surgeries was lacking.

273

274 Complication rates, gained from collating data from both the BVOA-CHR and owner assessment
275 questionnaire, are similar to previously documented studies (Olmstead 1995, Edwards and others 1997,
276 Guerrero and Montavon 2009, Gemmill and others 2011). An apparent difference between
277 complication rates reported by surgeons and those reported by owners was found, as previously
278 reported by Forster and others (2012). Even though the complication rate reported by owners was lower
279 than that reported by veterinary surgeons, 4.3% and 8.2% respectively, it was found that in some
280 instances perioperative complications were reported by the owners and not by the veterinary surgeon.
281 This could be due to inadequate data input by veterinary surgeons, the animal being represented to a
282 different referral veterinary surgeon when the complication occurs or unreliable data input by the owner.

283

284 A single case of protrusion acetabuli was reported. Protrusion acetabuli in this instance was classified
285 as minor due to the lack of medical or surgical intervention reported, according to the definitions of Cook
286 and others (2010). It is probable that the complication was perceived to be one that could not be
287 surgically resolved.

288

289 The rate of aseptic loosening was 1.9%, similar to previously reported rates of 2.1% to 7.2% (Olmstead
290 and others 1983, Massat and Vasseur 1994, Edwards and others 1997, Bergh and others 2006). The

291 postoperative complication rate of aseptic loosening is low suggesting that the mechanical failure of the
292 implants, bearing surfaces or bone-implant/bone-cement interface is not a significant factor three years
293 after canine THR. However, the reliance on both owners and veterinary surgeons to input data and the
294 fact that cases of aseptic loosening have been described in the absence of clinical signs in dogs (Bergh
295 and others 2006), means that the true incidence of aseptic loosening might be higher than reported
296 herein. Owners might attribute a gradual deterioration in function to 'natural changes post operatively'
297 and might not report changes to their veterinarian. The majority of cases of aseptic loosening were
298 reported within the first six months following surgery. Aseptic loosening can be the result of mechanical
299 or biological loss of fixation over time, or inadequate initial fixation. Evaluation criteria inclusive of the
300 timing of imaging were not set for the identification of complications radiographically. It remains
301 impossible to discern whether early reports of stem loosening are due to inadequate initial fixation or
302 subsequent loss of fixation.

303

304 Subsidence of the femoral component can occur due to lack of osseous integration. Predisposing
305 factors can include straight femora which lack an isthmus or with undersized femoral implants (Rashmir-
306 Raven et al, 1992). A single case of subsidence was reported. This complication is under-reported
307 when compared to other studies (Kidd SW, 2016).

308

309 A study reporting complications of human total hip arthroplasty reported that the rate of acetabular
310 loosening increased from 2% at six years postoperatively to 42% at 11 years postoperatively (Mulroy
311 and Harris 1990). Therefore, for example the absence of aseptic implant loosening in 140 CFX patients
312 in the current study, is likely underestimating the true incidence, which in addition is likely rising over
313 time. Cementless fixation of the acetabular component has become increasingly popular because the
314 long-term results of cemented total hip have shown that late failure is associated with loosening of the
315 acetabular component (Yee and others 2000, Skurla and James 2005, Bergh and others 2006).
316 Interestingly, in the data reported in our study, aseptic loosening was reported with cementless
317 prostheses only (BioMedtrix BFX cup/stem, Helica). It is possible that with longer follow-up times a
318 different outcome may emerge such that cementless THR may result in longer survival and less aseptic
319 loosening in comparison to cemented THR.

320

321 Complications reported using cementless femoral stems include subsidence, intra-operative femoral
322 (fissure) fractures and post-operative femoral fractures (Pernell and others 1995, Liska 2004, Dyce
323 2005, McKee 2008). Predisposing risk factors for fracture of the femur after THR include osteopathy
324 and iatrogenic fissures created during surgery (Liska 2004). Liska (2004) described an increased
325 concentration of biomechanical forces at the distal end of the femoral stem as a plausible cause of
326 femoral fracture. Cementless femoral fixation has been reported as a risk factor for femoral fracture for
327 human total hip arthroplasty (Berend and others 2006). However after a fracture, femoral component
328 survivorship was greater for cementless stems compared to cemented stems. Although the data is
329 limited, overall it appears that many BFX complications relate to the femoral component, whereas the
330 acetabular component is more reliable (McKee 2008). The results suggest BioMedtrix BFX has a high
331 short-term complication rate, associated with the femoral stem. Overall the incidence of femoral fracture
332 (2.9%) was greater for cementless prosthesis (5 BFX cup/stem, 2 Kyon) compared to cemented
333 implants (1 hybrid BFX cup/CFX stem, 1 CFX cup/stem).

334

335 An overt limitation of this study is that surgeon experience is not analysed as a variable. The ability
336 to categorise surgeon experience is a difficult one; whether this is based on number of years as a
337 registered specialist, years since completion of a certified hip replacement teaching course, number of
338 cases submitted or number of cases carried out per surgeon/clinic per year. When using years of
339 experience/cases carried out as a determination of skill, it would prove difficult when reviewing data
340 over a period of time, based on the need to alter this with each subsequent year. As detailed previously,
341 during the initial set-up of the BVOA-CHR, participating surgeons signed a CDA with The University of
342 Liverpool Veterinary School which is a legally binding agreement stating that the variables of “surgeon”
343 or “clinic” will never be used in data analyses. In this way, we aimed to avoid any concerns caused by
344 commercial sensitivities and to encourage data submission. Despite this agreement, the potential for
345 lack of reporting by surgeons due to the negative connotations of reporting postoperative complications
346 cannot be overlooked. This and the fact that the task of reporting in itself is time consuming could alter
347 input and therefore outcome following surgery.

348

349 A noteworthy limitation of this study is that analysis of data is inclusive only of those surgeries occurring
350 during or before December 2012. This analysis therefore does not account for variations in prosthetic

351 design subsequent to this point; for example the introduction of new generation BioMedtrix BFX femoral
352 components (BFX Ti Plasma Spray Stem: 2012, BFX Ti EBM Stem: 2013). It is clear that at this time
353 point, the low number of cases of BFX, Helica and Kyon designs do not allow for further subcategorising
354 and statistical analysis. With ongoing collection and subsequent collation of data the number of cases
355 per prosthetic type should increase the strength of further analyses.

356

357 *Conclusion*

358

359 There is owner satisfaction and a significant decrease in the LOAD score after THR, even when
360 reported up to 36 months following THR. Complication rates from the BVOA-CHR are similar to
361 previous studies. These first comparator results suggest a significant difference in complication rate
362 with prosthesis type, with BioMedtrix BFX having a high short-term complication rate. The results are
363 not suggestive of an association between aseptic loosening and the use of a cemented prosthesis type.
364 However, the follow up time is relatively short.

365

366 Table 1. Prosthetic type cross-tabulated with Complication Type. Data recorded by surgeon or
 367 owner, January 2010 – December 2012

368

	Acetabular Fracture	Femoral Fracture		Luxation	Aseptic Loosening	Wound Complications	Other	Total Complications	Total Number of Cases
		Intraoperative	Postoperative						
BFX	-	1	4	2	2	3	1	13	39
CFX	-	1	-	5	-	2	3	11	140
Hybrid	2	-	1	1	-	3	1	8	74
Helica	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	6	34
Kyon	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	4	19
								42	306

369

370 In some instances cases with complications had more than one type of complication i.e. Cases with

371 complications = 38, Total Complications = 42

372 Table 2. Prosthetic type cross-tabulated with Complication Severity (25). Data recorded by surgeon
373 or owner, January 2010 – December 2012

374

	Catastrophic Complications	Major Complications	Minor Complications	Total Complications	Total Number of Cases
BFX	-	13	-	13	39
CFX	-	8	3	11	140
Hybrid	1	7	-	8	74
Helica	-	6	-	6	34
Kyon	1	3	-	4	19
				42	306

375

376 In some instances cases with complications had more than one type of complication i.e. Cases with

377 complications = 38, Total Complications = 42

378 Table 3. Prosthetic type cross-tabulated with Complication Occurrence. Data recorded by surgeon or
379 owner, January 2010 – December 2012

380

	Number of Cases without Complications	Number of Cases with Complications	Total Number of Cases	Complication Rate %
BFX	29	10	39	25.6
CFX	130	10	140	7.1
Hybrid	66	8	74	10.8
Helica	28	6	34	17.6
Kyon	15	4	19	21.1
	268	38	306	12.4

381

382 In some cases, more than one type of complication occurred. However, statistical analysis was

383

completed on the basis of whether the case had a complication, be that one or several.

384 ***Acknowledgements***

385

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