SYMPOSIUM: 2012 INTERNATIONAL HIP SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS

Method of Fixation Does Not Influence the Overall Risk of Rerevision in First-time Cup Revisions

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Published online: 26 February 2013 © The Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons® 2013

Abstract

Background During the last two decades, uncemented fixation has been increasingly preferred worldwide during cup revision surgery. In Sweden, the number of uncemented cup revisions has been increasing during the last decade. However, it is unclear whether the risk of rerevision differs between cemented and uncemented cups.

Question/purposes We determined (1) the risk of rerevision after cemented and uncemented fixation; (2) the influence of concomitant stem revision on the risk of rerevision of the cup; (3) the difference in risk of rerevision of an uncemented cup revision compared with liner revision only; and (4) whether the surgical incision influenced the risk of rerevision.

Methods Between 1979 and 2010, 19,342 first-time cup revisions were reported to the Swedish Hip Arthroplasty

All ICMJE Conflict of Interest Forms for authors and *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research* editors and board members are on file with the publication and can be viewed on request. Each author certifies that his institution approved the human protocol for this investigation, that all investigations were conducted in conformity with ethical principles of research, and that informed consent for participation in the study was obtained.

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G. Garellick, J. Kärrholm Swedish Hip Arthroplasty Register, Gothenburg, Sweden Register. From these, 749 were excluded (hip resurfacing, cases with tumor diagnoses, and missing data) leaving 18,593 (73% cemented) for further analysis. We used a Cox regression model adjusted for age, sex, primary diagnosis, method of fixation, concomitant stem revision, and cemented/uncemented fixation to assess risk of rerevision.

Results The relative risk for rerevision for any reason did not differ between cemented and uncemented fixation (relative risk [RR], 0.94). If the stem was not revised at index revision, the risk of further cup revision increased twofold (RR, 1.91). Liner revisions were associated with a 70% increased risk for rerevision of the cup as a result of any reason and especially because of dislocation (RR, 2.94). The surgical incision did not influence the overall risk for rerevision (direct lateral/posterolateral: RR, 1.02) or the risk of rerevision resulting from dislocation (RR, 0.91).

Conclusions We found no difference in the overall risk of rerevision between cemented and uncemented fixation. Liner exchange had a higher risk for rerevision when compared with cases being rerevised with a new uncemented cup.

Level of Evidence Level II, prognostic study. See Guidelines for Authors for a complete description of levels of evidence.

Introduction

With an increasing number of elderly in the population and a growing number of primary hip arthroplasties being implanted, the prevalence of patients with THA will increase as will the need for revision hip arthroplasty.

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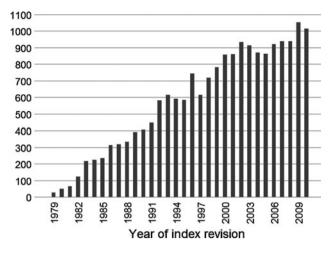


Fig. 1 The graph shows an increasing number of revisions reported to the Swedish Hip Arthroplasty Register (SHAR) in 1979–2010.

During the last two decades, the number of hip revision surgeries reported to the Swedish Hip Arthroplasty Register (SHAR) has increased twofold (Fig. 1). According to Kurtz et al. [21], revision hip arthroplasties are projected to increase twofold by 2030. Cemented fixation when revising the cup and the stem was common until the mid-1980s [32]. A high rate of failure for this technique (16%-48%) at 4.5–11.9 years) [19, 20, 31] and a belief that the cement itself had a destructive effect on the bone tissue [7] encouraged the use of uncemented fixation in hip revision surgery [8, 12, 22]. The reported long-term survival after cup revision surgery, regardless of method of fixation, varies considerably in different publications [8, 10, 12, 15, 18-20, 22, 27, 29-31, 34, 36, 37, 39]. This discrepancy is in part related to time of followup but is undoubtedly also influenced by other variables (Table 1). In a publication from the Norwegian Arthroplasty Register, the authors report a reduced risk of failure for uncemented revisions both with (relative risk [RR], 0.66; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.43-0.99) and without (RR, 0.37; 95% CI, 0.22–0.61) allograft [25]. However, the followup in this study was 3 to 5 years.

Because there is a variance in the literature concerning the long-term survival in cup revision surgery, based on method of fixation, and no published studies comparing long-term survival in cemented versus uncemented firsttime cup revisions, we decided to analyze data from the SHAR on all revisions reported to the same registry since 1979. We calculated the risk of rerevision based on (1) fixation method; (2) the influence of concomitant stem revision on the risk of rerevision of the cup; (3) risk of rerevision between first-time revision of an uncemented cup and revision of the liner only; and (4) if choice between a direct lateral or posterolateral incision had any effect on the risk of rerevision.

Patients and Methods

All units performing THA and revision arthroplasty in Sweden report to the SHAR. With primary THA, the register has a 100% compliance rate of reporting from hospitals in Sweden and a 98% completeness rate regarding number of surgeries performed in Sweden [16]. The compliance rate for reporting revisions/reoperations is 90% [35]. Revision cases have been reported in detail, including social security number, since the foundation of the SHAR in 1979. Reports of revision/reoperation procedures are validated by each hospital sending a copy of the case records to the SHAR for data extraction into the database. All patients entering the register are notified and are free to disclaim participation according to the Swedish Patient Data Act. The data in the SHAR are linked to the patients by a personal identification number given to each individual in Sweden at the time of birth and to immigrants after entry into Sweden. The date of death is retrieved by SHAR being linked to the population register administered by the Swedish Tax Agency. The end of this study was set to the end of December 2010. Rerevision in our analysis was defined as exchange of the cup or the liner. The study was approved by the local ethics committee (reference number 591-12).

Between 1979 and 2010, 19,342 first-time cup revisions in 17,999 patients had been reported to the SHAR. The cases with missing data (n = 297) and two-stage revisions were removed (n = 391). Furthermore, cases in which hip resurfacings or tumor prostheses had been used, during the index revision (n = 61), were excluded leaving 18,593 cases. From the Register we extracted the following data: sex; age at revision; primary diagnosis; method of fixation of the cup in previous hip surgery; the fixation method of the revision cup; and components revised at index revision (Table 2). At the index revisions, there were 10,008 (54%) women and 8585 (46%) men. The most common primary diagnosis was primary osteoarthritis (75%) followed by inflammatory arthritis (9%) and status postfracture (7%). The mean age at the time of index revision was 70 years (range, 17-101 years) and this procedure was performed after a mean of 10 years (range, 0-31 years) after the primary operation. In 73% (13,526 first-time cup revisions), cemented fixation had been used and in the remaining 5067 cases (27%), the cup was uncemented.

The followup started the day after the index operation and continued until revision, death, or December 31, 2010. The minimum followup was 0 years (mean, 7.6 years; range, 0-32 years). Patients with followup shorter than 2 years were thus included, also to account for early complications. The mean time from the index revision to any second revision was 6.4 years (range, 0-26 years). During the first 2 years after the first revision, the most common cause for a

Table 1.	Publications in	1 cup	revision	surgery	with	minimum	mean	followup	of 7	years

Author	Publication year	Number of cup revisions	Mean age of patients (years; range)	Mean followup (years; range)	Reoperation rate*
Uncemented					
Della Valle et al. [8]	2005	138	55 (20-79)	17.1 (15–19.3)	15.9%
Etienne et al. [12]	2004	108	66 (39–93)	7.1 (5–10)	2.0%
Lachiewicz and Poon [22]	1998	57	56 (22-82)	7 (5–12)	0%
Palm et al. [29]	2007	87	67 (30-81)	9 (7–11)	9.5%
Park et al. [30]	2009	138	50 (20-79)	21.3 (20-24)	15.2%
Cemented					
Engelbrecht et al. [10]	1990	138	59 (25-85)	7.4 (3–15.5)	8.8%
Garcia-Cimbrelo et al. [15]	1995	148	59 (22-82)	11.5(0.1-20)	12.8%
Hultmark et al. [18]	2003	46	63 (22–75)	10.7 (0.5-16.3)	6.5%
Marti et al. [27]	1990	60	71 (26-86)	8.9 (5-14)	13.00%
Pellici et al. [31]	1985	99	64 (29-89)	8.1 (5-12.5)	19.0%
Schreurs et al. [34]	2009	62	59 (23-82)	22.2 (20-25)	21.0%
Strömberg and Herberts [37]	1996	53	47 (29–55)	7 (4–11)	15.1%
Van Haaren et al. [39]	2007	71	69 (33–91)	7.2 (1.6–9.7)	35.0%
Current study					
Uncemented cups		5067	67 (20–94)	6.3 (0-27)	15.1%
Cemented cups		13,526	71 (17-101)	8.1 (0-32)	15.8%

* Calculated by dividing all rerevisions (regardless of reason) with the number of hips included.

Table 2.	Demography	of patients	reported	to the	Swedish	Hip	Arthroplasty	Register
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Demographic	Cemented	Uncemented	p value	Liner revision	Uncemented [§]	p value
Sex						
Female/male (%)	54.3/45.7	52.5/47.5	0.03 [‡]	49.7/50.3	57.2/42.8	0.001^{\ddagger}
Primary diagnosis						
Primary/secondary arthritis (%)	74.6/25.4	74.2/25.8	0.49^{\ddagger}	71.8/28.2	63.4/36.6	$< 0.001^{\ddagger}$
Age at index revision (years)*	70.7 (17-101)	66.6 (20-94)	$< 0.001^{\dagger}$	60.8 (24-88)	59.6 (20-87)	0.03^{\dagger}
\pm Stem revision (%)	64.0/36.0	55.2/48.8	$< 0.001^{\ddagger}$	42.4/56.6	31.6/68.4	$< 0.001^{\ddagger}$
Followup (years)*	8.1 (0-31.9)	6.3 (0-27.1)	$< 0.001^{\dagger}$	5.7 (0-18.8)	7.3 (0-25.6)	$< 0.001^{++}$
Total number of revisions	13526	5067		928	906	

* Mean (minimum-maximum); [†]t-test; [‡]Mann-Whitney U-test; [§]failed primary uncemented cup revised with an uncemented cup.

rerevision was dislocation followed by infection, aseptic loosening, technical failures, and other reasons. During the remaining part of the followup period, the main reason for a second revision was aseptic loosening (Fig. 2). In 62% (n = 11,457), the stem was also revised at the index revision. There were 928 liner revisions. Information about incision used at the index operation was recorded in 15,196 cases. One of three general approaches was used: 8350 a posterolateral approach, 5998 a direct lateral transgluteal approach with the patient in the lateral or supine position, and 848 various transtrochanteric approaches. In the cemented group, there were more women (cemented/uncemented cup at index operation: 54.3%/ 52.5%, p = 0.03) (Table 2). The mean age at index revision was higher (70.7 [17–101]/66.6 [20–94] years, p < 0.001) and the mean followup was almost 2 years longer (8.1 [0–31.9]/6.3 [0–27.1] years, p < 0.001) than in the uncemented group. Concomitant stem revision at the index procedure was also more common in the cemented group (64.0%/55.3%, p < 0.001) (Table 2). Demographic data for the liner revisions and the group of uncemented cup revision used for comparison are presented (Table 2).

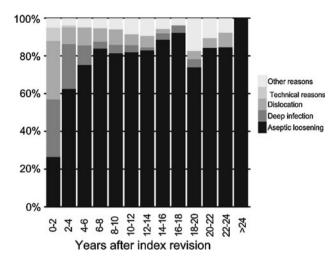


Fig. 2 The graph shows changes in the relative percentages of indications for the second revision in first-time cup revisions reported to SHAR in 1979–2010. Infections and dislocation as causes decreased, whereas the proportion of patients with aseptic loosening increased.

The outcome of liner revisions was compared with those cases in which an uncemented cup had been exchanged to a new uncemented cup at the index revision (n = 906).

Kaplan-Meier analysis, with life tables, was used to compare the survival rate in cemented and uncemented first-time cup revision. As a result of differences in demographic data between groups and to compensate for these covariates, a Cox regression analysis adjusted for age at revision surgery (categorized into five groups: 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and > 80 years), sex, primary diagnosis (two categories: primary and secondary arthritis), method of fixation in primary surgery (two categories: cemented and uncemented), concomitant stem revision or not, and cemented/uncemented fixation at index revision was performed. To compare the liner exchanges with uncemented cup revisions, another Cox regression was applied; in this model, the same covariates mentioned earlier were used but because the primary fixation method in both groups was uncemented, the method of fixation was not included. A third Cox regression model (adjusted for covariates mentioned earlier) was used to evaluate the influence of the two most commonly used incisions: direct lateral (with the patient supine or on the side) or posterolateral. Incisions including trochanteric osteotomy were comparatively few, were not performed in a similar manner, and were mainly used during the early period of this study. They were therefore excluded from this analysis.

All calculations were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics, Version 20 (IBM Corp, Somers, NY, USA). The proportional hazard assumption was controlled by computing and plotting the Schoenfeld residuals for each covariate using the survival and graphic packages in R statistics [1, 13, 33]. The cumulative survival and histogram graphs were created with the graphics package in R statistics.

Results

The unadjusted cumulative survival rate in the cemented group was higher (p < 0.001, log-rank test) than in the uncemented group both at 10 years (84.4% versus 80.8%) and at 20 years (72.8% versus 60.2%) (Fig. 3). Using rerevision of the cup or liner, as a result of any reason, as the end point, we found an increased risk with decreasing age (Table 3). In patients 49 years of age and younger, the relative risk was 2.5 times higher (RR, 2.51; p < 0.001) than in the reference group (70–79 years). Hips in which a primary cemented cup had been used had a higher risk (RR, 1.14; p = 0.02) of being rerevised. Male sex was associated with increased risk (RR, 1.16; p < 0.001) of rerevision. Diagnosis at the primary operation did not influence the risk for a second revision. The choice between a cemented or uncemented revision cup had no influence on the risk (cemented/uncemented: RR, 0.94; p = 0.19) for a second cup revision. Cemented cups had, however, a slightly increased risk (RR, 1.14; p = 0.04) (Table 4) to become revised as a result of loosening or osteolysis after adjustment for the same covariates as in the previous analysis. On the other hand, the cemented cups

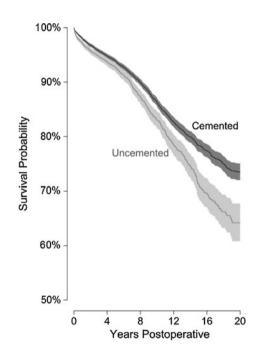


Fig. 3 Twenty-year crude cumulative survival probability in cemented and uncemented first-time cup revisions with 95% confidence interval (shadows) is shown.

Table 3. Risk factors for rerevision of the cup or liner as a result of any reason, all causes (Cox regression analysis)

Risk factor	RR	95% CI	p value
Sex			
Female*	1		
Male	1.16	1.07-1.27	< 0.001
Age (years)			
0–49	2.51	2.16-2.93	< 0.001
50–59	2.24	1.97-2.55	< 0.001
60–69	1.51	1.35-1.69	< 0.001
70–79*	1		
80+	0.69	0.57-0.83	< 0.001
Primary diagnosis			
Primary osteoarthritis*	1		
Secondary osteoarthritis [†]	1.03	0.94-1.14	0.50
Extracted cup			
Uncemented*	1		
Cemented	1.14	1.02-1.27	0.02
Fixation at index revision			
Uncemented*	1		
Cemented	0.94	0.85-1.03	0.19
Components revised at index re-	evision		
Cup/liner + stem* ^{,‡}	1		
Cup/liner	1.91	1.75-2.09	< 0.001

* Reference; [†]primary osteoarthritis (74%), inflammatory hip disease (9%), fracture (7%), sequelae after childhood disease (6%), avascular necrosis (2%), and others (2%); [‡] components revised at index revision; RR = relative risk; CI = confidence interval.

were less likely to become rerevised (RR, 0.51; p < 0.001) (Table 4) if dislocation was used as an end point.

The risk for a second revision resulting from any reason increased if the stem had not been revised at the index revision (RR, 1.91; p < 0.001). This increase was above all caused by a greater risk of further cup or liner revision resulting from dislocation (RR, 2.86; p < 0.001) and less so as a result of aseptic loosening (RR, 1.65; p < 0.001).

The unadjusted cumulative survival rates at 10 years in the uncemented to uncemented and the liner revision groups were $79.2\% \pm 3.81\%$ and $72.0\% \pm 4.74\%$, respectively (Fig. 4). Adjusting for covariates in a Cox regression model showed that liner exchange resulted in an increased risk (RR, 1.70; p < 0.001) for a second revision of the cup or liner. This risk became even higher (RR, 2.94; p < 0.001) if revision resulting from dislocation was used as the end point (Table 5).

The choice of direct lateral or posterolateral incision used at the index revision did not influence the overall risk for a second revision as a result of any reason (direct lateral/posterolateral: RR, 1.02; p = 0.68) or the risk of rerevision resulting from dislocation (RR, 0.91; p = 0.49).

Discussion

Between 1979 and 1999, approximately 81% of the firsttime cup revisions in Sweden were cemented. Reports on low survival rates for the cemented cup revisions,

Table 4. Risk of rerevision in cemented and uncemented first time cup revisions*

End point in the analysis	Total number of revisions	Number of revisions	RR	95% CI	p value
Any reason for rerevision	18,593	2250			
Cemented revision cup	13,526	1622	0.94	0.85-1.03	0.19
Uncemented revision cup [†]	5067	628	1	-	_
Aseptic loosening	18,593	1446			
Cemented revision cup	13,526	1082	1.14	1.00-1.29	0.04
Uncemented revision cup [†]	5067	364	1	-	_
Infection	18,593	321			
Cemented revision cup	13,526	234	0.92	0.71-1.19	0.51
Uncemented revision cup [†]	5067	87	1	-	_
Dislocation	18,593	307			
Cemented revision cup	13,526	182	0.51	0.40-0.66	< 0.001
Uncemented revision cup [†]	5067	125	1	-	_
Other reasons	18,593	176			
Cemented revision cup	13,526	154	0.65	0.51-0.83	0.005
Uncemented revision $\operatorname{cup}^{\dagger}$	5067	22	1	-	-

* Cox regression analysis adjusted for age, sex, primary diagnosis, type of fixation in prior hip surgery, components revised, and method of fixation with end point as indicated; [†]reference; RR = relative risk; CI = confidence interval.

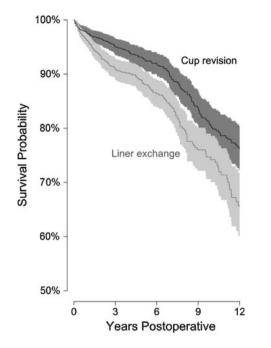


Fig. 4 Twelve-year crude cumulative survival probability after firsttime liner exchange and uncemented to uncemented cup revisions with 95% confidence interval (shadows) is illustrated.

encouraging studies of uncemented cups of press-fit design, and lack of sufficiently well-performed comparisons between cemented and uncemented cup revisions have stimulated an increasing use of the uncemented technique in revision surgery also in Sweden (Fig. 5; Table 6). The main purpose of this study was to evaluate differences in the rerevision rate concerning method of fixation in cup revision surgery by analyzing data on first-time cup revisions reported to SHAR during 1979 to 2010. Furthermore, the influence of concomitant stem revision was evaluated and a comparison between liner exchange and revision with a new uncemented cup was done. In a subpopulation of the material, we also studied if the choice between direct lateral and posterolateral incision had any effect on the rate of rerevision.

We recognize the following limitations to this study. First, our analysis included patients operated on during a time period when old cemented and uncemented cup designs, now abandoned because of higher revision risk resulting from loosening, wear, or regarding uncemented designs with unfavorable locking mechanisms, were used [11, 38]. This will probably be reflected in the results of both cemented and uncemented cup revisions analyzed in this study. Second, the cementing techniques used during the early 1980s had not gone through the evolution resulting in the standards of today [28], which should be considered when analyzing the survival rates in cemented cup revisions. Our results reflect the outcome of techniques used when data on each of the first-time revisions were entered into the register without any specific selection. Thus, our results correspond to those of the surgical techniques and implants selected in Sweden during the time period studied. The majority of these techniques and implants were used internationally but with varying proportionality and time for introduction between countries. The implant selection in Sweden is characterized by a high share of cemented fixation. On the other hand, the total number of uncemented cups in our study was still sufficiently high for a relevant comparison. Despite that Swedish surgeons from a historical perspective have preferred cement, the relative share of cementless fixation has increased in primary cases [16] and revisions (Fig. 5). During 2010, almost 50% of all cups in first-time revisions were uncemented. More than 50% of the uncemented and cemented revision cups in our study were performed in nine and 15 hospitals, respectively, as an effect of centralization of these procedures. This observation suggests that surgeons familiar with revision surgery performed the majority of the revisions and especially those with use of an uncemented cup. Third, our analysis included all grafted cases. In the study by Lie et al. [25], bone grafting had a negative influence on the survival of uncemented cups. In the SHAR, only the use of bone graft or not is recorded, but there is no certain information about the volume of graft used. Thus, we could not separate between impaction grafting and cases in which minor osteolysis had been filled with graft and therefore decided not to include this variable in the analysis. Fourth, our study was restricted to first-time revisions, which most certainly will exclude many difficult cases with severe bone defects but definitely not all of them. Existence of a severe bone defect might influence the survival of the cup in revision surgery. However, because there is an ongoing debate in the literature concerning the optimal method of fixation in the presence of bone defects [6, 14, 17, 23, 34], we do not believe Swedish surgeons specifically prefer either of these methods to treat bone defects and therefore the last two reflections should not influence the results in our study.

According to our observations, there was no difference in overall survival when comparing cemented and uncemented fixation in first-time cup revisions. Contrary to our findings, a Norwegian Arthroplasty Register study showed higher rerevision rates in cemented cup revisions [25]. This discrepancy could perhaps partly be explained by certain differences in demographic data; in the Norwegian study, there were more women and the age at revision was lower compared with our study. However, other factors such as the different time periods analyzed are likely of greater importance. According to our analysis, uncemented designs are superior to the cemented in regard to fixation. This difference was moderate in our analysis, probably because old designs including screw rings with a smooth surface and press-fit designs with poor liner locking mechanisms were included. The advances made in contemporary uncemented cup designs with improved liner fixation and wear resistance will probably influence the long-

Risk factor	Rerevisio	on, all causes		Rerevision as a result of dislocation			
	RR	95% CI	p value	RR	95% CI	p value	
Sex							
Female*	1			1			
Male	1.06	0.84-1.33	0.64	0.93	0.57-1.53	0.78	
Age (years)							
0–49	2.52	1.48-4.31	0.001	1.75	0.67-4.57	0.25	
50-59	2.21	1.34-3.66	0.002	1.35	0.57-3.24	0.50	
60–69	1.66	1.00-2.75	0.05	1.24	0.53-2.90	0.61	
70–79*	1			1			
80+	1.90	0.44-8.2	0.39	2.32	0.28-18.9	0.43	
Primary diagnosis							
Primary osteoarthritis*	1			1			
Secondary osteoarthritis [†]	0.90	0.70-1.17	0.43	0.79	0.44-1.41	0.43	
Components revised at index re-	evision						
Cup/liner + stem*	1			1			
Cup/liner	1.65	1.29-2.12	< 0.001	2.86	1.55-5.29	< 0.001	
Components revised at index re-	evision						
Cup*	1			1			
Liner	1.70	1.34-2.14	< 0.001	2.94	1.72-5.03	< 0.001	

Table 5. Risk factors for rerevision of the cup or liner as a result of any reason versus dislocation, comparison between liner exchange and uncemented with uncemented cup revision (Cox regression analysis)

* Reference; [†]primary osteoarthritis (68%), sequelae after childhood disease (15%), inflammatory hip disease (8%), avascular necrosis (5%), fracture (3%), and others (1%); RR = relative risk; CI = confidence interval.

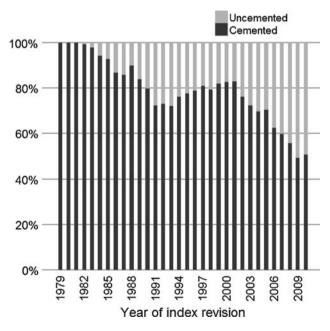


Fig. 5 The graph shows the distribution of cemented and uncemented cups, used at first-time cup revisions, reported to SHAR between 1979 and 2010. There was a decreasing percentage of cemented revisions over time.

term survival. Loosening and osteolysis may become a less common problem in the new design, but this hypothesis remains to be confirmed. The inferior survival for the uncemented cups, when dislocation was used as the end point, could depend on various new uncemented cup designs being introduced during the last decade and the low volume of each uncemented cup being inserted by single revision surgeons in Sweden. On the other hand, an increased revision rate resulting from dislocation has also been observed in Sweden for primary uncemented cups [16], which could indicate an inherent problem to obtain an optimum position of the cup in at least some of these designs.

We found no studies comparing isolated cup revision with a total revision. In our analysis, the revision of both the stem and the cup at the index operation resulted in reduced risk of further revisions compared with revision of the cup only regardless of the reason for a second revision. The explanation for this discrepancy is not known but might be the result of better biomechanical stability being achieved when both components have been exchanged during the index revision. In cases in which only the cup was revised, it is most probable that the stem was well fixed. Revision of a well-fixed stem is associated with various degrees of complications and morbidities. Thus, this finding is difficult to transform to a general clinical recommendation without taking all risk factors into consideration.

Our data are consistent with the findings in the Norwegian register and other studies [2–5, 9, 24] showing an increased risk for a second revision if solely the liner is exchanged. The increased rerevision rate after liner

Table 6. Most frequently used cups at index revision, liner exchanges excluded

Cups	Frequency	Percent	Revision year
Cemented cups			
Lubinus (Link, W. Link, Germany)	3154	23.3%	1979–2010
Charnley*	2426	17.9%	1979-2010
Charnley Elite*	1305	9.6%	1990-2010
Exeter Duration*	989	7.3%	1999-2010
Exeter*	965	7.1%	1982-2009
Müller*	850	6.3%	1980-2010
Exeter Polished (Stryker, Newbury, UK)	755	5.6%	2000-2010
Reflection (Smith & Nephew, Memphis, TN, USA)	384	2.8%	1991-2010
OPTICUP*	367	2.7%	1994-2007
Lubinus FAL (Link, W. Link, Germany)	353	2.6%	1999-2010
Scan Hip Cup*	341	2.5%	1985–1999
ZCA All-Poly (Zimmer, Warsaw, IN, USA)	331	2.4%	1994–2010
Others [†]	1305	9.6%	1979–2010
Total	13,525		
Uncemented cups			
Trilogy HA (Zimmer)	1570	38.0%	1995-2010
TMT (Zimmer)	523	12.6%	2006-2010
Mallory-Head (Zimmer)	312	7.5%	1992-2010
Trident HA (Stryker Orthopaedics, Mahwah, NJ, USA)	226	5.5%	1994–2010
Romanus*	220	5.3%	1989-2006
Harris-Galante I*	158	3.8%	1986–1993
Harris-Galante II*	149	3.6%	1990–1999
ABG (Howmedica, Staines, UK)	133	3.2%	1991-2008
PCA*	118	2.9%	1984–1998
Others [†]	727	17.6%	1979–2010
Total	4136		

* No longer marketed in Sweden; [†]cups used in less than 2% of revisions in each group.

exchange could partly depend on difficulties to address osteolysis during the index revision. We could, however, not further explore this issue because in the SHAR, revisions mainly performed as a result of osteolysis are often recorded as loosening resulting from difficulties in extracting correct information from the case records in these cases. Our finding that liner revisions were not associated with increased rerevision resulting from loosening does not support that loosening/osteolysis was the main problem, but rather a problem related to insufficient joint stability at the index revision. One might speculate that an artificial joint susceptible to accelerated wear has a certain amount of biomechanical imbalance and thus cases revised with liner exchange, resulting from wear, represent a selection of revisions with an increased risk of dislocation.

In a previous study from the Swedish Hip Arthroplasty Register [26], Lindgren et al. found that the risk of revision using direct lateral or posterolateral incision varied between different designs of primary THAs. Interestingly, we found no certain difference between these two approaches in first-time cup revisions. This observation might include a certain amount of bias; a wide variation of designs and cup/stem combinations with different head sizes were included and we had no information about any use of hooded or constrained liners and other types of measures to reduce the risk of dislocation in different groups. However, considering the large number of cases in this study, our observation suggests that the choice of any of these two approaches could be left to the preference of the surgeon.

Different techniques have been suggested in cup revision surgery [32] and the revision surgeon must be familiar with several approaches to cover all types of patients and bone defects. In the absence of comparative studies, observational studies might be able to act as guidance to the orthopaedic surgeons in decision-making. Our study does not favor uncemented nor cemented fixation of the cup in first-time revisions and does not provide information concerning the influence of various amounts of bone

grafting used with either of the two alternatives. It does, however, illustrate that cemented fixation is a reasonable alternative provided the surgeon is familiar with the technique. Although limitations exist in observational studies, with including more than 18,000 first-time cup revisions, we are able to conclude that (1) there are no differences in the overall risk for a second revision based on method of fixation in cup revisions surgery; (2) the risk of rerevision is decreased when the stem is revised concomitantly; that (3) there is a two- to threefold increase for a second revision influence when solely the liner is exchanged; and (4) the choice of direct lateral or posterolateral incision did not alter the risk of rerevision of the cup after a first-time cup revision. Further studies and followups are needed to investigate the performance of contemporary cups used in revision surgery and the influence of bone defects related to the type of fixation chosen.

Acknowledgments We thank the Swedish Orthopaedic surgeons, the secretaries at the individual hospitals, and the local staff at the Swedish Hip Arthroplasty Register who, by reporting and compiling data for more than three decades, made this study possible.

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