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To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sirs

**Follow-up After Hip Replacement Surgery**

I thought it may help to outline my recommendations for follow-up after hip replacement surgery. After a conventional total hip replacement, I advocate follow-up at six weeks, one year and each subsequent five years after the operation. X-rays should be taken at one year and five years after the operation. I would consider this to be fairly standard follow-up and not really excessive. Indeed, our professional body, the British Orthopaedic Association, published in August 2006 a document entitled – Primary Total Hip Replacement: A Guide to Good Practice. This document advises on long-term follow-up and states: *'For best practice patients should be followed-up clinically and radiologically in the longer-term. The minimum requirements include taking a history of any complaints, clinical examination and x-rays at one, five and each subsequent five years after operation'*.

If a patient has ongoing symptoms following hip replacement surgery, then more frequent assessment with follow-up appointments and x-rays may be necessary. Follow-up after revision hip replacement surgery or complex hip replacement surgery with bone grafting may need to be more frequent.

If a patient has an all-metal replacement of some sort (a total replacement or resurfacing), then follow-up should be on a more frequent basis. In keeping with the recommendations from the MHRA, I advocate follow-up at six weeks and annually thereafter, certainly for the first five years after resurfacing and for the lifetime of the implant after an all-metal total hip replacement. Generally, x-rays are required at the time of follow-up, especially for the first few years after surgery. Symptomatic patients may require follow-up with additional blood tests and MRI.

I would be pleased to provide further clarification if required.

Yours faithfully

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