

Dislodgement of the femoral component of a cemented hip

A case report

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An 88-year-old woman suffered a left femoral neck fracture, Garden IV. After closed reduction and fixation with multiple pinning she was mobilized, initially without complications. 10 days postoperatively, however, she was readmitted with displacement of the fracture, and she was operated on with a cemented total hip. The patient was mobilized without problems, albeit with 60° lateroversion of the acetabular component.

7 weeks after the arthroplasty the patient had spontaneous dislocation of the hip. Reduction was performed under general anesthesia.

After another 3 weeks the hip redislocated, again without excessive movements. Under general anesthesia several attempts to reduce the hip were unsuccessful, and fluoroscopy then revealed that the femoral component was dislodged (Figure 1). At the revision arthroplasty the remaining femoral neck was noticed to have a defect in the posterior part and was also judged to be somewhat too long. After shortening of the femoral neck, a short-necked femoral component was cemented, and the acetabular component was fitted with a posterior rim. The patient has had no further dislocation.

Discussion

Dislodged cement-free arthroplasty components have been described, the femoral component by Friedman (1989) and the acetabulum by Laughlin et al. (1992). Our case shows that dislodgement of a cemented femoral component is possible. We suggest that reduction of a dislocated hip prosthesis should be performed under fluoroscopic control, unless it can be achieved easily under mild sedation.

References

- Friedman R J. Displacement of an uncemented femoral component after dislocation of a total hip replacement. A case report. *J Bone Joint Surg (Am)* 1989; 71 (9): 1406-7.
- Laughlin R T, Smith K L, Adair D M. Displacement of an uncemented acetabular component after dislocation of a total hip prosthesis. A case report. *J Arthroplasty* 1992; 7 (3): 303-7.



Figure 1. An 88-year-old woman with a dislodged femoral component after attempts to reduce her redislocated hip.