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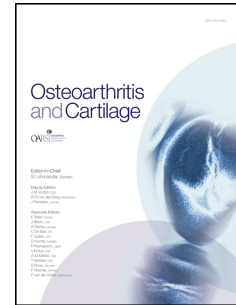
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Biomechanical changes and recovery of gait function after total hip arthroplasty for osteoarthritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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1 **Biomechanical changes and recovery of gait function after total hip**
2 **arthroplasty for osteoarthritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

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16

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30 Objective

31 To determine the change in walking gait biomechanics after total hip arthroplasty (THA) for
32 osteoarthritis (OA) compared to the pre-operative gait status, and to compare the recovery
33 of gait following THA with healthy individuals.

34 Methods

35 Systematic review with meta-analysis of studies investigating changes in gait biomechanics
36 after THA compared to (1) preoperative levels and (2) healthy individuals. Data were pooled
37 at commonly reported time points and standardised mean differences (SMDs) were
38 calculated in meta-analyses for spatiotemporal, kinematic and kinetic parameters.

39 Results

40 Seventy-four studies with a total of 2477 patients were included. At 6 weeks postoperative,
41 increases were evident for walking speed (*SMD*: 0.32, 95% CI 0.14, 0.50), stride length (*SMD*:
42 0.40, 95% CI 0.19, 0.61), step length (*SMD*: 0.41, 95% CI 0.23, 0.59), and transverse plane hip
43 range of motion (ROM) (*SMD*: 0.36, 95% CI 0.05, 0.67) compared to pre-operative gait.
44 Sagittal, coronal and transverse hip ROM was significantly increased at 3 months (*SMDs*:
45 0.50 to 1.07). At 12 months postoperative, patients demonstrated deficits compared with
46 healthy individuals for walking speed (*SMD*: -0.59, 95% CI -1.08 to -0.11), stride length (*SMD*:
47 -1.27, 95% CI -1.63, -0.91), single limb support time (*SMD*: -0.82, 95% CI -1.23, -0.41) and
48 sagittal plane hip ROM (*SMD*: -1.16, 95% CI -1.83, -0.49). Risk of bias scores ranged from
49 seven to 24 out of 26.

50 Conclusions

51 Following THA for OA, early improvements were demonstrated for spatiotemporal and
52 kinematic gait patterns compared to the pre-operative levels. Deficits were still observed in
53 THA patients compared to healthy individuals at 12 months.

54 **Keywords**

55 osteoarthritis; hip replacement; arthroplasty; gait analysis; biomechanics

56

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1 Introduction

2 Osteoarthritis (OA) of the hip is a common chronic condition responsible for significant pain
3 and disability, with approximately 4 to 9% of adults over the age of 45 living with
4 symptomatic hip OA^{1,2}. Diagnosis of symptomatic OA is the principal indication for total hip
5 arthroplasty (THA), which is the treatment for individuals with end-stage OA when
6 conservative therapies to manage symptoms have been exhausted. The demand for THA is
7 estimated to rise substantially in the next decade, to approximately half a million primary
8 THAs per year by 2030 in the United States³. Hip OA commonly affects a patient's function
9 causing difficulty in walking where altered gait biomechanics are observed, particularly in
10 individuals with severe stage disease who are candidates for THA⁴. Whilst THA is a
11 successful procedure, attributed to the long-term survivorship of the implant and alleviation
12 of chronic joint pain, aberrant pre-operative gait patterns may persist following THA,
13 despite improvements in self-reported measures of pain and physical function^{5,6}.

14 Two recent systematic reviews^{7,8} compared outcomes in walking gait following primary
15 THA to that of healthy individuals and identified lower walking speed and stride length,
16 lower sagittal and coronal plane hip joint range of motion, and lower peak hip abduction
17 moment. Whilst these reviews provide a recent comparison of THA patients to that of
18 healthy individuals, the pre-operative functional status of patients were not considered. The
19 nature of gait abnormalities prior to the joint replacement must be considered due to the
20 association between pre- and post-operative gait status⁹. Furthermore, reporting of post-
21 operative gait abnormalities compared with healthy individuals may inadequately represent
22 the changes after THA if relative change to pre-operative status is not considered as end-
23 stage OA patients present with altered gait kinematics compared to healthy individuals

24 which may persist following surgery ⁵. A range of time points, from 6 weeks to 24 months
25 ^{10,11} have been used to investigate changes in gait biomechanics following THA for OA. To
26 date, no review has synthesised the available evidence at commonly reported time points to
27 identify the change from pre- to post-operative gait in people with OA following THA, and
28 compare the results to healthy individuals to better understand the trajectory of change and
29 recovery in gait function after THA. Therefore, the aims of this systematic review were to
30 determine the change in gait biomechanics after THA compared to the pre-operative gait
31 status; and to compare the recovery of gait following THA with healthy individuals.

32 **Methods**

33 The findings of this review are reported in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items
34 for Systematic Reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) statement guidelines (Supplementary
35 File 1) ¹³. The protocol for the review was registered with the International Prospective
36 register for Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO; registration no. CRD 42016035904).

37 *Search strategy*

38 The PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcome) framework was used to
39 define the search strategy, in consultation with an academic librarian ¹⁴. An electronic
40 search of the following databases was performed with no date restrictions: PubMed,
41 MEDLINE, CINAHL, The Cochrane Library, Embase, Scopus, Web of science, SportDiscus and
42 Health collection. Keywords were matched with exploded MeSH terms to generate themes
43 around total hip arthroplasty, biomechanics and gait (Supplementary File 2). Variations of
44 electromyography and stair climbing were included as an outcome in the search as it was
45 anticipated walking gait data might be included in studies of this kind. Database searching
46 was performed by two authors (JB and JA) and agreement was required on the number of

47 articles retrieved from each database before proceeding. Search alerts were created for
48 each database to identify articles published after the initial search (up to January 1, 2017).
49 Conference abstracts and reference lists of review and final included articles were manually
50 searched to identify additional articles. Citations retrieved from the searches were uploaded
51 to an online systematic review platform (Covidence)¹⁵ for screening. Two reviewers (JB and
52 MN) independently screened titles and abstracts and any conflicts were resolved by
53 discussion, or by the opinion of a third researcher (JA) if consensus was not reached. Titles
54 that met the eligibility criteria were then obtained as full manuscripts and reviewed
55 independently by two reviewers (JB and MN). Disagreements were managed using the same
56 process from the screening stage.

57 *Eligibility criteria*

58 Articles were eligible for inclusion in this review when they satisfied the following criteria:
59 (1) adults aged ≥ 18 years undergoing primary unilateral THA; (2) osteoarthritis was the
60 primary indication for THA; (3) studies reporting the change in gait biomechanics
61 (spatiotemporal, kinematics, kinetics) from pre- to post-operative or comparing THA
62 patients following surgery to matched healthy individuals; (4) 2D or 3D motion analysis
63 techniques (including ground reaction forces) were used to measure level walking at a self-
64 selected speed; and (5) participants could perform the task unaided. Studies using motion
65 capture systems, force platforms, accelerometers, instrumented treadmills or instrumented
66 shoes were all included in this review. Spatiotemporal data collected from a hand-held
67 timepiece (e.g. stopwatch) were excluded. Studies investigating the effect of physical
68 rehabilitation on gait outcomes were excluded unless they included a conventional THA
69 group who did not receive the intervention. Studies including participants who did not

70 undergo THA (e.g. hip resurfacing) or participants with a history of other lower limb joint
71 disease or surgeries (knee, ankle or contralateral hip) were not eligible.

72 *Outcome measures and data extraction*

73 A custom data-extraction spreadsheet was used to extract numerical data from all studies.
74 The first author extracted the data (JSB), and a second author (JBA) verified the data were
75 extracted accurately from the studies that were used in the meta-analysis. The primary
76 outcome measures for this review were spatiotemporal, kinematic (joint angles) and kinetic
77 parameters (e.g. external joint moments) reported during level walking. Means and
78 standard deviations for all gait parameters were extracted for the pre-operative and follow-
79 up time points, and from healthy control groups, when available. Extraction of joint
80 kinematic and kinetic parameters were limited to the affected hip. The following
81 information on patient and surgical characteristics was also extracted from each study:
82 study design, sample size, age, gender, BMI, severity of osteoarthritis, and surgical
83 approach.

84 *Data synthesis and analysis*

85 As numerous gait variables across multiple time points were expected, a structured process
86 was undertaken to synthesise the results on the most commonly reported variables and
87 time-points. Studies typically report a mean follow-up or multiple post-operative time
88 points at six weeks, three months, six months and 12 months. Where studies reported a
89 mean that was close to these time points (within one week for time points <6 months, and 3
90 months for time points >6 months) data were merged to the closest common time-point to
91 facilitate comparison across studies. No studies were excluded during this process.

92 When adequate data were reported, standardized mean differences (SMDs) were calculated
93 using the pooled standard deviation for the biomechanical parameters between either the
94 pre and post-operative time points (preoperative as the reference) or postoperative versus
95 control group. Where not available, the standard error of the mean difference were
96 estimated from P values using the equivalent T-statistic¹⁶. When this was not possible, the
97 standard error of the mean difference was estimated using the most conservative
98 correlation estimate from other studies¹⁶, and the stability of this approach was assessed
99 through a sensitivity analysis where the correlation estimate was set to zero to determine
100 the impact on the magnitude of the pooled effect. Where study results were reported as
101 medians and ranges or interquartile ranges, authors were contacted twice to obtain the
102 mean and standard deviation (SD). When not provided, data were transformed to the mean
103 and SD¹⁷. For the meta-analysis, pooled estimates and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for
104 standardised mean differences were calculated using a random effects model in Review
105 Manager software (RevMan, v5.2, Cochrane Collaboration, Oxford UK). Statistical
106 significance was set at $P < 0.05$. All data were extracted and the pooled effect size estimates
107 were computed when at least two studies reported the same gait variable at the same time
108 point. The magnitude of the overall effect was quantified as trivial (<0.2), small ($0.2-0.6$),
109 moderate ($0.61-1.2$), large ($1.21-2.0$) and very large (>2.0)¹⁷. Where studies presented data
110 on more than one surgical approach instead of the entire THA cohort, a separate effect size
111 was determined for each surgical group¹⁷.

112 Heterogeneity was assessed using the I^2 and Cochran's Q statistics¹⁸. Where heterogeneity
113 was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$), potential explanatory variables contributing to
114 heterogeneity were assessed using linear regression, which was performed using six study

115 characteristics identified *a priori* including age, BMI, sample size, surgical approach, gender
116 and risk of bias score. The regression was only performed when ≥ 10 studies reported on a
117 gait parameter at a time point¹⁹. Potential publication bias was examined using contour
118 enhanced funnel plots and Egger's regression test using STATA (v14, Statacorp, USA).

119 *Methodological risk of bias*

120 Methodological risk of bias of studies was performed through merging three established
121 checklists specific to gait analysis and surgical intervention studies (Supplementary File 4)²⁰,
122 ^{21, 22}. The recommended scoring criteria from each tool were maintained resulting in a total
123 of 20 items with a possible maximum score range of 0 to 26, with higher scores indicating a
124 reduced risk of bias. The scoring was carried out by two independent reviewers (JB and
125 MN), with any disagreements resolved with the opinion of a third reviewer if required. Inter-
126 rater agreement for each item of the risk of bias tool was evaluated using the Kappa (κ)
127 statistic. The risk of bias scores was included in the meta-regression to investigate if study
128 bias contributed to heterogeneity. Based on the results of the meta-analysis (effect size),
129 statistical heterogeneity (I^2) and risk of bias scores, of the strength of evidence for changes
130 in each outcome variable at each time point was designated as per Van Tulder et al 2003²³:
131 (1) strong evidence derived from three or more studies, including a minimum of two high-
132 quality studies that were statistically homogenous ($I^2 P \geq 0.05$); (2) moderate evidence
133 derived from multiple studies that were statistically heterogeneous and where the pooled
134 result was statistically significant, including at least one high-quality study from the risk of
135 bias score; or from multiple moderate or low-quality studies which were statistically
136 homogenous; (3) limited evidence provided by results from one high-quality study or
137 multiple moderate-quality or low-quality studies that are statistically heterogeneous; (4)

138 very limited evidence provided by results from one moderate-quality or low-quality study;
139 and (5) no evidence where the pooled effect was insignificant and derived from multiple
140 statistically heterogeneous studies (regardless of study quality from the risk of bias score).

141 **Results**

142 *Study selection and characteristics*

143 The electronic database search yielded 3415 articles. After applying the eligibility criteria
144 and searching of reference lists, 74 studies were retained and 46 were included in the meta-
145 analysis (Figure 1). Of the 74 included studies, 21 were prospective cohort studies, 21 case
146 series studies, 29 case-control studies, and three randomised controlled trials (Table 1).

147 *Patient and surgical characteristics*

148 There were 2477 patients from 74 studies with a mean age of 59.7 SD 7.4 years, body mass
149 index (BMI) of 28.7 SD 3.6 kg/m² and 46% were female (Table 1). Post-operative follow-up
150 ranged from 2 days to 6 years, with the most common time-points being 6 weeks, 3 months,
151 6 months, 12 months and 24 months. Only two studies^{24, 25} reported the radiographic
152 severity of OA prior to surgery²⁶. The direct lateral and posterior surgical approaches were
153 the most frequently used among the included studies (n=17 and n=16, respectively),
154 followed by the anterolateral (n=13) and direct anterior (n=10).

155 *Outcome measures*

156 A total of 20 spatiotemporal, 56 kinematic and 54 kinetic variables were identified (Figure
157 1). A total of 9 spatiotemporal and 6 kinematic variables met the requirements for meta-
158 analysis in pre-post comparisons, while 8 variables for both domains met the criteria for
159 post versus control. Only one kinetic variable was reported by ≥ 2 studies comparing

160 postoperative THA patients to healthy controls (peak hip abduction moment). Five authors
161 provided extra data upon request^{27, 28, 29, 30, 31}. A summary of findings for each gait
162 parameter in the meta-analysis at each time-point is provided in Table 2, with detailed
163 information on the magnitude of effects and strength of evidence provided below.

164 *Spatiotemporal: comparison to pre-operative level*

165 Pooled data indicated there was moderate evidence of increased walking speed at 6 weeks
166 (SMD: 0.32, $P = 0.0006$), 3 months (SMD: 0.78, $P < 0.001$) and 6 months (SMD: 0.97, $P <$
167 0.001), with large changes at 12 months (SMD: 1.28, $P < 0.001$) (Figure 2A). At 6 weeks,
168 there was a small change in step length (SMD 0.41, $P < 0.001$) (Figure 3A) and stride length
169 (SMD: 0.40, $P < 0.001$) (Supplementary File 3), which was also present at 3 months (SMD:
170 0.52, $P < 0.001$; and SMD: 0.63, $P < 0.001$), with larger changes in step length at 6 months
171 (SMD: 0.90, $P < 0.001$). There were trivial changes in step width at 6 weeks (SMD: -0.07, $P =$
172 0.57) and 3 months (SMD: 0.02, $P = 0.96$), with moderate evidence from five studies to
173 suggest that cadence did not change at 6 months (SMD: -0.08, $P = 0.87$) (Supplementary File
174 3).

175 *Spatiotemporal: comparison to controls*

176 At 6 weeks post-THA there was moderate evidence demonstrating a large deficit in walking
177 speed in THA patients compared with healthy individuals (SMD: -1.81, $P < 0.001$), which
178 persisted but reduced in magnitude at 3 months (SMD: -1.22, $P < 0.001$), 6 months (SMD: -
179 0.69, $P < 0.001$), and 12 months (SMD: -0.59, $P = 0.02$). Two studies provided limited
180 evidence of a small deficit in walking speed at 24 months (SMD: -0.57, $P < 0.007$) (Figure 2B).
181 Deficits of reducing magnitude were observed in step length compared to healthy
182 individuals at 6 weeks (SMD: -1.36, $P < 0.001$), 3 months (SMD: -0.88, $P < 0.001$), and 6

183 months (SMD: -0.35, $P = 0.04$), also persisting at 12 months post-THA (SMD: -0.54, $P = 0.25$)
184 (Figure 3B). Marked deficits in stride length were also evident, with large effect sizes at 6
185 weeks (SMD: -1.90, $P < 0.001$) and 3 months (SMD: -1.60, $P < 0.001$) with a large
186 improvement in THA patients between 3 and 6 months, but still a moderate deficit at 6
187 months (SMD: -0.78, $P < 0.001$). However, the same magnitude was not observed as
188 compared to healthy individuals at 12 months (SMD: -1.27, $P < 0.001$).

189 Three studies provided moderate evidence for a very large increase in double support time
190 at 6 weeks (SMD: 2.22, $P < 0.03$), however, patients were comparable to healthy individuals
191 at 3 months (SMD: -0.28, $P = 0.77$), 6 months (SMD: 0.18, $P = 0.60$), and 12 months (SMD: -
192 0.38, $P = 0.10$). Large increases in step width compared to healthy controls were evident at 6
193 weeks (SMD: 1.33, $P < 0.001$) and 3 months (SMD: 1.90, $P = 0.004$).

194 *Kinematic: comparison to pre-operative level*

195 Moderate evidence from four studies demonstrated small changes in sagittal plane hip ROM
196 compared to pre-operative level at 6 weeks (SMD: 0.49, $P = 0.22$), with a moderate increase
197 at 3 months (SMD: 1.07, $P = 0.006$) (Figure 4A). There was no change in coronal plane hip
198 ROM at 6 weeks (SMD: 0.33, $P = 0.22$) and 12 months (SMD: 0.33, $P = 0.22$), with moderate
199 evidence of a significant increase at 3 months (SMD: 1.03, $P = 0.01$) (Figure 5A). Pooled
200 results indicated a small increase in transverse plane hip ROM at 6 weeks (SMD: 0.36, $P =$
201 0.02), 3 months (SMD: 0.50; $P = 0.05$) and 12 months (SMD: 0.36, $P = 0.02$) (Supplementary
202 File 3). Two studies provided moderate evidence of a small decrease in peak hip abduction
203 angle at 3 months (SMD: -0.39, $P < 0.001$). Moderate evidence indicated no significant
204 change in peak hip flexion at 3 months (SMD: 0.16, $P = 0.63$) and coronal plane pelvic
205 obliquity angle at 6 months (SMD: -0.81, $P = 0.38$) (Supplementary File 3).

206 *Kinematic: comparison to controls*

207 Very large deficits in sagittal plane hip ROM compared to healthy individuals were observed
208 at 6 weeks (SMD: -2.59, $P < 0.001$), decreasing in magnitude but persisting at 3 months
209 (SMD: -1.88, $P < 0.001$), 6 months (SMD: -1.33, $P < 0.001$) and 12 months (SMD: -1.16, $P <$
210 0.001) (Figure 4B). This also occurred for coronal plane hip ROM, with large deficits at 6
211 weeks (SMD: -1.76, $P < 0.001$) and 3 months (SMD: -1.41, $P < 0.001$) (Figure 5B). There were
212 negligible changes in transverse plane hip ROM compared to healthy individuals at 6 weeks
213 (SMD: 0.18, $P = 0.39$) and 3 months (SMD: 0.26, $P = 0.56$).

214 Moderate evidence from five studies demonstrated a significant increase in sagittal plane
215 pelvis ROM compared to healthy individuals with a small effect at 12 months (SMD: 0.48, P
216 $= 0.05$). THA patients were comparable to healthy individuals for coronal plane pelvic
217 obliquity angle at 3 months (SMD: -0.20, $P = 0.90$), 6 months (SMD: 0.28, $P = 0.67$), and 12
218 months (SMD: 0.09, $P = 0.75$) (Supplementary File 3).

219 *Kinetic: comparison to controls*

220 Four studies provided moderate evidence demonstrating THA patients were comparable to
221 healthy individuals for peak hip abduction moment at 3 months (SMD: 0.02, $P = 0.92$). There
222 was insufficient data to compare the change from pre-operative status.

223 *Meta-regression and sensitivity analysis*

224 Pooled analyses for velocity (6 weeks, 3 and 12 months), as well as step length and stride
225 length (6 weeks), indicated high statistical heterogeneity ($P < 0.05$) with greater than 10
226 studies reporting data at each time point. Among these factors, there was an association
227 with the velocity effect size and younger age at 3 months and 12 months. There was an

228 association between step length effect size and study sample size at 6 weeks. No association
229 was found for BMI, anterior surgical approach, gender or risk of bias score (Table 3). The
230 sensitivity analysis revealed no change in the magnitude of the overall effect and the level of
231 significance when the correlation estimates were zero (Supplementary file 5).

232 *Risk of publication bias*

233 Egger's regression test demonstrated no evidence of publication bias for velocity at 6 weeks
234 ($\beta = 1.04$, $P = 0.368$), 3 months ($\beta = 1.6$, $P = 0.144$), and 12 months ($\beta = 1.4$, $P = 0.361$) or for
235 stride and step length at 6 weeks ($\beta = 2.00$, $P = 0.657$; $\beta = 2.46$, $P = 0.187$, respectively).

236 *Risk of methodological bias*

237 Inter-rater agreement for risk of bias scoring was high ($\kappa = 0.77$). Of a possible maximum 26
238 points, the mean risk of bias score across studies was 18, SD = 4 (range = 7 to 24).

239 Inadequate reporting of the sampling methods for recruitment (item 4), post-operative
240 rehabilitation protocol (item 9), and number and characteristics of patients lost to follow-up
241 (item 19) was common. Full risk of bias scoring is provided in Supplementary File 4.

242 **Discussion**

243 The aims of this systematic review were to determine the change in gait biomechanics after
244 THA compared to the pre-operative gait status; and to compare the recovery of gait
245 following THA with healthy individuals. This review identified evidence for moderate to large
246 pre to post-operative changes from 6 weeks to 12 months in spatiotemporal and kinematic
247 parameters. Compared to healthy individuals, although selected gait parameters appeared
248 to normalise after THA, residual deficits in walking speed, stride length and sagittal plane hip
249 ROM existed at 12 months postoperative.

250 Relatively consistent improvements were demonstrated over time in walking velocity, step
251 length and stride length following THA compared to pre-operative levels. The observed
252 changes in gait velocity following surgery in this meta-analysis did not meet the meaningful
253 clinically important improvements in gait velocity stated by Foucher et al. (2016)³². Early
254 improvements after THA were evident for walking speed, step length, stride length, and
255 single-limb support time at 6 weeks, with improvements relative to before surgery
256 demonstrated up to 12 months. Despite these observed improvements in spatiotemporal
257 parameters compared to the pre-operative status, patients were only comparable to
258 healthy individuals for step length, which demonstrated early recovery and return to normal
259 function from 6 weeks post-surgery. Importantly, despite early changes and significant
260 improvements in walking speed for up to 12 months post-surgery, lower walking speed is
261 still present at 12 months compared to healthy individuals. Step width was wider compared
262 to healthy individuals at 6 weeks and 3 months indicating patients continue to demonstrate
263 a wider based of support during gait after surgery.

264 The kinematic data revealed increases in sagittal plane hip ROM and transverse plane hip
265 ROM compared to pre-operative function at 6 weeks and up to 12 months. Despite
266 continuous improvements following THA for sagittal plane hip ROM, reduced hip ROM in
267 THA patients compared to healthy individuals at 12 months was evident. This may be due to
268 an increase in pelvis and/or trunk flexion developed as a strategy to avoid pain before
269 surgery³⁴, and potentially maintained following THA⁵. Coronal plane hip
270 abduction/adduction revealed no significant change from pre-operative status up to 12
271 months post THA, with a significantly lower coronal plane hip ROM compared to healthy
272 individuals. Abnormal coronal plane hip kinematics following THA could be due to several

273 reasons including muscle weakness in the affected limb due to pain and impaired function
274 before surgery³³, and incision of the abductor muscles during surgery³⁴. Pelvic obliquity
275 ROM was comparable to healthy individuals from 3 months and maintained up to 12
276 months.

277 A meta-regression was performed to identify possible explanations for the observed
278 heterogeneity in the gait parameters of velocity, stride length and step length. Only age was
279 associated with effect size of walking speed at 3 months and 12 months post-operatively,
280 indicating younger patients were associated with earlier recovery. The study sample size
281 was related to effect size heterogeneity for step length at 6 weeks, with larger sample sizes
282 showing a smaller effect for increased step length compared to pre-operative gait.

283 Despite previous systematic reviews describing the deficient gait parameters in patients
284 following THA compared to healthy individuals^{7,8} the pre-operative gait was not considered
285 to determine the trend in recovery. This meta-analysis has for the first time, concurrently
286 mapped the recovery in gait biomechanics after THA and compared postoperative status to
287 healthy controls up to 2 years after surgery. A greater number of longitudinal cohort studies
288 with follow-up beyond 12 months are required to appropriately map the trajectory of
289 recovery after THA and determine the effect of surgery on gait function in the long term.
290 Furthermore, greater consistency of reporting of gait parameters would facilitate easier
291 comparison across studies, particularly for kinetic gait parameters. Unfortunately
292 inconsistency in reporting precluded meta-analysis of most joint moment parameters. A
293 greater understanding the effect of THA on muscle function in future studies will shed light
294 onto the mechanisms underlying the deficits in gait biomechanics identified in this review.

295 Certain limitations of this review should be acknowledged. First, all study designs were
296 included in the review to determine the changes in gait biomechanics following THA and
297 compared to healthy individuals. Therefore, this review is susceptible to bias through the
298 inclusion of lower level study designs. However, we undertook an established grading of
299 evidence that considers study risk of bias, magnitude of the effect size and heterogeneity to
300 synthesise the findings. Second, the studies included to evaluate the change in gait from
301 pre- to post-operative status were not synonymous with the studies included to compare
302 post-operative gait to healthy individuals due to the limited number of longitudinal studies
303 that included a control group. Therefore, direct comparison between the two separate
304 analyses is cautioned. Some of the meta-analyses were based on a smaller number of
305 studies of varying methodological quality, although the regression analyses indicated the
306 risk of bias scores could not explain any observed heterogeneity. Finally, only studies
307 published in English were included due to limited translation resources. Therefore it is
308 uncertain if inclusion of non-English studies would alter the outcomes of the review.

309 **Conclusion**

310 Compared with OA patients before surgery THA was successful in improving walking speed,
311 step length, stride length, single-limb support time, sagittal and coronal plane hip ROM.
312 Despite these observed improvements from pre-operative OA individuals, patients
313 continued to demonstrate deficiencies compared to healthy individuals for walking speed,
314 stride length, single limb support time and sagittal plane hip ROM at 12 months. Improved
315 understanding of the trajectories of recovery in gait function after THA may assist in
316 managing expectations for both patients and clinicians, with further research required to
317 elucidate the impact of these impairments and relationships with clinical outcome.

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Contributions

JSB & JA were responsible for the conception and design of the research, reviewing articles, analysing data, interpreting the results of the review, writing and drafting the manuscript, and approving the final version of the manuscript. MJN was responsible for performing the review, interpreting results of the research and revising the manuscript. MT was responsible for conception and design of the review, interpreting the results, and revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content. JK was responsible for interpreting the results of the review and revision of the article for important intellectual content. LBS and DT were responsible for conception and design of the review, interpreting the results of the review, revision of the article for important intellectual content. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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None of the funding sources had input into the study design, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

Figure 1. Flowchart of study selection process

Figure 2. A (left) illustrates the change in walking speed following THA compared to the pre-operative status. B (right) compares post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals. Studies listed as (Author) a, b, c represent different surgical approaches used and reported in the study.

Figure 3. A (left) illustrates the change in step length following THA compared to the pre-operative status. B (right) compares post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals. Studies listed as (Author) a, b, c represent different surgical approaches used and reported in the study.

Figure 4. A (top) illustrates the change in sagittal plane hip flexion/extension ROM following THA compared to the pre-operative status. B (bottom) compares post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals. Studies listed as (Author) a, b, c represent different surgical approaches used and reported in the study.

Figure 5. A (top) illustrates the change in coronal plane hip abduction/adduction ROM following THA compared to the pre-operative status. B (bottom) compares post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals. Studies listed as (Author) a, b, c represent different surgical approaches used and reported in the study.

Author (year)	Study Design	Study Analyses		Sample size (n=)		Mean age, SD (years)		Mean BMI, SD (kg/m ²)		Surgical approach	Follow-up time point(s)	QI Score (of 26)
		Pre vs post	Post vs control	Patients (THA)	Controls	Patients (THA)	Controls	Patients (THA)	Controls			
Agostini et al 2014 ²⁷	Case control		✓	20	20	66.1 ± 7.2	65.4 ± 5.1	M = 26.1 ± 2.1; F = 27.7 ± 5.0	M = 24.4 ± 3; F = 23.2 ± 2.5	Posterolateral	3 mo, 6 mo, 12 mo	22
Ajemian et al 2004 ³⁵	Case series	✓		11	N/A	62.6 ± 8.6	N/A	NR	N/A	Not specified	Pre-op, 4 mo, 8 mo	12
Aminian et al 1999 ³⁶	Case series	✓		12	N/A	64.5 ± 8.7	N/A	27.8 ± 2	N/A	Not specified	Not specified	11
Atallah et al 2014 ³⁷	Case control		✓	17	14	65.9 ± 6.5	39.7 ± 17	NR	NR	Not specified	Not specified	15
Beaulieu et al 2010 ³⁸	Case control		✓	20	20	66.2 ± 6.7	63.5 ± 4.4	27.2 ± 5	24.9 ± 3.5	Lateral	6-15 mo	19
Behery and Foucher 2014 ³⁹	Case series	✓		125	N/A	61 ± 10	N/A	28.2 ± 5	N/A	Not specified	Pre-op, 15 mo	7
Bennett et al 2008 ²⁸	Case control		✓	134	10	74.4 ± 2.2	64 ± 3.6	NR	NR	Posterior	9-10 mo	18
Bennett et al 2006 ⁴⁰	RCT	✓	✓	a: 8 b: 9	10	a: 60.8 ± 5.8 b: 60.1 ± 6.2	64 ± 3.6	a: NR b: NR	NR	a: Posterior b: Posterior (small incision)	Pre-op, 1.38 mo	14
Berman et al 1991 ⁴¹	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	21	91	NR	NR	NR	NR	Anterolateral	Pre-op, 0-4 mo, 5-8 mo, 9-12 mo, 13-18 mo	11
Bhargava et al 2007 ⁴²	Case control		✓	20	NR	51.6 (SD NR)	NR	NR	NR	Posterior	6-51 mo	15
Bianchi et al 2012 ⁴³	Case series	✓		a: 19 b: 17 c: 19	N/A	a: 64.4 ± 4 b: 65.9 ± 4 c: 65.2 ± 3.5	N/A	a: 27.5 ± 3.7 b: 27.1 ± 3.7 c: 26.1 ± 4	N/A	a: Posterolateral (28mm head) b: Posterolateral (36mm head) c: Posterolateral (≥42mm head)	Pre-op, 2 mo, 4 mo	21
Bouffard et al 2011 ⁴⁴	Case control		✓	12	11	50.8 ± 6.1	45.7 ± 8.2	26.7 ± 4.7	26.3 ± 3	Posterior (large diameter head)	12 mo	21
Casartelli et al 2013 ²⁹	Case control		✓	26	26	65 ± 8		NR		Posterior & anterior ^g	6 mo	21
Cichy et al 2008 ⁴⁵	Case series	✓		30	N/A	63.6 ± 8.9	N/A	NR	N/A	Anterolateral	Pre-op, 1 mo	17
Colgan et al 2016 ²⁴	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	10	NR	55.4 ± 7	NR	27.1 ± 2.3	NR	Anterolateral	Pre-op, 8 weeks	19
da Cunha et al 2016 ⁴⁶	Case series	✓		93	N/A	59.7 ± 11.3	N/A	28.2 ± 4.7	N/A	Lateral	Pre-op, 3 mo	20
Foucher 2016 ³²	Case series	✓		145	N/A	61 ± 10	N/A	28.5 ± 5	N/A	Not specified	Pre-op, 12 mo	17
Foucher et al 2015 ⁹	Case series	✓		145	N/A	61 ± 10	N/A	28 ± 5	N/A	Not specified	Pre-op, 14 mo	17
Foucher et al 2007 ⁵	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	28	25	63.6 ± 7.1	57.6 ± 7.7	NR	NR	Posterior & lateral ^f	Pre-op, 14 mo	17
Foucher et al 2010 ⁴⁷	Case control		✓	26	24	60 ± 9	54 ± 6	NR	NR	Not specified	3 weeks, 12 mo	15
Foucher et al 2011 ⁴⁸	RCT	✓	✓	a: 13 b: 13	25	a: 57 ± 8 b: 63 ± 9	54 ± 6	a: 27 ± 3 b: 27 ± 3	28 ± 6	a: Anterolateral b: Two incision (anterior and	3 weeks, 3 mo, 6 mo, 12 mo	23

Holnapy et al 2013 ⁴⁹	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	a: 25 b: 22 c: 25	45	a: M = 60.1 ± 2.4; F = 59.9 ± 3.4 b: M = 61.3 ± 3.4; F = 62.2 ± 2.4 c: M = 61.2 ± 2.9; F = 60.8 ± 3.0	M = 60.9 ± 3.2; F = 60.4 ± 4.1	a: M = 30.3 ± 3.4; F = 30.1 ± 3.1 b: M = 30.7 ± 2.8; F = 29.8 ± 3.3 c: M = 31.3 ± 3.4; F = 28.9 ± 2.7	M = 24.3 ± 2.8; F = 25.3 ± 2.4	buttock) a: Lateral b: Anterolateral c: Posterior	Pre-op, 3 mo, 6 mo	21
Horstmann et al 2013 ⁵⁰	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	52	24	58 ± 9	54 ± 6.6	NR	NR	Lateral	Pre-op, 6 mo	19
Husby et al 2009 ⁵¹	Case series	✓		12	N/A	56 ± 8	N/A	28.2 ± 6.5	N/A	Lateral	Pre-op, 1 week, 5 weeks	24
Isobe et al 1998 ⁵²	Case series	✓		31	N/A	59.5 ± 8.8	N/A	NR	N/A	Not specified	Pre-op, 6 mo, 12 mo, 18 mo, 2 y, 3 y, 4 y, 5 y, 6 y	15
Jensen et al 2015 ⁵³	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	19	20	55 ± 6	57 ± 7	28.4 ± 2.8	25.6 ± 2.9	Posterolateral	Pre-op, 2 mo, 6 mo	22
Jensen et al 2014 ⁵⁴	Case series	✓		38	N/A	56 ± 5.6	N/A	27.8 ± 3.6	N/A	Not specified	Pre-op, 2 mo, 6 mo	11
Judd et al 2015 ⁵⁵	Case series	✓		5	N/A	62.4 ± 7.3	N/A	31.84 ± 4.3	N/A	Posterior	Pre-op, 8 wk	19
Kanzaki et al 2008 ⁵⁶	Case control		✓	9	11	46.3 ± 12.4	48.9 ± 8.2	20.6 ± 2.5	19.6 ± 1.7	Anterolateral (Dall's)	4 wk, 6 mo	18
Kiss et al 2012 ²⁵	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	a: 40 b: 40	40	a: 71.3 ± 3.7 b: 70.1 ± 1.4	70.8 ± 3.1	a: 29.9 ± 2.4 b: 29.8 ± 1.6	25.6 ± 3.8	a: Lateral b: Anterolateral	Pre-op, 3 mo, 6 mo, 12 mo	23
Klausmeier et al 2010 ⁵⁷	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	a: 11 b: 12	10	a: 57 ± 7.3 b: 56.9 ± 3.3	59.9 ± 5.3	a: 31.1 ± 4.1 b: 32 ± 5.1	26.3 ± 3.9	a: Anterolateral b: Anterior	Pre-op, 6 wk, 4 mo	21
Krych et al 2011 ⁵⁸	RCT	✓		a: 8 b: 11	N/A	a: 64.5 ± 13.4 b: 65.64 ± 12.1	N/A	a: 29.38 ± 6.5 b: 28.45 ± 3.4	N/A	a: Posterior (mini-incision) b: Two incision (anterior and buttock)	Pre-op, 2 mo, 12 mo	21
Krych et al 2010 ⁵⁹	Case series	✓		Total 21 a: 10 b: 11	N/A	Total 63 ± 13 a: NR b: NR	N/A	Total 30 ± 6 a: NR b: NR	N/A	a: Posterior (mini-incision) b: Two incision (anterior and buttock)	Pre-op, 6 wk	15
Lavigne et al 2010 ⁶⁰	Randomised double-blind	✓	✓	24	14	49.8 ± 7.3	44.4 ± 6.3	27.8 ± 3.9	25.8 ± 2.9	Posterior	Pre-op 3 mo, 6 mo, 12 mo	24
Lenaerts et al 2009 ⁶¹	Case series	✓		20	N/A	63 ± 9.8	N/A	27.4 ± 3.9	N/A	Lateral	Pre-op, 6 wk	15
Li et al 2015 ⁶²	Case control		✓	15	15	64 ± 2.7	58 ± 1.5	30.7 ± 1.5	24.5 ± 0.7	Not specified	> 12 mo	14
Li et al 2014 ⁶³	Case control		✓	15	38	64.27 ± 2.8	44.97 ± 2	30.74 ± 1.5	24.72 ± 0.4	Anterior	> 12 mo	14
Loizeau et al 1995 ⁶⁴	Case control		✓	4	4	67.3 ± 8	58.9 ± 8.9	NR	NR	Not specified	3.8 y	16
Lugade et al 2008 ⁶⁵	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	20	10	57 ± 5.2	59.9 ± 5.3	31.9 ± 4.3	26.3 ± 3.9	Anterior & lateral ^f	Pre-op, 6 wk, 4 months	22
Lugade et al 2010 ⁶⁶	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	a: 12 b: 11	10	a: 56.9 ± 3.4 b: 57 ± 7.3	59.9 ± 5.3	a: 32 ± 5.1 b: 31.1 ± 4.1	26.3 ± 3.9	a: Anterior b: Anterolateral	Pre-op, 6 wk, 4 mo	22
Madsen et al 2004 ⁶⁷	Case control		✓	a: 10 b: 10	9	a: 60.7 ± 8.4 b: 63.6 ± 8	54 ± 9.5	a: NR b: NR	NR	a: Anterolateral b: Posterolateral	6 mo	20

Maffioletti et al 2009 ³⁰	Case control	✓	a: 17 b: 17	17	a: 69 ± 5 b: 68 ± 6	69 ± 4	a: 27.2 ± 4.2 b: 25.6 ± 3.3	25.5 ± 2.7	a: Posterior b: Anterior	6 mo	21	
Mantovani et al 2012 ⁶⁸	Case control	✓	a: 20 b: 20	20	a: 60.5 ± 6 b: 66.2 ± 6.7	63.5 ± 4.4	a: 28.5 ± 4.9 b: 27.2 ± 5	24.9 ± 3.5	a: Anterior b: Lateral	11 mo 10 mo	15	
Martinez-Ramirez et al 2014 ⁶⁹	Case series	✓		19	62 ± 9	N/A	NR	N/A	Not specified	Pre-op, 6-8 mo	17	
Mayr et al 2009 ³⁴	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	a: 16 b: 17	20	a: 66 ± 10 b: 68 ± 10	27.9 ± 3.3	a: 27 ± 3.8 b: 29 ± 3.6	NR	a: Anterior b: Anterolateral	Pre-op, 6 weeks, 3 mo	22
McCrary et al 2001 ⁷⁰	Case control	✓		27	35	59.7 ± 13.8	27.5 ± 5.7	NR	NR	Not specified	10.5 mo	16
Meneghini et al 2008 ⁷¹	Case series	✓	a: 8 b: 8 c: 7	N/A	a: 54 ± 9 b: 54 ± 9 c: 54 ± 9	N/A	a: 26 ± 2.3 b: 26 ± 2.3 c: 26 ± 2.3	N/A	a: Two incision (anterior and buttock) b: Posterior (mini incision) c: Anterolateral (mini incision)	Pre-op, 6 wk	20	
Miki et al 2004 ⁷²	Case series	✓		17	N/A	52.6 (SD NR)	N/A	NR	N/A	Posterior	Pre-op, 1 mo, 3 mo, 6 mo, 12 mo	20
Muller et al 2012 ⁷³	Case series	✓	a: 15 b: 15	N/A	a: 64.3 ± 7 b: 66.2 ± 8	N/A	a: 26.9 ± 3.3 b: 27 ± 3.1	N/A	a: Anterolateral b: Direct lateral	Pre-op, 3 mo	22	
Nankaku et al 2012 ⁷⁴	Case control	✓		18	18	47.7 ± 10	47.4 ± 15.3	20.4 ± 2.1	20.8 ± 1.9	Direct lateral (Dall's)	4 weeks	18
Nankaku et al 2007 ⁷⁵	Case control	✓		15	14	47 ± 10.2	46 ± 13.2	20.3 ± 2.2	20.7 ± 1.9	Anterolateral (Dall's)	4 weeks	20
Nantel et al 2009 ⁷⁶	Case control	✓		10	10	49 ± 7.5	48.6 ± 6	29.9 ± 6.6	26.4 v 3.4	Posterior	6 weeks	21
Perron et al 2000 ¹²	Case control	✓		18	15	65.6 ± 6	65.5 ± 6.5	NR	NR	Posterior & anterolateral ^f	10.7 mo	17
Queen et al 2011 ¹⁰	Case series	✓	a: 8 b: 12 c: 15	N/A	a: 58 ± 7 b: 55.3 ± 8.2 c: 55.4 ± 10.9	N/A	a: NR b: NR c: NR	N/A	a: Lateral b: Posterior c: Anterolateral	Pre-op, 6 weeks	20	
Queen et al 2013 ⁷⁷	Case series	✓	a: 10 b: 10 c: 10	N/A	a: 60 ± 6.5 b: 57 ± 6.2 c: 57.6 ± 11.2	N/A	a: NR b: NR c: NR	N/A	a: Lateral b: Posterior c: Anterolateral	Pre-op, 6 weeks, 12 mo	19	
Rathod et al 2014 ⁷⁸	Case series	✓	a: 11 b: 11	N/A	a: 58 ± 6.7 b: 61.8 ± 9.1	N/A	a: 25.9 ± 2.2 b: 25.43 ± 3	N/A	a: Anterior b: Posterior	Pre-op, 6 mo, 12 mo	24	
Reininga et al 2013 ⁷⁹	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	40	30	60.5 ± 9.5	65.8 ± 6	26.2 ± 3.5	23.9 ± 3.2	Posterior	Pre-op, 6 weeks, 3 mo, 6 mo	23
Rosenberg 1982 ⁸⁰	Case control	✓		10	10	66.4 ± 6.9	64.9 ± 4.8	NR	NR	Anterolateral	> 12mo	15
Rosler and Perka 2000 ⁸¹	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	26	10	64.6 ± 7.7	42.1 ± 13.5	NR	NR	Lateral	Pre-op, 14.4 wk, 27.8 wk	13
Shrader et al 2009 ⁸²	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	7	7	51.9 ± 10.1	50.4 ± 8.2	NR	NR	Posterolateral	Pre-op, 3 mo	20
Sicard-Rosenbaum et al 2002 ¹¹	Case control	✓		15	30	59.9 ± 14.9	60.2 ± 15	NR	NR	Not specified	23.6 mo	14
Stansfield and Nicol 2002 ⁸³	Case control	✓		5	M = 5; F = 6	52.6 ± 6.6	M = 49.4 ± 5; F = 49.7 ± 5.2	NR	M = NR; F = NR	Not specified	18.6 mo	11

Talis et al 2008 ⁸⁴	Case control	✓	✓	27	27	56 ± 10	55 ± 9	NR	NR	Not specified	19 mo	17
Tanaka et al 2010 ⁸⁵	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	43	26	59.7 ± 7.9	61.3 ± 11.4	NR	NR	Posterolateral	Pre-op, 2 mo, 6 mo, 12 mo	20
Tateuchi et al 2011 ³¹	Case control	✓	✓	12	12	63.2 ± 7.2	63.4 ± 5.1	22.5 ± 3.3	21.6 ± 2.1	Not specified	> 6 mo	18
van den Akker-Scheek et al 2007 ⁸⁶	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	63	19	62 ± 12.6	61.7 ± 9.4	26.4 ± 3.3	24.9 ± 2.3	Not specified	Pre-op, 6 weeks, 6 mo	19
Varin et al 2013 ⁸⁷	Case control	✓	✓	a: 20 b: 20	20	a: 66.2 ± 6.7 b: 60.5 ± 6	63.5 ± 9.4	a: 27.2 ± 5 b: 28.5 ± 4.9	24.9 ± 3.5	a: Lateral b: Anterior	10.6 mo 9.6 mo	20
Vogt et al 2004 ⁸⁸	Case control	✓	✓	14	10	63 ± 4	61 ± 6	NR	NR	Posterolateral	6 weeks	13
Vogt et al 2003 ⁸⁹	Case control	✓	✓	12	10	61.5 ± 6.7	59.5 ± 6.1	NR	NR	Not specified	6 weeks	16
Waldman and Foucher 2012 ⁹⁰	Case series	✓	✓	132	N/A	60.5 ± 10	N/A	28.5 ± 4	N/A	Not specified	Pre-op, 12 mo	8
Ward et al 2008 ⁹¹	Case series	✓	✓	a: 11 b: 10 c: 18 d: 30	N/A	a: 55 ± 2 b: 64 ± 2 c: 61 ± 2 d: 64 ± 1	N/A	a: 28.9 ± 1.2 b: 27.8 ± 1.1 c: 29.8 ± 1 d: 26.1 ± 0.5	N/A	a: Anterolateral (mini incision) b: Anterolateral (Judet mini incision) c: Posterior d: Posterior (mini incision)	Pre-op, 6 weeks, 6 mo	14
Wesseling et al 2016 ⁹²	Case control	✓	✓	12	18	47.75 ± 13.2	53 ± 5	25.52 ± 3	23.67 ± 3	Anterior	12 mo	17
Whatling et al 2008 ⁹³	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	a: 14 b: 13	16	a: 64.21 ± 10.9 b: 60.46 ± 11.5	46.25 ± 7.4	a: NR b: NR	NR	a: Direct lateral b: Posterior	Not stated	10
Wimmer et al 2012 ⁹⁴	Prospective cohort	✓	✓	a: 10 b: 12 c: 7	23	a: 59 ± 7.3 b: 55.7 ± 9.9 c: 57 ± 11.8	53.8 ± 6.5	a: 26.7 ± 2.2 b: 28.9 ± 3.8 c: 30.7 ± 6.6	26.1 ± 4.9	a: Two incision (anterior and buttock) b: Anterolateral (mini incision) c: Posterolateral (mini incision)	6 weeks, 3 mo	16

‡ Surgical approaches combined; *Missing gait data where authors were contacted; SD, standard deviation; RCT, randomised controlled trial; NR, not reported; N/A, not applicable; mo, months; wk, week; y, year.

Table 1. Summary of findings for gait parameters across each time point. Change from pre-operative to post-operative and comparison of post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals

Pre-operative vs post-operative					Post-operative THA patients vs healthy individuals				
Follow-up time points and variables	Study groups (n=)	I ² , %	SMD (95% CI)	Strength of evidence*	Follow-up time points and variables	Study groups (n=)	I ² , %	SMD (95% CI)	Strength of evidence*
6 weeks					6 weeks				
Velocity	20	70	0.32 (0.14 – 0.50)	Moderate	Velocity	13	69	-1.81 (-2.22 to -1.40)	Moderate
Single limb support time	5	36	0.44 (0.19 – 0.69)	Moderate	Single limb support time	6	79	-0.72 (-1.38 to -0.05)	Moderate
Double limb support time	3	50	-0.03 (-0.46 to 0.40)	Moderate	Double limb support time	3	91	2.22 (0.26 – 4.19)	Moderate
Stride length	11	87	0.40 (0.19 – 0.61)	Moderate	Stride length	8	61	-1.90 (-2.43 to -1.37)	Moderate
Stride time	3	70	0.04 (-0.13 to 0.20)	Moderate	Step width	5	0	1.33 (0.91 – 1.75)	Strong
Step width	5	66	0.05 (-0.25 to 0.35)	Strong	Step length	2	49	-1.36 (-1.90 to -0.83)	Moderate
Step length	10	75	0.41 (0.23 – 0.59)	Moderate	Hip flexion/extension ROM	4	0	-2.59 (-3.11 to -2.06)	Moderate
Hip flexion/extension ROM	4	88	0.49 (-0.29 to 1.27)	Moderate	Hip abduction/adduction ROM	4	44	-1.76 (-2.36 to -1.15)	Moderate
Hip abduction/adduction ROM	4	39	0.33 (-0.19 to 0.86)	Strong	Hip internal/external ROM	4	13	0.18 (-0.23 to 0.59)	Moderate
Hip internal/external ROM	4	9	0.36 (0.05 – 0.67)	Strong					
3 months					3 months				
Velocity	17	63	0.78 (0.57 – 0.99)	Moderate	Velocity	10	82	-1.22 (-1.83 to -0.61)	Moderate
Single limb support time	5	28	0.59 (0.35 – 0.82)	Strong	Single limb support time	4	78	-0.73 (-1.59 to 0.12)	Moderate
Stride length	7	51	0.63 (0.38 – 0.88)	Moderate	Double limb support time	5	97	-0.28 (-2.05 to 1.58)	Moderate
Stride time	3	60	-0.38 (-0.68 to -0.07)	Moderate	Stride length	6	80	-1.60 (-2.45 to -0.74)	Moderate
Step width	8	90	0.02 (-0.63 to 0.66)	Moderate	Step width	8	94	1.90 (0.60 – 3.20)	Moderate
Step length	7	31	0.52 (0.33 – 0.71)	Strong	Step length	3	0	-0.88 (-0.68 to -0.01)	Moderate
Hip flexion/extension ROM	4	80	1.07 (0.31 – 1.84)	Moderate	Swing time	3	0	-0.39 (-0.67 to -0.11)	Strong
Hip abduction/adduction ROM	5	95	1.03 (0.24 – 1.82)	Moderate	Hip flexion/extension ROM	5	56	-1.88 (-2.47 to -1.28)	Strong
Hip internal/external ROM	4	89	0.50 (0.01 – 1.00)	Moderate	Hip abduction/adduction ROM	4	0	-1.41 (-1.83 to -0.99)	Strong
Peak hip flexion angle	3	86	0.16 (-0.47 to 0.78)	Moderate	Hip internal/external ROM	4	79	0.26 (-0.60 to 1.11)	Moderate
Peak hip abduction angle	2	0	-0.39 (-0.62 to -0.16)	Moderate	Pelvis obliquity ROM	3	99	-0.20 (-3.31 to 2.90)	Moderate
					Peak pelvis obliquity angle	4	96	-0.24 (-1.83 to 1.34)	Moderate
					Minimum pelvis obliquity angle	4	96	-0.41 (-1.96 to 1.13)	Moderate
					Peak hip abduction moment	4	21	0.02 (-0.44 to 0.49)	Moderate
6 months					6 months				
Velocity	9	32	1.01 (0.81 – 1.21)	Strong	Velocity	8	64	-0.69 (-1.10 to -0.29)	Moderate

Step length	6	75	0.90 (0.50 – 1.31)	Moderate	Single limb support time	5	82	-0.33 (-1.08 to 0.42)	Moderate
Cadence	6	96	-0.08 (-1.05 to 0.89)	Moderate	Double limb support time	7	88	0.18 (-0.51 to 0.88)	Moderate

Pre-operative vs post-operative**Post-operative THA patients vs healthy individuals**

Follow-up time points and variables	Study groups (n=)	I ² , %	SMD (95% CI)	Strength of evidence*	Follow-up time points and variables	Study groups (n=)	I ² , %	SMD (95% CI)	Strength of evidence*
Stance phase	3	34	-0.14 (-0.42 to 0.13)	Limited	Stride length	7	0	-0.78 (-1.06 to -0.49)	Strong
Pelvic obliquity ROM	4	98	-0.81 (-2.60 to 0.99)	Moderate	Step length	4	51	-0.35 (-0.68 to -0.01)	Strong
					Swing time	5	75	0.36 (-0.14 to 0.86)	Moderate
					Hip flexion/extension ROM	3	0	-1.33 (-1.83 to -0.82)	Strong
					Pelvis obliquity ROM	5	95	0.28 (-1.02 to 1.57)	Moderate
12 months					12 months				
Velocity	11	78	1.28 (1.01 – 1.56)	Moderate	Velocity	7	77	-0.59 (-1.08 to -0.11)	Moderate
Hip abduction/adduction ROM	4	39	0.33 (-0.19 to 0.86)	Strong	Single limb support time	2	0	-0.82 (-1.23 to -0.41)	Moderate
Hip internal/external ROM	4	9	0.36 (0.05 – 0.67)	Strong	Double limb support time	3	59	-0.38 (-0.83 to 0.08)	Moderate
					Stride length	3	0	-1.27 (-1.63 to -0.91)	Moderate
					Step length	3	90	-0.54 (-1.46 to 0.38)	Moderate
					Hip flexion/extension ROM	3	65	-1.16 (-1.83 to -0.49)	Strong
					Peak hip extension angle	4	97	0.11 (-1.68 to 1.91)	Moderate
					Pelvis obliquity ROM	4	78	0.09 (-0.47 to 0.65)	Moderate
					Pelvis flexion/extension ROM	5	73	0.48 (0.00 – 0.96)	Moderate
					24 months				
					Velocity	2	0	-0.57 (-0.98 to -0.15)	Limited

* Strength of evidence was determined as per Van Tulder et al 2003²⁵

Table 1. Meta Regression Analysis of Factors Potentially Related to Heterogeneity

	Velocity 6 weeks		Velocity 3 months		Velocity 12 months		Step length 6 weeks		Stride length 6 weeks	
	β (95% CI)	<i>P</i> Value	β (95% CI)	<i>P</i> Value	β (95% CI)	<i>P</i> Value	β (95% CI)	<i>P</i> Value	β (95% CI)	<i>P</i> Value
Age	-0.25 (-0.77 to 0.27)	.324	-0.052 (-.102 to -.001)	.046	-0.094 (-.185 to -.003)	.045	-0.029 (-.107 to .048)	.406	-0.021 (-.086 to .044)	.484
BMI	-0.002 (-.106 to .102)	.968	.055 (-.093 to .204)	.437	.011 (-.867 to .889)	.970	.255 (-1.244 to 1.755)	.275	-0.012 (-.433 to .409)	.932
Sample size	-0.008 (-0.20 to .005)	.217	-0.005 (-.019 to .010)	.508	-0.002 (-.010 to .006)	.583	-0.011 (-.020 to -.001)	.033	-0.034 (-.112 to .045)	.354
Surgical Approach*	.195 (-.315 to .705)	.431	.224 (-.532 to .981)	.537	.725 (-.477 to 1.927)	.206	-	-	.354 (-.290 to .998)	.245
% females	.003 (-.007 to .014)	.497	-0.005 (-.017 to .007)	.386	-0.006 (-.037 to .025)	.645	-0.016 (-.040 to .008)	.141	.011 (-.012 to .034)	.271
Risk of bias	-0.047 (-.105 to .011)	.107	-0.062 (-.131 to .007)	.073	.051 (-.042 to .144)	.246	-0.041 (-.132 to .050)	.326	-0.095 (-.254 to .064)	.210

*Comparison of the gluteal muscle sparing (anterior) approach to the more conventional posterior and lateral surgical approaches.

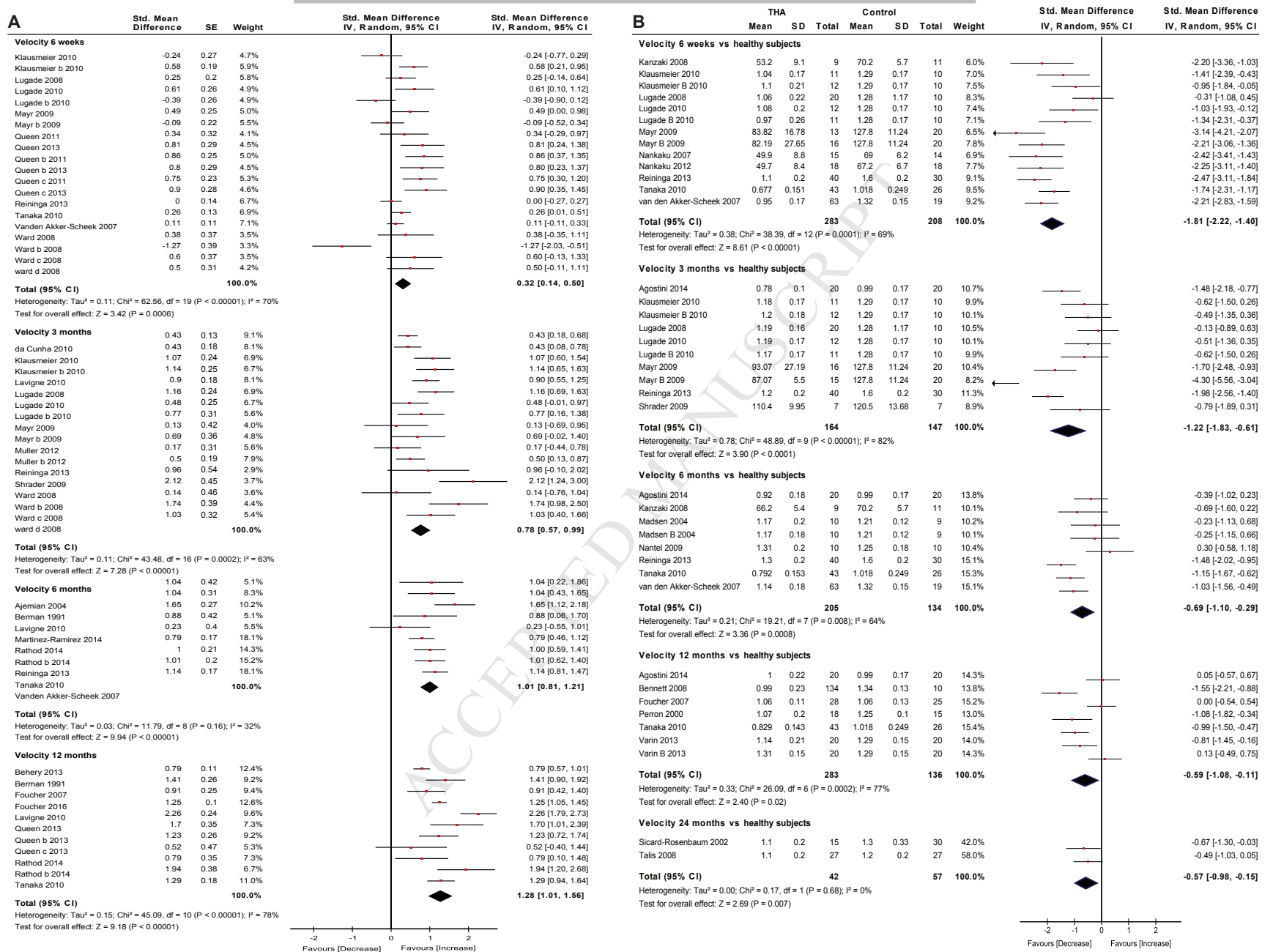


Figure 2. A (left) illustrates the change in walking speed following THA compared to the pre-operative status. B (right) compares post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals. Studies listed as (Author) a, b, c represent different surgical approaches used and reported in the study.

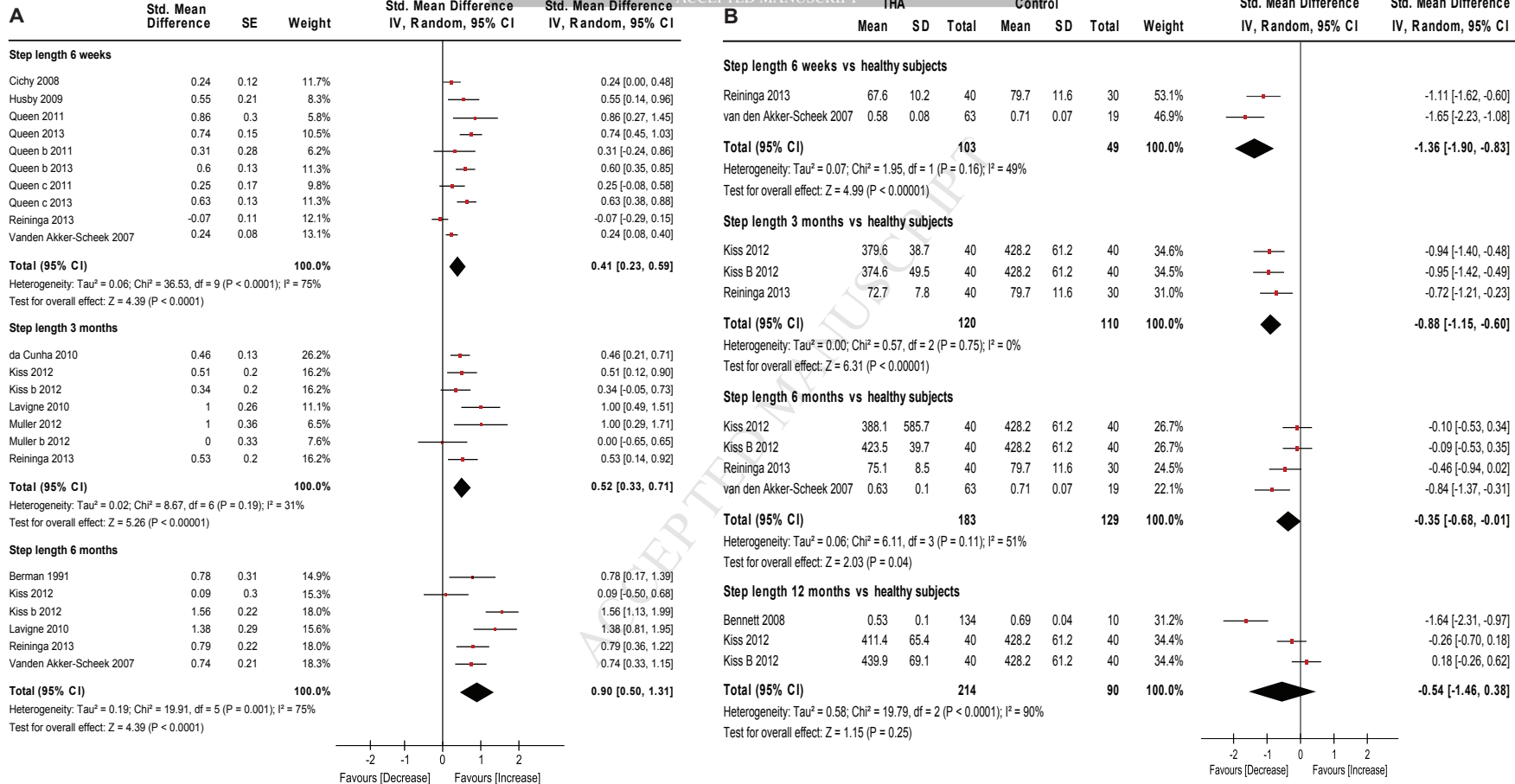


Figure 3. A (left) illustrates the change in step length following THA compared to the pre-operative status. B (right) compares post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals. Studies listed as (Author) a, b, c represent different surgical approaches used and reported in the study.

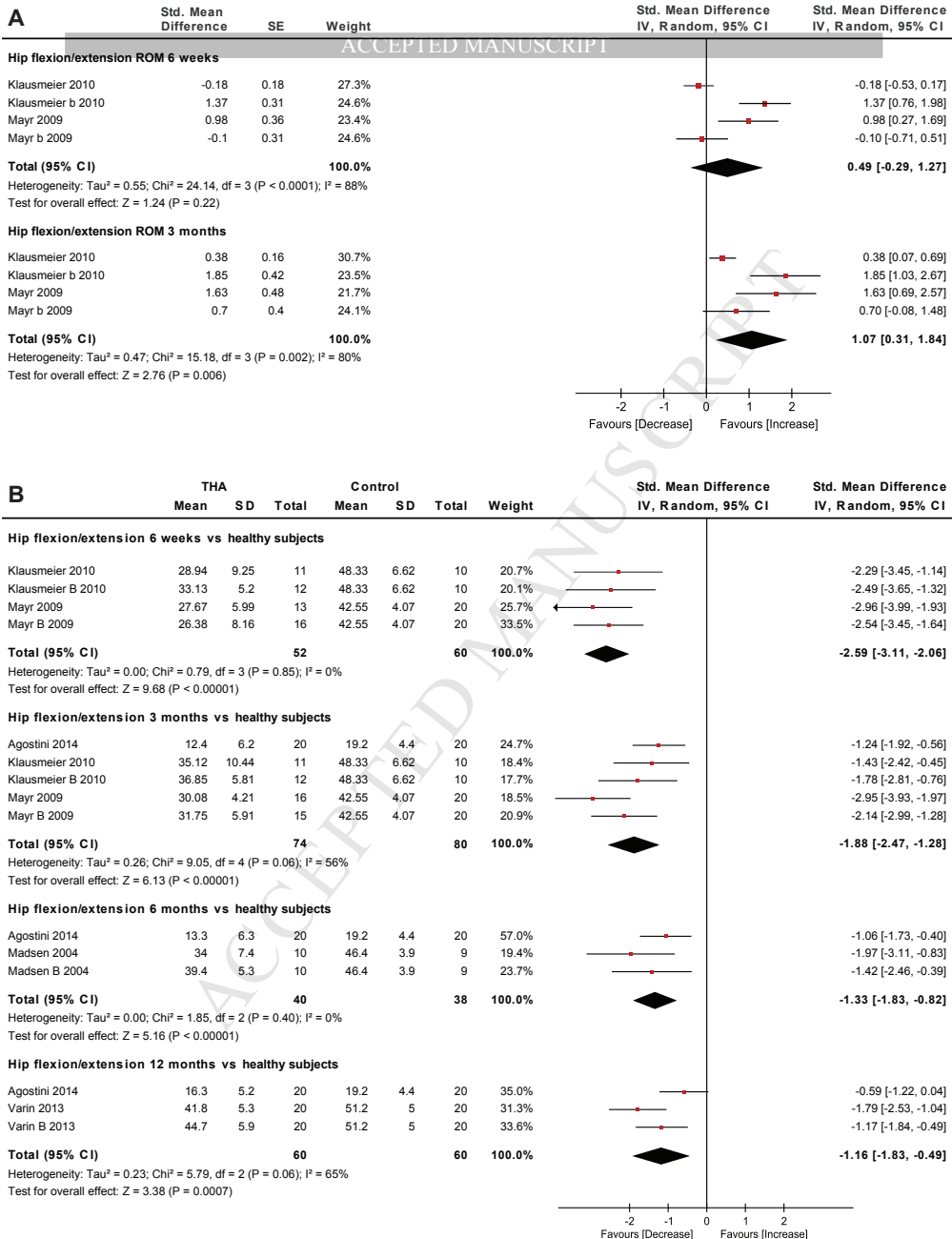


Figure 4. A (top) illustrates the change in sagittal plane hip flexion/extension ROM following THA compared to the pre-operative status. B (bottom) compares post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals. Studies listed as (Author) a, b, c represent different surgical approaches used and reported in the study

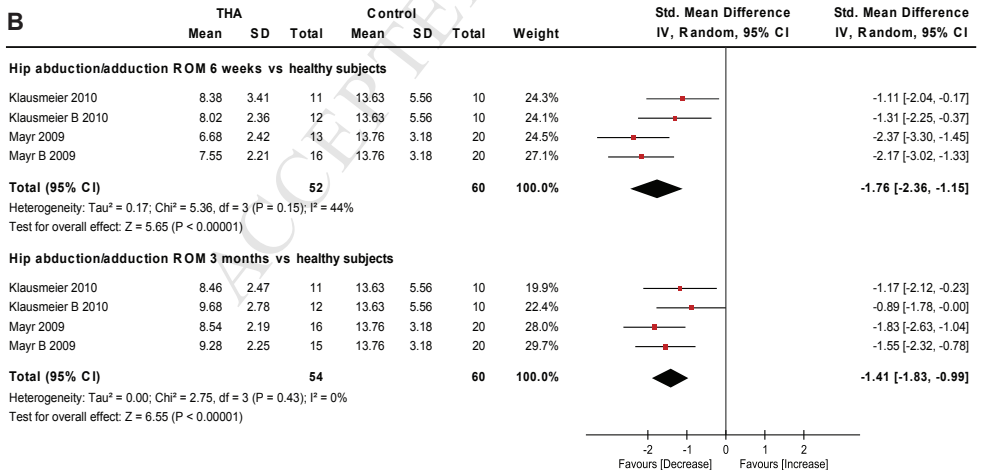
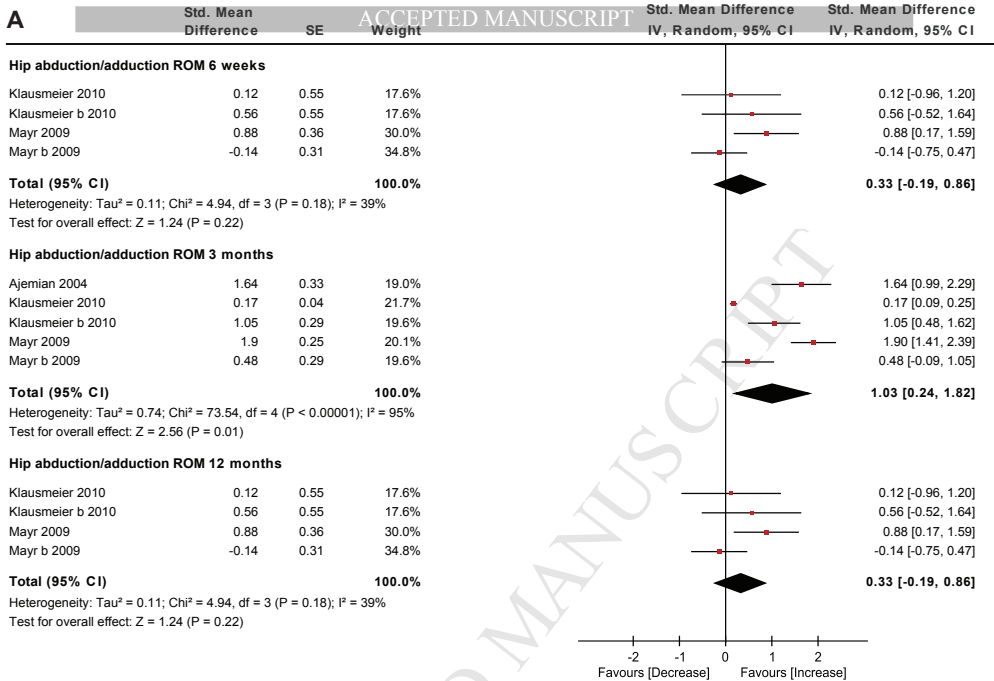


Figure 5. A (top) illustrates the change in coronal plane hip abduction/adduction ROM following THA compared to the pre-operative status. B (bottom) compares post-operative THA patients to healthy individuals. Studies listed as (Author) a, b, c represent different surgical approaches used and reported in the study

