Clinical improvement and satisfaction after total joint replacement: a prospective 12-month evaluation on the patients’ perspective.

To determine short-term improvements, satisfaction rates and the patient acceptable symptom state (PASS) after total joint replacement (TJR) for different patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs). This prospective cohort study included 426 consecutive patients undergoing total hip (n = 193) or knee arthroplasty (n = 233). The following PROMs were completed before TJR, and at 3, 6 and 12 months after surgery, respectively: WOMAC, Oxford Hip or Knee Score, Lower Extremity Functional Scale, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) activity scale and EuroQol-5 dimension (EQ-5D). Satisfaction rates and the PASS thresholds were also assessed. THA patients improved quicker and achieved higher outcome scores than TKA patients. Comorbidities according to the Sangha score were moderately correlated with all PROM values in an inverse direction at all time points (r = -0.27 to -0.47, p< 0.01) in both groups. Satisfaction with the result of surgery improved over time. At 12 months, more than 90 % of the patients were satisfied or very satisfied with the achieved result. The THA group showed a higher proportion of very satisfied patients than the TKA group at all time points. PASS thresholds increased over time for all PROMs except for the UCLA and the EQ-5D in TKA patients. More than 90 % of the patients will be
satisfied 1 year after TJR. THA patients recover faster than TKA patients, i.e., they achieve higher
PROM values at earlier follow-up time points. Cutoff values defining a successful result in terms of the
PASS could be defined for all PROMs at different time points and can serve as reference for future
studies and patient-oriented follow-ups.

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