What is the Best Position (High Hip vs Anatomic) for the acetabular component in patients with severe DDH?

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Response/Recommendation:

The findings of the previous studies demonstrate that the functional outcomes, limb length inequality, revision rates, and complications including nerve injury rates and dislocation were not significantly different between the high hip or anatomic center groups for patients with developmental dysplasia of the hip who underwent total hip arthroplasty.

Level of Evidence: Limited

Rationale:

Total hip arthroplasty (THA) in patients with severe developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) presents a significant challenge for orthopedic surgeons due to complex anatomical deformities and compromised bone stock. THA aims to reestablish the anatomical hip center, thereby reducing hip load, enhancing the biomechanics of the hip, and supporting normal gait. The high hip center (HHC) technique has emerged as an alternative to evade these issues and improve bone-implant contact. This method involves placing the cementless cup at a higher position than the anatomical center, leveraging the superior periacetabular bone stock available in this region. Despite its potential advantages, there have been reports of complications associated with HHC, including higher rates of aseptic loosening, dislocation, limb-length inequality, and increased hip joint reaction forces. These concerns have led to a cautious adoption of the technique. However, recent studies have reported promising results with the high placement of the acetabular cup, suggesting that with careful patient selection and surgical precision, the HHC technique can yield satisfactory outcomes.

Among the 14 studies comparing the outcomes of the high hip center technique with the anatomical center, most of the studies were retrospective cohorts and only three of them were prospective studies designed to compare these two methods.

We evaluated the outcomes of THA in dysplastic hips as measured by the Harris hip score, revision rates, and postoperative complications in two groups of cup position of the acetabular cup in the high hip center versus the anatomic hip center.

Only the Yang et. al. and Karaismailoglu et.al studies included patients with severe DDH (Crowe III and IV). The two studies conducted by Karaismailoglu et.al. were designed to evaluate the gait of the patients following total hip arthroplasty and excluded patients with limb length discrepancy > 2 cm and Harris Hip Score < 85 points and therefore were not included in the meta-analysis [1, 2].

The definition of the high hip center was different among the included studies. The longitudinal position of the acetabular cup at the high hip center was defined regarding the inter-teardrop line in eight studies and six studies used the Anatomic Head Centers (AHC) as the reference for defining the high hip center (**Table 1**). The longitudinal cup position was significantly higher in the postoperative radiographic evaluations in the high hip center group compared to the anatomic center (p-value<0.01) as demonstrated in Figure 1.

Postoperative function was assessed using the Harris Hip Score (HHS) in seven of the included studies. The meta-analysis demonstrated significant heterogeneity among these studies (I2=73.26, p-value<0.01) suggesting variability in the effect sizes across the studies. This could be due to differences in study design, population characteristics, or other factors. The results of this meta-analysis demonstrated that there is no significant difference between the HHS scores of the high hip center and anatomic center groups (p-value=0.59) (Figure 2).

The abductor lever arm was measured in three of the included studies. Comparing the abductor lever arm between the two groups did not show any significant difference (p-value=0.89). The three studies had moderate degree of heterogeneity (I2=73.15%, p-value=0.02).

The meta-analysis of limb leg difference between the two methods demonstrated no significant difference (p-value=0.32) (Figure 4).

Although Watts et. al. reported a higher incidence of cup revisions in the high hip center group, the meta-analysis demonstrated no significant difference between the two groups regarding the cup revision rates as indicated in a forest plot in Figure 4 (p-value=0.25) [12]. Studies had low heterogeneity (I^2 =8.82%, p-value=0.43). Also, any cause revisions were not significantly different between the two groups (Figure 5).

Nerve injury rates were reported in four studies and the meta-analysis demonstrates no significant difference between the high hip center and anatomic groups (p-value=0.13) (Figure 6) [3-5, 10].

The incidence of postoperative dislocations was also evaluated in six studies. The meta-analysis demonstrated no significant difference regarding the dislocation rate between the two groups (p-value=0.96) (Figure 8).

References

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Figures:

Study	Study Design	Number of Patients	Dysplasia Classification	High Hip Position Definition	Reference Landmark
Demirel.2022[3]	Retrospective	57	Crowe type-	Vertical distance	Anatomic
	r	patients / 57 hips	II, type-III	of 15 mm from AHC	Head Centers
Christodoulou, 2010 [4]	Retrospective	88 patients / 104 hips	Hartofilakidis classification	>35 mm from the inter-teardrop line, >15 mm from AFHC	Inter-teardrop line
Dogra, 2023 [5]	Prospective	30 patients / 30 hips	Crowe type- II, type-III	>15 mm from AHC	Inter-teardrop line
Fukui, 2013 [6]	Prospective	200 patients / 200 hips	Crowe type I, II, III	>22 mm from the inter-teardrop line	Inter-teardrop line
Karaismailoglu 2019-1 [1]	Retrospective	20 patients / 20 hips	Crowe III/IV	>15 mm superior to AHC	approximate femoral head center
Karaismailoglu 2019-2 [2]	Retrospective	10 patients / 20 hips	Crowe III/IV	>15 mm superior to AHC	approximate femoral head center
Murayama, 2012 [7]	Retrospective	43 patients / 43 hips	Crowe I-III	>24.5 mm above inter-teardrop line	Inter-teardrop line
Nawabi 2013 [8]	Retrospective	46 patients / 51 hips	Crowe I-III	>10 mm superior to AFHC	Inter-teardrop line, (Ranawat method)
Shen, 2021 [9]	Retrospective	42 patients / 42 hips	Crowe II–III and IV	>22 mm above inter-teardrop line	Inter-teardrop line
Traina, 2008 [10]	Retrospective	67 patients / 88 hips	Crowe I-IV	≥30 mm above inter-teardrop line	Inter-teardrop line
Wang, 2017 [11]	Retrospective	68 patients / 86 hips	Hartofilakidis classification	>35 mm above inter-teardrop line	Inter-teardrop line
Watts, 2018 [12]	Retrospective	88 patients / 88 hips	Crowe II-III	>1 cm superior and >1 cm lateral to AFHC	Inter-teardrop line, (Pagnano and Ranawat method)

Table 1 Summary of the included studies

Yang, 201	7 [13]	Retrospective	21	Crowe III-IV	Superior	Inter-teardrop
			patients /		displacement	line (Pierchon
			21 hips			method)
Zhang,	2017	Prospective	40	Crowe I-III	Upward	Inter-teardrop
[14]			patients /		placement of 5-	line
			42 hips		20 mm	

Notes: AHC, anatomic hip center, AFHC: approximate femoral head center

Figure 1 Postoperative Cup Position

	High	n Hip Ce	enter	Anatomic		ic		Hedges's g	Weight
Study	Ν	Mean	SD	Ν	Mean	SD		with 95% Cl	(%)
Demirel, 2022	32	84.1	15.9	25	69.6	17.4		0.86 [0.32, 1.40]	17.31
Fukui, 2013	100	28	4.6	100	18.5	3		2.44 [2.07, 2.80]	18.18
Nawabi, 2013	27	28	4.5	24	17	1.5		3.15 [2.34, 3.97]	15.53
Shen, 2021	46	30.6	5.8	39	14	4.3		3.18 [2.54, 3.82]	16.72
Wang, 2017	40	31.6	7.8	20	19.3	7.4		1.58 [0.98, 2.18]	16.95
Zhang, 2017	21	11.1	4.1	21	1.7	2.1		2.83 [1.98, 3.68]	15.32
Overall								2.32 [1.56, 3.07]	
Heterogeneity: T	² = 0.7	8, I ² = 8	9.70%	, H ² =	9.71				
Test of $\theta_i = \theta_j$: Q	(5) = 4	5.70, p	= 0.00						
Test of θ = 0: z =	6.02,	p = 0.0	D						
							0 1 2 3 4	4	

Random-effects REML model

	High	n Hip Ce	enter		Anatom	nic						Hedges's	g	Weight
Study	Ν	Mean	SD	Ν	Mean	SD						with 95%	CI	(%)
Demirel, 2022	32	83.6	10.7	25	83	9.7	-	_			(0.06 [-0.46,	0.57]	15.35
Christodoulou, 2010	34	84.2	13.2	70	91.2	11.5		_			-(0.58 [-0.99,	-0.16]	16.80
Dogra, 2023	15	83.5	1.9	15	82.7	2.1					(0.39 [-0.31,	1.09]	12.71
Murayama, 2012	33	88	8.75	10	78	10.1				-	_ `	1.08 [0.35,	1.81]	12.33
Shen, 2021	46	94	4.1	39	92.8	4.5			—		(0.28 [-0.15,	0.70]	16.65
Wang, 2017	40	90	5.7	20	92.4	4.4	_				-(0.45 [-0.98,	0.09]	15.06
Yang, 2017	11	91.9	7.6	10	89.4	6.2	-				(0.34 [-0.48,	1.17]	11.10
Overall								-			(0.11 [-0.30,	0.52]	
Heterogeneity: $\tau^2 = 0.2$	22, I ² =	= 73.269	%, H ² =	= 3.7	4									
Test of $\theta_i = \theta_j$: Q(6) = 2	2.02,	p = 0.00	C											
Test of θ = 0: z = 0.54,	p = 0	.59												
						-	1	0		1	2			

Figure 2 HHS scores

Figure 3 Abductor Lever Arm



Random-effects REML model

Figure 4 Limb Leg Difference (mm)

	Hig	h Hip Ce	enter	Anatomic						Hedges's g	Weight	
Study	Ν	Mean	SD	Ν	Mean	SD					with 95% CI	(%)
Demirel, 2022	32	13.2	9.4	25	12.5	11.2	_	-	-		0.07 [-0.45, 0.58]	20.49
Christodoulou 2010	34	23.5	5.4	70	12.3	4.2					- 2.41 [1.88, 2.93]	20.47
Shen 2021	23	5.5	5.7	19	5	2.9	_	_	_		0.11 [-0.49, 0.70]	20.12
Yang 2017	11	4.1	2	10	3.3	1	-		<u> </u>		0.48 [-0.36, 1.31]	18.84
Zhang 2017	21	7.95	5.11	21	11.95	9 -					-0.54 [-1.14, 0.07]	20.08
Overall							-				0.51 [-0.49, 1.51]	
Heterogeneity: $\tau^2 = 1.2$	21, I ² :	= 92.919	%, Н ² :	= 14.	10							
Test of $\theta_i = \theta_j$: Q(4) = 6	66.37,	p = 0.00	0									
Test of θ = 0: z = 1.00	, p = C	.32										
							-1	0	1	2	3	

Figure 5 Acetabular Cup Revisions

						Log odds-ratio	Weight
Study	High Hip Cente	r Anatomic				with 95% CI	(%)
Demirel, 2022	1	1	-			-0.26 [-3.08, 2.57]	15.72
Christodoulou 20	010 1	2		_		0.03 [-2.41, 2.47]	20.32
Murayama 2012	0	0			-	-1.16 <mark>[</mark> -5.14, 2.82]	8.37
Nawabi 2013	0	0		-		-0.12 [-4.07, 3.84]	8.46
Shen 2021	0	0		-		-0.16 <mark>[</mark> -4.11, 3.78]	8.52
Traina 2008	1	0				1.12 [-2.11, 4.35]	12.34
Watts 2018	5	0				4.05 [1.10, 7.00]	14.50
Yang 2017	1	0				1.10 [-2.21, 4.41]	11.77
Overall				-		0.70 [-0.49, 1.89]	
Heterogeneity: T	² = 0.26, I ² = 8.8	$2\%, H^2 = 1.10$					
Test of $\theta_i = \theta_j$: Q	(7) = 6.98, p = 0	.43					
Test of θ = 0: z =	1.16, p = 0.25						
			-5	0	5	10	
Random-effects R	EML model						

Figure 6 Any Cause Revisions

Study	High Hip Center	Anatomic	Revision	Log odds-ratio with 95% Cl	Weight (%)
Demirel, 2022	2	3		-0.72 [-2.59, 1.16]	19.73
Christodoulou, 201	0 1	2		0.03 [-2.41, 2.47]	11.65
Dogra, 2023	1	2	_	-0.77 [-3.28, 1.75]	10.92
Murayama, 2012	1	0	_	-0.03 [-3.31, 3.24]	6.45
Nawabi, 2013	1	1		-0.12 [-2.95, 2.71]	8.65
Shen, 2021	1	1	_	-0.17 [-2.97, 2.64]	8.79
Traina, 2008	1	0		1.12 [-2.11, 4.35]	6.64
Wang, 2017	0	0		-0.68 [-4.64, 3.27]	4.42
Watts, 2018	5	0		4.05 [1.10, 7.00]	7.93
Yang, 2017	1	2		-0.92 [-3.49, 1.66]	10.43
Zhang, 2017	0	0		0.00 [-3.97, 3.97]	4.40
Overall			•	0.02 [-0.81, 0.85]	
Heterogeneity: τ^2 =	$= 0.00, I^2 = 0.000$	%, H ² = 1.00)		
Test of $\theta_i = \theta_j$: Q(10)	0) = 9.23, p = 0.	51			
Test of $\theta = 0$: $z = 0$.05, p = 0.96				
			-5 0 5	10	
andom offocto PEN	ll model				

Figure 7 Nerve Injury



Random-effects REML model

Figure 8 Dislocation Rate

High Hip Center Anatomic						Log odds-ratio	Weight
Study	Yes	No	Yes	No		with 95% CI	(%)
Demirel, 2022	1	31	1	24	_	-0.26 [-3.08, 2.57]	16.01
Christodoulou 2010	2	32	2	68		0.75 [-1.25, 2.76]	31.74
Dogra et al 2023	1	14	1	14	_	0.00 [-2.87, 2.87]	15.49
Murayama 2012	2	31	0	10		0.51 [-2.60, 3.63]	13.14
Shen 2021	0	23	1	18	_	-1.34 [-4.60, 1.92]	12.01
Watts 2018	0	11	1	9		-1.29 [-4.60, 2.02]	11.61
Overall					-	-0.05 [-1.17, 1.08]	
Heterogeneity: $\tau^2 =$	$0.00, I^2 = 0$.00%,	$H^2 = $	1.00			
Test of $\theta_i = \theta_j$: Q(5)	= 1.90, p =	0.86					
Test of $\theta = 0$: $z = -0$.08, p = 0.9	4					
					-4 -2 0 2	4	