

Prosthetic hip replacement
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Prosthetic Total Hip Replacement: Its place in Developing countries. Patients undergoing Total Hip Replacement at KKH-Dormagen and undergoing Arthrodesis and Resection (Girdlestone) Arthroplasty at Muhimbili Medical Centre. To establish if Prosthetic hip replacement can be carried out at Muhimbili Medical Centre using the existing physical infrastructure. During the last 30 years, Prosthetic Total Hip Replacement has become a standard Orthopaedic Surgical procedure and one of the commonest practised in Western communities. This has brought a lot of relief to many patients afflicted with severe hip arthrosis from various causes, making them lead almost a normal life. Although the potential complications following prosthetic total hip replacement are many and may be serious; intra-operative complications like femoral fractures or perforations and post-operative ones like stem or cup loosening and failures; can be overcome by better surgical procedures and better instrument and prosthetic designs. Post-operative infection in the author's opinion, is the most crippling and disabling complication, limiting the routine prosthetic total Hip Replacement in most developing countries. A sample of 183 patients who underwent prosthetic total hip replacement at Kreiskrankenhaus Dormagen, 7 and 25 who underwent hip arthrodesis and resection (Girdlestone) arthroplasty respectively at Muhimbili Medical Centre are analysed in terms of post-operative functional capabilities. The results show the superiority of total hip replacement. It is concluded that, although total hip replacement may be an expensive undertaking it is an absolute entity in the present set-up of orthopaedic surgery. Infact it is possible to start hip replacement using the present physical facilities at Muhimbili Medical Centre by practising certain precautions.