The oldest surviving arthroplasty?

P R Landham N Abbas H Jähnich

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A 74-year-old lady presented with right hip pain and a history of hip dysplasia. She recalled having a 'hip replacement' at St Thomas' Hospital, London 48 years previously—only the second such procedure to be performed at that hospital. X-rays revealed a Smith-Petersen

arthroplasty,¹ a forerunner to the Total Hip Replacement. We believe this to be the oldest arthroplasty on record.^{2,3} She later commented 'I was a guinea pig when it went in and it was an antique when it came out'.

Competing interests None declared.

REFERENCES

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Figure 1 Anteroposterior radiograph of the pelvis showing the right Smith-Petersen prosthesis *in-situ*