



# The clinical relevance of functional pelvic tilt:

A preoperative analysis of 2612 total hip replacement patients

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## Method

Pre-operatively 2612 consecutive total hip replacement patients had their pelvic tilt measured in three positions to assess functional flexion and functional extension:

- 1. Supine from CT scan
- Standing from lateral standing x-ray
- 3. Flexed Seated from lateral x-ray at "seat off" as the centre of gravity comes over the feet to stand





#### flexion (sitting)

Anterior Pelvic Tilt (positive)

Protective in hip extension

(standing), but not in hip



Anterior Pelvic Tilt Causes the acetabulum to be less inclined and less anteverted

## Results

The mean supine pelvic tilt was 4.3°, with a range of -20.5° to 26.9°. The mean standing pelvic tilt was -0.9°, with a range of -30.6° to 27.9°. Mean pelvic tilt in the flexed seated position was -0.7°, with a range of -55.6° to 42.2°. 6% of patients rotated posteriorly by more than 13° from supine to stand, consequently putting them at risk of excessive functional anteversion in extension. 10% of patients rotated anteriorly by more than 13° from supine to flexed seated, consequently retroverting their cup and putting them at risk in flexion.

45° inclinatio

25° anteversion

Neutral

extension (standing)

Posterior Pelvic Tilt (negative)

Protective in hip flexion

(sitting), but not in hip



Posterior Pelvic Tilt Causes the acetabulum to be more inclined and more anteverted





<u>Supine</u>

**Flexed Seated** 

Sagittal pelvic tilt was measured from the Anterior Pelvic Plane (ASIS and pubic symphysis) to the vertical when standing and horizontal when supine.







**Standing** 

**Flexed Seated** 



## Conclusions

- The position of the pelvis in the sagittal plane changes significantly between functional activities. The extent of change is specific to each patient.
- Planning and measurement of cup placement in only the supine position can lead to large discrepancies in orientation during more functionally relevant postures.
- One in six patients had sagittal pelvic rotations that could lead to functional cup malorientation in flexion or extension. Factoring in an intraoperative delivery error of  $\pm 5^{\circ}$  extends this risk to <u>51% of</u> patients.



- Previously defined "safe zones" might not be appropriate for all patients as they don't account for the dynamic behaviour of the pelvis
- Optimal cup orientation is likely patient-specific and requires an evaluation of functional pelvic dynamics to pre-operatively determine the target angles.



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