

# Comparison of clinical characteristics and 10-year survival rates of revision hip arthroplasties among revision time groups

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** No significant regression has been reported in revision total hip arthroplasty (THA) rates despite substantial progress in implant technologies and surgical techniques. It is critical to investigate how patient demographics, THA indications, surgical techniques, types of implants, and other factors influence the frequency of early and late revision surgery. The main purpose of the present study was to evaluate the clinical characteristics and 10-year survival rates of revision hip arthroplasties among revision time groups.

**Material and methods:** The clinical data of 396 patients who underwent revision hip arthroplasty between 2005 and 2011 were evaluated in this multi-centre study. Patients were assigned to one of four revision time groups based on the interval between the index hip arthroplasty and the revision surgery (< 2, 2–5, 5–10, and > 10 years).

**Results:** There were significant differences among revision time groups in terms of aetiology for primary hip arthroplasty, indications for revision hip arthroplasty, and types of revision procedures. Patients with hip dysplasia more frequently received revision hip arthroplasty within 2 years in contrast to those with osteoarthritis. Revision hip arthroplasties due to periprosthetic infection and instability were conducted earlier compared to aseptic loosening. The overall 10-year survival rate of revision hip arthroplasty was 83.2%, and it was highest for the very early revisions (< 2 years).

**Conclusions:** According to our results, early revision hip arthroplasty was found to be mostly dependent on surgery-related factors rather than demographic factors. On the other hand, we observed that survival rates of very early revision hip arthroplasties are higher than late revision hip arthroplasties.

**Key words:** hip dysplasia, periprosthetic infection, instability, aseptic loosening, revision.

## Introduction

Total hip arthroplasty (THA) is well documented as an effective treatment for end-stage hip osteoarthritis. Over 280,000 THA surgeries are performed annually in the USA alone, and this number is increasing due to population aging [1–4]. It has been reported, however, that up to 15% of THA procedures eventually fail and require revision surgeries. In the US, the cost of these revision surgeries is estimated at nearly 1 billion dollars annually [5–8]. In addition to the economic burden, revision THA requires longer surgical times and hospital stays compared to the primary procedure, and it carries greater risks of complications and mortality [9, 10]. Despite substantial progress in implant technologies and surgical techniques, no significant regression has been reported in revision surgery rates. It is possible that hip replacement surgeries for younger and more active patients as well as the longer lifespan have contributed to this lack of progress. Furthermore, elderly patients may avoid revision surgery due to these dangers, resulting in disability and reduced quality of life [11–14].

Identifying the reasons for THA failure will help in the development of better treatment regimens. To this end, it is critical to investigate how patient demographics, THA indications, surgical techniques, types and sizes of implants, and postoperative complications, among other factors, influence the frequency of revision surgery at various times after primary treatment. However, few studies have examined in detail the reasons for revision surgery associated with different postoperative periods. Therefore, the main purpose of the present study was to evaluate the demographics, clinical characteristics, and 10-year survival rates of revision hip arthroplasties among revision time groups based on the interval between the index hip arthroplasty and the revision surgery.

## Material and methods

This multi-centre retrospective study was approved by the institutional Ethical Review Board. A total of 396 patients (272 female, 124 male) who underwent revision hip arthroplasty between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2011 at four institutions (one university hospital, one training and research hospital, and two state hospitals) were included in this study. All participating centres in the study are referral centres in their region, and all surgeries were performed by high volume surgeons (senior surgeons least 5 years' experience) on the field of arthroplasty. Patients were identified using a prospectively collected computerised database at each centre. Patients undergoing a second or further revision and those with a history of malignancy were excluded.

The patients' age, sex, aetiology of the index primary hip arthroplasty, index hip arthroplasty procedure (total/hemiarthroplasty), and duration between primary hip arthroplasty and revision surgery were investigated through medical records. The aetiologies for primary hip arthroplasty included primary osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, hip fracture (femur neck, trochanteric), congenital dysplasia of the hip, avascular necrosis, epiphysiolysis or Perthes disease, and post-traumatic arthritis. The subjects were assigned to one of four revision time groups based on the interval between the index hip arthroplasty and the revision surgery (< 2, 2–5, 5–10, and > 10 years).

The primary indication for revision hip arthroplasty was evaluated for each patient through our clinical records, radiographs, and operative reports. Revision indications were grouped as follows: osteolysis (stem, cup, or both), aseptic loosening (stem, cup, or both), infection, metallosis, periprosthetic fracture, instability, polyethylene bearing wear, mechanical failure of implants (fracture of stem, cup, liner, or head), coxalgia associated with acetabular erosion after hemiarthroplasty, and failed hip resurfacing arthroplasty. In addition, the types of implants and the surgical approaches used in the index primary hip arthroplasty were recorded for all patients. The type of revision hip surgery (total, femoral, acetabular, or insert exchange) was also recorded for each patient. The mean follow-up time was 45.8 months (range: 1 to 150 months).

## Ethics

This study was performed after receiving approval from the institutional Ethical Review Board. Informed consent was obtained from all patients.

## Statistical analysis

Continuous data are presented as means and standard deviations, and categorical data are given as frequencies and percentages. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 20.0 (SPSS Inc., IBM, NY, USA). Group means were compared by one-way ANOVA and frequencies by Pearson's  $\chi^2$  test. The 10-year implant survival following revision surgery was estimated for each revision time group (< 2, 2–5, 5–10, and > 10 years) by Kaplan-Meier analysis, and the four groups were compared by log-rank test. Only patients with a minimum follow-up of 10 years were analysed by survival analysis. The endpoint for survival was defined as osteolysis, aseptic loosening, instability, periprosthetic fracture, or infection at the latest follow-up. No sample size calculation was performed prior to study; however, a post-hoc power analysis was performed by GPower software to detect the statistical power of the study.

## Results

The demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients are presented in Table I. There were

significant differences among the revision time groups in patient aetiology for primary hip arthroplasty, indications for revision hip arthroplasty, and types of revision procedures.

**Table I.** Comparison of demographics and clinical characteristics among revision time groups

Variable	The duration between primary hip arthroplasty and revision surgery				Total (N = 396)	P-value
	< 2 years (very early) (n = 120)	2–5 years (early) (n = 94)	5–10 years (inter-mediate) (n = 98)	> 10 years (late) (n = 84)		
Age [years]	64.2 ±13.7 (29–89)	65.0 ±13.2 (36–91)	68.3 ±13.9 (34–88)	67.1 ±13.1 (37–86)	65.9 ±13.6 (29–91)	0.143*
Sex:						0.107**
Female	92 (77%)	61 (65%)	61 (62%)	58 (69%)	272 (69%)	
Male	28 (23%)	33 (35%)	37 (38%)	26 (31%)	124 (31%)	
Aetiology for index hip arthroplasty:						<b>&lt; 0.001**</b>
Primary osteoarthritis	46 (38%)	39 (42%)	58 (59%)	52 (62%)	195 (49%)	
Hip fracture	34 (28%)	31 (33%)	26 (27%)	22 (26%)	113 (28%)	
Hip dysplasia	27 (23%)	12 (13%)	4 (4%)	5 (6%)	48 (12%)	
Rheumatoid arthritis	6 (5%)	4 (4%)	8 (8%)	2 (3%)	20 (5%)	
Avascular necrosis of femoral head	4 (3%)	7 (7%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	14 (4%)	
Epiphysiolysis – Perthes	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	4 (1%)	
Post-traumatic arthritis	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	2 (1%)	
Index arthroplasty procedure:						0.280**
Total	88 (73%)	64 (68%)	76 (78%)	67 (80%)	295 (75%)	
Hemiarthroplasty	32 (27%)	30 (32%)	22 (22%)	17 (20%)	101 (25%)	
Indication for revision hip arthroplasty:						<b>&lt; 0.001**</b>
Aseptic loosening:						
Acetabular component	2 (2%)	4 (4%)	9 (9%)	6 (7%)	21 (5%)	
Femoral component	10 (8%)	26 (28%)	31 (33%)	15 (18%)	82 (21%)	
Both	7 (6%)	12 (13%)	14 (14%)	27 (32%)	60 (15%)	
Infection	28 (23%)	23 (25%)	11 (11%)	5 (6%)	67 (17%)	
Instability	46 (38%)	4 (4%)	7 (7%)	1 (1%)	58 (15%)	
Periprosthetic fracture	11 (9%)	5 (5%)	4 (4%)	6 (7%)	26 (7%)	
Metallosis	0 (0%)	7 (8%)	12 (12%)	0 (0%)	19 (5%)	
Acetabular erosion	8 (7%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	6 (7%)	18 (5%)	
Osteolysis:						
Acetabular component	4 (3%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	6 (2%)	
Femoral component	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	4 (1%)	
Both	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	
Polyethylene bearing wear	0 (0%)	5 (5%)	3 (3%)	12 (15%)	20 (5%)	
Mechanical failure of implants	2 (2%)	3 (3%)	3 (3%)	5 (6%)	13 (3%)	
Failed hip resurfacing	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	
Type of revision hip arthroplasty:						<b>0.031**</b>
Total	92 (77%)	74 (78%)	77 (79%)	79 (95%)	322 (81%)	
Acetabular	7 (6%)	6 (6%)	8 (8%)	2 (2%)	23 (6%)	
Femoral	17 (14%)	7 (8%)	10 (10%)	1 (1%)	35 (9%)	
Insert exchange	4 (3%)	7 (8%)	3 (3%)	2 (2%)	16 (4%)	

\*P-value according to one-way ANOVA test, \*\*P-value according to Pearson's  $\chi^2$  test, Bold p-values indicate statistical significance.

**Table II.** Comparison of index arthroplasty procedure data of patients among revision time groups

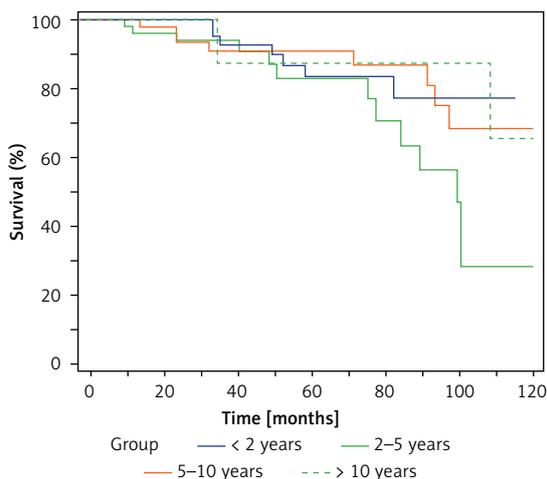
Variable	The duration between primary hip arthroplasty and revision surgery				Total (N = 396)	P-value
	< 2 years (very early) (n = 120)	2–5 years (early) (n = 94)	5–10 years (inter-mediate) (n = 98)	> 10 years (late) (n = 84)		
Index acetabular component fixation:						<b>&lt; 0.001*</b>
Cemented	4 (3%)	10 (11%)	16 (16%)	20 (24%)	50 (13%)	
Cementless	84 (70%)	54 (57%)	60 (61%)	47 (56%)	245 (62%)	
None (hemiarthroplasty)	32 (27%)	30 (32%)	22 (23%)	17 (20%)	101 (25%)	
Index femoral component fixation:						<b>&lt; 0.001*</b>
Cemented	34 (28%)	43 (46%)	44 (45%)	57 (68%)	178 (45%)	
Cementless	86 (72%)	51 (54%)	54 (55%)	27 (32%)	218 (55%)	
Index femoral component design:						0.593*
Conical	65 (54%)	46 (49%)	63 (64%)	51 (61%)	225 (57%)	
Cylindrical	48 (40%)	46 (49%)	33 (34%)	33 (39%)	160 (40%)	
Rectangular	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	
Resurface	5 (4%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	7 (2%)	
Index femoral head size [mm]:						0.063*
28	29 (24%)	10 (10%)	28 (29%)	19 (23%)	86 (22%)	
32	45 (37%)	45 (48%)	45 (46%)	35 (42%)	170 (43%)	
36	14 (12%)	9 (10%)	3 (3%)	13 (15%)	39 (10%)	
Other (hemiarthroplasty)	32 (27%)	30 (32%)	22 (22%)	17 (20%)	101 (25%)	
Index bearing surface:						0.864*
Metal on polyethylene	78 (65%)	54 (57%)	68 (69%)	59 (71%)	259 (65%)	
Metal on metal	9 (7%)	9 (10%)	8 (8%)	7 (8%)	28 (8%)	
Ceramic on ceramic	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	3 (1%)	
None (hemiarthroplasty):	32 (27%)	30 (32%)	22 (23%)	17 (20%)	101 (25%)	
Index surgical approach:						<b>0.039*</b>
Posterolateral	75 (62%)	58 (62%)	74 (76%)	47 (56%)	254 (64%)	
Lateral	9 (8%)	12 (13%)	3 (3%)	6 (7%)	30 (8%)	
Anterolateral	36 (30%)	24 (25%)	21 (21%)	31 (37%)	112 (28%)	

\*P-value according to Pearson's  $\chi^2$  test, Bold p-values indicate statistical significance.

Primary osteoarthritis, hip fracture, and hip dysplasia were the three most common aetiologies for the index hip arthroplasty procedure (accounting for 49%, 28%, and 12% of the total patient population, respectively). Patients with primary osteoarthritis were more common in the intermediate (5–10 years) and late (> 10 years) revision time groups compared to the very early (< 2 years) and early (2–5 years) revision time groups. For patients who underwent primary arthroplasty for hip fracture, the frequencies of the revision hip ar-

throplasties were similar among the revision time categories. On the other hand, patients with hip dysplasia more frequently received revision hip arthroplasty within 2 years compared to 2–5 years after the initial operation (23% vs. 13%). Thus, hip dysplasia patients generally demonstrated earlier primary arthroplasty failure than osteoarthritis patients, while failure appeared to occur at any time post-surgery in hip fracture patients.

The three most common indications for revision hip arthroplasty were aseptic loosening



**Figure 1.** Line chart demonstrating 10-year survival of revision hip arthroplasties among revision time groups

(41%), periprosthetic infection (17%), and instability (15%). Aseptic loosening was more frequent in the femoral component than in the acetabular component (21% vs. 5%). Revision hip arthroplasty for aseptic loosening was more frequent in the 5–10 years and > 10 years revision time groups. On the other hand, revision hip arthroplasties due to periprosthetic infection were conducted most frequently within 5 years compared to later times, and revision surgeries for instability were conducted within < 2 years.

The acetabular component fixation method, the femoral component fixation method, and the surgical exposure used for the index arthroplasty procedure also differed among the revision time groups. Cementless acetabular fixation was more common than cemented fixation among all primary hip arthroplasty patients (62% vs. 13%). However, the early revision hip arthroplasty rate was higher than the intermediate and late revision rates for cementless acetabular fixation. On the other hand, cementless and cemented femoral component fixations were employed at relatively similar rates for the index arthroplasty procedure (55% and 45%, respectively). For patients receiving cementless femoral fixation, the revision hip arthroplasty rate was higher in the first 2 years compared to the other revision times, while the rate of revision hip arthroplasty following cemented femoral fixation was higher at 2–5 years and 5–10 years (46% and 45%, respectively). Revision hip arthroplasty was most common following index arthroplasty using the posterolateral hip approach (64%), with the highest revision rate 5–10 years after index surgery (Table II).

The overall 10-year survival rate of revision hip arthroplasty was 83.2%, 89.5% for the very early revisions (< 2 years), 78.6% for early revisions (2–5 years), 82.4% for the intermediate revisions

(5–10 years), and 84.2% for late revisions (> 10 years), without significant differences among the revision times ( $p = 0.204$ ) (Figure 1).

## Discussion

Revision THA surgery is more expensive, requires a longer surgical time and hospital stay, and has higher complication rates than primary surgery [15]. Due to higher incidence of complications (such as infection, venous thromboembolism, and dislocation) and higher mortality rate, orthopaedic surgeons are often wary to advise revision THA [16–21]. It has also been reported that revision surgery fails in up to 20% of the cases within the first 5 years, necessitating additional revision surgeries [22–24]. Nonetheless, revision surgery is increasing in frequency. It is therefore critical to identify the causes and factors that increase the risk among patient characteristics, primary surgical procedures, and implant types. Such information could help identify precautions to guide THA procedures and reduce risks of index and revision surgery failure. However, few studies have examined the causes of primary surgery failure necessitating revision surgery. Here we found that the aetiology influenced the time of THA failure, with generally earlier failure following THA for hip dysplasia than for osteoarthritis. Earlier failure was also associated with specific postoperative causes such as periprosthetic infection and instability. In addition, failure tended to occur earlier following cementless fixation than cemented fixation. However, earlier revision tended to be more successful over the long-term than later revision.

Studies examining the rates and causes of revision have generally been conducted on large samples from national databases [1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 14, 15, 25, 26]. However, such studies often omit critical demographic or clinical details in the analysis. Katz *et al.* also reported that many studies including a large number of patients could not identify long-term risk factors for revision due to insufficient follow-up time [25]. Additionally, these studies were mostly performed by reviewing ICD codes, which may be interpreted incorrectly due to incorrect data entry. As stated by Bozic *et al.*, smaller sample sizes may be more meaningful in showing statistical changes [26]. For example, about this issue, although there is more common evidence that there is more aseptic loosening in the acetabulum than femur, some authors found that the rates are similar to each other. Unlike in the literature, we found significantly higher femoral aseptic loosening than acetabular component.

Ulrich *et al.* also reported the detailed aetiology of primary arthroplasty and indications for revision THA according to revision time, as in our study [27]. In accordance with our study, osteoar-

thrititis was reported as the most common aetiology for primary THA in patients who underwent revision hip arthroplasty. In their study, osteoarthritis was the most common aetiology for all revision times except for very early THA revision (< 2 years) whereas osteonecrosis and post-traumatic arthritis were most common [25]. Ulrich *et al.* reported similar revision rates for all times among patients with hip dysplasia, while early revision was more common for hip dysplasia in our case series. In a study reporting the results of the Norwegian Arthroplasty Register, osteoarthritis, femur fracture, and hip dysplasia were the most common causes for both primary THA and revision, in general accord with our study [5]. The Norwegian Arthroplasty Register study also revealed an increased relative risk of revision THA after fracture of the femoral neck and congenital dislocation of the hip compared to primary osteoarthritis [5]. According to the results acquired from literature and our study, THA for hip dysplasia may be considered as particularly prone to early failure and revision THA compared to THA for osteoarthritis. This increased risk of early revision due to dislocation of THAs after hip dysplasia is commonly reported [5, 28]. Total hip arthroplasty in hip dysplasia patients is often technically challenging, due to anatomical changes such as deficient bone stock in the acetabulum, increased acetabular and femoral neck anteversion, valgus neck deformity, posteriorly located greater trochanter, narrow femoral canal, shortening, and rotational deformity, altered course of nerve, arteries, and muscles, or prior surgeries. Besides, special implants are needed, and procedures such as shortening of the femur and acetabular augmentation with bone grafting may be considered, which may prolong the operation times [29, 30].

Ulrich *et al.* reported that the most common cause for revision THA was aseptic loosening (51.9%), and that infection and instability were the most common causes for very early revision (< 2 years after primary THA) [27], again in accord with our findings. Clohisy *et al.* also identified aseptic loosening as the most common cause of revision THA, accounting for 55% of all cases. In addition, these authors reported a conversion rate of 3% from hemiarthroplasty performed secondarily to trauma to total hip replacement [31]. Similarly to the current study, Haynes *et al.* found that aseptic loosening was the most common cause of revision but that early revision was more frequently due to instability and infection [32]. Dobzyniak *et al.* investigated the reasons for early revisions (< 5 years) in a cohort treated between 1986 and 2001 and found differences among treatment periods. While aseptic loosening was the most common cause of early revision between

1986 and 1991, instability and infection were predominant at later times, as in our study, probably reflecting improved implant technology [33]. Thus, our current study conducted on patients treated during and after 2005 yielded results generally consistent with previous studies. The most common reasons for very early revisions (< 2 years) were instability (38%), infection (23%), and aseptic loosening (16%). Bozic *et al.* and Kamath *et al.* reviewed the epidemiology of revision THA in the USA and found instability/dislocation as the major cause of revision followed by mechanical loosening [34, 35]. Bozic *et al.* suggested that this could be explained by the high frequency of diagnosis codes unrelated to revision arthroplasty and that using the ICD-9-CM coding system could produce inaccurate results [34]. For example, there is more evidence that there is greater aseptic loosening in the acetabulum than in the femur, and some authors found that the rates are close to each other. Unlike in the literature, we found significantly higher femoral aseptic loosening than acetabular component [6, 26, 32].

In our cohort, revisions of cementless acetabular components were performed most frequently in the first 2 years. Conversely, the number of revisions for cemented acetabular components increased over time and peaked after 10 years. A substantial difference was also found for femoral fixation, with a higher number of revisions within the first 2 years following cementless femoral fixation and greater numbers of revisions after 2 years in patients receiving cemented femoral fixation. Hailer *et al.* concluded that overlooked intraoperative fissures and fractures during the use of cementless femoral stems was a more frequent cause of failure than postoperative periprosthetic fractures due to minor trauma, especially within the first 2 years [36]. This notion was supported by Fernandez *et al.*, who identified fractures during the use of cementless femoral stem [37]. Hailer *et al.* also reported that the rate of early revision following implantation of cementless acetabular components was high due to mechanical problems related to dislocation, and that the revision rate was the same for cemented acetabular components when the linear changes of cementless acetabular components in the late period were included [36]. Hooper *et al.* concluded that cementless THA had the lowest rate of aseptic loosening [38]. The authors also mentioned that cemented components had lower rates of revision in the short term, in agreement with our findings [38, 39].

Several studies have identified posterolateral incision as another factor influencing the risk of early revision following THA [40, 41]. However, according to our results, the rate of intermediate revision (5–10 years) was higher than very

early (< 2 years) and early (2–5 years) revisions among patients treated using the posterolateral approach. Similarly, Maratt *et al.* reported that no surgical approach has a compelling advantage over any other, including for dislocation risk [42]. Ultimately, the surgical approach for primary THA should be chosen according to the surgeon preference and experience as well as the preference and anatomy of the patient [43].

The most important difference between the aforementioned studies and ours is that we also compared the 10-year survival of revision THA grouped according to revision time. According to our findings, the 10-year survival was higher in patients receiving very early revision (< 2 years) while no significant difference was observed among other revision time groups. The survival rate was lowest for patients who underwent revision hip arthroplasty 2 to 5 years after index arthroplasty. It can be explained by the highest rate of revision due to infection between 2 and 5 years after index arthroplasty. Patients who underwent revision arthroplasty due to infection may have poorer survival rates. When common surgeon-related factors contributing to very early revision such as dislocation are eliminated, prosthesis survival may be longer due to revising them with simpler solutions compared to aseptic loosening. As Ong *et al.* mentioned, the poorer survival of late revision surgery due to aseptic loosening or osteolysis could be explained by the more technically demanding procedure, the loss of bone stock, or the relatively long operative time during revision procedures [22].

Our study has several limitations. Firstly, the retrospective design does not permit conclusions on causality. However, the retrospective design of the study prevents patient selection bias. Secondly, the participating institutions are national referral centres that treat difficult cases. Thus, early revision may be more common than in the general THA population. Furthermore, the time between failure and surgery is not known precisely; therefore, some patients may have been categorised in the wrong revision time group. Nonetheless, this is the first study investigating differences in aetiological features, indications, implant fixation methods, implant types, and index surgery approaches among patient groups according to revision time. Through this analysis, we have identified several factors that appear predictive of early or later THA failure. Larger scale studies are warranted to verify these results. A post hoc analysis was performed for significant variables for the comparison of proportions. The minimum statistical power was calculated as 0.99 for the aetiology of the index arthroplasty, indication for revision hip arthroplasty, index femoral component, and index femoral component ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). However,

the minimum statistical power was 0.29 for the type of the revision hip arthroplasty, and 0.34 for the index surgical approach ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

In conclusion, according to our results, there were significant differences among revision time groups in terms of aetiology for primary hip arthroplasty and indications for revision hip arthroplasty. We observed that technically more demanding procedures such as hip dysplasia required earlier revision hip arthroplasty than primary osteoarthritis. Our results demonstrated that revision hip arthroplasties due to periprosthetic infection and instability were conducted earlier compared to aseptic loosening. On the other hand, we observed that survival rates of very early revision hip arthroplasties are higher than late revision hip arthroplasties.

### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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