

SURGICAL PROCEDURES FOR DEGENERATIVE HIP CONDITIONS Arthrodesis of the hip

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Arthrodesis or fusion of the hip is an uncommon operation. It is generally reserved for young patients with severe OA who have to fail early . The aim is to achieve a painless joint by fusing it in a functional position, which is about 30° of flexion, 15° of external rotation and 5° of abduction. This can be achieved by an intra-articular dynamic hip screw or by an extra-articular plate with screws. Several problems can occur following an arthrodesis, including altered gait and excessive loading of the ipsilateral knee, the contralateral hip and the spine. Degenerative change in these joints in the long term is the rule rather than the exception.

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