NICE - ACD - Arthritis of the hip (end stage) - hip replacement (total) and resurfacing arthroplasty [ID540]

1.1 Total hip replacement and resurfacing arthroplasty prostheses are recommended as treatment options for people with end-stage arthritis of the hip only if the prosthesis has a rate (or projected rate) of revision of less than 5% at 10 years.

This would appear to be contrary to NICE guidance of 'less than 10% at 10 years'. I have difficulty with 'or projected rate' of revision. Early experience with a particular device usually provides a greater failure rate in the first year or two – it would not be reasonable to extrapolate such to the 10 years expectation. Both Charnley and Exeter hips had many failures at the start of their useage. Also, this may well preclude many of the combinations (including from differing producers) preferred by the operating surgeon. Not all hybrid combinations have track records.

1.2 If more than one type of prosthesis meeting the above criteria is suitable for a patient, the prosthesis with the lowest acquisition costs should be chosen.

Should the surgeon, and support team's, experience with a particular device not be also taken into account. Further, it is common practice for there to be discounts available according to the number of devices ordered.

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