Mini-Invasive Surgery of the Hip
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Dominique G. Poitout
Henri Judet Editors
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Minimally invasive anterior approach for total hip replacement</td>
<td>T. Siguier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mini-invasive approach and navigation in total prosthesis of the hip</td>
<td>H. Judet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total hip arthroplasty through Hueter anterior approach in lateral decubitus position</td>
<td>G. Wepierre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Minimally-invasive hip arthroplasty with mini stem and antero lateral approach in lateral decubitus position</td>
<td>D. Poitout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Anterior approach: Technique without fracture table</td>
<td>M. Leunig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Total hip replacement through Watson Jones approach on supine position</td>
<td>P. Henky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Total hip replacement controversial technical points</td>
<td>L. Kerboull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A modified, direct-lateral, minimally-invasive approach to the hip</td>
<td>H. Hourlier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Minimally invasive posterior approach. Technical evaluation and results</td>
<td>S. Procyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hip resurfacing and anterior approach</td>
<td>T. Judet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Navigation and the square angle pointer in hip resurfacing</td>
<td>N. Szoke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contents

1. **Minimally Invasive Anterior Approach for Total Hip Replacement**  
   Thierry Siguier, Marc Siguier, and Bertrand Brumpt  
   1

2. **Mini-Invasive Approach and Navigation in Total Prosthesis of the Hip**  
   Henri Judet  
   25

3. **Anterior Hueter-Type Approach in Lateral Decubitus on a Conventional Table**  
   Gilles Wepierre  
   33

4. **Smith-Petersen Approach and Lateral Position with Mini-Stem**  
   Dominique G. Poitout  
   47

5. **Anterior Approach for Total Hip Arthroplasty: Technique Without Fracture Table**  
   Michael S.H. Kain and Michael Leunig  
   53

6. **The Anterolateral Watson Jones Approach in Total Hip Replacement in the Supine Position**  
   Pierre Henky  
   69

7. **Transtrochanteric Approach to the Hip**  
   Luc Kerboull, Moussa Hamadouche, and Marcel Kerboull  
   81

8. **A Modified Anterolateral, Less Invasive Approach to the Hip: Surgical Technique and Preliminary Results of First 103 Cases**  
   Herve Hourlier  
   93

9. **Minimally Invasive Posterior Approach: Technical Evaluation, Initial Results and Follow-Up at Two Years**  
   Stephan Procyk  
   107
10 Hip Resurfacing and Anterior Approach .......................... 121
Philippe Piriou, Thierry Judet, Michel Serrault, and M. Mullins

11 Surgical Technique in Hip Resurfacing: Minimally Invasive
Surgery with Posterior Approach ................................. 129
Michael Menge

12 Navigation and the Square Angle Pointer in Hip Resurfacing .... 141
N. Szöke

13 Navigated Modular Short-Stemmed Total Hip Arthroplasty
by a Less Invasive Technique ................................. 151
Djordje Lazovic, Ferenc József Dunai, and Rasmus Zigan
Chapter 1
Minimally Invasive Anterior Approach for Total Hip Replacement

Thierry Siguier, Marc Siguier, and Bertrand Brumpt

Abstract The minimally invasive anterior approach using intermuscular planes allows a surgical approach to the hip and implantation of a total hip prosthesis with no muscle, tendon, or trochanteric section, even partially. This is not offered by any other surgical approach. Preserving the abductors and gluteal muscles with an approach that is distant to them avoids the risk of limp attributable to insufficiency of the gluteus medius. The minimally invasive anterior approach for THR is a safe and reproducible technique providing low morbidity and fast postoperative recovery.

Introduction

The most widely used approaches for total hip replacements (THRs) are the posterior, transtrochanteric, direct lateral, and anterolateral approaches. Few publications describe the use of the anterior approach to do partial hip replacements or THRs [10, 11, 14]. In France, Judet and Judet [10] used Hueter’s anterior approach since 1947 to implant neck replacements. They continued to use the anterior approach for THRs and spread the use of an approach derived from Hueter’s approach, which removed the insertion of the tensor fasciae latae on the anterior iliac crest over 1–2 cm, sectioned the reflected tendon of the rectus femoris, and cut the piriformis muscle [11]. Since 1993 we have been using a minimally invasive anterior approach derived from this modified Hueter’s approach. It allows for implantation of a total hip prosthesis with a 5- to 10-cm incision and no muscle or tendon section. It appeared to us that it was not necessary to perform any muscular or tendon section to obtain a good exposure. Postoperative rehabilitation is therefore simplified; the lack of muscular section allows quick indolence authorizing walking without...
crutches. Furthermore a short skin incision (usually 6–8 cm) is sufficient in most cases, as long as during the procedure it is aided by the “hints and tricks” elaborated over a 17-year experience. This operative procedure, established by Marc Siguier and Bertrand Brumpt a long time before hip mini invasive surgery was in vogue, has systematically been used since June 1993. A large continuous series of 1,037 primary total hip replacements performed following this procedure between June 1993 and June 2000 has been reviewed retrospectively and published [23].

Anterior Approach and Hip Anatomy

The choice of an anterior approach for hip prosthetic surgery is anatomically logical. The anterior situation of the hip and the natural anteversion of the acetabulum and upper femur present them facing the surgeon for a patient in the supine position.

If seen from behind, the organization of muscular masses around the posterior part of the hip makes it in fact a deep articulation. This is because of the presence of the buttock muscles and the external rotators recovering the capsular plan. When considering the front part of the hip, the disposition of muscular masses allows for an intermuscular approach.

As reported by Lowell and Aufranc about [15] the Smith Petersen’s approach, anterior approach “passes through an internervous line, the muscles medially being innervated by the femoral nerve and upper lumbar roots, those laterally being supplied by the superior gluteal nerve.” The anterior approach is away from the sciatic nerve and the superior gluteal nerve.

Surgical Technique

The procedure we describe is reproducible and can be used for all patients with classic cases of osteoarthritis of the hip in which there is no previous surgical history. This technique has been used without navigation or an image intensifier.

Patient Positioning

The patient is always positioned in the dorsal decubitus position on a Judet’s orthopedic table allowing traction, external and internal rotation, and lowering of the inferior limb foot to the ground during the procedure (Fig. 1.1a–c).

The sacrum rests on a scooped out pelvic support. This pelvic support stabilizes the pelvis and also allows for an efficient transmission of the orthopedic table’s traction forces.
Fig. 1.1 (a–c) Judet's orthopedic table allowing a stable position of the pelvis and of the operated lower limb in the desired position
Iliac counterpressure on the opposite side helps to stabilize the pelvis regardless of the position of the limb being treated.

The opposite upper limb rests on a support, with the extended elbow. The operating side upper limb is positioned in front of the patient’s chest, with a flexed forearm, in a way so as not to interfere with the surgeon’s and first assistant’s liberty of movements. Installation must be checked by the surgeon.

Two assistants help with surgery, but it can be done with just one assistant. The first assistant is positioned on the left of the surgeon for surgery on a right hip and on the right of the surgeon for surgery on a left hip. The second assistant is positioned opposite the surgeon. The operative field must expose the iliac crest in its anterior half and the anteroexternal surface of the thigh over approximately 20 cm.

For didactic purposes, the approach to the hip will be described in three planes.

**Plane 1**

The skin is incised parallel to an imaginary line joining the anterosuperior iliac spine to the head of the fibula. The incision is made approximately 2 cm behind this line (Fig. 1.2). The length of the skin incision ranges from 6 to 8 cm for a patient with normal body weight and can be increased in size if it does not provide sufficient comfort during surgery, particularly in obese or very muscular patients. It is rare to need an incision more than 10 cm long. With reference to the apex of the greater trochanter, which can be identified easily by palpation, the incision is made 2/3 above the apex and 1/3 below the apex (on the line described previously), that is, in
The skin incision is positioned in reference to the apex of the greater trochanter and 2 cm behind an imaginary line joining the anterosuperior iliac spin to the head of the fibula.

The skin and fat tissue are incised to the superficial aponeurosis of the tensor fasciae latae.

front of the greater trochanter (Fig. 1.3). After incising the subcutaneous fat and hemostasis, a buttonhole incision is made along the direction of the incision on the superficial aponeurosis of the tensor fasciae latae on the part which is most mobile on palpation. The correct location of the buttonhole incision is confirmed by the appearance of the muscle fibers, which are characterized because of their oblique path from above downward and from front to back (Fig. 1.4). The incision of the superficial aponeurosis of the tensor fasciae latae then is to be continued over the