

Imperial College
London

Early Intervention in the Hip and Knee

The Date...

18-19 January 2008

The Venue...

The Science Museum, London



Introduction...

The Great Debate is a meeting dedicated to the issue of early intervention in osteo-arthritis. In a world where obesity is commonplace, the role of orthopaedic intervention has changed from simply relieving pain and suffering in the elderly, to trying to keep people fit and active for longer. This lofty aim is admirable, but is it realistic: patients have that aspiration, but can we deliver it?

The Knee Session...

Has technology advanced far enough to allow us to reconstruct a joint that will be used in the gym? Sessions focusing on conservative surgery will discuss the delay or even prevention of joint replacement, but when should these interventions be implemented? Is partial replacement the ideal intervention, or is this just postponing the inevitable total knee? Is there a gold standard knee replacement, and if so, does it work well enough?

The Hip Session...

Which sort of procedure should be used and when? To have a chance of success, the conservative operations on the hip need to be performed on people with only minor joint disease. Who should make that call? Regarding hip resurfacing, is this technology safe enough now for our patients? Can it ever be as good as total hip arthroplasty? Is there a correct approach to the hip? Is there a perfect bearing, and if so, can we afford it?

Surgical Technology...

Are we accurate enough in the operating theatre? In the high demand patient who is likely to use their joint for over 20 years, how accurate should we be? Is the current generation of instrumentation adequate? Does surgical navigation or even robotics have any role to play?

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