

## Should we offer total hip replacement to our feline patients?

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This Knowledge Summary addresses the question. Should we offer total hip replacements to our feline patients?

My name is Katie Smithers and I'm a vet based in South Wales. This question became of interest to me, following a discussion with a client who was considering femoral head and neck excision for their cats and they wanted to know if a total hip replacement was a suitable alternative procedure.

Therefore, the PICO question posed was in cats with traumatic coxofemoral injury, does total hip replacement offer improved outcome when compared with femoral head and neck excision arthroplasty? Unfortunately, only one paper was suitable for this critical review and it was a non-randomized retrospective observational study, therefore providing only a moderate level of evidence. However, the outcomes reported suggest that total hip replacement results in superior clinical outcome and owner satisfaction when compared with femoral head and neck excision in cats. This was demonstrated across a number of both objective and subjective outcome measures, including, but not limited to superior hip extension, superior return to normal thigh circumference a reduction in dorsal femoral placement displacement and improvement in pain, free range of motion in cats undergoing to two hip replacements along with excellent outcome from the owner questionnaires. Total hip replacement has been reported to be successful in equivalent canine populations, such as small breed dogs undergoing micro total hip replacements. And in addition to these findings regarding inferior femoral head and neck excision outcome are in agreement with similar findings in both large and small breed dogs undergoing this procedure. There is currently however insufficient evidence to determine if there is a difference in long-term outcome complications or osteoarthritis development, following total hip replacement or femoral head and neck excision in these feline patients. This is due to limited previous studies. And I think this would be an interesting area for future research and hopefully, this knowledge summary can then be repeated with more applicable data in the future.

Although this will have limited implication in clinical practice at this current time, largely due to the availability of total hip replacement for felines incentives across the UK. It does highlight the importance of an evidence-based approach when considering and offering treatment options to all of our patients.

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