

# Italian teen gets titanium pelvis in world first

February 25 2015

---

An Italian teenager suffering from bone cancer has had half his pelvis replaced by a titanium transplant in what medics at Turin's university hospital centre said Wednesday was a world first.

The 18-year-old has been undergoing chemotherapy for a pelvic osteosarcoma, or tumour, for the last year but his [surgeons](#) decided more radical treatment was necessary to ensure his recovery.

In an 11.5-hour operation on Tuesday, surgeons removed half the patient's pelvis along with part of his hip affected by the cancer, replacing them with a prosthetic made in the United States from titanium covered in tantalum, a non-corrosive metal mainly used in electronics components.

The operation had "an excellent outcome" and the patient is now undergoing [intensive therapy](#) to help him adapt to his new pelvis, the hospital said in a statement.

© 2015 AFP

Citation: Italian teen gets titanium pelvis in world first (2015, February 25) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-02-italian-teen-titanium-pelvis-world.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--