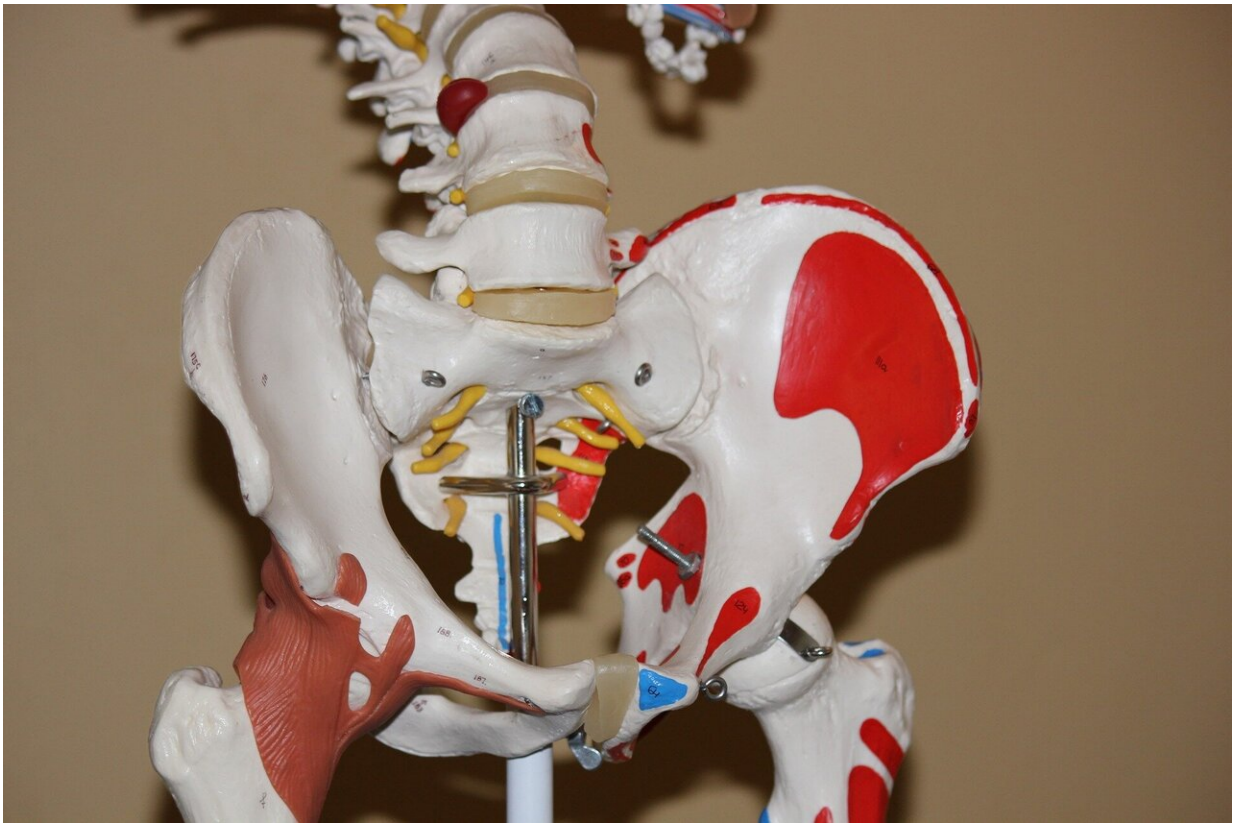


Hip reconstruction in complex patients: Predicting complications

February 1 2021, by Jessica Cerretani



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Neuromuscular hip dysplasia and progressive spastic hip displacement are among the most common orthopedic concerns in non-ambulatory children with cerebral palsy (CP), leading to pain, decreased function,

and impaired quality of life. While hip reconstruction surgery can improve quality of life in these children, it can be associated with acute post-operative pain, medical complications, and prolonged hospitalization.

Two recent papers from Boston Children's Hospital shed more light on challenges surrounding hip [reconstruction](#) in complex CP patients. "These studies highlight the importance of perioperative medical optimization and communication among medical providers prior to hip reconstruction surgery for children with [cerebral palsy](#)," says Benjamin Shore, MD, MPH, co-director of Boston Children's Cerebral Palsy and Spasticity Center and an author on both studies.

Exploring the effect of comorbidities on recovery

These two papers explore the role of medical comorbidities and how that relates to recovery after hip reconstruction surgery. The [first](#), published in November 9, 2020, in *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*, assesses the effects of co-occurring [medical conditions](#) in children with neurological complex chronic conditions (CCCs), including CP, who undergo hip reconstructions. Jay Berry, MD, MPH; Shore; and their colleagues reviewed data from more than 4,000 children with neurological CCCs who underwent hip reconstruction surgery at 49 pediatric hospitals between 2015 and 2018.

They found that as the number of comorbidities increased from one to at least four, the patients' length of [hospital stay](#) increased by 67 percent, hospital costs increased by 41 percent, and readmission rates increased by 250 percent. Malnutrition was the greatest comorbidity associated with hospital resource use—one that is preventable.

Room for medical optimization

In a follow-up [study](#), Shore and colleagues evaluated the relationship between preoperative comorbidities, surgical complications, and length of hospital stay after hip reconstruction in non-ambulatory children with CP at Boston Children's. Here, the authors reviewed 127 medical records from [children](#) undergoing hip reconstruction surgery between 2009 and 2016. Their analysis revealed that for every additional comorbid risk factor—such as presence of a gastrostomy tube or a history of seizures—the odds of developing a major medical complication postoperatively increased by 2.6 times. The study was published in the November/December 2020 issue of the *Journal of Pediatric Orthopedics*.

"The key message from these studies is that there is room for us to medically optimize our patients prior to surgery," says Shore. "If we are successful with our optimization, we can decrease their risk of complications and hopefully shorten their stay in the [hospital](#)."

More information: Jay G Berry et al. Hospital resource use after hip reconstruction surgery in children with neurological complex chronic conditions, *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* (2020). [DOI: 10.1111/dmcn.14712](#)

Jodie Shea et al. Hip Reconstruction in Nonambulatory Children With Cerebral Palsy: Identifying Risk Factors Associated With Postoperative Complications and Prolonged Length of Stay, *Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics* (2020). [DOI: 10.1097/BPO.0000000000001643](#)

Provided by Children's Hospital Boston

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