

DePuy Hip Replacement Systems.

Concern That DePuy Artificial Hip Sends Metal Shavings into Bloodstream

I am currently advising Clients who have suffered ongoing pain, swelling and problems walking following hip replacement with a DePuy Orthopaedics hip implant.

Last August, DePuy recalled its metal-on-metal hip implant (called the 'ASR XL Acetabular Hip System') amid concern that the implants may be sending metal shavings into patients' bloodstreams, putting them at risk of dementia and heart failure.

Introduced in 2004 the DePuy hip replacement system was designed for younger and more active patients.



By way of illustration, the patient's right hip (left of image) has been replaced, with the ball of this ball-and-socket joint replaced by a metal head that is set in the thighbone or femur and the socket replaced by a white plastic cup (clear in this X-ray).

The defect with the DePuy ASR hip implant is that as the metal ball and socket components move against each other, they wear down releasing microscopic particles into the joint and muscles causing inflammation, muscle and nerve damage and possibly organ failure.

It is estimated that 3,500 Irish patients have had the DePuy hip implant fitted and more than 400 may require a further operation.

Those most at risk of suffering medical complications are female patients and those fitted with device heads below 50mm.

If you have experienced hip pain/swelling, difficulty walking, developed metallosis or required additional hip surgery you may be affected by the recall.

The Irish Medicines Board does not have a national registry which would otherwise act as an early warning/tracking system for faulty joint replacement products.

The recall does not necessarily mean that you will have to have the hip implant removed but giving the potentially serious side effects you should seek medical advice.

DePuy have stated that they will cover the costs of testing and monitoring those affected as well as the cost of hip replacement surgery if needed and any loss of earnings, travelling expenses. Compensation for pain and suffering is available.

I am assisting those concerned by the DePuy hip implant recall to: -

- find out if they are affected; and if so;
- obtain advice on how the DePuy ASR hip replacement systems is functioning;
- obtain advice on what if any further medical treatment is required;
- Get the medical treatment they need and receive fair compensation for their injuries.

Please contact me at (01) 825 1030 for a free case evaluation and consultation.