

1 Title: The Failing Medial Compartment in the Varus Knee and its Association with  
2 CAM Deformity of the Hip.

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4 Authors:

5 Jonathan S Palmer<sup>1</sup>

6 Antony J Palmer<sup>1</sup>

7 Luke D Jones<sup>1</sup>

8 Sujin Kang<sup>1</sup>

9 Nicholas Bottomley<sup>2</sup>

10 William M Jackson<sup>2</sup>

11 A Paul Monk<sup>1</sup>

12 David J Beard<sup>1</sup>

13 Kassim Javaid<sup>1</sup>

14 Sion Glyn-Jones<sup>1</sup>

15 Andrew J Price<sup>1</sup>

16

17 <sup>1</sup>Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics Rheumatology & Musculoskeletal Sciences,  
18 Old Rd, Oxford OX3 7LD

19 <sup>2</sup>Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Windmill Rd, Oxford OX3 7LD

20

21

22 Correspondence:

23

24 Mr J Palmer

25 Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics Rheumatology & Musculoskeletal Sciences,  
26 Old Rd, Oxford OX3 7LD

27

28 None of the Author's have any conflict of interest to declare.

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30

31 Abstract

32 Introduction: Since 2011, the knee service at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre has  
33 been offering a neutralising medial opening wedge high tibial osteotomy (HTO) to a  
34 specific group of patients with genu varum and early knee osteoarthritis. An  
35 observation was made concerning this group of patients and the presence of CAM  
36 deformity at the hip. The aim of this study is to establish whether or not any  
37 association exists between the OA phenotype shared by our HTO group and the  
38 incidence of CAM deformity at the hip.

39 Material & Methods: A cross-sectional study was designed to estimate the  
40 prevalence of CAM-type lesions across different groups of individuals. Our HTO  
41 group (n=30) was compared to a pre-arthroplasty group (n=20) and Control group  
42 (n=20). A total of 70 subjects were identified across the different groups all of whom  
43 had long-leg radiographs (LLRs) available for analysis. LLRs were analysed using an in  
44 house developed Matlab<sup>®</sup>-based (Matlab R2009b; MathWorks) software package for  
45 hip measurements and MediCAD<sup>®</sup> (Hectec GmbH, Germany) for lower limb  
46 alignment measurements.

47 Results: The HTO group had a significantly higher prevalence of CAM lesions (57%)  
48 than both the pre-arthroplasty (40%) and control (30%) groups. This difference was  
49 maintained when results were adjusted for potential confounding factors (Age,  
50 gender and laterality). Across the groups, individuals with tibia vara were more likely  
51 to have CAM-deformity of the hip ( $p=0.021$ ).

52 Conclusion: Patients with symptomatic early knee OA and varus deformity of the  
53 knee have a high prevalence of CAM deformity in the hip.

54 Keywords: Knee, Hip, Osteoarthritis, CAM-deformity, Genu varum, Alpha angle





57 1.0 Introduction

58 Osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee is a major health concern with over 6 million people  
59 in the UK suffering from painful osteoarthritis in one or both knees [1]. Differences in  
60 pelvic geometry have been associated with compartment specific knee OA[2] and  
61 deviation from a neutral alignment at the knee has been linked to pathology in the  
62 hip[3].

63 The development of cam morphology is associated with intense sporting activity  
64 during adolescence[4]. The mechanism of CAM formation is proposed to be  
65 epiphyseal extension along the anterosuperior femoral neck as an adaptive response  
66 to physeal loading[5] (Figure 1). More recently, proximal tibia vara has been linked  
67 to disruption of the physeal growth plate in youth [6,7]. Despite common aetiology  
68 there is nothing in the literature to link proximal tibia vara with CAM-type lesions in  
69 the hip.

70 Surgery in the form of unicompartmental or total knee arthroplasty is an established  
71 effective treatment for end-stage 'bone on bone' osteoarthritis when conservative  
72 measures have failed. Whilst successful in patients with full-thickness disease,  
73 arthroplasty surgery is not routinely offered to those with less severe disease as it is  
74 associated with a worse outcome[8,9]. A re-alignment procedure around the knee,  
75 such as a high tibial osteotomy (HTO), has been shown to be effective in this patient  
76 group[10]. However, there is no agreement in the literature regarding surgical  
77 technique, patient selection or expected clinical outcomes[11].

78

79 Since 2011, the knee service at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre has been offering a  
80 neutralising medial opening wedge high tibial osteotomy to a group of patients  
81 presenting with the following characteristics:

- 82 1. Early osteoarthritis of the knee (Kellgren-Lawrence <3) isolated to the medial  
83 compartment
- 84 2. Pain and dysfunction for more than 2 years
- 85 3. A weightbearing axis (WBA) running through the medial compartment of the  
86 knee that could be corrected to neutral using an opening wedge high tibial  
87 osteotomy
- 88 4. No significant osteoarthritis affecting the lateral compartment or patello-  
89 femoral joint

90 During the development of this practice the following observation was made. There  
91 appeared to be an association between this phenotype of knee osteoarthritis and  
92 the presence of CAM deformity at the hip. We are not aware that this association  
93 has been made before.

94 The aim of this study is to establish whether or not any association exists between  
95 the OA phenotype shared by our HTO group and the prevalence of CAM deformity at  
96 the hip joint.

97 2.0 Materials & Methods

98 A cross-sectional study was performed with 70 participants divided into three  
99 groups. Ethical approval was granted by the local ethics committee (London  
100 Bloomsbury REC, ref: 15/LO/0701) and (NRES Committee South Central-Oxford A,  
101 ref: 12/SC/0006 )

102 *Power calculation*

103 A power calculation was performed using previously published data by Lahner et al  
104 [3]. They described a mean difference in alpha angle of  $7.86^{\circ}$  between subjects with  
105 neutral and varus alignment and a maximum standard deviation of  $5.55^{\circ}$  across the  
106 groups. Therefore, with a statistical significance set at 0.05 and power of 0.9, a total  
107 of 24 participants were required, 12 in each group.

108

109 *Patient Selection*

110 *HTO group (n=30)*: Since 2011, our knee service has been offering a high tibial  
111 osteotomy to patients with early to moderate knee OA. The surgical logbooks of two  
112 of the contributing authors (AJP, WJ) were retrospectively reviewed and all patients  
113 who underwent a medial opening wedge osteotomy were recruited. This included 30  
114 patients undergoing 34 osteotomies. All patients had standing bilateral long leg  
115 radiographs (LLR) performed pre-operatively.

116 *Control group (n=20)*: This group are the spouses of a high-risk osteoarthritis cohort  
117 recruited for a different study at our unit. The high risk OA cohort were siblings of  
118 patients with end-stage osteoarthritis who underwent arthroplasty surgery. Their  
119 spouses, the control group, were used to compare biomarkers for OA in previously  
120 unpublished work from our unit. The spouses were not selected based on the

121 presence or absence of knee symptoms or based on their medical history. A total of  
122 20 gender-matched subjects were identified and all had existing bilateral LLRs  
123 available for analysis.

124 *Pre-arthroplasty group (PAG) (n=20):* A consecutive group of patients, over a period  
125 of 7 months, who were listed for medial unicompartmental knee arthroplasty (UKA)  
126 (Dec 2014 to July 2015) and underwent an LLR as part of their clinical work up.

127 Indications for UKA are 'bone on bone' medial compartment OA, an intact ACL and  
128 no lateral compartment disease.

129

130 In all groups patients were excluded if there was a history of lower limb trauma,  
131 congenital deformity or previous arthroplasty in their medical notes.

132

133 A total of 70 subjects were identified across the different groups (HTO n=30, PAG  
134 n=20, and Control n=20). Each subject contributed one limb for analysis. In the HTO  
135 and pre-arthroplasty groups this was the limb that underwent surgery. In the  
136 control group a limb was selected at random. If a subject had undergone an HTO on  
137 both legs then the leg that underwent surgery first was used.

138

### 139 *Radiological Assessment*

140 A standardised method is used for taking long leg radiographs in our institution.

141 Bilateral standing AP radiographs are carried out with the patient centred on a wall  
142 stand with their patellae facing forward. The tube voltage is set between 70 and

143 80kV depending on the size of the patient and automatic exposure chambers ensure

144 consistent radiographic images. The focus film distance is set at 180cm and a ruler is



145 taped to the patient's leg for calibration. All radiographs were made using the GE  
146 Definium model 8000, which automatically tracks down the lower limb using pre-  
147 defined anatomical landmarks. The resulting images are then stitched together to  
148 produce a single image, which includes both lower limbs.

149

### 150 *Radiological Analysis*

151 Long leg radiographs were transferred as Digital Imaging and Communications in  
152 Medicine (DICOM) files from the Picture Archiving and Communications System  
153 (PACS version) into the Matlab<sup>®</sup>-based software package for hip measurements and  
154 MediCAD<sup>®</sup> (Hectec GmbH, Germany) for lower limb alignment measurements.

155

156 Hip deformity: Alpha angle was measured to describe the presence of a CAM  
157 deformity. This is the angle between the femoral neck axis and a line from the  
158 centre of a best-fit circle to where the femoral head-neck first exits this circle (figure  
159 2).

160 DICOM Files were transferred to an in house developed Matlab<sup>®</sup>-based (Matlab  
161 R2009b; MathWorks) software package. All alpha angles were measured by a single  
162 observer (academic orthopaedic clinician). Repeat measurements were performed  
163 for the first 15 hips (intra-observer reliability) and a second reader (academic  
164 orthopaedic clinician) measured the alpha angle on the same 15 hips to assess inter-  
165 observer reliability.

166

167 Lower limb alignment: MediCAD (Classic version 3.0.2.2, MediCAD<sup>®</sup>, Hectec GmbH,  
168 Germany) is a commercially available planning software with high inter-observer

169 reliability (ICC 0.89-0.97) [12] for assessing alignment in the coronal plane. Planning  
170 requires the operator to identify various anatomical landmarks that enable  
171 assessment of both anatomical and mechanical alignment. It includes three  
172 different measurements to describe a deviation from neutral lower limb alignment;  
173 Hip knee ankle angle (HKA), mechanical axis deviation (MAD), weight-bearing axis  
174 (WBA). Weight-bearing axis is derived from the point that the mechanical axis  
175 meets the knee joint line and is expressed as a percentage of the medial-lateral tibial  
176 plateau (Figure 3). Other measurements recorded include; mechanical proximal  
177 femoral angle (mLPFA), mechanical lateral distal femoral angle (mLDFA), medial  
178 proximal tibial angle (MPTA) and mechanical lateral distal tibial angle (mLDTA)  
179 (figure 2). A single observer who was familiar with the software and experienced in  
180 its use for surgical planning performed all analyses (JP). A subset of ten radiographs  
181 had readings repeated by the same observer to calculate intra-observer reliability.

182

### 183 3.0 Calculation

184 The mean, standard deviation, maximum and minimum values were calculated for  
185 all measurements.

186 Alpha angle has a bimodal distribution[13]. We sub-divided the alpha angle into two  
187 groups; alpha angle <math>65^{\circ}</math>, alpha angle  $\geq 65^{\circ}$ . In so doing it was possible to determine  
188 the prevalence of significant CAM deformities between the groups i.e. those CAM  
189 deformities associated with a future risk of OA or total hip replacement [13–15].

190 Given its bimodal distribution there will be relatively few patients who have an alpha  
191 angle in close proximity to this threshold[13] reducing the risks associated with  
192 defining such a cut-off.

193 In the absence of any definition for tibia vara, a threshold was created to define this  
194 group. Subjects with a medial Proximal Tibial Angle (mPTA) one standard deviation  
195 towards varus from those values described in a healthy population[6] were  
196 considered to have tibia vara (mPTA; male<84.33<sup>0</sup> female<85.76<sup>0</sup>).

197

198 Logistic regression was performed to determine whether a significant difference in  
199 the frequency of cam-deformity (alpha angle >65) was observed between the  
200 groups. The model was adjusted for potential confounding factors; age, gender and  
201 laterality.

202 A 2x2 chi-squared table was used to compare the counts of individuals with proximal  
203 tibia vara with or without CAM-deformity in the ipsilateral hip.

204 A Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test was performed to identify between group  
205 differences for the lower limb alignment variables.

206 Pearson correlation determined the relationships between lower limb alignment  
207 measurements and measurements at the hip. This would establish if any variables  
208 associated with mal-alignment were correlated with the presence of CAM deformity.

209

210 All statistical analyses were performed using Stata/IC 13.1 (StataCorp, Inc). A *p*-value  
211 <0.05 was considered significant.

## 212 4.0 Results

### 213 *Group Characteristics*

214 A total of 70 limbs from 70 subjects were available for analysis (HTO n=30, Pre-  
215 arthroplasty n=20, Control n=20). 67 subjects were male and 3 subjects were  
216 female. There was no significant difference in gender across the groups. The pre-  
217 arthroplasty group were older than both the control and HTO groups [Pre-  
218 arthroplasty (Avg 66.4( $\pm$ 10.5)), Control (Avg. 49( $\pm$ 8.13)), HTO (Avg. 44.6( $\pm$ 6.9)). (Table1)

219

### 220 *Observer reliability*

221 Intra-observer reliability was very good for all the recorded measurements  
222 [Intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC); Mediacad<sup>®</sup> Classic =0.84-0.99, Matlab<sup>®</sup>-based  
223 (Matlab R2009b; MathWorks) software package = 0.99]. Inter-observer reliability  
224 was also very good for alpha angle measurements [ICC; Matlab<sup>®</sup>-based (Matlab  
225 R2009b; MathWorks) = 0.83].

226

### 227 *K/L Grade*

228 The HTO and control groups had lower K/L grades than the pre-arthroplasty group  
229 (Table 1).

230

### 231 *Alpha angle*

232 Higher alpha angle values were seen in the HTO group compared to both the pre-  
233 arthroplasty and control groups (Figure 3). The prevalence of CAM lesions defined  
234 by a mean alpha angle of  $>65^{\circ}$  was greater in our HTO group than the remaining two  
235 groups [HTO (18/30 = 63%) vs Control (6/20= 30%)  $p=0.001$ ; HTO vs Pre-arthroplasty

236 (8/20=40.0%) ( $p=0.011$ ) (Table 2). Variables including age, gender and laterality did  
237 not influence the presence of cam-deformity.

238

239 *Hip and knee measurements*

240 Differences in lower limb alignment were observed between the three groups and  
241 are summarised in Table 2.

242 Pearson Correlation demonstrated no significant correlation between any lower limb  
243 alignment measurements (HKA, MAD, WBA, MPTA, mLPFA, mL DFA, mLDTA, JLCA)  
244 and alpha angle.

245 Across the groups, individuals with tibia vara (MPTA 1SD towards varus) were more  
246 likely to have a CAM-deformity (Alpha angle $>65^{\circ}$ ) of the hip ( $p=0.02$ ) (see Table 3).

247

248 5.0 Discussion

249 The results of this study confirm that our HTO group have a higher prevalence of  
250 CAM lesions defined by an Alpha angle  $>65^{\circ}$  than both the pre-arthroplasty and  
251 control groups [HTO vs Control,  $p=0.021$ ; HTO vs Pre-arthroplasty,  $p=0.046$ ] (Figure  
252 4). Furthermore, across the groups, individuals with proximal tibia vara were more  
253 likely to have CAM-deformity at the hip ( $p=0.02$ ) (see Table 3).

254 A previous study using LLRs from patients being evaluated for knee pathology  
255 demonstrated that with greater mechanical axis deviation (MAD) away from neutral  
256 an increased alpha angle at the hip was observed[3]. The authors of this study  
257 concluded that patients presenting with significant varus/valgus alignment should be  
258 carefully examined for symptomatic hip pain consistent with femoro-acetabular  
259 impingement[3]. The study comments on the presence of OA in these patients but  
260 not the severity of disease. Our study suggests that the association between lower  
261 limb alignment and CAM deformity at the hip may be more complex than this. If the  
262 mechanical axis deviation (MAD) were strictly connected with alpha angle it would  
263 follow that our pre-arthroplasty group would also have a high prevalence of CAMs,  
264 as there MAD was greater than the control and HTO groups. This was not the case.  
265 Furthermore, Pearson correlation did not demonstrate any significant relationship  
266 between MAD and alpha angle. This may in part be due to the bimodal distribution  
267 of the alpha angle.

268 A further cross-sectional study using long leg radiographs demonstrated that  
269 variations in hip and pelvic geometry were associated with compartment-specific  
270 knee OA[2]. Specifically, a reduced abductor angle and a more varus neck-shaft  
271 angle in the hip were associated with medial compartment OA at the knee [2]. We

272 found no correlation between our mechanical lateral proximal femoral angle  
273 (mLPFA) and the presence of cam-deformity.

274 A wide-range of values have been reported in the literature for the prevalence of  
275 CAM deformity. This is due to differences in the definitions used to define the  
276 deformity and the population of interest. In a healthy population using a threshold  
277 alpha angle of  $>50.5^{\circ}$  Hack et al reported a prevalence of CAM-deformity of 14%[16].  
278 They noted that the majority of CAM lesions occurred in males (79%), which may  
279 explain the higher prevalence seen in our control group (30%).

280 The use of comparator groups in this study, permitted multiple variables to be  
281 compared simultaneously enabling the relationships between different variables to  
282 be recognised. Our groups demonstrated variation with regard to lower limb  
283 alignment (see Table 2). The most varus alignment was seen in the pre-arthroplasty  
284 group (Avg. HKA= -8.5) who also demonstrated a higher incidence of proximal tibia  
285 vara (MPTA; 1SD towards varus). Undoubtedly, this reflects a group with more  
286 severe OA who have drifted further into varus as their intra-articular pathology has  
287 progressed. Bony attrition of the medial tibial plateau will have exaggerated the  
288 varus angulation of the MPTA in this group.

289 The HTO group were more varus than the control group but were similar in terms of  
290 severity of OA. The significantly lower MPTA but similar mL DFA, seen in the HTO  
291 group compared to controls, suggests that it is a higher incidence of proximal tibia  
292 vara that has led to the overall varus alignment. They reflect a group of patients  
293 who have early OA in the presence of a 'constitutional varus'[6] deformity i.e. their  
294 varus deformity is due to tibio-femoral geometry as opposed to lateral compartment

295 opening as a result of lateral soft tissue laxity[17]. The HTO group represent a  
296 potentially interesting subgroup of patients with tibia vara and osteoarthritis.  
297  
298 Varus mal-alignment at the knee is associated with both incidence and progression  
299 of medial compartment knee OA [18,19]. CAM deformity at the hip is causative of  
300 osteoarthritis of the hip [20] and in particular severe CAM-type deformity (alpha  
301 angle  $>65^{\circ}$ ) is strongly associated with end-stage OA of the hip and progression to  
302 THR[14,15]. Our HTO group, therefore, demonstrate independent predictors for  
303 progression of OA in both the hip and the knee. Interestingly, both CAM deformity  
304 in the hip and varus deformity in the knee have been linked to disruption of the  
305 physal growth plate in youth. There is growing evidence to support this. Disruption  
306 of the growth plate has been found to precede CAM-type deformity in elite  
307 basketball players [5], and higher levels of sporting activity in youth are associated  
308 with the 'constitutional varus' phenotype[6] and in particular high levels of sporting  
309 activity in youth are associated with a more varus proxima tibia[7]. A high prevalence  
310 of CAM lesions has also been reported in elite ice hockey players[21] and American  
311 Football players[22]. Joint preservation surgery is increasingly adopted in the hip to  
312 restore the femoral head-neck concavity and repair associated joint pathology  
313 [23](Palmer 2016 BMJ Open Sport Exercise). Surgery for femoroacetabular  
314 impingement has been shown to provide symptomatic benefit beyond five years, but  
315 is significantly less effective in the presence of osteoarthritis[24]. This highlights the  
316 importance of identifying individuals at risk of cam morphology and intervening at  
317 an early stage.

318



319 A compelling hypothesis is that some of our HTO group has experienced epiphyseal  
320 disruption at the proximal tibia and at the proximal femur leading to early onset OA  
321 of the knee and a future risk for development of OA in the hip. Such individuals  
322 would share an OA phenotype that has not been described before and is distinct  
323 from the general population. A conclusion supported by the fact that subjects with  
324 tibia vara in our cohort were more likely to have a CAM-deformity at the hip  
325 ( $p<0.006$ ). The aetiology may be a congenital or acquired growth plate disruption  
326 either of which could be contingent on a genetic predisposition. Recognising such  
327 phenotypes is highly relevant to the prevention, progression and treatment of  
328 OA[25]. Tibia vara (assessed using the tibia bone varus angle, TBVA) has been shown  
329 to predict successful outcomes in osteotomy surgery[26]. The phenotype described  
330 in this study may also have implications for outcomes in surgical practice.

331

332 Future work should focus on applying these findings to the general population and  
333 determining how deformity around the knee relates to pathology in the hip. Larger  
334 longitudinal studies in healthy individuals are required to establish the temporal  
335 relationship between these two pathologies. Establishing whether or not the  
336 phenotype described in this study influences outcomes for surgery such as hip  
337 arthroscopy and high tibial osteotomy would be of value. Furthermore, it is not clear  
338 whether tibia vara in the presence of knee OA represents a subgroup of the typical  
339 early anteromedial OA phenotype[27] or whether they represent a distinct group in  
340 themselves which has differences in terms of both evolution and progression of  
341 disease.

342 There are limitations inherent to this study. Sampling bias may have occurred when  
343 generating the comparator groups. However, subjects were selected before any  
344 radiographs were reviewed reducing the possibility of them being selected 'in' or  
345 'out' based on the appearance of their radiographs. Observer bias was limited by  
346 separating hip and alignment measurements between two observers. The observer  
347 viewing the hip scores was blinded to the lower limb alignment scores and vice  
348 versa.

349 The majority of subjects were male. All subjects who underwent a high tibial  
350 osteotomy were included. The procedure is offered to both males and females but in  
351 our practice we have found many more males presenting to the clinic with  
352 symptomatic early to moderate OA, varus deformity and a willingness to proceed  
353 with osteotomy surgery. Gender differences were then kept equal across the  
354 remaining groups to avoid bias.

355 The pre-arthroplasty group were selected to reflect an end-stage osteoarthritis  
356 cohort. Although this group is older they are an important inclusion. They have a  
357 similar prevalence of CAM deformity to controls. As such the higher prevalence of  
358 CAM deformities seen in the HTO group cannot simply be explained as an underlying  
359 propensity for this group to develop lower limb OA. If this were the case one would  
360 expect a similar prevalence in the pre-arthroplasty group. Cam deformities do not  
361 resolve as age progresses.

362 An important point to note is that long-leg radiographs are not routinely requested  
363 for patients undergoing UKA and the specific reason for requesting the investigation  
364 was unknown. However, the medical notes were reviewed and patients were  
365 excluded if there was a history of lower limb trauma, congenital deformity or

366 previous arthroplasty. Furthermore, the selection criteria for UKA at our unit is  
367 strict; 'bone on bone' anteromedial OA, an intact ACL and no lateral compartment  
368 disease. Accordingly the phenotype of OA across the pre-arthroplasty group should  
369 be consistent.

370 As expected the higher K/L grade in the pre-arthroplasty group indicates greater  
371 radiological evidence of knee OA compared to the HTO and control groups. It is  
372 important to note that some subjects in the control group had established OA in one  
373 or both of their knees. The control group represent a cross-section of the general  
374 population with a variety of lower limb alignment values, a range of osteoarthritis  
375 severity and an age range that matches our HTO group.

376 The use of LLRs to measure the alpha angle may have underestimated the true  
377 prevalence of CAM lesions, which could be improved by the use of lateral  
378 radiographs, a 45-degree Dunn view radiograph or MRI. LLRs are vulnerable to  
379 positioning error and the measurements obtained may vary depending on how the  
380 leg is positioned. Furthermore, it is important to note that the increased varus seen  
381 in our HTO and UKA group may in and of itself have affected the positioning of the  
382 leg leading to an increased observation of CAM lesions. However, inaccuracies  
383 caused by positioning error should have been consistent across the three groups and  
384 a reciprocal increase in CAM deformity was not seen in the UKA group who were  
385 also in significantly varus alignment.

386 Despite the limitations described, this study has much strength. It is important to  
387 note that we did not set out to discover the association between our HTO group and  
388 CAM deformity. The clinical observations were made and then validated using  
389 comparator groups. The high prevalence of CAM lesions in our HTO group is a

390 finding supported by the fact that similar results are not seen in either the control or  
391 the pre-arthroplasty groups.

392

393

394

## 395 6.0 Conclusion

396

397 This study confirms that patients undergoing HTO for symptomatic early knee OA  
398 and varus deformity of the knee have a high prevalence of CAM deformity in the hip.

399 It is the first study to identify a link between the presence of proximal tibia vara and

400 the presence of CAM-deformity in the hip. Disruption of the physeal growth plate in

401 youth, described in the literature, is a plausible aetiological basis on which to

402 support this finding.

403

404 7.0 Declaration of Interests

405 Conflicts of interest: none

406

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412

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415

416

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## List of Figures

Figure 1: Anteroposterior radiograph demonstrating epiphyseal extension that results in loss of the antero-superior head-neck concavity and cam morphology

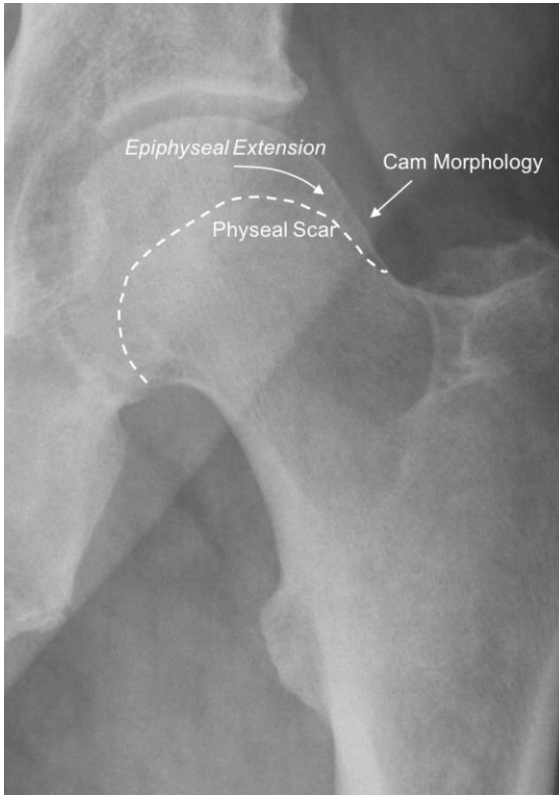
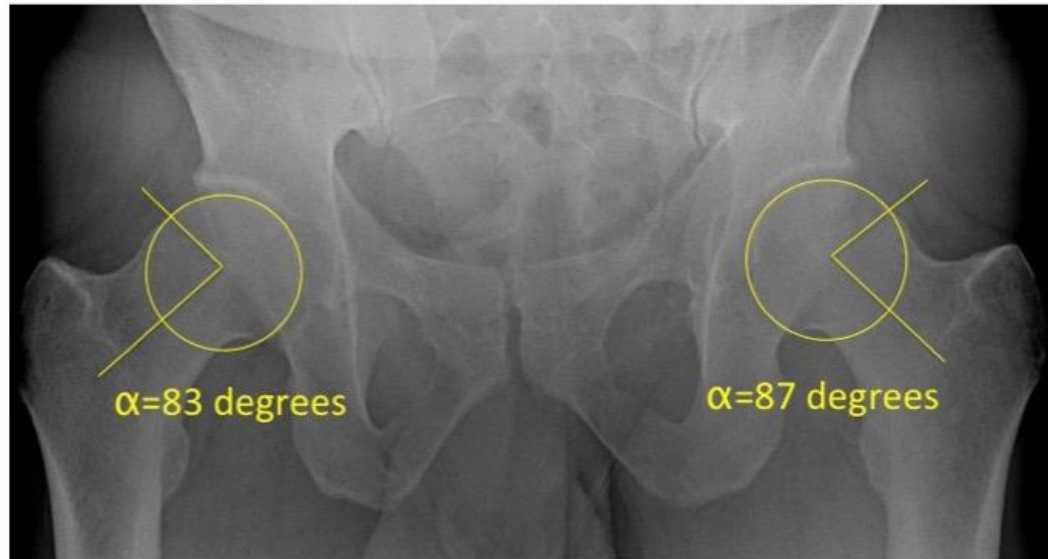
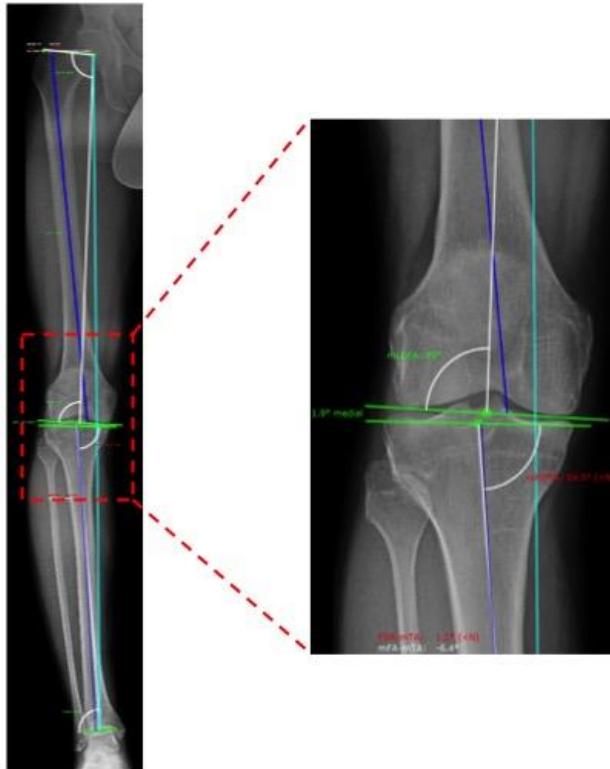


Figure 2: Antero-posterior radiograph of the pelvis demonstrating the alpha angle of the hip



Antero-posterior pelvis portion of limb-alignment radiograph performed on a patient who underwent a right knee opening wedge high-tibial osteotomy. There are bilateral cam deformities with elevated alpha angle measurements. Measurements shown were taken using an in house developed Matlab®-based (Matlab R2009b; MathWorks) software package.

Figure 3: Long-leg radiograph illustrating lower limb alignment measurement



Long leg radiograph taken from a subject within the HTO group. Image shows the mechanical lateral distal femoral angle (mLDFA =  $89^{\circ}$ ), medial proximal tibial angle (MPTA= $84.5^{\circ}$ ) and joint line convergence angle (JLCA =  $1.9^{\circ}$ ). Light blue line indicates the mechanical axis (a line from the centre of the hip joint to the centre of the ankle joint). The weight bearing axis (WBA) is derived from the point that the mechanical axis meets the knee joint line and is expressed as a percentage of the medial-lateral tibial plateau. All measurements taken using MediCAD© Classic Version 3.0.2.2.

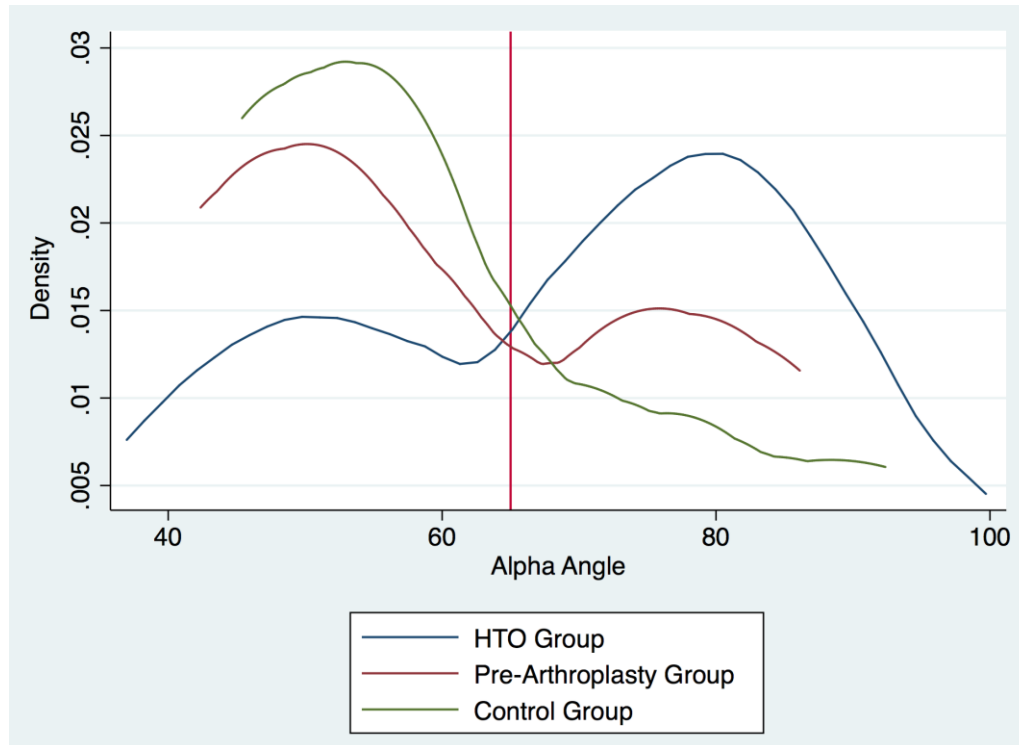


Figure 4: Kernel Density Plot Graph illustrating the bimodal distribution for alpha angle in the observed population groups. The graph demonstrates the higher prevalence of subjects with a larger alpha angle in the HTO group compared to the other two groups.

List of Tables

|                  | Age (yrs)<br>Mean Avg. (SD, min-max)  | Gender<br>(M=Male, F=Female) | Kellgren Lawrence Grade   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Control          | <b>49</b> ( $\pm 8.1$ , 31.8-62.5)    | M=19, F=1                    | <b>0=25%</b><br><b>1= 15%,</b><br><b>2=50%</b><br><b>3=10%</b><br><b>4=0%</b> |
| HTO              | <b>44.6</b> ( $\pm 6.9$ , 25-56.8)    | M=29, F=1                    | <b>0=0%</b><br><b>1= 7%,</b><br><b>2=83%</b><br><b>3=10%</b><br><b>4=15%</b>  |
| Pre-arthroplasty | <b>66.4</b> ( $\pm 10.5$ , 46.2-80.7) | M=19, F=1                    | <b>0=0%</b><br><b>1= 0%,</b><br><b>2=0%</b><br><b>3=10%</b><br><b>4=90%</b>   |

Table 1: Demographic characteristics for the three groups including Age, Gender and Kellgren Lawrence (K/L) Grade.

| Variable<br>[mean (range)]                  | Patient group   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | Control   | PAG   | HTO  |
| HKA   | <b>-2.6<sup>0</sup></b><br>(-10.2 <sup>0</sup> – 3.3 <sup>0</sup> ) | <b>-8.5<sup>0*</sup></b><br>(-14.3 <sup>0</sup> – -0.4 <sup>0</sup> ) | <b>-5.2<sup>0*#</sup></b><br>(-10.9 <sup>0</sup> – -0.4 <sup>0</sup> ) |
| MAD   | <b>10.4</b><br>(-11 – 41)   | <b>29*</b><br>(1 – 52)  | <b>18.2*#</b><br>(1 – 42)  |
| WBA   | <b>35.9</b><br>(0 – 64.5)   | <b>12.0*</b><br>(-11.4 – 46.4)  | <b>24.9*#</b><br>(-2.4 – 47.1)   |
| mLPFA                                       | <b>86.2<sup>0</sup></b><br>(71.1 <sup>0</sup> – 94.5 <sup>0</sup> ) | <b>89.2<sup>0</sup></b><br>(76.9 <sup>0</sup> – 100 <sup>0</sup> )    | <b>91.1<sup>0*</sup></b><br>(83.8 <sup>0</sup> – 102 <sup>0</sup> )    |
| mLDFA                                       | <b>87.7<sup>0</sup></b><br>(85.3 <sup>0</sup> – 90.6 <sup>0</sup> ) | <b>88.6<sup>0</sup></b><br>(85.4 <sup>0</sup> – 91 <sup>0</sup> )     | <b>88.3<sup>0</sup></b><br>(84.4 <sup>0</sup> – 90.6 <sup>0</sup> )    |
| MPTA  | <b>86.2<sup>0</sup></b><br>(81.3 <sup>0</sup> – 89.9 <sup>0</sup> ) | <b>85.2<sup>0</sup></b><br>(81.2 <sup>0</sup> – 88.2 <sup>0</sup> )   | <b>85.1<sup>0</sup></b><br>(81.4 <sup>0</sup> – 89 <sup>0</sup> )      |
| mLDTA                                       | <b>83.4<sup>0</sup></b><br>(71.2 <sup>0</sup> – 89.9 <sup>0</sup> ) | <b>86.3<sup>0</sup></b><br>(78.2 <sup>0</sup> – 97.4 <sup>0</sup> )   | <b>85.8<sup>0</sup></b><br>(74.8 <sup>0</sup> – 95.5 <sup>0</sup> )    |
| JLCA  | <b>1.1<sup>0</sup></b><br>(-1 <sup>0</sup> – 4.6 <sup>0</sup> )     | <b>5.0<sup>0*</sup></b><br>(1.8 <sup>0</sup> – 10.1 <sup>0</sup> )    | <b>2.1<sup>0*#</sup></b><br>(-0.2 <sup>0</sup> – 6.4 <sup>0</sup> )    |
| Alpha angle<br>(>65 degrees)                | <b>6/20</b><br>(30%)  | <b>8/20</b><br>(40%)  | <b>17/30</b><br>(57%)  |
| Proximal tibia<br>vara<br>(MPTA >1SD varus) | <b>4/20</b><br>(20%)  | <b>7/20</b><br>(35%)  | <b>8/30</b><br>(27%)   |

Table 2: A summary of lower limb alignment values for the three different groups.

\*Indicates a significant difference compared to the control group ( $p < 0.05$ )

#Indicates a significant difference compared to the pre-arthroplasty group ( $p < 0.05$ )



|                                    |     | CAM-deformity<br>(Alpha>65°) |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|
|                                    |     | No                           | Yes |
| Tibia Vara<br>(MPTA >1SD<br>varus) | No  | 32                           | 19  |
|                                    | Yes | 6                            | 13  |

Table 3: 2x2 contingency table showing the counts of individuals with a CAM-deformity defined by an Alpha angle of  $>65^{\circ}$  and tibia vara defined by an mPTA that is 1SD towards varus from the mean value described in a healthy population[6]. Individuals with tibia vara are more likely to have CAM-deformity of the hip ( $p=0.02$ )