

The latest concern over metal debris entering the bloodstream from a metal on metal hip implant (note this is microscopic debris equivalent to a few grains of sand) comes from the Stryker Mitch cup on an Accolade stem. Stryker has issued an alert about this and surgeons are to contact their patients. To put it into perspective there have been 106 Mitch cups inserted by 19 surgeons but only 41 one of these were with an Accolade stem which seems to be the combination causing a higher rate of revision overseas than is usual. In New Zealand there have been 3 revisions of the Mitch cup on the Accolade stem.

Orthopaedic surgeons are in the process of contacting their patients who have had a Mitch cup implanted.

The metal debris is a mixture of Cobalt and Chromium, both trace elements are absolutely necessary for life, however care needs to be taken to check that the levels remain microscopic and hence surgeons will be testing their patient's urine or blood to monitor these two trace element levels. If the levels are high then this may be an indicator that revision surgery is required but your surgeon will be able to advise you of this.

If you have not been contacted by your surgeon by the end of next week, then please contact the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association admin@nzoa.org.nz where further assistance will be available.

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