



108 year old woman is Australia's oldest hip replacement patient

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A 108 year old woman is believed to be the oldest person in Australia to have had a partial hip replacement under general anaesthesia.

The case study of the successful procedure, which was carried out in January 2019 at Wollongong Hospital when Daphne Keith was 107 will be presented at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists' (ANZCA) annual scientific meeting in Kuala Lumpur attended by 1900 anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians.

Dr Anthony Hodsdon, a senior resident medical officer at Wollongong Hospital and specialist anaesthetists Dr Natalie Smith and Dr Rupali Kini co-authored the case study to highlight how age is not necessarily a predictor of a patient's readiness for surgery.

The woman recently celebrated her 108th birthday and is believed to be one of the 15 oldest living Australians and the oldest to have had a partial hip replacement under general anaesthesia.

According to Dr Hodsdon the patient was an enthusiastic ballroom dancer well into her 90s and had only recently moved into an aged care facility before she was admitted to hospital after a fall that had fractured her hip.

She needed an emergency hip hemiarthroplasty, a common procedure that involves removing the ball of the hip joint and replacing it with an artificial ball and metal stem.

"A detailed discussion was held with the patient and her next of kin. Both surgical and non-surgical options were considered but without the operation more than likely she would have been bed bound for the remainder of her life. The patient strongly wanted to have the surgery, despite significant risks, stating 'what do I have to lose?'" Dr Hodsdon explained.

One hour after the 40 minute operation "the patient was alert in the post anaesthesia care unit, drinking a cup of tea with four sugars."

She left the hospital four days after the operation and now uses a walking frame. Two months after the operation she was still well and functioning as she had been before her surgery.

More than 1900 anaesthetists, pain specialists and other medical practitioners have gathered for the ANZCA meeting New worlds come explore at the Kuala Lumpur International Convention Centre. The meeting features dozens of significant research papers, workshops and presentations on clinical and scientific advances.

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