

# **Preoperative Factors Associated with Postoperative Gait Kinematics and Kinetics after Total Hip Arthroplasty**

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Running title: *Predicting THA gait recovery*

\*Data for this study were collected at Rush University Medical Center.

1 **Abstract**

2 *Objective:* To determine how patient factors: age, sex, body mass index (BMI), clinical scores  
3 and physical exam findings, are associated with gait recovery after total hip arthroplasty (THA).

4 *Method:* 145 subjects, who were evaluated with standard gait analysis, the Harris Hip Score  
5 (HHS), and a physical exam including passive range of motion, hip abductor strength  
6 assessment, before and after primary unilateral THA, were identified from an IRB-approved  
7 repository. Sagittal plane dynamic range of motion (ROM) and 3D peak external moments were  
8 averaged from operated-side normal-speed trials at each visit. We used linear regression analysis  
9 to evaluate the association among preoperative clinical factors and postoperative gait, with and  
10 without controlling for the influence of preoperative gait variables.

11 *Results:* Sagittal and transverse plane moments, and the peak abduction moment seen in early  
12 stance, significantly improved after THA ( $p < 0.001$ , effect size  $d = 0.22-1.04$ ). The peak  
13 adduction moment did not change significantly ( $p = 0.646$ ), although the change ranged from -2.7  
14 to + 4.0 %Body weight x height (-80% to +315%). Preoperative gait, clinical factors and patient  
15 characteristics predicted up to 33% of the variability in postoperative gait. Notably, greater  
16 preoperative abductor strength was associated with higher postoperative adduction and external  
17 rotation moments ( $R = 0.197-0.266$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) after adjusting for age, sex, BMI and preoperative  
18 gait.

19 *Conclusion:* Preoperative clinical factors predicted several specific aspects of objectively-  
20 characterized postoperative gait function. Physical exam findings can augment the predictive  
21 ability of clinical outcome measures, and potentially help guide rehabilitation plans.

22  
23 **Keywords:** total hip arthroplasty; functional recovery; gait; biomechanics; outcome measures

24

## 25 **Introduction**

26           Across patient populations, countries, and evaluation methods, between 14 and 46% of  
27 patients report functional limitations or insufficient functional improvement after total hip  
28 arthroplasty (THA).<sup>1-4</sup> For example, 22% of 5707 THA patients from the Mayo Clinic Total Joint  
29 Registry surveyed 2 years after surgery reported “moderate” walking limitations and 6% reported  
30 “severe” walking limitations (with options including none, mild, moderate, and severe).<sup>4</sup> These  
31 statistics are particularly disappointing because of the high value that patients place on functional  
32 recovery.<sup>5,6</sup> Identifying new strategies to improve postoperative function is an important clinical  
33 and research priority.

34           Walking is the aspect of function in which THA candidates most desire or expect  
35 improvement.<sup>6,7</sup> Moreover, normal gait may promote an implant loading environment that  
36 reduces the likelihood of implant wear or dislocation. Quantitative gait analysis can precisely and  
37 objectively characterize specific aspects of walking.<sup>8-12</sup> Joint motions and external moments can  
38 be calculated from the positions of reflective markers on body segments and ground reaction  
39 forces recorded during walking. External moments must be balanced by internal moments  
40 produced by the muscles and other joint structures. So, for example, when we measure an  
41 external hip adduction moment, we can infer net activity of the hip abductors. Many studies have  
42 described postoperative THA gait.<sup>13-17</sup> These studies, however, have generalizability concerns  
43 that limit how they can be used and interpreted to inform rehabilitation practices. First, we know  
44 from the clinical literature that preoperative function is an important determinant of  
45 postoperative function;<sup>3,18</sup> unfortunately, a recent meta-analysis points out that most gait analysis  
46 studies have not included a preoperative evaluation.<sup>16,17</sup> Second, many gait analysis studies have  
47 had relatively small sample sizes – in the same meta-analysis, all but one study had fewer than

48 30 subjects. Finally, most studies are limited to a single or a small number of implant designs,  
49 surgeons, and surgical approaches. Results from gait analysis studies could help inform the  
50 direction of rehabilitation and our understanding of THA function, but a fuller understanding of  
51 the influence of preoperative factors on changes in gait after THA, in a heterogeneous population  
52 is needed.

53         The goal of this study was to test the association between preoperative clinical findings  
54 and gait improvement in a relatively large, heterogeneous group of subjects who participated in  
55 longitudinal gait analysis studies before and after primary unilateral THA. Subjects were  
56 heterogeneous with respect to surgeon and surgical approach, implant type, and other aspects of  
57 clinical management, but had participated in gait analysis studies that had similar inclusion  
58 criteria and study designs. The objective of this investigation was to determine whether any self-  
59 reported clinical outcome measures (e.g. pain) or exam findings (e.g. passive range of motion)  
60 were associated with postoperative gait after THA, taking preoperative gait into account. The  
61 broader rationale for this study was that preoperative clinical findings associated with larger  
62 increases in the selected gait variables – with the assumption that higher, i.e. closer to normal  
63 values are preferable – could potentially be used to identify specific aspects of function that  
64 should be targeted in postoperative rehabilitation or to help screen subjects for investigations of  
65 new rehabilitation interventions.

66

## 67 **Methods**

### 68 *Subjects*

69         Subjects were identified using an IRB-approved repository, containing gait analysis data,  
70 demographic data, and clinical scores for subjects tested before and after primary unilateral

71 THA. All subjects gave written informed consent for the studies in which they were enrolled and  
72 for their data to be included in the repository. Use of the repository for the present analysis was  
73 also IRB-approved. The procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of  
74 the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and national) and with the  
75 Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000. All subjects had been recruited for  
76 observational studies of gait mechanics or implant loading before and/or after THA. Subjects  
77 meeting inclusion criteria were sequentially enrolled from the surgeons' practices, in two large  
78 high-volume urban medical centers. The primary inclusion criterion for the original studies was  
79 candidacy for primary unilateral THA. Most studies specifically required a diagnosis of  
80 osteoarthritis; all excluded patients with inflammatory arthritis and trauma. Other exclusion  
81 criteria included self-reported pain, past or anticipated surgical procedures, or any previous  
82 diagnoses involving lower extremity joints other than the affected hip. None of the original  
83 studies restricted subject age, clinical or radiographic disease severity. One of the original studies  
84 specifically involved minimally invasive surgical approaches. Otherwise, patient selection,  
85 surgical approach, and perioperative management were per surgeons' (and rehabilitation  
86 providers) usual protocols, and were not dictated by the design of the original studies. Some  
87 original study results have been previously published.<sup>10, 13, 15</sup>

88 We sought subjects with a preoperative evaluation and a postoperative evaluation that  
89 was conducted at least 6 months after surgery. Subjects were not considered if no preoperative  
90 evaluation was available in the repository. If a subject had been evaluated more than once after  
91 surgery, the visit closest to the one year postoperative time point was selected. (No subjects were  
92 evaluated more than once before surgery.) The one-year time point was selected because it was  
93 the most commonly tested time-point in the subject group considered, because our previous work

94 has suggested that gait stabilizes by this time after surgery,<sup>15</sup> and because this is a commonly  
95 used time-point in the literature.<sup>16</sup>

96

### 97 *Preoperative Clinical Assessment*

98         Preoperative clinical status was summarized using the Harris Hip Score (HHS)<sup>19</sup> and an  
99 in-house assessment form administered at the time of the gait evaluation. Although the HHS was  
100 not originally developed for modern THA, it is still widely used in orthopedic surgery and has  
101 good validity and reliability in evaluation of THA patients.<sup>20</sup> It includes domains of pain, gait  
102 function, activities of daily living (ADLs), absence of “deformity,” and an assessment of passive  
103 range of motion. . Scores range from 0 to 100 (best). In this study, the total preoperative HHS as  
104 well as the HHS pain, gait, and ADL subscores were analyzed. Passive range of motion in  
105 flexion, adduction, abduction, internal rotation, and external rotation were assessed. Hip abductor  
106 strength was assessed by manual muscle testing on a 5 point scale,<sup>21</sup> where 0 represents the  
107 inability to abduct the hip, and 5 represents the ability to resist both gravity and manual  
108 resistance. Finally, subjects were questioned about other problematic joints with an open-ended  
109 list of questions beginning “Do you have any problems with your ....” and ending with  
110 contralateral hip, ipsilateral knee, contralateral knee, low back, upper extremities, and other (e.g.  
111 cervical spine). We tallied the number of affirmative responses, and used this number as an  
112 additional preoperative clinical measure for the analysis.

113

### 114 *Gait Analysis*

115         All subjects underwent gait analysis using the same standard methods that have been  
116 previously described in the literature.<sup>22, 23</sup> Briefly, retro-reflective markers were placed on lower

117 extremity bony landmarks. Joint centers were located based on the position of these markers, and  
118 anthropometric measurements. An optoelectronic camera system (Qualisys North America,  
119 Deerfield, IL) and multicomponent force plate (Bertec, Columbus, OH) recorded marker  
120 positions and ground reaction forces as subjects walked at a range of self-selected speeds (slow,  
121 normal, fast). The sagittal plane dynamic range of motion of the hips, knees, and ankles were  
122 calculated from marker positions. Inverse dynamics were used to compute external moments  
123 about each joint in the sagittal, frontal, and transverse planes. Moments were normalized to  
124 subject body weight and height (%BWxHt). This normalization technique reduces the  
125 differences between men and women that are solely attributable to body size.<sup>24</sup> The gait variables  
126 of interest here were the sagittal plane dynamic range of motion and peak external moments in  
127 the sagittal, frontal, and transverse planes, for the operated hip (Figure 1), averaged from trials  
128 collected at each subject's self-selected normal walking speed.

129

### 130 *Statistical Analysis*

131 To understand the association between preoperative gait and clinical variables and  
132 postoperative gait, we used t-tests, Pearson correlations, and linear regression analysis. First,  
133 paired Student's *t*-tests were used to assess pre- to postoperative change in gait variables without  
134 considering the potential influence of the other variables. Next, Pearson correlations were used to  
135 to assess the unadjusted association between each preoperative clinical variable and the pre-to-  
136 postoperative change in each gait variable. Next, second order correlations were calculated to  
137 evaluate these associations accounting for potential influence of the preoperative value of each  
138 gait variable, and finally, to evaluate these associations statistically accounting for potential  
139 influence of preoperative gait variables, as well as age, sex, and BMI. Finally, we used

140 regression analysis to identify a set of preoperative variables associated with each postoperative  
141 gait variable. To avoid introducing bias due to the relationships among the potential covariates,  
142 variable selection was conducted using the directed acyclic graphic approach.<sup>25</sup> The preoperative  
143 candidate variables considered in the subsequent regression procedures were the HHS, the HHS  
144 pain, gait function, and ADL function subscales, degree of flexion contracture, and the respective  
145 preoperative gait variable. Data were missing for some of the potential preoperative variables.  
146 Forward and backward selection procedures were applied first on the subset with no missing data  
147 and again with the largest available sample for the subset of selected variables. We reported the  
148 coefficients with 95% confidence intervals, and adjusted R<sup>2</sup> values for the best models for each  
149 gait variable.

150

## 151 **Results**

### 152 *Subjects*

153 145 subjects were identified from the data repository (Figure 2). Surgeries were  
154 conducted at two large urban medical centers by 8 different surgeons. Subjects were initially  
155 enrolled under 4 related study protocols. Physical and clinical characteristics were gathered for  
156 all subjects (Table 1) and compared for the subjects grouped either by original study enrollment  
157 or surgeon. There were no statistically significant differences in age, sex, or BMI among subjects  
158 when grouped by original study enrollment ( $p = 0.187$  to  $0.475$ ) or surgeon ( $p = 0.052$  to  $0.475$ ).

159

### 160 *Gait improvement – unadjusted*

161 Based on paired *t*-tests, there were statistically significant improvements in all gait  
162 variables ( $p < 0.001$ ) except the peak hip adduction moment (Table 2). Effect sizes for



163 improvements in sagittal and transverse plane gait variables were medium to large.<sup>26, 27</sup> Effect  
164 sizes were small for frontal plane improvements.

165

#### 166 *Association between self-reported clinical variables and postoperative gait changes*

167         The Harris Hip Score and its subscales predicted changes in several gait variables (Table  
168 3). Subjects with higher HHS values before surgery had lower postoperative values of the peak  
169 hip adduction and external rotation moments, after adjusting for age, sex, BMI, and the  
170 preoperative values of the respective gait variables. Identical relationships were seen with the  
171 HHS ADL function subscale. Preoperative pain was inversely correlated with the postoperative  
172 peak abduction moment, after adjusting age, sex, BMI, and preoperative abduction moments.  
173 Number of other troubling joints was not associated with changes in gait variables ( $p = 0.060$  to  
174  $p = 0.970$ ).

175

#### 176 *Association between physical exam derived clinical variables and postoperative gait changes*

177         Passive range of motion (Table 4) and manually tested hip abductor strength (Table 5)  
178 also predicted changes in several gait variables. After adjusting for age, sex, and preoperative  
179 gait variables, passive flexion range of motion was inversely correlated with the peak hip flexion  
180 moment. Passive hip external rotation range of motion was positively correlated with the peak  
181 extension moment and inversely correlated with the peak external rotation moment. Higher  
182 preoperative abductor strength was independently associated with greater postoperative hip  
183 adduction and external rotation moments, and lower abduction moments.

184

#### 185 *Regression models*

186 Combinations of preoperative variables predicted 15-33% of the variation in  
187 postoperative gait (Table 6). As expected, higher values of preoperative gait variables were  
188 associated with higher values of the same variables after surgery. In fact, the preoperative values  
189 of the hip range of motion, and peak moments in the sagittal and transverse planes were the only  
190 statistically significant explanatory variables that remained in the respective regression models.  
191 In the frontal plane, the postoperative peak adduction moment was associated with its respective  
192 preoperative value, as well as the preoperative HHS ADL subscale. Based on the magnitude of  
193 the standardized regression coefficients, however the preoperative adduction moment was  
194 approximately twice as influential as the HHS ADL subscale in determining the postoperative  
195 adduction moment. Along with the preoperative peak abduction moment, HHS, HHS pain and  
196 HHS gait function subscales were associated with postoperative abduction moments.

197

198

## 199 **Discussion**

200 This study was motivated by the need for better ways to predict overall functional  
201 improvement after THA. We used quantitative gait analysis to characterize function, rather than  
202 PROs, because of the direct link between gait analysis findings and the actions of specific muscle  
203 groups. Most previous studies using PROs find that THA patients who have higher preoperative  
204 pain or function scores on PROs have higher postoperative scores but less relative  
205 improvement.<sup>1, 3, 4, 28, 29</sup> However it is not clear how much of this phenomenon is attributable to the  
206 fact that patients with a high preoperative PRO scores have less room for improvement in these  
207 same scores. In this study, by using gait analysis to characterize function, we could assess the  
208 association of preoperative clinical status and postoperative function independent of PRO

209 measurement properties. We also assessed whether or not any physical exam measures were  
210 associated with gait changes after THA. We found several meaningful associations between  
211 preoperative clinical findings and specific aspects of postoperative gait that could potentially be  
212 used to inform new rehabilitation strategies.

213 Higher preoperative HHS, as well as higher scores on the HHS ADL function subscale,  
214 were associated with lower postoperative hip adduction and external rotation moments. The hip  
215 adduction moment reflects net activity of the hip abductor muscles, which include the gluteus  
216 medius, gluteus minimus, and tensor fascia latae. In addition to maintaining pelvic stability in the  
217 frontal plane during single limb stance, these muscles perform internal hip rotation and provide  
218 stability in the transverse plane during walking.<sup>30-33</sup> Accordingly, we interpret both the peak  
219 adduction and external rotation moments as a reflection of net activity of the hip abductors  
220 during walking. Thus, patients with better clinical scores before surgery actually had less  
221 improvement in abductor function. We note that there was no correlation between the  
222 preoperative hip adduction moment and either the total HHS or the HHS ADL subscore ( $R =$   
223  $0.055$ ,  $p = 0.488$  and  $R = 0.038$ ,  $p = 0.619$ ). Thus, this finding does not indicate that subjects with  
224 better preoperative HHS simply had better preoperative abductor function. One possibility is that  
225 patients with higher pre- or postoperative HHS might have received less intensive focus on the  
226 hip abductors during their postoperative physical therapy because their deficits were less  
227 apparent or were not perceived as being problematic.

228 Many studies have found that the peak hip adduction moment or external rotation  
229 moments in postoperative THA patients is lower than in control subjects.<sup>16, 17</sup> Lateral and anterior  
230 surgical approaches are often associated with poorer abductor function compared to posterior  
231 approaches in many,<sup>34-36</sup> but not all studies.<sup>37-39</sup> A recent study by Queen et al., failed to identify

232 superior gait outcomes in subjects who underwent THA with posterior approaches compared to  
233 lateral approaches by one year after surgery.<sup>39</sup> They noted, however, that preoperative HHS were  
234 higher in the posterior group than in the other groups. Based on our finding that preoperative  
235 HHS are associated with some lower postoperative gait moments, we can speculate that Queen's  
236 study would have found superior gait outcomes in the posterior group had their preoperative  
237 scores been comparable to the other groups. As with our study, it is possible that their subjects  
238 who were perceived as more highly functioning received less intensive rehabilitation. In any  
239 case, our study indicates that preoperative clinical status should be taken into account when  
240 evaluating different surgical approaches or other types of interventions, and emphasizes the need  
241 for perioperative screening for rehabilitation planning.<sup>40</sup>

242         Subjects with more abductor strength before surgery had higher postoperative peak  
243 adduction and external rotation moments after surgery. Preoperative abductor strength was  
244 associated with the preoperative values of these moments (respectively  $R = 0.203$ ,  $p = 0.026$  and  
245  $R = 0.260$ ,  $p = 0.004$ ). This suggests that hip abductor weakness assessed before surgery may  
246 indicate a need for special focus on dynamic abductor function after surgery, especially in those  
247 patients with incongruously high self-reported functional scores. Although causality cannot be  
248 inferred from this study design, this study also supports the concept that preoperative abductor  
249 strengthening could improve postoperative gait function. So far, most preoperative exercise  
250 interventions do not specifically target this muscle group,<sup>41-43</sup> and so far, while they are effective  
251 in the preoperative and early postoperative period, none appear to have lasting benefits. We can  
252 speculate from this work, that earlier (i.e. preoperative), more specific, or more sustained,  
253 emphasis on the hip abductors in particular could lead to further benefit. It is also important to  
254 note that the hip adduction moment is not a direct reflection of abductor strength, and that

255 stronger hip abductors would not necessarily result in more normal hip adduction moments.  
256 Trunk position, mechanical alignment of the limb, and reconstructed joint geometry, among  
257 other factors, all help determine frontal plane hip loading during gait.

258         The associations between passive range of motion and gait changes were somewhat  
259 surprising because the peak gait variables do not necessarily occur at the extremes of hip motion.  
260 Subjects with more range of motion in external rotation before surgery had higher peak extension  
261 moments after surgery. The peak extension moment reflects net activity of (or demand on) hip  
262 flexors. Several studies have found that this moment is reduced compared to control subjects  
263 after surgery.<sup>13, 14, 16</sup> The peak extension moment occurs toward the end of stance when the hip  
264 is slightly extended. Others have found that hip extension in late stance is typically reduced  
265 compared to healthy controls.<sup>14, 16</sup> Thus it is possible that being able to achieve sufficient hip  
266 extension, and moreover to achieve some external rotation of the hip with this hip extension  
267 would give the hip flexors a more mechanically advantageous position, or allow muscles that can  
268 have hip flexion as a secondary role to participate in this action (e.g. the anterior fibers of the  
269 gluteus medius). Expanding the hip range of motion in external rotation may not be emphasized  
270 after surgery, so preoperative motion restrictions would likely persist. Unfortunately no  
271 transverse plane kinematics were collected and electromyography was not conducted so these  
272 speculations cannot be evaluated with the information available. Preoperative range of motion in  
273 flexion was inversely correlated with the postoperative peak external rotation moment. A related  
274 variable, the degree of hip flexion contracture was included in the regression model, however the  
275 coefficient was not statistically significant at the  $p < 0.05$  level. This casts doubt on the  
276 importance of this variable. We do know from recent work,<sup>44</sup> that better hip range of motion is  
277 associated with better clinical scores. In some older adult populations, reduced hip range of

278 motion may be associated with increased fall risk as well.<sup>45</sup> Thus, improving hip range of motion  
279 is potentially important for THA patients for other reasons.

280         Even though other significant joint disease was an exclusion criterion for enrollment into  
281 the original studies, only 52 of the 167 subjects who answered this question reported having no  
282 other troubling joints. Number of other troubling joints was not associated with any  
283 postoperative gait variable. This is in contrast to findings of several recent studies, that having a  
284 higher number of other troublesome joints was associated with poorer functional outcomes in hip  
285 and knee arthroplasty patients.<sup>3, 18, 46</sup> It is possible that limitations arising from joints other than  
286 the affected hip do not affect objectively-measured hip function, but do affect the patient's  
287 perception of function.

288         Lower BMI was associated with higher postoperative values of range of motion,  
289 adduction moments, and external rotation moments. This is in line with findings that lower BMI  
290 is associated with better self-reported functional scores in THA patients.<sup>2, 47</sup> However, these  
291 studies also show that patients with higher BMIs achieve more relative improvement in function  
292 and emphasize that even people with very high BMIs achieve considerable benefit from THA.  
293 Nevertheless, this study supports the idea that reducing BMI may be an important part of an  
294 overall preoperative strategy to optimize surgical outcomes.

295         This study had several strengths including a large sample size (relative to other gait  
296 analysis studies), the inclusion of preoperative gait data, and the inclusion of both self-reported  
297 measures and information taken from physical exam. There were of course, several unavoidable  
298 limitations that, while unlikely to change the conclusions, may influence generalizability and  
299 future research directions. First, the pooling of data from several studies means that numerous  
300 examiners were involved in evaluating these subjects. Although training and methods are

301 standardized, inter-rater variability is a potential issue. The number of testers may also have  
302 impacted the amount of available data, as a few testers may not have fully completed the HHS  
303 form. Next, several factors not considered in this study can have a large influence on gait  
304 biomechanics after THA. Postoperative joint geometry reconstruction can be an important  
305 contributor to hip joint loading during gait,<sup>48</sup> hip abductor strength,<sup>49, 50</sup> and has recently been  
306 linked to clinical outcomes.<sup>29</sup> The influence of femoral head size on gait has also been  
307 investigated.<sup>51</sup> Unfortunately radiographs were not available for all subjects, so we could not  
308 evaluate the influence of these factors on gait in this study. Next, individual surgeons may have  
309 different thresholds for how low clinical scores should be before THA is considered. In these  
310 subjects, however, preoperative HHS did not differ when subjects were grouped by surgeon  
311 (independent-samples Kruskal-Wallis  $p = 0.070$ ), when subjects from the most active surgeon ( $n$   
312  $= 83$ ) were compared to those from all other surgeons together (Mann-Whitney  $p = 0.067$ ) or  
313 when the subjects from the two most active surgeons were compared (Mann-Whitney  $p = 0.950$ ).  
314 Thus, individual trends in patient selection among surgeons are unlikely to have substantially  
315 influenced these results. Finally, surgical approach,<sup>15, 35, 39, 52</sup> and variability in rehabilitation  
316 programs<sup>53-56</sup> could potentially have an influence on gait outcomes. So far, most studies show  
317 that few differences are present, particularly with longer follow-up times.<sup>15, 35, 39, 52, 57, 58</sup> however, a  
318 recent meta-analysis found a statistically significant advantage of posterior approaches over  
319 lateral approaches regarding the Trendelenburg sign or gait, which indicate poor abductor  
320 strength.<sup>34</sup> Although the lack of information on surgical approach in particular is a major  
321 limitation of this study, the heterogeneity in this sample may be viewed as strength because it  
322 means the study findings are more likely to be generalizable.

323 In conclusion, preoperative clinical status, as assessed through the HHS and physical  
324 exam, can predict several aspects of postoperative gait changes. Notably, this study was to our  
325 knowledge the first to demonstrate a link between preoperative hip abductor strength and  
326 postoperative dynamic abductor function. This work has implications for the ongoing efforts to  
327 improve functional outcomes for THA patients. First, while Westby and colleagues reported  
328 expert consensus recommendations for preoperative screening for clinical rehabilitation planning  
329 using PROs,<sup>40</sup> this study suggests that physical exam measures such as manual muscle strength  
330 could enhance preoperative planning. Where available, preoperative gait analysis could play a  
331 role as well. A greater understanding of preoperative factors related to postoperative gait  
332 mechanics could help surgeons and patients refine their expectations for postoperative function.  
333 This is important because patient expectations are an important independent determinant of  
334 outcomes.<sup>7,59</sup> Also, patients who may be risk for poor postoperative abductor function, based on  
335 preoperative factors identified here, might be advised to undergo THA with surgical approaches  
336 associated with better abductor outcomes. Finally, although prospective studies are needed to  
337 establish causality, this study suggests that improving preoperative abductor strength and range  
338 of motion could be a useful strategy to increase the likelihood of good gait function after surgery.  
339 Interventions that improve gait function via trunk position modification, feedback to improve  
340 gait symmetry,<sup>60</sup> or other gait retraining modifications,<sup>61</sup> may help improve THA outcomes.

341

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346 Center, Joan and Paul Rubschlager Motion Analysis Laboratory.

347

348 **Contributions**

349 Dr. Foucher was responsible for study design and conception, data analysis and interpretation,  
350 drafting the article, and preparing the manuscript for submission. Dr. Freels provided statistical  
351 expertise, participated in data analysis and interpretation, and critical revision of the article for  
352 important intellectual content. Dr. Foucher ([kfouch1@uic.edu](mailto:kfouch1@uic.edu)) takes responsible for the integrity  
353 of the work as a whole.

354

355 **Role of the funding source**

356 The study sponsors had no role in the study design, data collection, analysis, or interpretation, or  
357 manuscript preparation.

358

359 **Competing interest statement**

360 The authors deny any financial or personal relationships that could inappropriately influence the  
361 work.

362

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528 **Table 1.** Physical and clinical characteristics of the study subjects (66 men, 65 women).

|   | <b>Mean (SD)</b>  | <b>Median</b> | <b>Min</b> | <b>Max</b> |
|---|---|---------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Age (years)</b>  | 61 (10)   | 62            | 27         | 85         |
| <b>Height (m)</b>   | 1.7 (0.1)   | 1.7           | 1.5        | 1.9        |
| <b>Weight (kg)</b>  | 84 (18)   | 81            | 51         | 144        |
| <b>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>                                   | 28 (5)  | 28            | 19         | 48         |
| <b>Time between preoperative evaluation and surgery (weeks)</b> | 2.7 (2.6)   | 2             | 0          | 15         |
| <b>Follow-up time (months)</b>                                  | 14 (4)  | 13            | 6          | 37         |
| <b>Preoperative HHS</b>   | 57 (14)   | 52            | 32         | 89         |
| <b>Postoperative HHS*</b>                                       | 92 (11)   | 96            | 46         | 100        |
| <b>Change in HHS</b>  | 35 (16) <sup>†</sup>  | 37            | -10        | 65         |
| <b>Preoperative Diagnosis</b>                                   | Osteoarthritis or Degenerative Joint Disease (n = 123)<br>Avascular Necrosis (n = 4)<br>Ankylosing Spondylitis (n = 1)<br>Not listed (n = 17) |               |            |            |

\*Postoperative HHS were available for 126 subjects. As a group these subjects had excellent clinical outcomes.

<sup>†</sup>Change represents statistically significant improvement (p < 0.001).

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532 **Table 2.** Sagittal plane dynamic hip range of motion (in degrees) and peak external moments (in  
 533 %Body Weight x Height) during level walking at preferred speeds, for subjects (n = 145) before  
 534 and ~1 year after primary unilateral total hip arthroplasty. Paired *t*-tests indicate substantial  
 535 improvement in most gait variables, without adjusting for sex and preoperative clinical status.  
 536 With the exception of frontal plane moments, improvements had medium to large effect sizes.

|   | Preoperative<br>Value<br>Mean ± SD | Postoperative<br>Value<br>Mean ± SD | Mean<br>difference ±<br>SD<br>(95% CI) | p value | Effect Size |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------|-------------|
| Sagittal Plane<br>Dynamic Hip<br>Range of<br>Motion | 16.3 ± 6.0                         | 25.5 ± 6.0                          | 9.2 ± 5.8<br>(8.2, 10.2)               | < 0.001 | 1.6         |
| Peak Flexion<br>Moment                              | 4.2 ± 1.5                          | 5.9 ± 1.9                           | 1.7 ± 1.7<br>(1.4, 2.0)                | < 0.001 | 1.0         |
| Peak Extension<br>Moment                            | 1.8 ± 0.8                          | 2.8 ± 1.1                           | 0.9 ± 1.1<br>(0.8, 1.1)                | < 0.001 | 0.81        |
| Peak Adduction<br>Moment                            | 3.4 ± 1.1                          | 3.4 ± 1.0                           | 0.04 ± 1.1<br>(0.15, 0.24)             | 0.646   | 0.04        |
| Peak Abduction<br>Moment                            | 1.6 ± 0.8                          | 1.8 ± 0.9                           | 0.3 ± 0.8<br>(0.12, 0.39)              | < 0.001 | 0.38        |
| Peak External<br>Rotation<br>Moment                 | 0.3 ± 0.2                          | 0.4 ± 0.2                           | 0.1 ± 0.2<br>(0.1, 0.13)               | < 0.001 | 0.50        |
| Peak Internal<br>Rotation<br>Moment                 | 0.4 ± 0.2                          | 0.5 ± 0.2                           | 0.1 ± 0.2<br>(0.11, 0.17)              | < 0.001 | 0.50        |

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540 Table 3. Associations between postoperative gait variables and the Harris Hip Score (HHS), self-reported HHS subscales. Shaded  
 541 boxes highlight  $p < 0.05$ .

|                    | Harris Hip Score (HHS) |                             |                             | HHS pain          |                             |                             | HHS gait function |                             |                             | HHS ADL function  |                             |                             |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                    | <i>Unadjusted</i>      | <i>Adjusted<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>Adjusted<sup>2</sup></i> | <i>Unadjusted</i> | <i>Adjusted<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>Adjusted<sup>2</sup></i> | <i>Unadjusted</i> | <i>Adjusted<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>Adjusted<sup>2</sup></i> | <i>Unadjusted</i> | <i>Adjusted<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>Adjusted<sup>2</sup></i> |
| Sagittal Plane Hip | R = 0.160              | R = -0.014                  | R = 0.066                   | R = 0.001         | R = -0.061                  | R = 0.038                   | R = 0.121         | R = -0.044                  | R = -0.001                  | R = 0.173         | R = 0.071                   | R = 0.069                   |
| Range of Motion    | p = 0.066              | p = 0.872                   | p = 0.458                   | p = 0.986         | p = 0.470                   | p = 0.653                   | p = 0.148         | p = 0.600                   | p = 0.993                   | p = 0.038         | p = 0.396                   | p = 0.413                   |
| Peak Flexion       | R = 0.152              | R = 0.027                   | R = 0.476                   | R = 0.030         | R = -0.035                  | R = -0.066                  | R = 0.168         | R = 0.002                   | R = -0.022                  | R = 0.007         | R = -0.023                  | R = -0.043                  |
| Moment             | p = 0.081              | p = 0.756                   | p = 0.978                   | p = 0.720         | p = 0.681                   | p = 0.435                   | p = 0.043         | p = 0.983                   | p = 0.792                   | p = 0.931         | p = 0.789                   | p = 0.609                   |
| Peak Extension     | R = 0.111              | R = 0.005                   | R = 0.007                   | R = 0.092         | R = 0.044                   | R = 0.074                   | R = 0.129         | R = -0.019                  | R = -0.027                  | R = 0.055         | R = -0.041                  | R = -0.061                  |
| Moment             | p = 0.202              | p = 0.956                   | p = 0.935                   | p = 0.271         | p = 0.602                   | p = 0.386                   | p = 0.121         | p = 0.821                   | p = 0.752                   | p = 0.514         | p = 0.629                   | p = 0.475                   |
| Peak Adduction     | R = -0.128             | R = -0.159                  | R = -0.195                  | R = -0.126        | R = -0.102                  | R = -0.111                  | R = 0.031         | R = -0.018                  | R = -0.041                  | R = -0.160        | R = -0.186                  | R = -0.235                  |
| Moment             | p = 0.141              | p = 0.069                   | p = 0.027                   | p = 0.132         | p = 0.222                   | p = 0.191                   | p = 0.709         | p = 0.829                   | p = 0.626                   | p = 0.055         | p = 0.026                   | p = 0.005                   |
| Peak Abduction     | R = 0.114              | R = -0.030                  | R = -0.042                  | R = -0.066        | R = -0.159                  | R = -0.191                  | R = 0.142         | R = -0.045                  | R = -0.039                  | R = 0.062         | R = -0.056                  | R = -0.059                  |
| Moment             | p = 0.191              | p = 0.734                   | p = 0.634                   | p = 0.429         | p = 0.057                   | p = 0.023                   | p = 0.089         | p = 0.592                   | p = 0.643                   | p = 0.455         | p = 0.504                   | p = 0.485                   |
| Peak Internal      | R = 0.142              | R = 0.077                   | R = 0.042                   | R = 0.0001        | R = -0.033                  | R = -0.012                  | R = 0.279         | R = 0.132                   | R = 0.101                   | R = 0.113         | R = -0.038                  | R = -0.088                  |
| Rotation Moment    | p = 0.104              | p = 0.382                   | p = 0.633                   | p = 0.999         | p = 0.976                   | p = 0.885                   | p = 0.001         | p = 0.115                   | p = 0.235                   | p = 0.175         | p = 0.654                   | p = 0.298                   |
| Peak External      | R = -0.009             | R = -0.159                  | R = -0.206                  | R = 0.010         | R = -0.018                  | R = -0.057                  | R = 0.023         | R = -0.073                  | R = -0.109                  | R = -0.113        | R = -0.175                  | R = -0.222                  |
| Rotation Moment    | p = 0.914              | p = 0.068                   | p = 0.019                   | p = 0.903         | p = 0.826                   | p = 0.501                   | p = 0.784         | p = 0.385                   | p = 0.198                   | p = 0.176         | p = 0.035                   | p = 0.008                   |

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for baseline gait variables.

<sup>2</sup> Adjusted for baseline gait variables, age, sex, and BMI.

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544 Table 4. Associations between postoperative gait variables and preoperative passive range of motion (ROM). Shaded boxes highlight  
 545  $p < 0.05$ .

|                                    | Flexion Range of Motion (ROM) |                              |                              | Abduction ROM           |                              |                              | Adduction ROM           |                              |                              | External Rotation ROM   |                              |                              | Internal Rotation ROM   |                              |                              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                    | <i>Unadjusted</i>             | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>1</sup> | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>2</sup> | <i>Unadjusted</i>       | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>1</sup> | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>2</sup> | <i>Unadjusted</i>       | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>1</sup> | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>2</sup> | <i>Unadjusted</i>       | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>1</sup> | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>2</sup> | <i>Unadjusted</i>       | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>1</sup> | <i>Adjusted</i> <sup>2</sup> |
| Sagittal Plane Hip Range of Motion | R = 0.212<br>p = 0.014        | R = 0.048<br>p = 0.579       | R = 0.023<br>p = 0.796       | R = -0.006<br>p = 0.945 | R = -0.112<br>p = 0.197      | R = -0.115<br>p = 0.190      | R = 0.125<br>p = 0.150  | R = -0.017<br>p = 0.844      | R = 0.048<br>p = 0.584       | R = 0.060<br>p = 0.506  | R = -0.084<br>p = 0.347      | R = -0.061<br>p = 0.503      | R = 0.030<br>p = 0.737  | R = -0.027<br>p = 0.760      | R = 0.008<br>p = 0.930       |
| Peak Flexion Moment                | R = -0.055<br>p = 0.524       | R = -0.221<br>p = 0.010      | R = -0.215<br>p = 0.014      | R = 0.002<br>p = 0.983  | R = -0.090<br>p = 0.301      | R = 0.100<br>p = 0.256       | R = 0.056<br>p = 0.520  | R = 0.004<br>p = 0.963       | R = -0.009<br>p = 0.916      | R = -0.026<br>p = 0.773 | R = -0.154<br>p = 0.085      | R = -0.160<br>p = 0.077      | R = 0.005<br>p = 0.955  | R = 0.034<br>p = 0.709       | R = 0.042<br>p = 0.647       |
| Peak Extension Moment              | R = 0.149<br>p = 0.084        | R = 0.099<br>p = 0.253       | R = 0.083<br>p = 0.394       | R = -0.072<br>p = 0.403 | R = -0.048<br>p = 0.584      | R = -0.066<br>p = 0.453      | R = -0.121<br>p = 0.162 | R = -0.093<br>p = 0.284      | R = -0.103<br>p = 0.243      | R = 0.219<br>p = 0.013  | R = 0.229<br>p = 0.010       | R = 0.217<br>p = 0.016       | R = -0.054<br>p = 0.545 | R = -0.048<br>p = 0.598      | R = -0.039<br>p = 0.672      |
| Peak Adduction Moment              | R = 0.029<br>p = 0.737        | R = -0.011<br>p = 0.902      | R = -0.050<br>p = 0.569      | R = 0.018<br>p = 0.737  | R = 0.054<br>p = 0.532       | R = 0.044<br>p = 0.614       | R = -0.119<br>p = 0.168 | R = -0.101<br>p = 0.244      | R = -0.108<br>p = 0.218      | R = 0.013<br>p = 0.884  | R = -0.049<br>p = 0.586      | R = -0.041<br>p = 0.656      | R = -0.168<br>p = 0.060 | R = -0.144<br>p = 0.110      | R = -0.136<br>p = 0.134      |
| Peak Abduction Moment              | R = 0.077<br>p = 0.377        | R = -0.034<br>p = 0.696      | R = -0.039<br>p = 0.656      | R = 0.055<br>p = 0.528  | R = 0.046<br>p = 0.596       | R = 0.056<br>p = 0.524       | R = 0.204<br>p = 0.018  | R = 0.161<br>p = 0.063       | R = 0.170<br>p = 0.052       | R = -0.062<br>p = 0.485 | R = -0.145<br>p = 0.105      | R = -0.118<br>p = 0.194      | R = 0.058<br>p = 0.516  | R = 0.094<br>p = 0.297       | R = 0.094<br>p = 0.301       |
| Peak Internal Rotation Moment      | R = 0.174<br>p = 0.043        | R = 0.109<br>p = 0.211       | R = 0.075<br>p = 0.396       | R = 0.167<br>p = 0.053  | R = 0.058<br>p = 0.505       | R = 0.043<br>p = 0.623       | R = 0.093<br>p = 0.282  | R = -0.025<br>p = 0.773      | R = -0.035<br>p = 0.691      | R = 0.196<br>p = 0.027  | R = 0.161<br>p = 0.072       | R = 0.170<br>p = 0.060       | R = -0.140<br>p = 0.119 | R = -0.138<br>p = 0.126      | R = -0.126<br>p = 0.168      |
| Peak External Rotation Moment      | R = -0.066<br>p = 0.447       | R = -0.138<br>p = 0.112      | R = -0.154<br>p = 0.078      | R = 0.052<br>p = 0.552  | R = 0.031<br>p = 0.718       | R = 0.020<br>p = 0.817       | R = 0.073<br>p = 0.401  | R = 0.092<br>p = 0.289       | R = 0.078<br>p = 0.374       | R = -0.135<br>p = 0.130 | R = -0.185<br>p = 0.038      | R = -0.183<br>p = 0.043      | R = 0.044<br>p = 0.625  | R = 0.047<br>p = 0.600       | R = 0.064<br>p = 0.482       |

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for baseline gait variables.

<sup>2</sup> Adjusted for baseline gait variables, age, sex, and BMI.

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549 Table 5. Associations between postoperative gait variables and preoperative hip abductor  
 550 strength. Shaded boxes highlight  $p < 0.05$ .  
 551

|                                    | Abductor Strength       |                             |                             |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                    | <i>Unadjusted</i>       | <i>Adjusted<sup>1</sup></i> | <i>Adjusted<sup>2</sup></i> |
| Sagittal Plane Hip Range of Motion | R = -0.110<br>p = 0.268 | R = -0.240<br>p = 0.015     | R = -0.100<br>p = 0.326     |
| Peak Flexion Moment                | R = -0.045<br>p = 0.955 | R = -0.085<br>p = 0.397     | R = -0.146<br>p = 0.149     |
| Peak Extension Moment              | R = 0.126<br>p = 0.206  | R = 0.064<br>p = 0.522      | R = 0.097<br>p = 0.341      |
| Peak Adduction Moment              | R = 0.266<br>p = 0.007  | R = 0.211<br>p = 0.034      | R = 0.266<br>p = 0.008      |
| Peak Abduction Moment              | R = -0.135<br>p = 0.173 | R = -0.201<br>p = 0.043     | R = 0.216<br>p = 0.032      |
| Peak Internal Rotation Moment      | R = 0.080<br>p = 0.422  | R = 0.003<br>p = 0.979      | R = 0.012<br>p = 0.904      |
| Peak External Rotation Moment      | R = 0.304<br>p = 0.022  | R = 0.204<br>p = 0.040      | R = 0.197<br>p = 0.050      |

<sup>1</sup> *Adjusted for baseline gait variables.*

<sup>2</sup> *Adjusted for baseline gait variables, age, sex, and BMI.*

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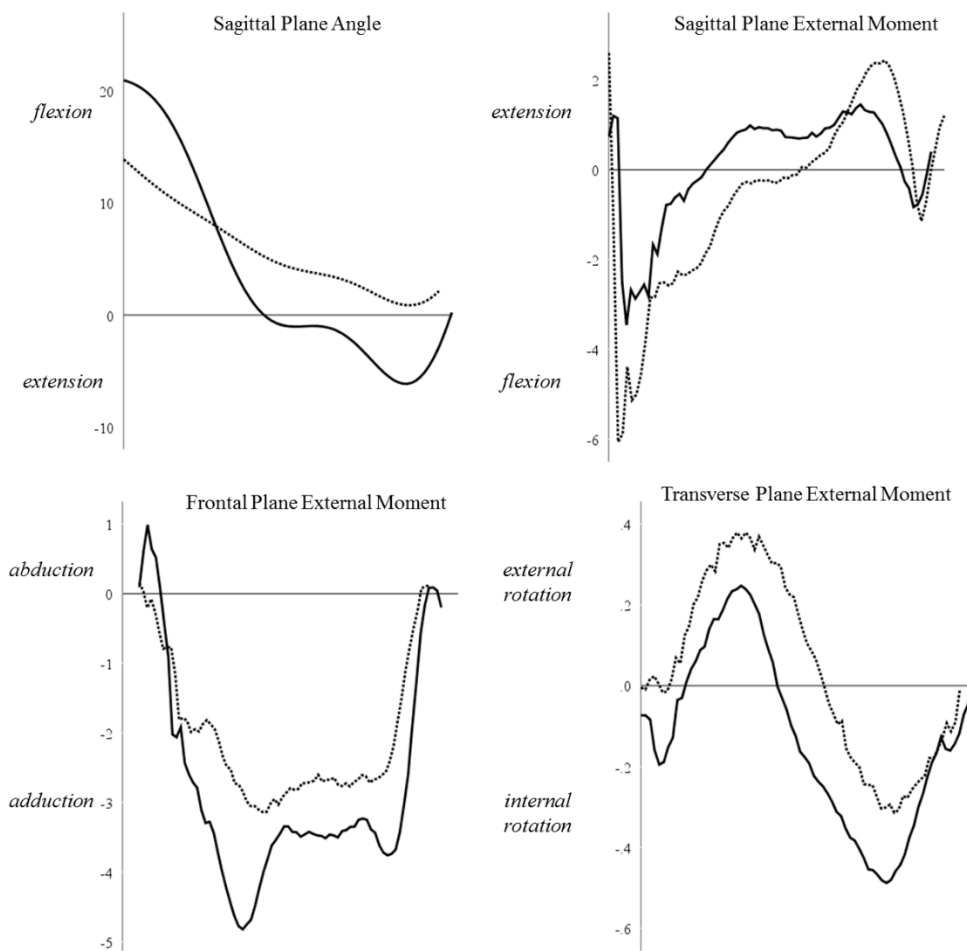
556 Table 6. Results of stepwise multiple regression analysis predicting postoperative gait variables.

|  | <b>Adjusted<br/>R<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>Predictor</b>  | <b>Standardized<br/>Regression<br/>Coefficient</b> | <b>Regression Coefficient<br/>(95% Confidence Interval)</b> | <b>p value</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------|
| Sagittal Plane<br>Dynamic Hip<br>Range of<br>Motion<br>N=143 | 0.292                             | Preoperative Sagittal<br>Plane Dynamic Hip<br>Range of Motion | 0.567  | 0.563 (0.416, 0.709)  | <0.001         |
|  |                                   | HHS ADL Function  | -0.067   | -0.064 (-0.205, 0.077)<br>3.8<br>(2.2, 5.3)                 | 0.370          |
| Peak Flexion<br>Moment<br>N=145                              | 0.254                             | Preoperative Flexion<br>Moment                                | 0.509  | 0.660 (0.476, 0.844)  | <0.001         |
| Peak<br>Extension<br>Moment<br>N=145                         | 0.161                             | Preoperative<br>Extension Moment                              | 0.408  | 0.578 (0.365, 0.792)  | <0.001         |
| Peak<br>Adduction<br>Moment<br>N=143                         | 0.154                             | Preoperative Peak<br>Adduction Moment                         | 0.373  | 0.334 (0.197, 0.471)  | <0.001         |
|  |                                   | HHS ADL Function  | -0.179   | -0.076 (-0.141, -0.011)                                     | 0.022          |
| Peak<br>Abduction<br>Moment<br>N=131                         | 0.331                             | HHS   | 0.838  | 0.051 (0.010, 0.092)  | 0.016          |
|  |                                   | HHS Pain  | -0.643   | -0.063 (-0.109, -0.017)                                     | 0.007          |
|  |                                   | Preoperative Peak<br>Abduction Moment                         | 0.550  | 0.566 (0.412, 0.719)  | <0.001         |
|  |                                   | HHS Gait Function   | -0.407   | -0.057 (-0.111, -0.004)                                     | 0.037          |
| Peak Internal<br>Rotation<br>Moment<br>N=145                 | 0.383                             | Preoperative Peak<br>Internal Rotation<br>Moment              | 0.622  | 0.667 (0.529, 0.806)  | <0.001         |
| Peak External<br>Rotation<br>Moment<br>N=116                 | 0.312                             | Preoperative Peak<br>External Rotation<br>Moment              | 0.565  | 0.638 (0.463, 0.812)  | <0.001         |
|  |                                   | HHS Pain  | -0.131   | -0.003 (-0.007, 0.001)                                      | 0.105          |
|  |                                   | Flexion Contracture   | -0.103   | -0.045 (-0.114, 0.024)                                      | 0.198          |



557 **Figure Captions**

558 Figure 1. Hip motion and external moments for a representative subject identified as having  
559 values for most gait variables near the group mean. In this study, we analyzed the dynamic range  
560 of motion (from peak flexion to peak extension) and peak moments in each plane. Note that the  
561 external adduction moment often has two relative maxima; the higher value of the two was  
562 selected for analysis.

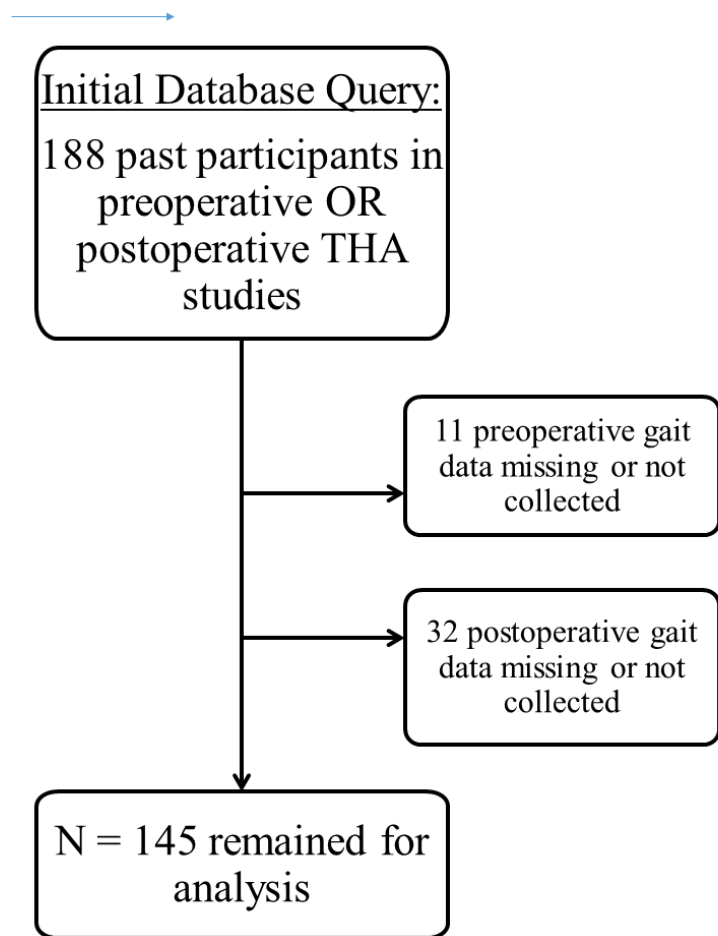


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565 Figure 2. Flow diagram illustrating subject selection from the data repository.

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