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**Title:** Patient Reported Return to Driving Following Outpatient Total Hip Arthroplasty

**Introduction**: Outpatient total hip arthroplasty (THA) allows patients to be discharged within twenty-four hours of their operation with improved pain control and faster return to activities such as driving. Commonly, surgeons recommend returning to driving six to eight weeks following total hip arthroplasty. The patient, however, must also assess when they are strong enough and mobile enough to operate a vehicle. The purpose of this study is to determine when patients return to driving following outpatient THA, what influences their decision, and if there were any adverse events, such as an accident or ticket.

**Methods:** Fifty-four patients with a mean age of fifty-eight years who underwent a primary unilateral THA by a single orthopedic surgeon in an outpatient surgery center between September 2016 and December 2017 were retrospectively recruited for this study. Of the fifty-four patients recruited, twenty-nine met inclusion criteria and participated in a telephone survey.

**Results:** Approximately forty-one percent of patients surveyed recalled the surgeon recommending a specific time frame regarding when they should return to driving. Half of these patients returned to driving earlier than recommended and half returned at the recommended time. No patient sought advice from any other source, including legal or insurance. Half of the patients who underwent right THA returned to driving at two weeks, and the majority of patients who underwent left THA returned to driving at or less than two weeks. There were no associated adverse events.

**Discussion and Conclusion:** Our study suggests that patients are returning to driving faster following outpatient THA than traditionally recommended and there are no associated adverse outcomes. It also seems that the surgeon’s advice regarding driving is not as influential as a patient’s self-assessment of their ability to operate a vehicle following outpatient THA.