

For PCP Distribution Only.

In October 2023, we received a case highlighting the value of bilateral total hip replacement in young dogs.

Case presentation and initial management

Our patient Asahi, not yet two years old and weighing 20 kg, presented with severe degenerative joint disease for his age.

Initial radiographs revealed the hallmark signs of advanced hip dysplasia: significant osteophytosis and enthesophytosis in both hips, with the left side showing femoral head subluxation and marked acetabular changes.

Assessing treatment options: THR versus FHO

Given Asahi's size and condition, we determined that total hip replacement would offer the best outcome. While femoral head osteotomy (FHO) is sometimes considered for hip dysplasia, it creates a functional compromise.

The resulting scar tissue between the pelvis and femur, though reducing bone-on-bone contact, sacrifices normal hip rotation and can lead to reduced strength, stability issues, and limited range of motion.

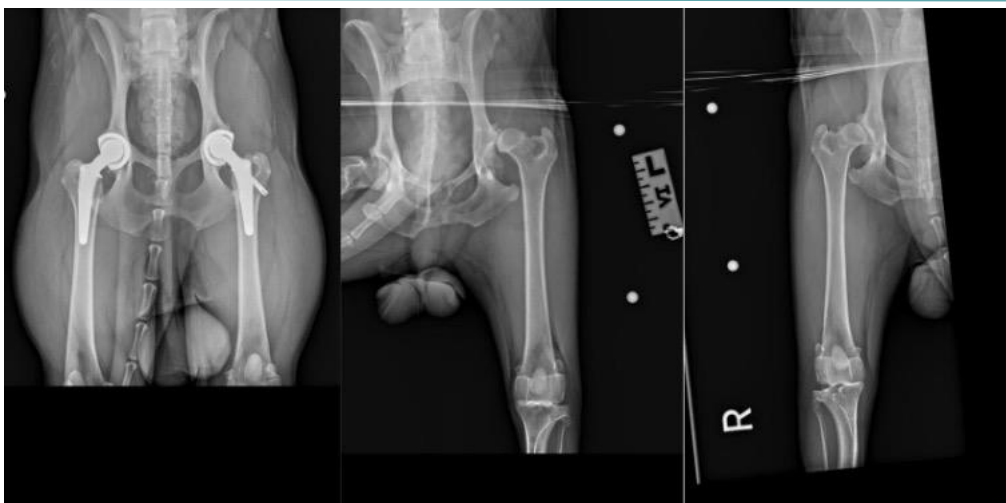
These limitations are particularly problematic for larger dogs during everyday activities like transitioning from rest to standing.

Surgical Management

We began with Asahi's left hip, as its luxated position posed a higher risk for future complications. Using the Biomedtrix® system, we installed biological fixation implants for acetabular and femoral components. To enhance stability, we secured the femoral component with a lateral bolt. The immediate post-operative results showed excellent alignment and positioning of the implants.

Post-surgery, we implemented a strict three-month confinement protocol to reduce the risk of early luxation, a critical consideration in the immediate recovery period. By February 2024, Asahi had progressed to two daily 30-minute walks, demonstrating significant improvement in his left hip function.

We proceeded with the right hip replacement in July 2024, using a collared femoral component. Follow-up imaging in October 2024 revealed impressive bilateral muscle development.



X-rays shows considerable improvement in muscle mass

Outcome and Recovery

Asahi's case reinforces that while total hip replacement carries inherent surgical risks, it remains the gold standard for treating severe hip dysplasia in appropriate candidates. The procedure's ability to restore normal hip biomechanics offers patients like Asahi the best chance at regaining full function and quality of life.

His successful bilateral replacement demonstrates how this approach can transform a young dog's prognosis from one of chronic disability to that of everyday mobility.