

# Outcomes following surgical management of femoroacetabular impingement: a systematic review and meta-analysis of different surgical techniques



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Outcomes following different types of surgical intervention for femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) are well reported individually but comparative data are deficient. The purpose of this study was to conduct a systematic review (SR) and meta-analysis to analyze the outcomes following surgical management of FAI by hip arthroscopy (HA), anterior mini open approach (AMO), and surgical hip dislocation (SHD). This SR was registered with PROSPERO. An electronic database search of PubMed, Medline, and EMBASE for English and German language articles over the last 20 years was carried out according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. We specifically analyzed and compared changes in patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs),  $\alpha$ -angle, rate of complications, rate of revision, and conversion to total hip arthroplasty (THA). A total of 48 articles were included for final analysis with a total of 4,384 hips in 4,094 patients. All subgroups showed a significant correction in mean  $\alpha$  angle postoperatively with a mean change of 28.8° (95% confidence interval (CI) 21 to 36.5;  $p < 0.01$ ) after AMO, 21.1° (95% CI 15.1 to 27;  $p < 0.01$ ) after SHD, and 20.5° (95% CI 16.1 to 24.8;  $p < 0.01$ ) after HA. The AMO group showed a significantly higher increase in PROMs (3.7; 95% CI 3.2 to 4.2;  $p < 0.01$ ) versus arthroscopy (2.5; 95% CI 2.3 to 2.8;  $p < 0.01$ ) and SHD (2.4; 95% CI 1.5 to 3.3;  $p < 0.01$ ). However, the rate of complications following AMO was significantly higher than HA and SHD. All three surgical approaches offered significant improvements in PROMs and radiological correction of cam deformities. All three groups showed similar rates of revision procedures but SHD had the highest rate of conversion to a THA. Revision rates were similar for all three revision procedures.

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## Article focus

- Outcomes following different types of surgical intervention for femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) are well reported individually but comparative data are deficient.
- The purpose of this study was to conduct a systematic review (SR) and meta-analysis to analyze the outcomes following surgical management of FAI by hip arthroscopy (HA), anterior mini open approach (AMO), and surgical hip dislocation (SHD).

## Key messages

- All three procedures showed a significant correction in mean  $\alpha$ -angle postoperatively.
- All three surgical approaches offered significant improvements in PROMs and radiological correction of cam deformities.
- Revision rates were similar for all three revision procedures, but rate of complications following AMO was significantly higher than arthroscopy and SHD.

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## Strengths and limitations

- Strengths include being the first SR and meta-analysis comparing different surgical treatment options for the management of FAI.
- Limitations include the small number of included studies, especially for AMO and SHD, and the fact that different surgeons may have different thresholds for the different surgical techniques assessed in this review.

## Introduction

Femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) was first described in 1999 by Myers et al<sup>1</sup> as an abnormal abutment between the femoral head-neck junction and the acetabulum.<sup>1,2</sup> It has two distinct forms: a pincer type with acetabular over-coverage; and a cam type with an abnormal contour of the femoral head-neck junction. In addition, FAI can also occur as a mixed type, having features of both the cam and pincer.<sup>3</sup> These osseous abnormalities can lead to damage of the chondrolabral junction and eventually osteoarthritis (OA).<sup>4</sup>

The goal of surgical intervention in patients with symptomatic FAI is hip preservation. This is achieved by correcting the morphological abnormality and then addressing the resultant damage to the labrum and the articular cartilage. Ganz et al<sup>5</sup> described the surgical treatment of FAI using the open surgical hip dislocation (SHD) approach via the trochanteric flip osteotomy in 2001. Advances in surgical technique led to the development of an anterior mini open (AMO) approach and eventually an arthroscopic approach, which has grown exponentially over the last decade.<sup>6,7</sup> Additionally, some authors have also used a combined AMO and arthroscopic approach to address FAI.<sup>8</sup>

While SHD was once considered the gold-standard treatment for FAI, hip arthroscopy (HA) has caught up rapidly and is currently the preferred approach,<sup>9,10</sup> being used more frequently around the world.<sup>6</sup> The individual outcomes of these approaches have been reported but comparative data are limited. Matsuda et al<sup>11</sup> and Botser et al<sup>12</sup> have both published systematic reviews including SHD, AMO, and arthroscopic approaches but unfortunately a detailed meta-analysis on the outcomes was lacking in both these studies. Therefore, the purpose of our study was to perform a systematic review and meta-analysis to analyze the outcomes following the use of either SHD, AMO, or arthroscopy in the surgical management of primary FAI with follow-up of > 12 months.

## Methods

**Search strategy.** This systematic literature review was conducted according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.<sup>13</sup> A protocol for this review was registered with

**Table I.** Inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria
Studies reporting surgical outcome for FAI
Studies reporting complications after FAI surgery
Original studies including retrospective and prospective cohort studies and RCTs
Studies reported in English or German language
Studies within the last 20 yrs
Mean patient population age > 18 or < 60 yrs
Average follow-up > 12 mths
Exclusion criteria
Non-FAI patient population
Studies involving revision cases, secondary FAI (i.e. Perthes' disease, slipped capital femoral epiphysis), Tönnis grade > 2, or dysplasia
Studies emphasizing periacetabular osteotomy or chondrolabral surgery without osteoplasty
Case reports
Studies that were not original (e.g. systematic reviews, narrative reviews, technical notes)
Studies that were not reported in the English or German Language
Average follow-up of < 12 mths
Mean patient population age < 18 or > 60 yrs
Duplicate cohorts
FAI, femoroacetabular impingement; RCT, randomized controlled trial.

PROSPERO: CRD42020206428. An electronic database search for English and German language articles from the last 20 years was carried out using PubMed, EMBASE (Ovid), and Medline (Ovid) on 8 June 2020. The following search terminology was used in each database: [FAI OR Femoroacetabular impingement] AND [surgical hip dislocation OR open hip surgery OR open surgical dislocation OR open dislocation OR arthroscop\* OR mini anterior OR mini open OR hueter]. Bibliographies of past systematic reviews and included articles were also analyzed for further potential articles.

**Identification of eligibility.** Inclusion and exclusion criteria are outlined in Table I. Two authors independently screened articles for inclusion via the title and abstract initially before the screening of full-text articles. Any discrepancies were discussed in a consensus meeting.

**Data extraction and quality appraisal.** The quality of each article was assessed by two independent authors (DA and JZ) using the methodological index for non-randomized studies (MINORS) with eight questions for cohort studies and a further four questions if the study was a comparative one.<sup>14</sup> Any disagreements between reviewers were discussed in a consensus meeting and a third independent author (MP) was consulted if an agreement could not be met. Quality assessment of the studies was performed using the MINORS score, which is made up of eight items for non-comparative studies and an additional four items for comparative studies. Each item is given a score of 0 to 2, which helps in rating the studies as either very low quality, low quality, fair quality, or high quality.<sup>14,15</sup> The scores for non-comparative studies were as follows: 0 to 4 very low quality; 5 to 8 low quality; 9 to 12 fair quality; and 13 to 16 high quality. For comparative studies, the scores were 0 to 6 very low quality; 7 to 12 low quality; 13 to 18 fair quality; and 19 to 24 high quality.<sup>15</sup>

**Table II.** Minimum clinically important difference units used for each patient-reported outcome measure.

PROM	MCID unit
HOS-ADL	9 <sup>20</sup>
HOS-SSS	14.5 <sup>21</sup>
mHHS	8.2 <sup>21</sup>
HOOS pain	9 <sup>23</sup>
HOOS symptoms	9 <sup>23</sup>
HOOS ADL	6 <sup>23</sup>
HOOS sport and recreation	10 <sup>23</sup>
HOOS QoL	11 <sup>23</sup>
iHOT-33	12 <sup>21</sup>
iHOT-12	9 <sup>22</sup>
NAHS	10 <sup>24</sup>

HOOS-ADL, Hip disability and osteoarthritis outcome score - Activities of Daily Living; HOOS-QoL, Hip disability and osteoarthritis outcome score - Quality of Life; HOS-ADL, Hip Outcome Score - Activities of Daily Living; HOS-SSS, Hip Outcome Score - Sport Specific Subscales; iHOT, International Hip Outcome Tool; MCID, minimal clinically important difference; mHHS, modified Harris Hip Score; NAHS, Non Arthritic Hip Score; PROM, patient-reported outcome measure.

The level of evidence was assessed by the criteria published by the Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine.<sup>16</sup> Patient demographic details, surgical procedure, pre- and postoperative  $\alpha$  angle and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs), complication rates, reoperation rates, and rates of conversion to THA were extracted from each article to be included. Pooled estimates were calculated for these outcomes and were summarized in forest plots.

Data for continuous variables of interest were presented in an alternative format to mean and standard deviation (SD) in the studies. We estimated the SD following guidelines from the Cochrane handbook, and using equations from Wan et al.<sup>17</sup>

**Meta-analysis.** All meta-analyses were conducted using R 4.0.0 software (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Austria). Mixed effects subgroup analysis was conducted. Data were pooled within groups using random effects meta-analysis, with restricted maximum likelihood estimation of between-study variance and the inverse variance weighting. Heterogeneity was assessed using  $I^2$ . Heterogeneity was classified as either low ( $I^2 < 25\%$ ), moderate ( $I^2 25\%$  to  $75\%$ ), or high ( $I^2 > 75\%$ ).<sup>18</sup> Between group differences were identified using the Q test for heterogeneity.

**Meta-analysis for patient-reported outcome measures.** Primary analysis was of multidimensional PROMs in minimally important difference (MID) units. If PROMs were reported in individual dimensions as subscales, they were combined as described in the literature for an overall score. This precluded studies which reported the Copenhagen Hip and Groin Outcome Scores (HAGOS), as the individual subscales could not be combined into an overall score. Only PROMs validated for hip arthroscopy

were included in this meta-analysis; a larger body of evidence is available regarding the outcomes of hip arthroscopy in young adults, additionally, scores validated for hip arthroscopy typically focus towards younger, more active patients, which reflects the population of interest.<sup>19</sup> Conversion to MID units was achieved by dividing the PROM score by the most conservative minimum clinically important difference value (MCID) reported in the literature (Table II).<sup>20–24</sup>

In studies which reported multiple PROMs, we chose to use the one most valid for the treatment of FAI. In accordance with the Warwick agreement, where iHOT and HOS scores are recommended, these scores were chosen to represent the study in the primary PROM analysis. If both the iHOT and HOS scores were used, for convenience the iHOT was prioritized.<sup>23</sup> If none of these scores were present, we then chose to use the NAHS, mHHS, and HOOS scores respectively in order of preference due to their construct validity in measuring outcomes for FAI.<sup>22</sup>

Sensitivity analysis was conducted for MID meta-analyses using standardized mean difference (SMD) between preoperative and postoperative scores. Secondary analysis of PROMs in each dimension was not feasible, as the SHD group only reported multidimensional scores, and the AMO group only reported single-dimension PROMs in two studies. Meta-regression was conducted with mean follow-up period as a covariate to establish whether differing follow-up times had introduced heterogeneity or between group differences into the results.

**Meta-analysis for the  $\alpha$  angle.** The mean difference between pre- and postoperative  $\alpha$  angles was pooled and compared between groups. Sensitivity analysis was conducted using SMD to account for variation in  $\alpha$  angle reported from the different radiological techniques employed in the included studies.<sup>24</sup>

**Meta-analysis for rates of revision, complications, and conversion to total hip arthroplasty.** The proportion of cases undergoing revision, complications, and conversion to THA were pooled and compared between groups. For pooling calculations, the proportional data were transformed using the Freeman–Tukey double-arcsine transformation, before transformation back to proportions for presentation. This approximates the data to a normal distribution and has an increased accuracy when handling zero events.<sup>25</sup>

## Results

A total of 2,533 relevant titles were obtained after duplicate removal. No additional articles were found through bibliography searches. A thorough screening of title and abstracts was performed, leaving 164 articles suitable for full-text review. The PRISMA chart is shown in Figure 1. Only the most recent study was included where articles had potentially overlapping cohorts, and any article identified in German literature that was duplicated in English literature was not included for further analysis. A total of

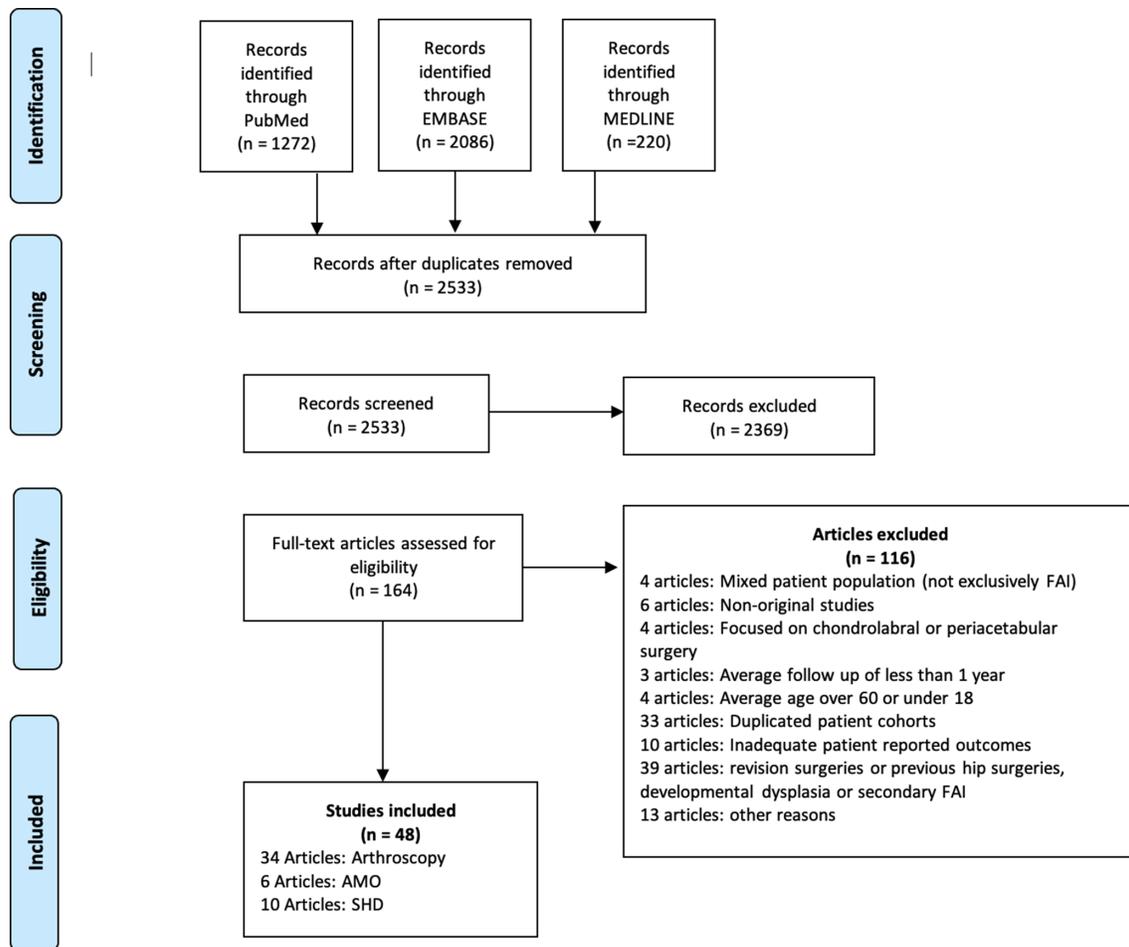


Fig. 1

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) flowchart of study selection process. AMO, anterior mini open approach; FAI, femoroacetabular impingement; SHD, surgical hip dislocation.

48 articles met the inclusion criteria and were included for the final analysis (Table III). The individual MINORS scores for each study included are presented in Supplementary Tables i and ii. The levels of evidence and study characteristics are shown in Table III.

**Patient characteristics.** A total of 4,384 hips in 4,094 patients were included in this review. Patient characteristics for each treatment modality are presented in Table IV.

**Patient-reported outcome measures.** All subgroups reported a significant increase in PROMs. The AMO group showed a significantly higher increase in PROMs versus arthroscopy (Q 18.731, df 1,  $p < 0.001$ ) and SHD (Q 5.893, df 1,  $p = 0.015$ ) (Figure 2). This was most likely due to higher postoperative PROMs rather than to selection of patients with lower preoperative PROMs. No significant difference was observed between groups in post-hoc comparison of preoperative PROM values (Q 2.583, df 2,  $p = 0.275$ ), although a significant difference between groups was found between postoperative PROMs (Q 9.690, df 2,  $p = 0.008$ ). Individual preoperative and postoperative group comparisons are presented in Supplementary Table iii. Heterogeneity was high

in arthroscopy and SHD groups, but moderate in the AMO group, despite normalization of PROMs to MCID units. Sensitivity analysis confirmed that there was a significant difference between the AMO and arthroscopy groups, although not between the AMO and SHD groups (Supplementary Table iv). This reflects the significant increase in postoperative PROMs between the AMO and arthroscopy groups (Supplementary Table iii).

Furthermore, differing lengths of follow-up were investigated as a covariate within the PROM meta-analysis through post-hoc meta-regression. Follow-up period was not significantly associated with PROMs ( $p = 0.641$ ; Supplementary Figure a).

**$\alpha$  angle.** All subgroups showed a significant decrease in the mean  $\alpha$  angle postoperatively. All subgroups showed high heterogeneity. There was no difference between groups in the amount of  $\alpha$  angle correction (Figure 3) (Q 3.455, df 2,  $p = 0.178$ ). Sensitivity analysis showed moderate rather than high heterogeneity in AMO and SHD groups, and showed that the AMO group had a higher standardized reduction in  $\alpha$  angle than both the

**Table III.** Included studies.

Study	Year	Time	Type of study	Level of evidence	Location	Patients, n	Hips, n	Male, n	Female, n	Mean age, yrs	Follow-up, mths
<b>Arthroscopy</b>											
Kunze et al <sup>26</sup>	2020	Retrospective	Comparative trial	3	USA	310	310	120	190	34	60
Lindmann et al <sup>27</sup>	2020	Prospective	Case series	4	Sweden	64	84	52	12	24	60
Öhlin et al <sup>28</sup>	2020	Prospective	Case series	4	Sweden	184	225	110	74	38	60
Ortiz-Declet et al <sup>29</sup>	2020	Prospective	Case series	4	USA	34	34	15	19	20.8	47.4
Bolia et al <sup>30</sup>	2019	Retrospective	Comparative trial	3	USA	99	126	72	54	38	87.6 (SD 32.4)
Hassebrock et al <sup>31</sup>	2019	Retrospective	Comparative trial	3	USA	133	133	47	86	31.96	24
Kierkegaard et al <sup>32</sup>	2019	Prospective	Cohort study with a cross-sectional comparison	3	Denmark	56	72	24	32	36	12
Perets et al <sup>33</sup>	2019	Prospective	Case series	4	USA	295	327	108	219	32.4	68.7
de Girolamo et al <sup>34</sup>	2018	Retrospective	Comparative trial	3	Italy	109	109	64	54	39.3 and 38.3	96
Kaldau et al <sup>35</sup>	2018	Retrospective	Case series	4	Denmark	84	84	45	39	40.4	82.9
Mansell et al <sup>36</sup>	2018	Prospective	RCT	1	USA	66	66	39	21	30.3	24
Tahoun et al <sup>37</sup>	2018	Prospective	Case series	4	Egypt	23	23	18	5	40.9	38.4 (SD 7.0)
Zimmerer et al <sup>38</sup>	2018	Prospective	Case series	4	Germany	43	43	31	12	25	24.4
Menge et al <sup>39</sup>	2017	Retrospective	Comparative trial	3	USA	154	154	80	74	40.6	120
Murata et al <sup>40</sup>	2017	Retrospective	Comparative trial	3	Japan	74	74	43	31	28.3 and 39.7	24
Tjong et al <sup>41</sup>	2017	Prospective	Case series	4	USA	86	106	36	50	38.1	37.2
Degen et al <sup>42</sup>	2016	Retrospective	Case series	4	USA	70	86	70	0	22.5	16.8
Hufeland et al <sup>43</sup>	2016	Retrospective	Case series	4	Germany	44	44	24	20	34.3	66.3 (SD 14.5)
Joseph et al <sup>44</sup>	2016	Prospective	Cohort study	2	USA	64	64	19	45	31.6 and 31.1	24
Dippmann et al <sup>45</sup>	2014	Prospective	Case series	4	Denmark	76	76	27	49	38	12
Gicquel et al <sup>46</sup>	2014	Prospective	Case series	4	France	51	53	19	32	31	55.2 (50.4 to 66)
Gupta et al <sup>47</sup>	2014	Prospective	Case series	4	USA	47	47	28	19	37	28.32 (24 to 41)
Nielsen et al <sup>48</sup>	2014	Prospective	Case series	4	Denmark	117	117	48	69	37	40 (24 to 60)
Domb et al <sup>49</sup>	2013	Prospective	Matched-pair comparative study	2	USA	20	20	4	16	19.6	25.5
Krych et al <sup>50</sup>	2013	Prospective	RCT	1	USA	36	36	0	36	38 and 39	32 (12 to 48)
Malviya et al <sup>51</sup>	2013	Prospective	Case series	4	UK	80	92	50	30	35.7	16.8 (12 to 21.6)
Zingg et al <sup>52</sup>	2013	Prospective	Comparative trial	3	Switzerland	23	23	18	5	27.6	12
Larson et al <sup>53</sup>	2012	Prospective	Cohort study	3	USA	90	94	56	38	32 and 28	42 (24 to 72)
Palmer et al <sup>54</sup>	2012	Prospective	Case series	4	USA	185	201	99	102	40.2	46
Philippon et al <sup>55</sup>	2012	Prospective	Case series	4	USA	153	153	72	81	57	35.7 (12 to 64)
Byrd and Jones <sup>56</sup>	2011	Prospective	Case series	4	USA	200	200	148	52	28.6	24
Haviv et al <sup>57</sup>	2010	Retrospective	Case series	4	Israel	166	170	132	34	37	22 (12 to 72)
Horisberger et al <sup>58</sup>	2010	Prospective	Case series	4	Switzerland	88	105	60	28	40.9	27.6 (15.6 to 49.2)
Philippon et al <sup>59</sup>	2009	Prospective	Case series	4	USA	112	112	50	62	40.6	27.6 (24 to 34.8)
<b>AMO approach</b>											
Skowronek et al <sup>60</sup>	2017	Retrospective	Cohort study	4	Poland	39	39	25	14	29.3	45 (24 to 55)
Ezechieli et al <sup>61</sup>	2016	Prospective	Comparative trial	3	A - Germany B - Italy	72	72	38	34	A - 36 B - 28.5	15 (6 to 24)
Srinivasan et al <sup>62</sup>	2013	Retrospective	Cohort study	4	UK	25	26	11	15	31.3	22.3
Chiron et al <sup>63</sup>	2012	Prospective	Cohort study	4	France	106	118	92	16	34.4	26.4 (12 to 54)

Continued

**Table III.** Continued

Study	Year	Time	Type of study	Level of evidence	Location	Patients, n	Hips, n	Male, n	Female, n	Mean age, yrs	Follow-up, mths
Ribas et al <sup>64</sup>	2010	Prospective	Cohort study	4	Spain	105	107	79	38	37	12
Nepple et al <sup>65</sup>	2009	Retrospective	Comparative trial	3	USA	25	25	17	8	33	20.4
<b>SHD</b>											
Kockara et al <sup>66</sup>	2018	Retrospective	Cohort study	4	Turkey	33	34	19	14	34.5	72
İnan et al <sup>67</sup>	2016	Retrospective	Cohort study	4	Turkey	21	22	7	14	33.8	48
Hingsammer et al <sup>68</sup>	2015	Retrospective	Cohort study	4	Switzerland	23	30	18	5	24.3	19.2 (9.6 to 36)
Stepbacher et al <sup>69</sup>	2014	Retrospective	Cohort study	4	Switzerland	75	97	55	42	32	72 (60 to 84)
Domb et al <sup>69</sup>	2013	Prospective	Comparative trial	3	USA	10	10	2	8	19	24.8
Zingg et al <sup>52</sup>	2013	Prospective	Comparative trial	3	Switzerland	15	15	11	4	28.9	12
Jäger et al <sup>70</sup>	2011	Prospective	Cohort study	4	Germany	21	21	7	15	36.3	12
Naal et al <sup>71</sup>	2011	Retrospective	Cohort study	4	Switzerland	22	30	22	0	19.7	45.1 (12 to 79)
Yun et al <sup>72</sup>	2009	Retrospective	Cohort study	4	South Korea	14	15	12	2	35.8	27.6 (12 to 120)
Espinosa et al <sup>73</sup>	2006	Retrospective	Comparative trial	3	Switzerland	52	60	33	19	30	24

AMO, anterior mini open approach; RCT, randomized controlled trial; SD, standard deviation; SHD, surgical hip dislocation.

**Table IV.** Patient characteristics.

Variable, n	Arthroscopy	AMO approach	SHD
Articles	34	6	10
Patients	3,436	372	286
Hips	3,663	387	334
Male/female	1,828/1,681	262/125	186/123

AMO, anterior mini open; SHD, surgical hip dislocation.

arthroscopy and the SHD groups (Supplementary Table v).

**Rates of complications, revision, and conversion to total hip arthroplasty.** The rate of complications following AMO was significantly higher in comparison to the rate of complications following arthroscopy and SHD, which both had similar overall rate of complications (Figure 4). The incidence of major complications was highest for SHD (0% to 21.4%) and lowest for AMO (0% to 4.8%). Incidence of moderate complications, including transient neuropraxia, symptomatic heterotopic ossification, infection, wound haematoma, or osteoarthritis progression, was 0% to 25.5% for HA, 16.7% to 24% for AMO, and 0% to 14.7% for SHD. Incidence of minor complications was 0% to 14.3% for HA, 0% to 30.5% for AMO, and 0% for SHD except for one study reporting an incidence of 45.5% (Table V). All procedures had similar rates of revision surgery (Figure 5). SHD has a high rate of conversion to THA, which was significant compared to AMO (Q 3.844, df 1, p = 0.049) and had a strong trend towards significance when compared to HA (Q 3.583, df 1, p = 0.058, Figure 6).

## Discussion

Our systematic review evaluated PROMs,  $\alpha$  angle, complications, revision rates, and incidence of

conversion to THA after SHD, AMO, or arthroscopic management for FAI. The gradual transition from SHD to arthroscopic management is evident in the literature over the past 20 years,<sup>74</sup> and is reflected by the large proportion of the 48 articles analyzed which examined outcomes following HA. In 2011, the difference between the different procedures was not robust, which was reflected in the systematic review by Botser et al<sup>12</sup> including eight articles for SHD, four articles for AMO, and 15 articles for HA. Since then, there has been an exponential increase in the use of HA for the treatment of FAI.

All surgical groups reported a significant increase in PROMs. We can conclude with a high degree of certainty that AMO has the highest PROM values, as this was significant in both primary and sensitivity analysis of arthroscopy versus AMO. We conducted meta-regression to establish whether follow-up period influenced PROM values. No association was found between follow-up period and PROM values, therefore differences in follow-up period could not explain the high heterogeneity and the higher PROM values reported in the AMO group, in which studies tended to have shorter follow-up. The high heterogeneity observed throughout all PROMs likely reflects the subjective nature of PROMs, and that the physicians

**AMO**

- Skowronek et al., 2017
- Ezechieli et al., 2016
- Srinivasan et al., 2013
- Chiron et al., 2012
- Nepple et al., 2009

**Random effects model**

$I^2 = 74\%$

Test for effect:  $z = 15.03$  ( $p < 0.0001$ )

**Arthroscopy**

- Kunze et al., 2020
- Lindmann et al., 2020
- Ohlin et al., 2020
- Ortiz-Decllet et al., 2020
- Bolia et al., 2019
- Hassebrock et al., 2019
- Perets et al., 2019
- de Girolamo et al., 2018
- Mansell et al., 2018
- Tahoun et al., 2018
- Zimmerer et al., 2018
- Joseph et al., 2016
- Menge et al., 2017
- Murata et al., 2017
- Degen et al., 2016
- Hufeland et al., 2016
- Dippman et al., 2014
- Gupta et al., 2014
- Nielson et al., 2014
- Domb et al., 2013
- Krych et al., 2013
- Malviya et al., 2013
- Zingg et al., 2013
- Larson et al., 2012
- Palmer et al., 2012
- Philippon et al., 2012
- Haviv et al., 2010
- Horisberger et al., 2010
- Philippon et al., 2009

**Random effects model**

$I^2 = 88\%$

Test for effect:  $z = 19.05$  ( $p < 0.0001$ )

**SHD**

- Kockara et al., 2018
- Inan et al., 2016
- Domb et al., 2013
- Zingg et al., 2013
- Jager et al., 2011
- Yun et al., 2009

**Random effects model**

$I^2 = 83\%$

Test for effect:  $z = 5.37$  ( $p < 0.0001$ )

Test for subgroup differences:  $p < 0.01$

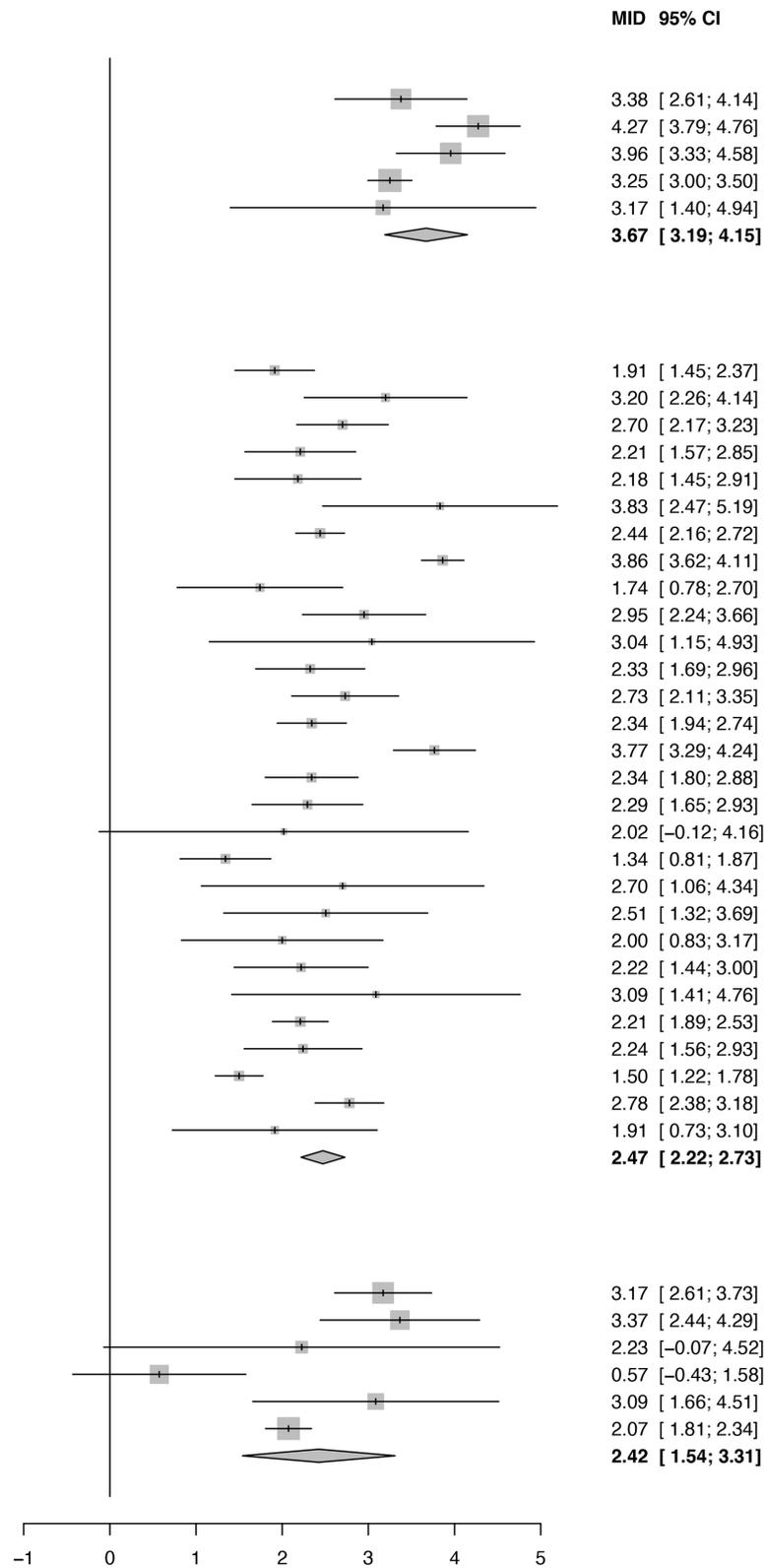


Fig. 2

Mean difference between pre- and postoperative patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) expressed as minimally important difference (MID) units. AMO, anterior mini open approach; CI, confidence interval; SHD, surgical hip dislocation.

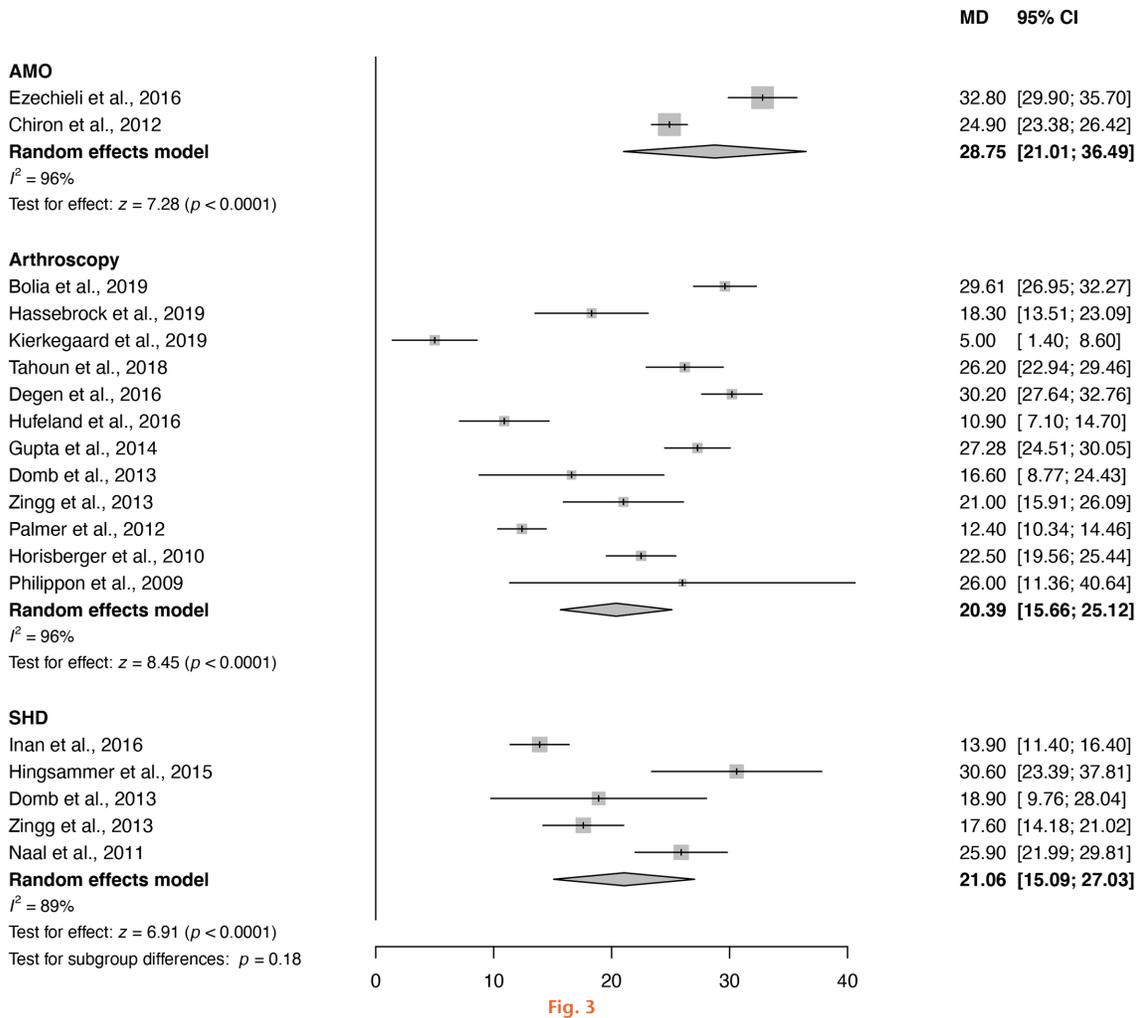


Fig. 3

Change in  $\alpha$  angle from pre- to postoperative. AMO, anterior mini open approach; CI, confidence interval; MD, mean difference in degrees; SHD, surgical hip dislocation.

delivering these measures may have different attitudes or variations in presentation which affect the patient’s interpretation. Again, there is an urgent need for uniformity of reporting PROMs and the Non-Arthroplasty Hip Registry in the UK seems to have managed that to an extent by using the iHot12 and EuroQol five-dimension (EQ-5D) scoring system in their minimum dataset.

All three surgical methods showed a significant decrease in mean  $\alpha$  angle postoperatively, with no difference between each group in the amount of  $\alpha$  angle correction. Sensitivity analysis revealed that AMO may provide a larger correction in  $\alpha$  angle than both SHD and arthroscopy, and this may be because it allows easy access to the anterolateral aspect of the cam lesion. Nevertheless, the AMO group had only two studies with high heterogeneity and a wide confidence interval. More data are required for firm conclusions to be drawn regarding this difference. Additionally, the lower heterogeneity observed in the sensitivity analysis using standardized mean difference demonstrated that different  $\alpha$  angle measurement techniques introduced

heterogeneity within groups. In the future, studies should endeavour to use the same measurement technique for quantification of the  $\alpha$  angle so that results are directly comparable, or multiple measurement techniques to enable comparison between studies. There is currently no consensus on the optimum measurement technique for quantification of the  $\alpha$  angle, however the authors recommend the 45° radiological Dunn view, in the absence of MRI, due to its increased sensitivity for detection of femoral head asphericity.<sup>75,76</sup>

All procedures showed similar rates of revision. We used the classification provided by Clohisy et al<sup>77</sup> for complications which are divided into major, moderate, or minor. The overall rate of complications after the AMO approach was significantly higher than the rate of complications after arthroscopy and SHD, which both had similar overall rate of complications. This was a consequence of consistently high reported rates of transient neuropraxia of the lateral femoral cutaneous nerve, which was the second most reported complication in this group. Interestingly, the incidence of major

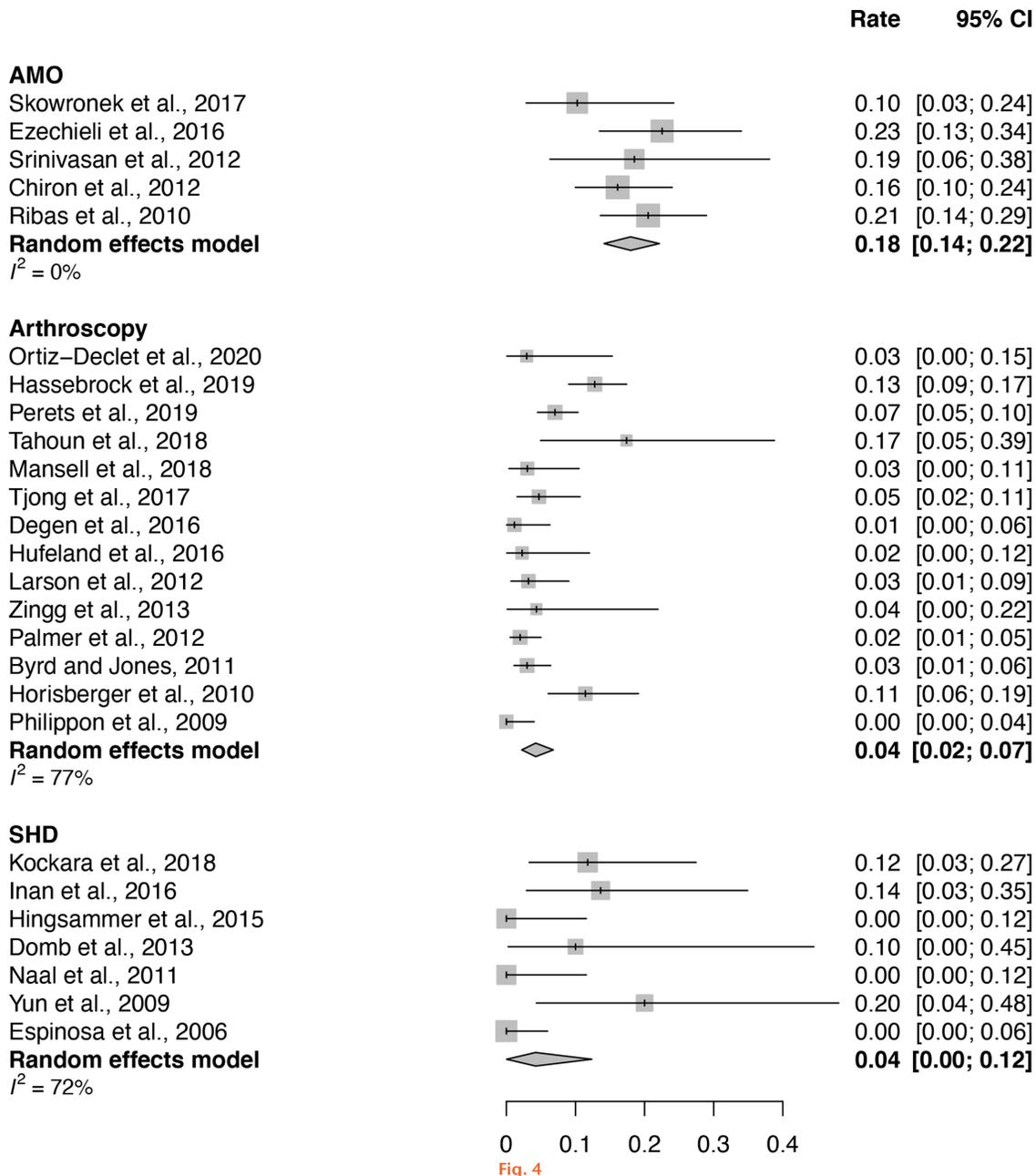


Fig. 4

Pooled rate/proportion of all complications. AMO, anterior mini open approach; CI, confidence interval; SHD, surgical hip dislocation.

complications was lowest in AMO studies, while the highest incidence of major complications was reported in an early SHD study by Yun et al<sup>72</sup> who reported a 21.4% rate of trochanteric nonunion. Progression of the Tönnis grade was mentioned in several articles including Gicquel et al,<sup>46</sup> who reported the highest rate of progression of the Tönnis grade in the arthroscopic group. It is likely that these patients may not have been appropriate for hip preservation surgery if degenerative disease had progressed. Therefore, this finding may not be a true complication, but rather a failure of the procedure due to a failure in patient stratification and selection. Minor complications were reported to be

between 0% and 10.8% in arthroscopic studies. In AMO studies, Ribas et al<sup>64</sup> recorded the highest percentage of minor complications with 30.5% hypertrophic scar formations. The majority of SHD studies had no minor complications except for Inan et al,<sup>67</sup> who reported 36.4% with minor trochanteric irritation. Additionally, SHD had the highest rate of conversion to THA which was significantly higher than the rate reported for AMO and displayed a strong trend towards significance against arthroscopy. Interestingly, heterogeneity was consistently higher in the arthroscopy group versus the AMO and SHD groups for complications, revision, and conversion. This may reflect the steep learning curve

**Table V.** Rates of major, moderate, and minor complications for each study including revision and conversion rates.

Study	Patients, n	THA conversion, n (%)	Repeat procedures, n (%)	Major	Moderate	Minor
<b>Arthroscopy</b>						
Kunze et al 202,045 <sup>26</sup>	310	NR	4 revision arthroscopies Total: 4 (1.3)	NR	NR	NR
Öhlin et al 202,047 <sup>28</sup>	184	36 (19.6)	NR	NR	NR	NR
Ortiz-Declet et al 202,048 <sup>29</sup>	34	0 (0)	3 revision arthroscopies for adhesions; 1 revision arthroscopies for labral retear Total: 4 (11.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 temporary neuropraxia Total: 1 (2.9)
Bolia et al 201,949 <sup>30</sup>	99	9 (9.1)	10 revision arthroscopies for adhesions; 3 revision arthroscopies for adhesions and a small cam regrowth Total: 13 (13.1)	3 cases of small cam regrowth Total: 3 (3.0)	NR	NR
Hassebrock et al 201,950 <sup>31</sup>	133	1 (0.8)	NR	0 (0)	1 infection Total: 1 (0.8)	8 temporary neuropraxia; 2 heterotopic ossification;* 9 other‡ Total: 19 (14.3)
Perets et al 201,952 <sup>33</sup>	295	25 (8.5)	25 revision arthroscopies for persistent symptoms; 11 revision arthroscopies for hip reinjury; 3 revision arthroscopies for heterotopic ossification; 1 revision arthroscopy for femoral neck stress fracture Total: 40 (13.6)	25 persistent hip symptoms; 1 femoral neck stress fracture Total: 26 (8.8)	3 heterotopic ossification;† 3 cases of infection that resolved with antibiotics treatment Total: 6 (2.0)	16 temporary neuropraxia Total: 16 (5.4)
de Girolamo et al 201,853 <sup>34</sup>	AMIC-59 MFx-50	AMIC -0 (0) MFx- 11 (22)	5 revision arthroscopies for persistent or recurrent mechanical hip symptoms Total: 5 (4.6)	5 persistent symptoms Total: 5 (4.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Kaldau et al 201,854 <sup>35</sup>	84	15 (17.9)	7 repeat arthroscopies (reasons unspecified) Total: 7 (8.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Mansell et al 201,855 <sup>36</sup>	66	1 (7.5)	5 revision arthroscopies for persistent symptoms Total: 5 (7.6)	1 hip fracture Total: 1 (7.5)	7 postoperative diagnosis of hip osteoarthritis Total: 7 (10.6)	1 heterotopic ossification* Total: 1 (7.5)
Tahoun et al 201,856 <sup>37</sup>	23	1 (4.3)	NR	0 (0)	1 periarticular muscular pain and stiffness; 3 perineal hypoesthesia Total: 4 (17.4)	0 (0)
Menge et al 201,758 <sup>39</sup>	154	50 (32.5)	7 repeat arthroscopies (reasons unspecified) Total: 7 (4.5)	NR	NR	NR
Murata et al 201,759 <sup>40</sup>	74	NR	7 revision arthroscopies due to persistent hip pain Total: 7 (9.5)	NR	NR	NR
Tjong et al 201,760 <sup>41</sup>	86	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 superficial erythema that resolved with ABx Total: 5 (5.8)	0 (0)
Degen et al 201,661 <sup>42</sup>	70	NR	1 arthroscopy for irrigation and debridement of a subcutaneous wound infection Total: 1 (1.4)	0 (0)	1 subcutaneous wound infection Total: 1 (1.4)	0 (0)
Hufeland et al 201,662 <sup>43</sup>	44	5 (11.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 temporary neuropraxia; 1 asymptomatic heterotopic ossifications Brooker type II Total: 4 (9.1)
Cicquel et al 201,431 <sup>46</sup>	51	8 (15.7)	NR	NR	13 Tönnis grade progression Total: 13 (25.5)	NR
Nielsen et al 201,466 <sup>48</sup>	117	5 (4.3)	NR	NR	NR	NR
Domb et al 201,367 <sup>49</sup>	20	NR	1 iliopsoas release because of new-onset symptomatic internal snapping. Total: 1 (0.5)	1 iliopsoas release because of new-onset symptomatic internal snapping. Total: 1 (0.5)	NR	NR

Continued

Table V. Continued

Study	Patients, n	THA conversion, n (%)	Repeat procedures, n (%)	Major	Moderate	Minor
Zingg et al 201,370 <sup>52</sup>	23	NR	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 transient neuropraxia of LFCN Total: 1 (4.4)	0 (0)
Larson et al 201,271 <sup>53</sup>	94	1 (1.1)	2 revision arthroscopies for HO; 2 revision femoral osteochondroplasty for inadequate initial decompression; 1 open surgical dislocation for a symptomatic posterior cam-type lesion Total: 5 (5.3)	2 persistent symptoms Total: 2 (2.1)	2 heterotopic ossifications† Total: 2 (2.1)	1 heterotopic ossification* Total: 1 (1.1)
Palmer et al 201,272 <sup>54</sup>	185	13 (7.0)	0 (0%)	1 case of symptomatic Brooker type 3 heterotopic ossification Total: 1 (0.5)	1 case of Superficial phlebitis; 1 superficial portal infection; 1 transient foot paraesthesia; 2 Tönnis grade progression. Total: 4 (2.2)	0 (0)
Philippon et al 201,273 <sup>55</sup>	153	31 (20.3)	2 revision arthroscopies before THA; 1 revision arthroscopy for adhesions Total: 3 (2.0)	NR	NR	NR
Byrd and Jones 201,174 <sup>56</sup>	200	1 (0.5)	4 revision arthroscopies for persistent or recurrent mechanical hip symptoms Total: 4 (2.0)	4 persistent or recurrent mechanical hip symptoms Total: 4 (2.0)	5 transient neurapraxias 1 LFCN 1 Femoral nerve 1 Sciatic nerve 1 Pudendal nerve 1 Contralateral sciatic nerve (all resolved within a few days) Total: 5 (2.5%)	1 heterotopic ossification Total: 1 (0.5)
Haviv et al 201,075 <sup>57</sup>	166	2 (1.2)	10 revision arthroscopies for repeat symptoms; 8 revision arthroscopies for osteochondroplasty; 4 revision arthroscopies for labral tears Total: 22 (13.3)	10 repeat symptoms; 8 cam re-growths Total: 18 (10.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Horisberger et al 201,076 <sup>58</sup>	88	9 (10.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 cases of dysesthesia/hypesthesia of the pudendal nerve and LFCN; 2 transient neurapraxias of the sciatic nerve Total: 11 (12.5)	1 superficial labia minora tear Total: 1 (1.1)
Philippon et al 200,977 <sup>59</sup>	112	10 (8.9)	NR	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
<b>AMO approach</b>						
Skowronek et al <sup>60</sup>	39	4 (10.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 meralgia paresthetica, which resolved within 10 months; 4 osteoarthritis developments Total: 7 (17.9)	1 heterotopic ossification (Brooker Type 2) Total: 1 (2.6)
Ezechieli et al 201,679 <sup>61</sup>	72	NR	1 deep infection with <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> that needed to be revised Total: 1 (1.4)	1 deep infection with <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Total: 1 (1.4)	8 transient neuropraxia of LFCN; 4 hypercorrections Total: 12 (16.7)	1 asymptomatic heterotopic ossification; 2 LFCN irritations Total: 3 (4.2)
Srinivasan et al 201,380 <sup>62</sup>	25	1 (4.0)	0 (0)	1 perineal numbness and sciatic nerve paralysis with foot drop that resolved within 6 months Total: 1 (4.0)	3 transient neuropraxia of LFCN; 3 patients had a slow recovery period and needed steroid injections to help with their rehabilitation Total: 6 (24.0)	1 asymptomatic heterotopic ossification Brooker grade one Total: 1 (4.0)

Continued

**Table V.** Continued

Study	Patients, n	THA conversion, n (%)	Repeat procedures, n (%)	Major	Moderate	Minor
Chiron et al 201,281 <sup>63</sup>	106	4 (3.8)	2 revision arthroscopies to complete the femoral neck plasty 2 revision arthroscopies for capsular adhesions and lengthening of the psoas tendon; 4 revision arthroscopies for drainage of painful haematomas Total: 8 (7.5)	2 incomplete femoro osteoplasties Total: 2 (1.9)	18 cases of osteoarthritis progression; 2 cases of complex regional pain syndrome which quickly improved with conservative treatment that included bisphosphonates; 4 postoperative painful haematomas Total: 24 (22.6)	0 (0)
Ribas et al 201,032 <sup>64</sup>	105	9 (8.6)	2 revision arthroscopies for capsulolabral adhesions; 1 revision arthroscopy for persisting retrolabral ulceration Total: 3 (2.9)	4 cases of permanent neuropraxia of LFCN; 1 retrolabral ulceration Total: 5 (4.8)	2 postoperative haematomas; 18 transient neuropraxias of LFCN Total: 20 (19.0)	32 cases of hypertrophic scar formation Total: 32 (30.5)
<b>SHD</b>						
Kockara et al 201,883 <sup>66</sup>	33	2 (6.1)	0 (0)	2 avascular necrosis; 1 DVT Total: 3 (9.1)	1 superficial wound infection Total: 1 (3.0)	0 (0)
İnan et al 201,633 <sup>67</sup>	22	4 (18.2)	1 revision arthroscopy for persistent symptoms Total: 1 (4.5)	1 persistent symptom Total: 1 (4.5)	0 (0)	8 minor trochanteric irritation; 2 heterotopic ossification* Total: 10 (45.5)
Hingsammer et al 201,584 <sup>68</sup>	30	NR	NR	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Steppacher et al 201,485 <sup>69</sup>	75	11 (14.7)	1 revision of iliotibial band dehiscence; 1 arthroscopic acetabular rim trimming; 2 refixations of greater trochanter; 6 arthroscopic adhesiolysis; 2 evacuations of wound haematoma; 1 irrigation and debridement for subcutaneous wound infection Total: 13 (17.3)	1 iliotibial band dehiscence; 2 trochanteric nonunion Total: 3 (4.0)	8 cases of osteoarthritis progression; 1 subcutaneous wound infection; 2 wound haematomas Total: 11 (14.7)	0 (0)
Domb et al 201,367 <sup>49</sup>	10	NR	1 patient underwent hip arthroscopy at the time of hardware removal where a microfracture was performed; 1 patient underwent revision arthroscopy for labral debridement, chondroplasty, and lysis of adhesions. Total: 2 (20.0)	2 revision arthroscopies due to persisting symptoms Total: 2 (20.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Zingg et al 201,370 <sup>52</sup>	18	NR	1 arthroscopic adhesiolysis Total: 1 (5.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Naal et al 201,187 <sup>71</sup>	22	NR	NR	0 (0)	1 patient had osteoarthritis progression Total: 1 (4.5)	0 (0)
Yun et al 200,930 <sup>72</sup>	14	NR	NR	3 trochanteric nonunions Total: 3 (21.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Espinosa et al 200,638 <sup>73</sup>	52	NR	NR	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

\*Brooker grade 2 (minor) was assumed for studies that did not report Brooker grade.

†Brooker grade 3 (moderate) was assumed for studies that did not report Brooker grade but reported arthroscopic treatment for heterotopic ossifications.

‡Complications stated as "other" were classed as minor complications.

reported for arthroscopy, which was a relatively new technique at the time of authorship for many of the included papers, and the position of the surgeon or institution on the learning curve.<sup>78,79</sup>

Our results showed good qualitative agreement with the results of Matsuda et al<sup>11</sup> and Botser et al.<sup>12</sup> All three surgical approaches produce consistent positive outcomes for patients, and the arthroscopic approach has a lower incidence of major complications. In

contradiction with Botser et al,<sup>12</sup> we found that AMO shows the greatest improvement in PROMs at the latest follow-up. Additionally, we have reported similar rates of reoperation and clinical complications to Minkara et al<sup>80</sup> who analyzed arthroscopic outcomes only. They report the rate of reoperation was 5.5%, and the risk of clinical complications was 1.7%.<sup>80</sup> This may be due to the inclusion of minor complications, including transient neuropraxias, in our overall complication rate.

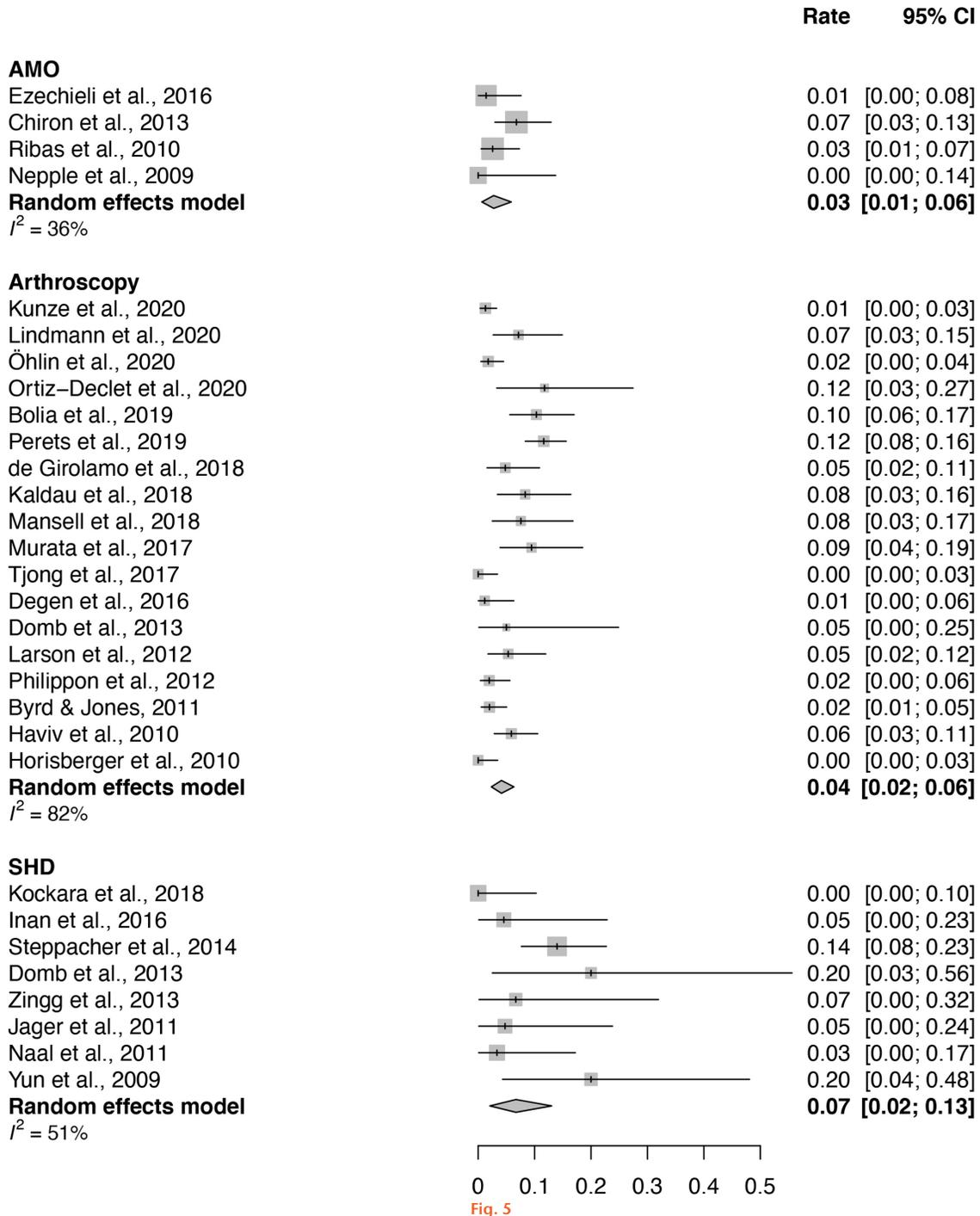


Fig. 5

Pooled rate/proportion of all revision surgery. AMO, anterior mini open approach; CI, confidence interval; SHD, surgical hip dislocation.

FAI is a widely recognized condition that occurs mostly in young adults and has been postulated to lead to degenerative changes of the hip joint.<sup>81</sup> It is prudent to consider that all three surgical approaches may have valuable roles in the treatment of FAI. Generally, the Ganz technique of SHD is a safe surgical approach to the femoral head and the acetabulum without the risk of avascular necrosis and allows an almost 360° view of

the hip joint.<sup>73,82</sup> Nevertheless, it is an extensive procedure with more soft-tissue disruption.<sup>73,82</sup> While SHD is the first described method of treatment of FAI and several studies have shown good outcomes following SHD, over the last decade the management of FAI has naturally evolved to favour more minimally invasive techniques such as arthroscopy.<sup>83</sup> Current advances in surgical techniques combined with advances in our

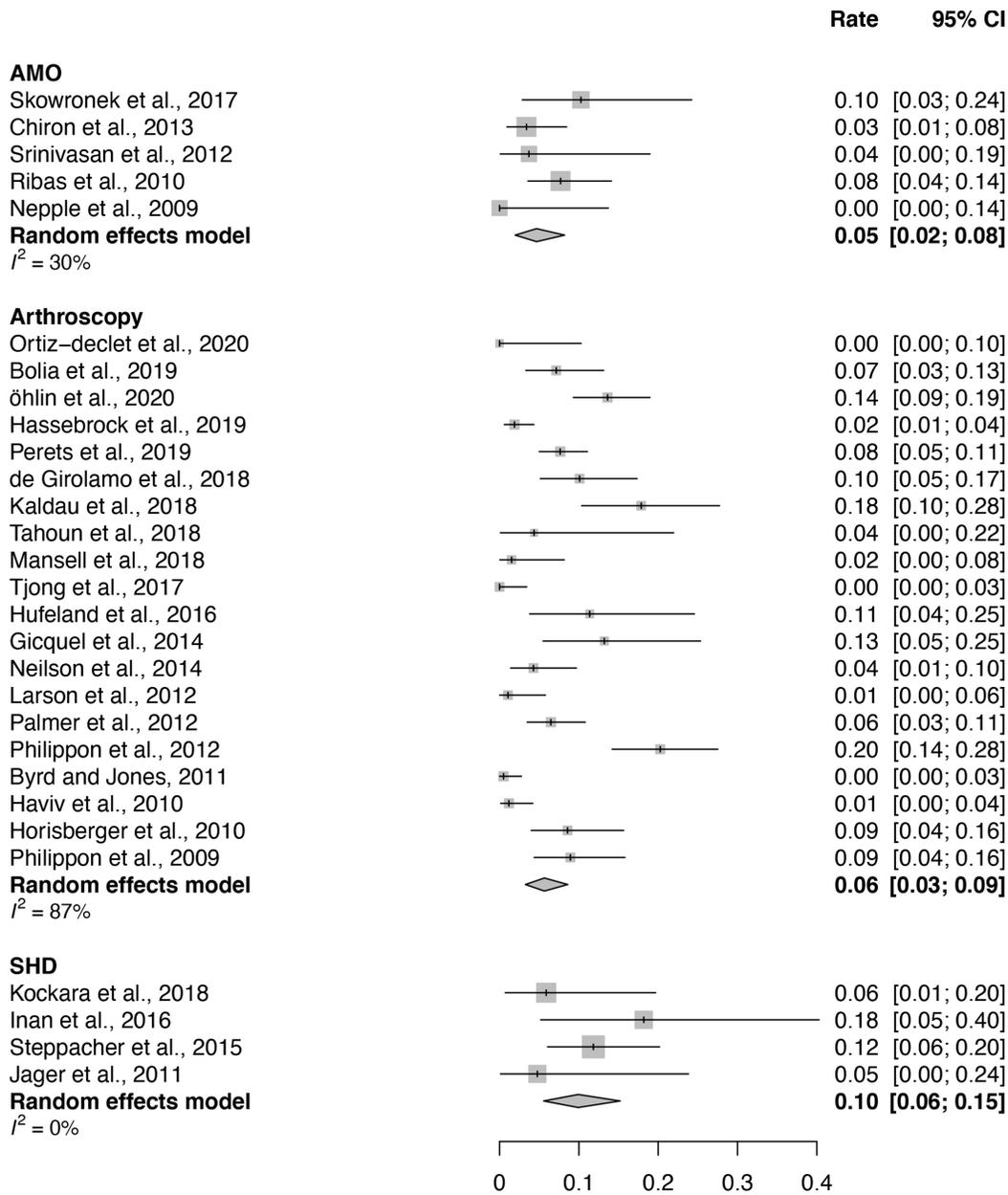


Fig. 6

Pooled proportion of conversion to total hip arthroplasty. AMO, anterior mini open approach; CI, confidence interval; SHD, surgical hip dislocation.

understanding of the native hip joint have incited a dramatic increase in the arthroscopic management of FAI.<sup>8</sup> However, arthroscopy is a technically demanding procedure with a steep learning curve, which carries its own inherent risks and commonly requires traction to distract the hip joint for arthroscopic access.<sup>84,85</sup> Similarly, the mini open approach demonstrates favourable outcomes after treatment for FAI, which minimizes muscle damage and reduces the traction necessary for assessing the hip joint when compared to arthroscopy.<sup>86</sup> Nevertheless, caution must be applied to prevent damage to the LFCN, which was evident in all our AMO studies.

This systematic review employed strong statistical methodology, with sensitivity analyses, in order to synthesize data from 48 studies including 4,384 hips in 4,094 patients, and offers a higher statistical power and more robust conclusions than any individual study.<sup>87</sup> We do, however, recognize several limitations that should be acknowledged. Firstly, although there were two RCTs in the arthroscopic group, most studies consisted of level 4 evidence. Secondly, most studies were of fair quality rather than high. Thirdly, in interpreting the data we were required to make some assumptions and estimate variance due to inconsistencies in reporting and study design. The between-study heterogeneity

was also judged as moderate or high throughout our meta-analysis, which is likely a reflection of the nature of the included studies, which tend to report outcomes from a single surgeon or centre, and a reflection of our chosen outcome variables. Additionally, while SHD shows a higher rate of THA conversion, we were unable to account for the intuitively higher rate of conversions if starting age at surgery was older or if the length of follow-up was longer. Finally, our systematic review only included English and German language articles, which may not represent all literature published on this subject.

In conclusion, all three surgical approaches for the treatment of FAI offer significant improvements in PROMs and significant correction of the cam deformity. While AMO demonstrated the largest improvement in outcomes, there was a similar correction in  $\alpha$  angle measurements across all groups. All three groups showed similar rates of revision procedures, but both arthroscopy and SHD had relatively low rates of complications. AMO had the highest incidence of complications, mostly due to the damage to the LFCN, and SHD had the highest rates of conversion to a THA. The widespread adoption of arthroscopy has not led to a decrease in the quality of PROMs or an increase in complications.

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## Supplementary material



Sensitivity analyses, full between-group comparisons, and further meta-regression relating to the meta-analysis. Additionally, full Methodological Index for Non-randomized Studies assessment, patient-reported outcome measures, and alpha angle values extracted from the literature are quoted.

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