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Diagnosis and treatment of developmental dysplasia of the hip: A questionnaire of pediatric orthopedic surgeons on current practice

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Introduction & Aim: Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH) is one of the most prevalent musculoskeletal conditions. The perfect age for surgical intervention is not well established in the literature and the lack of guidelines and standard practice regarding the management of DDH leads to different approaches worldwide. The purpose of this study is to investigate the current practice of pediatric orthopedic surgeons regarding DDH diagnosis and treatment worldwide.

Methods: It is a cross-sectional study. We designed an online questionnaire to examine the different points of view and current practice of pediatric orthopedic surgeons worldwide regarding DDH diagnosis and treatment.

Results: Ninety-one (91) surgeons responded, with an overall response rate of 45.5%; the majority of the respondents were from Europe. The vast majority of respondents use ultrasonography and pelvic radiography to diagnose DDH in children less than 3 months of age, (83.5% and 2.2%, respectively). Pavlik Harness is the most popular treatment for infants younger than 6 months with DDH (70.3%). For older children, closed reduction with hip Spica cast is the most preferable therapy (78%).

Conclusion: This survey shows clearly that pediatric orthopedic surgeons worldwide do not agree on the diagnosis modalities and treatment of DDH, hence different approaches to this common disease. The lack of an international guideline should motivate pediatric orthopedic surgeons to discuss and formulate a uniform and evidence-based protocol for the diagnosis and treatment of DDH.

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