

# The DePuy Hip Implant Recall

The DePuy Orthopaedics unit of Johnson & Johnson recently recalled two types of hip implants on August 26, 2010. Just one of the recalled products was sold here in the United States: the DePuy ASR XL Acetabular System hip implant. Earlier this year, The New York Times reported that the FDA has received hundreds of complaints since 2008 from patients who experienced pain and other symptoms that led to revision surgery within the first five years of receiving the ASR hip implant. New data indicates that approximately 13% of patients (or 1 in 8) who were implanted with the ASR hip implant were forced to undergo a second hip surgery to remove the defective implant.



A hip joint is a type of “ball and socket” joint, and total hip replacement involves replacing both parts at once. The ASR hip implant system, launched in the U.S. in 2004, is comprised of the ball (or femoral head) which connects to a stem and then fits inside the bowl-shaped socket (or acetabulum). With an ASR hip, a concave metal piece is used to provide a smooth lining for the acetabulum. All components of the ASR hip implant are included in the recall. Late last year, DePuy indicated it was phasing out the implants

because of “slowing sales.” However, in March of 2010, the company warned doctors that the implants might have a high failure rate in some patients.

Several years ago, metal-on-metal hip implants became popular because the metal was thought to be more durable than traditional hip implants made of ceramic or plastic. More recently, some orthopedic surgeons have become reluctant to use metal-on-metal hip implants. Studies have shown that met-



## How do you find out if you have an ASR hip implant?

Contact your Orthopedic Surgeon or the hospital where the surgery took place. If you are unable to determine the type of hip implant you received, we will provide you with a release form to sign so that we may obtain the brand name and model number of the hip implant that you received.

## Reported problems with the DePuy ASR hip system:

- Loosening of the product from the bone
- Bone around the implant may break
- Discoloration because parts of the implant that move against each other are no long aligned

al-on-metal hip implant components wear down quickly and generate metallic debris that can cause pain, inflammation, swelling, tissue damage around the joint, and bone destruction in some patients. In April of 2010, British regulators issued an advisory on the metal debris generated by hip implants. The FDA is said to be meeting soon with professional medical groups to discuss the British advisory on metal hip implants.

Symptoms of a failing hip implant include pain, swelling, or difficulty walking. If you are experiencing any symptoms of pain or discomfort, you should contact your orthopedic surgeon for an evaluation. The attorneys

at Kirk-Pinkerton, P.A. have experience in representing persons who have been injured by the negligence of others including those affected by defective products. If you or a loved one have been implanted with a DePuy ASR hip implant device and have undergone revision surgery or suspect that you may need to undergo surgery in the future, please contact William E. Robertson, Jr., for important information regarding your legal rights.



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