The Design Rationale of the ARC™ Stem

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Apex ARC™
Tissue Sparing Femoral Stem
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- Presenting Author: Consulting Surgeon to Omniflife science, Member of CDD, LLC

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Goals of THA

Eliminate Pain
- New Bearing Surface

Restore Function
- Reproduce Hip Mechanics
  1. Femoral Offset
  2. Neck Length
  3. Combined Version Angle
  4. Reduce Tissue Damage (is becoming a priority)

THA, TKA, and Uni Knees are now being preformed as out patient surgery in select patients and select hospitals around the country. This trend will more than likely continue.
There is a historical reference to neck sparing THA

- Freeman, made the argument back in 1986 that modern hip stems should retain the femoral neck.

- Studies showed that 70% of the blood flow to the femoral neck is retained after THA and the vitality of the bone is good.
Freeman is acknowledged to be the “Godfather of the modern neck sparing concept”

- Freeman went on to design both cemented and cementless stems and these are still used in the international market.

- He was at that time more concerned with aseptic loosening and the torsional loads that he and many believe to be the principal cause of failure.

- Freeman advocated a straight stem and it required significant lateral effort!
Topic For Debate
Why Resect The Neck?
M.A. R. Freeman  JBJS 1984

- The varus-turning moment increases by a factor of 4 when the neck is resected
- Increase of femoral offset also increase torsional loads on the implant interface

“the neck of the femur is not obviously reduced in strength in the osteoarthritic hip and is no more weaker than the rest of the femur in the inflammatory arthropathies.”
Femoral Offset
(fatigue concern - all devices are subject to failure)

- Increase Offset (reduces) hip reaction forces
- Increased offset increases torsional loads
- Increased offset increases bending moment of implants

- Neck retention reduces bending moment & torsional loads

- We know the hip sees over 92 Nm
Torsional Resistance

With the neck resected, this force generates a significant torsional moment on the device which is resisted by shear at the stem/bone interface. Freeman

A/P directed resultant force
Interesting history on conservative devices

A modern movement

The Birmingham Mid-Head Resection both straight and curved stem designs

Some recent short stems
Townley and Whiteside followed with their own straight stem designs.

- Whiteside developed a couple of different stems the first with Biomet and more recently with his own company.

  - Biomet Whiteside Modular
    - Was a S-rom style with neck sparing feature
  - Current style is more rectangular with a flatter A/P profile

In personal communications, McTighe has stated that both of his neck-sparing stems do encounter a level of bone resorption 12-14 months post-op, and then stabilize. He feels there is a significant mechanical advantage to saving the neck in the early stages of bone remodeling, in that the neck does provide resistance to torsional loads and allows the stem to reach a steady “interface” state with the bone.
Professor Pipino

- Is the Acknowledged Leader in advocating short curved neck-sparing THA
- He has argued for tissue sparing both hard and soft tissue
- His original work dates back to 1979 and started implanting his first stem “Biodynamic” from 1983-1996
- This early design featured c.c. material, collar porous sintered beads on 2/3 of the stem, distal polished tip, 4 stem sizes 1 curve and 135° neck/shaft angle.
- He had encouraging results but was disappointed with bone remodeling
Pipino current stem design CFP™

- He has experienced improved results over the c.c. material, but still encounters some stress shielding.

- FEA modeling of the MSA/ARC stem has demonstrated better bone loading patterns compared to the Biodynamic™ design.

- The CFP stem is the current benchmark in clinical/surgical results for short curved neck-sparing stems.
Short Curved Tissue Sparing stems the next logical step

- We are starting to see more designs being introduced that feature curved short stems, some are neck sparing and some are not.

- Most are monoblock in neck features

• Modular necks provide for fine-tuning joint mechanics without disruption of implant bone interface
The History of curved stems

“The curve was right”
The application was wrong!

Thompson 1950
Burns version of Thompson 1950
Thompson 1951
Thompson 1959 model 5

Gosset
Acrylic head curved stem 1948

Thompson 1950

Bechtol 1956
DePuy stem from 1960s

Muller Curved stem 1970
A modified shorten Muller Press fit stem function well for 15 years. K. Berend
The design process was to address tissue sparing approaches with improved load transfer in a simple curved stem design. Reduced inventory (instruments & implants). We looked at a lot of different parameters. These are just a sample. 

Conical flair

Cobra style

Final ARC™ Design
The conical flair was build off conical collar of 1993 stem design

- Good compressive load transfer
- Good fit of the conical flair
- No damage to lateral structures
- Adjustment by modular neck
The end result is the ARC™ tissue sparing total hip stem

- Hundreds of x-rays templated for base line sizing in Australia and U.S.
- In depth review of the history on neck sparing total hip stems
- Attendance in Pipino’s continuing educational course
- Cadaver workshops in Australia and U.S.
- Five custom cases to validate original concept out 2 1/2 years
- Over 20 intra-operative trials before implantation in two countries by over 12 surgeons
- 100 cases in Australia
- 50 cases in U.S.
- 1 case of stem subsidence (1cm) in 80 year old male 6 months post-op no symptoms no plan on revision (was a crack not sure if intra-op or post-op)
- Over 28 reference (papers, abstracts, oral papers) presented on this concept in past 2 1/2 years (posted on JISRF web site)
- International Study Group established on the concept of tissue sparing THA (JISRF)
- No stem revision to-date in Australia or U.S.
- All surgeons continue to use the stem, indications increasing (still very early but encouraging at this stage of development and clinical follow-up
Novel: proximal conical flair loads the medial neck

**Posterior approach**  **Anterior approach**
Design Considerations for Modular Stems

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Surgical Technique
Posterior Approach

Femoral head is dislocated then the small femoral trial is superimposed over as a marking template for level of femoral head resection 5-8 mm sub cap at about 50°. Now finishing the stem first.

Awl
The key is to work the medial curve.

Rasp shape the bone do not broach.
Intraoperative x-rays always taken

Adjustments made 80% of the time

Notice how none of the lateral structures were touched. Less tissue trauma!

Not a problem to shave
A little more neck
Curvature of rasp handle in large patients such as this can slightly misdirect the rasp by the medial soft tissue forcing lateral pressure on the direction of your rasp. This is not a difficult problem but one that should be recognized it can create a small opening gap between the bone and final implant at the proximal lateral implant interface.
• Fine tuning of joint mechanics is provided for by the modular neck and modular head without disruption of implant-bone interface
• Varus or valgus is used slightly more than neutral
• Version angle necks will be a nice addition to the system
No difficulty with exposure with high neck cut or with doing femur first. Here we have the trial stem in place with no difficulty at all. Doing the femur first saves time and aids in cup orientation.
We are talking about a more conservative approach compared to conventional THA.

The ARC™ Stem saves more hard and soft tissue, less trauma impression is less blood loss and has shorten surgery time for me 15-20 minutes. I am very encouraged at this stage of experience and believe I will be increasing indications as I continue to gain more experience. Revision if necessary should be easier. Keppler