Thousands of hip replacement patients could need more surgery due to malfunctions

* 23:30, 28 APR 2016
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Metal on metal hip replacements, which became common in 2006, have been found to be more prone to failure than alternative methods

Thousands of Brits [who have had hip replacements](http://www.mirror.co.uk/all-about/hip-replacements) since 2006 may need further surgery, experts have warned.

More problems in the manufacturing process in the last decade are to blame.

Metal on metal hip replacements involving the DePuy Pinnacle device implanted since 2006 are more prone to failure and the need for further surgery, according to new research published in journal BMJ Open.

Researchers looked specifically at the long term performance of the 36mm Pinnacle metal on metal hip. This is the most commonly implanted metal hip in the world.

They wanted to uncover any risk factors associated with early failure and any need for further surgery.

The use of metal on metal hips has plummeted over the past five years, but hundreds of thousands remain in place.

Experts reviewed the progress of around 500 Brits fitted with metal on metal total hip replacements at one hospital trust in northern England, and followed them for an average of 7.5 years after the procedure.

In all, 71 metal hips required surgical removal and replacement, which the researchers describe as “unacceptably high”.

Before 2006, only five out of 43 hips - 12% - failed. But after 2006 more than a third - 36% - failed.