The Anterior Approach
as described by Joel Matta MD

Surgical Technique
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Introduction

Anterior Approach Philosophy
Minimally invasive or tissue-sparing orthopaedic procedures have gained attention as patients demand shortened recovery time and accelerated rehabilitation. Development of efficient, repeatable, tissue-sparing total hip replacement procedures is important.

The Anterior Approach Surgical Technique for Total Hip Replacement is described by Joel Matta, MD, who has been a strong proponent for the Anterior Approach technique as it is known today in the United States. This approach is an advanced application of the Smith-Petersen approach using the PROfx® or hana table* from Mizuho OSI®. These tables help to streamline the technique, creating a reproducible procedure that minimises soft-tissue releases and eliminates the need for secondary incisions to accommodate instrumentation or the femoral component. The technique does not cut any muscles, but separates them to allow access into the hip joint. The result is that muscles are spared during surgery. With these advantages, the Anterior Approach provides the potential for a quicker recovery compared to traditional hip replacement surgery.

Anterior Approach Education Program
DePuy has collaborated with Joel Matta, MD, to build a comprehensive training and education program around the Anterior Approach. This program features Anterior Approach Learning Centres offering hands-on cadaveric training, didactic lectures and interactive discussion. Surgical technique papers, surgical technique videos, specially designed Anterior Approach instrumentation, marketing materials and a field specialist further augment DePuy's comprehensive Anterior Approach program.

*The PROfx® and hana® tables are not DePuy Orthopaedics, Inc., DePuy International Ltd. products, nor are they the only tables that can be used for this approach. This surgical technique still applies when using other tables.
About Joel Matta, MD

Joel Matta, MD, took the Anterior Approach to the United States from Europe and has advanced the technique through training and education. The CORAIL® Total Hip System and the Anterior Approach surgical instruments were designed in conjunction with Dr. Matta and a team of other surgeons. Having performed 2000 plus Anterior Approach hip replacements himself, Dr. Matta has also been instrumental in the training of many orthopaedic surgeons in the technique, and serves as chairman of DePuy's Anterior Approach Learning Centres.

Dr. Matta is founder and chairman of the Anterior Total Hip Arthroplasty Collaborative (ATHAC, www.athac.org), the founder and director of the Hip & Pelvis Institute at Saint John's Health Centre in Santa Monica, CA, and the author of over 100 publications and videos on hip replacement and pelvic surgery.

Dr. Matta is a consultant for DePuy Orthopaedics, and receives royalties as the designer of the hana® and PROfx® tables which are manufactured by Mizuho OSI.
The hana® table allows the surgeon to perform Total Hip Arthroplasty through a single anterior approach incision, without detachment of muscle from the pelvis, or femur. The table allows hyperextension, abduction, adduction and external rotation of the hip for femoral component placements, a positioning option is not practicable with conventional tables. Minimising the disturbance to the lateral and posterior soft tissues provides immediate stability of the hip after surgery.
OR Team Engineered
Facilitates OR Team performance.
Proprietary features make pre-operative and intra-operative protocol easier than a standard OR table.

Suited to the Newest Technologies
Supports tissue-sparing techniques for MIS procedures.
Provides new level of surgical assistance for surgeon and OR team.
Pre-Operative Set-Up

Patient Set-up and Draping
Before transferring the patient to the hana® table, it is recommended that the patient’s feet be secured into the boots. Apply web roll around the foot, then self-adherent wrap (e.g Coban™) around the upper ankle. With the boot liner out of the shell, position the foot inside the liner. Secure the tongue and the Velcro® strap then place the foot into the boot. Ensure that the heel drops down into the shell. Affix the buckle straps and securely tighten the foot. Test the stability of the boot on the foot by holding the ankle while pulling on the boot handle.

Position the patient on the hana table in preparation for surgery. Typically, the patient’s arms are placed roughly perpendicular outward and not over the chest. Arms placed on the chest can interfere with femoral preparation later in the procedure.

1. Use a clear ‘U’ drape (non sterile) around operative area and towards the foot (Figure 1). A towel wrapped over each boot reduces the chance of perforation through the curtain.

2. Place two extra large drapes over the lower extremities starting distal to operative area. Place two large drapes across the top of the patient (Figure 2).

3. Staple three towels around operative area, one on each side of the incision area and one medial to the incision area (Figure 3).
4. Apply an impervious ‘U’ drape with adhesive around the operative area and extending over the legs. Apply another in the opposite direction over the head.

5. Place a split drape with adhesive proximal and distal to the operative area.

6. Cover exposed skin with iodine incise drape (Figure 4).

7. Cut a small hole in the drape for the femoral hook lift, place the hook bracket on the lift and seal with iodine incise drape (Figure 5).

Room Set-up
The OR is set up such that the instruments are on the operative side of the patient. Generally, the use of 2 back tables (A), 1 Mayo stand (B) and 1 basin stand (C) is sufficient, creating an L-shaped area.

The C-Arm (D) is positioned on the non-operative side, perpendicular to the patient. A typical OR team will consist of the surgeon, assistant, anesthetist, scrub nurse, circulating nurse/table operator and X-ray technician (Figure 6).
Mark the locations of the iliac crest, greater trochanter and the anterior superior iliac spine (ASIS) (Figure 7). Start the incision approximately 3 cm lateral and 1 cm distal to the ASIS, and continue in a posterior and distal direction toward the anterior border of the femur. The incision will be 8-9 cm and parallel with the fibres of the tensor fascia lata muscle.

The tensor fibres are visible through the translucent fascia (Figure 8).
A soft tissue protector (Protractor®) may be inserted into the wound. Incise the fascia over the tensor and parallel to its fibres. Extend the fascial split beneath the skin proximal (toward the ASIS) and distal (Figure 9).

Coagulate the vessel that perforates the fascia. The fascial incision is typically between the anterior two-thirds and posterior one-third of the tensor muscle (Figure 10). Avoid splitting the iliotibial band, which lies along the posterior border of the tensor. Splitting this will lead to the plane posterior to the tensor commonly known as the Watson-Jones approach.
Exposure

Lift the anterior tensor flap with an Allis Clamp and using your finger, bluntly dissect inside the tensor sheath, anterior and medial to the tensor muscle.

The location and obliquity of the incision along with the deep dissection within the tensor sheath, protects the lateral femoral cutaneous nerve.

Place a Hibbs Retractor (Cat. No. 2598-07-180) medially to aid visualisation. Palpate the ASIS and move your finger distal and lateral to palpate the anterior hip capsule. Place a blunt-tipped Cobra Retractor (Cat. No. 37-4106) lateral to the hip capsule and locate the origin of the rectus femoris. Retract the tensor and gluteus minimus laterally. Use the Hibbs Retractor and retract the sartorius and rectus femoris muscles medially (Figure 11).

To elevate the iliopsoas and rectus femoris muscles from the anterior capsule, pass a Key/Cobb elevator posterior to the origin of the rectus femoris and anterior to the hip capsule, directing it medial and distal (Figure 12).
Place the tip of the MI Narrow Curved Hohmann Retractor (Cat. No. 2598-07-190) on the antero-medial hip capsule to retract the rectus femoris and sartorius medially. As the Hohmann and Cobra retract medially and laterally, use your finger to tease the fascia lata from the distal tensor to enhance exposure and avoid rupture of the tensor fibres (Figure 13).

Retract the tensor laterally with a Hibbs Retractor to facilitate sight of the anterior capsule. Dissect distally to enhance exposure. The lateral femoral circumflex vessels are also now seen distal to the hip capsule. Cut and tie, or cauterise both sides of the vessel, taking care to cauterise all the branches (Figure 14).
For more mobility of the tensor muscle, release the fascia layer distal to the cauterised vessels. Retract the tensor to visualise the fibres of the vastus lateralis.

Cut the capsule parallel to the neck at the junction of the anterior and lateral/superior capsule; continue down to the base of the neck, until reaching the inter-trochanteric line.

Ensure that the lateral shoulder (saddle) of the neck is visible where the lateral portion of the neck joins the tip of the greater trochanter (Figure 15).

To retract the capsule, position a suture tag into the lateral edge of the anterior capsule (Figure 16). From the distal extent of the capsular incision, cut at a right angle medially along the intertrochanteric line (junction of the anterior capsule and the origin of the vastus lateralis muscle).

Cut the anterior capsule from the base of the neck. This ensures visualisation and mobility of the femur during femoral preparation. Place a sharp-tipped Cobra Retractor (Cat 2598-07-200) under the anterior capsule and around the anterior neck. Detach the capsule from the intertrochanteric line area.
Watch for and cauterise bleeders along the intertrochanteric line. Place a tag suture on the cut edge of the lateral capsule, near the greater trochanter. Place the lateral cobra inside the lateral capsule along the lateral neck. Slide the tip of a small Hohmann Retractor (Cat. No. 2598-07-190), under the anterior capsule and over the anterior rim.

Locate and remove the labrum to see the bony rim of the acetabulum. The labrum is often ossified (acetabular osteophyte), if so, excise with an osteotome, failing to do so may make inserting the Bone Skid difficult. Request gross traction be applied and lock. Using approximately 3-4 turns of fine traction, the femoral head will pull away from the acetabulum (Figure 17).

Push the Murphy Bone Skid (Cat. No. 2004-00-000) between the superior head and acetabular roof and “lever” to loosen the soft tissues. Remove the Skid.

Request the operator to remove 2 turns of fine traction. Place the Murphy Bone Skid between the femoral head and anterior rim (Figure 18). Mobilise the head and externally rotate the hip approximately 20 degrees.
Dislocation

Under power, insert the Modular Head Ball Remover (Cat. No. 2125-00-600), or Corkscrew, into the femoral head in an anterior to posterior direction and attach the Excel T-Handle (Cat. No. 2001-42-000) (Figure 19).

Unlock the rotation on the table. Using leverage from the Murphy Bone Skid and by pulling and rotating with the corkscrew dislocate the head anterior and lateral (Figure 20).
Dislocation and Femoral Head Resection

Remove the Murphy Bone Skid and place Cobra Retractors medial and lateral to the neck. Using a small Hohmann Retractor to slide under the muscle, with the tip around the lesser trochanter, retract the vastus origin. Release the capsule from the medial and posterior-medial neck (Figure 21). This dislocation and capsular release will later enhance femoral mobility and access.

Identify and coagulate bleeders near the base of the neck. Unlock the table rotation and internally rotate the leg to reduce the hip. The neck cut should be based on the pre-operative templating. Most often, the lateral portion of the neck cut comes near the lateral shoulder of the neck, by the junction of the greater trochanter. This can be used as an indicator for the neck cut.

Using a Hibbs Retractor to protect the tensor from the Oscillating Saw Blade, aim in a medial direction so the excursion of the saw does not come into contact with the posterior greater trochanter. Make the cut using the saw. Use an Osteotome with the blade parallel to the long axis of the body to finish the cut (between the greater trochanter and the base of the neck) (Figure 22).

*Note: An in-situ neck cut may also be performed, if preferred. A neck cut following dislocation is described here since dislocation can aid with femoral mobility.*
Prevent sharp edges from catching on muscles by rotating the head to bring the uncut side out first (Figure 23).

Externally rotate the hip about 45 degrees. Pull up on the tag suture attached to the anterior capsule and place an MI Narrow Curved Hohmann Retractor under the capsule and over the inferior part of the anterior rim. Place a Cobra Retractor over the mid-portion of the posterior rim with the tip outside of the labrum, but inside of the capsule.

Cut the inferior capsule transversely to allow a little release, excising the inferior capsule if needed. With a knife, excise the residual posterior, and if present, the anterior labrum (Figure 24).
Acetabular Reaming

Begin reaming the acetabulum by aiming the reamer anterior to posterior, and proximal. Medialise with the reamer aimed medial and slightly posterior and superior (Figure 25). Sequentially ream in 1-2 mm increments. Check progress by observing the acetabulum and by checking with the C-Arm. Look for and control bleeding near the obturator foramen.

Before reaming to the final templated size, it is recommended that the reamer position be checked with fluoroscopy. Generally, the cup should be placed at the patient’s anatomic centre of rotation. Rotate the C-Arm image (A/P view) on the screen until the pelvis image appears level (when the transverse anatomic line is horizontal). With the image centred over the midline, the coccyx should be pointing right at the symphysis, and the obturator foramina should look identical. You may need to orbit and rainbow the C-Arm to accomplish this.

After levelling the image and pelvis, centre the image over the operative acetabulum. The image of the reamer shows where the cup will be centred (Figure 26). The cup should have a good circumferential fit.

*Tip: A cup that is too large may lack purchase and an overhanging anterior edge may impinge on the iliopectas tendon.*
When you have reamed to the appropriate size, you can insert the PINNACLE® Trial or Cup (trial liner optional). After confirming alignment and position, remove the trial and insert the final prosthesis. For surgeons unaccustomed to the supine position, it is common to place the cup with too much inclination and anteversion. The correct insertion orientation is typically more parallel to the floor and long axis of the body than expected. Check for proper placement of the final component with the C-Arm. Aim for 40-45 degrees of inclination and 20-25 degrees of anteversion (Figure 27).

The angle and proportions of the image of the ellipse of the rim of the cup indicates inclination and anteversion.

Place the final component into position and impact the Cup. Before inserting the Cup Liner, check the Acetabular Retractors. A Cobra Retractor should be placed over the mid-portion of the posterior rim. Detach the Cup and insert the Liner into the Cup, seating it into the Cup (Figure 28). Impact the Liner and perform a final check of the Cup and Liner placement under X-ray.
Femoral Preparation

Internally rotate the femur to the neutral position. Palpate the vastus tubercle, and place the tip of the bone hook (either the right or left, corresponding to the operative hip) just distal to the vastus tubercle and around the posterior femur (Figures 29-30).

Do not force external rotation of the femur. Very forceful external rotation can cause a lower extremity fracture. If the patient is elderly and osteoporotic, it is often safest for the surgeon to grasp the foot boot with its overlying drape. The surgeon then applies extremity torque that he or she is comfortable with and the unscrubbed table operator locks the position. In many cases, initial femoral external rotation is short of 90 degrees, but subsequent soft tissue releases will allow 90 degrees of femoral external rotation.

Figure 29.

View 1

View 2

View 3

Figure 30.
Femoral Preparation

Lift up on the femur with the bone hook and pull laterally away from the acetabulum. From the table, unlock the gross traction – using no traction at this stage. Externally rotate the foot approximately 110-120 degrees, this will result with the femur rotating approximately 90 degrees. Lock the rotation wheel, unlock gross traction and extend and adduct the leg (Figure 31).

Figure 31.
Femoral Preparation

Place a Cobra or Muller Retractor (Cat. No. 2176-10-000) along the posterior cortex of the femur. Next, place a Trochanteric Retractor (Cat No. 2598-07-240) over the tip of the greater trochanter, and outside the hip capsule (Figure 32).

Place the bone hook into the bracket on the table and manually lift the Hook. Lift the femur and raise the jack to bring the bracket up to hold the Hook.

*Note: Use the table bracket as a shelf, not as a lift for the bone hook and femur.*

Detach the lateral capsule anterior to posterior from the inside of the greater trochanter, into the piriformis fossa. Pull up on the suture attached to the anterior capsule to facilitate this (Figure 33).

![Figure 32](Image)

![Figure 33](Image)
Femoral Preparation

Cauterise the region of the retinacular vessels along the posterior superior neck. The piriformis and obturator internus tendons insert on the anterior portion of the greater trochanter. Typically, the piriformis tendon lies superior to the anterior greater trochanter. The obturator internus tendon typically lies medial to the tip of the greater trochanter. Further release of the capsule from the medial trochanter tip and partial or total release of the internus tendon provides full exposure of the medial trochanter tip and enhanced femoral mobility.

At this point you will see some fibres of the capsule and may see some of the obturator internus tendon. If you need to see more of the inside of the greater trochanter, incise along the inner surface of the greater trochanter to improve the field of view (Figure 34).

A manual lateral and anterior pull on the Bone Hook (after soft tissue release) can give further femoral exposure. This position is maintained by raising the hook bracket. At this point, further femoral rotation, if necessary, may be possible. The strong insertion of the obturator externus tendon is seen in the piriformis fossa and should be preserved. The obturator externus pulls the femur in a medial direction and thereby has an important anti-dislocation function.

Use a Long-Handled Rongeur, to remove the lateral neck remnant and if necessary, to obtain more lateral access to the inside of the greater trochanter (Figure 35).
Femoral Broaching and Trialling

Broaching
Start the CORAIL Total Hip System broach insertion near the calcar, by pushing the smallest size compaction broach by hand (Figure 36).

Align the broach parallel with the posterior cortex. Sequentially broach to the proper size with the broach attached to the selected broach handle. This will progressively enlarge the metaphyseal cavity by compacting and shaping the cancellous bone until the level of the neck resection is reached. Check the depth of broach insertion in relation to the tip of the greater trochanter and match this to the templated pre-operative plan.

Broaching should continue until complete stability is achieved with the last size broach used without reaching cortical contact in the femoral canal; ensuring cancellous bone preservation. The size of each CORAIL broach is the same as the corresponding implant without the 155μm thick HA (hydroxyapatite) coating.

Tip: If you impact a broach and it does not fully seat in the canal, it is recommended that you return to the previous size broach and re-establish the broach envelope of cancellous bone to accept the smaller size implant. The CORAIL implant's design allows you to go back to the smaller size if needed.

Trialling
Place the appropriate trial neck and head onto the broach (Figure 37). Lower the bracket and take out the retractors and femoral hook. Use the table to bring the leg back to neutral position. Pull back on the gross traction and internally rotate the leg to reduce the hip.
Femoral Trialling

Check the leg length and offset with the X-ray. Position the hips identically to get accurate comparison views. The table is very helpful for making and holding small adjustments of abduction and rotation to maximise the accuracy of comparison X-rays. Take an X-ray of the non-operative hip to be used as a control. Then take a picture of the operative hip for comparison (Figure 38).

With the two prints, check femoral offset and leg length by overlaying the X-rays (Figure 39).

Tip: Take a distal X-ray to check stem direction and correct sizing in the canal.
Final Implantation

Return the femur to the preparation position (dislocate, externally rotate, extend and adduct). Re-establish the femoral exposure with the retractors and elevate the femur with the bone hook. If the trial reduction was satisfactory, with good broach size and position, and accurate length and offset, then plane the calcar. Place the Shielded Calcar Planer (Cat. No. 9400-80-007) onto the broach trunion and mill the calcar to the broach face, allowing the implant collar (if used) to seat flush against the calcar. Make certain the calcar planer is rotating before engaging the calcar to prevent the planer from binding on the calcar.

If during trial reduction, it was determined that adjustments were needed, make the necessary adjustments to correct broach size, inserter depth, neck length or offset. Significant adjustments should be checked with another trial.

Place the final CORAIL implant by hand into the prepared canal until 1-2 cm of HA coating is visible.

Impact the stem with light blows until it is seated using the Anterior Inserter (Cat. Nos. 2598-07-460, Modular Inserter Handle, and 2598-07-440, CORAIL/TRI-LOCK® Bone Preservation Stem Anterior Inserter Shaft). Place the final head onto the stem and impact. Using the hana® table, complete the final reduction (Figure 40).

Take a final X-ray and perform wound closure by tying the two sutures together and irrigating out. Close the fascia, subcutaneous tissue and skin (Figure 41).
Hints and Tips

CORAIL Tips
• The use of the collared CORAIL stem can help control for subsidence, especially in Type C bone.

• The CORAIL is a cancellous impaction broach and stem, and it does not fit and fill. You should not have to use aggressive mallet blows to seat the broach or the stem, wrist motion is usually sufficient. Be particularly careful in Type A bone where the cancellous bone is usually dense, and do not try to force too large a size in this type of bone.

Approach Tips
• For your first Anterior Approach cases, select your patients carefully. The most difficult patients are the heavy, muscular males that have short femoral necks, or morbidly obese patients. As you become more comfortable with the technique, you will find that you can expand your patient selection. Many surgeons use the Anterior Approach on all patients, once they are through the initial learning curve.

• Orthopaedic surgeons are accustomed to palpating bone, cutting to the bone and following it. The Anterior Approach may produce some initial unfamiliarity because it is more of a pure soft tissue approach and relies on recognition of soft tissue landmarks.

• Be meticulous with exposure of the lateral neck/top of the trochanter. It improves access to the femur and makes it easier to avoid varus implant placement.

• Early in the learning curve, the main difficulty is mobilisation of the femur. Some surgeons recommend excising the anterior capsule, which may help with a large patient. Some surgeons will do this routinely and it may help early in the learning curve.

• Some surgeons start the case with the hip in slight flexion, which can help to relax the rectus.

Incision Tips
• For the surgeon unfamiliar with the approach, the incision will appear more lateral than expected. The incision should go over the belly of the tensor fascia lata muscle and lateral to the interval between the tensor and sartorius. This preserves the lateral cutaneous nerve of the thigh and allows access inside the tensor sheath. If you are too medial to the tensor sheath, there is the potential for damage due to muscle enervation. If you are too lateral, the operation can still be performed through a different interval. The tensor may be split, which is not my technique but is an approach used by Keggi. The Watson-Jones interval is further lateral and posterior to the tensor.

• If the incision is too distal, the first Cobra may not be placed correctly. You should be able to feel the anterior innominate bone through the incision, and this generally requires that the proximal incision cross the inguinal crease. To find the superior lateral neck for the first retractor placement, feel with your finger as you dissect the medial border, of the tensor, from its sheath proximally until you can feel the anterior border of the bone. Follow it deep until you feel the superior neck, and place the cobra here.

• Make sure the lateral circumflex vessels are cauterised during the approach.

Dislocation Tips
• Excise the anterior hip capsule in a trapezoidal shape, with the wide part of the trapezoid along the femoral inner trochanteric line and the narrow part at the acetabular rim.

• With the hip skid, start superiorly between the roof and the head. Generally, four turns of traction are needed. The next step is to re-insert the skid between the anterior wall and the head, and take off two turns of traction to relax the anterior structures. Use a curved osteotome or a long, curved scissor to sever the ligamentum if you experience difficulty placing the hip skid.

• Posterior capsule release followed by an internus and piriformis release will expose most hips.

• Externus releases are rarely needed, and are difficult because of the intimate contact with the fossa and posterior bone.
Hints and Tips

Neck Cut Tips
• Cutting the neck from anterior to posterior introduces the possibility of the saw inadvertently cutting the posterior greater trochanter. Guard against this by aiming the saw somewhat medial and cutting the calcar area first, then, cut only the anterior neck more lateral and finally cut the lateral shoulder of the neck with an osteotome in a posterior and medial direction. A small bridge of the bone in the posterior neck near the greater trochanter may be left uncut but it will fracture and the spike left can easily be trimmed later.

• It is difficult with the Anterior Approach to re-cut the neck. With other techniques, you may have learned that if the neck cut is long, you can always come back. With the Anterior Approach, a long neck cut will challenge you during the rest of the case, making it difficult to get reamers and the cup into the acetabulum. Take your time, cut the neck at the right length the first time through, which means you must know where the inferior trochanter is before the osteotomy.

• While cutting the neck, take care not to cut the greater trochanter, which is a posterior structure. If the hip is slightly externally rotated, it can endanger the trochanter when the saw comes through the posterior cortex. Some surgeons finish the superior lateral cut with the osteotome to protect against cutting the trochanter.

• To help avoid fracture of the greater trochanter, some surgeons release the capsule when extended, and rotate the femur to mobilise better for rotation and elevation before releasing external rotators.

• Once the hip is dislocated anteriorly, you can use a small Hohmann to retract the vastus lateralis from the calcar and then release the inferior medial capsule from the neck. With the corkscrew still in place and the hip dislocated anteriorly, perform a sub-capital femoral neck resection with a long, narrow saw blade.

• Because the corkscrew is still attached to the head and the head is anterior, you simply remove the head and internally rotate the hip to about 30 degrees of external rotation. Now, complete the neck cut and remove the remaining neck segment at the desired level of neck resection.

Head Removal Tips
• Some surgeons remove the head with a segmental cut in the femoral neck without dislocating the hip.

• When removing the head, use a Hibbs retractor and a Cobra to protect the tensor from the sharp, cut edge, of the neck.

Acetabular Preparation Tips
• When reaming, keep traction on, with the leg externally rotated about 60 degrees to help keep the femoral neck out of the way.

• If you are having difficulty getting the acetabular reamers into the acetabulum, make sure the femoral neck cut is not too long.

• Be careful reaming the acetabulum, as the tendency is to ream too anteriorly. You can reduce anterior retractor tension when inserting the reamer, and during reaming, to allow centralisation of the reamer and avoid preferential anterior reaming.

• If needed, you can place the reamer into the acetabulum, before attaching the power.
Hints and Tips

Cup Insertion Tips

- Cup insertion is straightforward, and it is recommended that you use fluoroscopy, starting with a true A/P pelvis view to verify your landmarks.

- Most of the errors in positioning the acetabular component are placing it too abducted and too anteverted. After proper placement, the correctly positioned acetabulum will often appear in the wound to be more horizontal and less anteverted than expected. This effect is accentuated if the patient’s lumbar lordosis increases when supine under anesthesia on the orthopaedic table, as is often the case. An increase in lordosis is easily identified with an image view of the obturator foramina showing a decreasing superior-inferior dimension.

Femoral Preparation Tips

- Some surgeons recommend incising the piriformis to expose the femur and get to the true piriformis fossa for the starting point into the femur.

- Access to the femur requires patience and a stepwise approach. Many surgeons release the capsule from the medial femoral neck after dislocating the head. If you choose to not dislocate and cut the neck in situ, this capsular release can be performed after head removal and with the femur externally rotated. Release the band of capsule just inferior to the acetabulum. The femur is placed in the preparation position with the table with successive external rotation (approximately 120 degrees), hyperextension, adduction, and proximal elevation with the hook. First, the lateral capsule is released from the lateral neck remnant and medial greater trochanter, which is typically enough to allow the femur to displace lateral and anterior. The bone hook is progressively raised as the femur mobility allows. Do not force the bone hook up, because it will risk a fracture of the greater trochanter.

- If further femoral displacement is needed you can progressively release the tendons of the obturator internus, piriformis, and obturator externus. An obturator externus tendon release is rarely necessary and is least desirable because it has the most medial anti-dislocation pull on the femur. At times the femur will not initially rotate externally to 90 degrees but will after release of the lateral capsule.

- The femoral elevation hook should not be thought of as a strong traction device. The hook is a support that keeps the femur from falling posterior from a position that you can manually create by pulling on the hook. Feel the tension on the hook and make sure that you can still manually lift the femur a little higher than where the hook supports it.

- Ensure that all traction is off the operative leg before placing it in extension and external rotation.

- Do not force the proximal femur up if it resists. Instead, release the posterior superior capsule, and try to pull the femur away from the acetabulum. The posterior part of the greater trochanter tends to get caught on the posterior rim of the acetabulum. If you try to force it up, you will risk fracture of the trochanter.

- You can enter the femoral canal with a Kuntcher Awl or the Canal Finder (Cat. No 9400-80-001). It has just the right bend and gets the entry in the right alignment under fluoro. It has helped some surgeons when they first started on the learning curve and may help avoid violation of the canal.
Hints and Tips

Femoral Broaching Tips

• Broaching is straightforward, but be cautious of a patient with a flexion contracture, as the femur may be sitting straight out instead of down, and you can broach out the back of the femur if you are not careful.

• Femoral anteversion is judged by palpation of the patella and visualisation of the neck cut. The plane of the broach should be roughly parallel to the plane of the posterior neck cortex. Most femurs have very little anatomic anteversion.

• The broach handle should be up against the patient’s side to avoid having the broach perforate the posterior part of the proximal femur.

C-Arm Tips

• The purpose of the image intensifier is to enhance the accuracy of the cup placement and femoral length and offset compared to standard techniques. Use your standard cues for orientation of the acetabular component and use the image as your check. Place the femoral trial according to the pre-operative template and intra-operative bony landmarks (greater and lesser trochanter) and then make a check with the C-Arm.

• Capture a true A/P pelvis view and note how many degrees of orbit are present. Once the acetabular component is impacted, view the hip using continuous fluoro while orbiting the fluoro laterally. When the posterior rim of the acetabular component is superimposed on the anterior rim of the shell lock the orbit. Note how many degrees of orbit are present. This number minus the initial number from the A/P will be the anteversion angle of the cup. It is very important to start the procedure with a balanced pelvis where the coccyx lines up with the symphysis pubis.

• Check your stem version with the femur as the reference. Using the final broach as your guide, reduce the hip and balance the pelvis under fluoro to assure the centre of the coccyx is in line with the symphysis. Orbit the fluoro beam to obtain an A/P of the hip and proximal femur. Using continuous fluoro, unlock the table rotation, manipulate the operative leg at the knee or foot while viewing the image screen. When rotating from external to internal you will observe the femoral stem’s anterior surface is at its maximum medial to lateral diameter (when using a tapered stem) and relative foot position. If the foot is externally rotated, then your stem is retroverted. If the foot is internally rotated 10 to 15 degrees, then your stem is well-rotated. If, however, you have the foot extremely internally rotated, then your femoral stem is excessively anteverted.

Stability Checking Tips

• Check hip stability with 60 degrees of external rotation and 50-60 degrees of extension.

• Take the boot out of the spar, grasp the foot with the sterile drapes that are covering it and put the leg in a ROM test, and/or your preferred checks.

Retractor Tips

• Use a Sorrel Retractor (2598-07-210) placed over a lap sponge over the tensor muscle and attach it to a weight (2598-07-230). It obviates the need for an assistant to retract the tensor posteriorly with a Hibbs retractor.

• The long-handled Cobras are good for obese patients and allow the hands of the assistant to be out of the way while broaching.

• Take care when using the anterior acetabulum retractor – do not use a long pointed tip, and stay on the bone to avoid injury to the femoral nerve.
Concern has been expressed regarding the possibility of wound infection for obese patients undergoing Anterior Total Hip Arthroplasty (ATHA). I will give my thoughts which may be useful because my personal series documents only one deep infection in over 1350 primaries. This patient was not particularly obese but had psoriatic arthritis with skin lesions adjacent to the operative site.

Obesity by itself is of course an infection risk because of the thick, poorly vascularised sub-cutaneous layer. Posterior and lateral approaches with their fat layer - thicker than anterior - certainly pose their own risks. The major concern and observed problem from anterior, however, has been an overhanging pannus with a deep skin crease.

Surgery should not be performed, particularly ATHA, if the skin fold has observed inflammation, skin breakdown, or evidence of fungal infection. “Goopy stuff“ in the fold and redness are obvious warning flags. I have had patients that needed a dermatologic consult pre-op. This led to topical medications and dressing material in the fold.

I think prepping and draping methodically and carefully is very important. In extreme cases the abdomen can be taped toward the opposite side. Assuming the skin is clean and in good condition, I shave local and adjacent pubic hair. The main goal is to have adhesive vinyl drapes that stick and remain stuck during the prep and throughout the procedure.

I don’t think that vinyl drape application is as simple as it seems to many in the OR and I harp on the details of this to nurses and assistants. Another principle is that making your drape border far from the wound edges enhances sterility because there is less likelihood that unsticking of the drapes will make a window to surrounding unsterile areas. I make an outline of tincture of benzoin where the sticky edge drapes. Allow the benzoin to dry prior to vinyl border drape application. Proximal this outline is above or at the iliac crest and distal at mid thigh, and posterior, posterior to the greater trochanter by 7 to 10 cm. The medial border should be as medial as possible without being deep in the skin crease between the pubic prominence and the thigh.

I find if the medial drape is too medial it is very difficult to keep it firmly attached during the prep. When the border vinyl drapes are placed on the benzoin border they should not be placed under tension. If anything, place the skin under slight tension so that the vinyl edge will sit down and in the concavities and folds and stay there. The biggest problem I see is that the person applying pulls the vinyl drape and it does not go into and firmly attach to the depths of the concavities and folds. No tension during application! The prepping must also not create detachment of the vinyl drape border.

Once the vinyl drape border is established I don’t let the subsequent drapes make the exposed surgical area smaller. After placing some sheets above and below, I staple towels to the skin along the vinyl border and then apply split sheets above and below. The splits are not placed on the skin but on the bordering towels and leave a small margin of the towel border visible.

The most important step follows, which is getting the Betadine® impregnated skin vi drape properly applied. The prepped area must be dry. Again don’t stretch the drape, stretch the skin. An assistant needs to pull the pannus proximally to flatten out the fold as much as possible. The vi drape is then patted first into the concavities and then outward over the convexities. At the completion the vi drape if applied properly should look wrinkled not tense and smooth. If pulled under tension, it will pull away from the concavities during the case and open the window to unsterile areas. You may need a bigger vi drape than you think because of stretching out the skin and following the concavities of the obese. If there are air bubbles under the vi drape, puncture them. Don’t “walk them to the side” with your fingers. When you do this you unstick and restick areas of the vinyl making it lose some of its adhesiveness which makes it more likely to detach during the surgery and open a window to groin or other bacteria.

Preventing Infection in Obese Patients

Joel Matta, MD
It is probable that my details, like the towel border and U drapes, are individual to my routine and not essential. However, a firmly attached border with benzoin and maintaining intimate vi drape attachment during the surgery is essential. An additional benefit of this technique is that the vi drape usually turns the fold into a more gentle concavity and helps hold the pannus up.

Begin the incision lateral enough and you will usually avoid the worst of the pannus fold. Usually my incision is not longer than 10 cm, but make it as long as necessary. I prefer the Protractor® because it helps protect the skin and sub cut. Like any other surgery, being gentle with soft tissues and hemostasis is important in preventing infection. Get adequate femoral mobilisation so that the tensor doesn’t get ripped. Femoral mobilisation combined with adequate incision length will also limit broach and handle trauma to the tissues.

Deep and sub cut drains are optional according to preference and bleeding at the end. After closing the fascia, I like to put only one running layer of 2-0 in the sub cut. I don’t like to try to approximate the dermis at this point because the wound tends to split sub cut sutures that are very superficial. For the sub cut I think that usually less is better because a lot of suture just crushes the fat leading to drainage. I then prefer a running sub cut that is resorbable. Secure the suture ends well with benzoin and Steri-Strips™ pinching the free ends of the suture. Dermabond® is the last layer, then a dressing after the Dermabond dries.

After surgery, it is probably best to keep a dressing in the skin fold to help prevent maceration. Do not allow the nurses to place tape on the Steri-Strips or the tape will pull them off.

I think that some obese patients will inevitably get some proximal wound maceration and the skin may open a little in this area but the problem seems to remain superficial and it gradually heals. If the wound opens a little in this area, I do not try to close it.

No baths or swimming pool (just showers) for the first 2 weeks and possibly longer if there is a wound problem.
Specialised Instrumentation for the Anterior Approach

The Tissue Sparing Solutions Femoral Preparation cases feature instrumentation designed to enable the Anterior Approach, including:

- **Anterior Approach Broach Handle** - Designed to avoid soft tissue impingement during broaching, the handle will attach to SUMMIT®, CORAIL and TRI-LOCK Bone Preservation Stem broaches, thus allowing surgeons to implant any of the three platforms. The instrument’s dual-angled nature will help with soft tissue and wound clearance during a tissue-sparing Anterior Approach. Its dual-angled design also requires the need for separate left and right handles depending on which hip the surgeon is replacing.

- **Anterior Stem Inserters** - Designed to help in accurate stem placement during a tissue-sparing Anterior Approach. Their curved features help surgeons to avoid soft tissue and trochanteric impingement during all aspects of insertion. Though the stem inserters are labelled separately for CORAIL/TRI-LOCK Bone Preservation Stem and SUMMIT, they may be used interchangeably depending on the preferred offset. The CORAIL/TRI-LOCK Bone Preservation Stem Inserter, for example, will provide anterior offset when used with CORAIL or the TRI-LOCK Bone Preservation Stem and lateral offset when used with SUMMIT.

- **Modular Box Osteotome** – Designed to attach to the end of a broach handle and will help surgeons to remove hard cortical bone from the proximal femur. The modular osteotome enables surgeons to use it with dual-offset or curved broach handles; to enable the Anterior Approach.
Ordering Information

1. 2598-07-180 Right Angle Posterior Capsular Retractor (Hibbs)
2. 2598-07-230 Sorrel Retractor Weight 2lbs
3. 2598-07-210 Sorrel Incision Retractor Blade Wide
4. 2004-00-000 Murphy Bone Skid
5. 2598-07-190 Mi Narrow Curved Hohmann
6. 2598-07-110 Mi Gluteus Medius Retractor (Right Angle Hohmann)
7. 2176-10-000 Muller Type Retractor
8. 2598-07-220 Sorrel Retractor Weight 2.5 lbs

Anterior Approach Instrumentation

1. 37-4106 Blunted Serrated Cobra (2)
2. 2598-07-200 MI 2-Incision Sharp Cobra (Serrated Point)
3. 2598-07-260 Blunted Cobra
4. 2598-07-240 Single Prong Soft Tissue Retractor
5. 2181-10-000 Hohmann Retractor Narrow/Curved (120 degree)
6. 2004-02-000 Murphy Bone Skid
7. 2125-00-600 Modular Head Ball Remover

2598-07-310 Anterior Approach Case Complete
2598-07-320 Lid
2598-07-340 Insert
2598-07-330 Base
Ordering Information

**MI Retractor Kit**

1. 2598-07-650 MI XL Femoral Neck Elevator
2. 2598-07-625 Inferior Posterior Capsular Retractor Right
3. 2598-07-626 Inferior Posterior Capsular Retractor Left
4. 2598-07-180 Right Angle Posterior Capsular Retractor
5. 2598-07-120 Blunt Right Angle Posterior Capsular Retractor
6. 2598-07-150 Sciatic Nerve Retractor
7. 2598-07-140 Superior Capsular Retractor

**Insert**

1. 2598-07-130 MI Cobra Retractor with Armrest
2. 2598-07-190 MI Narrow Curved Hohmann
3. 2598-07-160 MI Narrow Cobra
4. 2598-07-110 MI Gluteus Medius Retractor (Right Angle Hohmann)

**Base**

2598-07-500 MI Retractor Case Complete
2598-07-520 Lid
2598-07-515 Insert
2598-07-510 Base
## Ordering Information

### MI Acetabular Preparation

**TSS Low-Profile Reamers**

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### MAcS Acetabular Set

1. 9200-10-024  | Impactor Tip 22.225 mm |
2. 9200-10-025  | Impactor Tip 26 mm  |
3. 9200-10-026  | Impactor Tip 28 mm  |
4. 9200-10-027  | Impactor Tip 32 mm  |
5. 9200-10-028  | Impactor Tip 36 mm  |
6. 2598-08-160  | Angled Drive Shaft Dual Coupling |
7. 9200-10-029  | Angled Acetabular Inserter |
8. 9200-10-023  | Bantam Adaptor |
9. 2598-08-150  | Angled Reamer Driver Housing Assembly |
10. 9200-10-017 | MAcS Case Complete |
Ordering Information

Modular Box Osteotome 2598-07-530

Dual Offset Anterior Approach Broach Handle
2598-07-350 Left
2598-07-360 Right

2598-07-550 Extra-Curved Broach Handle
*Suitable for multiple surgical approaches.*

Other broach handle options:
2570-00-000 SUMMIT Universal Broach Handle
9522-10-500F CORAIL AMT Straight Broach Handle
9522-11-500 CORAIL AMT Curved Broach Handle

Technique-specific femoral component inserters:
2598-07-460 Universal Stem Inserter Handle
2598-07-440 CORAIL/TRI-LOCK Bone Preservation Stem Anterior Inserter Shaft
2598-07-450 SUMMIT Anterior Inserter Shaft
2598-07-430 Standard Straight Inserter Shaft
2598-07-470 CORAIL/TRI-LOCK Bone Preservation Stem Posterior Inserter Shaft
2598-07-480 SUMMIT Posterior Inserter Shaft
2598-07-435 Bullet Tip Inserter Shaft
## Ordering Information

**TSS Core Case 1**

1. 2598-07-460 Universal Stem Insert Handle  
   Trial Heads – Two Sets Per Case  
2. 2598-07-570 Retaining Stem Inserter (2 pcs)  
3. 2598-07-530 Modular Box Osteotome

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1. **Any two handles:**
   - 2570-00-000 SUMMIT Universal Broach Handle  
   - 9522-10-500F CORAIL AMT Straight Broach Handle  
   - 9522-11-500 CORAIL AMT Curved Broach Handle  
   - 2598-07-540 Long Posterior Broach Handle  
   - 2001-97-000 Optional Version Control Rod  
     (for Posterior Broach Handle)  
   - 2598-07-550 Extra Curved Broach Handle  
   - 2598-07-350 Anterior Broach Handle - Left  
   - 2598-07-360 Anterior Broach Handle - Right

2. 2598-07-470 CORAIL/TRI-LOCK Posterior Stem Insert Shaft  
3. 2598-07-480 SUMMIT Posterior Stem Insert Shaft  
4. 2598-07-435 Bullet Tip Stem Insert Shaft  
5. 2598-07-430 Standard Straight Stem Insert Shaft  
6. 2598-07-450 SUMMIT Anterior Stem Insert Shaft  
7. 2598-07-440 CORAIL/TRI-LOCK Anterior Stem Insert Shaft

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- 2598-07-390 Tissue Sparing Femoral Core Case 1 Complete  
- 2598-07-410 Lid  
- 2598-07-411 Insert  
- 2598-07-400 Base
Ordering Information

TSS Core Case 2
1. 2354-10-000 Muller Awl Reamer w/Hudson End
2. 2001-42-000 Excel T-Handle
3. 2001-80-501 IM Initiator Sized
4. 9400-80-007 Mi Calcar Reamer Small (Shielded)
5. 85-3927 Femoral Rasp
6. 9400-80-001 Canal Finder
7. 2001-65-000 Femoral/Humeral Head Impactor

Optional Replacement Part:
2001-66-000 Replacement Tip for Femoral Head Impactor
Ordering Information

Lighted Retractors
1. 2598-07-940  Cable with Olympus Adaptor
2. 2598-07-930  Cable with Storz Adaptor
3. 2598-07-910  Cable with ACMI Adaptor
4. 2598-07-920  Cable with Wolf Adaptor
5. 2598-07-900  Lightstrips (Package of 5)