

# Physical activity after total joint arthroplasty: a narrative review

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**Background:** Total joint arthroplasty (TJA) is a common procedure to treat individuals with hip and knee osteoarthritis. While TJAs are successful in decreasing pain and improving quality of life, it is unclear whether individuals who undergo TJA become more physically active after surgery. It is possible that TJA, by itself, is not sufficient to affect the behavior of patients toward physical activity (PA) participation. To increase PA participation, individuals with TJA may need to be exposed to exercise/behavioral interventions specifically aimed to promote PA (ie, in addition to the surgery).

**Objectives:** This narrative review aimed to assess the evidence on 1) whether TJAs change PA participation from pre- to postsurgery and 2) whether exercise/behavioral interventions delivered before or after TJA help to promote PA in these patients.

**Results:** For aim 1, the studies that assessed PA from pre- to post-TJA reported that PA does not change in the first 3 months postsurgery. The results of follow-ups longer than 3 months but shorter than 12 months are contradictory, and the results of follow-ups longer than 12 months provide weak evidence of increased PA. Assessment of changes in PA due to TJA is challenged by the wide variability in demographics, methods used to assess PA, and different pathways of care used across studies. The results for aim 2 were limited by a scarcity of studies that used exercise/behavioral interventions to promote PA.

**Conclusion:** TJA relieves joint pain and offers a unique opportunity for patients to become more physically active. However, the current evidence is limited and unable to offer definitive results of whether TJA is effective to change PA from pre- to postsurgery. Future large studies in representative samples of patients with TJA are needed to adequately answer this question.

**Keywords:** osteoarthritis, total knee arthroplasty, total hip arthroplasty, health promotion, quality of life, physical function, behavioral intervention

## Introduction

Total joint arthroplasties (TJAs) of the hip and knee are among the most common elective surgical procedures in the USA.<sup>1</sup> Due to the rapid growth in volume, TJAs pose a large economic burden in global healthcare systems. In the USA, these surgeries constitute the largest hospital expenditure category for Medicare.<sup>2</sup> Despite the economic burden, TJAs have been clearly shown to successfully decrease pain and improve mobility and quality of life. However, it is unclear whether individuals who undergo TJAs become more physically active after surgery.

Individuals who undergo TJA tend to be older sedentary adults, and it is estimated that around 49% of them are overweight or obese, 16% have diabetes, and about half have high blood pressure.<sup>3,4</sup> As TJA relieves joint pain, the pain-free state following

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surgery represents an opportunity for those individuals to become more physically active. Regular physical activity (PA) is one of the most effective interventions to improve the prevalent chronic comorbid conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, and hypertension, that commonly coexist with hip and knee osteoarthritis.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, in addition to symptom relief, if TJA also increased PA, it could potentially benefit the overall health of the individual undergoing the surgery.<sup>6</sup> However, it is unclear whether TJA increases PA from pre- to postsurgery, which we tried to clarify by reviewing the literature on this topic.

It is well known that changing human behavior, such as increasing PA, is very challenging. There is a possibility that TJA by itself may not be sufficient to change the patients' behavior toward PA participation. To increase PA participation, individuals with TJA may need to be exposed to interventions specifically aimed to promote PA (ie, in addition to surgery). Although there is a large body of literature about exercise or behavioral interventions in TJA that are administered to improve the outcome of these surgeries, it is unclear what interventions have been used and whether they are effective to promote PA. In this context, this review also proposes to appraise the literature on the use of exercise and behavioral interventions to promote PA in individuals post-TJA.

The first aim of the current review was to assess the evidence on whether TJAs change PA participation from pre- to postsurgery, and the second aim was to assess whether exercise/behavioral interventions delivered before or after TJA help to promote PA. This review also discusses the challenges related to promoting PA in this population.

## Methods

We searched several databases including PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane, CINAHL, and SPORTDiscus from inception until September 2017. Studies were included if they had a longitudinal design and assessed PA before and after total hip arthroplasty (THA) and total knee arthroplasty (TKA). Studies that assessed PA before and after exercise programs or promoted PA in patients with THA and TKA were also included. To search for relevant studies to address the first aim, the following terms were combined: ("arthroplasty, replacement, knee" [MESH] OR "arthroplasty, replacement, hip" [MESH]) AND ("exercise" [MESH] OR "physical activity"). Then, the same terms were combined with "exercise OR behavioral OR intervention" for the search related to the second aim. Two authors (GJA and SSK) reviewed all titles and abstracts identified through the search strategy and retrieved the full text when a study seemed appropriate to be included in this review. The two authors also

hand searched the reference lists of articles to identify potential studies not detected by the search strategy. A total of 714 titles and abstracts were reviewed. The majority of the studies found in the literature search have assessed outcomes of pain, range of motion, physical function or quality of life, but not PA. Most studies that assessed outcome measures from pre- to post-TJA were excluded from this review, as they did not assess PA. Similarly, most studies that assessed outcomes from pre- to postexercise/behavioral intervention were excluded for not assessing PA. From our search strategy, we found 17 articles that met our inclusion criteria and were included in this narrative review: 14 articles reported on PA participation pre-/post-TJA (six in THA only, five in TKA only, and three in THA and TKA combined), and three articles reported on PA before and after exercise/behavioral intervention in individuals with TJA (all in TKA).

## Results

The studies that met inclusion criteria were highly variable in terms of length of follow-up and methods used to assess PA. The length of follow-up ranged from 6 weeks to 24 months postsurgery. The methods to assess PA also varied across studies, with some studies using either self-report questionnaires or real-time activity monitors, or the combination of both. The studies that used self-report questionnaires queried about a wide range of activities and reported PA scores in a total PA score, energy expenditure per week, or time spent in each activity per week. Among studies that used real-time activity monitors, some measured daily step counts, while others measured energy expenditure during PA or time spent in different PA intensities. Therefore, to compare changes in PA across studies, study findings were organized based on the method used to measure PA. We organized the results by self-report PA questionnaires and real-time activity monitors as self-report questionnaires are known to overestimate PA as compared to real-time activity monitors.<sup>7,8</sup> We also organized the results based on surgical joint (THA and TKA) because functional outcomes are known to differ between THA and TKA.<sup>9,10</sup> Then, to effectively compare changes in PA across studies, we created a common metric. We calculated the percentage improvement in PA: difference between follow-up (postsurgery) and baseline (presurgery) PA levels divided by baseline PA.

## Studies that assessed PA pre- and post-THA

Nine studies examined PA participation pre-/post-THA (Table 1), in which four measured PA using an activity monitor,<sup>11–14</sup> two used a self-report questionnaire,<sup>15,16</sup> and

**Table 1** Results from studies in total hip arthroplasty

Study, country	Sample characteristics	Assessment timepoint	PA assessment method and outcome measures	Results	Other outcomes and results
Visser et al, <sup>13</sup> Netherlands	N=30, 63% female, 60 years old, BMI: 26.4 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	6 weeks preop and 6 months postop	Activity monitor: sensors on thighs and trunk (Teme Instruments; Kerkrade, the Netherlands) - Daily time spent in walking and number of walking periods - Wear time: 1 day PRO: none	Time spent in walking decreased 6%; 1.6 h preop and 1.5 h postop ( $p=0.462$ ) Number of walking periods decreased -3%; 320 periods preop and 312 periods postop ( $p=0.653$ )	Physical function measured by number and duration of chair rising movements There were improvements in number of chair risings ( $p=0.375$ ) and in duration of chair rising movements ( $p<0.0001$ ) Pain and physical function measured by the HHS and BMI Pain and physical function improved ( $p=0.03$ ), while subjects' BMI did not change ( $p=0.73$ )
Lin et al, <sup>14</sup> China	N=12, 100% female, 58 years old, BMI: 23.4 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	4 weeks preop and 6 months postop	Activity monitor: RT3 accelerometer (StayHealthy, Inc., Monrovia, CA, USA) - Daily PA and in EE during moderate-to-vigorous PA - Wear time: 7 days PRO: none	Daily amount of PA increased 12%; 5,848 min/day preop and 6,532 min/day postop ( $p=0.11$ ) EE during moderate-to-vigorous PA increased 75%; 0.4 MET-h/day preop and 0.7 MET-h/day postop ( $p=0.008$ )	
Fujita et al, <sup>12</sup> Japan	N=38, 100% female, 60 years old, BMI: 23.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	4 weeks preop and 6 and 12 months postop	Activity monitors: Lifecorder EX (Suzuken, Nagoya, Japan) - Daily number of steps and time spent in light and moderate PA. - Wear time: 7 days PRO: none	6 months: number of step increased 22%; 4,632 steps/ day preop and 5,657 steps/day postop ( $p<0.001$ ). Time in light-intensity PA increased 13%; 107 min/day preop and 123 min/day postop ( $p=0.007$ ). Time in moderate- intensity PA increased 100%; 16 min/day preop and 32 min/day postop ( $p<0.001$ ) 12 months: number of steps increased 33%; 4,632 steps/ day preop and 6,163 steps/day postop ( $p<0.001$ ). Time in light-intensity PA increased 17%; 107 min/day preop and 125 min/day postop ( $p=0.005$ ). Time in moderate- intensity PA increased 188%; 16 min/day preop and 46 min/day postop ( $p<0.001$ )	Quality of life (SF-8), physical function and pain (OHS) Quality of life, physical function, and pain improved at all timepoints ( $p<0.001$ )
Kuhn et al, <sup>19</sup> USA	N=37, 68% female, 42 years old, BMI: 29.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Time preop not specified and 12 months postop	Activity monitor: StepWatch v3.0 (Cyma Corp, Mountlake Terrace, WA, USA) - Daily number of steps, time spent in light-, moderate-, and vigorous- intensity PA - Wear time: 7 days (at least 4 days of data) PRO: UCLA Activity score - PA score	Activity monitor: daily number of steps increased 30% ( $p<0.0001$ ) - raw data not provided Time spent in light-intensity increased 11%; 16.8% of time preop and 18.7% of time postop ( $p=0.004$ ). Daily time spent in moderate-intensity increased 19%; 7.4% of time preop and 8.8% of time postop ( $p=0.001$ ). Daily time spent in vigorous-intensity PA increased 40%; 1% of time preop and 1.4% of time postop ( $p=0.006$ ) PRO: PA score increased 20%; 6 points preop and 7.2 points postop ( $p=0.001$ )	Pain and physical function (HHS) and BMI Pain and physical function improved ( $p<0.0001$ ). There was an increase in subjects' BMI ( $p=0.022$ )

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Table 1 (Continued)

Study, country	Sample characteristics	Assessment timepoint	PA assessment method and outcome measures	Results	Other outcomes and results
Jeldi et al, <sup>11</sup> Scotland	N=27, 68% female, 67 years old, BMI: 31.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	2 weeks preop and 3 and 12 months postop	Activity monitor: activPAL3 (PAL Technologies Ltd, Glasgow, UK) - Daily number of steps, sit-to-stand transitions, and hours spent in upright position - Wear time: 7 days PRO: none	3 months: number of steps increased 12%; 5,320 steps/ day preop and 5,943 steps/day postop ( $p=0.071$ ) Hours spent in upright position increased 4%; 5.35 h/ day preop and 5.55 h/day postop ( $p=0.406$ ). Sit-to-stand transitions/day decreased 4%; 46 preop and 44 postop ( $p=0.237$ ). 12 months: number of steps increased 16%; 5,320 steps/ day preop and 6,455 steps/day postop ( $p=0.152$ ) Hours spent in upright position increased 1%; 5.35 h/day preop and 5.42 h/day postop ( $p=0.979$ ). Sit-to-stand transitions/ day decreased 4%; 46 preop and 44 postop ( $p=0.138$ )	6-minute walk test and clinical outcomes (HHS, OHS)  6-minute walk test improved at all timepoints ( $p<0.001$ ) as well as HHS and OHS scores ( $p<0.001$ )
Rosenlund et al, <sup>15</sup> Denmark	N=77, 32% female, 61 years old, BMI: 28.0 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Time preop not specified and 3, 6, and 12 months postop	Activity monitor: none PRO: UCLA activity score - PA score	3 months: PA score increased 16%; 5 points preop and 5.8 postop ( $p\geq 0.05$ ) 6 months: PA score increased 24%; 5 points preop and 6.2 postop ( $p\leq 0.01$ ) 12 months: PA score increased 30%; 5 points preop and 6.5 postop ( $p\leq 0.01$ )	Physical function, pain, and quality of life (HOOS). Quality of life also assessed using the EQ-5D All outcomes of physical function, pain, and quality of life improved at all timepoints ( $p<0.05$ )
de Groot et al, <sup>17</sup> the Netherlands	N=36, 64% female, 62 years old, BMI: 26.6 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Average of 43 days preop and 3 and 6 months postop	Activity monitor: sensors on thighs and trunk (Temec Instruments) - Movement-related activity - Wear time: 2 days PRO: PASIPD - PA score	3 months: movement-related activity increased 5%; 8.7% of 24 h preop and 9.1% of 24 h postop ( $p=0.22$ ) 6 months: movement-related activity increased 6%; 8.7% of 24 h preop and 9.2% of 24 h postop ( $p=0.26$ ) 3 months: PA score increased 20%; 7.7 points preop and 9.2 points postop ( $p=0.19$ ) 6 months: PA score increased 99%; 7.7 points preop and 15.3 points postop ( $p<0.001$ )	Chair rising test, 6-minute walk test; Pain (WOMAC) and physical function (WOMAC and SF-36) Chair rising test improved at 6 months ( $p<0.001$ ) but not at 3 months ( $p=0.05$ ) 6-minute walk test, pain and physical function improved at all time points ( $p<0.01$ )
Harding et al, <sup>18</sup> Australia	N=19, 64% female, 69 years old, BMI: 32 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Time preop not specified and 6 months postop	Activity monitor: ActiGraph GT1M (ActiGraph LLC, Fort Walton Beach, FL, USA) - Counts per minute - Wear time: 7 days (minimum of 4 days of data) PRO: UCLA activity score - PA score	Activity counts decreased 13%; 125 counts/min preop and 109 counts/min postop ( $p=0.63$ )  PA score increased 33%; 3 points preop and 4 points postop ( $p=0.005$ )	Pain (pain scale) and physical function (OHK score) and quality of life (SF-12) Pain function and quality of life improved ( $p\leq 0.001$ )

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Table 1 (Continued)

Study, country	Sample characteristics	Assessment timepoint	PA assessment method and outcome measures	Results	Other outcomes and results
Smith et al, <sup>16</sup> USA	N=105, 57% female, 68 years old, BMI: 28.8 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Time preop not specified and 12 and 24 months postop	Activity monitor: none PRO: PASE - PA score	12 months: PA score decreased 0.7%: 136 points preop and 135 points postop ( $p=0.86$ ) 24 months: PA score decreased 3%: 136 points preop and 132 points postop ( $p=0.95$ )	None
<b>Notes:</b> UCLA activity score: University of California, Los Angeles, a 10-point activity scale that evaluates activities based on 10 descriptive activity levels ranging from wholly inactive and dependent (level 1) to regular participation in impact sports such as jogging or tennis (level 10). <sup>20,21</sup> PASE: Physical Activity Scale for Individuals with Physical Disabilities; a 13-item self-report questionnaire that captures PA in three areas: recreation, household, and occupational activities. Its score is the average hours per day for each item multiplied by a metabolic equivalent (MET) value associated with the intensity of each activity. Scores range from 0.0 MET-h/day (not performing any activities) to 199.5 MET-h/day (performing all of the listed activities for the maximum amount of days and hours). <sup>22,23</sup> PASE: physical activity scale for the elderly; a 12-item scale that assesses PA level of the past 7 days in three domains: recreational, household, and work-related activities. For each activity, a score is obtained by multiplying activity frequency by a task-specific weight provided by the scoring manual. PASE total score is the sum of all activities together and ranges between 0 and 400 or more. <sup>24-26</sup> <b>Abbreviations:</b> PA, physical activity; BMI, body mass index; PRO, patient-reported outcome; EE, energy expenditure; HOOS, Hip Disability and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; EQ-5D, EuroQol-5-Dimension Health Questionnaire; OHK, Oxford Hip and Knee Score; HHS, Harris Hip Score; WOMAC, Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index; preop, preoperative; postop, postoperative.					

three used both.<sup>17-19</sup> Jeldi et al<sup>11</sup> assessed changes in PA at 3 and 12 months post-THA in 30 subjects (average age 67 years) using an activity monitor worn on the anterior aspect of the thigh. The study reported nonsignificant increases in daily step counts of 12% (623 steps/day,  $p=0.071$ ) at 3 months and 16% (835 steps/day,  $p=0.152$ ) at 12 months. Results showed no changes in daily number of sit-to-stand transitions/day ( $\leq 4\%$  change,  $p>0.10$ ), and hours spent in upright position ( $\leq 4\%$  change,  $p\geq 0.10$ ) at 3 and 12 months follow-up.<sup>11</sup> Fujita et al<sup>12</sup> measured changes in PA at 6 and 12 months post-THA in 38 subjects (average age 61 years) who wore an activity monitor on their waist. The study reported significant increase in daily step count of 22% (1,025 steps/day,  $p<0.001$ ) at 6 months and 33% (1,531 steps/day,  $p<0.001$ ) at 12 months follow-up. Similarly, time spent in light-intensity PA increased by 13% (14 min/day,  $p=0.007$ ) at 6 months and 17% (18 min/day,  $p=0.005$ ) at 12 months, whereas moderate-intensity PA increased by 100% (16 min/day,  $p<0.001$ ) at 6 months and 188% (30 min/day,  $p<0.001$ ) at 12 months follow-up.<sup>12</sup> Vissers et al<sup>13</sup> investigated changes in PA at 6 months post-THA in 30 subjects (average age 60 years) who wore an activity monitor with three sensors (one sensor attached to the thorax and two to the lateral side of both thighs). The study reported no significant change in time spent in walking ( $-6\%$ , decrease of 6 min,  $p=0.462$ ) and in number of walking periods ( $-3\%$ , decrease of 8 periods,  $p=0.653$ ).<sup>13</sup> Lin et al<sup>14</sup> investigated changes in PA at 6 months post-THA in 12 subjects (average age 59 years) who wore an activity monitor on the waist. The study reported nonsignificant increases in subjects' total daily amount of PA (12%, 638 min/day,  $p=0.11$ ); however, there was a significant increase in energy expenditure during moderate-to-vigorous PA by 75% (0.3 metabolic equivalent-h/day,  $p=0.008$ ).<sup>14</sup>

Two studies assessed PA using self-report questionnaires. Rosenlund et al<sup>15</sup> assessed changes in PA at 3, 6, and 12 months post-THA in 80 subjects (average age 61 years). At 3 months follow-up, there was a nonsignificant increase in PA score of 15% (0.8 point in PA score,  $p\geq 0.05$ ), but at 6 and 12 months follow-up, PA scores significantly increased by 23% (1.2 point in PA score,  $p\leq 0.01$ ) and 30% (1.6 points in PA score,  $p\leq 0.01$ ), respectively.<sup>15</sup> Smith et al<sup>16</sup> used data from the Osteoarthritis Initiative data set to examine changes in self-reported PA at 12 and 24 months post-THA. The study included 105 subjects (average age 68 years) who underwent THA. Results revealed no significant changes in PA at 12 months (4% change in PA score,  $p=0.87$ ) or at 24 months follow-up (3% change in PA score,  $p=0.38$ ).<sup>16</sup>



Three studies used both activity monitor and self-report questionnaire. de Groot et al<sup>17</sup> assessed changes in PA at 3 and 6 months postsurgery in 36 subjects (average age 62 years) who underwent THA. Subjects wore an activity monitor with three sensors (one attached to the trunk and two to both thighs). The study reported no changes in time spent in movement-related activity (5%–6%,  $p \geq 0.22$ ) as assessed by the activity monitor at 3 or 6 months.

Results from self-reported PA indicated a nonsignificant increase of 20% (1.7 points in PA score,  $p = 0.19$ ) at 3 months follow-up and a significant increase of 98% (7.6 points in PA score,  $p < 0.001$ ) at 6 months.<sup>17</sup> Harding et al<sup>18</sup> investigated changes in PA at 6 months post-THA in 19 patients (average age 69 years). Subjects wore an activity monitor on their waist. There was a nonsignificant decrease of 13% in PA (16 counts per minute,  $p = 0.06$ ) as measured by the activity monitor. However, there was a significant increase of 33% in self-reported PA (1 point in PA score,  $p < 0.001$ ).<sup>18</sup> Kuhn et al<sup>19</sup> assessed changes in PA at 12 months post-THA in 37 patients (average age 42 years). Subjects wore an activity monitor attached to the lateral side of the ankle. The study results demonstrated a significant increase of 30% in step count (1,043 steps/day,  $p < 0.0001$ ), 11% in time spent in light-intensity PA (1.9%/day,  $p = 0.004$ ), 19% in moderate-intensity PA (1.4%/day,  $p = 0.001$ ), and 40% in vigorous-intensity PA (0.4%/day,  $p = 0.006$ ). Self-reported PA also increased by 20% (1.2 points in PA score,  $p = 0.001$ ).<sup>19</sup>

## Studies that assessed PA pre- and post-TKA

Eight studies investigated PA participation pre-/post-TKA (Table 2). Three studies used an activity monitor,<sup>27–29</sup> one used a self-report questionnaire,<sup>16</sup> and four used both.<sup>17,18,30,31</sup> Schotanus et al<sup>27</sup> investigated changes in PA at 6 weeks postsurgery in 20 subjects (average age 66 years) who underwent TKA. PA was measured using an activity monitor attached to the lateral side of the nonsurgical upper leg. The study reported a significant decrease in number of steps by 35% (–2,600 steps/day,  $p < 0.05$ ) and nonsignificant decreases in the percentage of time spent in PA by 24% (–11% of daily activities,  $p \geq 0.05$ ).<sup>27</sup> Brandes et al<sup>28</sup> examined changes in PA at 2, 6, and 12 months postsurgery in 53 subjects (average age 66 years) who underwent TKA. PA was measured using two activity monitors: one that combines sensors worn around the waist and trunk and another mounted to the subjects' right ankle. Number of steps decreased by 6% at 2 months follow-up (–526 steps/day,  $p \geq 0.05$ ) and increased significantly by 10% (1,006 steps/day,  $p = 0.03$ ) and 19%

(1,878 steps/day,  $p = 0.003$ ) at 6 and 12 months follow-ups, respectively. Results also indicated no significant changes at 2 months (17%; 1.4%/day,  $p \geq 0.05$ ) in percentage of time spent in locomotion, but significant increases of 43% were found for both 6 and 12 months follow-ups (3.6%/day,  $p < 0.01$ ). Percentage of time in sedentary activities (ie, resting) did not change significantly at 2 months (7%; 4.7%/day,  $p \geq 0.05$ ) but decreased at 6 and 12 months by 15% (9.7%/day,  $p < 0.05$ ) and 16% (10.5%/day,  $p < 0.01$ ), respectively.<sup>28</sup> Lutzner et al<sup>29</sup> investigated changes in PA at 12 months postsurgery in 221 subjects (average age 68 years) who underwent TKA. PA was measured using an activity monitor on the lateral side of the lower leg. The study reported a significant increase of 23% (1,216 steps/day,  $p = 0.001$ ) in total number of steps and a 60% increase (686 steps/day,  $p = 0.001$ ) in number of steps at moderate intensity. However, daily time in sedentary activities (ie, lying, sitting, and standing) did not change at 12 months follow-up (2%,  $p \geq 0.203$ ).<sup>29</sup>

One study assessed changes in PA using a self-reported questionnaire. Smith et al<sup>16</sup> analyzed data from the Osteoarthritis Initiative data set to investigate changes in PA at 12 and 24 months postsurgery in 116 subjects (average age 67 years) who underwent TKA. Results showed no change in PA at 12 months (change of 0.7% in PA score,  $p = 0.93$ ); however, there was an increase in PA of 13% (16 points in PASE score,  $p = 0.04$ ) at 24 months postsurgery.<sup>16</sup>

The four studies that assessed PA using both activity monitor and self-report questionnaire reported diverging results between measurement methods. Walker et al<sup>30</sup> investigated changes in PA at 3 and 6 months postsurgery in 19 subjects (average age 69 years) who underwent TKA. Subjects wore an activity monitor with two sensors (one attached to the thorax and another to the lateral side of the lower leg) and results from the activity monitor showed a nonsignificant increase in ambulatory energy expenditure (calculated as amplitude multiplied by number of steps) at 3 months post-TKA (29%; 65,000,  $p \geq 0.05$ ). However, the increase was 79% and significant at 6 months post-TKA (175,000,  $p = 0.01$ ). The same was observed for number of steps where they reported a nonsignificant increase of 15% (1,620 steps/day,  $p \geq 0.05$ ) at 3 months and a significant increase of 46% (4,900 steps/day,  $p = 0.01$ ) at 6 months post-TKA. Results from self-reported PA indicated a significant increase in energy expenditure at 3 months (31 points, 63%,  $p < 0.05$ ) and 6 months (30 points, 61%,  $p < 0.05$ ).<sup>30</sup> Tsonga et al<sup>31</sup> examined changes in PA at 3 and 6 months postsurgery in 52 subjects (average age 73 years) who underwent TKA. Subjects wore the activity monitor around the waist, and the results showed

Table 2 Results from studies in total knee arthroplasty

Study, country	Sample characteristics	Assessment timepoint	PA assessment method and outcome measures	Results	Other outcomes and results
Schotanus et al. <sup>27</sup> the Netherlands	N=20; 35% female, 66 years old, BMI: 28.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	4 days preop and 6 weeks postop	Activity monitor: Triaxial accelerometer (GC Dataconcepts LLC, Waveland, MS, USA) - Daily time spent in PA (eg, walking, cycling, and standing) and number of steps - Wearing: 4 days PRO: none	Time spent in PA decreased 25%; 43.5% of 24 h preop and 32.5% postop ( $p \geq 0.05$ ). Number of steps decreased 35%; 7,600 steps preop and 4,900 steps postop ( $p < 0.05$ )	Physical function (OKS, WOMAC), general health (EQ-5D), and pain There were improvements in physical function ( $p < 0.05$ ), general health ( $p < 0.05$ ), and pain ( $p < 0.05$ )
Walker et al. <sup>30</sup> UK	N=19; 53% female, 69 years old, BMI: not reported	4 weeks preop and 3 and 6 months postop	Activity monitor: Numact (Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK) - Daily ambulatory EE and number of steps - Wearing: 1 day PRO: NHP - Self-reported EE	3 months: ambulatory EE increased 29% ( $p \geq 0.05$ ) – raw data not provided. Number of steps increased 15% ( $p \geq 0.05$ ) – raw data not provided 6 months: ambulatory EE increased 79% ( $p = 0.01$ ) – raw data not provided. Number of steps increased 46% ( $p = 0.01$ ) – raw data not provided 3 months: Self-reported EE improved 63%; 49.8 points preop and 18.7 points postop ( $p < 0.05$ ) 6 months: self-reported EE improved 61%; 49.8 points preop and 19.6 points postop ( $p < 0.05$ )	Pain, mobility, emotional reaction, social isolation, and sleep (NHP) Pain decreased ( $p < 0.05$ ). Mobility improved only at 3 months ( $p < 0.05$ ). Emotional reaction and social isolation improved only at 6 months ( $p < 0.05$ ). Sleep did not change ( $p \geq 0.05$ )
Brandes et al. <sup>28</sup> Germany	N=53; 64% female, 66 years old, BMI: 30.7 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	3 weeks preop and 2, 6, and 12 months postop	Activity monitors: ADL monitor (McRoberts) and the step activity monitor (OrthoCare Innovations) - Daily number of steps and time spent in locomotion - Wearing: 7 days PRO: none	2 months: number of steps decreased 6%; 9,986 steps/day preop and 9,460 steps/day postop ( $p \geq 0.05$ ). Time spent in locomotion increased 17%; 8.4 h preop and 9.8 h postop ( $p \geq 0.05$ ) 6 months: number of steps increased 10%; 9,986 steps/ day preop and 10,992 steps/day postop ( $p = 0.03$ ). Time spent in locomotion increased 43%; 8.4 h preop and 12 h postop ( $p < 0.01$ ) 12 months: number of steps increased 19%; 9,986 steps/ day preop and 11,864 steps/day postop ( $p = 0.003$ ). Time spent in locomotion increased 43%; 8.4 h preop and 12 h postop ( $p < 0.01$ )	Physical function (KSS) and quality of life (SF-36) Physical function and quality of life improved at all follow-ups ( $p < 0.001$ )
Lutzner et al. <sup>29</sup> Germany	N=221; 57% female, 68 years old, BMI: 31.3 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Time preop not specified and 12 months postop	Activity monitor: ActivePAL (PAL Technologies) - Total daily number of steps, number of steps at moderate-intensity, and time being sedentary - Wearing: 4 days PRO: none	Total daily number of steps increased 23%; 5,371 steps/ day preop and 6,587 steps/day postop ( $p = 0.001$ ) Number of steps at moderate intensity increased 60%; 1,149 steps/ day preop and 1,835 steps/day postop ( $p = 0.001$ ). Daily time in sedentary activities (ie, lying, sitting, and standing) decreased 2%; 106% of 24 h preop and 77% of 24 h postop ( $p \geq 0.203$ )	Knee and physical function (KSS) Knee and physical function improved ( $p < 0.001$ )

(Continued)

Table 2 (Continued)

Study, country	Sample characteristics	Assessment timepoint	PA assessment method and outcome measures	Results	Other outcomes and results
Tsonga et al, <sup>31</sup> Greece	N=52; 100% female, 73 years old, BMI: 29.8 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Time preop not specified and 3 and 6 months postop	Activity monitor: SW2000 Digiwalker Yamax (FIT Solutions Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) - Daily number of steps - Wear time: 7 days PRO: PASE - PA score	Number of steps increased 31% from 3 to 6 months: 2,693 steps/day at 3 months postop and 3,518 steps/day at 6 months postop ( $p<0.001$ )  3 months: 33% increase in PA score: 43.3 points preop and 57.6 points postop ( $p\geq 0.05$ ) 6 months: 57% increase in PA score: 43.3 points preop and 67.9 points postop ( $p<0.001$ ) 3 months: 11% increase in movement-related activities: 8.1% of 24 h preop and 9% of 24 h postop ( $p=0.18$ ) 6 months: 12% increase in movement-related activities: 8.1% of 24 h preop and 9.1% of 24 h postop ( $p=0.06$ ) 3 months: 45% increase in PA score: 9.5 points preop and 13.8 points postop ( $p=0.13$ ) 6 months: 88% increase in PA score: 9.5 points preop and 17.9 points postop ( $p<0.01$ )	Quality of life (SF-36) Quality of life improved at both timepoints ( $p<0.001$ )  Chair rising test, 6-minute walk test; Pain (WOMAC) and physical function (WOMAC and SF-36) Chair rising test improved at 6 months ( $p=0.04$ ) but not at 3 months ( $p=0.19$ ) 6-minute walk test, pain, and physical function improved at all time points ( $p<0.01$ )
de Groot et al, <sup>17</sup> the Netherlands	N=44; 55% female, 62 years old, BMI=32.1 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Average of 43 days preop and 3 and 6 months postop	Activity monitor: sensors on thighs and trunk (Temec Instruments) - Movement-related activities - Wear time: 2 days PRO: PASIPD - PA score	Activity counts decreased 13%: 183 counts/min preop and 159 counts/min postop ( $p=0.06$ )  PA score increased 67%: 3 points preop and 5 points postop ( $p<0.001$ ) 12 months: PA score decreased 4%: 126 points preop and 121 points postop ( $p=0.93$ ) 24 months: PA score increased 13%: 126 points preop and 142 points postop ( $p=0.04$ )	Pain (pain scale) and physical function (OHK score) and quality of life (SF-12) Pain, physical function, and quality of life improved ( $p\leq 0.001$ )
Harding et al, <sup>18</sup> Australia	N=25; 64% female, 69 years old, BMI=32 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Time preop not specified and 6 months postop	Activity monitor: ActiGraph GT1M (ActiGraph LLC) - Counts per minute - Wear time: 7 days (minimum of 4 days of data) PRO: UCLA activity score - PA score	Activity counts decreased 13%: 183 counts/min preop and 159 counts/min postop ( $p=0.06$ )  PA score increased 67%: 3 points preop and 5 points postop ( $p<0.001$ ) 12 months: PA score decreased 4%: 126 points preop and 121 points postop ( $p=0.93$ ) 24 months: PA score increased 13%: 126 points preop and 142 points postop ( $p=0.04$ )	Pain (pain scale) and physical function (OHK score) and quality of life (SF-12) Pain, physical function, and quality of life improved ( $p\leq 0.001$ )
Smith et al, <sup>16</sup> USA	N=116; 59% female, 67 years old, BMI=30.1 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Time preop not specified and 12 and 24 months postop	Activity monitor: none PRO: PASE - PA score	Activity counts decreased 13%: 183 counts/min preop and 159 counts/min postop ( $p=0.06$ )  PA score increased 67%: 3 points preop and 5 points postop ( $p<0.001$ ) 12 months: PA score decreased 4%: 126 points preop and 121 points postop ( $p=0.93$ ) 24 months: PA score increased 13%: 126 points preop and 142 points postop ( $p=0.04$ )	Pain (pain scale) and physical function (OHK score) and quality of life (SF-12) Pain, physical function, and quality of life improved ( $p\leq 0.001$ )

**Notes:** UCLA activity score: University of California, Los Angeles; a 10-point activity scale that evaluates activities based on 10 descriptive activity levels ranging from wholly inactive and dependent (level 1) to regular participation in impact sports such as jogging or tennis (level 10).<sup>32,33</sup> PASIPD: Physical Activity Scale for Individuals with Physical Disabilities; a 13-item self-report questionnaire that captures PA in three areas: recreation, household, and occupational activities. Its score is the average hours per day for each item multiplied by a metabolic equivalent (MET) value associated with the intensity of each activity. Scores range from 0.0 MET-h/day (not performing any activities) to 199.5 MET-h/day (performing all of the listed activities for the maximum amount of days and hours).<sup>32,33</sup> PASE: physical activity scale for the elderly; a 12-item scale that assesses PA level of the past 7 days in three domains: recreational, household, and work-related activities. For each activity, a score is obtained by multiplying activity frequency by a task-specific weight provided by the scoring manual. PASE total score is the sum of all activities together and ranges between 0 and 400 or more.<sup>24-26</sup> NHP: Nottingham Health Profile; composed of 38 items divided into six domains (sleep, mobility, energy, pain, emotional reactions, and social isolation). Each item is weighted, and scores are calculated by averaging the domain scores. Total scores range from 0 (no perceived distress) to 100 (maximum perceived distress). The domain used to measure self-reported PA is "energy."<sup>32</sup>

**Abbreviations:** PA, physical activity; BMI, body mass index; PRO, patient-reported outcome; EQ-5D, EuroQol-5-Dimension Health Questionnaire; OHK, Oxford Hip and Knee Score; EE, energy expenditure; OKS, Oxford Knee Score; KSS, Knee Society Score; ADL, activities of daily-living; WOMAC, Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index; preop, preoperative; postop, postoperative.



significant increase of 31% in number of steps from 3 to 6 months post-TKA (825 steps/day,  $p < 0.001$ ). Results from self-reported PA indicated a nonsignificant increase of 33% at 3 months (14.3 points in PA score,  $p \geq 0.05$ ), but significant increase of 57% at 6 months post-TKA (24.6 points in PA score,  $p < 0.001$ ).<sup>31</sup> de Groot et al<sup>17</sup> investigated changes in PA at 3 and 6 months postsurgery in 44 subjects (average age 62 years) who underwent TKA. The activity monitor used consists of three sensors (one attached to the thorax and two to the lateral side of both thighs), and it reported nonsignificant increases in movement-related activities at 3 months (11%,  $p = 0.18$ ) and 6 months (12%,  $p = 0.06$ ) post-TKA. Results from self-reported PA showed no significant increase of 45% at 3 months post-TKA (4.3 points in PA score,  $p = 0.13$ ) and a significant increase of 88% at 6 months (8.4 points in PA score,  $p < 0.01$ ).<sup>17</sup> Harding et al<sup>18</sup> investigated changes in PA at 6 months postsurgery in 25 subjects (average age 69 years) who underwent TKA. Subjects wore the activity monitor around the waist, and they reported a nonsignificant decrease of 13% (24 counts/min,  $p = 0.06$ ). This study also measured time spent in sedentary behavior and reported that subjects spent 80% of their day being sedentary, which remained the same at 6 months postsurgery. Self-reported PA increased significantly by 67% (2 point in PA score,  $p < 0.001$ ) at 6 months follow-up.<sup>18</sup>

## Studies that assessed PA pre- and postexercise or had a behavioral intervention in TJA

The literature search did not identify studies that addressed PA promotion using an exercise program or behavioral approaches in THA. We found three studies in TKA that measured PA as an outcome and included exercise or PA promotion as part of the intervention<sup>33–35</sup> (Table 3). Moffet et al<sup>33</sup> compared the effect of a supervised rehabilitation program to standard of care in 77 subjects (average age 68 years) who were between 2 and 4 months post-TKA. The rehabilitation program consisted of 12 supervised sessions carried out over 6–8 weeks and included strengthening exercises of the lower extremity, endurance exercises (cycling or walking), and exercises that mimicked functional tasks such as sit-to-stand and stair climb. While no aspects of the rehabilitation program specifically focused on promoting PA during daily routine, the investigators queried the participants on their PA levels during baseline, on completion of the supervised rehabilitation program and at the 6 months follow-up. The study reported no differences between the intervention and the standard of care groups on level of PA at 4 and 6 months.

The magnitude of changes in PA from baseline to 6 months post-TKA was not reported.<sup>33</sup>

Monticone et al<sup>34</sup> compared the effects of a home exercise program combined with advice to stay active versus advice to stay active only in 110 subjects (average age 68 years) who had undergone TKA. Individuals were enrolled into the study upon discharge from a 15-day inpatient rehabilitation program postsurgery. This study included an educational component geared toward promoting PA; however, there were no PA measures collected pre- or poststudy intervention. Hence, this limited the ability to conclude whether the study intervention was successful in increasing PA post-TKA.<sup>34</sup>

Piva et al<sup>35</sup> compared a comprehensive intervention that combined high-intensity exercises with a PA promotion component to a standard of care exercise program in 44 subjects (average age 68 years) who were at least 2 months post-TKA. The PA promotion component mainly consisted of education and goal setting to encourage PA participation in patients' daily routine. This was the only study on rehabilitation post-TKA that included an objective assessment of PA using accelerometry. The authors reported a small improvement of 7% (9 minutes of daily PA) at 6 months follow-up in the group that received the PA promotion, while those in the standard exercise program decreased their daily PA by 14% (30 minutes a day). The difference between the groups was not significant.<sup>35</sup>

## Discussion

The first objective of this review was to assess whether there are changes in PA behavior due to TJA. The combined results from the studies included in this review are inconclusive. One consistent observation across studies in THA and TKA was that PA does not change during the first 3 months after surgery. In addition, there is a weak evidence that PA increases 12 months or longer after TKA, but this finding is not consistent in THA.<sup>16,29</sup>

The discrepancy in findings across studies may be dependent on several factors. This review indicates that time of follow-up after surgery may be one such factor, and it is likely that PA would increase as months go by after surgery. For example, the only study that assessed PA at 6 weeks postsurgery (TKA) reported significant decreases in PA (Schotanus et al),<sup>27</sup> which could be explained by the presence of postsurgical pain and discomfort. The studies that measured PA from 6 weeks to 3 months postsurgery consistently reported findings of no changes in PA across THA and TKA populations.<sup>11,15,17,27,28,30,31</sup> At 6 months post-TJA, findings were variable: five studies reported increases

**Table 3** Results from studies that assessed PA pre- and postexercise or had a behavioral intervention in total joint arthroplasty

Study, country	Treatment groups	Sample characteristics	Assessment timepoint	PA assessment method and outcome measures	Results	Other outcomes and results
Moffet et al, <sup>33</sup> Canada	Group 1: 12 supervised sessions of 60-90 minutes; aerobic, resistance, and functional exercises Group 2: Usual care	N=77, 60% female, 68 years old, BMI: not provided	Baseline: 2-4 months post-TKA Follow-up: 2, 4, and 8 months poststudy enrollment	Activity monitor: None PRO: LTEQ - Classification of participation in low-, moderate-, and high-intensity PA	Not described for each timepoint. At 6 months, 24% of subjects from the intervention group were enrolled in low-intensity PA compared with 47% in the control group. No results for participation in moderate or high intensity provided at follow-up	Pain, physical function, and quality of life (6-min walk, WOMAC, SF-36) Greater improvement in pain and physical function in group 1 at 4 and 6 months follow-up compared with group 2 ( $p<0.01$ ). No differences between groups in quality of life ( $p>0.05$ )
Monticone et al, <sup>34</sup> Italy	Group 1: educational material on managing kinesiophobia + 6 months of home exercise program (2x/week, 60-min sessions of functional exercises taught prior to hospital discharge) Group 2: advice to stay active and return to usual activities	N=110, 55% female, 67 years old, BMI: 28 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Baseline: immediately postinpatient rehabilitation (ie, 15 days post-TKA)  Follow-up: 6 and 12 months post-TKA	Activity monitor: none  PRO: none	As PA measures were not collected, there were no results for changes in PA	Disability, fear-avoidance behavior, pain, and quality of life (KOOS, Tampa Scale of kinesiophobia, Numeric pain scale, SF-36) No differences between groups. Both groups showed similar improvement in disability, pain, and quality of life ( $p<0.001$ )
Piva et al, <sup>35</sup> USA	Group 1: 12 supervised session of 75 minutes; high-intensity endurance and resistance exercises + behavioral intervention for PA promotion Group 2: 12 session of 75 minutes; moderate-intensity endurance and resistance exercises	N=44, 70% females, 68 years old, BMI: 30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Baseline: between 2 and 4 months post-TKA Follow-up: 6 months post-study enrollment	Activity monitor: sensor worn on right arm (SenseWear; Bodymedia Inc., Pittsburgh, PA, USA)) - Min/day in PA above 2 METs  PRO: none	PA increased by 7% (143 min/day at baseline and 153 min/day at follow-up) in the intervention group and decreased by 14% (204 min/day at baseline and 175 min/day at follow-up) in the control group at 6 months follow-up ( $p=0.279$ )	Physical function (WOMAC, RAND, 6-min walk test, gait speed, chair-stand, stair-climb, single-leg stance time) Greater improvement in group 1 in WOMAC, 6-min walk, and gait speed measures ( $p<0.05$ )

**Notes:** LTEQ: Leisure time exercise questionnaire; a two-item questionnaire that queries about how many times a week is spent in low-, moderate-, and/or high-intensity PA for at least 15 minutes during free time (scored as times/week in each category) and how often individuals engage in activity long enough to bring their heart rate up during their leisure time (scored as often, sometimes, or never/rarely).<sup>36</sup>

**Abbreviations:** PA, physical activity; BMI, body mass index; PRO, patient-reported outcome; TKA, total knee arthroplasty; MET, metabolic equivalent; KOOS, Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; WOMAC, Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index.

in PA,<sup>12,15,28,30,31</sup> one reported no change,<sup>13</sup> and three others reported increases in one PA outcome but not in the other (eg, self-reported PA versus real-time PA).<sup>14,17,18</sup> Findings from studies with follow-ups of 12 months or longer were also variable, with a trend toward increased PA (six reporting increases<sup>12,15,16,19,28,29</sup> and two reporting no changes in PA<sup>11,16</sup>). It was interesting to note that none of the studies with longer follow-ups reported decreases in PA. Reports on increases in PA ranged from 10% to 100% at 6 months after surgery<sup>12,14,15,17,18,28,30,31</sup> and from 11% to 188% at 12 months.<sup>12,15,19,28,29</sup> Thus, it may take several months for tissues to heal after surgery and for patients to feel comfortable to participate in PA. Although it is known that the functional recovery from TKA is slower than that from THA, we did not observe any differential trends in PA changes over time between the two cohorts of subjects.

Another factor for the discrepant findings is the different methods used to measure PA. The studies that used both activity monitors and self-reported methods to measure PA reported conflicting findings. For example, three studies assessed PA during the 6 months follow-up (one in TKA and two included both TKA and THA cohorts), and in general, they reported larger changes for self-reported compared to objectively measured PA.<sup>14,17,18,23</sup> These discrepancies were likely due to the well-known overestimation of self-reported PA as compared to real-time PA measures.<sup>7,8</sup> In addition, most studies did not indicate whether the tools used to assess PA were reliable, valid, or responsive. In general, PA is highly variable and can change on a daily basis depending on an individual's routine and behavior.<sup>37</sup> Therefore, reliable and valid tools are key for consistent and accurate assessment of PA, whereas responsive tools are needed to capture changes over time. Using measurement tools with poor psychometric properties may have contributed to the discrepant findings.

Diversity in the study design and the population studied may also help explain discrepant findings. For example, while most studies included consecutive patients, some did not provide details about recruitment and selection or adherence to wearing activity monitors, raising concerns about selection bias. Another concern was retention bias because one study reported a retention rate lower than 70%.<sup>12</sup> As several studies did not report on adherence to wearing monitors, it is likely that they excluded subjects in whom PA outcomes were insufficient at the follow-up assessment. Because of lack of information, it was not possible to evaluate whether retention rates or adherence to wearing activity monitors affected individual study findings. In addition, most (seven of nine) studies had sample sizes <40, which may have

precluded the identification of significant changes in PA. In terms of patient population, it is important to note the diverse geographic (eg, Japan, China, Australia, and the USA) and gender distribution. For example, the study that reported the largest increases in PA (30 min/day of moderate intensity measured by an activity monitor) at 12 months was done in 38 Japanese women;<sup>12</sup> this finding contrasts with a study in 105 Americans (men and women) that reported no change in self-reported PA at 12 months although self-reports generally overestimate PA participation.<sup>16</sup> Because the prevalence of obesity in the USA is higher than that in Japan (around 34% and 4%, respectively) and men are more physically active than women,<sup>38</sup> gender and nationality are also likely to contribute to the divergent findings. Changes in PA may also be impacted by the age of the individuals studied in the different cohorts. However, it did not seem that changes in PA from pre- to post-TJA were associated with age. When comparing the findings across studies that had 12 months follow-up postsurgery, the study with the youngest cohort (average age 42 years) reported 30% increase in number of steps,<sup>19</sup> which was within the range presented by studies that included older subjects (60–68 years of age): 16%–33% improvement in number of steps.<sup>11,12,28,29</sup> Although the study by Kuhn et al<sup>19</sup> (younger sample) was in the upper range of changes, it was the only study in a younger population, which limits the ability to assess whether age impacted changes in PA.

The second objective of this review was to assess whether exercise or behavioral interventions (not the TJA surgery) may affect PA participation. We found that the evidence on effectiveness of exercise/behavioral interventions to improve PA post-TJA is extremely scarce and inconclusive, with none of the studies showing significant changes in PA after intervention. We were surprised that no studies investigated behavioral approaches to promote PA in THA and that only three studies did so in TKA. Of the three studies in TKA, only one (Piva et al)<sup>25</sup> included a behavioral approach to improve PA and measured PA in real time. However, it did not observe significant differences between those exposed and not exposed to the PA promotion program, which may be due to the difficulty in changing individuals' behavior toward an active lifestyle.

The findings of this review are also supported by a large observational study that compared PA behavior in multiple cohorts of patients at different timepoints from joint surgery. Lubbeke et al<sup>39</sup> conducted a cross-sectional analysis to compare PA in a cohort of patients who were about to undergo THA (these patients were asked to self-report their PA 2 weeks before surgery and also to recall their PA before the

onset of osteoarthritis symptoms) with a cohort of patients who were 5 years post-THA and a cohort of patients who were 10 years post-THA. As this study did not assess longitudinal changes in PA pre- and post-THA within the same cohort of patients, it was not included in our review. However, the findings of Lubbeke et al are seminal because they provide a snapshot of how PA levels compare in a representative sample of patients at different timepoints across the spectrum of the osteoarthritis condition from prior to onset of symptoms to 10 years post-THA (189 patients prior to onset of symptoms, 203 patients prior to THA, 1,085 patients at 5 years after surgery, and 757 patients at 10 years after surgery).<sup>39</sup> Results from Lubbeke et al<sup>39</sup> also illustrate that the surgery may be limited in its ability to encourage an active lifestyle. PA participation was highest prior to onset of osteoarthritis symptoms and lowest 2 weeks prior to THA. PA levels increased slightly at 5 and 10 years post-THA but did not reach the levels seen in those prior to onset of osteoarthritis symptoms.<sup>39</sup> Larger observational longitudinal studies with better design are needed to provide more definitive answers of whether PA changes after TJA. Studies should have broad inclusion/exclusion criteria, geographic variation, PA measurements with adequate psychometrics, and sufficient follow-up (ie, at least 2 years after surgery).

Although our review was comprehensive, we acknowledge that it was a narrative review and not a systematic review. Therefore, the quality of the included studies and the heterogeneity of study results were not assessed with the standardized rigor upheld in systematic reviews. In addition, we did not differentiate studies that assessed PA using 1 day from those using  $\geq 5$  days, which could have had implications for the reliability of PA measures. However, in comparing the results across studies, we could not find a trend indicating that data collected using fewer days had less or more changes in PA. Another limitation may be the use of percentage change to compare results across studies. Although it is a method acceptable to compare study findings, this method is highly affected by low baseline values; even small changes in individuals with low baseline values of PA will represent very large percentage changes.

## Considerations for promoting PA in individuals with TJA

TJA presents a unique opportunity for patients with pain due to end-stage joint disease to become more active as the surgery is successful in relieving pain and improving physical function. Promoting PA in this population is important to manage comorbid conditions that are present in many of

the individuals living with TJAs. However, symptoms relief and improved physical function do not seem sufficient to promote an active lifestyle. The results of a recently published meta-analysis corroborate our findings as it demonstrated significant improvements in physical function and quality of life between 6 and 12 months post-TJA, but not in PA.<sup>40</sup> Results from that meta-analysis offer limited evidence that subjects after TJA tend to increase their PA participation 12 months or later after surgery. Therefore, to promote PA, it may be necessary to expose individuals with TJA to behavioral and exercise programs that specifically target PA.

To effectively promote PA, it is important to first understand the barriers to PA on individual and societal levels, which may not be limited to disability or joint symptoms. The literature has identified several barriers to PA, which can be broadly classified into personal barriers (eg, expectations, motivation, unwillingness to change) and environmental barriers (eg, no access to exercise facilities, no sidewalks in the neighborhood). Individuals usually decide to undergo TJA expecting to resolve pain and functional limitations experienced for years due to osteoarthritis. However, many years of chronic pain may contribute to the development of negative behaviors such as pain catastrophizing and fear and avoidance of activity that may hamper adopting an active lifestyle. These behaviors may be compounded by barriers such as lack of social support and difficult access to exercise facilities and result in a sedentary lifestyle very resistant to change.

Barriers to PA in the TJA population can also manifest within the health care environment. Many individuals with TJA are cautioned by their physicians not to do too much activity (ie, vigorous intensity or high impact) as it may lead to excessive wear and tear, premature prosthesis failure, and consequent revision surgery. This cautious attitude toward PA may also generate fear of movement, which encourages already sedentary individuals to remain inactive. Rehabilitation clinicians may also be overly cautious and inadequately or under prescribe exercise programs during recovery from surgery. Under-dosed exercises may not sufficiently improve patients' physical function to the level necessary for them to be confident in participating in more biomechanically demanding activities. While activities that cause great stress on the hip or knee joints, such as jumping or running, should be discouraged, there is no evidence that high-level resistance training and low-impact aerobic activities such as swimming, brisk walking, and cycling decrease the life span of TJA.<sup>41</sup> Furthermore, the trade-off between the harms of inactivity versus the benefits of PA, particularly considering the age and associated comorbidities of these patients, should be



balanced. However, health care providers do not always have sufficient time to educate patients about the vast benefits of regular PA, ways to keep active, and types of activities that can be performed safely and are not deleterious to the prosthesis. A positive shift in attitude toward promoting PA, rather than a cautious attitude, along with provision of education about safe PA may be beneficial and the first step in encouraging an active lifestyle in this population.

Current clinical practice after TJA does not effectively promote PA participation. While there is emphasis on the physical approaches (ie, structured exercise program with a focus on reducing physical impairment or functional limitations), there is no sufficient attention on the behavioral aspect of PA participation. PA promotion requires behavioral interventions that aim to empower an individual to become more active by changing his/her lifestyle. PA promotion requires a team-based approach, which may include primary care physician, nurse, orthopedic surgeon, physical therapist, or exercise counselor. The behavioral approaches need to be applied in a systematic manner and involve measuring PA using instruments with good psychometric properties and include self-management strategies that set goals and review achievements. Research has also shown that patients need constant reminders to keep active. Prompts generated by a smartphone via text message, activity trackers, or regular phone calls have shown to be effective and could be incorporated in interventions to promote PA.<sup>42–44</sup> The success of a PA promotion program also depends on the patient's willingness to change. One of the recommended components of a PA promotion is assessing the patient's readiness to change.<sup>45</sup> Research has shown that applying a behavioral intervention to individuals who are unwilling to or uninterested in change may result in failure to change behavior despite the efforts put by the team involved in the process.<sup>46,47</sup> Given all the positive effects of an active lifestyle and the complexity of modifying individual habits, studies need to identify patients who are undergoing TJAs that may benefit from PA promotion (ie, those motivated and willing to change behavior) and test the feasibility of the intervention, its acceptability, and effectiveness.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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