

First Settlements in DePuy Defective Hip Replacement Suits

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Hip replacements are hailed as a miracle of modern medical technology, restoring mobility to otherwise incapacitated consumers for a good 15 to 20 years.



The problems start when the artificial hips are defective and constantly dislocate or discharge metal splinters into the patient's body.

The first settlements were reached last month with three plaintiffs for \$200,000 a piece for defective Johnson & Johnson DePuy ASR hip replacements.

DePuy issued a recall of the hips in 2010. Previously, the company had insisted that the metal joints were safe, even though the FDA had refused to approve a similar version over safety concerns a year prior to the recall.

Painful Metal Splinters



Jonathan Rosenfeld

So, what exactly is wrong with DePuy hips? "It's a metal on metal device," explains Jonathan A. Rosenfeld, a personal injury attorney in Chicago who is handling DePuy cases.

Worse, breakdown in the joint can actually destroy the living tissue surrounding the hip and poison the patient. "There's wear and tear from friction between the ball and socket where metal splinters off and becomes implanted in the surrounding tissue. It can

cause pain and suffering, and metal poisoning," says the lawyer. Perhaps the worst consequence of defective hips comes when they need to be replaced, since the mere fact that a patient has already had one hip replacement necessarily limits the longevity of future procedures.

Consumers with received hip replacements should contact their doctors if they aren't sure what type they received to find out if they are eligible for the recall. The earlier problems are caught, the better. It would also be wise to speak with an attorney to investigate the possibility of a lawsuit against the manufacturer.

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