

1 **Title: How does hip osteoarthritis differ to knee osteoarthritis?**

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3 Michelle Hall^{1†}, Martin van der Esch^{2,3†}, Rana S Hinman¹, George Peat⁴, Arjan de Zwart²,

4 Jonathan G Quicke⁴, Jos Runhaar⁵, Jesper Knoop⁶, Marike van der Leeden^{2,7}, Mariëtte de

5 Rooij², Ingrid Meulenbelt⁸, Thea Vliet Vlieland⁸, Willem F Lems^{2,7}, Melanie A Holden⁴,

6 Nadine E Foster^{4,9}, Kim L Bennell¹

7 † Joint first co-authors

8 **Affiliations:**

9 1. Centre for Health Exercise and Sports Medicine, Department of Physiotherapy,

10 School of Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne, Australia

11 2. Reade, center for rehabilitation and rheumatology, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

12 3. Center of Expertise Urban Vitality, University of Applied Sciences Amsterdam, The

13 Netherlands

14 4. Primary Care Centre Versus Arthritis, School of Medicine, Keele University, UK

15 5. Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

16 6. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

17 7. Amsterdam UMC, location VUmc, department of rheumatology, Amsterdam, The

18 Netherlands

19 8. Leiden UMC, Leiden, The Netherlands

20 9. STARS Research and Education Alliance, Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation

21 Service (STARS), The University of Queensland and Metro North Hospital and

22 Health Service, Queensland, Australia

23

24

25

26 **Corresponding Author:**

27 Professor Kim Bennell

28 Centre for Health Exercise and Sports Medicine

29 Department of Physiotherapy

30 The University of Melbourne

31 Victoria, 3010, Australia

32 Tel: +61 3 8344 0556

33 Fax: +61 3 8344 4188

34 Email: k.bennell@unimelb.edu.au

35

36 **Running title:** differences between hip and knee osteoarthritis

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39 **Summary**

40 Hip and knee osteoarthritis are leading causes of global disability. Most research to date has
41 focused on the knee, with results often extrapolated to the hip, and this extends to treatment
42 recommendations in clinical guidelines. Extrapolating results from research on knee OA may
43 limit our understanding of disease characteristics specific to hip OA, thereby constraining
44 development and implementation of effective treatments. This review highlights differences
45 between hip and knee OA with respect to prevalence, prognosis, epigenetics,
46 pathophysiology, anatomical and biomechanical factors, clinical presentation, pain and non-
47 surgical treatment recommendations and management.

48

49 **Keywords:** hip osteoarthritis; knee osteoarthritis; non-surgical treatments; exercise

50

51 **Abbreviations**

52 CD: cluster of differentiation

53 CI: confidence interval

54 COMP: cartilage oligomeric matrix protein

55 CrI: credibility interval

56 DNA: deoxyribonucleic acid

57 EGF: epidermal growth factor

58 ES: effect size

59 FGF₂: fibroblast growth factor 2

60 IL: interleukin

61 IP: interferon gamma-induced protein

62 OA: osteoarthritis

63 MCP: monocyte chemoattractant protein

64 MDC: macrophage-derived chemokine

65 MIP: macrophage inflammatory protein

66 RNA: ribonucleic acid

67 SMD: standardised mean difference

68 TNF: tumor necrosis factor

69 VI: six

70

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71 Osteoarthritis (OA) of the hip and knee is a leading cause of global disability [1] for which
72 there are limited efficacious non-surgical treatment options [2-6]. The increase in rates of hip
73 and knee joint replacement for OA [7, 8] highlights the urgent need for effective non-surgical
74 treatments. Most research has focused on the knee or mixed populations of hip and knee OA,
75 the results of which have often been extrapolated to the hip, including treatment
76 recommendations in clinical guidelines [2, 5]. This may limit our understanding of disease
77 characteristics specific to hip OA and lead to questionable external validity of treatment
78 responses, thereby constraining the development and implementation of effective treatments
79 for hip OA. The purpose of this review is to highlight potential differences between hip OA
80 and knee OA. Areas covered include prevalence, prognosis, epigenetics, pathophysiology,
81 anatomical and biomechanical factors, clinical presentation pain, clinical management
82 recommendations and current practice.

83
84 PubMed and Google Scholar were searched for articles in the English language directly
85 comparing hip and knee OA using search terms ‘hip OA versus knee OA; ‘differenc*
86 between hip OA knee OA’ and ‘compar* hip OA and knee OA’. The reference lists and
87 citations of publications directly comparing hip and knee OA were also reviewed. As
88 expected, few studies directly compare people with hip and knee OA. The conditions were
89 typically investigated either separately, or in mixed samples of people with both hip and knee
90 OA. Although we aimed to focus our narrative review on studies directly comparing hip and
91 knee OA, in their absence, we used evidence from systematic review and meta-analyses on
92 people with hip and/or knee OA. For topics not addressed by direct comparison or
93 synthesised in meta-analyses, we utilised results of selected experimental, observational and
94 qualitative reports.

95

96 Prevalence

97 Symptomatic radiographically confirmed OA is less prevalent at the hip than the knee,
98 affecting approximately 10% and 16% in a population sample aged 45 years and older,
99 respectively [9, 10]. However, modelled estimates from the Global Burden of Disease
100 initiative suggest an even greater difference in the number of prevalent cases of hip and knee
101 OA globally [11]. A meta-analysis determined that the prevalence of hip OA is similar
102 between men and women, but that knee OA affects more women than men [12]. Hip OA is
103 less common among Chinese than US White women whereas knee OA is more common in
104 Chinese than US White women [13]. In contrast to knee OA, hip OA does not appear more
105 prevalent among African Americans more than White although racial differences may exist
106 for specific features such as osteophyte formation [9, 10, 13]. It is also important to recognise
107 that many people have both hip and knee OA. A large study (n=16,222) of individuals >55
108 years found that multiple-site joint problems are much more common than single joint
109 problems, with only one in eight people who reported joint problems experiencing problems
110 in a single joint [14]. Hence research evaluating OA treatments in populations with
111 concurrent hip and knee OA are arguably also very relevant depending on the research
112 question.

113

114 Prognosis

115 Despite fluctuation in symptoms, the radiographic and symptomatic course over 10 years is
116 relatively stable in early hip and knee OA and comparable between the joints [15].
117 Systematic reviews of trajectory-based studies have been unable to determine conclusions to
118 the course of pain and physical function in people with hip OA [16] or knee OA [17] due to
119 heterogeneity across studies and within populations. However, differences in risk factors
120 associated with symptomatic and radiographic disease progression potentially exist between

121 hip and knee OA according to systematic reviews (Table 1) [18-21]. Other studies not
122 included in the systematic review [24] report an association between additional anatomical
123 features (e.g. cam deformity) and radiographic hip OA disease progression [22]. Associations
124 between bone marrow lesions and OA progression, are joint specific. Specifically, large bone
125 marrow lesions located in acetabular and femoral head are associated with hip OA pain,
126 where as an increase of 2 or more in whole-organ magnetic imaging scoring bone marrow
127 lesion is associated with worsening of knee OA pain [21]. Of note is that obesity, a strong
128 risk factor for clinical knee OA progression, has generally not been found to be a strong risk
129 factor for symptomatic or radiographic hip OA disease progression. This epidemiological
130 evidence suggests that hip and knee OA have at least in part different pathogenic progresses,
131 that should be considered in the development of joint-specific treatments.

132

133 The long-term prognosis for hip OA differs from knee OA. People with hip OA are more
134 likely to opt for joint replacement earlier (hazard ratio 1.86, 95% CI 1.19 to 1.23) [23], and
135 are more likely to be male, younger and have a lower body mass index than those undergoing
136 knee replacement according to the Australian Orthopaedic Association National Joint
137 Replacement Registry [21]. Reasons for these differences are unclear but less time to hip
138 replacement surgery may suggest a shorter window of opportunity for non-surgical
139 treatments to satisfactorily improve symptoms. One possible explanation for a shorter time to
140 surgery for hip OA may relate to the phenomenon of ‘forgotten hip’ (i.e. perception that
141 replaced hip is natural) [24] and high patient satisfaction with hip replacement (93-98%),
142 which is much greater compared to satisfaction with knee replacement (76-80%) [25, 26].
143 However, despite greater patient satisfaction with hip replacement, the revision burden for
144 hip replacement is greater than the revision burden for knee replacement [27, 28]. The

145 differences in the long-term prognosis between hip and knee OA provide further evidence for
146 joint-specific treatment implementation.

147

148 **Epigenetics**

149 Although there are genetic loci relevant to OA across multiple joints [29], there is increasing
150 evidence that deviation in cellular control mechanisms associated with OA progression are
151 different in hip and knee joints. Chondrocytes, as postmitotic cells, are highly dependent on
152 such epigenetic control mechanisms to regulate dynamic changes in gene expression in
153 response to environmental cues such as mechanical stress, non-beneficial metabolic factors or
154 disease process. Studies on differences in epigenetic regulation as a function of either joint
155 site or OA pathophysiology have focussed on a variety of epigenetic mechanisms; DNA
156 methylation [30, 31], histone modifications [32], and microRNAs [33] and long non-coding
157 RNAs [34].

158

159 Genome wide profiles of DNA methylation have revealed distinct epigenetic landscapes of
160 knee and hip articular cartilage, highlighting large differentially methylated regions at Hox-
161 genes, a subset of homeobox genes [30]. Given that HOX-genes were also found to regulate
162 regenerative propensity of neural crest cells [35], differences in regenerative capacities of
163 knee and hip articular chondrocytes may exist [30]. Another level of epigenetically regulated
164 gene transcription found to be involved in pathological processes are microRNAs, which
165 affect gene translation by interfering with mRNA. By integrating microRNA with gene
166 expression data of preserved and lesioned OA articular cartilage, a miRNA interactome of the
167 OA pathophysiological process was uncovered [33]. Upon screening for joint-specific
168 differentially expressed miRNAs, a clear difference in overall mean level and number of
169 differentially expressed miRNAs in knee and hip articular cartilage was observed.

170 Particularly notable was the exclusive hip miRNA miR-451a that was highly significantly
171 differentially expressed between preserved and lesioned hip OA cartilage, yet not
172 differentially expressed in knees [33]. Targeting such a unique dysfunctional miRNA–mRNA
173 interaction fulfils an important joint-specific therapeutic opportunity [36, 37]. Therapeutic
174 strategies that focus on early OA should consider these inherent mechanisms that control and
175 maintain healthy joint tissue homeostasis in a joint-specific manner.

176

177 **Pathophysiology**

178 Osteoarthritis is typically seen as a ‘whole joint disease’ such that all of the structures of the
179 joint including the cartilage, bone and synovium and surrounding muscles can be affected by
180 the disease [38]. There is a complicated interaction between both systemic and local
181 inflammation, and mechanical stress is considered to cause an imbalance between destruction
182 and repair, ultimately leading to joint failure [39-41]. In animal studies, evidence suggests
183 that the molecular pathophysiology differs between hip and knee OA [42, 43]. In collagen VI
184 knock out mice, hip OA is accelerated with aging [42] while cartilage degeneration is delayed
185 at the knee joint [43]. The implications of these differences require further understanding,
186 especially given that collagen VI exerts several key roles including unique biomechanical
187 contributions [44].

188

189 Emerging cross-sectional studies directly comparing hip and knee OA in humans suggest
190 differences in inflammatory processes as measured in the serum [45] and synovium [46].
191 Distinct serum cytokine profiles were found in which EGF, FGF₂, MCP₃, MIP₁ α , and IL8
192 were differentially expressed between people with hip and knee OA [45]. Interestingly, there
193 were significant associations between hip OA pain and IL6, MDC and IP10, but these
194 markers did not differ between hip and knee OA [45]. A large meta-analysis of 3,582

195 individuals found an association between serum levels of COMP and incidence of hip and
196 knee OA [47]. However, preliminary evidence suggests that serum COMP may be related to
197 joint-specific symptoms [48]. In people with symptoms of hip and knee OA, but not
198 radiographic OA, a significant association was observed between higher serum COMP and
199 hip-related symptoms, but not knee-related symptoms [48]. Another more recent study
200 observed a 4-fold increased presence of macrophages (e.g. CD14⁺) in the synovial membrane
201 of knee OA samples compared to hip OA, whereas higher concentration of several markers
202 including, but not limited to IL4, IL10, TNF α were found in isolates from synovial
203 membrane from hip OA compared to knee OA [46]. Taken together, some studies support
204 differences in the cellular and molecular pathophysiology of OA at the hip and knee joint
205 that, although require replication in future research, may lead to the novel development of
206 joint-specific OA treatments.

207

208 **Anatomical and biomechanical factors**

209 The hip and knee joints are the largest joints in the body with notable anatomical differences
210 [49] that may influence the development and effectiveness of biomechanical treatments.

211 Specifically, the hip is a ball and socket joint, and the knee is a more complex bicondylar

212 hinge joint [49]. The anatomical differences between the hip and knee joint are likely to

213 underpin why malalignment is risk factor for knee OA [18], but not hip OA. Osteoarthritis is

214 considered in part a mechanical disease [40, 50] and biomechanical strategies to improve

215 symptoms and slow disease progression are a highly valued research priority for OA [51].

216 Joint loads are often indirectly assessed during gait analysis, with external moments most

217 often reported. In contrast to knee OA [52-54], no evidence has been found to support a

218 longitudinal association between parameters of hip joint loading and disease progression [55,

219 56]. Hence, there are few hip OA treatments targeting hip joint loading, which is in stark

220 contrast to the abundance of biomechanical interventions (e.g. lateral wedges, gait retraining,
221 knee bracing) for knee OA.

222

223 To our knowledge, studies that have directly compared gait biomechanics between people
224 with hip and knee OA are sparse and limited to the sagittal plane [57, 58]. Kinematics
225 differences include greater knee flexion and less hip flexion in hip OA compared to knee OA
226 [57, 58]. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses demonstrate that external joint moments
227 differ in people with hip and knee OA compared to healthy controls. Relative to controls, hip
228 joint moments in the frontal and sagittal plane are lower in hip OA [55], while knee joint
229 moments in the frontal plane are higher in knee OA [54]. Lower hip moments in hip OA, are
230 thought to reflect an adaptive strategy to alleviate force from the painful osteoarthritic joint
231 [59] consistent with the intense description of the pain experience described by people with
232 hip OA [60]. In contrast to hip OA, frontal plane malalignment is a key driver of higher knee
233 joint loads in knee OA [61, 62]. The debatable agreement between external joint moment and
234 internal joint contact forces [63] perhaps questions the validity of external joint moments.
235 However, cross-sectional studies using electromyography-informed neuromusculoskeletal
236 models which are thought to better reflect *in-vivo* knee joint loads [64, 65] also observed
237 lower hip joint contact forces in hip OA [61] and higher knee joint contact forces in knee OA
238 [66]. Overall, the relevance of treatments targeting hip joint loading to manage hip OA is
239 uncertain given the notable lack of longitudinal biomechanical studies in hip OA.

240

241 **Clinical presentation**

242 People with hip OA tend to be younger (60.4 years) than people with knee OA (66.3 years)
243 [67] and have shorter duration of symptoms at the time of presentation (2.7 years, [95% CI
244 1.6, 5.6 years]) compared to people with knee OA (3.9 years, [95% CI 2, 8 years]) [23].

245 Although it is unclear why symptom duration may be shorter with hip OA, other differences
246 in clinical presentation of hip OA and knee OA may provide insights into joint-specific
247 treatment targets such as restricted range of motion and joint instability. Restricted joint
248 range of motion is typically more problematic with hip OA compared to knee OA [68] such
249 that clinical assessment and diagnosis of OA places attention on restricted range of motion
250 [69, 70] to a much greater extent at the hip than the knee. In contrast, restricted knee flexion
251 and extension does not typically play a role in the clinical diagnosis of knee OA [70]. Joint
252 instability, described as the feeling of buckling or giving way, is frequently reported in knee
253 OA, but not often in people with hip OA [71, 72]. Hip joint instability is perhaps less likely to
254 occur than knee joint instability due to the anatomical structure of the hip joint [73]. In
255 contrast, the knee joint relies on ligaments for stability [49] and anterior cruciate ligament
256 injury is among the most common of knee injuries and is a potent risk factor for knee OA
257 [74] which also may contribute to knee instability in knee OA [75]. Thus, flexibility exercises
258 may be more effective for hip OA, whereas enhancing neuromuscular control of the knee
259 musculature with or without biomechanical intervention (e.g. bracing) may be more
260 beneficial for knee OA.

261

262 **Pain**

263 People with hip and knee OA experience joint pain and difficulty with activities of daily
264 living. Qualitative research provides insights into how the experience of pain differs between
265 hip and knee OA [60, 76]. People with hip and knee OA typically describe their pain as a
266 dull, aching pain that becomes constant over time and punctuated increasingly with short
267 episodes of a more intense, often unpredictable, emotionally draining pain. In contrast to
268 knee OA, people with hip OA described their pain as abrupt, rapidly progressing from mild to
269 severe pain, 'intense' (such as an ice-pick, pickaxe, spike, paralysing) and more often

270 compare their pain to other extremely painful conditions such as childbirth. In expressing
271 their experience of OA, people with hip OA are concerned with sidedness (e.g. lying down)
272 and groin pain (e.g. sexual activity), whereas people with knee OA focus on stairs, body
273 weight and joint stiffness [76]. The difference between experience of hip and knee pain
274 suggests that treatments should be approached accordingly to affected joint.

275

276 In addition to differences in the pain experience, there is also evidence to suggest that
277 methods of coping with OA pain differ in people with hip OA compared to knee OA. A large
278 cross-sectional study found that passive pain coping scores were significantly lower in people
279 with hip OA (n=1,553) compared to knee OA (n=2,781) [77]. This observation was found
280 when adjusting for body mass index, age and duration of OA and suggests that people with
281 hip OA engage less in passive pain coping strategies (e.g. worrying, resting, retreating) than
282 those with knee OA. Interestingly, a longitudinal study determined that the passive pain
283 coping strategy of resting predicts greater disability in knee OA (n=119), but not in hip OA
284 (n=71) [78]. Understanding differences in pain experiences, and how patients cope with joint-
285 specific OA symptoms could help in tailoring biopsychosocial interventions to patients who
286 have symptomatic hip or knee OA.

287

288 Efforts are underway to better understand OA pain including investigations into neuropathic
289 pain. Neuropathic pain is defined as pain caused by a lesion or disease of the somatosensory
290 nervous system [79]. Using self-report questionnaires, a meta-analysis determined that the
291 prevalence of possible neuropathic-like pain is potentially less prevalent in hip OA (29%)
292 compared to knee OA (40%) with a difference of 11% (95% CI 0-22%) [80]. A cross-
293 sectional study (n=843) suggests that neuropathic pain may be dependent on OA joint and
294 sex. In patients with end-stage OA, women with hip OA had significantly fewer neuropathic-

295 like symptoms compared to women with knee OA, but such differences were not apparent in
296 men [81]. The implications of neuropathic-like symptoms are still emerging and may differ
297 according to site of OA [82]. Cross-sectional evidence based on separate joint analyses
298 suggests that the presence of neuropathic-like symptoms is associated with reduced pain-
299 related quality of life in hip OA (n=117) only (change in RAND-36 bodily pain: 6.8 points).
300 In contrast, knee OA (n=138) neuropathic-like symptoms was only associated with physical
301 dysfunction (change in RAND-36 physical function score 6.8 points) [82]. Collectively,
302 these data suggest that mechanisms of pain may be joint-dependent and have joint-specific
303 implications on outcomes.

304

305 Brain-imaging studies are emerging to better understand neuropathic mechanisms of pain in
306 OA [83-86]. Gray matter, a major component of the central nervous system, is known to be
307 altered in people with chronic pain compared to healthy controls [87]. A recent cross-
308 sectional investigation that controlled for age and sex statistically, found less gray matter in
309 the anterior cingulate cortex of people awaiting hip replacement (n=24) compared to people
310 awaiting knee replacement for OA (n=91) [85]. The anterior cingulate cortex is responsible
311 for functions including the registration of pain [88] and emotional reaction to pain [89].

312 Although gray matter indices indicate morphologic brain differences between hip and knee
313 OA, the clinical implication remains uncertain as the gray matter alterations were poorly
314 associated with clinical symptoms [84].

315

316 **Management recommendations and current practice**

317 Clinical guidelines [2-5] for the management of hip and knee OA recommend non-
318 pharmacological interventions prior to pharmacological and surgical options. However, there
319 is a paucity of high-quality clinical trials evaluating non-surgical treatments for hip OA [2, 5]

320 (Figure 1). Accordingly, several clinical practice guidelines have formed some treatment
321 recommendations for hip OA based on evidence from clinical trials in knee OA or mixed
322 populations of hip and knee OA [2, 3, 5]. However, due to potential differences in treatment
323 outcomes, the Osteoarthritis Research Society International recommends that efficacy trials
324 should be conducted in populations that have a single target osteoarthritic joint [90].
325 The following two sections outline differences in treatment recommendations between hip
326 and knee OA and differences in current clinical practice to highlight areas of improvement
327 with respect to implementation of recommended treatments.

328

329 *Non-pharmacological management*

330 Education and exercise therapy are core treatments consistently recommended for both hip
331 and knee OA [2, 3, 5, 6]. Weight loss, if appropriate, is also consistently recommended as a
332 core treatment for knee OA [2, 3, 5, 6] but inconsistently recommended for hip OA [2, 3, 5,
333 6] due to absence of weight-loss trials specifically with people with hip OA [2]. Other
334 treatment options recommended for management of knee OA include bracing and
335 kinesiotaping, but these treatment options are not recommended for hip OA [5].

336

337 Despite the consistent recommendation for exercise across guidelines, people with hip and
338 knee OA are more likely to receive a referral to an orthopaedic surgeon than to a
339 physiotherapist [91]. In Australian general practice, there are no differences between knee
340 and hip OA in the frequency of referral to a physiotherapist or dietitian/nutritionist [91]. A
341 cross-sectional survey suggests a greater proportion of people with knee OA compared to hip
342 OA engage with efforts to lose weight, strengthening exercise, heat/cold treatments and
343 walking aids [92]. Hence despite no differences in referral rates between the joints, people

344 with hip OA are perhaps less likely to engage in non-pharmacological treatments compared
345 to knee OA.

346

347 *Pharmacological management*

348 There are several differences in recommendations by clinical guidelines for pharmacological
349 treatments in management of hip and knee OA. Topical NSAIDs are strongly recommended
350 for knee OA [3-5], but with no evidence from clinical trials in hip OA, clinical practice
351 guidelines from major societies do not make a recommendation for or against the use of
352 topical NSAIDs for hip OA [2, 5]. Duloxetine is recommended for knee OA [2, 5] but
353 recommendations for use in hip OA are inconsistent, with some guidelines recommending for
354 [5] and others against [2] its use in the absence of clinical trials evidence in hip OA. Whilst
355 recommendations for [2] and against [4, 5] the use of hyaluronic acid injection for knee OA
356 are inconsistent across clinical guidelines, recommendations against the use of hyaluronic
357 acid injection are consistent across guidelines for management of hip OA [2, 4, 5].

358

359 There are some differences in the pharmacological management of hip and knee in general
360 practice. In the UK, patients with hip OA are more likely to use painkillers for their pain than
361 knee OA [93]. Somewhat similarly, patients with hip OA in Australia were prescribed
362 medications more frequently than people with knee OA, with prescriptions for opioids in
363 particular more frequent for hip OA (rate per 100 hip OA problems managed 25.6 [95%CI
364 22.8 to 28.4]) than knee OA (rate per 100 knee OA problems managed 14.9 [95% CI 13.7 to
365 16.2]) [91]. Although not recommended in clinical practice guidelines for hip or knee OA
366 management [2, 4, 5], glucosamine is more frequently prescribed for knee OA than hip OA
367 [91]. In contrast, albeit indirectly, there were no differences in consumption of analgesics by
368 people with early hip or knee OA in the Netherlands [94]. General practitioners administered

369 joint injections more frequently for knee OA than hip OA [91]. Other studies have reported
370 on health care use of hip and knee OA combined but have not presented the data for hip and
371 knee OA separately [95].

372

373 **Health service utilisation**

374 There are some differences in health service utilisation between hip and knee OA. Imaging is
375 typically not required to make an OA diagnosis [96, 97]. However, in Australian general
376 practice, referrals for diagnostic radiology, that include x-ray but exclude magnetic resonance
377 imaging and ultrasound, is more frequent for hip OA (rate per 100 hip OA problems managed
378 30.0 [95% CI 26.8-33.2] 22.0 [95%CI 20.6-23.3]) compared to knee OA (rate per 100 knee
379 OA problems managed 22.0 [95%CI 20.6-23.3] [91]. The higher rates of referrals for
380 diagnostic radiology at the hip joint may relate to the complexity of hip joint pain. Multiple
381 hip conditions including OA, gluteal tendinopathy [98] and femoral acetabular impingement
382 syndrome [99] are common and can often co-exist [100], although it remains unsubstantiated
383 whether a radiological-based diagnosis is necessary to improve outcomes. Furthermore, the
384 revision burden for hip replacement is greater than the revision burden for knee replacement.
385 Based on data from the US Nationwide Inpatient Sample (n=537,575), health care utilisation
386 tends to be greater for revision of hip replacement with respect to length of hospital stay
387 (mean [SD]: 5.8 [14] days and 4.8 [10.5] for hip and knee respectively) and hospital costs
388 (mean USD [SD]: \$24,697 [\$40,489] and \$23,130 [\$36,643] for hip and knee respectively)
389 [27]. Although differences in health service utilisation may be country-specific, these
390 observations point to underlying differences in disease characteristics between hip and knee
391 OA that remain largely under-investigated.

392

393 **Summary**

394 This review highlights differences between hip and knee OA with respect to prevalence,
395 prognosis, epigenetics, pathophysiology, anatomical and biomechanical factors, clinical
396 presentation, pain and clinical practice recommendations and current practice (Table 2). It
397 should be strongly noted that there is much less research into hip OA compared to knee OA.
398 Hence, much remains unknown about how similar or how different hip and knee OA actually
399 are. The notable lack of clinical trials in hip OA compared to knee OA may be due to the
400 greater prevalence of knee OA, reluctance of research funders to fund trials for a clinical
401 condition perceived to be similar, and because of the historical approach of generalising
402 findings from knee OA to hip OA. Differences between hip and knee OA should be
403 contemplated when considering the mechanisms underpinning treatment effects and highlight
404 the need to assess treatments specific to the osteoarthritic joint as recommended [90] either
405 by conducting single-joint trials or adequately powering trials to conduct analysis by affected
406 joint. In conclusion, alongside ‘pragmatic studies’ addressing complex needs and shared
407 treatment mechanisms in heterogenous populations such as those with hip and knee OA,
408 there is a need for more hip OA specific research addressing distinct descriptive, predictive,
409 causative and interventions questions.

410

411 **Author contributions**

412 M vdE, KLB and RSH conceived the idea for the review. All authors were involved in
413 drafting the article or revising it critically for intellectual content, and all authors approved
414 the final paper.

415

416 **Competing interests**

417 None of the authors have any competing interests to declare.

418

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428

429 Figure Legend

430 **Figure 1** Standardised mean difference (95% confidence intervals) in pain from trials that
431 informed the 2019 Osteoarthritis Research Society clinical guidelines for hip and
432 osteoarthritis management. NSAIDS: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

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Table 1. Prognostic factors for symptomatic and radiographic progression in hip and knee OA

Prognostic factors for symptomatic progression	Hip OA	Knee OA	Prognostic factors for radiographic progression	Hip OA	Knee OA
Age	-	‘Strong evidence’	Heberden nodes	-	OR 2.66 [95% CI 1.46-8.84]
Ethnicity	-	‘Strong evidence’	Baseline pain	-	OR 2.38 [95 CI 1.74-3.27]
Body mass index	-	‘Strong evidence’	Varus malignment	-	‘Strong evidence’
Infrapatellar synovitis	-	‘Strong evidence’	High levels of hyalouronic acid	-	‘Strong evidence’
Joint effusion	-	OR 1.35 [95% 0.99 to 1.83]	High levels of TNF-alpha	-	‘Strong evidence’
Baseline severity	-	‘Strong evidence’			
Presence of co-morbidity	‘Strong evidence’	‘Strong evidence’			
Large acetabular BML	OR 5.2 [95% CI 1.2 to 22.9]	-			
Large femoral head BML	OR 4.4 [95% 1.4 to 19.7]	-			
Chronic widespread pain	OR 5.0 [95% CI 2.9 to 9.1]	OR 3.2 [95% 1.9 to 5.3]			
Depression	OR 1.9 [95% CI 1.2 to 2.9]	-			
WORMS lateral cyst of score 1		OR 4.3 [95% CI 1.2 to 15.4]			
Increase of >2 in WORMS BML		OR 3.2 [95% CI 1.5 to 6.8]			

BML; bone marrow lesion; CWP: OR; Odds ratio; TNF tumor necrosis factor; WORMS whole-organ magnetic resonance imaging score; ‘-’ no evidence reported

Table 2 Summary of highlighted differences between hip and knee OA

Prevalence	<p>Lower in hip OA compared to knee OA.</p> <p>Hip OA rates similar in men and women, knee OA more prevalent in women.</p>
Prognosis	<p>Hip joint replacements are performed earlier than knee joint replacement, in people who are more likely to be male, younger and have a lower body mass index than those undergoing knee replacement.</p> <p>Comorbidity, subchondral sclerosis, baseline pain severity and physical dysfunction are risk factors for hip OA progression. Several risk factors exist for knee OA progression.</p>
Epigenetics	<p>HOX-genes differ between hip and knee articular cartilage.</p> <p>miRNA (hip miRNA miR-451) differentially expressed between hip and knee OA articular cartilage.</p>
Pathophysiology	<p>Role of collagen IV potentially plays different role in hip and knee OA.</p> <p>Inflammatory process may differ in the serum and synovium between hip and knee OA.</p> <p>Higher serum COMP potentially correlates with hip OA symptoms, but not knee OA symptoms.</p>
Anatomical and biomechanics	<p>Different anatomical structures, hip joint is ball and socket, and knee joint is a complex hinge joint.</p> <p>Uncertain whether hip joint load predicts disease progression, whereas increasing evidence implicates higher knee joint load in structural disease progression.</p> <p>Relative to healthy controls, measures of joint load during walking are lower in hip OA, but higher in knee OA.</p>
Clinical presentation	<p>Restricted range of motion is more prominent in hip OA compared to knee OA.</p> <p>Joint instability is not often reported with hip OA but is commonly reported in knee OA.</p>
Pain	<p>Patient description of hip OA pain is more intense than of knee OA pain.</p> <p>Potentially less passive pain coping strategies (e.g. worrying, resting, retreating) in hip OA compared to knee OA.</p> <p>Probable neuropathic-like pain appears less prevalent in hip OA compared to knee OA and may depend on sex.</p> <p>Neuropathic-like symptoms potentially associates with pain-related quality of life in hip OA, but associates with physical dysfunction in knee OA.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Weight loss consistently recommended for management of knee OA where appropriate, but inconsistently recommend for management of hip OA due to lack of clinical trials in hip OA.</p>

Topical NSAIDs are strongly recommended for knee OA but with no evidence from clinical trials in hip OA, clinical practice guidelines do not make a recommendation for or against the use of topical NSAIDs for hip OA.

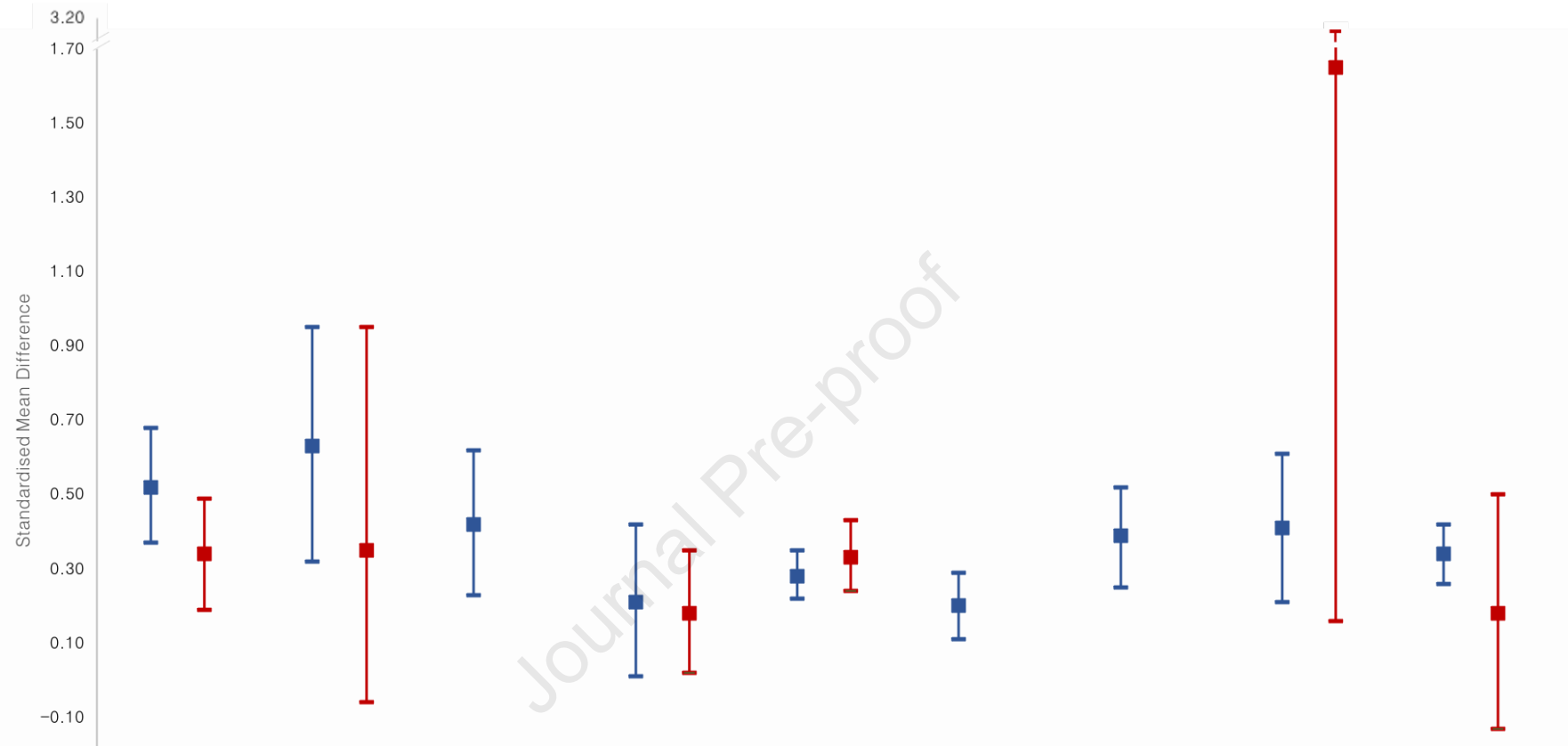
Duloxetine is recommended for knee OA but recommendations for use in hip OA are inconsistent without any evidence from clinical trials in hip OA.

Recommendations for use of hyaluronic acid injection for knee OA are inconsistent across clinical guidelines, but recommendations against the use of hyaluronic acid injection are consistent for hip OA.

Clinical practice	Exercise prescribed as a treatment more often for knee OA than hip OA
	Analgesics used more for hip OA than knee OA, but no difference in analgesics use between early hip and knee OA.
	Joint injections more frequently administered for knee OA than hip OA.
	Referrals for diagnostic radiology, is more frequent for hip OA compared to knee OA.

OA osteoarthritis; COMP: cartilage oligomeric matrix protein

HOX: Homebox genes; RNA ribonucleic acid



	Structured exercise		Mind-body program		Dietary weight management		Cognitive behavioral therapy		Oral NSAIDs		Topical NSAIDs		Duloxetine		Intra-articular corticosteroid		Intra-articular hyaluronic acid		
	Joint	Knee	Hip	Knee	Hip	Knee	Hip	Knee	Hip	Knee	Hip	Knee	Hip	Knee	Hip	Knee	Hip		
No. of trials		23	8	6	1	2	No trials	4	4	9	3	7	No trials	4	No trials	22	3	52	3
No. of participants		2212	782	328	97	408	-	366	616	4513	1953	3575	-	1199	-	1529	200	7265	190