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Logo: the Tulip symbolises richness & beauty, but also fragility, articulating with an (implant) socket.

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A new collaboration on the horizon: the National Joint Registry (NJR) and the Italian Arthroplasty Registry (RIAP) towards an agreement upon a common component database and device classification systems harmonisation

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Introduction

Medical device classification systems are essential to run market surveillance and vigilance activities. The 2007 Italian Ministry of Health (MoH) Decree established the National Classification of Medical Devices (CND). Then, the Italian Arthroplasty Registry (RIAP), funded by MoH, set up the RIAP-DM-Dictionary and classified devices using the CND. The National Joint Registry (NJR) Component database is based on a detailed device classification. It combines information to identify the implanted device and a description of its technical characteristics, thus allowing comparison of different prostheses performance. The aim of this study is to describe the first steps taken towards the harmonisation of CND and NJR classifications in the framework of the future collaboration between NJR and RIAP, to create a shared international database of the orthopaedic prostheses.

Methods

Both CND and NJR taxonomies were matched and compared for hip joint components. Also the equivalence between CND classes and NJR taxonomy data was verified.

Results

The CND classification organises devices in homogeneous groups divided into sub-levels (anatomic component, type, fixation method, material). NJR taxonomy is dynamic and provides each anatomical joint with several attributes (anatomic component, type, material, fixation method, design, size). Both systems deal with the same anatomic components. CND sub-levels find their equivalent class in NJR when type, fixation methods and material are considered.

Discussion/Conclusion

Harmonisation of classifications is a first step towards the organisation of an international component database. The comparability of classification systems enables the integration of devices from different databases.

Notes