



# Precautionary Statement (01-50-0943)

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**Biomet Orthopedics, Inc. 01-50-0943**

P.O. Box 587

Date: 05/05

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## **Biomet® Radial Head and Modular Radial Head Replacement Prostheses**

### **Attention Operating Surgeon**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Biomet manufactures a variety of elbow joint Radial Head and Modular Radial Head prostheses intended for primary and revision joint arthroplasty for use in cemented and uncemented press fit applications.

#### **Materials:**

Radial Head CoCrMo or Titanium Alloy

Stem Titanium Alloy

Surface Coating Titanium Alloy

Locking Screw Titanium Alloy

#### **INDICATIONS**

The indications for use of Radial Head Replacement Devices include:

1. Replacement of the radial head for degenerative or post-traumatic disabilities presenting pain, crepitation, and decreased motion at the radio- humeral and/or proximal radio-ulnar joint with:
  - a. Joint destruction and/or subluxation visible on x-ray
  - b. Resistance to conservative treatment
2. Primary replacement after fracture of the radial head.
3. Symptomatic sequelae after radial head resection.
4. Revision following failed radial head arthroplasty.

Liverpool™ Radial Heads are cleared for cemented use only in the United States. Patient selection factors to be considered include: 1) need to obtain pain relief and improve function, 2) ability and willingness of the patient to follow instructions, including control of weight and activity levels, 3) a good nutritional state of the patient, and 4) the patient must have reached full skeletal maturity.

#### **CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Absolute contraindications include: infection, sepsis, and osteomyelitis. Relative contraindications include: 1) uncooperative patient or patient with neurologic disorders who are incapable of following directions, 2) osteoporosis, 3) metabolic disorders which may impair bone formation, 4) osteomalacia, 5) distant foci of infections which may spread to the implant

site, 6) rapid joint destruction, marked bone loss or bone resorption apparent on roentgenogram.

## **WARNINGS**

Improper selection, placement, positioning, alignment and fixation of the implant components may result in unusual stress conditions which may lead to subsequent reduction in the service life of the prosthetic components. Malalignment of the components or inaccurate implantation can lead to excessive wear and/or failure of the implant or procedure. Inadequate preclosure cleaning (removal of surgical debris) can lead to excessive wear. Improper preoperative or intraoperative implant handling or damage (scratches, dents, etc.) can lead to crevice corrosion, fretting, fatigue fracture and/or excessive wear. Thoroughly clean and dry connecting segments, including taper, prior to attachment of components to avoid crevice corrosion and improper seating. Use clean gloves when handling implants. Laboratory testing indicates that implants subjected to body fluids, surgical debris or fatty tissue has lower adhesion strength to cement than implants handled with clean gloves. Do not modify implants. The surgeon is to be thoroughly familiar with the implants and instruments prior to performing surgery.

1. Properly align and properly seat connecting components, including tapers. Failure to properly align and completely seat the components together can lead to disassociation. Thoroughly clean and dry all connectors, including tapers prior to attachment of modular components to avoid crevice corrosion and improper seating.
2. Care is to be taken to assure complete support of all parts of the device embedded in bone cement to prevent stress concentrations that may lead to failure of the procedure. Complete preclosure cleaning and removal of bone cement debris, metallic debris and other surgical debris at the implant site is critical to minimize wear of the implant articular surfaces. Implant fracture due to cement failure has been reported.
3. For Modular Radial Head: Stems 22mm in length or shorter should not be used with 20mm or taller heads.

Biomet® joint replacement prostheses provide the surgeon with a means of reducing pain and restoring function for many patients. While these devices are generally successful in attaining these goals they cannot be expected to withstand the activity levels and loads of normal healthy bone and joint tissue.

Accepted practices in postoperative care are important. Failure of the patient to follow postoperative care instructions involving rehabilitation can compromise the success of the procedure. The patient is to be advised of the limitations of the reconstruction and the need for protection of the implants from full load bearing until adequate fixation and healing have occurred. Excessive activity, and trauma and can lead to premature failure of the implant by loosening, fracture, and/or wear. Loosening of the implants can result in increased production of wear particles, as well as accelerate damage to bone, making successful revision surgery more difficult. The patient is to be made aware and warned of general surgical risks, possible adverse effects as listed, and to follow the instructions of the treating physician including follow-up visits.

## **PRECAUTIONS**

Specialized instruments are designed for Biomet® joint replacement systems to aid in the proper implantation of the prosthetic components. The use of instruments or implant components from other systems can result in inaccurate fit, sizing, excessive wear and device failure. Intraoperative fracture or breaking of instruments has been reported. Surgical instruments are subject to wear with normal usage. Instruments, which have experienced extensive use or excessive force, are susceptible to fracture. Surgical instruments should only be used for their intended purpose. Biomet recommends that all instruments be regularly inspected for wear and disfigurement.

Do not reuse implants. While an implant may appear undamaged, previous stress may have created imperfections that would reduce the service life of the implant. Do not treat patients with implants that have been, even momentarily, placed in a different patient.

Patient must avoid placing excessive loads on the implant.

## **POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS**

1. Material sensitivity reactions. Implantation of foreign material in tissues can result in histological reactions involving various sizes of macrophages and fibroblasts. The clinical significance of this effect is uncertain, as similar changes may occur as a precursor to or during the healing process. Particulate wear debris and discoloration from metallic and polyethylene components of joint implants may be present in adjacent tissue or fluid. It has been reported that wear debris may initiate a cellular response resulting in osteolysis or osteolysis may be a result of loosening of the implant.
2. Early or late postoperative infection, and allergic reaction.
3. Intraoperative bone perforation or fracture may occur, particularly in the presence of poor bone stock caused by osteoporosis, bone defects from previous surgery, bone resorption, or while inserting the device.
4. Infection is a rather common problem in elbow procedures especially those involving open procedures.
5. Nerve injuries, including injuries to the Ulnar nerve.
6. Loosening or migration of the implants can occur due to loss of fixation, trauma, malalignment, bone resorption, and/or excessive activity.
7. Periarticular calcification or ossification, with or without impediment of joint mobility.
8. Inadequate range of motion due to improper selection or positioning of components.
9. Undesirable shortening or lengthening of limb.
10. Dislocation and subluxation due to inadequate fixation and improper positioning. Muscle and fibrous tissue laxity can also contribute to these conditions.
11. Fatigue fracture of component can occur as a result of loss of fixation, strenuous activity, malalignment, trauma, non-union, or excessive weight.
12. Fretting and crevice corrosion can occur at interfaces between components.
13. Wear and/or deformation of articulating surfaces.
14. Intraoperative or postoperative bone fracture and/or postoperative pain.

## **STERILITY**

Prosthetic components are sterilized by exposure to a minimum dose of 25 kGy of gamma radiation. Do not resterilize. Do not use any component from an opened or damaged package. Do not use implants after expiration date.

Caution: Federal law (USA) restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.

Comments regarding this device can be directed to Attn: Regulatory Dept, Biomet, Inc. 56 East Bell Dr. Warsaw IN 46580 USA, FAX: 1-574-372-1683

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