



# Revista Española de Cirugía Ortopédica y Traumatología

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Clarification from Doctors Gallart and Marín

### Nota aclaratoria de los Doctores Gallart y Marín

Dear Editor,

Please consider publishing this letter as a “clarification”, regarding the article published in *Revista Española de Cirugía Ortopédica y Traumatología* vol 55, nº 1, January-February 2011, pages 67-69, titled “**Información y asesoramiento para cirujanos ortopédicos: árbol de decisiones ante un paciente portador de prótesis con par de fricción metal-metal**” (“Information and advice for orthopaedic surgeons: decision tree for patients with prosthesis with metal-metal friction pair”), which wrongly includes us as authors, in order to avoid erroneous interpretations.

We wish to clarify the following points:

1. This document was presented at the last Congress of the Spanish Society for Hip Surgery (SECCA), held in Bilbao (November 2010), during the general Assembly of the Society. It stated that we both acted as representatives of a draft Action Guide addressing the recent and unexpected events arising in relation to metal-metal prostheses of large diameter (with significant social and clinical impact in the case of ASR prosthesis, Depuy Johnson & Johnson®). The reason for this presentation was the alarming situation created among hip surgeons, with possible legal implications. In his speech, Dr. Gallart himself explained that it was based on the British guide. This consensus document was presented in the SECCA website for analysis by its members and to receive suggestions.
2. At no time has there been any intention to publish an original article or update topic. We wish to clarify that

we have been mere representatives of the consensus of the Hip Surgery Society, with the intention of helping in decision-making during the management, diagnosis and treatment of these patients. For this reason, our names appear at the end as members of SECCA and not as specialists from our respective hospitals.

3. As stated in the aforementioned meeting, it is clear that the document is a translation of the guide presented by the British Hip Society (BHS) and the British Orthopaedic Association (as referenced in the recommended bibliography which we add), including certain modifications, such as measurements of metal ions in urine and thyroid hormones. The management scheme for these patients in Spain was also introduced.
4. After one month, with minimal contributions to the original submission and with the possibility of being published as an “announcement” in the prestigious journal of the SECOT, the document was sent for publication. The document has been available on the SECCA website ([www.secca.es](http://www.secca.es)) from the beginning. This is a consensus document from SECCA, totally based on the one from BHS, with minor changes which have been added for the sole purpose of assisting or guiding Spanish orthopaedic surgeons.

We look forward that this letter may be helpful to avoid misunderstandings.

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