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Dear 

Re: The Avon Patello-Femoral Arthroplasty

It is now five years since the Avon patella was introduced in September 1996. Over 180 cases have been entered onto the Bristol database. More than 100 patients have been reviewed at two years and 20 have reached five years. The results seem very satisfactory and the mean outcome assessments are as good as, or better than those for a total knee replacement.

There have to date been no problems with loosening or wear and only one patient has had problems with mal-alignment, which required a Roux-Goldthwaite procedure. Disease progression will occur in some cases, usually in the medial compartment. There have so far been six revisions for this reason. The speed of disease progression is variable and impossible to predict, occurring in between 5-8% of patients. Revision to a total knee replacement is a straightforward procedure and the results seem satisfactory.

One of my reasons for writing to you is not only to thank you for your support in contributing to this project but also to enclose a copy of the new operative brochure. There are a few improvements in the technique, which you may find of help and interest.

Most of the patients achieve an extremely good range of movement often in excess of 120°. The patella button has a thicker medial edge because of the central offset, as the patella flexes past 110° it leaves the central trochlear and rotates internally presenting the odd facet to the lateral part of the medial femoral condyle. In some cases impingement can occur in these extreme positions of flexion. To improve the congruity in extreme flexion a new button has been introduced with a rounded medial edge creating an odd facet.

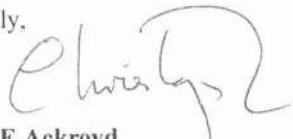
Your local Stryker representative will be upgrading your Avon instrument kit with instrument box and alignment tower in the next few months.

I would very much appreciate any comments you may have, both positive and negative, as it is only by feedback from the users that we will be able to identify and correct any problems.

The fifth Bristol Unicompartamental Arthroplasty meeting will be held at the Avon Orthopaedic Centre on Tuesday 21st May 2002; I hope you will be able to come.

Best wishes for 2002.

Yours sincerely,



**Christopher E Ackroyd
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon**