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Title

METAL SENSITIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH ORTHOPAEDIC IMPLANTS

Authors

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Purpose/Premise

This article provides a review of current concepts relative to metal sensitivity in patients with orthopaedic implants.

Material and Methods

Metal sensitivity is described, as well as the methods used to test for metal sensitivity. In addition, a review is provided of case studies and cohort studies that relate orthopaedic implants to metal sensitivity.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The authors conclude that it is unclear whether metal hypersensitivity reactions affect implant performance in the majority of patients. They suggest that improvements in immunologic testing methods are necessary to assess patients who are susceptible to hypersensitivity responses, but acknowledge that "the risk to patients may be considered minimal."

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