

Atchia I, Kane D, et al. Efficacy of a single ultrasound-guided injection for the treatment of hip osteoarthritis. Ann Rheum Dis. 2011 ;70(1):110-6.

Design: randomized clinical trial

Study question: is a single ultrasound-guided steroid or hyaluronic acid injection effective in the treatment of hip osteoarthritis?

Reasons not to cite as evidence:

- The study followed patients for only eight weeks, which is much too short to be predictive of a useful treatment effect in a chronic condition
- Outcome reporting is inadequate: Figure 3 is not accompanied by a tabular display of results with confidence intervals, the effect sizes reported in the text do not have confidence intervals, and there is more emphasis on p values than is appropriate
- A very short term benefit is therefore of no interest, if it means that further injections would need to be done and would incur the risks of repeated steroid administration