

# Clinically Relevant Thresholds in Patient Reported Outcomes: Do Patient's Expectations Evolve Over Long Term Follow-up?



**Elizabeth G. Walsh, B.S.**

Clinical Research Assistant, American Hip Institute  
Research Foundation

Acknowledgement:

**Benjamin G. Domb, M.D.**

Medical Director, American Hip Institute  
Chair, AHI Research Foundation

# Disclosures

I (and/or my co-authors) have something to disclose.

Detailed disclosure information is available via:

AAOS Orthopaedic Disclosure Program on the AAOS  
website at

<http://www.aaos.org/disclosure>

# Background

In hip arthroscopy, clinically relevant outcome thresholds have been utilized to provide insight into post-operative functional status and patient satisfaction.

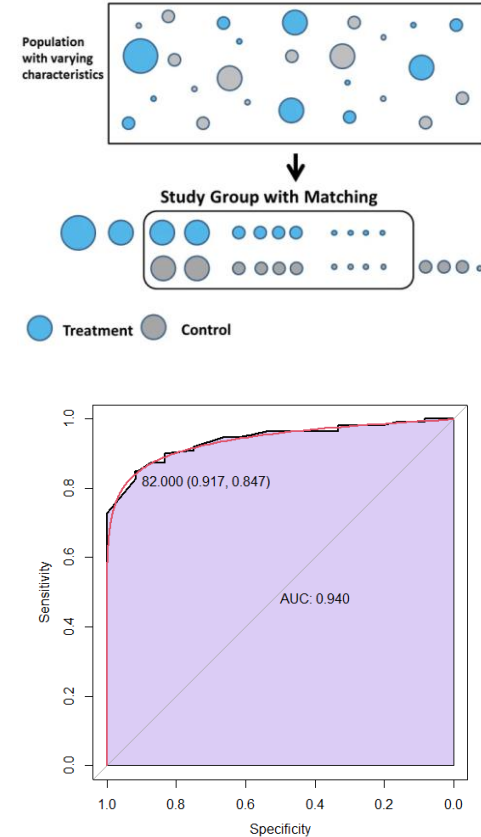


# Purpose

To define and evaluate minimal clinically important difference (MCID), patient acceptable symptomatic state (PASS), and substantial clinical benefit (SCB) thresholds over the 2-, 5-, and 10-year timepoints for modified Harris Hip Score (mHHS), Hip Outcome Score Sports-Specific Subscale (HOS-SSS), and the International Hip Outcome Tool (iHOT12).

# Methods

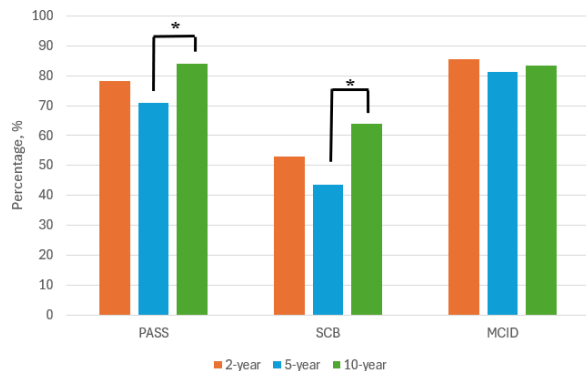
- Data was retrospectively reviewed for patients with complete patient reported outcome (PRO) scores with anchor questions at either the 2-, 5-, or 10-year timepoint who underwent primary hip arthroscopy between 2008-2021.
- Groups were propensity-score matched 1:1:1 based on age, body mass index, sex, lateral center edge angle, and surgical procedure.
- Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves were generated to define the PASS, SCB, and MCID thresholds using the anchor-based method for mHHS, HOS-SSS, and iHOT12 at the follow-up timepoints.
- Area under the curve (AUC) was then used to evaluate the discrimination of these defined thresholds.



# Results

**Table 1.** Receiver Operating Characteristic Analysis for modified Harris Hip Score

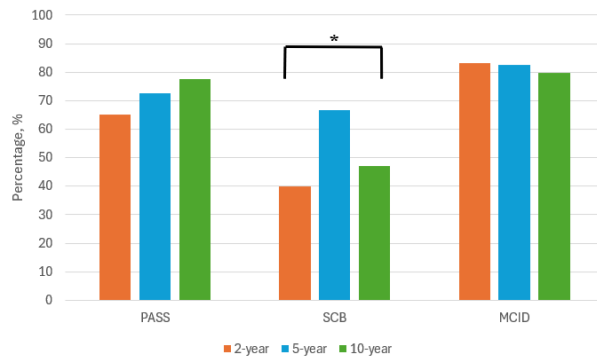
	Threshold Value	Sensitivity, %	Specificity, %	AUC (95% CI)	Patients Achieving Threshold, No. (%)	Anchor Responder, No. (%)
<b>PASS</b>						
2-year	77.5	0.903	0.760	0.879	108 (78.3%)	113 (81.9%)
5-year	85.5	0.803	1.000	0.951	98 (71.0%)	122 (88.4%)
10-year	78.5	0.933	0.778	0.838	116 (84.1%)	120 (87.0%)
<b>SCB</b>						
2-year	95.0	0.857	0.652	0.799	73 (52.9%)	49 (35.5%)
5-year	99.0	0.740	0.739	0.769	60 (43.5%)	50 (36.2%)
10-year	88.0	0.909	0.542	0.777	88 (63.8%)	55 (39.9%)



**Table 2.** Receiver Operating Characteristic Analysis for Hip Outcome Score – Sport Specific

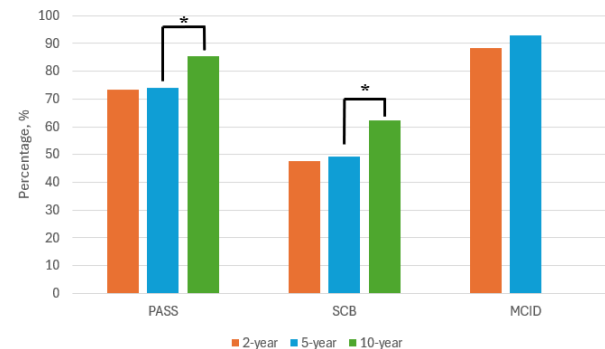
Subscale

	Threshold Value	Sensitivity, %	Specificity, %	AUC (95% CI)	Patients Achieving Threshold, No. (%)	Anchor Responder, No. (%)
<b>PASS</b>						
2-year	82.7	0.761	0.840	0.856	90 (65.2%)	113 (81.9%)
5-year	76.4	0.820	1.000	0.932	100 (72.5%)	122 (88.4%)
10-year	67.7	0.858	0.778	0.821	107 (77.5%)	120 (87.0%)
<b>SCB</b>						
2-year	97.0	0.755	0.798	0.800	55 (39.9%)	49 (35.5%)
5-year	80.9	0.920	0.477	0.728	92 (66.7%)	50 (36.2%)
10-year	90.5	0.709	0.687	0.731	65 (47.1%)	55 (39.9%)



**Table 3.** Receiver Operating Characteristic Analysis for International Hip Outcome Tool

	Threshold Value	Sensitivity, %	Specificity, %	AUC (95% CI)	Patients Achieving Threshold, No. (%)	Anchor Responder, No. (%)
<b>PASS</b>						
2-year	67.4	0.867	0.880	0.914	101 (73.2%)	113 (81.9%)
5-year	76.9	0.836	1.000	0.948	102 (73.9%)	122 (88.4%)
10-year	62.9	0.950	0.778	0.840	118 (85.5%)	120 (87.0%)
<b>SCB</b>						
2-year	89.4	0.837	0.708	0.831	66 (47.8%)	49 (35.5%)
5-year	94.1	0.800	0.682	0.777	68 (49.3%)	50 (36.2%)
10-year	82.5	0.909	0.566	0.742	86 (62.3%)	55 (39.9%)



# Conclusion

Thresholds for PASS and SCB peaked at the 5-year timepoint and significantly decreased between 5- and 10-year for all PROs. However, patients continue to meet MCID, PASS, and SCB at high rates over a 10-year period. Our findings suggest patients' expectations change over time leading to continued, and at times increasing, patient satisfaction.

# References

1. Beck EC, Drager J, Nwachukwu BU, Jan K, Rasio J, Nho SJ. Gender and Age-Specific Differences Observed in Rates of Achieving Meaningful Clinical Outcomes 5-Years After Hip Arthroscopy for Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome. *Arthroscopy: The Journal of Arthroscopic & Related Surgery*. 2021;37(8):2488-2496.e1.
2. Chahal J, Thiel GSV, Mather RC, Lee S, Salata MJ, Nho SJ. The Minimal Clinical Important Difference (MCID) And Patient Acceptable Symptomatic State (PASS) For The Modified Harris Hip Score And Hip Outcome Score Among Patients Undergoing Surgical Treatment For Femoroacetabular Impingement. *Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine*. 2014;2(7\_suppl2):2325967114S0010.
3. Maldonado DR, George T, Padmanabhan S, Curley AJ, Domb BG. Defining Thresholds and Predictors for Achieving the Patient Acceptable Symptom State for Patient-Reported Outcome Measures After Revision Hip Arthroscopy. *Am J Sports Med*. 2023;51(14):3772-3780.
4. Nwachukwu BU, Beck EC, Kunze KN, Chahla J, Rasio J, Nho SJ. Defining the Clinically Meaningful Outcomes for Arthroscopic Treatment of Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome at Minimum 5-Year Follow-up. *Am J Sports Med*. 2020;48(4):901-907.
5. Walsh EG, Wallace IA, Quesada-Jimenez R, Kahana-Rojkind AH, Domb BG. Clinically Relevant Thresholds for Hip Arthroscopy Vary: A Systematic Review. *Arthroscopy: The Journal of Arthroscopic & Related Surgery*. Published online January 2025:S0749806324011174.





Elizabeth G. Walsh, B.S.

Clinical Research Assistant, American Hip Institute  
Research Foundation

