

# HEALTH BULLETIN

## Hip Replacement Improves Lives

(NAPSA)—New research from Duke University has found that having a hip replaced vastly improves the quality of life of older Americans who suffer from osteoarthritis. The condition affects approximately 10 million Americans, causing pain, decreased mobility and increased risk of falls and fractures.

The study found that individuals with osteoarthritis who undergo total hip replacement are better able to care for themselves,



have improved physical function and enjoy longer independence, according to AdvaMed, the Advanced Medical Technology Association. In fact, the procedure is as beneficial for people in their 80s and 90s as for those in their 50s or 60s.

“While the number of hip replacements has increased over the last decade, less than 25 percent of patients who could benefit from the procedure elect to receive it,” said Linda George, Ph.D., of the Duke Center for the Study of Aging. “This is unfortunate because hip replacement patients report a very high rate of satisfaction, experience reduced pain and increased range of motion.”

Researchers also found that total hip replacements offer substantial cost savings to the health care system and are significantly less expensive than paying for even one year of long-term care for the disabled.

For a free copy of the study, e-mail [info@progressyoucansee.org](mailto:info@progressyoucansee.org).