

1. General information

Before using these devices, the user is obligated to study the following recommendations and instructions as well as the device-specific instructions carefully. The company placing these devices on the market does not accept any liability for direct or consequential damage resulting from improper use or handling, in particular from failure to comply with the following instructions for use or from improper care or maintenance. These implants may only be used by surgeons with appropriate experience and skill in hip arthroplasty.

Device description

The A2® stem belongs to the group of calcar-guided short stems and the non-cemented version is based on two different base bodies (type G and type B), which differ in the neck angle, calcar support and angle of the prosthesis tip. The anchoring criteria such as triple conical clamping and the trapezoidal cross-section correspond to the established systems.

The advantages of short stems lie in the bone-sparing and soft-tissue preserving implantation, the possibility of anatomical reconstruction of the centre of the femoral head and the reduction of intra- and postoperative blood loss.

Indication restrictions can result from poor bone quality or osteoporosis, among other things. Reduced bone quality is often encountered in older, mostly female patients and cannot always be clearly identified preoperatively. However, as older patients in particular benefit from a gentle surgical technique and faster mobilisation, the A2® hip stem system includes both a non-cemented and a cemented version.

The instrument set is suitable for universal use and is identical for the non-cemented and cemented versions.

This is an important advantage, as the ultimate decision regarding the most suitable type of anchoring can be taken during the operation.

Intended purpose

The intended purpose of the A2® short stem medical device is as a femoral endoprosthesis (hip stem) in combination with suitable ball heads and a suitable acetabular endoprosthesis as an artificial hip joint. The medical device is intended for use in joint pathologies of the hip as per the indications listed below.

The intended purpose of the A2® hip stem instrument set is that it is to be used as a specific surgical instrument set as part of the implantation of an A2® short stem.

Expected clinical benefit

With the appropriate indication, the A2® hip stem should reduce the pain originating from the affected joint and improves its function/mobility as part of an artificial hip joint replacement. In general, the implantation of an artificial hip joint contributes to improving the patient's quality of life.

Contents of the packaging

- The device, contents of the packaging and materials used are defined by the device labels. This device must be employed in accordance with the respective, device-specific surgical technique.
- The lot and SN number(s) of the implants used must be documented in the patient's records. Corresponding labels are included with the packaging of the sterile implants for this purpose.
- Non-cemented models in different sizes are available as a G and B version and cemented models in different sizes as a B version.
- The implant is supplied without bone cement.

Instructions regarding reuse

- The A2® hip stem is intended for single use only.
- Reuse/reprocessing of the implant by the user is not permitted, as it would affect the hygienic, safety and performance-specific characteristics. ARTIQO accepts no responsibility whatsoever in such cases.
- The implants are supplied sterile (sterilised using gamma radiation).

Warnings/precautions

- The warnings on the packaging must be strictly observed.
- This device may only be used in its original condition. Modifications of any kind and mechanical manipulations are not permitted.
- Damage such as scratches, nicks and impact marks can result in breakage.
- The stem models intended for cemented anchoring are labelled "cemented" and must only be implanted in combination with suitable bone cement.
- The stem models intended for non-cemented anchoring are labelled "non-cemented" and can be identified by the rough surface structure in the anchoring area.
- The decision for cemented or non-cemented anchoring is taken by the surgeon, with the indications, contraindications, surgical technique and current guidelines for the implantation of primary hip stems being taken into consideration.

Information concerning materials used

The non-cemented version of the A2® hip stem is made of a titanium-aluminium-vanadium alloy (Ti6Al4V) in accordance with ISO 5832-3 with the following chemical composition:

Ti6Al4V in accordance with ISO 5832-3	
Al	5.50 – 6.75 %
V	3.50 – 4.50 %
Fe	max. 0.30 %
O ₂	max. 0.20 %
C	max. 0.08 %
N ₂	max. 0.05 %
H ₂	max. 0.015 %
Ti	Remainder

The cemented version is made of a special implant steel in accordance with ISO 5832-9 with the following chemical composition:

Implant steel in accordance with ISO 5832-9	
C	max. 0.08 %
Si	max. 0.75 %
Mn	2 – 4.25 %
Ni	9 – 11 %
Cr	19.5 – 22 %
Mo	2 – 3 %
Nb	0.25 – 0.8 %
S	max. 0.01 %
P	max. 0.025 %
Cu	max. 0.25 %
N	0.25 – 0.5 %
Fe	Remainder
Residues	max. 0.1 (per residue) – 0.4 % (in total)

The A2® short stems for non-cemented anchoring have a special titanium coating (titanium plasma spray, TPS, grade 3 pure titanium in accordance with ISO 5382-2) on the surface in contact with the bone in the load-bearing area near the joint. The titanium plasma spray coating in accordance with ISO 5382-2 corresponds to the following chemical composition:

TPS grade 3 in accordance with ISO 5382-2	
N	0.05 %
C	0.08 %
H	0.0125 % *
Fe	0.30 %
O	0.35 %
Ti	Remainder

*Except for billets, for which the maximum hydrogen content shall be 0.010 % (mass fraction) and for flat products for which the maximum hydrogen content shall be 0.015 % (mass fraction).

Depending on the model, this layer can additionally be covered with calcium phosphate (Bonit®) in accordance with ASTM F1185/ASTM F1609. This has the following chemical composition:

Calcium phosphate (Bonit®) in accordance with ASTM F1185 / ASTM F1609		
Element		Reference
Ca/P ratio	1.1 ± 0.1	ASTM F1609
Phase composition	≥ 70 % brushite / ≤ 30 % hydroxyapatite	Supplier specification
As	3 ppm	ASTM F1185 / ASTM F1609
Cd	5 ppm	ASTM F1185 / ASTM F1609
Hg	5 ppm	ASTM F1185 / ASTM F1609
Pb	30 ppm	ASTM F1185 / ASTM F1609
All heavy metals combined	50 ppm	ASTM F1185 / ASTM F1609

All materials used are clinically proven and correspond to the state of the art for hip joint implants.

2. Storage and handling

Storing the sterile implants

Implants should always be stored in their unopened original packaging. They should be stored clean and dry, protected from direct sunlight and at an ambient temperature between 10 °C and 30 °C.

The materials have been chosen in such a way that temporary temperature fluctuations, as can occur during transport, have no negative effects on the performance of the implants and their packaging.

Handling the sterile implants

Prior to insertion of the sterile implant, the packaging must be inspected for damage. If the primary packaging is damaged, the sterility is no longer guaranteed and the implant must not be used.

The cardboard box is sealed with an ARTIQO Security Seal. If the security seal shows visual abnormalities (e.g. defects or tears that no longer ensure that the packaging is sealed) or the white ARTIQO logo on a red background is not clearly recognisable and / or the security seal is detached ("Void" / "Open" lettering visible), the integrity of the protective packaging can no longer be fully guaranteed.

The implants are vacuum-packed in a triple peel pouch (sterile barrier system). The system comprises two external protective pouches and the innermost sterile pouch. The outermost pouch features a label including a symbol for the structure of the sterile barrier system and the innermost sterile pouch features a red indicator dot. Should it be evident that air has penetrated the sterile barrier system (not airtight) or the sterilisation indicator not be red, the sterility is also no longer guaranteed and the device must not be used.

When unpacking the implant, a check must be performed to verify that it matches the designation on the packaging (art. no. and size).

The corresponding aseptic regulations for surgical personnel must be observed when removing the implant from the packaging: the outer and, if appropriate, central PE pouch are opened by the non-aseptic surgical assistant; the inner pouch is opened by the aseptic surgical assistant. The implant must not come into contact with objects which could damage its surface. Each implant must be visually inspected for damage prior to insertion.

3. Instructions for use – special application instructions

Patient briefing

Each patient must be comprehensively briefed on the procedure and possible risks prior to the surgery.

Patients receiving a hip replacement should be made aware that the useful service life of the implant depends on their weight and level of activity. Excessive physical activity or trauma can result in loosening, disproportionate wear and/or breakage of the implant. The patient must be informed of the implant's capabilities and possible consequences for their lifestyle. The implant may not last for the rest of the patient's natural life or a specific period. Implants are not as resilient and durable as natural, healthy tissue and bones. As such, it is possible that all components will need to be replaced after a certain period of time.

Following the implantation, the patient is to be provided with a completed implant passport, which allows traceability of all implanted components.

Postoperative care must be performed in accordance with the applicable guidelines and hospital regulations in coordination with the patient.

Preoperative planning

The preoperative planning provides essential information on the suitable type of component, positioning and possible component combinations. Additional implants should be kept available in case other sizes are required or the intended implant cannot be used.

Surgical technique

The implantation must be performed in accordance with the valid version of the corresponding surgical technique. The latest version is available to download on the ARTIQO GmbH website (www.artiqo.de/en/downloads). Familiarity with the recommended surgical technique for this system and its careful performance is essential for optimal results.

Combination restrictions

Only implants approved by ARTIQO GmbH for use in combination may be employed together for the hip arthroplasty. Unsuitable materials and product combinations can result in breakage, premature wear, loosening of the prosthesis, contact corrosion, etc.

The surgeon must always be certain that the individual implant components are compatible and observe the general restrictions regarding the combination of materials.

The combination of ball heads made of stainless steel (ISO 5382-1, (ISO 5382-9) with titanium stems (ISO 5382-3) is subject to restrictions in patients with a low level of activity and/or of advanced age.

Stems made of wrought stainless steel (ISO 5382-9) must not be used in combination with ball heads made of cobalt-chromium-molybdenum alloys (ISO 5382-4).

The components of the acetabular part of the joint (acetabulum, inlay) and the femoral part of the joint (stem, ball head) should always be procured from the same supplier.

All hip stems from ARTIQO GmbH feature a 12/14 stem cone. Their combination with the ceramic heads we offer made of BIOLOX®delta and BIOLOX®OPTION as well as ELEC® plus and ELEC® plus Revision (ISO 6474) S/M/L/XL has been specially tested.

If separate handling instructions/instructions for use are supplied with the femoral heads, they must also be observed.

On request, ARTIQO GmbH can verify the combination with corresponding third-party products and evaluate the compatibility in individual cases.

The cement manufacturer's instructions for use must be observed when using bone cement.

CAUTION: Femoral heads of size XXL and larger are not suitable for use in combination with the A2® stem due to the higher lever action.

Tested and approved implant combinations:

The A2® stem can be used in combination with the following ball heads. Only implants approved by ARTIQO GmbH for the respective system combination may be used.

Materials used:

A2® stem non-cemented (cone): Ti6Al4V (ISO 5832-3)

A2® stem cemented (cone): Steel (ISO 5832-9)

The ceramic heads are made of Al₂O₃ or mixed ceramics Al₂O₃/ZrO₂ (ELEC® according to ISO 6474-1; BIOLOX®delta and BIOLOX®OPTION as well as ELEC® plus and ELEC® plus Revision in accordance with ISO 6474-2; sleeves are made of Ti6Al4V according to ISO 5832-3)

Inlays made of BIOLOX®delta ceramic must only be used in combination with BIOLOX®delta femoral heads.

Inlays made of ELEC® plus ceramic must only be used in combination with ELEC® plus femoral heads.

Bipolar heads should only be used after strict indication by the surgeon.

The instrument set supplied by ARTIQO is coordinated to the implants; other instruments must not be used. (With the exception of standard surgical instruments.)

Combinable Ball Heads

	Article Description	Ø-Ballhead	Neck length
	BIOLOX® Delta ISO 6474-2	28	S/M/L
		32	S/M/L/XL
		36	S/M/L/XL
		40	S/M/L/XL
	BIOLOX® Option ISO 6474-2/ISO 5832-3	28	S/M/L/XL
		32	S/M/L/XL
		36	S/M/L/XL
		40	S/M/L/XL
	ELEC® ISO 6474-1	28	S/M/L
		32	S/M/L
		36	S/M/L
	ELEC® plus ISO 6474-2	28	S/M/L/XL
		32	S/M/L/XL
		36	S/M/L/XL
	ELEC® plus Revision ISO 6474-2/ISO 5832-3	28	S/M/L/XL
		32	S/M/L/XL
		36	S/M/L/XL
	Metal Ballhead CoCrMo ISO 5832-4	28	S/M/L/XL
		32	S/M/L/XL
	Metal Ballhead Steel ISO 5832-1	28	S/M/L/XL
		32	S/M/L/XL

4.1 Application instructions for the implantation of the hip stems

In the case of non-cemented stems, the largest possible stem is implanted using the press-fit technique, taking the biomechanical principles and preoperative planning into consideration. The final rasp size corresponds to the stem size of the implant.

Notes regarding cemented implantation:

Careful cleaning/degreasing of the medullary cavity is essential for cemented implantation. Prior to insertion of the cement, the medullary cavity should be cleaned with a jet lavage or similar and sealed with an autogenous bone block or medullary barrier (approx. 10–15 mm below the stem tip). The use of a highly viscous bone cement (PMMA), with vacuum mixing and pressurisation plus insertion (3rd generation cementing technique) is recommended. For the centring of the stem, it is helpful if the insertion occurs in an already viscous cement mass (for high-viscosity quality, approx. 3 minutes after mixing). In the undersize technique, the implant stem should be one size smaller than the final rasp size in order to achieve the 2 mm cement mantle thickness. The surgical technique, instructions for use and generally applicable guidelines for the implantation of cemented primary hip stems must be observed.

4.2 Application instructions for assembly of the femoral head/acetabulum inlay

The hip stem cone and the inner cone of the femoral head must be clean, dry and free of damage prior to assembly. The cone must be cleaned carefully before fitting the final femoral head.

The suitable femoral head should be positioned on the stem cone by hand (using light, axial pressure with simultaneous rotation) and fixed in place on the pole of the head using the plastic head impactor and an appropriate hammer strike.

Caution! Never strike a ceramic femoral head with a metal hammer!

When using BIOLOX®OPTION or ELEC® plus Revision ball heads, the application instructions in the specific instructions for use must also be observed.

The inner cone of the acetabulum and outer cone of the inlay must be clean, dry and free of damage prior to assembly. The inner cone must be cleaned carefully prior to insertion of the inlay.

4.3 Indications, contraindications

Indications

- Patients with advanced degeneration of the hip joint resulting from degenerative and post-traumatic arthritis (PTA) or rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- Avascular necrosis of the femoral head
- Acute, traumatic fractures of the femoral head or femoral neck, as long as stable anchoring of the implant is guaranteed

Contraindications

- Acute or chronic infections, local or systemic
- Severe muscular, neural or vascular diseases putting the affected extremities at risk
- Fractures affecting the base of the femoral neck or radiating beyond it into the trochanter region or calcar femorale
- Absent or inadequate bone substance posing a risk to the stable fit of the prosthesis
- Previous operation with the result that the intended support is no longer guaranteed
- Pronounced coxa valga with a femoral neck angle of > 145°
- Pronounced coxa vara with a femoral neck angle of < 120°
- Any concomitant disease capable of putting the function of the implant at risk
- Revision with pronounced bony defects

Precautions/restrictions

- Dysplasia coxarthrosis
- Severe anterosion of the femoral neck
- Broad femoral neck shapes
- BMI > 30
- Components made of ceramics are generally less susceptible to wear but associated with a higher risk of breakage

4.4 Possible side effects/complications

The adverse effects listed below are some of the most typical and common consequences of a hip arthroplasty.

- Loosening, wear and breakage of the implant components, especially when subjected to high loads
- Early- or late-stage infections rendering removal of the implant necessary
- Pain, dislocation, partial dislocation, restricted range of movement and/or instability, especially in the event of incorrect positioning of the implant and/or loosening/wear of the components
- Shortening or lengthening of the leg
- Excessive wear of the polyethylene components due to intraoperative damage of the ball head, loose cement and/or bone fragments and/or the patient displaying an excessive level of activity or excessive body weight.
- Fractures of the femur
- Restricted joint loading
- Heterotopic ossification (HO)
- Periosteal reactions such as hypertrophy and stress shielding
- Bursitis
- Corrosion of the implant
- Metallosis
- Migration of the implant, with or without implant loosening
- Development of osteolysis
- Impingement
- Allergies to material components
- Venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism
- Cardiovascular and pulmonary disorders (e.g., fat embolism syndrome)
- Haematoma
- Nerve damage

All these complications must be diagnosed and treated as early as possible and may require revision surgery.

Risk factors for the side effects and complications listed above are determined by patient-specific factors such as level of activity, weight, neuromuscular status and concomitant diseases, traumatic events as well as surgical factors such as size selection, positioning of the components and/or alignment or cementing technique. The following factors may be detrimental to the success of the procedure:

- Severe osteoporosis or osteomalacia
- Severe deformations, congenital hip dysplasia
- Local bone tumours
- Systemic diseases and metabolic disorders
- Falls
- Status following infection
- Drug addiction or abuse
- Obesity
- Major physical activities and activities associated with strong vibrations, where the prosthesis is subjected to impacts and/or excessive loading (e.g., strenuous physical work, long-distance running, etc.).

Avoidance/reduction of side effects

Important

The cement manufacturer's instructions for use must be observed when using bone cement. The implant site must be flushed prior to insertion of the cement (in cemented anchoring). It must be ensured that all loose particles (e.g., bone fragments) are removed with care. Once cementing is complete, all excess or loose cement particles must be removed from the wound site.

If the implantation of this hip prosthesis is deemed the best solution for the patient and some of the circumstances described above apply in the case of the patient, it is particularly important to brief the patient about the expected consequences of these circumstances for the success of the surgery.

Additionally, it is recommended that the patient be informed of activities which can be utilised to reduce the consequences of these complicating circumstances. All information provided to the patient must be documented in writing by the surgeon performing the procedure.

The surgeon must be familiar with the anchoring philosophy of the implants and the surgical technique. Proper selection of the implant size and position reduces the likelihood of early post-operative migration.

The use of antibiotic-loaded bone cement can reduce the risk of prosthetic joint infection (PJI) in primary total joint arthroplasty (TJA) ^[1].

4.5 Postoperative treatment

Recognised procedures should be employed for the postoperative care and treatment. The documentation of the postoperative treatment should be performed in accordance with the instructions and regulations in force at the hospital. For example:

- Surgical report
- Postoperative x-rays
- Patient passport
- Regular check-ups/follow-up examinations

4.6 Interactions

The A2® stem, the ceramics and the metal heads are paramagnetic and thus only react weakly to strong magnetic fields. ^[2] The higher the field strengths, the more pronounced the interactions. Reactions and effects due to heating, migration and image artefacts can be expected during MRI scans of patients with implanted endoprostheses. The patients must be made aware that extremely strong electromagnetic fields are to be avoided and the technical specifications in the MRI safety information must be taken into consideration for scans. Furthermore, an artificial hip joint may set off metal detectors (e.g., at airport security).

MRI safety information

Non-clinical testing in accordance with the US FDA Directive and the ASTM F2503 standard has confirmed that the THA from ARTIQO can be classed as "MR conditional". Patients with an ARTIQO A2® hip stem as a component of a THA according to the list of implant components tested for the A2® hip stem system can be scanned safely under the tested conditions specified in the MRI safety information for the A2® hip stem system.

Failure to comply with these conditions may result in patient injury.

Further information on the MRI safety information can be found at www.artiqo.de/en/downloads. The MRI safety information for the A2® hip stem system can be requested there.

4.7 Disposal of non-compliant implants and handling of explants

Non-compliant, defective implants (lapsed use-by date, defective packaging, etc.) should be returned to the manufacturer or professionally rendered unusable and disposed of by the owner. Implant revisions should be performed in accordance with the state of the art of science and technology as well as the specific implant based on the surgical technique.

Explants should be treated as infectious waste and disposed of or reprocessed in accordance with the hospital regulations.

Please note that any serious incident that has occurred in relation to the device should be reported to the manufacturer and the competent authority of the Member State in which the user and/or patient is established without delay.

5. Handling, care and reprocessing of instruments

Section 5 applies only for instruments – implants must never be reprocessed. The following recommendations are intended for information purposes only. The manufacturer cannot be held liable for any instrument cleaning and sterilisation processes performed at the purchaser's facilities. The instrument set is supplied "non-sterile" and must be cleaned, disinfected and sterilised using validated procedures prior to being used.

Brief summary for reprocessing instruments:

Our instructions are based on validation processes performed as part of the preparation of the medical device for reuse. The reprocessor is responsible for ensuring that the reprocessing actually performed with the equipment and personnel available in the reprocessing facility achieves the required results.

Precleaning

Prior to every automated cleaning, precleaning should be performed as quickly as possible after use and preferably using an ultrasound bath. Some washer disinfectors are not capable of reprocessing instruments without residues, especially after surgical residues have been left to dry for extended periods of time.

Automated cleaning and disinfection

The subsequent automated cleaning and disinfection should be performed using a process validated in accordance with the applicable rules and standards in a washer disinfectant in accordance with EN ISO 15883-1 and -2, preferably using (mild) alkaline cleaning agents.

Sterilisation

The steam sterilisation is performed in a steam steriliser using a process validated in accordance with EN ISO 17665 employing the fractionated vacuum process as per EN 285. The prevalidation is performed using the following programme specifications:

Cycle type	Temperature	Pressure	Sterilisation time	Drying time
Fractionated vacuum	134 °C*	3.050 mbar abs.	5 minutes	25 minutes

*Sterilisation temperature of 134 °C (273 °F) plus tolerance as per ISO 17665. Please observe the respective nationally applicable regulations. Other sterilisation methods and cycles may also be used. However, they must be validated in accordance with the applicable rules and standards before being adopted into routine use.

Inspection, repairs and testing:

Dry wet or damp devices.
Clean and disinfect any visibly contaminated devices again.
After every cleaning, disinfection and drying, check the instruments are dry, clean and free from damage.

Some instruments feature colour marks made of ceramic, which degrade over time with repeated reprocessing. Check the colour marks for visible or tangible changes (cracks, detachments, loosening, protrusions, etc.)

If proper functioning is no longer guaranteed, wear is evident on the instrument or a change to the colour mark is identified (cracked, loose, slightly protruding colour mark), the items in question must be repaired or replaced.

Assemble any instruments that can be dismantled. Only instruments which have been checked and are functioning correctly and ready for use should be stored. Check the compatibility with the corresponding devices (couplings).

Packaging and transport

Please use our transport packaging for returns and include our cleaning and sterilisation form.

For more detailed information on the preparation, precleaning, disinfection and sterilisation/resterilisation, inspection and care, packaging and storage of our instruments, please consult our reprocessing instructions (NA30-04-05).

6. Further information

The current Summary of Safety and Clinical Performance (SSCP) of the A2® hip stem system can be requested via the website www.artiqo.de/en/downloads. For further information on the use of this device, please contact your local sales office.

7. Explanation of the symbols used

	Do not re-use
	Do not resterilize
	Non-sterile
	Sterilized using irradiation
	Single sterile barrier system with double protective packaging