

1. General information

Ceramic ball heads according to ISO 6474-2

Before using these devices, the user is obligated to read 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. These implants may only be used by surgeons with appropriate experience and skill in hip arthroplasty. This device is a subcomponent of an artificial hip joint and cannot be used on its own but rather only in combination with suitable system components approved by ARTIQO.

Device description

Modular femoral heads are used in combination with a suitable femoral stem implant as the femoral endoprosthesis of an artificial hip joint. Ball head implants are a required component of a hip endoprosthesis and intended to remain in the body permanently. They form the tribological joint head of the artificial ball joint and slide or articulate in the acetabular component of an acetabular implant. Contact with bone and anchoring in bone are not intended. Modular ball heads are available made of ceramic and metal materials. Ceramic ball heads according to ISO 6474-2 are extremely abrasion-resistant, bioinert, mechanically highly resilient, avoid allergic reactions and are already established and in widespread use on the market thanks to these characteristics. The ceramic ball heads according to ISO 6474-2 from ARTIQO are marketed under two trademarks, which do not differ in their basic technical specifications but are manufactured by different suppliers:

- ELEC®plus trademark (manufactured by HiPer Medical)
- BIOLOX®delta trademark (manufactured by CeramTec)

The head versions/trademarks can be differentiated visually based on their colouring. ELEC®plus components are made from the pure raw material “zirconia toughened alumina” according to ISO 6474-2 without colouring additives (shade similar to eggshell white). BIOLOX®delta femoral heads are manufactured in a pink shade in comparison.

Intended purpose

The intended purpose of the medical device ceramic ball head according to ISO 6474-2 is as a femoral endoprosthesis (ball head) in combination with a suitable hip stem and a suitable acetabular endoprosthesis as an artificial hip joint in clinical use. The modular ceramic ball heads cannot be used on their own and must always be combined with suitable hip stems.

Expected clinical benefit

With the appropriate indication, a ceramic ball head according to ISO 6474-2 should reduce the pain originating from the afflicted joint and improve 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 is to be used in combination with the respective device-specific instructions for use and surgical technique of the approved system components.
- The lot/SN number(s) of the implants used and the UDI must be documented in the patient's records. Corresponding labels are included with the packaging of the sterile implants for this purpose.

⚠ Instructions regarding reuse

- The ceramic ball heads according to ISO 6474-2 are intended for single use.
- 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 (sterilized 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.
- We expressly recommend taking part in a training session offered by ARTIQO before using ARTIQO implants for the first time.

Information concerning materials used

The ceramic ball heads are made of a composite ceramic with grains of zirconium oxide embedded in the aluminium oxide matrix. The material composition is determined according to ISO 6474-2:

Chemical composition	Requirements of standard	ELEC®plus specifications	BIOLOX®delta specifications
Al ₂ O ₃	60 – 90 %	73 ± 4 %	74 ± 2 %
ZrO ₂ + HfO ₂	10 – 30 %	25 ± 3 %	24 – 25.5 %
HfO ₂ content of ZrO ₂	max. 5 %	max. 5 %	max. 5 %
Intended additives	max. 10 %	0.08 – 1.8 %	1.51 – 1.87 %
Limits for contaminants	max. 0.2 %	max. 0.2 %	max. 0.2 %

The adapter sleeves of the revision ball heads are 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

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 seal label displays abnormalities (e.g., defects or tears which no longer guarantee that the packaging is sealed or the white ARTIQO logo on the red background is not clearly visible and/or the Security Seal has been broken (“Void”/“Open” is legible in such cases)), it is no longer possible to guarantee the integrity of the protective packaging. The implants are vacuum-packed in a triple peel pouch. The system comprises two external protective pouches and the innermost sterile pouch (sterile barrier system). 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., lot no./serial 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.

The revision femoral heads (ELEC®plus revision and BIOLOX® OPTION) are supplied with separately packaged titanium sleeves (separate peel pouch in one packaging). The revision femoral head and titanium sleeve must be connected **prior to** fitting on the stem cone.

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. Furthermore, the choice of the materials used (tribological pairing) and the actual range of motion of the artificial joint can affect its service life.

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.

⚠ Combination restrictions

Only implants supplied by ARTIQO GmbH and approved 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. Generally speaking, all hip stems, acetabular components and inlays manufactured or marketed by ARTIQO are approved for use in combination with ceramic ball heads.

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

Only the instruments of the approved system components may be used for implantation. (Standard surgical instruments are exempted from this rule.) The respectively supplied instructions for use must be read prior to the use of the instruments. The cone dimensions of the ball heads must correspond to those of the implant used in combination. The ceramic heads (ISO 6474-2) S/M/L/XL from ARTIQO GmbH feature a 12/14 cone. The cone size is included on the label and, where possible, also on the implant. Only brand-new implants may be used.

Materials used

The ceramic heads are made from the mixed ceramic Al₂O₃/ZrO₂ (acc. to. ISO 6474-2); sleeves are made of a titanium-vanadium alloy Ti-6Al-4V (acc. to. ISO 5832-3)

Name	Ball head diameter	Neck length
ELEC®plus ISO 6474-2	28	S / M / L
	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
BIOLOX®delta ISO 6474-2	28	S / M / L
	32	S / M / L / XL
	36	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

4. Application instructions for the assembly of the femoral heads

Surgical technique for the assembly of the femoral heads:

The utmost care is essential to ensure safe function. In primary THA, the protective cap, which protects the stem cone against damage, must not be removed until shortly before fitting of the head. The following must be observed **before** the femoral head is fitted:

Rinse the stem cone out thoroughly with water in order to remove any tissue, bone fragments or excess cement.

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.

- ⚠ Never strike a ceramic femoral head with a metal hammer!
- ⚠ A ceramic femoral head which has been fitted on a stem cone and removed again must not be reused; a metal head or revision femoral head must be used instead. The same applies in the case of a revision of an in situ prosthetic stem where the femoral head is being replaced.

When using the revision ball heads ELEC®plus revision and BIOLOX® OPTION, the following application instructions must also be followed:

Revision femoral heads with a titanium sleeve are supplied in separate peel pouches in one packaging and must be connected before the operation. Observe the information on the label regarding the sizes and dimensions.

Revision femoral heads with a Ti sleeve are intended for the repeated use of a ceramic ball head on an in situ prosthetic stem in the case of acetabular revisions, revisions following breakage of a ceramic component or when replacing a ball head.

Revision femoral heads with a Ti sleeve can also be used in primary THA for neck length corrections.

Revision femoral heads with a Ti sleeve must only be fitted on stems approved by the endoprosthesis manufacturer.

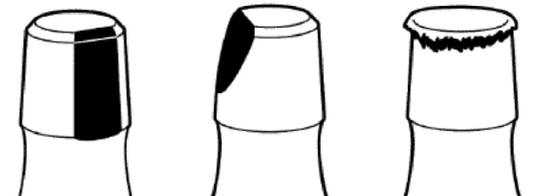
The ceramic head and Ti sleeve must be connected **before** the revision head is fitted to the prosthetic stem.

This is done by removed the Ti sleeve from its peel pouch and holding it between two fingers at its greatest diameter. The titanium sleeve is inserted into the cone of the femoral head with a gentle twisting motion until it sits securely. Ensure that the components are absolutely clean and dry during connection!

The following must be observed when fitting the revision femoral heads ELEC®plus revision and BIOLOX® OPTION on an in situ prosthetic stem:

- The femoral head to be replaced must be removed with a suitable removal instrument in order to avoid damage to the stem cone remaining in situ.
- Rinse the in situ stem cone out thoroughly with water in order to remove any tissue, bone fragments or excess cement.
- Inspect the in situ stem cone for damage. When doing so, the surgeon must check the severity of the damage and ensure that the damage is acceptable. Revision ball heads are only approved for use in combination with a stem cone assessed as being in acceptable condition. The decision is based on the following criteria:
 - Acceptable** damage for the use of a revision femoral head:
 - Used stem cone with minor traces of damage from the removal of the previous femoral head.
 - Unacceptable** damage for the use of a revision femoral head:
 - Crushed cone areas, flattening of the cone surface of deformations, visible notches, bevelled cone (see also illustrated examples below).

Examples of unacceptable stem cone damage



- Fit the ball head in accordance with the general application instructions for ceramic ball heads

5. Indications/contraindications

Indications

- THA, primary operation in combination with prosthetic stems and acetabular components
- Hemiarthroplasty
- Revision (= replacement of endoprosthesis) using new prosthetic stems and acetabular components
- Partial revision using in situ stems displaying no or acceptable damage – only permitted when using the revision ball head models (ELEC®plus revision and BIOLOX® OPTION)

Contraindications

- Revisions leaving stems with unacceptably damaged stem cones in site (risk of component breaking)
- Use of non-compatible system components

Precautions/restrictions

- Components made of ceramics are generally less susceptible to wear but associated with a higher risk of breakage
- Observance of user instructions on selection and assembly of ball heads

6. Possible side effects/complications

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

- Dislocation, partial dislocation, restricted range of movement, unintended change in leg length
- Infection, haematoma, delayed wound healing
- Venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism and other cardiovascular disorders
- Displacement or loosening of the implant
- Implant, bone or cement fracture
- Side effects due to inlay abrasion (e.g., osteolysis, inflammatory tissue reactions)

The side effects and undesirable effects listed below may occur in particular in connection with ceramic components:

- Material failure, ceramic fracture
- Noise development (e.g., squeaking, clicking)
- Corrosion at the cone connection

The femoral head is a subcomponent of an artificial hip joint. Consequently, the possible side effects/complications in the instructions for use for the other system components must also be taken into consideration.

Side effects must generally be diagnosed and treated as early as possible and may require revision surgery.

Risk factors for the success of THA

Risk factors for the side effects and complications listed above are determined by among other things 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 and combination 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)

Avoidance/reduction of side effects

Important:

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.

Patients receiving a hip replacement should be made aware that the service life of the implant depends on their weight and level of activity.

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.

These implants may only be used by surgeons with appropriate experience and skill in hip arthroplasty. The surgeon must be familiar with the surgical technique.

7. 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

8. Interactions

Ceramic ball heads and the titanium sleeves are paramagnetic and thus only react weakly to strong magnetic fields.^[1] 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”.

A patient with an ARTIQO ceramic ball head according to ISO 6474-2 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 <https://artiqo.de/download/mrt-sicherheitsinformation-a2-hueftschafsystem>.

9. 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.

10. Further information

The current summary of safety and clinical performance (SSCP) for the ceramic ball heads according to ISO 6474-2 (ELEC®plus and BIOLOX®delta) can be requested via the homepage www.artiqo.de/en/downloads.

For further information on the use of this device, please contact your local sales office.

11. Explanation of the symbols used

	Do not re-use
	Do not sterilize
	Sterilized using irradiation
	Single sterile barrier system with double protective packaging
	Indicator for radiation sterilization (changes from yellow to red/violet following gamma irradiation)
	Medical device
	Batch code
	Serial number
	Unique device identifier
	Manufacturer
	Do not use if package is damaged
	Keep away from sunlight
	Keep dry
	CE marking (if applicable, with 4-digit number of the notified body)
	Temperature range for storage temperature
	Caution
	Consult instructions for use
	Date of manufacture
	Use-by date
	Catalogue number
	MR conditional

^[1] Frank G Shellock: reference manual for magnetic resonance safety, implants and devices. (Yearly updated). Detailinformationen: <http://www.mrisafety.com/>