

Italian teen gets titanium pelvis in world first

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An Italian teenager suffering from bone cancer has had half his pelvis replaced by a titanium transplant in what medics at Turin's university hospital centre said Wednesday was a world first.

The 18-year-old has been undergoing chemotherapy for a pelvic osteosarcoma, or tumour, for the last year but his [surgeons](#) decided more radical treatment was necessary to ensure his recovery.

In an 11.5-hour operation on Tuesday, surgeons removed half the patient's pelvis along with part of his hip affected by the cancer, replacing them with a prosthetic made in the United States from titanium covered in tantalum, a non-corrosive metal mainly used in electronics components.

The operation had "an excellent outcome" and the patient is now undergoing [intensive therapy](#) to help him adapt to his new pelvis, the hospital said in a statement.

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