

Hip op joy for dancer

Surgeon's pioneering treatment ends the agony for Joanne

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KEYHOLE surgery pioneered in Lancashire has helped a dance student get back on the dance floor.

Joanne Spensley put her body through a punishing regime as she studied for a diploma in dance.

The teenager danced all day, every day and ignored her body telling her when it was time to stop.

As a result, she tore the cartilage surrounding both her hips - and only became aware of the damage when she suffered agonising pain and her hips began



to lock. But she was given a second chance when doctors referred her to Aslam Mohammed, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital.

He is leading the way for keyhole hip surgery which is pro-

vided at only a handful of NHS hospitals and has even developed his own medical instruments after performing the procedure for more than 12 years.

Joanne, 19, has now had surgery on both of her hips.

She said: "I only realised



KNEE OP: Surgeon Aslam Mohammed and patient Joanne Spensley

when I would sit on the floor to do stretches and my hips would suddenly lock and I would be unable to move.

"I have noticed a massive difference and it is so much easier to move around as my hip had gone really stiff. If anything, it

has highlighted how bad my other hip is and I can't wait to have that done too.

"My scar is absolutely tiny and it is amazing that this procedure was done by keyhole surgery instead of a major operation."

The technique used on Joanne, from Middleton, Manchester, gives safe access to the hip joint to treat problems related to the soft tissues around the hip.

Mr Mohammed said: "Hip arthroscopy is a surgical procedure which is used to look inside a hip joint and treat problems which are diagnosed with specific tests prior to surgery.

"This procedure allows the surgeon to use small incisions, which are less traumatic than an open procedure.

"The procedure is quite complex and not widely performed by surgeons in the UK."