

WOMAN'S OWN

YOUR HEALTH

4 PAGES OF ADVICE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

SURGERY ABROAD SPECIAL

I got a new hip in Poland just like Blanche!

As Corrie's Blanche Hunt recovers from her op and heads home to Weatherfield, we investigate package holidays with a difference...

By Sharon Collins



When a line-dancing tumble aggravated the osteoarthritis in Blanche Hunt's hip, she was far from optimistic about how soon she'd be able to get a replacement. 'My hip will be powder before that quack puts me on the list,' she said. 'All he'll do is try to shove a stick in my hand – and I refuse to shuffle towards glory like one of the hunchbacks on that horrible road sign!'

Finding out her hip replacement operation could

be done more quickly and cheaply abroad, she defected east – to Poland – to get back on her feet.

As Blanche arrives home from hospital next week, it's clear the procedure was a great success. And it's estimated that 50,000 people – most of them over 50 – leave the UK for similar treatment abroad each year. For many the decision to become a health tourist goes without a hitch – but for others, it can be a living nightmare.

'I'm delighted with my Polish adventure'

Former dancer Angela Goldsborough was left in constant pain by a hip injury following a car accident 30 years ago. As time passed, her right leg shortened and she developed a noticeable limp.



Angela today: 'I've got my life back'

Angela, 73, taught ballet and tap until six years ago, when the pain became so crippling that she was forced to sell her dance school near her home in Hampton, Middlesex.

'The pain was terrible and the anti-inflammatory pills I was prescribed upset my stomach,' says Angela. 'I could barely walk to the end of my road.'

Early in 2003, Angela was referred for a hip replacement on the NHS.

'When I was told I'd have to wait 12-15 months for surgery, I decided to go private – but I was quoted £15,000 including physio.'

In June 2003, Angela spotted an ad about surgery in Poland.

'Within days, I'd had a consultation with one of the company's specialists and

written a cheque for £6,000 for the op and a month's stay in Poland.

'A week later, I flew to Krakow. The hospital was spotless, and I had a private room with satellite TV and a phone.

'Two days later, I had my op and

I was walking two days after that. I had five hours of physio every day, and by day three I managed to walk a mile with a stick.

'When I got home, I ran up the path to my husband, Tony. And after a Polish surgeon here gave me the all-clear, we took

up ballroom dancing.

'I've got my life back, and I'm delighted with the results of my Polish adventure.'



... and with her husband, Tony

OUR FORMER PATIENT ANGELA GOLDSBOROUGH WILL BE PLEASED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE FROM JUNE 2003.