



Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Total Knee Replacement

Operation: _____

Side: _____

A total knee arthroplasty is the surgical removal of the diseased joint and replacement with a metal hinge joint (prosthesis) that is attached to the thighbone (femur) and the shinbone (tibia). In most cases, bone cement is used to fix the prosthesis to the thigh and shin bone.

There are risks and complications with any surgical procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

General Risks:

- Infection can occur, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Bleeding could occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as Warfarin, Aspirin, Clopidogrel (Plavix or Iscover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin).
- Small areas of the lung can collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Heart attack or stroke could occur due to the strain on the heart.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs.
- Death as a result of this procedure is possible.

Specific risks:

- Wound infection. This may require antibiotics, further surgery and possibly the new knee joint to be removed, and possible leg amputation.
- The knee joint can dislocate. Re-operation is required to correct this.

- The bones around the joint may break during or after surgery. A plaster may be required to repair the break or further surgery may be required.
- The artificial joint may fail or wear out. Surgical revision of the knee joint replacement may be required.
- Numbness at the side of the cut can happen. This may be temporary or permanent.
- Damage to the peroneal nerve around the knee during surgery. This may be temporary or permanent. Further surgery may be necessary.
- Damage to the blood vessel behind the knee during surgery. Surgery on the blood vessel will be needed and sometimes leg amputation.
- Damage to the nerves may cause a burning pain and inability to straighten the leg. A nerve block may be used to relieve the pain and the leg manipulated.
- Stiffening of the knee after the surgery causing difficulty in walking and sitting and pain on movement. Manipulation and possibly further surgery may be required.
- In some people, healing of the wound may be abnormal and the wound can be thickened and red and the scar may be painful.
- Infection to the prosthesis via the bloodstream in the following years after replacement surgery. The knee joint may have to be removed. To prevent this, you will need to have antibiotics before other procedures and dental work.

Anaesthetic Risks:

There are risks associated with all anaesthetic types (including general, spinal or regional). These risks are relative to each patient's past medical and family history. Your anaesthetist will discuss the specifics of your anaesthetic with you prior to surgery.



Name: _____

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I agree that I have discussed the risks and benefits of the aforementioned procedure and have had a chance to discuss the treatment options available to me with Dr John Roe.

I request to have the procedure.

Patient:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Patient Carer or Advocate:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Surgeon: Dr John Roe

Signature: _____

Date: _____