

Total Knee Replacement

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Knee problems occurred mostly in middle-aged and elderly population. The most common cause of knee pain is knee arthritis. Knee arthritis is more common in people that are overweight. Knee arthritis is also hereditary. Other factors that contributed to knee arthritis are trauma to the knee, ligament damages, and bone fractures around the joints.

The symptoms of knee arthritis tends to progress as the condition worsens. The symptoms of knee arthritis are:

- Pain with activities
- Limited range of motion
- Stiffness of the knee
- Swelling of the joint
- Tenderness along the joint
- A feeling the joint may "give out"
- Deformity of the joint (knock-knees or bow-legs)

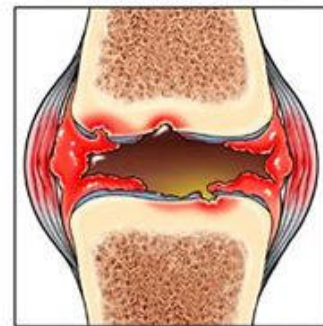


There are treatments for early knee arthritis: physical therapy, weight loss, walking aids, and anti-inflammatory medications. However, after the condition worsens, these treatments can only help so much.

The most common reason why someone would need a total knee replacement surgery is knee osteoarthritis, or degenerative joint disease.

Also known as “wear and tear” arthritis. This occurred when the smooth ligaments lining the joints wears away. As the bones make contacts with one another, erosions occur causing great pain.

Destruction of a joint



According to the CDC, arthritis accounts for 44 million outpatient visits and 750,000 hospitalizations annually. Approximately 21 million people have osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis is the second most common diagnosis, after heart disease, leading to Social Security disability payments due to long-term absence from work (NIH, 1998).

Total knee replacement is a procedure that involved replacing the worn, diseased, or damaged joints with artificial joints. The artificial joints are made of 2 components: metal (cobalt, chrome, or titanium) and a plastic call polyethylene.

The general goal of total knee replacement is designed to provide painless and unlimited standing, sitting, walking, and other normal activities of daily living (EhealthMD).

www.endotext.org/.../figures8/figure1.jpg

http://www.ehealthmd.com/library/totalkneereplacement/TKR_causes.html

<http://orthopedics.about.com/cs/kneereplacement/a/kneereplacement.htm>

<http://www.depuyorthopaedics.com/bgdisplay.jhtml?itemname=statistics>