

**Lakeview Community Wellness Center
Orthopaedic Connection**

Surgery For Knee Arthritis II

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Transforming patient information into patient understanding.

Last week we discussed arthroscopic surgery, osteotomy and patello-femoral replacement. The other procedures available are these.

Partial Knee Joint Replacement

It is also referred to as unicompartmental arthroplasty. Surgeons think of the knee as having three compartments. Medial compartment, lateral compartment and patello-femoral compartment. I see an occasional patient who has arthritis in only the medial or lateral compartment and nowhere else. One compartment. The rest of the knee is fine. It is rare. That person could be a candidate for a partial knee replacement.

There are other factors too that would influence the decision. If everything seems to be right a partial knee replacement might work for that person. It is less surgery and they seem to recover faster. A big factor is that if the other parts of the knee wear out you have to come back, have the uni taken out and have a regular total knee replacement. A patient has to go into this surgery knowing all the facts. The procedure has a place, but a limited one.

Total Knee Replacement

More joint replacements are performed on knees than any other joint. In a total knee replacement (arthroplasty) the worn out cartilage surfaces of the thigh bone (femur), shin bone (tibia) and patella (kneecap) are replaced by parts called a prosthesis. The various parts are made of metal alloys and a medical plastic called polyethylene. The other parts of the knee such as ligaments and muscle that connect the bones remain largely intact.

Total knee replacement is a major surgical procedure done under general or spinal anesthesia. It always requires careful pre-operative evaluation of any medical problems that the patient has. Laboratory studies and an electrocardiogram plus other studies are undertaken before any total knee replacement.

Once the decision has been made to go ahead with the total knee replacement it is up to me to decide which total knee prosthesis is right for a particular person.

In most cases I have chosen an LCS Total Knee prosthesis made by DePuy Orthopaedics, Inc. As you can imagine there are a large number of prostheses to choose from.

I have chosen this prosthesis because of its truly unique design and amazingly long life.

Mobile Bearing Knee

LCS is different from other knee replacements in the following important way. The human knee is not a hinge even though patients mostly think of it in that way. There is an important rotation component to knee motion, which is extremely important in how the knee normally functions.

LCS is capable of bending and rotating which other total knees do not do.

I need to refer you to the office teaching website www.orthopodsurgeon.com for much more pertinent and detailed information about this unique total knee prosthesis. It would be worth your time to read it.

Next week I would like to talk about what happens in the hospital and when you go home. Also we need to cover what your expectations should be regarding activities after a knee replacement.

Lakeview Area News Archive and Office Website

I sincerely hope all of our readers are taking advantage of an endless amount of Orthopaedic and Musculoskeletal information. It's very easy. Log onto the office teaching website www.orthopodsurgeon.com.

That gives you access to -
All the website articles
Your Orthopaedic Connection articles
Every Lakeview Community Wellness Center Orthopaedic Connection article appearing in Lakeview Area News from most recent to first. More than 150 articles, full text!

Check out this tremendous collection of information.

Orthopaedic Clinic

As I hope most of you know, I am at the Lakeview Community Wellness Center every other Friday afternoon seeing patients. All of the Orthopaedic problems I treat can be evaluated there.

Clinic dates coming up are May 6 and May 20, 2011. Call 989-463-6092 for an appointment in Lakeview or at the main office in Alma.

Our goal is simple - To help people return to more pain free,
functional lives. I specialize in you.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush