

Total Knee Arthroplasty: Procedure & Surgical Risks

- Inpatient Surgery
- Hospital will contact you the day before about your time of arrival and specific instructions.
- After arrival, you will be evaluated by the anesthesia team and discuss different types of anesthesia and risks.
- Surgical procedure takes 1 ½ - 2 hours.

- After the administration of anesthesia, a tourniquet will be placed along your upper thigh and your leg will be prepped with a sterile solution. An incision approximately 6” will be made along the front of your knee. Through this incision, your patella, femur and tibia are resurfaced removing all of the arthritis. In addition any scar tissue, bone spurs, and cysts are removed. Trial prostheses are used to fit the size that works best in your knee to achieve maximum stability. Once the right sizes are determined, the real prosthesis is implanted and cemented into your knee. A drain is inserted to remove excessive fluid and blood from you knee over the next 48 hours after your surgery. A sterile, soft, compression dressing is applied to your leg along with a compression device to help keep the swelling down and prevent blood clots. You will be moved to the recovery area. Once stable, you will be transferred to the orthopedic unit for continued care. Hospital stay is 3-4 days.

- **Anesthesia Risks:** all risks of anesthesia will be discussed with you when meeting the anesthesia team on the date of your scheduled surgery.

- **Common Risks for surgical procedures:** Risks of any surgical procedure are low but do occur and may include the following: (1) Blood loss (2) Infection (3) Blood clot (4) Pulmonary embolism---blood clot becomes dislodged and may travel to the lungs (5) Nerve injury (6) Blood vessel injury (7) Pneumonia (8) Heart attack (9) Stroke

- **Specific Risks to Total Knee Arthroplasties:** (1) Postoperative bleeding within the knee joint (hemarthrosis) (2) Persistent swelling (3) Stiffness of the knee (4) Numbness (5) Weakness (6) Failure/loosening of the prosthesis (7) Fracture of patella, femur, or tibia (8) Tourniquet palsy which may cause some numbness & tingling in the foot.

**These are the most common risks of surgery however this does not include all risks of surgery that may occur.

This sheet was provided to assist in your understanding of your surgical procedure and potential risks. It is meant to supplement the information that was discussed with you in the office. The incidence of surgical complications are low, however risks of surgery do exist. This additional information attempts to educate you on these risks, benefits, and common complications that could possible occur. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the office. We feel it is important to educate our patients about their surgical procedures and options available to them. This sheet describes the most common aspects of a Total Knee Replacement. Each patient's case and surgery is individual and may result in a different scenario than what is described above.