

Total Shoulder 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 2 – 2 ½ hours.

- After the administration of anesthesia, you will be positioned and your shoulder prepped with a sterile solution. An incision approximately 4” will be made along the front of your shoulder. Through this incision, your humeral head and glenoid (ball and socket of the shoulder joint) 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 shoulder to achieve maximum stability. Once the right sizes are determined, the real prosthesis is implanted into your shoulder. A sterile dressing is applied to your shoulder. Your arm will be placed in a sling for comfort. You will be moved to the recovery area. Once stable, you will be transferred to the orthopedic unit for continued care. Hospital stay is overnight.

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

- **Surgical Risks for any procedure:** 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 Shoulder Arthroplasties:** (1) Postoperative bleeding within the shoulder joint (hemarthrosis) (2) Persistent swelling (3) Stiffness of the shoulder (4) Numbness (5) Weakness (6) Failure/loosening of the prosthesis (7) Fracture of humerus or glenoid (8) Dislocation/instability

**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 possibly 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 the Total Shoulder Arthroplasty. Each patient case and surgery is individual and may result in a different scenario than what is described above. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the office.