

Total Knee Arthroplasty

Understanding Your Risks

This document outlines the potential complications associated with **total knee arthroplasty**.

This is a surgical procedure in which the damaged or degenerative portions of the knee joint are removed and replaced with artificial components. The procedure typically involves resurfacing the end of the femur, the top of the tibia, and, when appropriate, the undersurface of the kneecap to improve joint alignment, stability, and motion.

The usual **purpose of surgery is to relieve knee pain, improve mobility and function, correct deformity when present, restore more normal joint mechanics, and improve quality of life** in patients with conditions such as osteoarthritis, inflammatory arthritis, post-traumatic arthritis, avascular necrosis, or severe knee degeneration when nonoperative treatment has failed.

Risks:

- **Persistent or recurrent knee pain**
- **Incomplete relief of symptoms**
- **Infection (superficial or deep, including periprosthetic joint infection)**
- **Bleeding or hematoma formation**
- **Blood clots (deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism)**
- **Stiffness or limited range of motion, including possible need for manipulation under anesthesia**
- **Instability, loosening, malalignment, or abnormal tracking of the knee replacement**
- **Nerve injury, including numbness, weakness, foot drop, or persistent altered sensation**
- **Blood vessel injury**
- **Fracture of the femur, tibia, or patella during or after surgery**
- **Wound healing problems or skin complications**
- **Implant wear, loosening, failure, or polyethylene liner wear over time**
- **Need for revision surgery**

- **Patellar complications, including pain, maltracking, fracture, or component problems**
- **Leg length difference or change in limb alignment**
- **Medical complications (myocardial infarction, stroke, pneumonia, urinary tract infection)**
- **Death (extremely rare)**

Risk Factors for Increased Complications:

- **Advanced age and higher ASA class**
- **Obesity, diabetes or poor blood sugar control, tobacco use**
- **Poor nutritional status or immune suppression**
- **Osteoporosis or poor bone quality**
- **Prior knee surgery, prior infection, significant deformity, or retained hardware**
- **Peripheral vascular disease, history of blood clots, or significant medical comorbidities**

Patient Acknowledgment:

By signing below, the patient acknowledges understanding of the above risks associated with Total Knee Arthroplasty and all questions have been answered to the patient's satisfaction.

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Patient Name: _____ **DOB:** _____