

Complications/Risks Associated With Hip And Knee Replacement

- Infection.
 - This can range from a superficial skin infection requiring oral antibiotics, to a serious deep joint infection requiring multiple revision surgeries and long-term antibiotics. We are very careful about sterility in the operating room, and you will be given 1 dose of antibiotics immediately prior to surgery, and 3 doses of antibiotics after surgery as prophylaxis. **Risk increases with smoking.**
- Bleeding.
 - Overall, risk of needing a blood transfusion is less than 5%. If you have any concerns or objections regarding a blood transfusion (religious or otherwise), please discuss this with the surgeon at your appointment.
- Blood clot.
 - This can either be in your lower leg (DVT), or more seriously a clot affecting your lungs. Significant cases can lead to serious impairment or even death. We use a combination of mechanical compression stockings on the legs for the first 48 hours after surgery, and blood thinner pills to reduce this risk in combination with early mobilization. **Risk increases with smoking.**
- Heart attack.
 - May require transfer to a tertiary care center for treatment. **Risk increases with smoking.**
- Stroke.
 - May require transfer to a tertiary care center for treatment. **Risk increases with smoking.**
- Dislocation.
 - Rare and only applies to hip replacements. Usually requires the surgeon or an emergency room physician to get the hip back in joint. If it happens multiple times, often a revision/redo surgery will be required. Hip precautions must be followed for 3 months after hip replacement to decrease this risk while everything is healing.
- Leg length difference.
 - With hip replacement every effort is made to ensure legs remain the same length after surgery, however it is sometimes necessary to have the operative leg a bit long or short to make sure the hip replacement is stable. Usually the difference is small and causes no issues or requires a small shoe lift. Very rarely, the difference is large enough to require footwear modification.
- Ongoing pain after surgery.
 - A small amount of discomfort or pain following joint replacement surgery is not uncommon (5-10%), and is overall more likely with a knee replacement than a hip replacement. Doing all of your exercises/physiotherapy helps to decrease this risk.

- Stiffness.
 - More common with knee replacement than hip replacement. If severe, may require a manipulation of the affected joint in the operating room.
- Nerve injury.
 - Rare, often it recovers given enough time. May affect mobilization short-term.
- Fracture/broken bone.
 - Very rare. Would be addressed/fixated at the time of surgery, often causing no significant change in the postoperative period were mobilization.
- Wearing of the parts, requiring revision surgery down the road.
- Risks from the anesthetic. This will be discussed further with the anesthesia doctor at your preoperative appointment, as there are different risks depending on the patient and the type of anesthetic used.

*****I have read and understand this document, and discussed concerns with my surgeon*****

Patient _____ Signature _____

Surgeon _____ Signature _____