

Total Joint Replacement using Megaprosthesis

Introduction

Total Joint Replacement is a surgery involving replacing your existing diseased cartilage and bone in the joint by a prosthesis composed of metal and plastic. With Megaprosthesis, a larger portion of the diseased or fractured bone adjacent to the joint is replaced by metal prosthesis.

Indication

- Loosening or fracture around total joint prosthesis with severe bone loss
- Periarticular osteoporotic knee fractures in patients aged > 60 with severe comminution
- Resistant non-union around the joint
- Osteoarthritis of knee with marked bony deformity and ligamentous instability
- Others _____

The Procedure

- Excise damaged joint and bone
- Choose appropriate metal components to reconstruct the bone defect
- Insert and fix up the artificial joint

Risk and Complication

Anesthesia

- Please consult your anesthetist

General

- Heart attack, chest disease, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism etc.
- If severe, can be fatal

Specific

- Infection
- Bleeding, haematoma, healing problem, scarring
- Joint dislocation
- Stiffness
- Fracture, nerve damage, blood vessels damage leading to paralysis or loss of limb
- Leg length difference
- Wear and loosening

Before the Procedure

- Treat and optimize existing disease conditions, e.g. ischemic heart disease, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, anemia, lung disease
- Look for and treat any infection of the teeth, urinary tract, respiratory tract and skin infection of the feet. You must tell your doctor about these as early as possible
- Stop eating and drinking few hours before surgery

After the Procedure

- You will be allowed to eat and drink when your condition is stable.
- Follow medical professionals' instructions
- Deep breathing exercise to prevent lung complication
- Exercises of toes and ankles of both lower limbs to prevent venous thrombosis
- Start walking exercise when pain improves

Possible Additional Procedures

1. Transfusion

Bleeding is inevitable in total joint replacement. Blood transfusion may be required.

2. Additional Procedure for Fixation of Fracture

The chance of intra-operative fracture is low. However, if fracture is encountered, your surgeon may need to stabilize the fracture by

extending the wound and fixing the fracture with additional metal implants.

3. Additional Vascular Procedure

Despite the chance of major vessel injury in total joint replacement is remote, the consequence of such injury can be devastating and may lead to potential loss of the limb. If such injury occurs, vascular surgery will be needed.

Alternative Treatment

Your surgeons will consider total joint replacement with megaprosthesis for you only if other means of conservative treatments are not successful or useful.

Follow Up

- You should keep your wound clean and dry
- You must follow instructions strictly on taking medication, see the doctor as scheduled
- If you have any excessive bleeding, collapse, severe pain, fever or signs of wound infection such as redness, swelling or large amounts of stinking discharge, see your doctor immediately or attend the nearby Accident and Emergency Department

Remarks

This is general information only and the list of complications is not exhaustive. Other unforeseen complications may occasionally occur. The actual risks may be different for different patients. During the operation, unpredictable condition may arise, and additional procedures may be performed if necessary. For further information, please contact your doctor.