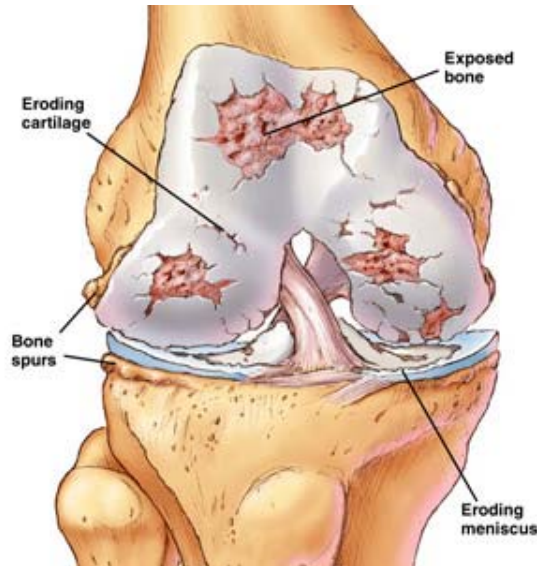


Total Knee Replacement

Dr. Nathan Momberger



What is Osteoarthritis (*commonly called "OA"*)?

Osteoarthritis is a condition that occurs when the cartilage or "cap" on the ends of bones that protects and cushions joints breaks down. This break down of the protective cartilage covering leads to damage of the underlying tissues and bone resulting in a painful and swollen joint(s).

How do I know if I need a knee replacement?

If you have difficulty walking or performing everyday activities such as getting dressed, it may be time to consider knee replacement surgery.

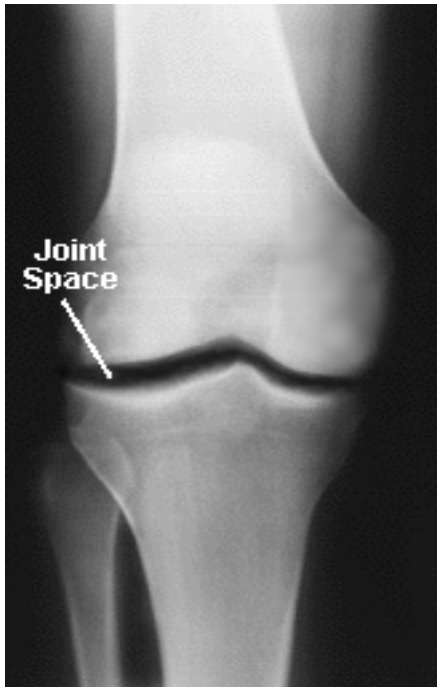
Dr. Momberger generally tries to delay total knee replacement for as long as possible in favor of less invasive treatments. However for patients with advanced joint disease, knee replacement offers the best chance for pain relief and a return to normal activities.

What is involved in Total Knee Replacement Surgery?

In total knee replacement surgery, the parts of the bones that rub together are resurfaced with metal and plastic implants. Using special, precision instruments, Dr. Momberger will typically remove the damaged surfaces of all three bones. The replacement surfaces will then be fixed into place.

The surface of the femur is resurfaced with a rounded metal component that matches the curve of your natural bone. The surface of the tibia is replaced with a flat metal tray. This flat metal component holds a smooth plastic piece made of high-tech polyethylene plastic that serves as the cartilage. The undersurface of the kneecap is also resurfaced with an implant made of the same polyethylene plastic.





Normal Knee (well preserved joint space)



Osteoarthritis (note loss of joint space)

