

2011



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PHONE: 888-658-8453

# Knee Osteoarthritis (OA)

## Meet Pat

Pat is a 60-year-old woman with complaints of right knee pain that had been present for several years and had recently worsened. She sprained her knee years ago but had no recent trauma that might have caused her pain. Before physical therapy, Pat had:

- Constant knee pain and associated thigh discomfort
- Initial knee pain rating = 5/10
- Limited right knee flexion (115 degrees; normal 130)
- Knee Activity of Daily Living Score (ADLS) = 45%

### Intervention:

After examination, Pat's provider prescribed impairment-based **manual physical therapy** and exercise for **8 visits over 4 weeks**.

### Result:

- Pat's knee and thigh pain occurs only occasionally and is minimal (1/10)
- She now has full range-of-motion.
- Her ADLS Index score = 94%
- She now walks  $\geq$  30 minutes without pain or limping



Pat's name has been changed to protect patient privacy.

At Texas Physical Therapy Specialists, we use an evidence-based approach to help people with low back pain get back to where they once belonged.

Locations near you: New Braunfels, Selma, San Marcos, Bulverde/Spring Branch, StoneOak, Balcones Woods, Bee Caves, Central Park, Pflugerville, Westgate, Tyler

Visit our website or call for more information. We welcome any questions you may have.

### What Works

- *Therapeutic exercise is recommended as first-line intervention for knee OA<sup>1</sup>*
- *Therapeutic exercise + manual physical therapy reduces pain, disability and can delay the need for joint replacement for up to a year<sup>2</sup>*
- *Treatment adjuncts of TENS<sup>3</sup>, ice massage, and shoe inserts<sup>4</sup> can reduce pain and patient's perception of stiffness*

### What Doesn't Work

- *Tylenol and NSAIDs have a small effect only<sup>5</sup> and long-term use isn't recommended<sup>6</sup>*
- *Passive interventions such as ultrasound or massage<sup>7</sup>*
- *Waiting to see if it gets better on its own<sup>2</sup>*

## Learn How A Physical Therapist Can Help You

Your physical therapist is an expert in the non-surgical treatment of musculoskeletal conditions and can help you recover the use of joints and muscles through manual physical therapy, active supervised exercise, and education. The physical therapist will help reduce your pain, promote healing, and restore strength, function and movement so you can return to normal activity as quickly as possible!

**Don't settle for imitations!** Only a licensed physical therapist can provide effective physical therapy care. A physical therapist is a licensed healthcare professional who has successfully completed years of rigorous medical training and has been licensed by the state. Board-certified physical therapists are designated as Orthopedic Clinical Specialists (OCS).

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## We Can Help Pat

**Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common cause of disability in the United States.<sup>8</sup>** It is particularly disabling as it limits the ability to rise from a chair, stand, walk or use stairs in 1/3 of all people over 60.<sup>9</sup>

**Altman's clinical diagnostic criteria for knee OA are both sensitive (.89) & specific (.88)** and may consist of the following in individuals  $\geq 30$  years of age: knee pain, morning joint stiffness  $>$  than 30 minutes and crepitus with active motion.<sup>10</sup>

**The effect of Tylenol & NSAIDs (typically used) is only slightly better than placebo** for reducing pain (1cm reduction in VAS), has associated risks even with short-term use, and has not been demonstrated to be more effective than exercise.<sup>6</sup>

**At 1 year, less arthritis medication was used,<sup>11</sup> and fewer joint injections and knee replacements (NNT=7)** were received by patients who received 4 weeks of manual physical therapy plus exercise used compared to a minimal intervention approach.<sup>2</sup>

**Knee OA is costly and disabling and doesn't just affect the elderly!** Younger individuals ( $<40$ ) are often affected and 30 – 40% of people with knee OA also have hip OA<sup>12, 13</sup>

**Patients treated with our approach often report a 20 – 40% relief of symptoms within 3 – 4 visits & are more satisfied** than those who only receive home exercise!<sup>11</sup>

**We ensure your patients receive the highest level of care possible and unsurpassed AmaZing! Customer Service.**



Pat's name has been changed to protect patient privacy.

**National Leaders:**  
Member of the EIM Clinical Education Network and Host site of EIM Orthopaedic Residency and Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship programs.



**Proven success:** Impressively low average of patient visits keep costs low and patients happy.

## Rely On The Newest Research and Evidence

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