



# Personalized partial knee implants

What you need to know before,  
during and after surgery.



Once you and your doctor determine that you are an appropriate candidate for a personalized partial knee implant, you will be sent for a CT scan, your surgery will be scheduled and your very own customized implant will be designed.



This guide answers common questions and provides more information about what to expect before, during and after surgery.

# Prior to the surgery

Once you and your surgeon have decided to move forward with your customized partial knee implant, your surgeon will give you a prescription for a CT scan. The surgery date will be set, and you can begin preparations for surgery and beyond.

## Why do I have to get a CT scan?

The CT scan is a diagnostic tool for your surgeon to assess the course of treatment for your knee. Additionally, it is an integral part of creating a personalized knee implant system. The CT scan image provides a detailed three-dimensional image of your knee. From this digital model, your customized implant is designed to fit the unique contours of your knee.

## How soon do I need to get my CT scan?

It is recommended to book your CT scan appointment as soon as you can. Your personalized partial knee implant cannot be designed until your CT scan images are received.

## Can I go to any Imaging Center?

Your surgeon will recommend an imaging center that has been qualified to perform CT scans that capture the required images to design your individualized implant.

## How long will the CT scan take?

The CT scan typically takes 45-60 minutes. It is always a good idea to give yourself more time, and to arrive early to ensure your scan can start on time.

## How long does it take to design my implants?

Engineers will begin developing your personalized partial knee implant immediately upon receiving your CT scans. It takes the engineers approximately 6 weeks to develop your implant. Once the implant is complete, it is sent to the hospital in advance of your surgery date.

## How can I prepare for my surgery?

It can be helpful to designate someone as your primary “caregiver.” This person will be there with you on your day of surgery, help carry your belongings and stay in touch with other family or friends during and immediately following your surgery. The primary caregiver may also be helpful following surgery (i.e., driving home, assisting in follow-up doctor visits, physical therapy and completing light chores around the house).

It may also be helpful to complete as many chores and/or errands as possible prior to surgery. Preparing your home by removing tripping hazards such as rugs and moving your living quarters to the ground floor will ensure an easier rehabilitation.

Prior to your day of surgery, be sure to pack a small suitcase with loose fitting comfortable clothing and necessary toiletries. In some cases you may be in the hospital from 1-3 days. Please check with your surgeon on how long you are expected to stay so you can pack accordingly.



## The **day of** the surgery

Plan to arrive early, as you may need time to fill out some paperwork and prepare for surgery.

### **How long is my surgery going to take?**

Knee surgery has become a very common procedure. A partial knee replacement can take 60–90 minutes to complete. Be sure to consult with your surgeon about his/her expectations for the surgery.

### **What happens during surgery?**

After you have been admitted and prior to the actual surgery you will receive an IV (intravenous) line that is used to administer antibiotics and anesthesia. Once in the OR you will be given general anesthesia, and your knee will be prepped for surgery using a special sterilization solution.

The actual surgery involves a thin incision on the knee that helps the surgeon gain access to the affected compartment(s). Your surgeon will remove bone spurs in the affected compartment(s) and then place your personalized surgical instrumentation on your femur (thigh bone) and tibia (shin bone) in order to make the few required bone cuts. Your customized implants are then cemented to your bones and the incision is closed.

### **What is my personalized partial knee implant made of?**

Your implant will be made of cobalt chromium molybdenum, a standard metal used in orthopedic implants, with an ultra high molecular weight polyethylene insert. You should notify your surgeon if you are allergic to metals such as nickel.



# following surgery

As your anesthesia wears off a nurse will be there to assist you and provide pain medications. Once you are fully awake you will be taken to your hospital room. Your knee will remain swollen and tender for a few days. After you have returned to your hospital room the primary goal is to get you mobile. A nurse will assist you with moving your knee, standing, and eventually walking.

## How long will I have knee pain following surgery?

While every case is different, you should expect to feel significant pain relief within weeks. Be sure to follow your surgeon's recommendations for pain medication and physical therapy.

## How soon will I be able to walk?

You should be able to walk, as tolerated, a few hours after surgery. You may be provided with a knee brace and/or aids such as crutches or a walker to assist you.

## Will I have to wear a leg brace?

Your surgeon will determine whether or not you will need to wear a brace. If you do, you will likely wear your brace for two weeks or less depending upon your surgeon's recommended weight-bearing protocol.

## Will I be able to drive after surgery?

Following surgery you may not have the full leg control required to work the gas and brake pedals. As a safety precaution, your surgeon may recommend that you not drive for a few days.

## When can I go back to work?

Your return to work will be dependent on your job requirements and endurance. Typically, patients return to office work in two to three weeks; jobs that require longer periods of standing may require longer periods of time.

### Will I have to take any medication after surgery?

Your surgeon may prescribe medication to control pain after surgery and/or coated aspirin to prevent blood clots. It is important that you consult with your physician before taking any non-prescribed medications.

### What care will the incision require?

Following surgery, it is important to keep your incision covered with a clean dressing. Your surgeon will recommend that you use caution while bathing to keep your incision dry. Waterproof bandages are recommended. Be sure to contact your surgeon if you notice any changes in the incision such as swelling or drainage during the recovery period.

### Is it normal to have a fever following surgery?

Immediately after your procedure, you may have a low grade fever (up to 101 degrees). It is important to contact your doctor if your temperature elevates above 101 degrees or lasts longer than one week.

### Will I have to go to physical therapy?

For some patients, physical therapy is not required. Your surgeon can best determine whether or not this is appropriate for you. In all cases, an immediate postoperative recovery will focus on protecting the knee, minimizing discomfort, and ensuring early return to motion. After that, your surgeon will prescribe a set of simple exercises to aid in recovery and strengthen your knee.



Consult your surgeon to discuss the risks and potential outcomes from the surgery. You should contact your surgeon immediately if you develop a fever, notice increased drainage from your incision or experience prolonged pain, swelling or redness.



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