

What a lucky guy I am, only 4 weeks after knee surgery and I am back on the golf course enjoying my favorite pass time. There are several men and women in this development that have had knee surgery months ago and are still limping and unable to get back to any activity.

Like many people, I was very hesitant to get any operation for any reason; even though I so desperately needed to do so, to relieve the pain I had in both knees.

For over 7 years, I procrastinated getting surgery, so I continued to get Cortisone Injections and even had several treatments of the Orthovisc series. When I finally came to the realization that nothing was helping me and my quality of life had diminished greatly, I knew it was time to seek out an Orthopedic Surgeon to see what would be involved in getting my knees repaired. I went to several doctors that insisted I would need full knee replacements.

One evening I was discussing my concerns about knee surgery when Mariellen Murray interjected that I should see the surgeon with whom she is affiliated. She set an appointment for me with Dr. Hayter in the Palm Harbor office. The meeting with Dr. Hayter was extremely informative. The Dr. went on to explain, with my x-rays in hand, exactly why he felt that full knee replacements were not necessary, but in fact, I only required partial knee replacements. He also explained that the benefit of having partial replacements VS. full replacements, was the recuperation time from the operation as well as the healing time, would be much more expeditious. Recovery time would culminate in weeks VS. months.

After the consultation I had with Dr. Hayter, I felt extremely comfortable and confident that he would be the surgeon to perform my knee operations. I immediately set a date and time for the first knee.

The first surgery went extremely well, the healing time was quick and I was able to walk unassisted on the third day following surgery.

The second surgery was scheduled for 6 weeks after the first, and again, recovery was quick, I was released from the hospital the following day and walking unassisted on the third day.

The day after the surgeries Dr. Hayter asked me if I was in any pain. I said not as much as I was prior to the operations. The absolute truth is I suffered with more knee pain prior to the surgeries than I did recovering from the operations.

I can only suggest that anyone suffering with knee pain see Dr. Hayter for a consultation. Dr. Hayter is associated with "The Florida Knee and Orthopedic Centers." He is very pleasant, very to the point, extremely informative and most important, a great surgeon.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the wonderful care I received from every nurse and staff member, during and after surgery at the Largo Medical Center. This is the facility used by "The Florida Knee and Orthopedic Centers" to perform surgeries. I was so impressed by each and every member of the hospital they could not do enough to make me comfortable while in their care.

**Joe Dimeo**