YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Here are some common questions people have about hip replacement surgery, rehabilitation and recovery.

Am I a candidate for Anterior Approach hip replacement surgery?

Only your orthopaedic surgeon will be able to decide if you are a candidate for the Anterior Approach hip replacement surgery.

How often do serious complications occur in hip replacement?

Risks associated with hip replacement may include:

- Blood clots
- Infection
- Fracture
- Dislocation
- Loosening
- Change in leg length

According to OrthoInfo, (www.orthoinfo.aaos.org) serious complications, such as joint infection, occur in less than 2% of patients. Major medical complications, such as heart attack or stroke, occur even less frequently. However, chronic illnesses may increase the potential for complications. Although uncommon, when these complications occur they can prolong or limit full recovery.

What is the difference between the Anterior Approach to hip replacement surgery and the traditional hip replacement surgery?

The main difference is that unlike a traditional approach where the muscles are cut, the Anterior Approach allows the surgeon to work around the muscles keeping them intact. By keeping the muscles intact, the Anterior Approach may allow for less pain, faster recovery, quicker stability and fewer post operative restrictions.

Is the Anterior Approach procedure considered an “experimental” procedure?

No, the Anterior Approach procedure has been performed in the United States for 20 years. It was originally pioneered in the 1940’s by Robert Judet. The technique remained in Europe for several decades, but was brought to the United States by Dr. Joel Matta in 1996.

Am I too young for hip replacement?

Hip replacement is related to need, not age. Total hip replacement surgery can be an effective procedure that can help patients resume a more active lifestyle.

How do I know if I’m ready for hip replacement?

Only your orthopaedic surgeon can decide if hip replacement is the appropriate treatment for you. Your doctor will assess your situation and discuss the various treatment options available. He or she will explain the risks and benefits so that you, together with your doctor, can make an informed decision about your future course of treatment.

After hip replacement, do I need to take any precautions before future medical procedures?

From now on, you must inform any doctors, including dentists, treating you that you have undergone hip replacement surgery. Antibiotics may be prescribed before a procedure to help avoid infection.

I live by myself. To whom can I turn for help during recovery and rehabilitation?

You will likely need assistance with your daily activities for several days to a few weeks following your hip replacement surgery. If family members or friends are unable to assist you, ask your surgeon about being admitted to a rehabilitation facility for at least a few days following your surgery so you can get the assistance you need.

How can I help protect my new hip implant?

Hip replacements are designed for the normal activities of daily living. Avoiding trauma and high impact activities are helpful in caring for your new hip implant.

References: