



Dr Stuart MacKenzie



Total Hip Replacement Explained

IS A TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT RIGHT FOR ME?

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Total Hip Replacement

Why do I need a hip replacement?

Hip replacement surgery is the only surgery option for treating a hip where the cartilage has worn out. The most common cause of this is osteoarthritis which is when the cartilage has deteriorated due to long term wear and tear. Other problems which can damage the cartilage leading to hip replacement include rheumatoid arthritis, trauma or injury and avascular necrosis (when the bone of the ball of the hip dies).

What is a hip replacement?

The hip joint is a ball and socket joint. The ball sits on top of the thigh bone (femur) and the socket or cup is part of the pelvis. A hip replacement is when a surgeon replaces a damaged or diseased hip joint with prosthetic components.

The damaged ball (femoral head) is removed from the top of the femur. This allows access to the hollow middle of the thigh bone and a prosthetic stem is positioned in the hollow of the bone. A new ball is then attached to the top of this stem.

At the same time the damaged cartilage and bone are removed from the socket in the pelvis. A new metal cup is then attached to the underlying bone. A liner is placed in this metal cup.

The new ball is then positioned inside the cup completing the hip replacement.

What is a hip replacement made of?

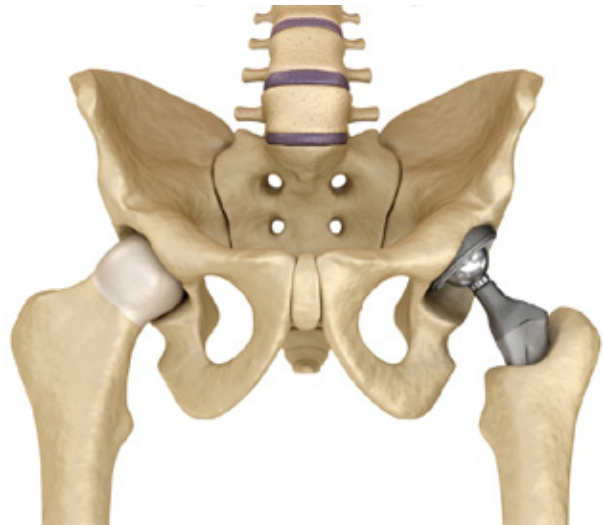
The different parts of the hip replacement are made of different materials and in some cases there may be a choice of materials available for one or more of the parts. Hip replacement parts are generally made of a combination of different metals, ceramics and special medical grade plastics.

Your surgeon will discuss the choice of the best parts to use for your hip replacement.

How long does a hip replacement last?

This question is difficult to answer. It is a bit like asking how long a new washing machine or a new car is going to last, no one knows the answer.

We can, however, give some indication. There is a 95% chance your hip replacement will last 10 years and a 90% chance it will last 20 years. It is hard to predict beyond this but some hip replacements have lasted 30 years or more.



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FIND OUT HOW A TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT CAN BENEFIT YOU

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