

Orthopaedic Connection

Arthritis of the Hip

Arthroscopic Surgery Revision of Total Hip Replacement

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Transforming patient information into patient understanding.

There are two more topics about hip arthritis and surgery for it that I need to cover.

Arthroscopic Surgery

Almost everyone knows about arthroscopic surgery for the knee, because it has been done for many years. Arthroscopic surgery of the shoulder is somewhat less known than for the knee. Arthroscopic surgery is also done on the wrist and elbow infrequently.

Arthroscopic surgery of the hip is an emerging part of Orthopaedic Surgery. Most of my patients have never heard of it. In fact, it is not done very often because there aren't that many things that go wrong with the hip you can help arthroscopically and in addition it is very difficult to do arthroscopic surgery on the hip because of its difficult anatomy. The hip is a very deep joint, buried under thick muscles and has a thick capsule or covering. The joint space is minimal compared to the knee and furthermore there are many scary large nerves and blood vessels all around it.

However, it can be done if the proper indications exist.

Identifying the conditions that can be treated by arthroscopic surgery can be extremely difficult. Even MRI may not be able to identify the pathology.

If a loose cartilage piece or torn tissue is identified it might be possible to treat it arthroscopically. I say might because you have to wait and give it some time to see if the surgery helped. I don't mean to sound negative about the procedure, but it just is very different than knee arthroscopic surgery that is much more predictable. Treatment of arthritis of the hip joint is not one of the conditions that arthroscopic surgery can help in most cases.

Revision of Total Hip Replacement

Sometimes things can happen to a total hip replacement that can cause the surgery to fail. Fortunately it doesn't happen very often. When it does, pain is usually the first sign of trouble. It can begin a fairly long process of examination and testing to identify exactly what the problem is. It is far too complicated to discuss here all the reasons that total hip replacements can fail. That is not our purpose.

When it is required however, this is what happens.

It is very extensive surgery. In fact it is like doing two surgeries, because I have to take all of the old parts (sometimes broken) out. That can be very difficult to do. Take my word for it. When all of the previous parts are out you have to access what you have left from a bone standpoint and decide what new different prosthetic parts can be re-inserted. Please understand you don't just take another similar hip prosthesis and put it in. It can often be the most challenging and difficult surgery we do.

While the result of the surgery can be a great benefit to the patient whose original prosthesis has failed, results are rarely equal to a good primary procedure. As in any kind of surgery Orthopaedic or otherwise successful results decrease each time repeat surgery is done.

I hope this will give you an insight into the problems we deal with in arthroscopic surgery of the hip and total hip replacement revision surgery.

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All of the information available concerns what I treat daily in the office and hospital. Log on and check it out.

Our goal is simple - To help people return to more pain free functional lives. I specialize in you.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush