



Dr Stuart MacKenzie



Total Knee Replacement Explained

IS A TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT RIGHT FOR ME?

02 4963 3393 | DRSTUARTMACKENZIE.COM

Total Knee Replacement

Why do I need a knee replacement?

Knee replacement surgery is usually the only surgery option for treating a knee 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 the need for knee replacement include rheumatoid arthritis, trauma or injury.

What is a knee replacement?

The knee joint is made up of the ends of the thigh bone (femur), shin bone (tibia) and knee cap (patella) all of which are covered with cartilage over their surface which forms the knee joint.

During knee replacement surgery the damaged or diseased cartilage and bone on the ends of the thigh bone and shin bone is removed. A flat metal plate is then attached to the top of the shin bone and a special medical grade plastic liner is attached to the top of this. A metal cap is then attached to the end to the thigh bone. Sometimes a plastic button is attached to the back of the knee cap to complete the knee replacement.

What is a partial knee replacement?

A partial (unicompartmental) knee replacement is an option for up to 20% of people who need a knee replacement.

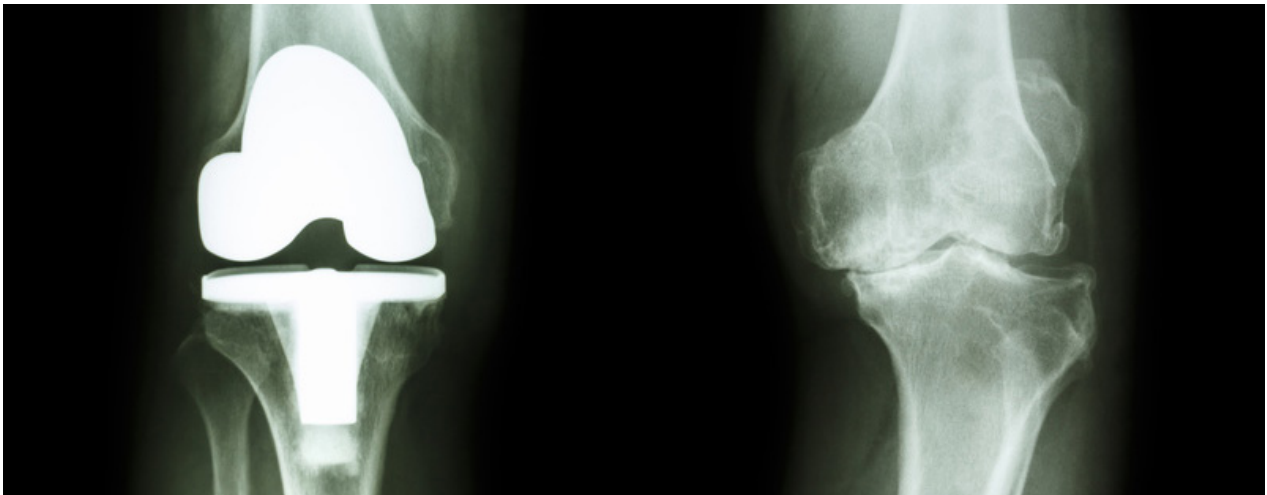
A partial knee replacement can be done when only one part of the knee cartilage is damaged and the rest of the knee is ok. In this case only the damaged part is replaced and the rest of the knee is left alone. It is a smaller operation and recovery is usually faster.

Your surgeon can discuss with you whether you might be suitable for partial knee replacement.

How long will my knee 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 knee replacement will last 10 years and a 90% chance it will last 20 years. It is hard to predict beyond this but some knee replacements have lasted 30 years or more.



FIND OUT HOW A TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT CAN BENEFIT YOU

02 4963 3393 | DRSTUARTMACKENZIE.COM