

## REVISION TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT

Total knee replacement is one of the most successful procedures for the treatment of knee arthritis. In the vast majority of cases, it enables people to resume an active life without the pain and disability associated with knee arthritis. However, over time a knee replacement may fail for a variety of reasons. When this occurs, your knee can become painful and swollen with symptoms that make it difficult for you to function with your normal daily activities.

Some of the most common reasons for revision total knee replacement:

- Loosening of one or more of the components
- Wear or breakage of the plastic bearing
- Instability
- Stiffness with limited motion
- Infection

When symptoms develop, such as swelling, stiffness or instability, a physical examination along with X-rays and other imaging studies will be performed in order to diagnose the reason for failure. The knee will also be aspirated and fluid withdrawn will be sent for further analysis. Once the problem is diagnosed, it may be recommended that you have a revision total knee replacement. In this second surgery, some or all of the parts of the original prosthesis will be removed and replaced with new components.

There are different types of revision surgery. In some cases, only one implant or component of the prosthesis has to be revised. Other times, all three components—femoral, tibial, and patellar—need to be removed or replaced and the bone around the knee needs to be rebuilt with augments or bone graft. Revision surgery is different than primary total knee replacement. It is a longer, more complex procedure that requires extensive planning, and specialized implants and tools to achieve a good result.

The vast majority of patients who have revision surgery experience favorable long-term outcomes, including relief from pain and increased stability and function. Complete pain relief and restoration of function is not always achievable, however, and some patients may still experience pain or knee stiffness following revision surgery.