

Total Hip Replacement

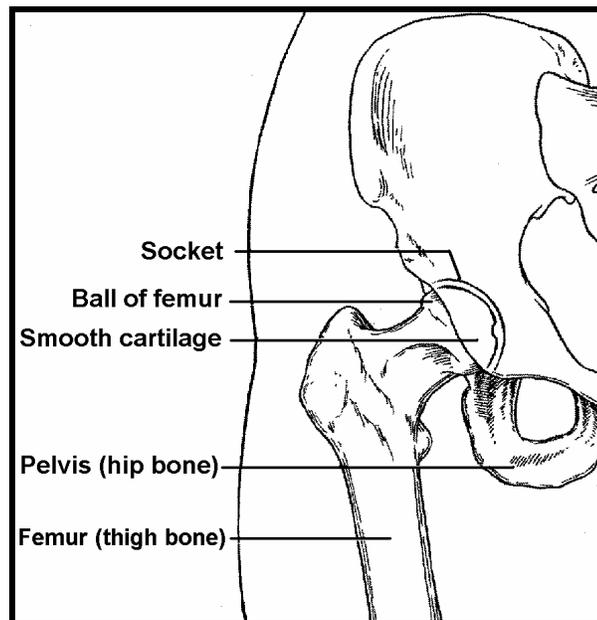
Total hip replacement is a surgery to replace worn or damaged parts of the hip joint. The surfaces of the diseased joint are removed and replaced with an artificial joint. This surgery can relieve pain and improve movement in your hip joint.

You may need a total hip replacement if:

- Other treatments such as medicine, steroid injections and physical therapy, no longer stop your pain or help movement of the joint.
- The pain or poor movement in your hip prevents you from doing your normal activities.

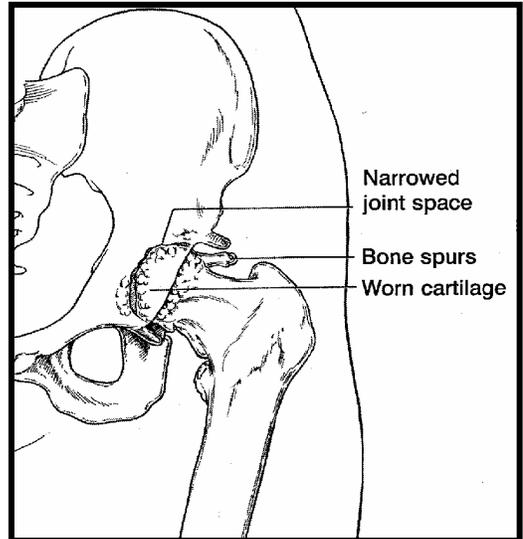
The Normal Hip Joint

Your hip is a joint where the thigh bone (femur) meets the hip bone (pelvis). A healthy hip has layers of smooth cartilage that cover the ball-shaped end of the femur and socket shaped part of the pelvis. The cartilage acts as a cushion and allows the ball of the femur to glide easily within the socket of the pelvis. The muscles around the joint support your weight and help move the joint smoothly.



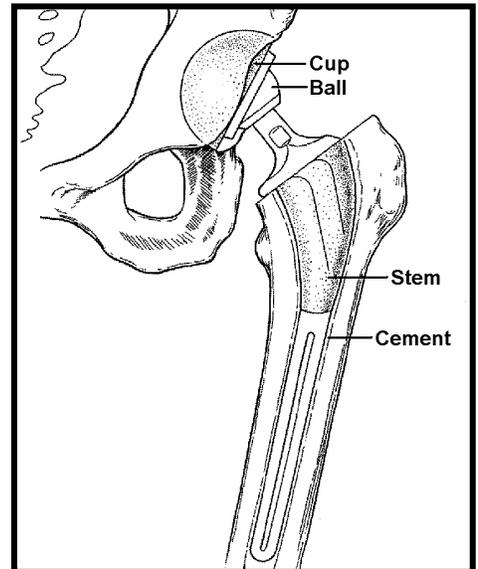
The Worn Hip Joint

The smooth cartilage layers can wear down on the ball and socket part of the hip joint. The cartilage can wear down as you age or from injury, arthritis or a side effect from certain medicines. When the joint wears down, the smooth surfaces become rough, like sandpaper. As you move your leg, the ball grinds in the socket causing pain and stiffness.



Total Hip Replacement

During surgery, the damaged cartilage and ends of the bones of the hip joint are removed. A new joint is created using an artificial cup and ball made of metal and very strong plastic. The cup replaces the worn hip socket of your pelvis. The new ball is attached to a stem that fits into your femur and is cemented in place with special bone cement. The metal has a porous surface that your bone will grow into as it heals to create a tight fit.



Joint Pain and Movement After Surgery

The staff will help you stand and begin walking with a walker the day of or day after surgery. You will have some pain as the tissues heal and muscles regain their strength. This pain should go away in a few weeks and pain medicine will be ordered to help relieve this surgery pain. With your new joint and physical therapy, you may be able to resume many of the activities you enjoy.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns about total hip replacement.