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Risks and Benefits of

## Total Hip Arthroplasty

Today, you and Dr. Bohnenkamp discussed the possibility of having a total hip replacement (arthroplasty). This is a surgical procedure, and there are risks and complications associated with any surgical procedure.

### Possible Complications of a Total Hip Replacement (arthroplasty)

Arthrofibrosis (joint stiffness)

Heterotopic ossification  
(abnormal bone formation)

Tendon disruption

Post-op tendonitis/bursitis or weakness

Instability

Loosening

Excess wear

Limb length discrepancies

Malrotation

Malpositioning

Persistent pain and dissatisfaction  
(especially if history of chronic pain,  
depression, fibromyalgia, or other  
chronic pain conditions)

Mobility dysfunction

Failure and limitation of the procedure,  
which could lead to future surgeries

Unsightly scarring and pain

Inability to lie on the operative side

Iatrogenic (during surgery) or later  
presenting fracture

Loosening and any type of dislocation,  
which can become recurrent

### Possible Complications of Surgery

Complications with anesthesia

Heart attack

Cardiac arrest

Blood clot in the leg or lung

Stroke

Post-op ileus or bowel obstruction

Delirium and confusion

Excess bleeding requiring  
blood transfusions

Problems associated with prolonged  
positioning under anesthesia

Complications due to anesthesia

Decubiti (pressure sores)

Post-op pneumonia

Atelectasis (fluid in the lungs)

Skin infection

Urinary tract infection

Neurovascular injury of the operative  
and non-operative limbs

Amputation

Deep infection

Wound healing complications,  
especially if you smoke

Death

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Having a history of back pain issues could potentially flare up back pain after a hip replacement. If the pain is coming from the back, a hip replacement is unlikely to alleviate all of the discomfort.

## Hip Stability

Hip stability is of utmost importance in the procedure. A hip replacement may lengthen or shorten the operative side. This is typically something that goes unnoticed. If your leg feels longer or shorter after the procedure, this is something that can normalize over time, and in the end you may require a heel lift if it does not.

## You're in Good Hands

These complications are rare and even less likely in Dr. Bohnenkamp's hands. These problems can and do occur without negligence. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns prior to scheduling surgery, please don't hesitate to contact our office.

The benefits of this procedure are to eliminate the arthritis pain and restore motion to the joint.