

Hip Replacement Q & A

How does hip replacement surgery work?

The top of your femur has a ball-shaped ending on it that fits into a socket in your pelvis called the acetabulum—this juncture is called your hip. Sometimes, the cartilage that cushions this joint and allows for unencumbered movement becomes damaged.

Your hip is among the largest weight-bearing joints in your body, putting it at a significant level for the risk of injury.

One common reason for hip damage is arthritis, which can lead to pain and a restricted range of motion. These symptoms can affect your independence and quality of life.

Common causes of arthritis in your hip include:

- Osteoarthritis: the gradual wearing away of the cartilage in your hip joint.
- Rheumatoid arthritis: an autoimmune disease that affects synovium and synovial fluid, leading to cartilage loss and pain.
- Traumatic arthritis: arthritis from an injury that damaged tissue in your hip.

When you require a total hip arthroplasty, our team at Ascension Michigan Orthopaedics-Rochester uses high-grade, bio-compatible metal or ceramic to replace your hip. This procedure will allow you to regain your mobility for decades to come.

What types of hip replacement surgery are available?

There are various types of hip replacement surgery available, and each requires a specialized level of surgical skill and expertise. Our team at Ascension Michigan Orthopaedics-Rochester will guide you through the best options for you.

One option is a total hip replacement, which requires your surgeon to make an incision at the side or back of your hip. The team will then access the worn joint and begin reconstruction. Your surgeon may also recommend a minimally invasive form of this procedure using smaller incisions and requiring less muscle dissection. This approach leads to quicker recovery and can sometimes be performed on an outpatient basis.

If you've had a previous hip replacement that is causing you pain, the surgical team can also perform revision hip replacement if you meet certain criteria.