

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Here are some common questions people have about shoulder replacement surgery, rehabilitation and recovery.

Am I too young for a shoulder replacement?

The decision to get a shoulder replacement is between you and your doctor. Total shoulder replacement can be an effective procedure that can help patients resume a more active lifestyle.

Should I wait as long as possible to undergo shoulder replacement surgery?

Many patients who could benefit from a shoulder replacement are worried that they will not be able to comfortably and confidently get back to their normal activities of daily living. In a review of studies related to the quality-of-life outcomes for patients receiving total shoulder arthroplasty, it was concluded that total shoulder arthroplasty leads to significant improvements in function, pain, and overall physical well-being.¹

Ninety-nine percent of the people who have a shoulder replacement for arthritis get pain relief.²

After shoulder replacement, do I need to take any precautions before future medical procedures?

You must inform any doctors, including dentists, treating you that you have undergone shoulder replacement surgery. Antibiotics may be prescribed before a procedure to help avoid infection.

Will my new shoulder set off metal detectors?

The sensitivity of every metal detector is different, and it is possible that a shoulder replacement implant might cause the machine to go off.

Can I have an MRI after shoulder replacement surgery?

MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging, is used as a diagnostic tool for many types of medical conditions. If a doctor is considering ordering an MRI for you, make sure he or she is aware of your shoulder implant.

How should I take care of my new shoulder implant?

Avoiding trauma and high impact activities are helpful in caring for your new shoulder replacement.

References:

1. Carter MJ, et al, "Impact of Total Shoulder Arthroplasty on Generic and Shoulder-Specific Health-Related Quality-of-Life Measures. A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis" *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. 2012, 94(17)
2. McFarland EG. "Shrug off shoulder surgery myth, Johns Hopkins study suggests." http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/shrug_off_shoulder_surgery_myth_study_suggests/. Accessed April 2016.