

Computer Navigation

In this era of computerization it comes as no surprise that applications of this technology have found their way into the operating room. **Computer navigation** as an aid to **total hip** and **total knee replacement** is just such an application.

Thought of simply, **computerized navigation** is no more than a “GPS” system for human skeletal anatomy. When employed, computer navigation can assist the surgeon in optimal placement of the prosthetic components for either a **total hip** or **total knee replacement**. A well positioned implant is desirable as it will maximize the stability and longevity of the components by minimizing stresses on both the bearing surfaces and bone prosthetic interfaces. Leg length normalization and/or equalization are also enhanced with this technology.

Two areas where **computer navigation** can be especially helpful is in the training of new total joint surgeons, and in dealing with altered anatomy from either injury or disease.

Many hospitals are currently in the process of making **computer navigation** available in their operating rooms, and its availability could be universal within the next ten years.

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