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Minimally Invasive Total Hip & Knee Replacement

Minimally invasive Surgery (MIS) has become a buzzword in many surgical specialties. This is no less the case in orthopedics with respect to **total hip** and **total knee replacement** surgery. As with many things that come on the scene rapidly and with much media attention one is left to try and decipher what is of genuine benefit to the patient, and what is merely taking advantage of a marketing opportunity.

It can be said categorically that the techniques of **minimally invasive total hip and total knee replacement** entered into general orthopedic practice long before these techniques had been fully perfected and evaluated. Early results have shown an increase in complication and failure rates with these procedures. Many of the problems encountered were felt to be directly correlated to decreased visualization in the operative field afforded by these techniques.

Although purported to return patients functionality more quickly and with less pain, results of studies comparing minimally invasive **total hip and total knee replacement** surgery to "classic" replacement surgery have shown no statistically significant difference between the two procedures with respect to these parameters.

Does that mean that there will be no place for minimally invasive total hip and total knee replacement surgery in the future? I think that most definitely there WILL be a role for these techniques in the future especially as we see the advancement of computer navigation come to the aid of MIS and provide "restoration" of the visualization currently compromised with these procedures.

It is my practice to provide my patients with a customized surgical procedure and approach based on individual patient factors utilizing the least invasive approach that will accommodate the patient's anatomy, preserve soft tissue integrity, and meet the patient's long term functional expectations.

Phillip M. Graehl, M.D.