

Patient information

Journey II Total Knee Replacement

Trauma and Orthopaedics

Your surgeon has recommended you have a total knee replacement. Having gone through the various options, the one that has been recommended for you is the Journey II total knee replacement and this document explains what this is.

Why are there different types of knee replacements?

There are over 60 types of knee replacements available in the UK and most look and act in a similar to each other. They all work very well and last a long time, if they are looked after. The type a patient gets may depend on the requirements for that patient, preference of the surgeon, or the particular hospital, but basically they all work well. It's a bit like choosing a car – there are many different types and you choose one that best suits you.

How long does a knee replacement last?

Because many knee replacements have been around for many years, we know how long they last on average and can give that information to patients. There are lots of studies which show that over 95% of patients will have a knee replacement that lasts for at least ten years and perhaps longer. Most knee replacements available in the UK have data to prove they last that long and some last much longer. However, if a replacement is new then we don't have as much information available on how long it will last. This is the position with the Journey II replacement as it has only been available since 2013, so we only have five years of data. This means we don't have data to prove what percentage of patients will have a Journey II that lasts over ten years.

So why are you offering me this replacement?

All knee replacements were new at some time, hence we didn't have long term data to prove how good they were; the Journey II is at that stage. It has been designed to reproduce the way a knee works more accurately and looks like many other types of new replacements. We are confident that it will do very well in the long term but we simply can't prove it yet. We wouldn't offer it to you as a patient if we had concerns about it lasting.

Do you have any old data that may predict how it will do?

Before the Journey II came on the market, there was a Journey BCS knee replacement which stopped being manufactured in 2013. Overall it did very well but there were a few patients who had dislocations of the knee. This was due to the size of the peg on the plastic insert within the knee.

When the Journey II came onto the market in 2013, the peg was increased in size and there have been no dislocations recorded since. No patient in Liverpool has had a dislocation with the Journey II.

If you assess the data and remove those who had a dislocation in the old Journey BCS then the success rate is as good for the Journey II as with any other knee replacement that is available.

I've heard that surgeons don't always operate on the kneecap, why is that?

When a knee replacement is inserted, the surgeon has to decide whether or not to put a plastic button on the kneecap or patella. About half of surgeons in the UK do and about half don't and it depends on the type of knee replacement used and what the patient's patella is like. Sometimes, if a plastic button has not been used, the patella may wear down in the future and the patient needs a plastic button put on at a later date which means another operation. We have reviewed all the data and have decided that **all** patients who have a Journey II knee replacement will have a plastic button on their kneecap at the time of their operation so there is no risk of needing it in the future.

I've heard it is made of a different type of metal, why?

The Journey II replacement is made of Zirconium which is a very hard metal that acts like a ceramic. Most knee replacements are made of Cobalt Chrome and Titanium which are not as hard. Zirconium has been used in knee replacements for many years and two others, the Genesis II and Profix knee replacements, have excellent results when made of Zirconium. In fact we have published papers in the medical literature which shows the excellent outcome of Zirconium knee replacements in patients in Liverpool.

How do you keep an eye on how the Journey II is doing?

We believe strongly in following up patients and constantly checking how they do and we do this for **all** knee replacements that we offer. First of all, we collect scores of how you are doing – these are the questions we ask you like can you walk up and down stairs or can you carry shopping bags? These are collected in the department registry which is used to assess data and helped with the publications mentioned above. Secondly, all patients are asked to give consent for their data to be added to The National Joint Registry (www.njrcentre.org.uk) which independently assesses the outcomes of all hip, knee, shoulder, elbow and ankle replacements in the UK.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, we ask patients to consent for their data to be added to Beyond Compliance (www.beyondcompliance.org.uk) which specifically looks at how new implants, such as the Journey II, are doing and feeds back to surgeons the good and bad points on any particular one. The surgeons in The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals have been working very closely with Beyond Compliance to make sure that Journey II data is complete and we know how well it is doing. We can give you any data you wish.

What happens if there is a problem with my knee replacement?

Obviously, we hope nothing will go wrong with your knee and it will work very well for many years. Unfortunately, problems can arise. Many of these are nothing to do with the type of replacement such as getting an infection, a clot, an issue with bleeding or injury to nerves or blood vessels. These will be dealt with by the surgeons in whatever way is necessary. If you have a complication that requires a further operation then we will do whatever is required and be honest with you if we thought that was related to the type of implant – that is the same for any operation you undergo in this hospital.

What happens if I don't want a Journey II replacement?

If you decide that this type is not the best for you then we will offer you another type. You don't have to give a reason and you will get the same high quality of care that you expect. The same surgeon will do another type of replacement for you and go through any difference you may expect.

What happens if I have any further questions?

If at any time you are unsure of anything, want to ask more questions or to see any data, we will either see you in clinic to go through it with you or arrange for it to be given to you.

Further Information

Please don't hesitate to contact us via the orthopaedic administration office on Tel: 0151 706 2295.

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2295

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