



Partial Knee Replacement (PKR)

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> About this leaflet

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide information about unicompartmental knee replacement (UKR). It explains what the procedure involves, how it differs from a total knee replacement, and the possible benefits and risks. It also outlines what to expect from your surgery, including the day surgery pathway at NHS Golden Jubilee, to help you feel informed and prepared for your treatment.

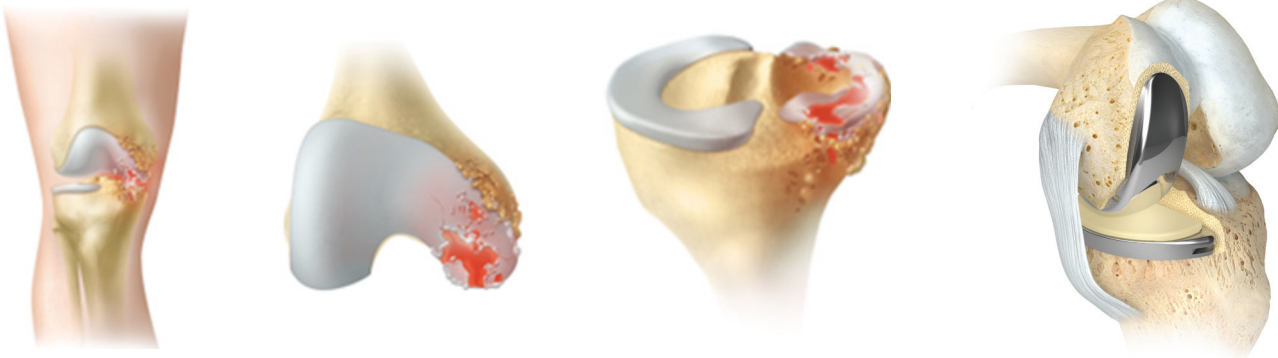
> What is a partial knee replacement?

The knee joint has 3 compartments:

- Medial – the inside part of the knee
- Lateral – the outside part of the knee
- Patellofemoral – the front of the knee (behind the kneecap)

If arthritis affects only one of these compartments, you may be offered a partial knee replacement (PKR).

During a PKR, only the affected compartment is replaced, a smaller incision can be used and healthy bone, cartilage and ligaments are kept. Modern techniques often means patients can often go home on the same day as their operation.



Images: Zimmer Biomet (mymobility app)

> How is PKR different from a Total Knee Replacement (TKR)?

Total knee replacement replaces all 3 compartments of the knee (occasionally including resurfacing under the kneecap). A partial knee replacement replaces only the damaged compartment. Occasionally during surgery, more widespread arthritis is found than was seen on X-ray. In these cases, a TKR may be performed instead. For this reason, consent is taken for both procedures before surgery.

> Advantages

- Faster recovery
- Shorter hospital stay (often with same-day discharge)
- Less pain after surgery
- Less blood loss
- Lower risk of infection and blood clots
- More natural-feeling knee movement
- Greater range of movement

> Risks and complications

As with any surgery, there are risks. These may include:

- Residual pain - this is the same for PKR and TKR
- Infection
- Blood clots (deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism)
- Implant loosening or wearing over time
- Fracture during or after surgery
- Rare injury to nerves or blood vessels

There is a slightly higher re-operation rate for PKR - 5% vs 3% for TKR.

> Day surgery pathway

At NHS Golden Jubilee, we aim to perform most PKRs as day surgery. This means you come into hospital, have your surgery, and go home later the same day once it is safe to do so.

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