

PYROCARBON PROXIMAL INTER-PHALANGEAL JOINT REPLACEMENT (PIP joint replacement)

Joint replacement for the PIP joint of the finger may be appropriate when there is a significant loss of motion unresponsive to other treatment, loss of hand function or pain. Joint replacement is suitable when the smooth surfaces of the finger joint have been destroyed by arthritis. For appropriately selected patients this operation is likely to reduce pain and improve hand function.

Mr Ian Grant's prefers to use the Ascension™ pyrocarbon replacement joint. This is he believes at present the prosthesis most biologically and biomechanically compatible with the hand, and has an acceptable durability.

Joint replacement in the finger requires meticulous surgical technique and a significant commitment to hand therapy by the patient. The surgery itself can be done as a day-case procedure under a general or regional anaesthetic.

POST SURGICAL CARE

The post-operative hand therapy regime begins with the therapist on the 4th day after surgery. To achieve excellent results the patient may be required to continue exercises unsupervised for up to three months. Mr Ian Grant recommends that patients visit www.asensionortho.com to down-load the therapy protocol before surgery. Post-operative consultations will be arranged with Mr Ian Grant usually at two weeks, six weeks, and twelve weeks after surgery.

RISKS

There are risks associated with surgery, these include infection, stiffness, loosening of the prosthesis and fracture of the bone. These risks are small but real and should be considered before embarking on surgery.

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