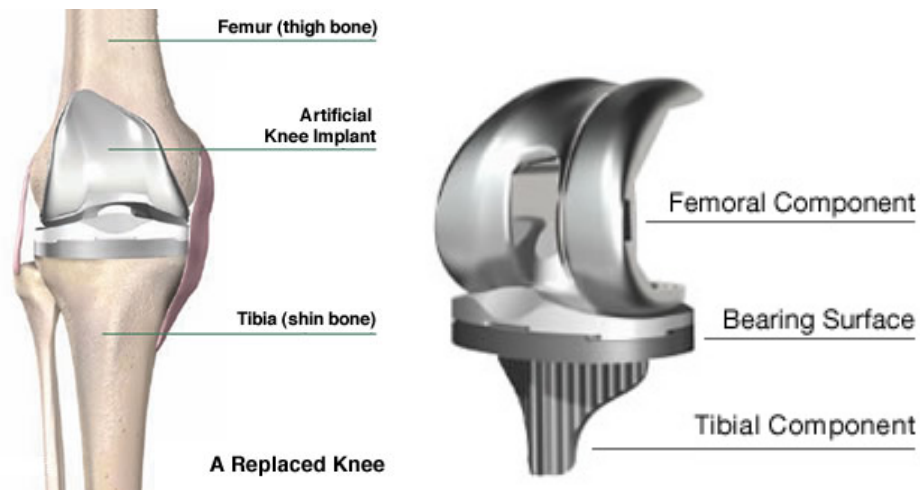


## Dr Sarah Watts Total Knee Replacement –Surgical and Consent Information



Total knee replacement (TKR) is usually done for arthritis in the knee joint that is getting worse and is no longer responding to other treatments. It is an operation to try and improve knee pain.

The operation involves surgical removal of the knee joint, and replacing it with an artificial joint (metal and plastic). Bone cement usually used to fix the joint. Your surgeon will select and discuss with you the most suitable type of prosthesis for your knee condition.

The benefit of having this procedure is for an improvement in pain. It usually makes it possible to resume activity that could not be done prior to surgery. Without the operation, pain may go on to become so severe that everyday activities (showering, walking, shopping, gardening, stairs) may be difficult to perform, or do alone.

There are risks associated with this procedure. These include but are not limited to the following:

### General risks

- infection requiring treatment
- bleeding complications requiring a return to theatre, or blood transfusion
- small areas of lung can collapse after anaesthetic
- other anaesthetic risks
- heart attack or stroke
- other medical complications - unspecified
- blood clots in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. This clot may break off and travel to the lungs- pulmonary embolus (PE).
- increased risk in the overweight of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications and DVT/thrombosis.
- death is possible as a result of this procedure

### Specific risks of this procedure

- Severe infection - this may require antibiotics, further surgery and possibly the artificial joint to be removed. In severe cases amputation may be necessary.

- The artificial joint may fail, break, or wear out. Surgical revision may be required.
- There can be unexpected or unpredicted mechanical problems with artificial joints. These include local wear problems, as well as systemic body effects.
- The artificial joint may dislocate, requiring surgical reduction, revision or treatment
- The bone/s may break during or after surgery. Further surgical treatment may be required.
- Numbness around the incision. This may be temporary or permanent
- Damage to the peroneal nerve at the knee. This may be temporary or permanent. Damage to the nerve may causing pain or numbness, and loss of foot and leg movements (foot drop). This causes difficulty in walking, sitting and moving.
- Damage to the blood vessel behind the knee requiring surgery or amputation
- Stiffness of the knee, making it hard to bend the knee. Sometimes a manipulation or further surgery is required.
- Scar healing abnormalities. This may result in a thick red painful scar
- Delayed infection to the prosthesis via the bloodstream. This can happen anytime in the future after a joint replacement. To prevent this you need to have antibiotics before other procedures and dental work.
- Persistent pain even with a knee replacement. There is an incidence of ongoing severe knee pain, even with a total knee replacement.
- There is the possibility of needing a second, third or multiple knee revision surgeries in my lifetime.