



**Knox
Orthopaedic
Group**

262 Mountain Highway
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KNEE JOINT REPLACEMENT FAQ'S INFORMATION SHEET

The following are answers to our most frequently asked questions:

•TED STOCKINGS

TED stockings are prescribed for you to wear for 4 weeks postoperatively. These are usually a below knee heavy weight stocking that helps prevent clots forming in your calf. These will be put on your legs immediately postop whilst you are in hospital.

•CAR TRAVEL

Short trips are a good idea for car travel.

•DRIVING

If you have had a left knee replacement then you can commence driving an automatic car once you can sit comfortably in the vehicle. If you have a manual car or you have had your right knee operated on you should not drive until you have good control of the knee. In other words you should be able to walk well without walking aids and be able to bend the knee to at least a right angle.

•CRUTCHES

These are required for several weeks following the surgery, although it is acceptable if you are comfortable on one crutch or walking stick.

•WEIGHT BEARING

As tolerated or when you are comfortable taking weight through your operated side.

•EXERCISING

It is important to continue with straight leg raising exercises and knee bends as much as possible. Swimming is allowed once the wound has healed.

Bike Riding: An exercise bike can be used once the knee bends to a right angle and bike riding once the patient is able to walk without crutches.

•SHOWERING

You may find a shower stool or plastic chair in the shower recess beneficial in the early stages.

• SLEEPING POSITION

You may sleep in any position, as long as you do not put a pillow under your knee.

• BENDING

The knee can be bent as much as possible after knee surgery.

Mr Anthony Dunin

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*Specialising in hip & knee
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Provider No: 274316L

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• SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

This is usually best avoided for the first 6 weeks.

• GARDENING

Kneeling can be difficult after knee replacement surgery and approximately 50% of patients will have ongoing difficulty permanently.

• DENTAL WORK

Make your dentist aware that you have had a total joint replacement. Antibiotic cover will be required for more major dental surgery. This is to prevent the prosthesis becoming infected.

• WOUND CARE

The dressing will be removed at 2 weeks postoperatively. You can now shower with the wound normally. There will be some steristrips over the wound. Once they become a little loose you can peel them off after the 2 week mark. There are no sutures to be removed, the sutures you have are dissolvable. There is no need for any further dressing.

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