

DR. DANIEL WEBER  
SURGICAL RISKS OF KNEE REPLACEMENTS

Below we have outlined a list of risks that are commonly associated the knee replacement surgery. We ask that you review it carefully and sign on the bottom to acknowledge that you understand each point. If you have any questions about these or other risks, please feel free to ask Dr. Daniel Weber or call his assistant, George Cloud, at 708-799-1144.

This list is not a complete or exhaustive list, but rather an attempt to inform you of the most common problems that arise with this type of surgery.

If you have a significant medical condition such as heart disease, diabetes, circulatory or respiratory problems, etc..., or are having revision surgery, all these risks may significantly increase. You should consult your medical doctor or cardiologist about your medical condition and your medical risks before any major surgery.

**Risks of knee replacement surgery include, but are not limited to:**

- 1. Heart attack**
- 2. Stroke**
- 3. Death**
- 4. Blood clots (despite the use of preventive blood thinners)**
- 5. Pulmonary embolus (blood clots traveling to the lungs)**
- 6. Excessive stiffness/loss of motion**
- 7. Infection**
- 8. Instability (“wobbly knee”)**
- 9. Patellar complication (failure of the bone in the knee cap)**
- 10. Nerve injury**
- 11. Premature cement failure**
- 12. Failure of bone in growth of the implants**
- 13. Development of progressive arthritis in the unreplaced compartments of the knee ( for unicompartmental knee replacement surgery)**

**Unexpected reactions to anesthesia include, but are not limited to:**

- 1. Allergy to a drug or drugs used**
- 2. Nerve injury**
- 3. Death**

The overall success rate of knee replacement surgeries is greater than 95%, with patients indicating decreased pain and better function after surgery. For revision surgeries, the overall success rate is greater than 80%.