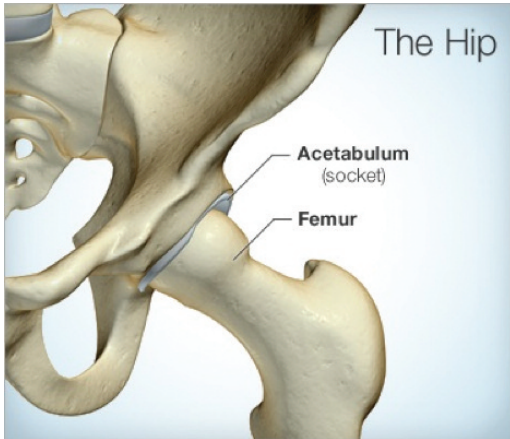


# Hip Arthroscopy



## When is it Time to Think About Surgery?

Your hip is the joint where your thigh bone meets your pelvis. It is called a ball-and-socket joint, because the ball-like top of your thigh bone (femur) fits into a cup-like area (acetabulum) within your pelvis, much like a baseball fits into a glove. The labrum is a rim of soft tissue or fibrocartilage that surrounds the acetabulum (hip socket). The labrum adds to the stability of the hip by deepening the socket and protecting the joint surface.

Normally, the ball glides smoothly within the socket, but a problem with the ball or socket rim can interfere with smooth motion. This problem can cause femoroacetabular impingement also referred to as hip impingement.

The main symptoms are stiffness in the groin or front of the thigh and/or a loss of your hip's full range of motion. At first, you may only feel pain when you move the hip near its limits. As the condition progresses, however, you may feel pain with more subtle activities, such as sitting for a long time or walking up a hill. Pain that occurs at night or when walking on flat ground suggests that the cartilage cushioning the ball and socket has begun to break down and wear away, a condition known as osteoarthritis.

Treatment for hip impingement starts with conservative measures such as rest, activity modification, physical therapy and the use of anti-inflammatory medications. Diagnosis and need for surgery will be based on the description of your symptoms, a physical exam, response to conservative treatments, and the findings of imaging tests such as an x-ray, MRI or CT scan. Hip arthroscopy can be used for the diagnosis of unexplained hip pain or commonly for the treatment of hip impingement and its associated conditions such as labral tears and cartilage abnormalities.

## About the Surgery

Hip arthroscopy refers to the viewing of the interior of the hip joint through an arthroscope using 2-4 very small incisions, each approximately ½" in length. The procedure is performed under general anesthesia as an outpatient. The procedure can take 2-3 hours. The arthroscope allows the physician to see inside the hip joint, diagnose and possibly correct any conditions he may find. If the affected hip has minimal cartilage damage, the surgeon may use tools to reshape the ball and/or the outside edge of the socket that is catching on the thigh bone. Conditions such as labral tears require a more extensive technique allowing the labrum to be reattached to the acetabulum (socket).

Once you are awake and taking fluids, the IV will be removed and you will be allowed to go home.

## Preparing for Surgery

You will have pre-admission testing done before your surgery to ensure that you are healthy enough for the planned procedure. Testing may include lab work, an EKG and a chest x-ray. Medications that increase your risk for bleeding

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should be stopped prior to surgery. Your medication list will be reviewed with one of our nurses and you will be advised as to which medications need to be stopped and when. Prescription blood thinners can only be stopped under the approval of the physician who is prescribing them for you. Our nurse will provide you with a prescription for crutches or a walker for use after surgery, please bring either crutches or a walker with you the day of surgery.

### What to Expect After Surgery/Recovery Period

Corrective repairs that may have been performed during the arthroscopy would require you to be non-weight bearing for 3 weeks following the procedure. This would require strict use of crutches or a walker for 3 weeks to allow the repairs to heal. Your physician will advise you about your weight bearing status before you go home.

If you have a labor intensive job that includes heavy lifting, squatting or running, you may have restrictions for up to 3 months after your surgery.

It is normal to experience mild swelling around the hip, pain around the incisions or stiffness of hip after arthroscopic surgery.

Physical therapy typically starts 1-2 weeks after surgery and will continue for several months.

### Complications and Risks of Surgery

**Blood clots:** Symptoms of clotting include pain, swelling or redness of your calf or thigh. Call the office immediately if you develop any of these symptoms or go to the emergency room if it is a weekend. If you experience sudden and severe shortness of breath, go to the emergency room or call 911. Walk every hour during the daytime. Patients who are immobile for prolonged periods of time are at a higher risk of blood clots.

**Infection:** Infection is rare, but can occur following surgery. You are at a higher risk of infection if you have diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic liver or kidney disease or if you are taking steroids. Symptoms include fever or chills, foul smelling drainage, increasing redness or increasing pain at the incision sites. Call the office immediately if any of the symptoms occur, or go to the emergency room if it is a weekend.

**Anesthesia:** Respiratory failure, shock, cardiac arrest and death are always possible during surgery. Patients with long-term kidney, heart, liver or lung disease are at a higher risk. Nausea and vomiting from anesthesia is not uncommon. Coughing/deep breathing exercises and drinking plenty of fluids help to remove the anesthesia gases from your system.

**Nerve damage:** Damage to the nerves surrounding your hip are rare but can occur. Notify your surgeon if numbness or tingling is prolonged or worsens after surgery.

**Bleeding:** Trauma to the arteries and veins surrounding your hip is rare, but may occur. It is common for some bruising and swelling around the hip after surgery. Bright red bloody drainage from the incisions that cannot be stopped with compression, should be reported to our office or go to the emergency room if it is a weekend.

**Persistent pain:** Not all hip pain can be addressed with surgery, it is possible that you will not be completely pain free after surgery.

Nurses are available to answer medical related questions from 8:00am – 4:45pm Monday-Friday. If you have a medical related question before surgery or a concern following surgery, please do not hesitate to call the nurse. She can be reached by calling the main office number and following the prompts to speak with the phone nurse.

### Hip Arthroscopy Post-op Instructions

Your surgical dressing can be removed 48 hours after surgery and you may shower. Please do not take a bath or go into a pool or hot tub. Do not apply lotion or neosporin to your incisions. Please allow incisions to air dry well after showering and cover the incisions with bandaids if they are draining. Please be sure to call our office the day after surgery to schedule a follow-up appointment with your physician if one was not scheduled prior to surgery.

You will be provided with a prescription for pain medication before you go home. Please call the prescription line at our office for any pain medication refills 2 business days before your medication is gone.

After surgery you will need to avoid any deep flexion of the hip, squatting, heavy lifting, running, or any strenuous activities until instructed by your physician.