New Options In Knee Replacement Surgery

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SARASOTA, Fla., June 20, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- With a variety of knee replacement surgical options, there's no reason to put up with persistent knee pain. "Knee replacement should be considered when the quality of one's life becomes increasingly compromised by the condition of the knee," said Ronald P. White, M.D., a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon at Kennedy-White Orthopaedic Center in Sarasota, Florida. "We have many new options in knee replacement surgery."

One example is gender specific knee replacement for women, according to White, who specializes in hip and knee reconstructive surgery and has designed knee replacements used in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. "In addition, we use patient-specific implants when there is significant bony deformity," he added.

That customized approach to knee replacement surgery is essential because each patient is different, said White who normally performs more than 200 knee procedures a year. For example, a partial knee replacement can correct a painful condition that is limited to just one compartment of the knee. Other patients with rheumatoid arthritis throughout the joint might be candidates for a total replacement of one or both knees.

Each year, about 270,000 knee replacement procedures are performed in the U.S., according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). In each case, surgeons open the knee and implant prosthetic devices to relieve pain and provide greater freedom of movement. Designed for durability, the prosthetic devices can last more than 15-20 years in most patients.

About 70 percent of knee replacements involve patients over age 65, although there has been an increase in procedures in younger adults. "There has been an increased acceptance of the partial knee replacement," White said. "We use minimally invasive techniques to spare the muscles around the knee, an approach that protects the tendons as well."

Along with improved
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