



Minimally Invasive Shoulder Replacement Surgery

While there is typically nothing “minimal” about shoulder replacement surgery, there is now a new prosthesis that may be very helpful for certain patients who have shoulder arthritis or avascular necrosis of the humerus. For certain patients it is preferable to replace only the covering of the ball of the shoulder ball and socket joint rather than both parts. This is partial shoulder replacement or hemiarthroplasty. The surgery and the incision is much the same as traditional shoulder replacement with the exception that less bone is removed and only the surface of the humeral head is replaced. Candidates for this type of surgery include:

- Younger more active patients with arthritis
- Patients who have an irreparable rotator cuff tear and arthritis
- Patients who have damage to the humeral head from an injury
- Patients who have avascular necrosis of the humerus

The risks and complications of surgery are the same as those for traditional shoulder surgery. They include; infection, stiffness of the shoulder, the risks associated with general anesthesia, continuation of pain or problems which may require further surgery.

For additional information on shoulder replacement surgery, please [click here](#).

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