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Shoulder replacement surgery is becoming more common

Three years ago, JOINTS thought it was just a matter of time before shoulder surgery itself would become a "fad," but it was a brave new world of surgical intervention. As surgeons, we were only in the nascent stages of understanding how to perform shoulder replacement surgery. In the months after the procedure was first introduced, many were skeptical of its use. Doctors were familiar with the procedure, but were not yet convinced that it was the best option for patients. Shoulder replacement surgery is now considered a viable option for treating a variety of shoulder conditions, and is being performed at an increasing rate. The procedure is performed by making a small incision in the shoulder, removing the damaged cartilage, and replacing it with a metal prosthesis. In the past, a shoulder replacement was not considered an option because the patient was too young, or they had a history of smoking or other health problems. Today, shoulder replacement surgery is an accepted and effective treatment for a wide range of shoulder conditions.

By Bruce Jansen

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