

KNEE ARTHROSCOPY

Patient Information

PROCEDURE

A general anaesthetic is given. A telescope and instruments are passed into the knee joint through small cuts over the knee.

GENERAL RISKS OF A PROCEDURE

They include:

- (a) Small areas of the lungs may collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- (b) Clots in the legs with pain and swelling. Rarely part of this clot may break off and go to the lungs which can be fatal.
- (c) A heart attack because of strain on the heart or a stroke.
- (d) Death is possible due to the procedure.

RISKS OF THIS PROCEDURE

There are some risks/ complications, which include:

- (a) Numbness associated with the use of tourniquet with nerve and muscle damage at the site where the tourniquet was placed. This may be temporary or permanent.
- (b) Skin death under the tourniquet, which may require further dressings and / or surgery and skin grafting.
- (c) Breakage of instruments during the surgery. This may need the joint to be surgically opened to have them removed.
- (d) Damage to other structures inside the knee, which may or may not cause ongoing problems.
- (e) Infection in the knee. This may need further surgery and treatment with antibiotics.
- (f) Pain and symptoms may persist due to the underlying disorder. These may be temporary or permanent.
- (g) Abnormal pain response to surgery with worsening of pain and disability.
- (h) The surgical cut may cause changes to the sensation and colour of the limb.
- (i) In some people, healing of the wound may be abnormal and the wound can be thickened and red and the scar may be painful.
- (j) Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.
- (k) Increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.