

A Patient's Guide to **Arthritis**



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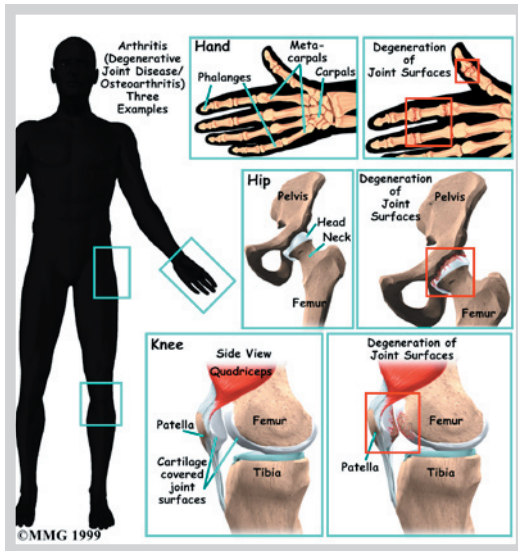
Welcome to the Zehr Center for Orthopaedics in Naples, FL where we strive every day to make a difference in the lives of our patients. Our orthopaedic practice is decidedly preferred by patients with difficulties affecting their HIPS and KNEES, as these are the problem focused areas where we have our most extensive experience.

Philosophically, we want you to know that the hallmark virtues upon which our practice is founded "Wisdom, Integrity, Experience and Compassion" Inspire each member of the patient care team to reach beyond themselves to provide you the highest quality in patient care, prudent counsel, clinical expertise and most importantly-- true concern for YOU, our patient, for whom we are honored to care.

Our founder, Robert J. Zehr, MD, has dedicated his professional education and career to the research, understanding and care of some of the most complex orthopaedic problems in the field including primary and revision total joint replacement, as well as, skeletal reconstruction associated with tumors and fractures.

With the experience of over 6000 primary, revision and complex joint reconstructions to call upon, Dr. Zehr brings the most up to date surgical techniques, patient safety and knowledge of rehabilitation to each patient's surgical problem. In addition, his mastery of minimally invasive surgical techniques, rapid recovery rehab protocols and shortened hospital stays has resulted in greatly improved surgical outcomes, fewer complications and highly satisfied patients. It is our great privilege to serve you!

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What Is Arthritis?

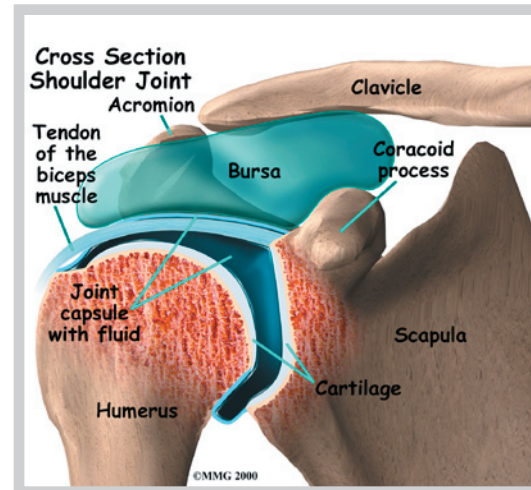
Arthritis means *inflammation of the joints*. Inflammation generally includes symptoms of redness, heat, swelling, and pain. Many different diseases can result in inflammation of the joints. Arthritis is therefore a general term that describes more than one hundred different diseases of the joints of your body.

In some types of arthritis, the cause of the disease is known, but in others it is still unknown. Some types of arthritis come on suddenly, and others develop slowly. Any joint can be affected, including your knees, hips, neck, shoulders, and fingers.

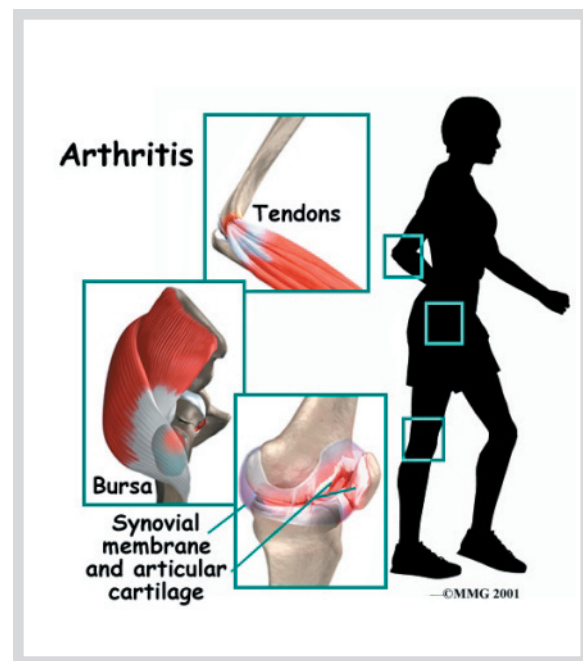
The diseases that cause arthritis can also attack muscle and connective tissue around joints. Some diseases may even damage other organs of the body, such as the kidneys, intestines, and heart. Because the diseases inflame the joints, most arthritic conditions and related diseases involve *chronic* (long-term) pain. Over time, they may cause increasing damage to the joints or soft tissues of your body.

Your joints are beautifully designed to minimize stress and damage while you move. Nearly all joints of the body are *synovial* joints. Most synovial joints occur where two

bones come together and must rub against one another to allow motion. Smooth, slick *articular cartilage* covers the end of the bones



so they don't rub together. *Synovial fluid* lubricates the joint. Around the joint, connective tissue forms a watertight sack that is called the *joint capsule*. Small, fluid-filled sacks, called *bursae*, cushion parts of the joint. *Ligaments* connect the bones together and *tendons* connect the muscles to bones. A problem with any one of these parts can lead to joint pain and inflammation—arthritis.



Many people of all ages suffer from arthritis. It is estimated that forty million Americans--

that's one in seven of us--have arthritis. Almost two-thirds of arthritis patients are women, but for some types of arthritis most sufferers are men.

Arthritis and related diseases are often painful to live with and difficult to treat. But your doctor can help you find treatment and pain management strategies that work for you. The method of treatment will vary depending on the specific disease.

Notes