

Excellence Certificate Awarded MCM's Total Hip & Knee Replacement Center

Only Hospital in Dallas & Collin County To Be Awarded This Recognition

Thousands of Metroplex-area residents wake up each morning with stiff, sore, worn-out hip and knee joints. Now, one area hospital-based hip and knee replacement program can boast the Gold Seal of Approval™ certification from The Joint Commission—Medical Center of McKinney.

In February, The Joint Commission conducted an extensive, on-site evaluation to review MCM's Joint Replacement program's processes, and its ability to evaluate and improve care within its own organization and interviews with patients and staff.

"This certification means Medical Center of McKinney does the right things and does them well for knee and hip replacement patients," said Jean E Range, MS, RN, CPHQ, executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

"Not only do we have an excellent program, but our facilities are excellent and our outcomes are magnificent," said Charles Toulson, MD, medical director, orthopedic services. "This certification tells our patients that our surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, therapists and care team are the best—our patients will know that they are getting the best care available, right here in McKinney.

Our operating rooms are equipped with the latest joint replacement equipment and our staff is specially selected and trained to help patients achieve the best outcomes possible. So, patients don't have to leave the community for larger hospitals to receive excellent orthopedic and joint replacement care."

The hospital has pursued a comprehensive approach to joint treatment including developing a Joint Replacement

Center that encompasses a variety of treatment modalities including minimally-invasive procedures such as partial knee replacement, hip resurfacing, and outpatient hip replacement.

Not all patients are candidates for minimally invasive procedures. Patients, in consultation with their physician, agree on the most appropriate treatment for their joint issue based on their individual situations.

In older patients, osteoarthritis, sometimes called degenerative joint disease, is often the cause of hip and knee problems. When osteoarthritis occurs it causes cartilage, the cushion around the ends of bones in joints, to break down, resulting in bone rubbing on bone. This rubbing can cause bone damage and joints can become extremely painful.

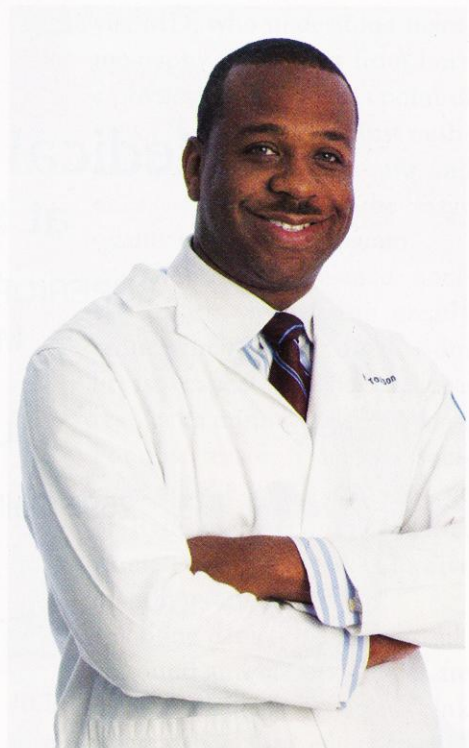
Hip resurfacing arthroplasty and partial knee replacement surgery are offered by MCM and are relatively new approaches for treating hip and knee joint problems. Uni-compartmental knee arthroplasty (partial knee replacement surgery) involves the surgeon replacing the part of the knee that is defective and leaving the unaffected part of the knee in place.

"This surgery has created quite a bit of interest because it uses a smaller incision which results in faster recovery time than traditional total joint replacement surgery," explains Dr. Toulson. "In fact, we have patients up and walking within hours of their surgery. Good candidates for partial knee replacement surgery are those over 55 years of age who are not obese and who have no ligament damage. Unfortunately, many patients present with such advanced arthritis, they are not candidates for the partial knee replacement. In these cases, total knee replacement is still a valid option." Total knee

replacement surgery continues to be the most frequently performed joint replacement surgery at the hospital.

"Medical Center of McKinney voluntarily pursued the comprehensive, independent evaluation by The Joint Commission to enhance the safety and quality of care we provide," said Ernest C. Lynch, III, president and CEO of MCM. "We're proud to achieve this distinction." **S**

If you think joint replacement surgery might be what you need, talk to your doctor or call 972-540-4941.



Dr Charles Toulson, with specialty training in minimally invasive surgery and hip resurfacing, completed a fellowship in Joint Replacement and Reconstruction at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Cornell University, New York, New York.