

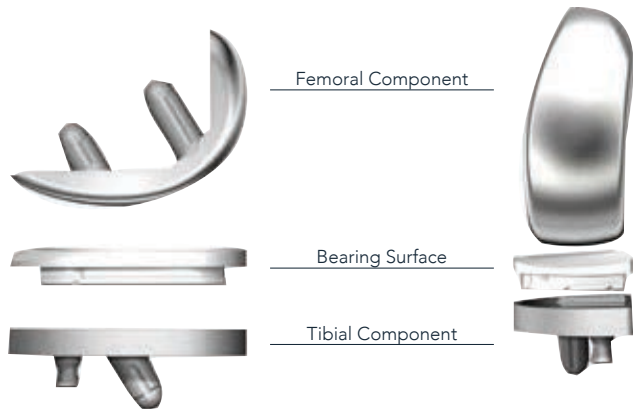
Partial Knee Replacement (Resurfacing)

Unicondylar Knee Replacement (UKR) Patellofemoral Replacement (PFR)

There are three compartments in a knee joint: a medial and lateral compartment between the ends of the femur (thigh) and tibia (shin) bones and a third compartment behind your kneecap. If only one of the compartments in your knee joint is affected by arthritis, then I can resurface just that one compartment, leaving the other two healthy compartments alone. This is called a partial knee replacement (resurfacing).

Patellar Button (Bearing Surface)

Femoral Component



Femoral Component

Bearing Surface

Tibial Component

When it involves the medial or lateral compartment between the femur and tibia bones it is called a unicondylar knee replacement (UKR). When it is the compartment behind the kneecap, it is called a patellofemoral replacement (PFR). The terms replacement and arthroplasty are often used interchangeably.

UKR and PFR can provide durable pain relief and many patients feel like they still have their own knee because we only resurfaced one compartment. In appropriately selected patients, UKR and PFR have an excellent long term track record, but still not quite as good as a full knee replacement because the compartments that are

not resurfaced will often wear out over time and cause pain again. If this happens, then the UKR or PFR is removed and converted to a full knee replacement, which can be done with excellent results.



I evaluate each of my patients to determine which procedure may be best for you. Currently, less than 10 percent of my patients are candidates for PKR as over 90 percent already have advanced arthritis affecting more than one compartment.