Your guide to understanding

Comprehensive Reverse Shoulder replacement

This brochure will help you understand basic shoulder anatomy, reasons for reverse shoulder replacement surgery, the Comprehensive Reverse Shoulder System from Biomet, the surgical procedure, and what to expect after surgery. This brochure is for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace the expert guidance of your orthopedic surgeon.

Any questions or concerns you may have should be directed to your orthopedic surgeon.

The Healthy Shoulder

The shoulder joint consists of the head of the humerus (upper arm bone) and the scapula (shoulder blade). The head of the humerus moves against the scapula in a shallow socket called the glenoid, much like a golf ball on a tee. The glenoid's smaller size allows the wide range of motion in a healthy shoulder.

The surfaces of the humerus and glenoid are covered with lubricating tissue called cartilage, which provides the shoulder joint frictionless, pain-free movement. The combination of the muscles and tendons in the shoulder is called the rotator cuff. The rotator cuff is located under part of the scapula and provides stability to the joint during a variety of arm movements.

Rotator Cuff Tear

If you are a potential candidate for reverse shoulder replacement, you may be suffering from pain as a result of a previous rotator cuff tear. A cuff-tear causes your shoulder joint to lose much of its natural support, leading to increased instability. Often, this results in the normal shoulder becoming destabilized, and moving out of socket completely. Over time, this instability leads to bone-on-bone contact, moderate to severe pain, and extremely limited mobility.

Comprehensive Reverse Shoulder Replacement

The word "replacement" makes one think that surgeons remove the entire shoulder. In truth, surgeons only replace the damaged bone and cartilage at the ends of the bones in the joint.

Reverse shoulder replacement has revolutionized the treatment of massive rotator cuff tears. The unique procedure reverses the anatomy of the shoulder. It is designed so that the ball is attached to the shoulder blade (scapula) and the socket is placed on top of the upper-arm bone (humerus). By reversing the normal anatomy, the deltoid muscle, one of the stronger shoulder muscles and the only abducting muscle remaining in the shoulder is given control to raise the arm.

The Comprehensive Reverse Shoulder implant from Biomet offers surgeons many options for restoring function and reducing pain. The shoulder system is the next generation reverse shoulder prosthesis, offering unmatched surgical flexibility for orthopedic surgeons.

Most candidates for reverse shoulder replacement are in extreme pain, have almost no shoulder mobility and have tried various treatment options, often times including primary shoulder replacement. Reverse shoulder replacement is intended to alleviate pain and improve mobility to the point of being able to perform activities of daily living (ADLs).

The goals of reverse shoulder replacement include:

- Pain relief
- Improved function