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Total Knee Replacement The Bryn Mawr Hospital Experience

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Total Knee Replacement: The Bryn Mawr Hospital Experience

The Orthopaedic Service at The Bryn Mawr Hospital has been active in the area of joint replacement surgery since the late 1960's. From that early beginning Bryn Mawr has developed into one of the major centers for joint replacement surgery in the Delaware Valley averaging, nearly five hundred joint replacements per year. The measure of any program is in the results of the patients undergoing the operation. These results are not just judged in the eyes of the physician but, perhaps more importantly, in the eyes of the patient. To this end the joint replacement program of The Bryn Mawr Hospital uses several mechanisms to ensure quality of care.

Every patient who undergoes a major joint replacement procedure is enrolled in The Hip & Knee Registry developed at The University of Massachusetts Medical School. Data is obtained on many parameters such as: demographics, diagnosis, comorbid conditions, details of the operative procedure, length of stay, complications, and the results of the operation. Patients are also asked to complete questionnaires designed to assess their perception of the experience and their level of satisfaction. This allows the joint replacement team and the individual physicians involved to continually monitor the results in comparison with other programs nationally. Bryn Mawr has consistently received high marks with patient satisfaction uniformly greater than 90 per cent.

Another way of monitoring quality involves the concept of "benchmarking". The total knee program of The Bryn Mawr Hospital recently participated in an independent review conducted by OR Benchmarks, Inc. Over the past five years in OR Benchmark studies, data have been submitted for a total of 880 total knee replacement cases. This includes length of the operation, turnover time between cases, cost of the operation, and other measures of efficiency. The Bryn Mawr Hospital was named as this year's "Best Performer" for total knee replacement in the study just completed by OR Benchmarks, Inc.

As other prominent national programs have found, the success of our efforts is largely attributable to the principle of a dedicated joint replacement team. This team concept is applied throughout the patient's experience. The joint replacements are performed in modern "clean air" operating rooms by a dedicated team of orthopaedic nurses, technicians, and physicians. After recovery from anesthesia the patients are then transferred to the Arthritis and Orthopaedic (A&O) Unit, a separate area of the hospital designed for the care of patients who have special musculoskeletal needs. The unit also has a separate physical therapy area to facilitate the post-operative rehabilitation. The nurses, aids, therapists, and social workers all cooperate to prepare the patient for discharge from the hospital so that they will be able to continue their recovery either at home or at another rehab center.

Bryn Mawr's unique position as a community based teaching hospital has served its constituents well. The Bryn Mawr Hospital was recently named to the HCIA-Sachs list of the Top 100 Hospitals in the United States. There is tremendous pressure on hospitals to watch the bottom line. Bryn Mawr has managed to remain fiscally stable without compromising the level of care provided.

Robert P. Good: Total Knee Replacement

The joint replacement program at The Bryn Mawr Hospital is committed to an ongoing process of quality monitoring and improvement to ensure that the care the patient receives is of the highest quality and delivered in a caring and cost effective environment.

About the Author

Robert P. Good, MD, is Chief of the Orthopaedic Surgery Service at The Bryn Mawr Hospital.