

Total Hip Replacement Exercise Guide

Regular exercises to restore your normal hip motion and strength and a gradual return to everyday activities are important for your full recovery. Your orthopaedic surgeon and physical therapist may recommend that you exercise 20 to 30 minutes 2 or 3 times a day during your early recovery. They may suggest some of the following exercises. This can help you better understand your exercise and activity program.

Early Postoperative Exercises

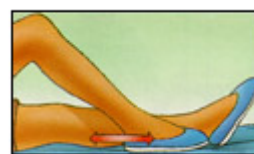
These exercises are important for increasing circulation to your legs and feet to prevent blood clots. They also are important to strengthen muscles and to improve your hip movement. You may begin these exercises in the recovery room shortly after surgery. It may feel uncomfortable at first but these exercises will speed your recovery and reduce your postoperative pain. These exercises should be done as you lie on your back with your legs spread slightly apart.



Ankle Pumps - Slowly push your foot up and down. Do this exercise several times as often as every 5 or 10 minutes. This exercise can begin immediately after surgery and continue until you are fully recovered.



Ankle Rotations - Move your ankle inward toward your other foot and then outward away from your other foot. Repeat 5 times in each direction 3 or 4 times a day.



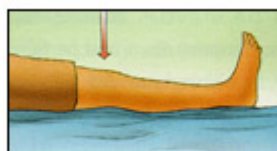
Bed-Supported Knee Bends - Slide your heel toward your buttocks, bending your knee and keeping your heel on the bed. Do not let your knee roll inward. Repeat 10 times 3 or 4 times a day.



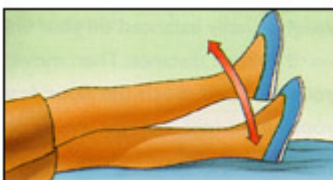
Buttock Contractions
Tighten buttock muscles and hold to a count of 5. Repeat 10 times 3 or 4 times a day.



Abduction Exercise
Slide your leg out to the side as far as you can and then back. Repeat 10 times 3 or 4 times a day.






Quad Set Tighten your thigh muscle. Try to straighten your knee. Hold for 5 to 10 seconds. Repeat this exercise 10 times during a 10-minute period. Continue until your thigh feels fatigued.



Straight Leg Raises - Tighten your thigh muscle with your knee fully straightened on the bed. As your thigh muscle tightens, lift your leg several inches off the bed. Hold for 5 to 10 seconds. Slowly lower. Repeat until your thigh feels fatigued.

Standing Exercises - Soon after your surgery, you will be out of bed and able to stand. You will require help since you may become dizzy the first several times you stand. As you regain your strength, you will be able to stand independently. While doing these standing exercises, make sure you are holding on to a firm surface such as a bar attached to your bed or a wall. Repeat the following exercises 10 times 3 or 4 times a day

	<p>Standing Knee Raises - Lift your operated leg toward your chest. Do not lift your knee higher than your waist. Hold for 2 or 3 counts and put your leg down</p>		<p>Standing Hip Abduction - Keep your body straight. With your knee straight, lift your leg out to the side. Hold for 2 or 3 counts and put your leg down</p>		<p>Standing Hip Extensions - Lift your operated leg backward slowly. Try to keep your back straight. Hold for 2 or 3 counts. Return your foot to the floor.</p>
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Walking and Early Activity

Soon after surgery, you will begin to walk short distances in your hospital room and perform light everyday activities. This early activity helps your recovery by helping your hip muscles regain strength and movement.

Walking with Walker Full Weight Bearing - Stand comfortably and erect with your weight evenly balanced on your walker or crutches. Move your walker or crutches forward a short distance. Then move forward, lifting your operated leg so that the heel of your foot will touch the floor first. As you move, your knee and ankle will bend and your entire foot will rest evenly on the floor. Move the walker again and your knee and hip will again reach forward for your next step. Remember, touch your heel first, then flatten your foot. Try to walk as smoothly as you can. Don't hurry. As your muscle strength and endurance improve, you may spend more time walking. Gradually, you will put more and more weight on your leg.

Walking with Cane or Crutch - A walker is often used first to help your balance and to avoid falls. A cane or a crutch is then used until your full strength and balance skills have returned. Use the cane or crutch in the hand opposite the operated hip. You are ready to use a cane or single crutch when you can stand and balance without your walker, when your weight is placed fully on both feet, and when you are no longer leaning on your hands while using your walker.



Stair Climbing and Descending - The ability to go up and down stairs requires both flexibility and strength. At first, you will need a handrail for support and you will only be able to go one step at a time. Always lead up the stairs with your good leg and down the stairs with your operated leg. Remember "up with the good" and "down with the bad." You may want to have someone help you until you have regained most of your strength and mobility. Stair climbing is an excellent strengthening and endurance activity. Do not try to climb steps higher than those of the standard height of seven inches and always use the handrail for balance.

Majority of the above information has been supplied by the American Academy of Orthopaedic surgeons and details are available on their web site at <http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/main.cfm>

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact.

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