

REVOLUTION in joint replacement

Orthopedic surgeon Douglas A. Dennis, MD, estimates he has performed more than 10,000 hip and knee replacements, spanning the past three decades. Throughout that time, he has completed research to help make the procedures more effective and has traveled abroad multiple times to perform hip and knee replacements in Asia, Europe, and Central America.



Dr. Douglas A. Dennis

We recently sat down with Dennis to ask him about exciting developments on the horizon.

“I truly believe five years from now, 70 percent of patients will be having outpatient joint replacements,” he says. Dennis credits improved surgical techniques, plus anesthetic and pain management methods for helping get patients up, moving, and out of the hospital much quicker — which also can help reduce the chance of infection.

“I’ve been doing this for 30 years and in my early years, patients were in the hospital for two weeks after a total hip or knee replacement,” he says. **“Today the majority of my patients are leaving the hospital the next day.”**

Individualizing the position that components are implanted is another advance that will provide patients with new joints that feel more natural. “Implanting the devices in the same position for every patient may not be the best,” Dennis says. “We already align knee implants based, in part, on the anatomy of the hip joint, and we’re starting to look at how an individual’s unique lumbar spine flexibility affects pelvic alignment to determine the best position of the artificial hip components.”

Douglas A. Dennis, MD, is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon specializing in knee and hip replacement surgery at Colorado Joint Replacement at Porter Adventist Hospital and medical director of Operation Walk Denver.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Dennis, call Colorado Joint Replacement at **720-372-0926**.

