

# Mosaicplasty for symptomatic articular cartilage defects of the knee

Information for the public  
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This procedure works well for symptomatic articular cartilage defects of the knee, and there are no serious concerns about its safety.

Articular cartilage covers the end of the bones in a joint (such as the knee) and stops them rubbing together when you move. It can be damaged because of injury, disease (such as osteochondritis, which is inflammation of the cartilage or bone), or wear and tear. This can cause pain and further damage to the joint, and affect mobility. Mosaicplasty is done by open or keyhole surgery. Healthy cartilage is taken from the edge of the joint, which bears less weight, and is inserted into drilled tunnels in the damaged site. The aim is to encourage healing and improve mobility.

[NHS Choices](#) may be a good place to find out more. NICE's information on [interventional procedures guidance](#) has more about what a procedure is and how we assess them.

## Is this procedure right for me?

If you've been offered this procedure, your healthcare professionals should discuss with you what is involved and tell you about the risks and benefits. They should talk with you about your options, and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. All of this should happen before you agree (consent) to have the procedure. You should also be told how to find more information about the procedure. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

## Some questions to think about

- What does the procedure involve?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- What happens if the procedure doesn't work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I don't want the procedure? Are there other treatments available?

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