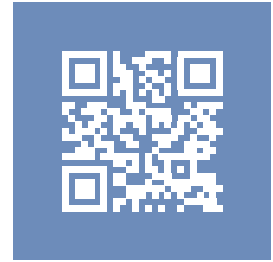


# When is the Right Time for Joint Replacement?

The decision to have a hip or knee replacement is deeply personal. There is no single X-ray finding or pain score that determines the right moment. The right time is when arthritis is significantly affecting your quality of life, conservative options have been exhausted, and you are medically ready for surgery.



## KEY STEPS

### 01 Quality of Life Impact

Pain and limitation meaningfully affecting sleep, work, or daily activity.

### 02 Conservative Options Used

Physiotherapy, analgesia, and injections have been trialed.

### 03 Imaging Confirms Arthritis

Weight-bearing X-rays show significant joint space narrowing.

### 04 Medical Readiness

Optimised for surgery: weight, blood pressure, blood sugar managed.

## QUICK FACTS

### DRIVER

Quality of Life

### NOT X-RAY

Grade Alone

### TIMING

Shared Decision

### PREP

Medical Optimise

**"The right time for surgery**

**is always a shared decision."**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q. Does my X-ray determine when I have surgery?

No. X-rays guide diagnosis, but your symptoms and how much they affect your life are the primary drivers of any surgical decision.

### Q. Is there an age limit for joint replacement?

No. The decision is based on health, symptoms, and goals — not age. Both younger and older patients can achieve excellent results with the right preparation.

### Q. What if I am not emotionally ready?

Surgery is entirely elective. The timing is yours. Dr Liew will support you through the decision-making process at your own pace.

## ABOUT THE SURGEON

Dr Chien-Wen Liew exclusively performs total hip replacements via the direct anterior approach and total knee replacements via kinematic alignment only. He utilises patient-specific technology for both procedures, and practices from Orthopaedics 360 — within the Eastwood Private Hospital Precinct.

## Dr Chien-Wen Liew

Hip and Knee Replacement Surgeon

Orthopaedics 360 · Eastwood Private Hospital, Adelaide SA

General educational purposes only. AHPRA Registered Specialist.