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# CHOOSING AN ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON IN AD

Choosing the right orthopaedic surgeon is one of the most important decisions you will make on your journey to joint replacement. Your surgeon's qualifications, subspecialty focus, and surgical technique will directly influence your recovery, implant longevity, and return to the activities you value most. This guide outlines what to look for, what questions to ask, and how to ensure your care is in the right hands.

## THE TECHNIQUE

### 01 Verify Qualifications

Confirm FRACS (Orth) and current AHPRA registration before booking.

### 02 Confirm Subspecialty Focus

Choose a surgeon who performs hip or knee replacement as their primary specialty.

### 03 Ask About Surgical Technique

Discuss approach (e.g. anterior hip) and alignment philosophy (e.g. kinematic knee).

### 04 Review Hospital & Team

Understand where surgery is performed and the anaesthetic and nursing team involved.

### 05 Attend a Consultation

Use the appointment to assess communication, transparency, and whether you feel heard.

## AT A GLANCE

QUALIFICATION  
**FRACS (Orth)**

REGISTRATION  
**AHPRA Verified**

SUBSPECIALTY  
**Joint-Focused**

TECHNIQUE  
**Ask Directly**

**"The surgeon you choose shapes every part of your recovery — choose with care."**

— Dr Chien-Wen Liew

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q. What does FRACS (Orth) mean?

It means Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Orthopaedics — the gold standard qualification for specialist orthopaedic surgeons in Australia.

### Q. Is a subspecialist really necessary for joint replacement?

For complex or revision procedures, subspecialty focus matters. A surgeon who performs joint replacement as their primary work develops a depth of experience that is difficult to replicate across a broad general practice.

### Q. What questions should I ask at my first consultation?

Ask about surgical approach, implant selection, expected recovery, and complication rates. A good surgeon will answer clearly and welcome your questions without rushing the appointment.

## 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

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