

Possible Complications to Shoulder Replacement

Shoulder replacement is a very successful procedure; however, there are some risks of which one should be aware.

Infection can occur which may result in the need to have additional surgery to cure or suppress the infection. This may result in the removal of the joint.

Dislocation or instability can occur in some cases resulting in the need for further stabilizing surgery.

Nerve and vascular injury may develop, which can result in paralysis or weakness of muscles or loss in circulation. Though, the occurrence of nerve and vascular injury are possible during shoulder replacement, the percentage is less than 1%.

Motion loss or limited range of motion can occur when rehabilitation is incomplete or scar tissue adhesions develop. Additional surgery or physical therapy may be necessary.

Although rare, pulmonary embolism or blood clots in the pulmonary artery may develop, therefore, an anticoagulant is utilized to reduce this surgical side effect. Symptoms of this included shortness of breath, coughing up blood, weakness and energy loss and in severe cases even fainting or loss of consciousness. If any of these symptoms appear to be present seek emergent help immediately.

As with any anesthetic, heart attack, strokes, organ failure, or combinations of the above can occur. Our job is to troubleshoot and make sure your stay and recovery with us is the safest and most efficient. My staff and I value the trust you have in us and will strive to make your recovery uneventful and complete.