

ANKLE REPLACEMENT



Overview

This surgical procedure is performed to remove portions of the ankle that are diseased or severely injured and to implant a device that will help manage pain and restore mobility to the ankle.

Preparation

The patient is positioned so that the front of the foot is clearly visible to the surgeon. Anesthetic is administered and the area is cleaned and sterilized.

1. Removing Damaged Bone

An incision is made in the front of the ankle and the area is examined. A portion of the tibia is removed. In some cases, part of the the fibula may also be removed to make room for the implant device. The top of the talus is cut away and smoothed.



2. Inserting the Implant

The bottom portion of the implant is positioned on the talus. The top portion of the device is then inserted into the base of the tibia. For some, bone graft is placed in the lower space between the tibia and fibula to fuse the bones and insure that the device remains securely in place.

3. Stabilizing the Implant

For those patients requiring a syndesmotic fusion, a bone plate is inserted and placed on the outer side of the fibula. Two surgical screws are inserted through the plate and into the fibula and tibia just above the ankle joint. The ankle is tested to make sure all pieces are properly fitted.



End of Procedure

The incision is closed with sutures or surgical staples. The ankle is bandaged and placed in a splint. A hospital stay of three to five days after the surgery will be required.