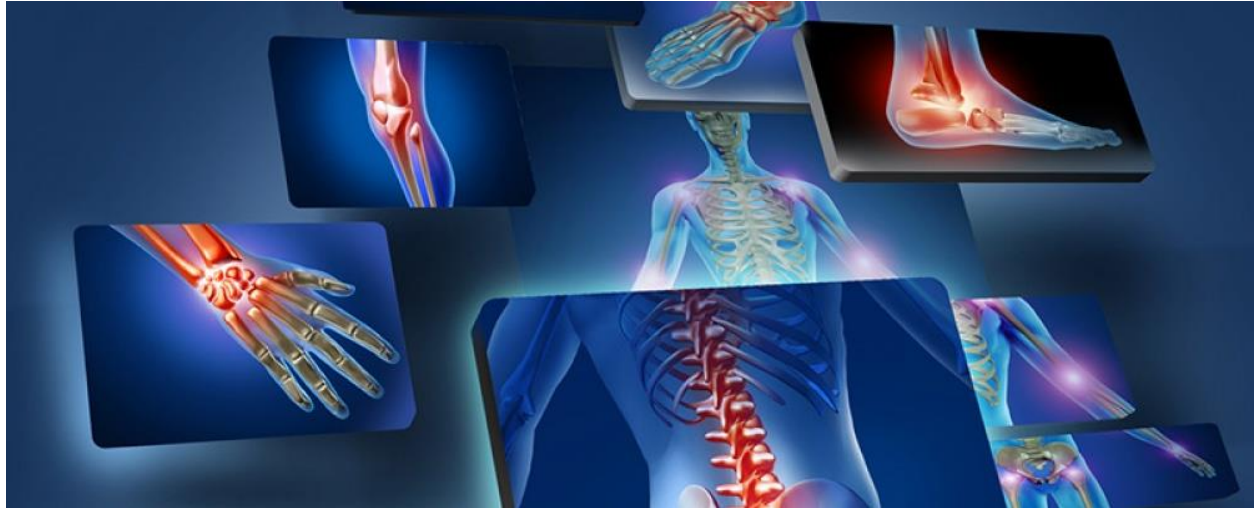


# Common Orthopedic Surgery Procedures



The human skeleton is the internal framework of the body. It is composed of around 270 bones at birth – this total decreases to around 206 bones by adulthood after some bones get fused together. When it comes to [orthopedic surgery](#) this equates to a lot of different potential injuries that may require medical assistance.

**FYI:** Orthopedics is a category of practiced medicine and surgery that deals with conditions involving the musculoskeletal system. A sub-category of orthopedics is [sports medicine](#), which deals with injuries sustained from physical activities.

The following are the most common orthopedic surgeries performed by US hospitals.

## **Total Joint Replacement**

Total joint replacement is a surgical procedure in which parts of an arthritic or damaged joint are removed and replaced with a metal, plastic or ceramic device called a prosthesis. The prosthesis is designed to replicate the movement of a normal, healthy joint.

## **Total Shoulder Replacement**

Total shoulder replacement arthroplasty is a well-established surgery for restoring comfort and function to the arthritic shoulder. In this procedure the arthritic ball is replaced by a smooth metal ball fixed to the arm bone (humerus) by a stem that fits within it.

## **Spine/Back Surgery**

[Back surgery](#) is a procedure that aims to change a patient's anatomy, such as removing a painful herniated disc, with the purpose of providing pain relief. Back surgeries vary, with some procedures minimally invasive allowing for quick recovery and others more extensive requiring longer recoveries.

## **ACL Reconstruction**

ACL reconstruction is surgery to reconstruct the ligament in the center of your knee. The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) connects your shin bone (tibia) to your thigh bone (femur). A tear of this ligament can cause your knee to give way during physical activity.