

## Fake joints, real results, Part 2: Ankle and shoulder replacement



*Dr Bas Masri*

**J**oint replacement technology has made tremendous advances since the first efforts to replace arthritic hips in the 1800s. The use of new surgical techniques and types of implants has allowed surgeons to address degeneration caused by osteoarthritis or damage caused by trauma in order to relieve pain and restore function in patients both young and old.

In the first part of this theme issue published last month, the most common joint replacement surgeries were discussed. Drs Bradley Ashman, David Cruikshank, and Michael Moran outlined the history of hip replacement and the many designs and materials used for components, while Drs Paul Dooley and Charles Secretan examined the indications for and expectations of knee replacement.

In this second part of the theme issue, two articles consider joint replacements that are becoming

increasingly common. Dr Kelly Apostle discusses advances in ankle replacement, while Dr Derek Plausinis reviews current options for shoulder replacement. In Dr Apostle's article we learn about the need to distinguish between patients who can benefit from a total ankle replacement and those better served by ankle arthrodesis. In Dr Plausinis's article, we find out about the indications for shoulder replacement and the role of postoperative rehabilitation.

Again I am very grateful for the contributions made by all the theme issue authors and hope that you will enjoy these articles and find them of use in your practice.

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