

Detecting Infection In TKR Patients.

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Total Knee Replacement (TKR) is fast becoming a norm in many hospitals for patients suffering from severe osteoarthritis. If the knee is severely damaged , it becomes a nightmare to perform simple everyday activities such as walking or climbing stairs . Pain may even creep up upon sitting or lying down and this will take a downhill drive on patient's morale.

When non surgical treatments like medications and using of walking supports are no longer helpful , patients' may want to consider total knee replacement (TKR) . This surgery helps and gives freedom from pain as well as an aid to improve mobility . It helps in achieving a more tolerant quality of life for the individual who can then go back to his near normal life style . Though complications from knee replacement surgery are there and can interfere with recovery in general (eg : infection) , fewer than 2 percent of TKR surgeries result in serious complications. Some other complications besides infection may include blood clots in the veins , implant problems or neurovascular injury.

Assistant Medical Officers (AMO) and Nurses (especially those in rural clinics and health centres) must be vigilant in detecting any signs of early infection so as not to hamper the patient's road to recovery. Early detection is both beneficial in terms of costing and rehabilitation. Detecting the infection in its early stage may help to avoid a possible major complication as immediate treatment can be administered without delay. AMOs' and nurses must take it upon themselves to be the ambassadors of infection control and to play a major and crucial part in ensuring and keeping infection at bay. As the saying goes : " Prevention is better than cure " .