

HIP HEMIARTHROPLASTY (BIPOLAR)



Overview

This surgical procedure replaces the head of a damaged femur with an implant designed to stabilize the femur and restore hip function. Unlike total hip replacement, in which both the ball of the femur and the hip socket are replaced, in this procedure, only the ball is replaced.

Accessing the Joint

In preparation for the procedure, the patient is positioned and anesthetized. The surgeon creates an incision on the side of the thigh to allow access to the hip joint.

Preparing the Femur

The surgeon frees the head of the femur from the hip socket and removes the damaged femoral head. The end of the femur is hollowed to accept the implant.

Placing the Implant

After the femur is prepared, the stem of the implant is carefully inserted into the bone. The metal ball that replaces the femoral head is attached to the stem. The ball is designed to swivel at the point where it attaches to the stem, which may reduce wear and tear on the cartilage of the socket. Once the ball is attached, the femur is placed back into the hip socket and the joint movement is tested.

End of Procedure

When the procedure is complete, the incision is closed with sutures or surgical staples and a bandage is applied. The patient will typically require a hospital stay of three to seven days, and will need physical therapy.