

Reverse Shoulder Replacement Surgery

What Is A Reverse Shoulder Replacement?

A Reverse shoulder replacement is a surgical procedure designed to alleviate pain and restore function in a severely damaged or dysfunctional shoulder joint. Unlike traditional shoulder replacement surgery, which mimics the anatomy of the natural shoulder joint, a reverse shoulder replacement reverses the placement of the prosthetic components. This reversal of the ball and socket configuration allows the deltoid muscle to compensate for the lost function of the rotator cuff, providing stability and improved range of motion.

How Is A Reverse Shoulder Replacement Performed?

During a reverse shoulder replacement surgery:

1. You will be placed under general anaesthesia to ensure you are comfortable and pain-free throughout the procedure.
2. An incision is made over the shoulder joint, allowing the surgeon to access the damaged structures.
3. The arthritic or damaged portions of the shoulder joint are removed, including the humeral head and, if necessary, the glenoid socket.
4. The prosthetic components, including a metal ball attached to the shoulder blade (glenosphere) and a plastic socket attached to the upper arm bone (humeral stem), are implanted in a reversed configuration.
5. The incision is closed, and a sterile dressing is applied.

Why Do I Need A Reverse Shoulder Replacement?

You may need a reverse shoulder replacement if you have certain shoulder conditions or injuries that affect the normal function of the joint. This procedure is typically recommended for individuals who:

- Have severe arthritis of the shoulder joint, particularly with associated rotator cuff tears.
- Experience chronic shoulder pain and stiffness that limits daily activities and quality of life.
- Have previously undergone unsuccessful shoulder surgeries or treatments.
- Have irreparable rotator cuff tears or significant muscle weakness around the shoulder.

What Are The Outcomes Of Reverse Shoulder Replacement Surgery?

The outcomes of reverse shoulder replacement surgery are generally positive for eligible candidates. Benefits may include:

- Reduced pain and improved function in the shoulder joint.
- Restored range of motion, allowing for improved arm movement and activities of daily living.
- Enhanced shoulder stability and strength, particularly in cases of rotator cuff deficiency.
- Improved quality of life and overall patient satisfaction with the procedure.