MAYO CLINIC

Mayo Clinic News Network

Title: Mayo Clinic Minute: Robotics refine knee replacement Date: July 28, 2017

Intro: America's aging population has created a steadily increasing demand for knee replacement surgeries. Osteoarthritis is the most common reason knee joints wear out. It's a condition that becomes more prevalent with age. However, Dr. Cedric Ortiguera, a Mayo Clinic orthopedic surgeon, says the precision of robotic assistance in surgery is expanding the patient population that can be helped.

"Due to the durability of implants, knee replacement surgery typically is reserved for patients over 60," Dr. Ortiguera says. “But, as technology has improved, we can make the implants last perhaps the lifetime of a patient, so, more patients in their 40s and 50s can have a total knee replacement… and maintain a good, active quality of life rather than waiting.” Dennis Douda reports.

Video	Audio
Total running time [0:59]	**/// VIDEO**
TITLE: Cedric Ortiguera, MD Orthopedic Surgery Mayo Clinic	**"Maybe a decade ago we were doing 250,000 knee replacements in the United States per year. Now we're up to about 800,000 or 900,000 per year."**
Dr. Ortiguera speaking	Mayo Clinic orthopedic surgeon Dr. Cedric Ortiguera says there could be 3 million per year by 2030, and to expect robot-arm-assisted knee replacements to help serve that need, because of several advantages.
Dr. Ortiguera speaking	**"There's potentially less blood loss, less invasive surgery to get into the knee and perhaps a quicker recovery. But, overall, we feel the best benefit will be the improvement in the alignment and the overall precision of the surgery."**
Dennis Douda speaking	In this demonstration, Dr. Ortiguera says you can see the surgeon still controls the procedure, perhaps with even more control.
Dr. Ortiguera speaking	**"It actually keeps our hand and the device and, the saw we use, in a much safer area. And it prevents us from going outside those boundaries."**
Dennis Douda speaking	Finally, he says, more precise placement may allow the devices to last longer, meaning patients could get needed knee replacements younger without fear of wearing out their implants. For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Dennis Douda.

Anchor tag: Dr. Ortiguera says following robotic-arm-assisted surgery, patients usually stay in the hospital for one to two days, then use a walker or crutches for about a week, and rely on a cane for another three to four weeks of recuperation.