

Osteoarticular Transfer System (OATS)



Overview

This repairs damaged articular cartilage in your knee. That's a type of cartilage that covers and protects the ends of your bones. Repairing it helps you stay active. This surgery is usually done with an arthroscope (a tube-like device with a video camera and light).

Harvesting

To begin, you are put to sleep. Small openings are made in your knee. One is for the arthroscope. The surgeon uses the arthroscope and tiny instruments to collect small bits of healthy cartilage. We call these "grafts." The grafts are taken from a part of your knee that will still be fine with less cartilage protection.

Fixing the damage

Next, the surgeon clears away the damaged cartilage. The grafts then fill in the bare spot. If you have a large area of damage, your surgeon may need to use graft material from a donor. Over time, these grafts will bond with your knee.

End of procedure

After the surgery, you are watched in a recovery room as you wake up. Your surgeon will tell you when you can go home. Follow your surgeon's advice for a safe recovery.

