



What kinds of arthritis can be treated with surgery?

There are multiple kinds of arthritis that have a direct impact on the health of your hands and wrists. Dr. Hung treats common types of arthritis in these areas, including:

- Gout
- Carpometacarpal (CMC) arthritis
- Osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

Dr. Hung addresses the root cause of your pain or mobility issues to increase your comfort and protect your overall health.

What is CMC arthritis?

The carpometacarpal joint is a part of your thumb. When the cartilage at the end of the bones begins wearing down, you can develop CMC arthritis, which is essentially arthritis in your thumb. The loss of cartilage can cause increased swelling, pain, and weakness in your thumb, decreasing your functionality. You may find it hard to do tasks that involve gripping or grasping objects due to weakness in the thumb and surrounding area, such as opening jars or water bottles. The pain of CMC arthritis can become severe and debilitating.

How does surgery relieve arthritis in the hand?

When the effects of arthritis cause crippling pain and deformities in your hands and fingers, it can become a true disability. When nonsurgical treatment options aren't effective in relieving chronic hand pain due to arthritis, Dr. Hung offers surgical options. Surgical treatments can be useful for addressing joint deterioration due to different types of arthritis, and Dr. Hung offers two common surgical options: fusion or joint arthroplasty.

In fusion surgery, Dr. Hung fuses the bones of the joint of the finger or hand to build a stable foundation and eliminate pain associated with movement.

If you have finger or hand joint damage that Dr. Hung can't address with fusion surgery, she may opt to replace the diseased joint completely using a joint replacement surgery.

Another type of arthroplasty is commonly performed for CMC arthritis of the thumb involving only your own tissues (no artificial implants) which is highly effective and long-lasting.

What is involved in joint replacement surgery?

When your finger joints, wrist joints, or knuckles suffer severe damage from long-term arthritis, Dr. Hung may suggest a replacement surgery. During this type of procedure, she removes the entire joint and replaces it with a synthetic joint. The new joint can improve your functionality, and works similar to your natural joint. The goal of joint replacement surgery is to give you effective, long-term relief of arthritis-related pain. After a careful review of your medical history and current joint condition, Dr. Hung recommends the best surgical option for your situation.