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OHIO STATE SURGEONS IMPLANT KNEE CARTILAGE GROWN FROM PATIENT'S OWN CELLS

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Doctors at [The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center](#) are the first in Ohio to use a tissue implant made from a patient's own cells to treat knee cartilage damage. Healthy cartilage is crucial to the smooth and painless mobility of most joints, and has limited capacity to repair itself after injury.

“Despite the availability of procedures and treatments, patients are often left searching for new options due to incomplete recovery or limited duration of effect,” said [Dr. David Flanigan](#), the surgeon who implanted the cartilage and associate professor of [orthopedics](#) at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center. “If this implant works how we think it will, this could be a long-term, permanent solution for patients with these injuries.”

To generate the implant, a surgeon first obtains a small sample of normal cartilage from a patient's knee through a minimally invasive knee scope. The tissue sample is then treated and grown into a cartilage implant, which is returned to the injury site.

In an effort to gain regulatory approval, the [NeoCart](#) cartilage tissue implant is currently in an FDA-approved multi-center, randomized clinical trial comparing the implant to the current standard-of-care for patients with articular cartilage defects of the knee.

Traditionally, microfracture surgery is considered the current standard of care for most cases of severe cartilage injury in the knee. Although symptoms may improve for a period of time after surgery, microfracture doesn't create the same healthy joint cartilage required to withstand normal forces of movement.

“The hope is that embedding patients with their own cells will lead to a more durable replacement of the lost cartilage and improve patient outcomes,” Flanigan said.

Those interested in being screened as potential candidates for this clinical trial should email sportsmedresearch@osumc.edu for more information.

The Neocart implant is made by [Histogenics](#), which is sponsoring the clinical trial. Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center is one of approximately 30 trial sites nationwide.

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