

PIP Joint Arthritis

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Overview

- Surface replacement arthroplasty of the proximal interphalangeal joint using a volar approach can result in excellent range of motion, function, and pain relief with minimal complications in active patients with osteoarthritis or posttraumatic arthritis [1].
- Treatment of the long finger may be a relative contraindication to proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty [2].
- There has been an increased use of primary proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty utilization for patients with osteoarthritis, whereas revision proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty has decreased [3].
- Treatment of metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joint osteoarthritis with an anatomically neutral implant can provide reliable, long-term pain relief and maintenance of function [4].
- Patients returned to work after a median of 8 weeks following proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty [5].
- Serial casting is an effective method to correct flexion contractures in proximal interphalangeal joints in selected patients with arthritis [6].
- Minimizing postoperative complications after metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty is one avenue to decrease health care costs [7].
- Proximal interphalangeal joint implant arthroplasty is a good and reliable option for symptomatic proximal interphalangeal joint degenerative, post-traumatic, or inflammatory arthritis given the proper clinical setting [10].
- Minimum two years of follow-up evaluation of the self-locking finger joint implant proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty demonstrated good pain relief and good overall patient satisfaction while maintaining joint range of motion [11].
- Silicone arthroplasty for osteoarthritis of the proximal interphalangeal joint remains a good option for pain relief [13].
- Pyrolytic carbon hemiarthroplasty appears to be a viable alternative to total joint arthroplasty in the treatment of proximal interphalangeal joint arthritis [16].

Anatomy & Pathophysiology

- Women with hand osteoarthritis exhibited significantly lower intrinsic hand forces compared to healthy women, with a mean decrease of 30% across most force types [21].
- People with hand arthritis move through a smaller arc of motion when performing some functional tasks as compared with controls [32].
- The internal structure and material properties of the phalanges play a significant role in both the magnitude and distribution of stresses in the MCP joint during common tasks [24].
- Interdependency of joints is a primary feature of finger function [39].
- The function of a muscle with respect to a certain joint cannot be inferred from the position of the muscle with respect to that one joint alone due to tendons bridging multiple joints [39].
- Changes occurring in the tendons and related structures are the most important factor in the development of finger deformities, especially in early stages [27].
- Detailed understanding of the functional anatomy and related pathologic features of the trapeziometacarpal joint complex provides the basis for treatment of acquired afflictions at the base of the human thumb [31].
- Compressive shear forces can lead over time to trapeziometacarpal joint osteoarthritis [33].
- In most degrees of freedom of metacarpal movement relative to the trapezium, the dorsoradial ligament (DRL) is relatively more important than the deep anterior oblique ligament (dAOL) in providing stability to the TMC joint [36].
- Thumb basal joint arthritis is a progressive disease with substantial new biomechanical and longitudinal clinical studies changing prevailing opinions on serial degenerative changes [22].
- Type I and III wrists had radiographic progression and ultimately underwent deformation [20].
- Most of the outcome measures associated with hand OA or RA are related to body structures and body functions or activity limitations and participation restrictions [30].

Classification

- Surface replacement arthroplasty of the proximal interphalangeal joint using a volar approach can result in excellent range of motion, function, and pain relief with minimal complications in active patients with osteoarthritis or posttraumatic arthritis [1].
- Treatment of the long finger may be a relative contraindication to proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty [2].
- Primary proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty utilization has increased for patients with osteoarthritis, whereas revision utilization has decreased [3].
- Treatment of metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joint osteoarthritis with an anatomically neutral implant can provide reliable, long-term pain relief and maintenance of function [4].

- Patients returned to work after a median of 8 weeks following proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty [5].
- Serial casting is an effective method to correct flexion contractures in proximal interphalangeal joints in selected patients with arthritis [6].
- Minimizing postoperative complications after metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty is one avenue to decrease health care costs [7].
- The TACTYS prosthesis should be proposed exceptionally if the proximal interphalangeal joint arthritis causes invalidating functional pain [8].
- Proximal interphalangeal joint implant arthroplasty is a good and reliable option for symptomatic proximal interphalangeal joint degenerative, post-traumatic, or inflammatory arthritis given the proper clinical setting [10].
- Radiological osteoarthritis after a mallet finger fracture is similar to the natural degenerative process in the distal interphalangeal joint and is accompanied by a decrease in range of motion of the distal interphalangeal joint, which does not clinically affect patient-reported outcome measures [12].
- Pyrolytic carbon hemiarthroplasty appears to be a viable alternative to total joint arthroplasty in the treatment of proximal interphalangeal joint arthritis [16].
- Cortical breaks were commonly visualized in metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joints with high-resolution peripheral quantitative CT and microCT [17].
- Expert consensus can be reached to identify putative risk factors for interphalangeal joint osteoarthritis, though the number identified was low and often required multiple Delphi rounds [18].
- The revision rate for the LPM prosthesis was higher than in published series for other proximal interphalangeal joint implants, warranting close surveillance of all patients with this prosthesis currently in situ [43].
- Surface replacement arthroplasty using the SR PIP implant continues to be an option for patients with osteoarthritis of the proximal interphalangeal joint [45].

Clinical Presentation

- PIP joint arthroplasty may be a relative contraindication for treatment of the long finger [2].
- Patients with PIP joint arthritis causing invalidating functional pain should be considered for arthroplasty [8].
- PIPJ implant arthroplasty is a good and reliable option for symptomatic PIPJ degenerative, post-traumatic, or inflammatory arthritis given the proper clinical setting [10].
- Treatment of MCP and PIP osteoarthritis with an anatomically neutral implant can provide reliable, long-term pain relief and maintenance of function [4].
- Silicone arthroplasty for osteoarthritis of the PIP remains a good option for pain relief [13].

- Surface replacement arthroplasty of the PIP joint using a volar approach can result in excellent range of motion, function, and pain relief with minimal complications in active patients with osteoarthritis or posttraumatic arthritis [1].
- Surface replacement arthroplasty of the PIP joint using a volar approach has the tendency to deteriorate in range of motion with longer follow-up [15].
- Pyrolytic carbon hemiarthroplasty for PIP joint arthritis results in good pain relief and stable radiographic integration at 5 years, with no late revisions or loosening observed, despite no improvement in range of motion [19].
- Patients should be advised that PIPJ range of motion deteriorates over time following pyrolytic carbon hemiarthroplasty [9].
- Minimum two-year follow-up evaluation of the Self Locking Finger Joint (SLFJ) implant PIP joint arthroplasty demonstrated good pain relief and good overall patient satisfaction while maintaining joint range of motion [11].
- Autologous rib perichondrium transplants restored injured PIP and MCP joints that remained essentially pain-free and mostly well-functioning without need for additional surgeries up to 41 years after the procedure [14].
- Serial casting is an effective method to correct flexion contractures in PIP joints in selected patients with arthritis [6].
- Cortical breaks were commonly visualized in MCP and PIP joints with high-resolution peripheral quantitative CT and microCT [17].
- Expert consensus can be reached to identify putative risk factors for IP joint osteoarthritis, though the number identified was low and often required multiple Delphi rounds [18].
- Treatment modalities for PIP joint arthritis are currently limited, and the disease process involves a complex interplay of biochemical, metabolic, and genetic factors rather than simple mechanical stress [40].
- Early diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis is important, and referral to a rheumatologist followed by treatment with disease-modifying antirheumatic agents has been shown to improve outcomes [35].

Investigations

- The volar approach to proximal interphalangeal joint surface replacement arthroplasty can result in excellent range of motion, function, and pain relief with minimal complications in active patients with osteoarthritis or posttraumatic arthritis [1].
- Treatment of the long finger may be a relative contraindication to proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty [2].
- There has been an increased use of primary proximal interphalangeal joint implant arthroplasty utilization for patients with osteoarthritis, whereas revision utilization has decreased [3].
- Treatment of metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joint osteoarthritis with an anatomically neutral implant can provide reliable, long-term pain relief and maintenance of function [4].

- Patients returned to work after a median of 8 weeks following proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty [5].
- Serial casting is an effective method to correct flexion contractures in proximal interphalangeal joints in selected patients with arthritis [6].
- Proximal interphalangeal joint implant arthroplasty should be proposed exceptionally if the joint arthritis causes invalidating functional pain [8].
- Patients should be advised that proximal interphalangeal joint range of motion deteriorates over time following pyrolytic carbon hemiarthroplasty [9].
- Proximal interphalangeal joint implant arthroplasty is a good and reliable option for symptomatic proximal interphalangeal joint degenerative, post-traumatic, or inflammatory arthritis given the proper clinical setting [10].
- Radiological osteoarthritis after a mallet finger fracture is similar to the natural degenerative process in the distal interphalangeal joint and is accompanied by a decrease in range of motion of the distal interphalangeal joint, which does not clinically affect patient-reported outcome measures [12].
- Silicone arthroplasty for osteoarthritis of the proximal interphalangeal joint remains a good option for pain relief [13].
- Perichondrium transplants restored injured proximal interphalangeal and metacarpophalangeal joints that remained essentially pain-free and mostly well-functioning without need for additional surgeries up to 41 years after the procedure [14].
- Proximal interphalangeal joint range of motion after surface replacement arthroplasty through a volar approach has the tendency to deteriorate with a longer follow-up [15].
- Cortical breaks were commonly visualized in metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joints with high-resolution peripheral quantitative CT and microCT [17].
- Expert consensus can be reached to identify putative risk factors for interphalangeal joint osteoarthritis, though the number identified was low and often required multiple Delphi rounds [18].
- Pyrolytic carbon prosthesis replacement of the proximal interphalangeal joint reports good pain relief and stable radiographic integration at 5 years, with no late revisions or loosening observed, despite no improvement in range of motion [19].
- Type I and III wrists had radiographic progression and ultimately underwent deformation [20].
- All described techniques for proximal interphalangeal joint arthrodesis can achieve the goal of fusing an osteoarthritic joint [47].
- In patients with established hand osteoarthritis, clinical involvement of the thumb base joint is associated with a higher clinical burden, whereas radiological involvement of the thumb base joint is associated with older age and more structural abnormalities [49].

Treatment

- Surface replacement arthroplasty of the proximal interphalangeal joint using a volar approach can result in excellent range of motion, function, and pain relief with minimal complications in active patients with osteoarthritis or posttraumatic arthritis [1].
- Treatment of the long finger may be a relative contraindication to proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty [2].
- There has been an increased use of primary proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty utilization for patients with osteoarthritis, whereas revision proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty has decreased [3].
- Treatment of metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joint osteoarthritis with an anatomically neutral implant can provide reliable, long-term pain relief and maintenance of function [4].
- Patients returned to work after a median of 8 weeks following proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty [5].
- Serial casting is an effective method to correct flexion contractures in proximal interphalangeal joints in selected patients with arthritis [6].
- Minimizing postoperative complications after metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty is one avenue to decrease health care costs [7].
- The TACTYS prosthesis should be proposed exceptionally if the proximal interphalangeal joint arthritis causes invalidating functional pain [8].
- Patients should be advised that proximal interphalangeal joint range of motion deteriorates over time following pyrolytic carbon hemiarthroplasty [9].
- Proximal interphalangeal joint implant arthroplasty is a good and reliable option for symptomatic proximal interphalangeal joint degenerative, post-traumatic, or inflammatory arthritis given the proper clinical setting [10].
- Minimum two years of follow-up evaluation of the Self Locking Finger Joint implant proximal interphalangeal joint arthroplasty demonstrated good pain relief and good overall patient satisfaction while maintaining joint range of motion [11].
- Silicone arthroplasty for osteoarthritis of the proximal interphalangeal joint remains a good option for pain relief [13].
- Proximal interphalangeal joint range of motion after surface replacement arthroplasty through a volar approach has the tendency to deteriorate with a longer follow-up [15].
- Pyrolytic carbon hemiarthroplasty appears to be a viable alternative to total joint arthroplasty in the treatment of proximal interphalangeal joint arthritis [16].
- The combination of distal interphalangeal joint arthrodesis and proximal interphalangeal joint Swanson arthroplasty resulted in a favourable outcome in terms of simultaneous bony union and flexibility [41].

Complications

- Treatment of the long finger may be a relative contraindication to PIPJ arthroplasty [2].
- Minimizing postoperative complications after MCP and PIP joint arthroplasty is one avenue to decrease health care costs [7].
- Patients should be advised that PIPJ range of motion deteriorates over time [9].
- Diabetes and surgeon experience were identified as factors increasing the risk of postoperative complications in DIP and thumb IP joint arthrodeses [44].

Recovery

- Patients returned to work after a median of 8 weeks following PIP arthroplasty [5].
- Minimizing postoperative complications after MCP and PIP joint arthroplasty is one avenue to decrease health care costs [7].
- Patients should be advised that PIPJ ROM deteriorates over time [9].
- The minimum 2 years of follow-up evaluation of the SLFJ implant PIP joint arthroplasty demonstrated good pain relief and good overall patient satisfaction while maintaining joint range of motion [11].
- Perichondrium transplants restored injured PIP and MCP joints that remained essentially pain-free and mostly well-functioning without need for additional surgeries up to 41 years after the procedure [14].
- PIP ROM after SRA through a volar approach has the tendency to deteriorate with a longer follow-up [15].
- The study reports good pain relief and stable radiographic integration at 5 years, with no late revisions or loosening observed, despite no improvement in range of motion [19].

Key Evidence

- [L4] The volar approach to PIP SRA can result in excellent range of motion, function, and pain relief with minimal complications in active patients with osteoarthritis or posttraumatic arthritis. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2011.03.003](#))
- [L1] Treatment of the long finger may be a relative contraindication to PIPJ arthroplasty. ([10.1177/1558944718791186](#))
- [L4] The data demonstrate an increased use of primary PIPA utilization for patients with OA, whereas revision PIPA decreased. ([10.1177/1558944719837009](#))
- [L4] Treatment of MCP and PIP osteoarthritis with an anatomically neutral implant can provide reliable, long-term pain relief and maintenance of function. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2008.11.005](#))
- [L3] Patients returned to work after a median of 8 weeks following PIP arthroplasty. ([10.1177/15589447221141485](#))

- [L4] SC is an effective method to correct flexion contractures in PIP joints in selected patients with arthritis. ([10.1016/j.jht.2015.11.005](#))
- [L3] Minimizing postoperative complications after MCP and PIP joint arthroplasty is one avenue to decrease health care costs. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2019.11.002](#))
- [L4] It should be proposed exceptionally if the PIP joint arthritis causes invalidating functional pain. ([10.1177/15589447211030962](#))
- [L4] Patients should be advised that PIPJ ROM deteriorates over time. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2023.11.007](#))
- [L4] PIPJ implant arthroplasty is a good and reliable option for symptomatic PIPJ degenerative, post-traumatic or inflammatory arthritis given the proper clinical setting. ([10.1177/17531934241265837](#))
- [L4] The minimum 2 years of follow-up evaluation of the SLFJ implant PIP joint arthroplasty demonstrated good pain relief and good overall patient satisfaction while maintaining joint range of motion. ([10.1177/1558944717726136](#))
- [L4] Radiological OA after an MFF is similar to the natural degenerative process in the DIP joint and is accompanied by a decrease in range of motion of the DIP joint, which does not clinically affect PROMs. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2023.03.027](#))
- [L4] Silicone arthroplasty for osteoarthritis of the PIP remains a good option for pain relief. ([10.1177/1558944718769427](#))
- [L4] Perichondrium transplants restored injured PIP and MCP joints that remained essentially pain-free and mostly well-functioning without need for additional surgeries up to 41 years after the procedure. ([10.1186/s12891-020-03310-5](#))
- [L4] PIP ROM after SRA through a volar approach has the tendency to deteriorate with a longer follow-up. ([10.1177/1558944718787332](#))
- [L4] Pyrocarbon hemiarthroplasty appears to be a viable alternative to total joint arthroplasty in the treatment of PIP joint arthritis. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2014.12.016](#))
- [L4] Cortical breaks were commonly visualized in MCP and PIP joints with HR-pQCT and microCT. ([10.1186/s12891-016-1148-y](#))
- [L4] Expert consensus can be reached to identify putative risk factors for IP joint OA, though the number identified was low and often required multiple Delphi rounds. ([10.1177/1753193419865872](#))
- [L4] The study reports good pain relief and stable radiographic integration at 5 years, with no late revisions or loosening observed, despite no improvement in range of motion. ([10.1177/1753193413479527](#))
- [L2] Type I and III wrists had radiographic progression and ultimately underwent deformation. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2009.01.016](#))
- [L3] Women with hand osteoarthritis exhibited significantly lower intrinsic hand forces compared to healthy women, with a mean decrease of 30% across most force types. ([10.1016/j.jht.2024.02.005](#))
- [L5] Thumb basal joint arthritis is a progressive disease with substantial new biomechanical and longitudinal clinical studies changing prevailing opinions on serial degenerative changes. ([10.5435/jaas-d-17-00374](#))

- [L5] The internal structure and material properties of the phalanges were found to play a significant role in both the magnitude and distribution of stresses. ([10.1007/s11552-012-9430-4](#))
- [L4] The most important factor in the development of finger deformities is the changes occurring in the tendons and related structures, especially in early stages. ([10.2106/00004623-195739030-00006](#))
- [L2] Most of the outcome measures associated with hand OA or RA are related to body structures and body functions or activity limitations and participation restrictions. ([10.1016/j.jht.2019.12.015](#))
- [L5] Detailed understanding of the functional anatomy and related pathologic features of the trapeziometacarpal joint complex provides the basis for treatment of acquired afflictions at the base of the human thumb and a model for the more general study of idiopathic osteoarthritis. ([10.1097/01.blo.0000176968.28247.5c](#))
- [L3] This study demonstrated that people with hand arthritis move through a smaller arc of motion when performing some functional tasks as compared with the controls, and that with instruction on joint protection techniques, participants made significant changes in the amount of movement used to perform tasks, which supports a proof of principle of joint protection. ([10.1016/j.jht.2020.10.010](#))
- [L5] The resulting compressive shear forces can lead over time to trapeziometacarpal joint osteoarthritis. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2010.10.029](#))
- [L5] Early diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis is important, and referral to a rheumatologist followed by treatment with disease-modifying antirheumatic agents has been shown to improve outcomes. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2011.01.036](#))
- [L5] In most degrees of freedom of metacarpal movement relative to the trapezium, the DRL is relatively more important than the dAOL in providing stability to the TMC joint. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2006.12.002](#))
- [L5] The paper concludes that interdependency of joints is a primary feature of finger function, and that the function of a muscle with respect to a certain joint cannot be inferred from the position of the muscle with respect to that one joint alone due to tendons bridging multiple joints. ([10.2106/00004623-196345080-00007](#))
- [L5] Treatment modalities for proximal interphalangeal joint arthritis are currently limited, and the disease process involves a complex interplay of biochemical, metabolic, and genetic factors rather than simple mechanical stress. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2010.09.002](#))
- [L4] The combination of DIP arthrodesis and PIP Swanson arthroplasty resulted in a favourable outcome in terms of simultaneous bony union and flexibility. ([10.1177/17531934231215790](#))
- [L4] The revision rate for the LPM prosthesis was higher than in published series for other PIP joint implants, with close surveillance of all patients with this prosthesis currently in situ recommended. ([10.1177/1753193407087864](#))
- [L3] Diabetes and surgeon experience were identified as factors increasing the risk of postoperative complications in these DIP/thumb IP joint arthrodeses. ([10.1186/s12891-024-07361-w](#))
- [L4] Surface replacement arthroplasty using the SR PIP implant continues to be an option for patients with osteoarthritis of the PIP joint. ([10.1016/j.jhsa.2014.11.015](#))
- [L1] All described techniques can achieve the goal of fusing an osteoarthritic joint. ([10.1530/eor-21-0102](#))

- [L3] In patients with established hand OA clinical involvement of the TBJ is associated with a higher clinical burden whereas radiological involvement of the TBJ is associated with older age and more structural abnormalities. ([10.1016/j.jht.2014.01.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jht.2014.01.006))

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