



Longevity of total joint replacements and the sequelae of wear continue to be major concerns of joint replacement surgeons as well as patients. Patients now want more than pain relief; they desire to pursue a very active lifestyle, with many returning to activities that would have been recommended against in the past. With increased activities, there is increased concern about wear.

This special issue focuses on a discussion of current bearing surfaces with a review of wear characteristics as

well as concerns for each type of bearing surface. Metal-on-polyethylene, ceramic-on-polyethylene, highly cross-linked polyethylene, ceramic-on-ceramic, metal-on-metal, and differential hardness bearings are discussed.

It is our hope that the reader will gain a clearer understanding of the expected benefits and potential “trade-offs” of each bearing surface.

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