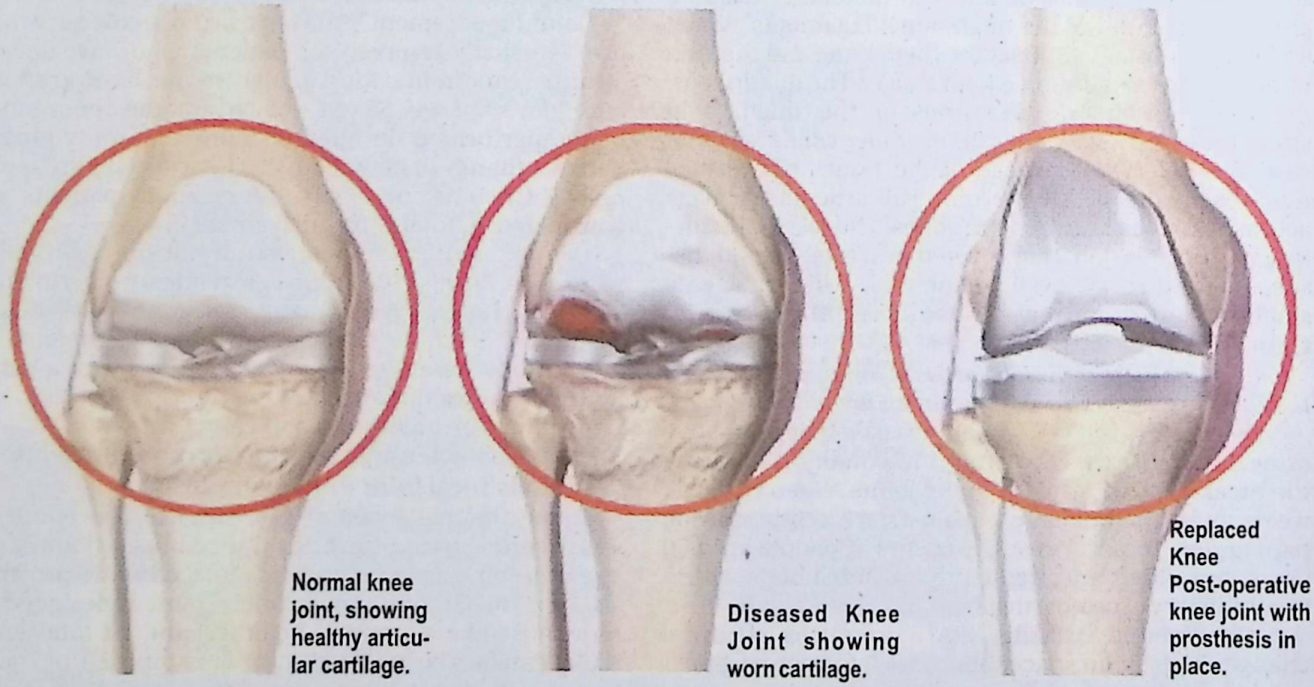
erosion or abnormal bone formation, dislocation, infection, pain, bone fracture or non-union, component wear or fracture, component loosening. Complications may require medical intervention including additional surgery and, in rare instances, may lead to death. Your doctor should discuss these potential complications with you.

Will an Artificial Knee Joint Last Forever?

As successful as most of these procedures can be, over the years, the artificial joints can become loose and unstable or wear out, requiring a revision (repeat) surgery.



Normal knee joint, showing healthy articular cartilage.

Diseased Knee Joint showing worn cartilage.

Replaced Knee Post-operative knee joint with prosthesis in place.

Having an Orthopaedic Evaluation

The medical management of arthritis and joint degeneration may be handled by a family doctor, an internist, or a rheumatologist. However, when medical management is not effective, an orthopaedic surgeon should be consulted to determine if surgery is an option. In some cases, the orthopaedic surgeon may be the first physician to see a patient and make the diagnosis of arthritis.

If you're ready to consider having knee joint replacement, the next important step is to talk with an orthopaedic surgeon. In some cases, the orthopaedic surgeon may be the first physician to make the diagnosis of arthritis.

While every orthopaedic evaluation is different, there are many commonly used tests that an orthopaedic surgeon may consider in evaluating a patient's condition. In general, the orthopaedic evaluation usually consists of:

* A thorough review of your medical history
* A physical examination
* X-rays
* Additional tests as needed

The information that the orthopaedic surgeon gathers during the medical history usually suggests the possibility of several different diagnoses (causes). After the medical history is taken, the orthopaedic surgeon conducts a physical examination.

After the physical examination, X-ray evaluation is usually the next step in making the diagnosis. The X-rays help show how much joint damage or deformity exists. An abnormal X-ray may reveal:

* Narrowing of the joint space
* Cysts in the bone
* Spurs on the edge of the bone
* Areas of bony thickening called sclerosis
* Deformity or incorrect alignment
* Other abnormalities

Additional tests may include laboratory testing of blood, urine, or joint fluid and/or magnetic resonance imaging or a bone scan of the joint and surrounding soft tissue.

Source: *aboutstryker.com*