

Knee Joint Replacement - Classification of Pain Levels and Functional Limitations

Variable	Definition
Mobility and Stability	
Preserved mobility and stable joint	Preserved mobility is equivalent to minimum range of movement from 0° to 90°. Stable or not lax is equivalent to an absence of slackness of more than 5mm in the extended joint.
Limited mobility and/or stable joint	Limited mobility is equivalent to a range of movement less than 0° to 90° unstable or lax is equivalent to the presence of slackness of more than 5mm in the extended joint.
Symptomatology	
Slight	Sporadic pain. Pain when climbing/descending stairs. Allows daily activities to be carried out (those requiring great physical activity may be limited). Medication, aspirin, paracetamol or NSAIDs to control pain with no/few side effects.
Moderate	Occasional pain. Pain when walking on level surfaces (half an hour, or standing). Some limitation of daily activities. Medication, aspirin, paracetamol or NSAIDs to control with no/few side effects.
Intense	Pain of almost continuous nature. Pain when walking short distances on level surfaces or standing for less than half an hour. Daily activities significantly limited. Continuous use of NSAIDs for treatment to take effect. Requires the sporadic use of support systems walking stick, crutches).
Severe	Continuous pain. Pain when resting. Daily activities significantly limited constantly. Continuous use of analgesics - narcotics/NSAIDs with adverse effects or no response. Requires more constant use of support systems (walking stick, crutches).
Radiology	
Slight	Ahlback grade I.
Moderate	Ahlback grade II and III.
Severe	Ahlback grade IV and V.
Localisation	
Unicompartmental	Excluded patello-femoral isolated.
Bicompartmental	Unicompartmental plus patello-femoral.
Tricompartmental	Disease affecting all three compartments of the knee.