

## Excellence in endoprosthetics: hip and knee joints

The Department of Special Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology at the Vivantes Auguste-Viktoria Hospital, Centre for Endoprosthetics, is a nationally and internationally renowned department for the replacement of artificial joints, in particular for the hip and knee.

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The Vivantes Auguste-Viktoria Hospital offers a comprehensive range of services, from minimally invasive arthroscopic joint surgery and primary endoprosthetics to highly complex and lengthy replacement operations. This requires many years of wide-ranging experience in joint surgery, as demonstrated by Professor Heino Kienapfel, Senior Consultant at the Department of Special Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology. For many years, Professor Kienapfel chaired the German Endoprosthetics Register association and now heads up the endoprosthetics register working group of the German Society for Orthopaedics and Orthopaedic Surgery. Each patient is examined using digital calibrated X-rays, MRIs and CTs, which provides the basis for planning the joint surgery and precisely determining suitable implants. The team, which includes doctors from the departments for

anaesthesia & pain therapy, radiology and physiotherapy & rehabilitation, then work together to draw up a tailor-made concept for each patient. State-of-the-art anaesthetic and pain therapy procedures enable a pain-free process of rehabilitation for patients, who can regain their mobility as quickly as possible while making full use of their replacement joint. The implant materials used as replacement joints are chosen for their outstanding performance and durability (ceramic-on-ceramic bearings). High-grade materials ensure long-lasting results, enabling the replacement joint to function well for more than 25 years. Endoprosthetics is therefore also very appealing to elderly patients as it allows them to live without pain even beyond the age of 80.

Besides the centre for joint surgery, the department has a centre for spinal diseases and a specialist unit for shoulder and foot disorders. As in many other countries, Germany's population is ageing, and people increasingly suffer from multiple problems as they reach old age. Taking an integrated approach, the Department of Special Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology uses evidence-based therapies to treat patients' multiple orthopaedic/traumatology disorders simultaneously.

Minimally invasive surgery is increasingly the preferred option for operations at the Department of Special Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology as it minimises the incision to be made in the body, prevents pain almost entirely, enables patients to regain their mobility quickly and reduces the length of hospital stays. Nowadays, for example, a slipped disc in the neck area can be operated on using minimally invasive techniques within a few days, with physiotherapy starting just a day afterwards. Minimally invasive surgery is also possible for other joints in the lower and upper limbs. Professor Kienapfel's entire team provides patients with expert care, achieving excellent outcomes and ensuring maximum satisfaction for patients from Germany and the rest of the world.

The department has just opened a new luxury ward offering the standard you would expect to find in a hotel rather than a hospital. It also offers state-of-the-art technologies for imaging, anaesthesia, surgery, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and even intensive care.