

Chapter 1  
History of Elbow Joint Replacement  
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The history of elbow joint replacement is a long and interesting one. It begins with the early attempts at arthrodesis, or fusion of the joint, which were often successful but left the patient with a stiff and painful arm. The development of prosthetic joints was a major breakthrough, allowing for a more functional and pain-free arm. The first total elbow arthroplasty was performed in 1953 by Dr. Frank Steiner. Since then, the field has advanced rapidly, with the development of more durable and functional prostheses. The use of cement to secure the prostheses was a significant improvement, and the development of the humeral head with a locking mechanism was a major advance. The use of polyethylene for the ulnar head was also a significant improvement. The development of the modern total elbow arthroplasty was a result of the work of many surgeons and engineers. The modern total elbow arthroplasty is a complex and demanding procedure, but it has become a standard treatment for many patients with end-stage elbow disease. The history of elbow joint replacement is a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of the medical profession.

## Joint replacement arthroplasty : basic science, elbow and shoulder

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**Call Number:** WE 312 J74 2011  
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**Edition:** 4th ed.  
**Place of Publication:** Philadelphia, PA  
**Publisher:** Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins  
**Date of Publication:** c2011  
**Physical Description:** 376 p.  
**ISBN:** 9781608314676  
**Subjects (MeSH):** Arthroplasty, Replacement - methods  
Joint Prosthesis  
Arthroplasty, Replacement, Elbow  
Shoulder - surgery  
**Format:** Book  
**Location:** Halifax Infirmary  
**Loan Period:** 3 weeks