

Foreword

This White Paper on Joint Replacements aims to present an impartial review and a comprehensive overview of the current healthcare situation for hip and knee arthroplasty patients in Germany.

White Papers present independent information on topics that are relevant to society. This White Paper is based on comprehensive literature reviews and data research which have been evaluated in collaboration with experts in the field of endoprosthetics to give a sound summary of the current situation. In addition, it identifies needs for action to improve care. It also identifies various needs for action towards the improvement of care. White Papers on health-related topics can therefore contribute to shaping medical care and healthcare policies. The IGES Institute has presented White Papers on multiple sclerosis, stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation, acute coronary syndrome and diabetes mellitus.

Hip and knee arthroplasty are amongst the most frequently performed procedures in German hospitals. Common reasons for performing this surgery are joint wear or fractures which occur considerably more frequently in old age. Surgical procedures are continuously being refined and treatment pathways have to be adapted to increasing demands.

How successful are current surgical treatments? How have case numbers for hip and knee surgery developed over the past few years? Which healthcare structures do we need in order to meet the rising demands of an increasingly aging population in the future? What do renowned experts call for with regard to future arthroplasty care?

The authors and experts investigate these questions and further issues in the following chapters.

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