

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS CARTIVA?

Cartiva is a synthetic implant meant to mimic cartilage in worn joints. It is made of a soft plastic like substance and saline. These materials are combined to create a solid, slippery, and durable implant specifically to help replace damaged cartilage on the surface of the big toe joint. With Cartiva, you receive a flexible solution to your big toe pain.

WHO IS CARTIVA FOR?

Cartiva is for those experiencing painful arthritis in the joint of the big toe. Osteoarthritis can cause wearing down of the cartilage tissue in the big toe joint—which can lead to pain of the big toe. Cartiva is ideally recommended for use in patients with moderate stage arthritis, those patients with a simple bone spurs or complete bone-on-bone arthritis may not be suitable candidates.

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE TO GET CARTIVA?

While the procedure for the Cartiva implantation lasts about 30 minutes, you will likely be in surgery for about an hour to allow for administration of anesthesia and for the closure of the incision. Your surgeon will create a small cavity in the arthritic joint for placement of the Cartiva implant. Once placed the implant will act as a cushion for the load-bearing surface of the big toe joint.

HOW LONG DOES CARTIVA LAST?

The Cartiva implant is a synthetic and biocompatible implant which means it has no risk of viral or bacterial transmission due to animal derived materials and causes no systemic irritation. The implant is biostable and durable meaning it does not degrade and is capable of withstanding repetitive loading.

WHAT IS THE RECOVERY FROM CARTIVA LIKE?

You will begin exercises to move your big toe joint immediately following surgery. You will learn to walk with your new implant with the help of a physical therapist and check back with your doctor consistently to monitor the success of your new joint. Most patients are allowed to return to full activity without restrictions at 6 weeks after surgery.