



Asaf's ground-breaking surgery

Asaf Khan suffered a severe problem with both of his knees. They were so bad that as a young man he would have needed knee replacement surgery - a time-consuming and very painful process. Was there an alternative available?

Asaf had significant chondral damage to his patello femoral joint. So after seeing one of the leading orthopaedic consultants through PHS, it was agreed that he could undergo a new two-stage transplantation procedure for each knee.

The first stage meant harvesting the cartilage and sending it to a laboratory in Germany for growth purposes. 10,000 cells were grown in the lab for six weeks until they reached 10-12 million cells. After three weeks, Asaf was re-admitted and the cultured cartilage was surgically injected and replanted onto the patella with the aid of soft tissue from the tibia. The implanted cells then divided and integrated with the surrounding tissue and generated what is, most simply, described as 'new cartilage'.

Asaf, who is based at Nechells Police Station in Birmingham, said:

“The fact that PHS were willing and able to authorise such ground-breaking surgery means I haven't had to endure knee replacement surgery. By undergoing less invasive procedures, I'm now returning to fitness much more quickly.

I don't think I would have got this on the NHS - certainly not so quickly.”

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