Am I a candidate for treatment with Cartiform®?

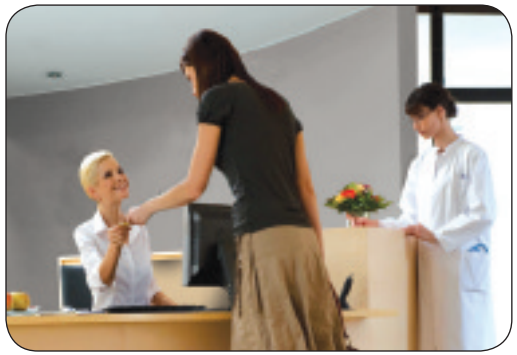
Cartiform is used to treat articular cartilage damage. Your surgeon will guide you in deciding what particular treatment is best for you and explain the benefits, risks, and contraindications associated with the treatment.

Are there any rehabilitation protocols?

Your physician will be able to provide the rehabilitation protocol that is appropriate for the cartilage lesion that is being treated. The rehabilitation protocol will typically be similar to other cartilage therapies such as fresh osteochondral grafting.

Will my insurance cover this procedure?

Please consult with your physician's office and insurance carrier prior to surgery to confirm coverage for Cartiform procedures. Most insurance carriers will cover the majority of costs associated with procedures that are deemed medically necessary.



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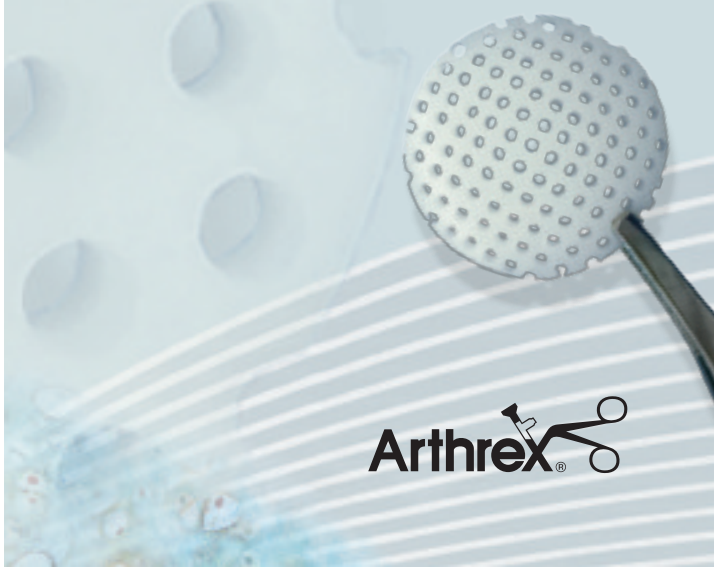
A Patient's Guide to Cartiform Treatment Options

Do you have a symptomatic articular cartilage defect that requires surgery?

Cartiform®

Viable Osteochondral Allograft



Arthrex®

Introduction

Articular cartilage, also called hyaline cartilage, is the tissue component that covers the joint surface at the end of a bone. A joint typically consists of two bones connected together with the articular cartilage of each bone opposing the other. When healthy, the cartilage allows our joints to go through painless range-of-motion and helps to provide shock absorption when weight-bearing (i.e., walking or climbing stairs). When cartilage is damaged, this may cause patient discomfort and pain along with joint swelling, which leads to decreased range-of-motion and stiffness.

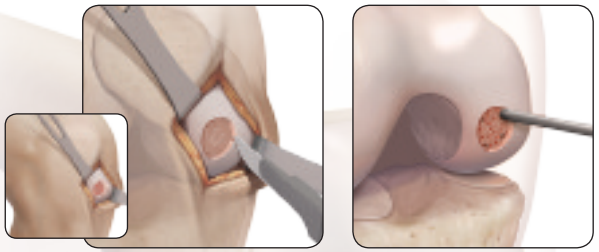
How is injured cartilage treated?

The physician will evaluate your symptoms and perform a physical examination of the joint that is causing you discomfort. The physician may also elect to obtain an image (i.e., X-ray, CT scan, MRI) of the painful joint to further evaluate your injury. Depending on the findings, your physician may determine a surgical procedure is warranted. When a cartilage lesion is identified, your surgeon may discuss with you a variety of surgical techniques including a microfracture procedure or repairing the cartilage surface with an osteochondral allograft. A microfracture procedure, also known as a marrow stimulation technique, consists of removing the damaged cartilage until a border of healthy cartilage is found. Small holes are then made in the base of the defect providing access channels for the underlying bone marrow cells to enter and begin healing of the tissue. Depending on the diameter and depth of the cartilage damage, your surgeon may suggest an osteochondral allograft, a donated tissue containing bone and cartilage, be used to replace your damaged cartilage with healthy articular cartilage.

What is Cartiform®?

Cartiform is a cryopreserved osteochondral allograft with pores and a reduced bony portion compared to traditional, fresh osteochondral allografts. The viable chondrocytes and growth factors native to articular cartilage are preserved within the proper orientation in Cartiform. Cartiform is flexible and may be easily implanted in a single surgical procedure, with or without marrow stimulation, to help repair damaged articular cartilage.

Cartiform Procedure in the Knee



Remove defect to stable borders

Prepare anchor pilot holes for Cartiform implant

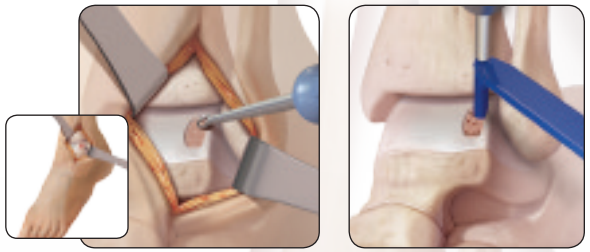
Cartiform implanted into damaged area

Completion of Cartiform procedure

How does Cartiform® work?

Healthy articular cartilage is composed of cartilaginous growth factors, a well-organized structural matrix, and cells called “chondrocytes”. These chondrocytes maintain and restore your articular cartilage surface. Cartiform maintains the structure and components of articular cartilage including living, functional chondrocytes which secrete growth factors and extracellular matrix proteins. Your surgeon will remove the defect to form stable borders and implant Cartiform to completely fill the damaged area. When used with marrow stimulation, the bone marrow cells will fill the pores of Cartiform to aid in the formation of hyaline cartilage. Over time, Cartiform is expected to heal into the surrounding host cartilage and bone.

Cartiform Procedure in the Ankle



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