

Orthopaedics

Orthopaedics, also called orthopaedic surgery, is concerned with the preservation and restoration of function of the skeletal system and its associated structures, that is, spinal and other bones, joints, and muscles. Modern orthopaedics has extended beyond the treatment of fractures, broken bones, strained muscles, torn ligaments and tendons, and other traumatic injuries to deal with a wide range of acquired and congenital skeletal deformities and with the effects of degenerative diseases such as osteoarthritis. A specialty that originally depended on the use of heavy braces and splints, orthopaedics now utilizes bone grafts and artificial plastic joints for the hip and other bones damaged by disease, as well as artificial limbs, special footwear, and braces to return mobility to disabled patients. Orthopaedics uses the techniques of physical medicine and rehabilitation and occupational therapy in addition to those of traditional medicine and surgery.