

History of joint replacement in Latvia

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How it started?

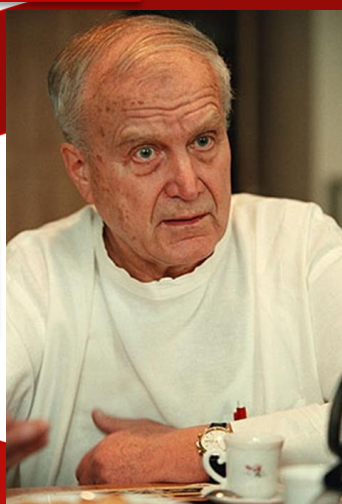
In early 1960s the ideas of joint replacement started to become real in Latvia, thanks to Viktors Kalnbērzs, the head of Institute of Traumatology, Riga.

Replacement of the femoral head, 4.07.1962, V. Kalnberzs

First hip replacement surgery – 10.05.1962, Konstantin Sivash

Unipolar Zude hip replacement, 1963

Elbow joint replacement, 1974, V. Kalnbērzs



Use of bone cement, 1980, V. Kalnbērzs

Cemented knee arthroplasty, 1986, N. Rydell

1988 - Kristaps Keggi - first hip replacement surgery in Riga

Beging of international partnership between Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedics and Yale University (USA)

1989 - first nurses from Riga went to Yale. This collaboration for nurses and doctors continued till 2010. Programme is re-established from 2019.



KRISTAPS KEGGI, MD

Department of joint replacement surgery, Latvian Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedics, 1987

Total femur replacement, 1990, V. Burdigins

Shoulder joint replacement, 1994, J. Matisons

Start of government paid arthroplasty surgery 1995



Uprising

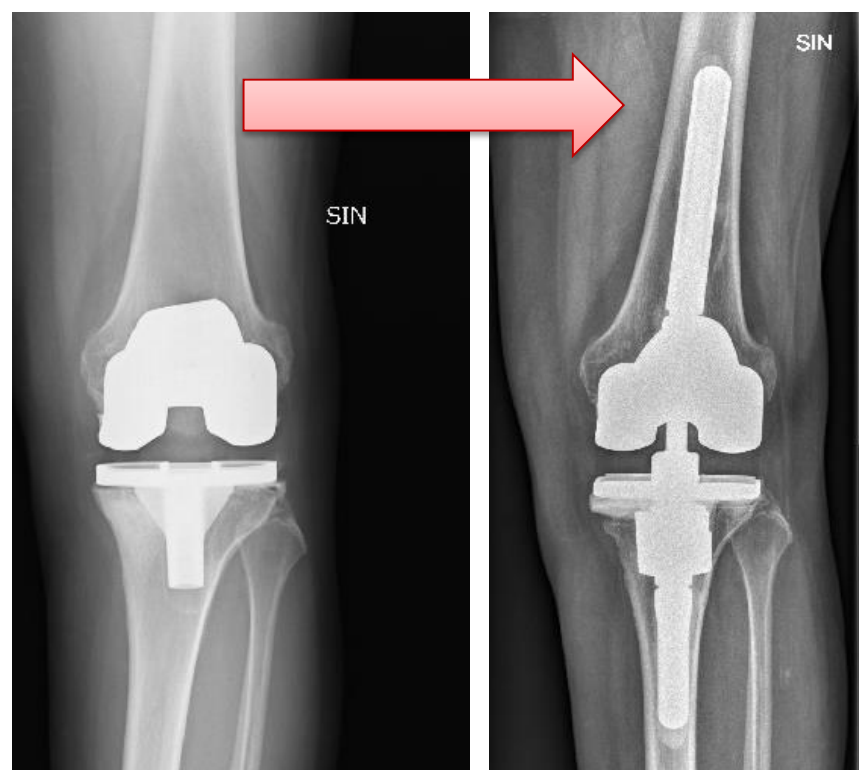
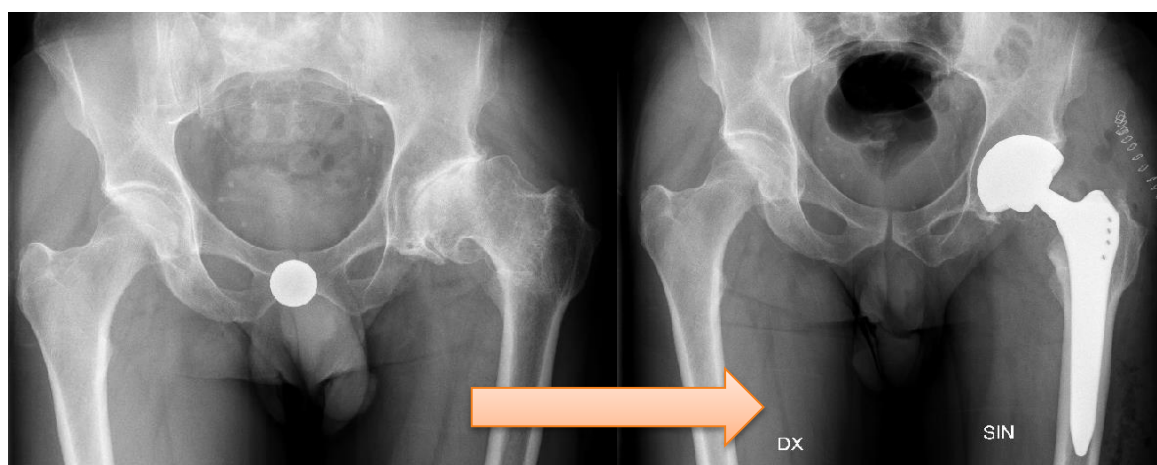
The period between 1997 and 1998 was very important for the history of joint replacement uprising in Latvia.

Association of Knee and Hip arthroplasty was founded by A. Lācis and K. Kalnbērzs.

First joint replacement surgeries were performed in other Latvian hospitals.

Arthroplasty register was established. Since 2010 national Arthroplasty register is part of EFORT. Since 2012 all arthroplasties completed in Hospital of Traumatology and Orthopaedics are registered in it.

With increasing numbers of complex primary cases and revision surgeries the use of modern technologies becomes popular – augments, sleeves, stems, higher stability implants.



How it's going?

Nowadays joint replacement surgery is being performed in 12 hospitals. Hospital of Traumatology and Orthopaedics still is leading arthroplasty centre in country.

Arthroplasty remains one of the most effective procedures in orthopaedics and it is constantly developing.

The history of modern Latvian joint replacement is being written right now and we ought to keep a track of progress. Following the changing needs, it is essential to improve our work today and tomorrow.