

Articular cartilage loss (osteoarthritis)

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What is it?

Osteoarthritis generally begins by focal loss of cartilage in weight-bearing joints (**A**). If we can repair these lesions we may be able to save the whole joint (**D**).

How do you propose to tackle this?

- Tissue-specific stem cells
- Tissue engineering approaches
- Accelerated growth

Difficult Challenges

- **Integration** – joining repair cartilage (**RC**) with normal cartilage (**OC**) is extremely difficult (**black arrowheads**) and the reason why many implants fail.

