When Can Patients Return to Driving after Total Joint Arthroplasty?

After total joint arthroplasty (TJA), doctors usually recommend a 6-week period before patients can drive.

Can we predict the return to driving based on specific patient predictors?

- Prospective study on patients who underwent TJA
- 554 with primary knee replacement
- 490 with primary hip replacement

Assessment every 2 weeks

- Return to driving
- Vehicle type
- Vehicle accidents

98.2% patients returned to driving 12 weeks after surgery

- Average of 4.4 weeks following primary knee replacement
- Average of 3.7 weeks following primary hip replacement

0.7% rate of vehicle accidents within 12 weeks (no injuries)

Predictors for delayed return

- Sex
- Joint laterality
- Limited walking ability
- Feeling safe

Based on predictive factors, arthroplasty surgeons can counsel patients on post-surgery return to driving.