



**Title**

**SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMATIC METAL SENSITIVITY: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY  
OF 92 PATIENTS UNDERGOING TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY**

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**Purpose/Premise**

This paper reports on a study to determine the clinical benefit of screening patients who are predisposed to symptomatic metal sensitivity, and to determine the specific metals that may cause symptomatic metal sensitivity in total knee patients.

**Material and Methods**

Ninety-two primary TKA patients were tested preoperatively for sensitivity to Ni, Co, Cr, and Fe. Those who tested positive for sensitivity to any of the metals were retested postoperatively.

**Outcomes**

Twenty-four of the 92 patients tested positively to at least one of the metals preoperatively. Five of those patients developed a cutaneous response postoperatively, but only one required revision due to chronic eczema.

**Conclusion/Recommendation**

The authors concluded that chromium may cause eczema following TKA. Although this limited study showed symptomatic metal sensitivity in 5.4% of patients, the author acknowledged that the prevalence of symptomatic sensitivity to metal is reported to be less than 1%.

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