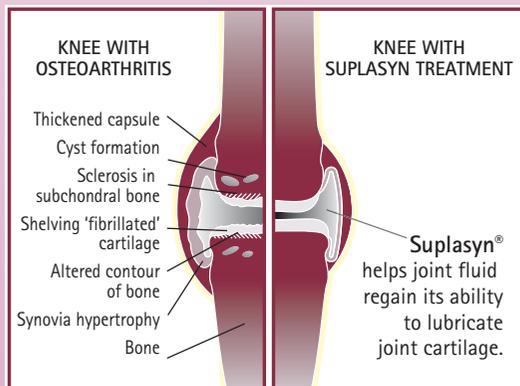


Introduction

Osteoarthritis (OA) is one of the most common chronic diseases and the most frequent cause of rheumatic complaints in the older population. Once thought to be as a result of normal ageing, OA is now recognised to be a manifestation of complex and dynamic events. In the last few years a new therapy in the management of OA has been introduced.

Viscosupplementation has been gaining in popularity because of its prolonged positive clinical effect and safety profile. By injecting the joint with Viscosupplementation the normal properties of the joint are restored, providing increased lubrication and shock absorption, therefore movement of the joint becomes easier and more comfortable.

The longer lasting effect may well depend on using **Viscosupplementation** early enough in the disease management process. Years of golf, wearing high heels, and activities such as typing can lead to arthritis in toes or fingers.



What is viscosupplementation therapy?

The joints of people with osteoarthritis or other degenerative joint diseases are different in several ways from those of healthy people. They contain less synovial fluid (the oily liquid which lubricates joints), and that fluid is thinner and therefore less able to lubricate properly.

In viscosupplementation therapy, the patient's natural synovial fluid is supplemented by injections of hyaluronic acid, the substance which gives synovial fluid its viscosity.

By supplementing the patient's natural lubricants, viscosupplementation may reduce pain and stiffness in the treated joints for easier, more comfortable movement.

What is Suplasyn® ?

Suplasyn is a highly purified form of hyaluronic acid, specifically produced for use in viscosupplementation therapy. (Hyaluronic acid is an important component of synovial fluid and provides it with its lubricating properties).

Derived from naturally occurring biological substances and manufactured to specific standards of molecular weight, viscosity and sterility, Suplasyn is injected into the synovial cavity of a joint. Extensive studies have shown that hyaluronic acid is effective in relieving the symptoms of osteoarthritis with few side effects.

Am I a good candidate for viscosupplementation therapy with Suplasyn® ?

Suplasyn therapy is particularly useful for patients in relatively early stages of osteoarthritis, where physical damage has not progressed very far. It can also be used as an alternative or supplement to therapy with non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAID's) or analgesics, the medications most often prescribed for arthritis patients. If you are unable to tolerate or you do not wish to take NSAID's, hyaluronic acid may be an appropriate alternative therapy. If you have recently been diagnosed as having osteoarthritis, Suplasyn may be the appropriate alternative if your doctor has decided that your current therapy needs to be changed or enhanced.

What are the advantages of Suplasyn® ?

Suplasyn relieves pain and stiffness associated with osteoarthritis. Yet, because it works only locally within the joint, it has none of the gastrointestinal side effects associated with NSAID's or analgesics.

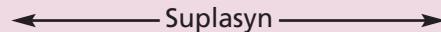
How long will the benefits of Suplasyn® last? For the patient with mild to moderate osteoarthritis, three injections will provide pain relief for up to 6 months. This will depend on the severity of symptoms. Those with more severe osteoarthritis would benefit from additional injections.

Is Suplasyn® therapy painful?

No. Naturally, as with all injections, there is mild and short-lasting discomfort during the actual procedure, but aside from this Suplasyn therapy is virtually painless. Often your physician will use a topical anaesthetic to reduce the discomfort. If there is considerable inflammation around the joint, the physician may remove some of the excess fluid (exudate) prior to an injection of Suplasyn.



Osteoarthritis treatment modalities



Physicians typically use a range of treatment modalities from ice/heat to surgery depending on factors such as progression of the disease, age, symptom severity. Suplasyn can be an effective alternative.

Does Suplasyn® work in other joints as well?

Suplasyn can work in any joint in which synovial fluid quality or quantity has been compromised by osteoarthritis or other joint diseases.

How is Suplasyn® administered?

Suplasyn is an injection into the synovial cavity to supplement the hyaluronic acid in the synovial fluid. Injections are given each week for 3 weeks.

Viscosupplementation Therapy

*A New Treatment
in the management of
Pain in Osteoarthritis*



Premier Medical Ltd.,
Dromin, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, Ireland.
tel +353 63 70313 fax +353 63 70417
e-mail: suplasyndirect@premiermedical.ie



Patient Information Brochure