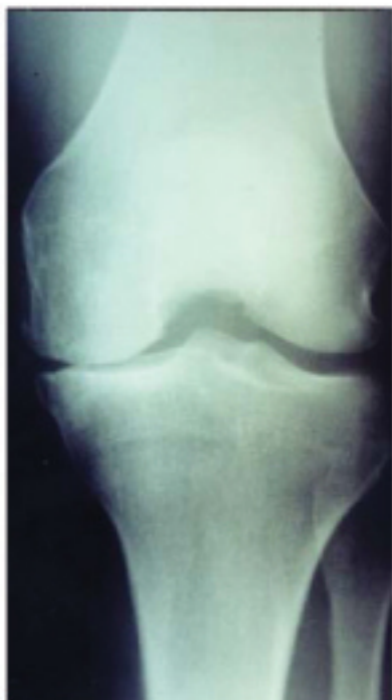


Synvisc®



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Synvisc®

(Sodium hyaluronate)

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis and the most common joint disease. The ends of the bones in normal joints are covered with smooth cartilage, which provides protection to these bones. Joints also contain a fluid called synovial fluid, which acts as both a cushion and a lubricant. In a knee with osteoarthritis, however, this fluid may have lost these features. For this and other reasons, the cartilage covering the ends of the bones begins to break down and wear away, sometimes enough to expose the bones themselves. The main symptom of osteoarthritis is pain during movement or at rest. Your joints may also be stiff and swollen with loss of range of motion.

Osteoarthritis may be caused by many factors including:

- Excessive wear on the joints
- Age, although osteoarthritis does not occur in all people as they age
- Obesity
- A small deformity of the bones in a joint
- Joint injuries from sports
- Work-related activities or accidents

SYNVISC® is a milestone viscosupplementation treatment used to relieve pain due to osteoarthritis of the knee. The elastoviscous supplement injected directly into the knee joint is used for patients who do not obtain adequate relief from analgesics or from exercise and physical therapy. SYNVISC® is derived from hyaluronan, a natural lubricant in normal joints. The goal of treatment is to restore the natural cushioning and lubricating properties of synovial fluid.

SYNVISC® therapy consists of three injections, given one week apart over a three-week period. You will have to limit physical activity within 48 hours of injection. After 48 hours, physical activity can be progressed as tolerated. Many patients experience some relief after the first injection. The average time it takes to feel the full benefit of treatment is five (5) to nine (9) weeks following the first injection. Pain relief usually lasts for 6 (six) to eight (8) months, however, in some cases it has lasted eighteen (18) months.

You may take medications while on SYNVISC® therapy. You should, however, always tell your doctor about any medicine you take. Be sure to tell your doctor if you are allergic to chicken or egg products, or if your leg is swollen or infected. Successful treatment of SYNVISC® can help reduce or stop pain in an osteoarthritic knee, allowing increased mobility and a higher and more comfortable level of activity.

SYNVISC® is generally well tolerated; however, it may not work for everyone. The most commonly reported side effects are temporary pain, swelling, and/or fluid accumulation in the injected knee (about 2% of injections). If fluid accumulation is large or painful, call your doctor.



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