

# SynACART<sup>®</sup> System

An Owner's Guide

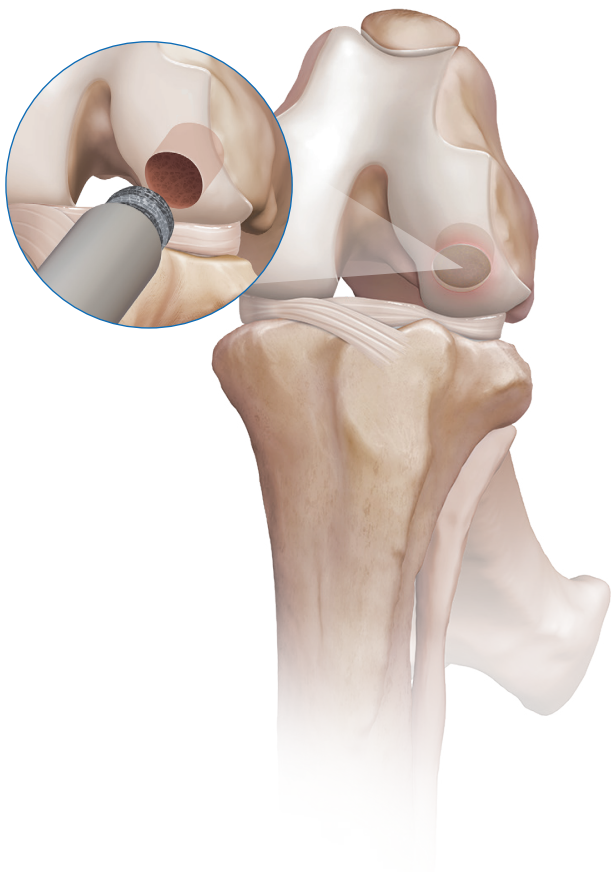


**Arthrex<sup>®</sup>**   
**Vet Systems**

## What Is Canine Osteochondritis Dissecans?

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Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD or OD) is a disease process that results from a failure of immature cartilage in the young dog to form into healthy underlying bone within a joint. This area of weakened and thickened cartilage creates a “flap” of cartilage that causes joint inflammation and pain, recognized by lameness in the dog. The long-term outcome of OCD is varying degrees of osteoarthritis. OCD most commonly affects the shoulder, elbow, knee, and ankle joints large- and giant-breed dogs.





## What Are the Symptoms of Osteochondritis Dissecans (OCD)?

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Some of the symptoms your pet may display are:

- Limping
- Swelling of the joint
- Pain when trying to extend or flex the joint
- Reluctance to walk
- Difficulty climbing stairs
- Stiffness when getting up from resting
- Less willing to exercise and play
- Yelping or moving away if affected joint is manipulated

## How Is OCD Diagnosed?

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OCD is most often diagnosed by your veterinarian using a combination of both physical examination findings of pain and lameness of the affected limb/joint and x-rays. For the latter, your dog may need a short-acting anesthetic or sedative. Occasionally, your vet will need to conduct more advanced procedures such as arthroscopy or CT scan to better define the location and extent of the OCD lesion.



## What Are My Treatment Options?

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Mild forms of the disease may resolve with conservative management including several weeks of restricted activity and anti-inflammatory therapy. However, in more typical cases where lameness and pain persist, surgical or arthroscopic treatment/debridement is recommended. One of the newest advancements in the treatment of OCD is synthetic resurfacing of the joint using implants such as SynACART<sup>®</sup> allograft to fill the defect caused by the OCD lesion. Manufactured by Arthrex, the SynACART system represents the cutting edge of treatment for canine OCD. The implant consists of a smooth polymer surface that acts like replacement cartilage, and a titanium metal core that allows newly formed bone to grow into the implant.





## Post-Op Care

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Your veterinary surgeon will provide you with a detailed postoperative plan. In general, your dog should be restricted to a small indoor area or kennel with gradually increasing leash-controlled walks for 6 to 8 weeks following surgery. A follow-up to assess healing will be performed 6 to 8 weeks following the procedure. Additional x-rays will often be taken to confirm that the implant has integrated into the bone. Once bone in-growth has been confirmed, your dog will be allowed gradual return to normal activity. Full athletic function can be expected in 4 to 6 months after surgery.

## Contact Information

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This Animal Health Topic was written by and reviewed by Diplomats of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Any opinions stated in this brochure are not necessarily the official position for the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. The American College of Veterinary Surgeons recommends contacting an ACVS board-certified veterinary surgeon or your general veterinarian for more information about this topic.



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