



Three types of total elbow arthroplasty have been used. The constrained design replaced the elbow joint with a hinged prosthesis. All stability of the joint was dependent on the prosthesis which was not built to accommodate the rotational demands of the elbow joint. Due to an unacceptably high failure rate, this prosthesis has been abandoned. Results were better with an unrestrained prosthesis but with 5%-20% incidence of postoperative instability, most patients are now treated with a semi-constrained prosthesis, which has inherent stability by linking of the component usually with a hinge (shown above) or a snap-fit axis arrangement.

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