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(58) Field of Search:
 INT CL A61F
 Other: EPODOC, WPI

(54) Title of the Invention: **Femoral extension prosthetic component and tibial shelf prosthetic component for unicondylar meniscal bearing knee prosthesis and prosthesis**
 Abstract Title: **Femoral prosthetic component with extension**

(57) A femoral extension prosthetic component 20 for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the femoral component 20 comprising a securing element (not shown) and a bearing surface 21, the securing element adapted to abut and be connected to a distal end of a femur bone, the bearing surface 21 adapted to abut a meniscal bearing 28, the femoral component 20 including an entrapment portion 23 adapted to extend beyond the meniscal bearing 28. The entrapment portion 23 may extend or project medially or laterally beyond the meniscal bearing 28. In use the entrapment portion reduces the risk of partial medial dislocation. In another aspect a tibial shelf is described. In a further aspect a meniscal bearing is described.

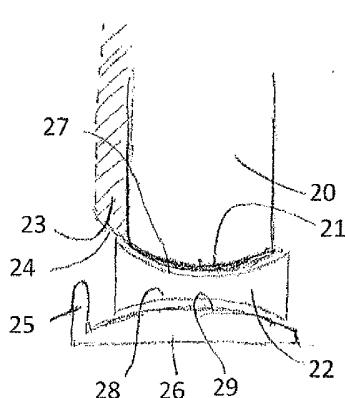


Figure 2a

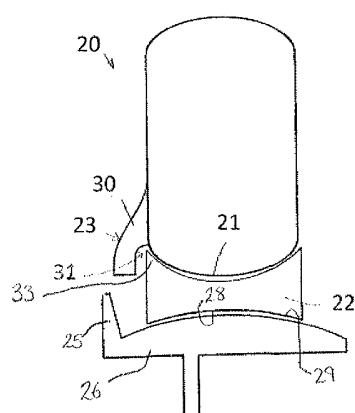


Figure 2b

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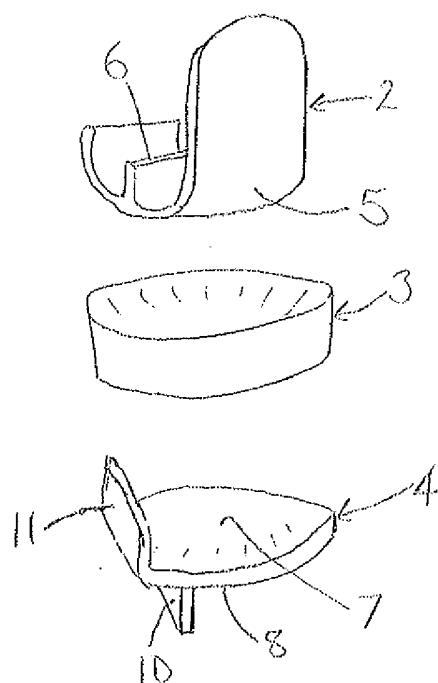


Figure 1

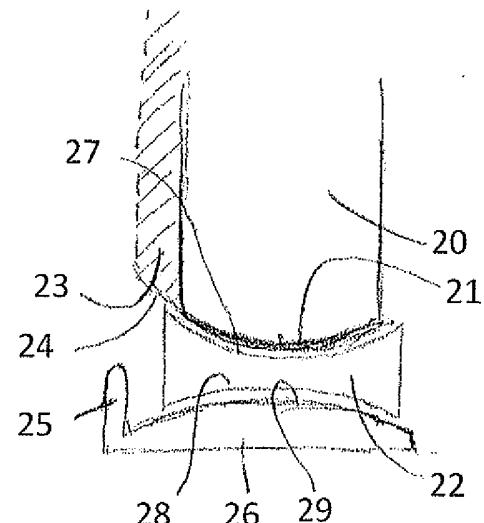


Figure 2a

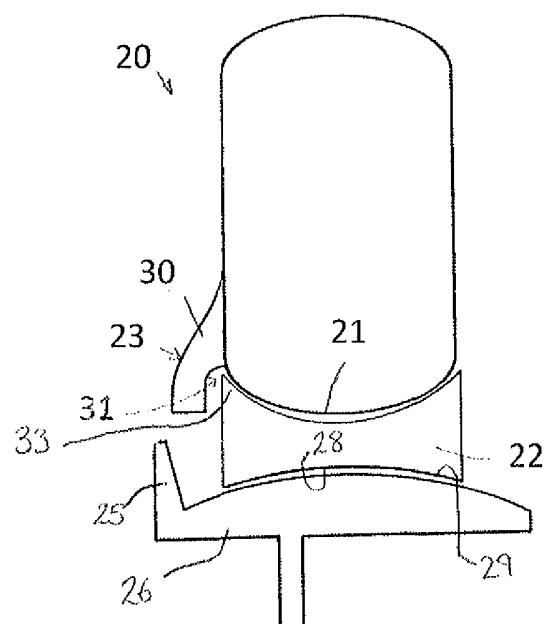


Figure 2b

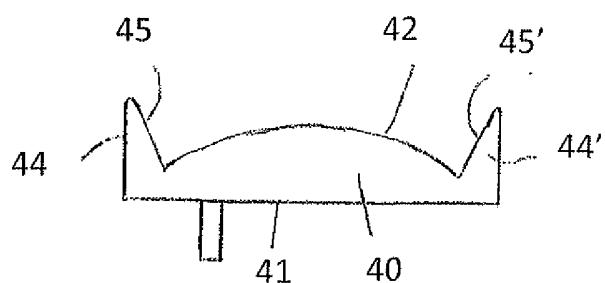


Figure 3

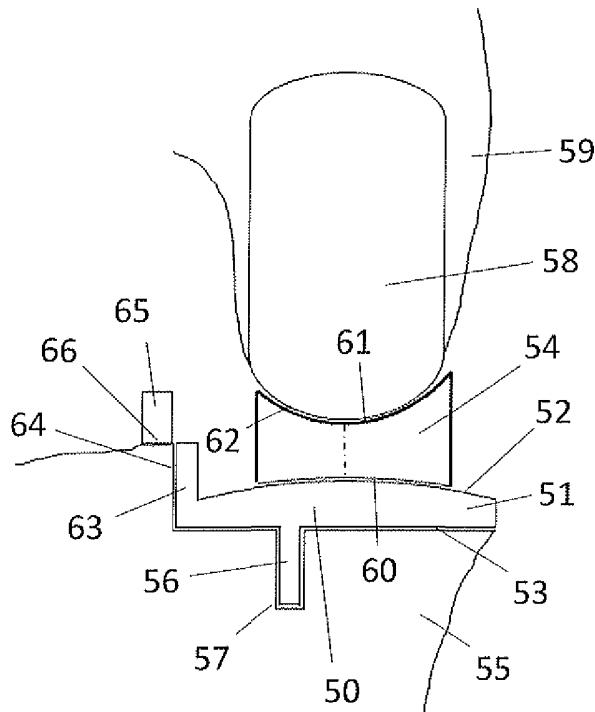


Figure 4a

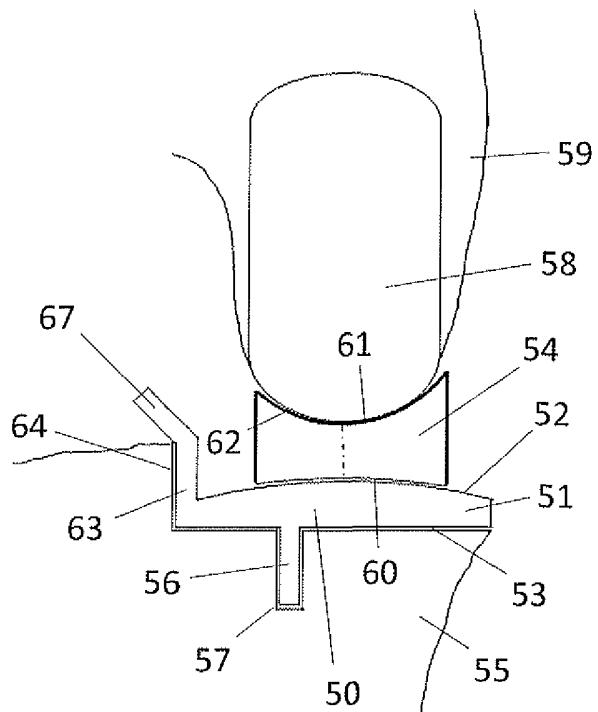


Figure 4b

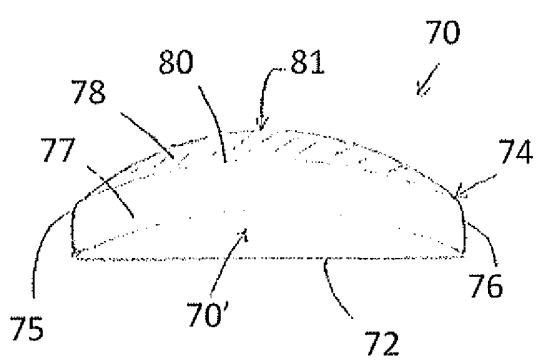


Figure 5a

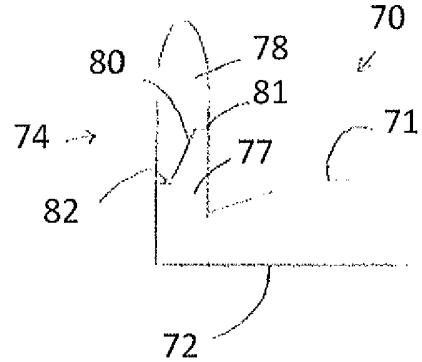


Figure 5b

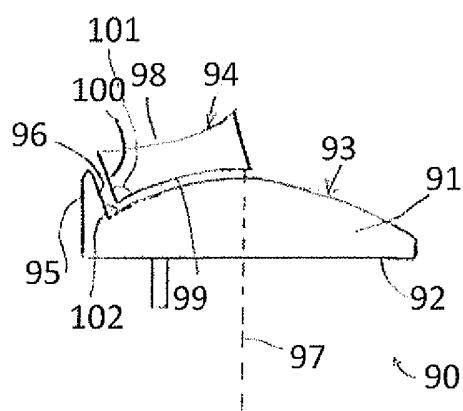


Figure 6a

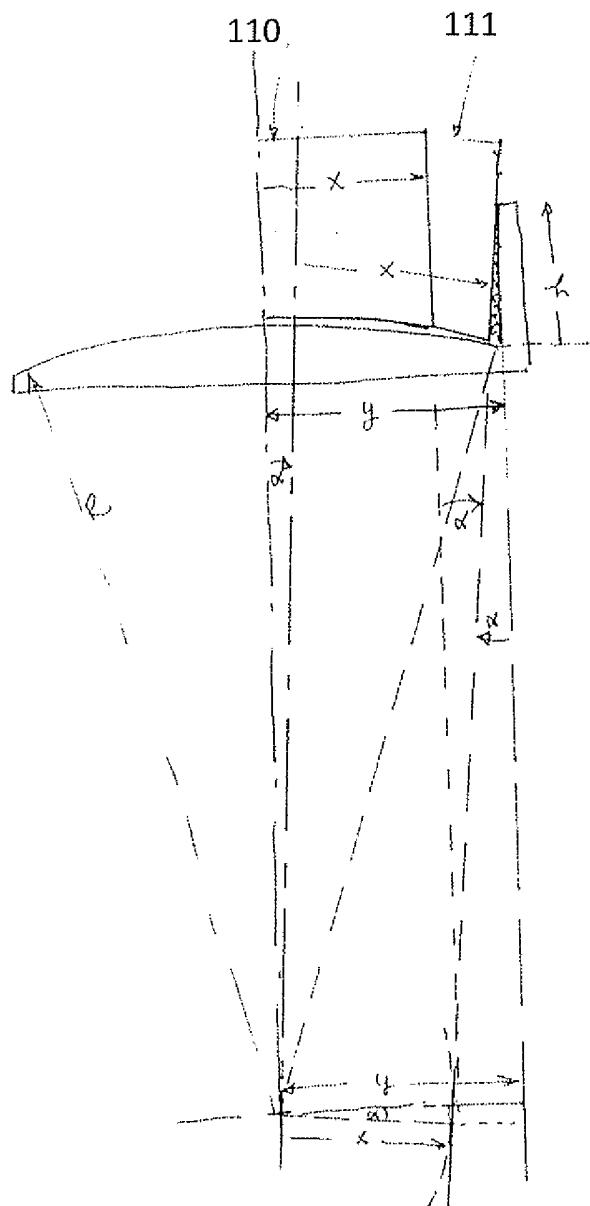


Figure 6b

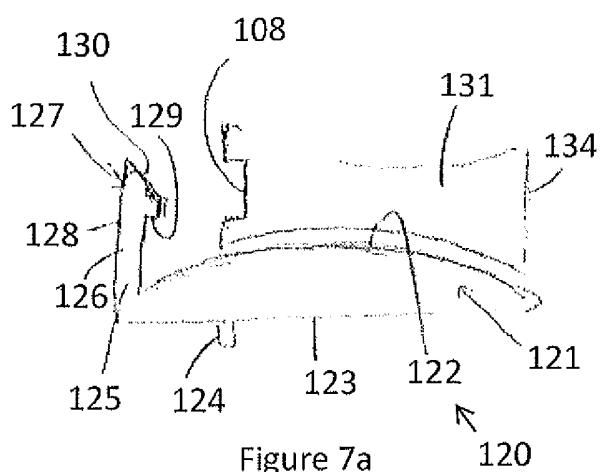


Figure 7a

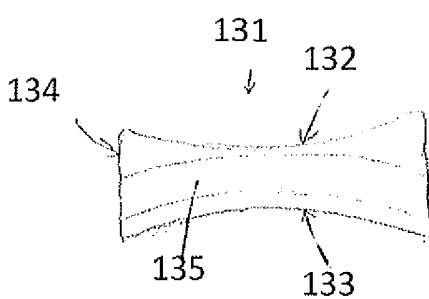


Figure 7b

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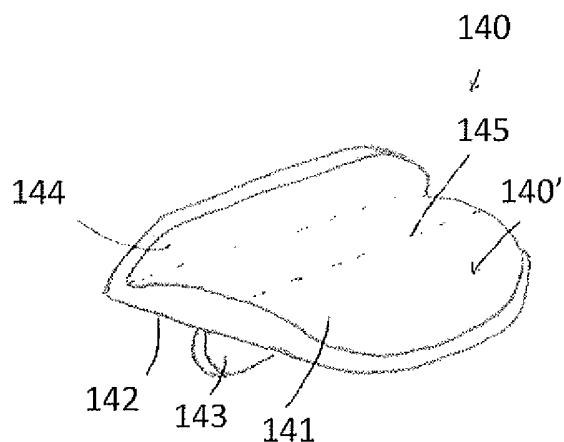


Figure 8a

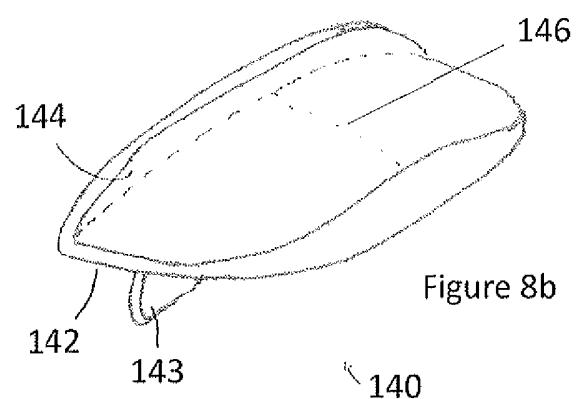


Figure 8b

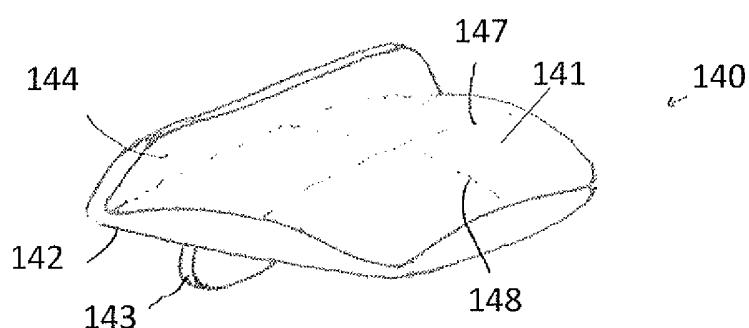


Figure 8c

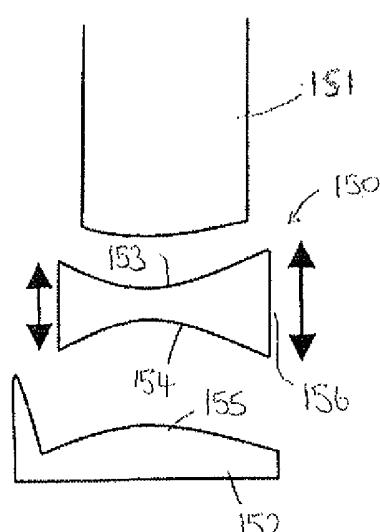


Figure 9

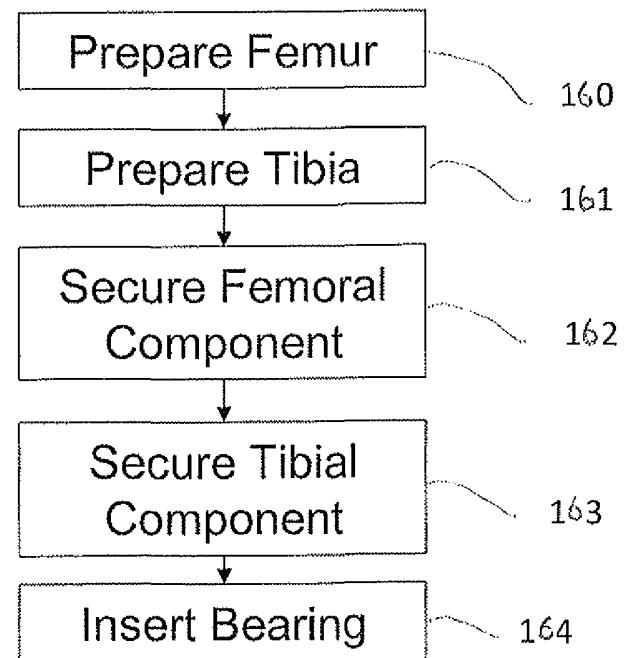


Figure 10

**FEMORAL EXTENSION PROSTHETIC COMPONENT AND TIBIAL
SHELF PROSTHETIC COMPONENT FOR UNICONDYLAR MENISCAL
BEARING KNEE PROSTHESIS AND PROSTHESIS INCLUDING SUCH
A COMPONENT**

5

This invention relates to a tibial shelf component for use in unicompartmental, unicondylar, meniscal bearing knee replacements. It also relates to a combination of a tibial component and meniscal bearing for use in such unicompartmental knee replacements. It also relates to a femoral prosthetic 10 component for use in unicompartmental, unicondylar, meniscal bearing knee replacement. It also relates to a method of performing knee arthroplasty.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The knee comprises three inter-dependent joints in three separate compartments, 15 all surrounded by a fibrous capsule covered by the skin. The medial tibio-femoral joint involves contact between the thigh bone (the femur) and the leg bone (the tibia) on the inside of the lower limb. The lateral tibio-femoral joint involves contact between the femur and the tibia on the outside of the lower limb. The patello-femoral joint involves contact between the femur and the knee cap (the 20 patella) on the front of the lower limb.

The front of the lower (distal) end of the femur comprises an anticlastic flanged groove, convex in the sagittal plane, transversely concave, providing a track for

the patella. The back of the distal femur divides into two separate near-spherical convex condyles making contact with the tibia. The upper surface of the tibia is like a plateau which is slightly dished on the medial side for contact with the medial femoral condyle forming the medial tibio-femoral joint and slightly convex on the lateral side for contact with the lateral femoral condyle forming the lateral tibio-femoral joint with a protrusion (the tibial eminence) running from front to back between the joints.

5

The articulating surfaces in each joint are covered with thin layers of a tough protective layer called cartilage, and are lubricated by synovial fluid secreted from a membrane on the inner surface of the fibrous capsule surrounding the knee. The surfaces of the tibio-femoral joints are further separated by the menisci, semi-circular semi-lunar collagen bundles oriented circumferentially. Each bundle is securely attached at each end to the tibia. The menisci form 15 closely-fitting mobile sockets for the femoral condyles bringing the dissimilar surfaces of the femur and tibia into closer conformity.

The bones are held together actively by muscles with their tendons which span the joints and passively by ligaments and the joint capsule. The ligaments 20 comprise bundles of collagen fibres running mainly longitudinally. The collateral ligaments arise on the external surfaces of the medial and lateral condyles. The medial collateral ligament inserts into the external medial surface of the proximal tibia. The lateral collateral ligament inserts into the proximal surface of the

fibula. The medial collateral ligament is a much larger and stiffer structure than the lateral collateral ligament. The cruciate ligaments arise from the internal surfaces of the femoral condyles and insert into the tibial eminence.

- 5 The ligaments and the bones together form a mechanism which controls a complex pattern of movement of the bones on each other. In the unloaded state, flexion of the knee to 130° about a transverse axis is accompanied by approximately 25° rotation about the axis of the tibia (axial rotation) and approximately 5° about an anteroposterior axis (abduction-adduction). These
- 10 movements are accommodated by mainly antero-posterior translations of the tibio-femoral contact areas so that the bones roll as well as slide on each other and the patella slides over the anterior femur.

Under load, the ligaments stretch and the articular surfaces indent, significantly

- 15 modifying the relationship between flexion, axial rotation and abduction-adduction and between flexion and contact area translations. Movements at the knee are therefore load and activity dependent.

Damage to the articular surfaces or to the ligaments changes the patterns of

- 20 movement of the bones on each other and the response of the joint to load. Osteoarthritis follows from failure of the cartilage in one or other of the three joints, leading to bone-on-bone contact and the onset of pain. Frequently, osteoarthritis first manifests itself in the medial compartment, while the ligaments

remain intact. The disease can remain confined to the medial compartment until the anterior cruciate ligament fails and the disease then spreads to the other two compartments. No drug treatment has been found which reverses these processes.

- 5 Total knee replacement is the most common surgical treatment for osteoarthritis, involving replacement of the articular surfaces of all three compartments and sacrifice of some of the ligaments. Partial knee replacement involves replacement of the articular surfaces in only one compartment, leaving intact the surfaces of the other two compartments and all of the ligaments. Partial knee replacement
10 can act prophylactically, reducing the rate of development of the disease in the other compartments. Partial knee replacement is surgically more demanding and is not always used when it is indicated.

To implant the prosthetic components of a knee replacement, sufficient sections
15 of bone have to be removed from the surfaces of the tibia and the femur. The component parts of the prosthesis are then fitted accurately replacing the material removed by the surgeon. Care has to be taken not to overstuff the joint, leading to pain and failure of the components and, in the case of a partial knee replacement, degeneration of the preserved compartments.

20

Mobile bearing arthroplasty uses metal components fixed to the tibia and the femur with an intervening plastic bearing, an analogue of the natural meniscus, interposed between. The metal components are fixed to the bones so as to leave a

constant gap between them when the knee is flexed and extended. The surgeon then selects the most appropriate thickness of bearing to fill the gap. The bearing is pushed between the metal components against the resistance of stretching ligaments. The bearing snaps into position once its thick section has passed 5 through the thinnest section of the gap between the fixed components. A complication of mobile bearing arthroplasty is dislocation of the bearing. Dislocation rarely occurs after medial partial knee replacement but is the main complication of lateral arthroplasty. The surgeon naturally seeks to use the thickest possible bearing to avoid dislocation. However, if too thick a bearing is 10 selected, there is a risk of overstuffed the joint, which can lead to pain and failure of the components and, in the case of a partial knee replacement, degeneration of the preserved compartments.

15 The difference between the maximum and minimum thickness of a mobile bearing is a measure of the entrapment of the bearing when it is held in place between the fixed metal components by the ligaments and a measure of the ligament stretch needed to implant or dislocate the bearing in use. A spherically convex tibial component (the domed tibial), similar in shape to the natural lateral tibial plateau, and a bi-concave meniscal bearing were developed to increase 20 entrapment and to reduce the incidence of bearing dislocation after lateral arthroplasty. Nonetheless, lateral bearing dislocation continues to be a problem.

Complete dislocation can occur along the anteroposterior axis of the knee replacement. This can happen either in the anterior direction, as the reverse of the process of implantation, or in the posterior direction. If the patient distracts the joint i.e. by applying appropriate varus or valgus load to the limb, the bearing

5 may be free to move through the enlarged minimum gap and escapes from the embrace of the femoral and tibial components which will then come into contact.

It is more likely to occur if the bearing is tipped at an angle so that it slides out of the gap along the femoral component.

10

The amount of distraction of the gap between the femoral component and the domed tibial component used in lateral arthroplasty required to cause dislocation can be expressed as follows:

15 For complete dislocation along tibia, the distraction required is:

$$D_t = \sqrt{x_1^2 + (t_1 + t + R_2)^2} - (R_2 + t)$$

For complete dislocation along the femur, the distraction required is:

$$D_f = \sqrt{x_2^2 + (t_2 + t + R_1)^2} - (R_1 + t)$$

where

20 R_1 is the radius of the femoral component

R_2 is the radius of the tibial component

x_1 is the length of the posterior portion of the meniscal bearing at upper interface

x_2 is the length of the posterior portion of the meniscal bearing at lower interface

t is the minimum thickness of the meniscal bearing

$t_1 = R_1 - \sqrt{R_1^2 - x_1^2}$ is the depth of the upper concavity

$t_2 = R_2 - \sqrt{R_2^2 - x_2^2}$ is the depth of the lower concavity

5 It is also possible for complete dislocation to occur in the lateral direction. Partial dislocation can occur in the medial direction when the bearing moves medially and above the free end of the medial wall of the tibial component before becoming trapped between the fixed components. Partial medial dislocation and complete lateral dislocation continue to be a problem in lateral arthroplasty.

10

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Several aspects of the invention involve methods of reducing the gap between the medial edges of the femoral and tibial components to reduce the risk of partial medial dislocation.

15

According to a first aspect of the invention, we provide a femoral extension prosthetic component for use in a unicompartmental meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the femoral component comprising a securing element and a bearing surface, the securing element adapted to abut and 20 be connected to a distal end of a femur bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a meniscal bearing, the femoral component including an entrapment portion adapted to extend beyond the meniscal bearing.

This is advantageous as the entrapment portion increases the entrapment of the meniscal bearing by extending beyond its side wall. In particular, the entrapment portion is arranged such that it reduces the size of the medial gap between the femoral component and a medial wall of a tibial component of a knee prosthesis.

5 This reduces the chance of the meniscal bearing escaping through the gap therebetween and therefore reduces the chance of medial dislocation. The entrapment portion increases the width of the femoral component such that it can be wider than the bearing on the medial or lateral side. This is advantageous as the bearing is held more securely. Preferably, the entrapment portion reduces

10 the gap to a size less than the thickness of the meniscal bearing to prevent the meniscal bearing from sliding through.

Preferably, the entrapment portion extends medially beyond the meniscal bearing. Preferably, the entrapment portion extends laterally beyond the

15 meniscal bearing. This is advantageous as, when in use, the entrapment portion extends over the edge or rim of the bearing thereby holding it in place.

Preferably the entrapment portion extends medially such that in use it extends beyond the meniscal bearing and the femoral component includes a second

20 entrapment portion extending laterally such that in use it extends beyond the meniscal bearing. The use of two entrapment portions securely retains the meniscal bearing in use.

Preferably the bearing surface of the femoral component is convex and is adapted to abut a concave bearing surface of the meniscal bearing, the entrapment portion being arranged such that the bearing surface is continued over the entrapment portion. This is advantageous as the entrapment portion retains the bearing while

5 maintaining a smooth continuous surface over which the bearing can move.

The bearing surface of the femoral component and entrapment portion may be arranged such that the apex of the bearing surface is off-centre.

10 Alternatively the entrapment portion may comprise a projection or flange that extends from a medial or lateral side of the femoral component adjacent the bearing surface of the femoral component. Thus, the flange does not continue the convex bearing surface but provides a discontinuous surface to aid in retention of the bearing. This projection on the inner radius of the femoral

15 component is advantageous as it can act to retain the meniscal bearing.

Preferably the entrapment portion projection projects in a distal direction from the femoral component. Preferably, the entrapment portion projection is arranged to project distally to a position substantially level with apex of the

20 convex bearing surface of the femoral component.

Preferably, the projection comprises a hooked flange secured by a longitudinal side to the femoral component adjacent to the bearing surface. Preferably, the

projection is constructed and arranged such that it forms a concave region with the bearing surface. The concave region can therefore receive a rim of the bearing.

- 5 Preferably the entrapment portion is arranged to project substantially 5mm mediolaterally beyond the meniscal bearing, in use.

The femoral extension component may be adapted to be used with a tibial component having a medial wall and possibly also a lateral wall extending from

- 10 the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side. The femoral entrapment portion may also be adapted to extend laterally beyond the lateral side of the meniscal bearing to reduce the gap between the lateral tibial wall and the femoral component. This reduces the chance of the meniscal bearing escaping through the gap therebetween and therefore reduces the chance of lateral
- 15 dislocation.

According to a second aspect of the invention, we provide a tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface and a bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a meniscal bearing, the tibial shelf including a medial wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, and wherein the tibial shelf

also includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side.

This is advantageous as the medial wall is adapted to retain the meniscal bearing

5 on the tibial shelf when it moves in the medial direction and the lateral wall is adapted to retain the meniscal bearing on the tibial shelf when it moves in the lateral direction. It also restricts the freedom of the surgeon to place the meniscal bearing too far in the lateral direction. This arrangement reduces the risk of medial dislocation and lateral dislocation.

10

Preferably, the medial wall has a laterally facing side adjacent to the tibial bearing surface, wherein the laterally facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component. Preferably, the lateral wall has a medially facing side of the lateral wall adjacent to the tibial bearing surface, wherein the medially facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component.

The tibial component may include an extension at the free end of the medial wall, or at the free end of a lateral wall, or at the free ends of both the medial wall and a lateral wall. The extension may be flexible. The extension may be inclined in a

20 medial direction or a lateral direction with respect to the medial wall or a lateral wall respectively. The extension at the free end of the medial wall may be adapted to be attached to the portion of bone medially adjacent to the medial wall and may include a securing element to effect the connection.

The tibial component may include a laterally extending flange on the lateral side of the medial wall, or a medially extending flange on the medial side of a lateral wall, or both, the flange or flanges adapted to be received in a groove or grooves

5 on the meniscal bearing that are complementary to the flange or flanges.

According to a third aspect of the invention, we provide a tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface

10 and a bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a bearing element, the tibial shelf including a medial wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, the medial surface of the medial wall adapted to abut a medial portion of bone, wherein the tibial

15 component includes an extension portion located adjacent a free end of the medial wall and medially outward therefrom.

This is advantageous as the extension portion extends the medial wall, which effectively increases the total width of the tibial component. This way, in the

20 event of dislocation over the medial wall, the bearing element will be encouraged back down to its correct position on the bearing surface of the tibial component. Also, the extension portion is less likely to come into contact with the femoral component due to its location relative to the wall.

Preferably, the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side, wherein the tibial component includes a second extension portion located adjacent a free end of the

5 lateral wall and laterally outward therefrom. The lateral extension portion can prevent lateral dislocation and may be present independently of the medial wall.

The extension portion may be separate from the remainder of the tibial component and may be adapted to be secured to the tibia bone adjacent and

10 medial to the free end of the medial wall.

Alternatively the extension portion may be continuous with the medial wall. The extension portion may be adapted to be attached both to the medial wall and to the portion of bone medial to the medial wall. This is advantageous as the tibial

15 component is easier to install.

Preferably the medial wall comprises a base part that extends from the bearing surface and the extension portion extends from the base part, wherein the extension portion is inclined with respect to the base part. The base part may

20 extend from the bearing surface substantially perpendicular to the plane of the shelf. The extension portion may extend from a free end of the base part, opposite where the base part meets the bearing surface. In particular, the extension portion may be inclined medially outwardly with respect to the base

part at an angle between 10° and 80°. The angle may be between 30° and 60°, or it may be substantially 45°.

Preferably the extension portion is of the same material as the remainder of the

5 wall, although it may be of plastics material. This is advantageous as the plastics material can be selected to be sufficiently rigid to contain the bearing element upon partial dislocation, while being sufficiently flexible to move out of the way of the femoral extension and, should some of the material be sheared or filed off, not to cause serious complications.

10

Preferably the height of the extension portion is greater than 1mm. Preferably the height of the extension portion is less than 4mm. Preferably the height of the extension portion is between 2mm and 3mm.

15 Preferably the extension portion is arched along its length, in the anterior-posterior direction. This provides a sufficient degree of entrapment without unduly restricting movement of the knee prosthesis in use.

Preferably the extension portion extends outwardly in a medial direction.

20 Further, the extension portion may have a laterally facing surface that is inclined to the laterally facing surface of the remainder of the medial wall. This is advantageous as extending the tibial extension medially outwardly effectively increases the total width of the tibial component. This way, in the event of

dislocation over the medial wall, the bearing element would be encouraged back down to its correct position on the bearing surface of the tibial component. Also, an extension portion of this form is less likely to come into contact with the femoral component. The lateral extension portion may have the same features

5 but a mirror image thereof.

According to a fourth aspect of the invention, we provide a tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface

10 and a bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a bearing element, the tibial shelf including a medial wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, the medial wall having at least a flexible free end.

15

This is advantageous as the height of the medial wall can be increased because the wall has a flexible free end, which will flex on coming into contact with other parts of the knee prosthesis or bone. If the tibial shelf and femoral extension were of metal (or other rigid material), increasing the height of the medial wall

20 could result in metal on metal contact and metal particles being produced (or other friction-produced debris). With a flexible medial wall, the chance of metal particles being produced is reduced as the wall will flex out of the way and any particles will be of less damaging flexible material. Therefore, the medial wall

can be arranged at a height that will significantly reduce the chance of medial dislocation of the bearing element into the intercondylar notch.

Preferably, the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of

5 the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side, the lateral wall having at least a flexible free end. This is advantageous as the chance of lateral dislocation can also be reduced. The lateral wall with the flexible end may be present independently of the medial wall with flexible end.

10 Preferably the height of the medial wall and/or lateral wall is greater than 6mm.

Preferably the height of the medial and/or lateral wall is less than 10mm.

Preferably the height of the medial and/or lateral wall is between 7mm and 9mm.

15 Preferably the medial wall comprises a base part proximate to the shelf and an

extension part above the base part, the extension part being of a more flexible material than the base part. Thus, the extension part forms the flexible free end of the medial wall.

20 Preferably the extension part of the medial wall is of plastics material. This is

advantageous as the plastics material can be selected to be sufficiently rigid to contain the bearing element, while being sufficiently flexible to move out of the way of the femoral extension and, should some of the material be sheared or filed

off, not to cause serious complications. The medial and/or lateral wall may be of plastics and the flexible free end may be of more flexible plastics.

5 Preferably the medial wall is arched along its length, in the anterior-posterior direction. This provides a sufficient degree of entrapment without unduly restricting movement of the knee prosthesis in use.

10 Preferably the extension part of the medial wall is offset medially from the base part of the medial wall. This will significantly reduce the chance of the femoral component or the bearing element contacting the extension part of the medial wall.

15 Preferably the extension part of the medial wall is arranged to be offset so that the bearing element does not contact the extension part in general use. Thus, contact with the extension part is limited to times when dislocation could occur.

20 Preferably the offset of the extension part is determined according to the inclination of the bearing when the bearing is both substantially contacting the bearing surface of the tibial component and contacting the base part of the medial wall. For a convex bearing surface, the inclination from the vertical α of the bearing when the bearing is both substantially contacting the bearing surface of the tibial component and contacting the base part of the medial wall may be calculated using the formula

$$y - x \cos \alpha - \left(h + x \sin \alpha + \sqrt{R^2 - y^2} \right) \tan \alpha = 0$$

where

y is the distance from the central eminence of the dome to the laterally facing side of the medial wall,

x is the half-width of the meniscal bearing,

- 5 h is the height of the medial wall from the medial edge of the bearing surface and R is the radius of the convex bearing surface.

Preferably this offset will be at least 0.4mm.

- 10 The tibial component may include an inclined laterally facing side of the medial wall or a lateral wall extending from the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side.

- 15 The extension part of the medial wall may be inclined medially outwardly. This is advantageous as this will effectively increase the width of the tibial component thereby reducing the chance of medial dislocation. The extension part may be inclined at substantially 45° to the base part.

- 20 According to a fifth aspect of the invention, we provide a tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface and a convex bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the convex bearing surface adapted to abut a concave face of a meniscal bearing, the tibial shelf including a medial

wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, the medial wall having a laterally facing side adjacent to the bearing surface, wherein the laterally facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component.

5

This is advantageous as the inclined surface can be inclined such that it bears against a side wall of the meniscal bearing. This is thought to reduce the chance of medial dislocation. This is perhaps because when the laterally facing side of the medial wall is parallel to the axis of the tibial component, the bearing element 10 will slide over the convex bearing surface until its side wall abuts the distal end of the medial wall. The free end of the medial wall provides little resistance to continued movement of the bearing, leading to dislocation. An inclined laterally facing side can be arranged such that the side wall of the bearing substantially makes contact with the whole inclined side rather than just the distal end. This 15 increased area of contact will increase the resistance to movement of the bearing up the wall. Furthermore, the wider distribution of force will result in less wear on the bearing.

Preferably, the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending axially from the 20 perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side. Preferably, the medially facing side of the lateral wall is inclined to the axis of the tibial component. Thus, the tibial component includes a wall to resist lateral dislocation as well as medial dislocation.

Preferably, the inclination of the laterally facing side of the medial wall is chosen such that the laterally facing side is parallel to a side wall of the meniscal bearing, which abuts the medial wall, in use.

5

For a convex bearing surface, the inclination from the vertical α of the laterally facing side of the medial wall may be calculated using the formula

$$y - x \cos \alpha - (h + x \sin \alpha + \sqrt{R^2 - y^2}) \tan \alpha = 0$$

where

10 y is the distance from the central eminence of the dome to the laterally facing side of the medial wall,
 x is the half-width of the bearing,
 h is the height of the medial wall from the medial edge of the bearing surface and
 R is the radius of the convex bearing surface.

15

Preferably, the tibial shelf prosthetic component is adapted for use with a meniscal bearing comprising a first concave bearing surface adapted to bear against a femoral prosthetic component, and a second concave bearing surface opposed to the first concave bearing surface and adapted to bear against the 20 bearing surface of the tibial component, the first and second bearing surfaces being separated by a side wall, wherein the angle formed between the laterally facing side of the medial wall and the convex bearing surface is substantially the same as the angle formed between the side wall and the second concave bearing

surface of the meniscal bearing. The shelf and the bearing thus have complementary surfaces which interact to prevent medial dislocation.

The tibial component may include a laterally extending flange on the lateral side
5 of the medial wall, or a medially extending flange on the medial side of a lateral
wall, or both, the flange or flanges adapted to be received in a groove or grooves
in the meniscal bearing that are complementary to the flange or flanges.

The tibial component may include an extension at the free end of the medial wall,
10 or at the free end of a lateral wall, or at the free ends of both the medial wall and
a lateral wall. The extension may be flexible. The extension may be angled in a
medial direction or a lateral direction for the medial wall or a lateral wall
respectively. The extension at the free end of the medial wall may be attached to
the portion of bone medially adjacent to the medial wall.

15

According to a sixth aspect of the invention, we provide a combination of a tibial
shelf component and a meniscal bearing for use in a unicondylar
unicompartmental meniscal bearing knee replacement, the tibial component
having a shelf which has a connection surface and a bearing surface, the
20 connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia
bone, the bearing surface adapted to, in use, abut the meniscal bearing, the tibial
shelf including a medial wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface
over a portion of the medial side of the tibial component, wherein the medial wall

includes a laterally extending flange on its lateral side and the meniscal bearing includes a groove complementary to the flange, the flange adapted to be received in the groove in use.

- 5 This is advantageous as the flange can engage in the recess of the bearing to reduce the chance of medial dislocation of the knee prosthesis. The flange engages the bearing element such that it prevents it lifting from the bearing surface of the tibial shelf.
- 10 Preferably, the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side of the tibial component, wherein the lateral wall includes a medially extending flange on its lateral side and the meniscal bearing includes a groove complementary to the flange, the flange adapted to be received in the groove in use.
- 15 Preferably, the bearing element comprises a first concave bearing surface adapted to bear against a femoral prosthetic component, and a second concave bearing surface opposed to the first concave bearing surface and adapted to bear against the bearing surface of the tibial component, the first and second bearing surfaces being separated by a side wall, wherein the groove is formed in a portion of the side wall.

Preferably, the groove comprises an arcuate track that substantially follows the curve of the second concave bearing surface.

Preferably, the medially facing side of the lateral wall is inclined to the axis of
5 the tibial component. The medial wall may have a laterally facing side adjacent to the tibial bearing surface, wherein the laterally facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component. A lateral wall may have a medially facing side adjacent to the tibial bearing surface, wherein the medially facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component.

10

The tibial component may include an extension at the free end of the medial wall, or at the free end of a lateral wall, or at the free ends of both the medial wall and a lateral wall. The extension may be flexible. The extension may be angled in a medial direction or a lateral direction for the medial wall or a lateral wall
15 respectively. The extension at the free end of the medial wall may be attached to the portion of bone medially adjacent to the medial wall.

According to an seventh aspect of the invention, we provide a tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing
20 unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface and a bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and to be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a meniscal bearing, the tibial shelf including a medial

wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, wherein

- the bearing surface is curved in the anterior-posterior direction only; or
- the bearing surface is curved in the medial-lateral direction only; or
- 5 the bearing surface has a first function of curvature in the anterior-posterior direction and a second function of curvature in the medial-lateral direction.

This is advantageous as the barrel shaped surface or ruled surface can act to 10 reliably retain a meniscal bearing against dislocation. Further, when the bearing surface is curved in both the anterior-posterior direction and medial-lateral direction, the functions of curvature can be selected to ensure a balance of security against dislocation and freedom of movement of the joint.

15 When the bearing surface is curved in both the anterior-posterior direction and the medial-lateral direction, the first function of curvature may be different to the second function of curvature.

Preferably, the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of 20 the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side.

According to an eighth aspect of the invention, we provide a meniscal bearing prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing

unicompartmental knee replacement, the meniscal bearing comprising a first concave bearing surface adapted to bear against a femoral prosthetic component, and a second concave bearing surface opposed to the first concave bearing surface and adapted to bear against a tibial prosthetic component, the first and 5 second bearing surfaces being separated by a side wall, wherein the side wall is thicker on the lateral side than on the medial side.

This is advantageous as the shape of the meniscal bearing acts to reduce the chance of medial dislocation. To dislocate medially, the lateral side of the 10 meniscal bearing must move between the femoral prosthetic component and the tibial prosthetic component. By making the lateral side of the bearing thicker, the gap between the femoral prosthetic component and the tibial prosthetic component must be larger for dislocation to occur. Thus, the chance of medial dislocation is reduced. The meniscal bearing of the eighth aspect may be used in 15 combination with the femoral component of the first aspect of the invention.

Preferably the thickness of the lateral side is 1mm larger than the medial side.

According to a ninth aspect of the invention, we provide a method of performing 20 knee arthroplasty using a tibial component of the second, third, fourth, fifth or seventh aspects of the invention with a femoral component and a meniscal bearing, or the combination of a tibial component and meniscal bearing of the sixth aspect of the invention with a femoral component, or a femoral component

of the first aspect of the invention with a tibial component and a meniscal bearing, or a meniscal bearing of the sixth aspect of the invention with a femoral component and a tibial component comprising;

- preparing a femur bone to receive the femoral component;
- 5 preparing a tibia bone to receive the tibial component;
- securing the femoral component to the femur bone;
- securing the tibial component to the tibia bone; and
- inserting the bearing between the femoral component and the tibial component.

10

It will be appreciated that the components of the aspects of the invention may be used with one another to form a kit of parts comprising a tibial component, a femoral extension component and a meniscal bearing for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement.

15

It will be appreciated that each of the components defined in the above aspects of the invention could include the features of the other aspects of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 There now follows by way of example only a detailed description of the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings in which;

Figure 1 shows a known unicompartmental unicondylar meniscal bearing knee prosthesis;

Figure 2a shows a cross-sectional front view of an embodiment of a femoral component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the first aspect of the invention;

Figure 2b shows a cross-sectional front view of a further embodiment of a femoral component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the first aspect of the invention;

Figure 3 shows a cross-sectional front view of an embodiment of a tibial component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the second aspect of the invention;

15

Figure 4a shows a side view of an embodiment of a tibial component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the third aspect of the invention;

20 **Figure 4b** shows a cross-sectional front view of a further embodiment of a tibial component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the third aspect of the invention;

5 **Figure 5a** shows a side view of an embodiment of a tibial component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the fourth aspect of the invention;

10 **Figure 5b** shows a cross-sectional front view of an embodiment of a tibial component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the fourth aspect of the invention;

15 **Figure 6a** shows a front view of an embodiment of a tibial component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the fifth aspect of the invention;

20 **Figure 6b** shows a diagram that illustrates a calculation of the inclination of the bearing when the bearing is both substantially contacting the bearing surface of the tibial component and contacting the medial wall;

15 **Figure 7a** shows a cross-sectional front view of an embodiment of a tibial component of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the sixth aspect of the invention;

20 **Figure 7b** shows a side view of an embodiment of a meniscal bearing of a knee prosthesis in accordance with the sixth aspect of the invention;

Figure 8a shows a first embodiment of the tibial component of the seventh aspect of the invention;

Figure 8b shows a second embodiment of the tibial component of the seventh aspect of the invention;

5 **Figure 8c** shows a third embodiment of the tibial component of the seventh aspect of the invention;

10 **Figure 9** shows a cross-sectional front view of an embodiment of a tibial component and meniscal bearing in accordance with the eighth aspect of the invention;

Figure 10 shows a flow chart illustrating the method of surgery of the ninth aspect of the invention.

15 Figure 1 shows a known knee prosthesis 1 comprising a femoral component, or femoral extension, 2, a meniscal bearing 3 and a tibial component 4. The femoral component 2 is adapted to be connected to a femoral condyle of the femur bone and comprises a bearing surface 5 and securing element 6. The meniscal bearing comprises a bi-concave disc of plastics. The tibial component 4
20 is adapted to be connected to the tibial plateau of the tibia bone. The tibial component 4 has a tibial shelf 4' which comprises a shelf having a convex bearing surface 7 on one side and a connection surface 8 on an opposed side. The connection surface 8 includes a securing element 10. The bearing surface 7

includes a medial wall 11 that extends axially from the periphery thereof. The prosthesis 1 shown in Figure 1 is therefore adapted to be secured to the lateral side of the left knee.

5 Figure 2a shows an anteroposterior view of a femoral extension prosthetic component 20 comprising a securing element (not visible) and a bearing surface 21. The securing element is adapted to abut and be connected to a distal end of a femur bone. The bearing surface 21 is adapted to abut a meniscal bearing 22. The femoral component 20 includes a medially extending entrapment portion 23 (shaded region) adapted to extend medially beyond the meniscal bearing 22. The entrapment portion 23 decreases the size of the gap between the femoral component and medial wall of the tibial component. The entrapment portion 23 increases the width of the femoral component 20 by at least 10%.

10 The entrapment portion 23 projects substantially 5mm medially beyond the meniscal bearing 22 when the knee is in the extended position as shown in the Figures.

15

The entrapment portion 23 includes an entrapment bearing surface 24 which forms a continuation of the bearing surface 21. Thus, the convex curve of the bearing surface 21 is continued by the entrapment bearing surface 24. The entrapment bearing surface 24 acts to prevent the meniscal bearing 22 lifting from the tibial prosthetic component 26 and dislocating over the medial wall 25. The presence of the entrapment portion 23 causes the bearing surface 21,

including the bearing surface 24, to be asymmetric and, in particular, the apex of the combined bearing surface is off-centre towards the lateral side. If a lateral entrapment portion is present, the apex may be off-centre towards the medial side. If both a medial and lateral entrapment portion is present the apex may be 5 central.

The entrapment portion 23 is sized and arranged to be aligned with the medial wall 25 of the tibial component 26 when in use and the knee is extended.

10 The meniscal bearing 22 comprises a bi-concave disc having a first concave bearing surface 27 adapted to bear against the femoral component 20, and a second concave bearing surface 28 opposed to the first concave bearing surface 27 and adapted to bear against a convex bearing surface 29 of the tibial shelf component 26.

15

Figure 2b shows an anteroposterior view of a further embodiment of the femoral prosthetic component 20. The same reference numerals have been used for the same parts, as present in Figure 2a. In this embodiment, the entrapment portion 23 comprises a projection 30 that extends from the femoral component 20 adjacent the bearing surface 21 on the medial side. The projection 30 extends from the lower medial edge of the femoral component and is arranged to extend towards the medial wall 25 of a tibial component 26 when in use. The lower edge of the projection 30 may be arranged to extend to the same level as the apex

of the bearing surface 21. The projection 30 is secured by a longitudinal side to the femoral component 20 adjacent to the bearing surface 21 and first extends medially and then distally. The projection 30 defines a concave region 31 at the point it joins the bearing surface 21 between it and the bearing surface 21. The 5 concave region 31 retains the meniscal bearing 22 when it moves medially and prevents it lifting over the medial wall 25 of the tibial component 26.

In particular, the concave region is arranged to receive a rim 33 of the meniscal bearing 22 (i.e. the edge formed between the side wall and the concave bearing 10 surface arranged to abut the femoral component).

Figure 3 shows an anteroposterior view of a tibial shelf prosthetic component 40 comprising a shelf 40' having a connection surface 41 and a convex bearing surface 42. The connection surface 41 is adapted to abut and be connected to a 15 proximal end of a tibia bone. The convex bearing surface 42 is adapted to abut a concave face of a meniscal bearing 43. The tibial shelf 40' includes a medial wall 44 extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side. The medial wall 44 has a laterally facing inclined side 45 adjacent to the bearing surface 42. The tibial shelf 40' also includes a lateral wall 44' 20 extending from the convex bearing surface 42 of the lateral peripheral side. The lateral wall 44' is substantially a mirror image of the medial wall 44 and includes a medially facing inclined side 45'. The lateral wall 44' acts to retain the meniscal bearing on the tibial shelf when it moves in the lateral direction. It also

inhibits placement of the femoral component and the bearing too far laterally, reducing the risk of medial dislocation.

It will be appreciated that the medial wall 44 and lateral wall 44' need not have
5 inclined sides 45 and 45' and could alternatively extend perpendicular to the connection side 41. Alternatively, one of the medial wall 44 and lateral wall 44' could include an inclined side to receive the side wall of the meniscal bearing.

Figures 4a and 4b show a view of a tibial shelf prosthetic component 50 in a
10 unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement. The tibial component 50 comprises a shelf 51 having a bearing surface 52 and an opposed connection surface 53. The bearing surface 52 is adapted to abut a bearing element 54, in use. The connection surface 53 is adapted to be secured to a proximal end of a tibia bone 55. To aid the connection, the connection
15 surface 53 includes a keel 56 that extends into a groove 57 that is made in the tibia bone 55.

The bearing element 54 is arranged to be located between the tibial component 50 and a femoral component 58 in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental
20 knee replacement. The femoral component 58 is secured to a femur bone 59. In this embodiment, the bearing element 54 has a concave lower surface 60 and a concave upper surface 61, which engages with a bearing surface 62 of the femoral component 58.

The tibial component 50 includes a medial wall 63 extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface 52 over a portion of the medial side. The medial wall 63 is designed to abut the laterally facing surface 64 of the proximal end of the tibial 5 bone 55.

In Figure 4a, in addition to the tibial component 50, an extension portion 65 is shown. The extension portion 65 is adapted to be secured to a surface 66 of the proximal end of the tibia bone 55 medially adjacent to the free end of the medial 10 wall 63. The extension portion 65 includes a securing part to secure it to the tibia 55. The extension portion 65 is elongate in the anteroposterior direction and includes an arched upper edge. In the embodiment of Figure 4a, the medial wall 63 and the extension portion 65 form a stepped region to aid in retention of the meniscal bearing against medial dislocation. However, the extension 15 portion 65 may include an inclined laterally facing side (with respect to the medial wall 63), which may extend over the free end of the medial wall 63.

Figure 4b shows a further embodiment and the same reference numerals have been used. However, in this embodiment the extension portion 67 forms part of 20 the medial wall 63 rather than solely being secured to the tibia 55. It will be appreciated that the extension portion 67 could be secured to the tibia in addition to forming part of the medial wall 63.

The medial wall 63 extends from the perimeter of the bearing surface 52 of the tibial component 51 over a portion of the medial side. The medial wall includes a base part that extends from the bearing surface in a direction substantially perpendicular to the plane of the tibial component 51. The extension portion 67 5 extends from the free end of the base part of the medial wall 63. The extension portion 67 extends outwardly in a medial direction. The extension portion 67 is inclined relative to the medial wall 63 (and also to the shelf 51) at an angle of substantially 45°. The extension portion 67 increases the width of the tibial component 50.

10

Figure 5a and Figure 5b show medial and anteroposterior views of an embodiment of a tibial component 70 in accordance with the fourth aspect of the invention. The tibial component 70 has a tibial shelf 70' which comprises a substantially D-shaped shelf having a convex bearing surface 71 on one side and 15 a connection surface 72 on an opposed side. The connection surface 72 includes a securing element (not shown). The bearing surface 71 includes a medial wall 74 that extends axially from the periphery thereof. The medial wall 74 extends around approximately a third of the perimeter of the bearing surface 71. The medial wall 74 is also arched over its longitudinal direction. Thus, it rises from 20 the bearing surface 71 at a first end 75, rises to a maximum height and then decreases in height to a second end 76.

The medial wall 74 comprises a base part 77 (proximate to the tibial shelf 70) and an extension part 78. The base part 77 extends from the bearing surface 71 and is of the same material as the remainder of the tibial shelf 70', which may be a cobalt chromium alloy. The maximum height of the base part 77 is typically 5 5mm. The extension part 78 extends from a free end 80 of the base part 77. The extension part 78 increases the height of the medial wall 74 a further 2-3mm at its centre point. The extension part 78 is of a flexible material, such as plastics (typically polyethylene). In particular, the extension part 78 is of a more flexible material than the base part 77 and is sufficiently flexible not to cause 10 damage to the intercondylar notch or surrounding bone when installed in a knee. The extension part 78 increases the height of the medial wall 74 to reduce the chance of the bearing element 3 moving such that a partial medial dislocation can occur. The extension part 78 may form up to half of the total height of the medial wall 74. The extension part being of plastics is advantageous as if the 15 extension part 78 was of metal, it could contact the metal femoral part 2 which could lead to the production of metal particles. The metal particles could cause major damage inside the knee.

The free end 80 of the base part 77 is stepped such that an inner edge 81, 20 adjacent to the bearing surface 71, is higher than an outer edge 82, adjacent to the periphery of the tibial shelf 70. The extension part 78 is compression moulded onto the free end 80. The extension part 78 is of substantially the same length as the base part 77. The extension part 78 is arched along its length and

thus it rises from the base part 77 adjacent to the first end 75, where it is of nominal height. It reaches a maximum height above the base part 77 at a centre point 81 along its length and then decreases in height to a point adjacent to the second end 76, where it is of nominal height.

5

In use, the tibial component 70 is secured to the tibia, the femoral component 8 is secured to the femur and a bearing is inserted therebetween. The bearing is biconcave and is adapted to slide between the femoral component 2 and tibial component 70. The increased height of the medial wall 74 provided by the 10 extension part 78 helps reduce the chance of partial medial dislocation of the bearing element and obviates the risk of grains of metal debris being produced by metal components rubbing together within the knee.

Figure 6a shows an anteroposterior view of a tibial shelf prosthetic component 90 15 comprising a shelf 91 having a connection surface 92 and a convex bearing surface 93. The connection surface 92 is adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone. The convex bearing surface 93 is adapted to abut a concave face of a meniscal bearing 94. The tibial shelf 91 includes a medial wall 95 extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the 20 medial side. The medial wall 95 has a laterally facing side 96 adjacent to the bearing surface 93. The laterally facing side 96 is inclined to an axis 97 of the tibial component. The axis 97 of the tibial component extends perpendicular to the connection surface 92.

The laterally facing side 96 is inclined such that it extends from a medially inward position adjacent to the bearing surface 93 to a medially outward position adjacent to a free end of the medial wall 95. This inclination is selected to

5 improve how the tibial component interacts with a meniscal bearing. The meniscal bearing 94 comprises a bi-concave disc having a first concave bearing surface 98 adapted to bear against a femoral extension (not shown in Figure 6), and a second concave bearing surface 99 opposed to the first concave bearing surface 98 and adapted to bear against the convex bearing surface 93 of the tibial

10 shelf 91. The second concave bearing surface 99 is complementary to the convex bearing surface 93. The first and second bearing surfaces 98, 99 are separated by a side wall 100.

In Figure 6a, the meniscal bearing 94 is shown adjacent to the medial wall 95

15 bearing against the medial side of the bearing surface 93. It will be appreciated that in the Figure, the components are shown with a slight gap between them for clarity. The inclination of the laterally facing side 96 substantially matches the inclination of the side wall 100 of the meniscal bearing 94 when it is bearing against the convex bearing surface 93 and is adjacent to the medial wall 95. In

20 particular, the angle 101 formed between the side wall 100 and the second concave bearing surface 99 is substantially the same as the angle 102 formed between the inclined laterally facing side 96 and the convex bearing surface 93.

Accordingly, contact between the tibial component 90 and the meniscal bearing 94 occurs between the laterally facing side 96 of the medial wall 95 and the side wall 100, of the meniscal bearing 94, rather than just between the free end of the medial wall and the side wall 100. This increased area of contact will increase 5 the resistance to movement of the meniscal bearing 94 up the medial wall 95. Furthermore, the wider distribution of force will help prevent wear on the side wall 100 of the meniscal bearing 94.

Figure 6b shows the determination of an appropriate angle 102 formed between 10 the inclined laterally facing side 96 and the convex bearing surface 93. Figure 6b shows a diagram which labels the dimensions of a tibial component having an inclined medial/lateral wall. The diagram shows the meniscal bearing in a first position 110 centrally, symmetrically located on the bearing surface. It also shows the bearing in a second position 111 on the medial side abutting the medial 15 wall. For a convex bearing surface, the inclination from the vertical α of the bearing when the meniscal bearing is both substantially contacting the bearing surface of the tibial component and contacting the base part of the medial wall may be calculated using the formula

$$y - x \cos \alpha - (h + x \sin \alpha + \sqrt{R^2 - y^2}) \tan \alpha = 0$$

20 where
 y is the distance from the central eminence of the domed bearing surface to the laterally facing side of the medial wall,
 x is the half-width of the meniscal bearing,

h is the height of the medial wall from the medial edge of the bearing surface and R is the radius of the convex bearing surface.

Figure 7a shows an anteroposterior view of an embodiment of a tibial 5 component 120 and a meniscal bearing in accordance with the sixth aspect of the invention. The tibial component 120 comprises a tibial shelf 121 having a substantially D-shaped shelf having a convex bearing surface 122 on one side and a connection surface 123 on an opposed side. The connection surface 123 includes a securing element 124. The bearing surface 122 includes a medial wall 10 125 that extends axially from the periphery thereof. The medial wall 125 extends around approximately a third of the perimeter of the bearing surface 122. The medial wall 125 is also arched over its direction. Thus, it rises from the bearing surface 122 at a first end (not visible), rises to a maximum height and then decreases in height to a second end 126.

15

The medial wall 125 includes a laterally extending retaining flange 127 that projects from a free end 128 of the medial wall 125 over a portion of its length. The retaining flange 127 comprises a detent portion 129 and an inclined deflection surface 130.

20

The bearing 131, as shown in Figure 7b, substantially has the shape of a bi-concave disc. In particular, the bearing 131 comprises a first concave bearing surface 132 and a second concave bearing surface 133 opposed to the first

concave bearing surface 132, the bearing surfaces 132 and 133 being separated by a side wall 134. The first concave bearing surface 132 is adapted to bear against the femoral component 2. The second concave bearing surface 133 is adapted to bear against the bearing surface 122 of the tibial shelf 121. A retention 5 groove 135 is formed in a portion of the side wall 134 that is complementary to the retaining flange 127. The retention groove 135 comprises an arcuate track that substantially follows the curve of the second concave bearing surface 133, through the centre of the bearing element 131, as can be seen in the lateral view of the bearing in Figure 7b.

10

In use, the tibial component 120 is secured to the tibia, the femoral component 2 is secured to the femur and the bearing element 131 is inserted therebetween. The retention groove 135 of the bearing element 131 is substantially aligned with the retaining flange 127. On movement of the bearing element 131 towards the 15 medial wall 125, the retaining flange 127 enters the retention groove 135. If the bearing element 131 were to lift, such as in the event of a partial medial dislocation, the detent portion 128 will engage the retention groove 135 and prevent it lifting further from the bearing surface 122. Thus, the detent acts to prevent partial medial dislocation of the bearing element 128. The position of the 20 retention groove 135 is advantageous as it is located below the upper surface of the meniscal bearing. This ensures that the retaining flange 127 does not interfere with a femoral component of the knee prosthesis when the components

are in use. The deflection surface 130 acts to direct a bearing that has lifted past the retaining flange 127 back onto the bearing surface 122.

Figure 8a shows a first embodiment of the seventh aspect of the invention. The 5 tibial component 140 has a tibial shelf 140' which is substantially D-shaped in plan view, having a bearing surface 141 on one side and a connection surface 142 on an opposed side. The connection surface 142 includes a securing element 143. The bearing surface 141 includes a medial wall 144 that extends axially from the periphery thereof. The medial wall 144 extends around 10 approximately a third of the perimeter of the bearing surface 141. In this embodiment, the bearing surface 141 is curved in the medial-lateral direction only and thus appears barrel shaped, with the axis of the barrel extending in the anterior-posterior direction. The peak of the ridge formed by the curved surface thus extends in the anterior-posterior direction and is shown by dashed line 145. 15 The bearing surface 141 is substantially flat in the anterior-posterior direction. In this embodiment, the peak of the ridge 145 extends through the centre of the bearing surface 141, but it could be offset to the medial or lateral sides.

Figure 8b shows a second embodiment of the seventh aspect of the invention. 20 The same reference numerals have been used for the same features as those shown in Figure 8a. This embodiment differs from that of Figure 8a as the bearing surface 141 is not curved in medial-lateral direction. Instead, it is curved in the anterior-posterior direction only. Thus, the bearing surface 141 is barrel

shaped but with the axis of the barrel extending in the medial-lateral direction. The peak of the ridge formed by the curved surface thus extends in the medial-lateral direction and is shown by dashed line 146. The bearing surface 141 is substantially flat in the medial-lateral direction. In this embodiment, the peak of 5 the ridge 146 extends through the centre of the bearing surface 141, but it could be offset to the anterior or posterior sides.

Figure 8c shows a third embodiment of the tibial component 140 of the seventh aspect of the invention. Once again the same reference numerals have been used 10 for the same features as those shown in Figures 8a and 8b. In this embodiment, the bearing surface 141 has a first function of curvature in the anterior-posterior direction and a second function of curvature in the medial-lateral direction. Thus, the surface may be a quadric surface. The first function of curvature is different to the second function of curvature. It will be appreciated that the 15 functions of curvature could be the same depending on the configuration of the knee replacement components. The ridge 127 of the anterior-posterior curve and the ridge 128 of the medial-lateral curve intersect at the centre of the bearing surface 141. It will be appreciated that the apex of the surface could be offset from the centre of the bearing surface 141.

20

Figure 9 shows a diagrammatic anteroposterior view of a meniscal bearing 150 of the eighth aspect of the invention located between a femoral component 151 and a tibial shelf component 152. The meniscal bearing 150 comprises a bi-concave

disc having a first concave bearing surface 153 adapted to bear against the femoral extension component 151, and a second concave bearing surface 154 opposed to the first concave bearing surface 153 and adapted to bear against a convex bearing surface 155 of the tibial shelf component 152. The first and 5 second bearing surfaces 153, 154 are separated by a side wall 156. The side wall 156 is thicker on the lateral side than it is on the medial side of the meniscal bearing 150. In this embodiment, this difference in thickness is at least 1mm. The thicker lateral side wall 156 will provide resistance to medial dislocation as the femoral component 151 will have to separate from the tibial component 152 a 10 substantial distance before the thicker side wall 156 can pass between them. This reduces the risk of medial dislocation.

Figure 10 shows a flow chart of the method of performing knee arthroplasty. Step 160 comprises preparing a femur bone to receive a femoral component. 15 Step 161 comprises preparing a tibia bone to receive the tibial component. Step 162 comprises securing the femoral component to the femur bone. Step 163 comprises securing the tibial component to the tibia bone. Step 164 comprises inserting the bearing between the femoral component and the tibial component. It will be appreciated that the steps can be performed in a different order. For 20 example, step 160 followed by step 162 and then step 161 followed by step 163 or vice versa. If the tibial component of Figure 4a or Figure 4b is used, it may be necessary to resect part of the tibia 55 to accommodate the extension portion

65 or 67. Therefore, the tibia 55 may be prepared with a flat or inclined surface 66 complementary to the extension portion 65 or 67 respectively.

CLAIMS

1. A femoral extension prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the femoral component comprising a securing element and a bearing surface, the securing element adapted to abut and be connected to a distal end of a femur bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a meniscal bearing, the femoral component including an entrapment portion adapted to extend beyond the meniscal bearing.
5
- 10 2. A femoral component according to claim 1 in which the entrapment portion extends medially beyond the meniscal bearing.
- 15 3. A femoral component according to claim 1 in which the entrapment portion extends laterally beyond the meniscal bearing.
- 20 4. A femoral component according to claim 1 in which the entrapment portion extends medially such that in use it extends beyond the meniscal bearing and the femoral component includes a second entrapment portion extending laterally such that in use it extends beyond the meniscal bearing.
- 5 A femoral component according to claim 4, in which the bearing surface of the femoral component is convex and is adapted to abut a concave bearing

surface of the meniscal bearing, the entrapment portion being arranged such that the bearing surface is continued over the entrapment portion.

6. A femoral component according to claim 5, in which the bearing surface of the femoral component and entrapment portion are arranged such that the apex of the bearing surface is off-centre.
7. A femoral component according to any of claims 1 to 4, in which the entrapment portion comprises a projection that extends from a medial or lateral side of the femoral component adjacent the bearing surface of the femoral component.
8. A femoral component according to claim 7, in which the entrapment portion projection is arranged to project in a distal direction.
- 15 9. A femoral component according to claim 8, in which the entrapment portion projection is arranged to project distally to a position substantially level with apex of the convex bearing surface of the femoral component.
- 20 10. A femoral component according to any preceding claim, in which the entrapment portion is arranged to project substantially 5mm mediolaterally beyond the meniscal bearing, in use.

11. A femoral component according to claims 7 to 9, in which the projection is constructed and arranged such that it forms a concave region with the bearing surface to receive a rim of the bearing.

5 12. A tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface and a bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a meniscal bearing, the tibial shelf including a medial 10 wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, and wherein the tibial shelf also includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side.

13. A tibial component according to claim 12, in which the medial wall has a laterally facing side adjacent to the bearing surface, wherein the laterally facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component.

14. A tibial component according to claim 12 or claim 13, in which the lateral wall has a medially facing side adjacent to the bearing surface, wherein the 20 medially facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component.

15. A tibial component according to any of claims 12 to 14, in which the medial wall includes an extension portion that is located adjacent the free end of the medial wall and medially outward therefrom.

5 16. A tibial component according to any of claims 12 to 15, in which the lateral wall includes an extension portion that is located adjacent the free end of the lateral wall and laterally outward therefrom.

10 17. A tibial component according to any of claims 12 to 16, in which the medial wall and/or the lateral wall has at least a flexible free end.

18. A tibial component according to any of claims 11 to 17, in which the medial wall includes a laterally extending flange on its laterally facing side arranged to engage in a complimentary groove in a meniscal bearing, in use.

15 19. A tibial component according any of claims 11 to 18, in which the lateral wall includes a medially extending flange on its medially facing side and arranged to engage in a complimentary groove in the meniscal bearing, in use.

20 20. A tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface and a bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the bearing

surface adapted to abut a bearing element, the tibial shelf including a medial wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, wherein the tibial component includes an extension portion located adjacent a free end of the medial wall and medially outward therefrom.

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21. A tibial component according to claim 20, in which the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side, wherein the tibial component includes a second extension portion located adjacent a free end of the lateral wall and laterally outward therefrom.

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22. A tibial component according to claim 20 or claim 21, in which the extension portion is separate from the remainder of the tibial component and is adapted to be secured to the tibia bone adjacent and medial to the free end of the medial wall.

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23. A tibial component according to claim 20 or claim 21, in which the extension portion is continuous with the medial wall.

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24. A tibial component according to claim 23, in which the medial or lateral wall comprises a base part that extends from the bearing surface and the extension portion extends from the base part, wherein extension portion is inclined outwardly with respect to the base part at an angle between 10° and 80°.

25. A tibial component according to any of claims 24, in which the extension portion is inclined outwardly with respect to the base part at an angle between 30° and 60°

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26. A tibial component according to any of claims 24, in which the extension portion is inclined outwardly with respect to the base part at an angle of substantially 45° .

10 27. A tibial component according to any of claims 20 to 26, in which the extension is of the same material as the tibial wall and remainder of the tibial component.

15 28. A tibial component according to any of claims 20 to 26, in which the extension portion is of a more flexible material than the wall.

29. A tibial component according to any of claims 20 to 26 in which the extension portion of the medial wall is of plastics.

20 30. A tibial component according to any of claims 20 to 29 in which the height of the extension portion is greater than 1mm.

31. A tibial component according to any of claims 20 to 30, in which the height of the medial wall is less than 4mm.

32. A tibial component according to any of claims 20 to 31, in which the height of the medial wall is between 2mm and 3mm.

33. A tibial component according to any of claims 20 to 32, in which the extension portion is arched along its length, in the anterior-posterior direction.

10 34. A tibial component according to any of claims 20 to 22, in which the extension portion has a laterally facing surface that is inclined to the laterally facing surface of the remainder of the medial wall.

35 A tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface and a bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a bearing element, the tibial shelf including a medial wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, the medial wall having at least a flexible free end.

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36. A tibial component according to claim 35, in which the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side, the lateral wall having at least a flexible free end.

5 37. A tibial component according to claim 35 or claim 36, in which the height of the medial and/or lateral wall is greater than 6mm.

38. A tibial component according to any of claims 35 to 37, in which the height of the medial and/or lateral wall is less than 10mm.

10 39. A tibial component according to any of claims 35 to 37, in which the height of the medial and/or lateral wall is between 7mm and 9mm.

40. A tibial component according to any of claims 35 to 39, in which the 15 medial and/or lateral wall comprises a base part and an extension part, the extension part being of a more flexible material than the base part.

41. A tibial component according to claim 40, in which the extension part of the wall is of plastics.

20 42. A tibial component according to any of claims 35 to 39, in which the medial and/or lateral wall is of plastics.

43. A tibial component according to any of claims 35 to 42, in which the medial and/or lateral wall is arched along its length, in the anterior-posterior direction.

5 44. A tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface and a convex bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the convex bearing surface adapted to abut a concave face of a meniscal bearing, the 10 tibial shelf including a medial wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, the medial wall having a laterally facing side adjacent to the bearing surface, wherein the laterally facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component.

15 45. A tibial component according to claim 44, in which the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side, the lateral wall having a medially facing side adjacent to the bearing surface, wherein the medially facing side is inclined to an axis of the tibial component.

20 46. A tibial component according to claim 44 or claim 45, in which the inclination of the side of the wall adjacent to the bearing surface is chosen such

that the side of the wall adjacent to the bearing surface is substantially parallel to a side wall of the meniscal bearing, when it abuts the medial wall, in use.

47. A tibial component according to any of claims 44 to 46, in which the
5 tibial component is adapted for use with a meniscal bearing comprising a first
concave bearing surface adapted to bear against a femoral prosthetic component,
and a second concave bearing surface opposed to the first concave bearing
surface and adapted to bear against the bearing surface of the tibial component,
the first and second bearing surfaces being separated by a side wall, wherein the
10 angle formed between the bearing surface and the side of the wall adjacent to the
bearing surface is substantially the same as the angle formed between the side
wall and the second concave bearing surface of the meniscal bearing.

48. A combination of a tibial shelf component and a meniscal bearing for use
15 in a unicondylar, unicompartmental meniscal bearing knee replacement, the tibial
component having a shelf which has a connection surface and a bearing surface,
the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a
tibia bone, the bearing surface adapted to, in use, abut the meniscal bearing, the
tibial shelf including a medial wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing
20 surface over a portion of the medial side of the tibial component, wherein the
medial wall includes a laterally extending flange on its lateral side and the
meniscal bearing includes a groove complementary to the flange, the flange
adapted to be received in the groove in use.

49. A combination according to claim 48, in which the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side of the tibial component, wherein the lateral wall includes a 5 medially extending flange on its lateral side and the meniscal bearing includes a groove complementary to the flange, the flange adapted to be received in the groove in use.

50. A combination according to claim 48 or claim 49, in which the meniscal bearing comprises a first concave bearing surface adapted to bear against a femoral extension, and a second concave bearing surface opposed to the first concave bearing surface and adapted to bear against the bearing surface of the tibial shelf, the first and second bearing surfaces being separated by a side wall, wherein the groove is formed in a portion of the side wall.

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51. A combination according to any of claims 48 to 50, in which the groove comprises an arcuate track that substantially follows the curve of the second concave bearing surface.

20 52. A combination according to any of claims 48 to 51, in which the flange extends from the wall adjacent to its free end.

53 A combination according to any of claims 48 to 52, in which the wall includes an extension portion extending from the free end of the wall.

54 A combination according to any of claims 48 to 53, in which the wall 5 includes a flexible extension part that projects from its free end.

55. A combination according to any of claims 48 to 54, in which the wall is arched along its length, in the anterior-posterior direction.

10 56. A tibial shelf prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the tibial component comprising a shelf having a connection surface and a bearing surface, the connection surface adapted to abut and be connected to a proximal end of a tibia bone, the bearing surface adapted to abut a meniscal bearing, the tibial shelf including a medial 15 wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the medial side, wherein

the bearing surface is curved in the anterior-posterior direction only; or

the bearing surface is curved in the medial-lateral direction only; or

20 the bearing surface has a first function of curvature in the anterior-posterior direction and a second function of curvature in the medial-lateral direction.

57. A tibial shelf prosthetic component according to claim 56, in which when the bearing surface is curved in both the anterior-posterior direction and medial-lateral directions, the first function of curvature is different to the second function of curvature.

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58. A tibial shelf prosthetic component according to claim 56 or claim 57, in which the tibial shelf includes a lateral wall extending from the perimeter of the bearing surface over a portion of the lateral side.

10 59. A meniscal bearing prosthetic component for use in a unicondylar meniscal bearing unicompartmental knee replacement, the meniscal bearing comprising a first concave bearing surface adapted to bear against a femoral prosthetic component, and a second concave bearing surface opposed to the first concave bearing surface and adapted to bear against a tibial prosthetic
15 component, the first and second bearing surfaces being separated by a side wall, wherein the side wall is thicker on the lateral side than the medial side.

60. A meniscal bearing according to claim 59, in combination with the femoral component of any of claims 1 to 10.

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61. A meniscal bearing according to claim 59 or claim 60, in which the thickness of the lateral side is at least 1mm larger than the medial side.

62. A method of performing knee arthroplasty using a femoral component as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 with a tibial component and a meniscal bearing, or a tibial component as defined in any of claims 11 to 47, 56 to 58 with a femoral component and a meniscal bearing or the combination of a tibial component and meniscal bearing as defined in any of claims 48 to 55 with a femoral component or a meniscal bearing as defined in any of claims 59 to 61 with a femoral component and a tibial component comprising;

5 preparing a femur bone to receive the femoral component;

preparing a tibia bone to receive the tibial component;

10 securing the femoral component to the femur bone;

securing the tibial component to the tibia bone; and

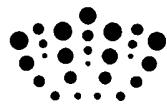
inserting the bearing between the femoral component and the tibial component.

15 63. A femoral component of the kind set forth substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 2a or 2b of the accompanying drawings.

64. A tibial component of the kind set forth substantially as described herein 20 with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 3, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, and 8a-c of the accompanying drawings.

65. A combination of a tibial shelf component and a meniscal bearing of the kind set forth substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated 25 in Figures 7a and 7b of the accompanying drawings.

66. A meniscal bearing of the kind set forth substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 9 of the accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB1015087.8

Examiner: Dr Matthew Parker

Claims searched: 1-11

Date of search: 17 November 2010

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1-4,7,10	US2009/0043395 A1 (HOTOKEBUCHI), see projection 21
X	1-4,7,10	JP10155824 A (KYOCERA), see projection 3
X	1-6	US6004351 A (TOMITA), see area 1c
X	1-6,10	FR2832626 A (CAUDAL), see protuberance 5

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^X :

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC

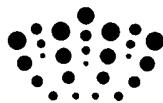
A61F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

EPODOC, WPI

International Classification:

Subclass	Subgroup	Valid From
A61F	0002/38	01/01/2006

**Application No:** GB1015087.8**Examiner:** Dr Matthew Parker**Claims searched:** 56-58**Date of search:** 26 October 2011**Patents Act 1977**
Further Search Report under Section 17**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X,E	56-58	WO2011/110865 A (BIOMET), see Figure 3
X	56-58	GB2291355 A1 (BRITISH), see Figure
X	56-58	EP0442330 A3 (STOCK), see Figures 1 and 2
X	56-58	WO2003/094782 A3 (MATHYS), see Figure 1A

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^X :

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC

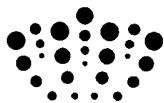
A61F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

EPODOC, WPI

International Classification:

Subclass	Subgroup	Valid From
A61F	0002/38	01/01/2006

**Application No:** GB1015087.8**Examiner:** Dr Matthew Parker**Claims searched:** 20-34**Date of search:** 27 October 2011**Patents Act 1977****Corrected Search Report under Section 17****Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
A	20	WO95/14444 A1 (GERBER), see Figures 1 and 4
A	20	EP1693026 A1 (LE FOLL), see Figure 1
A	20	GB2312377 A (ROOZBEH), see Figure 13
A	20	US5358525 A (FOX), see Figure 3

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
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&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^X :

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

International Classification:

Subclass	Subgroup	Valid From
A61F	0002/38	01/01/2006