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Orthopilot for accurate joint surgery

Kolkata: Have someone in your family, who needs to undergo a hip or knee joint replacement surgery? Yes, these surgeries are common in the city now but precision levels depend on the surgeon's eyes. Hence, many patients complain of problems post surgery as the replaced knee is misaligned. So, those asked to go under the scalp may harbour apprehension after hearing tales of misalignment.

But help is at hand in the form of a computer-guided orthopilot. The fourth generation hip and knee joint replacement navigation machine was inaugurated at the Belle Vue Clinic on Monday. Housed in the hospital's Institute of Computer As-

sisted (navigation) Joint Replacement Centre, the orthopilot is the first in eastern India.

The institute's head, Dr Santosh Kumar, said: "Orthopilot eliminates uncertainty and enhances precision. It also enhances long term results as deviation from goals during surgery is eliminated and the implants survive 1.5 to two times longer." According to him, a replaced knee under conventional surgery lasts 8-10 years, while one implanted with an orthopilot stays intact for 15-20 years. The costs under both techniques remain around the same — Rs 1.80 lakh. The same surgery costs Rs 15 lakh in Indian currency in the UK, he said. **TNN**