

Robotic-Assisted Hip Replacement Gives Patients a Leg Up on Traditional Surgery



Retired Quad Citian, Janell Sullivan, 70, is like many area seniors who enjoy the 100-plus miles of walking and bike paths.

"I usually walk two to three miles a day and bike as often as possible. Walking the Iowa State Fair fan is one of my favorite activities," she says.

After two knee replacements in 2023, Janell's right knee wasn't healing like the first. "It just wasn't coming back as smoothly. Even after both surgeries, I couldn't walk or bike like I used to."

A friend encouraged her to see **ORA Orthopedics** to uncover what was limiting her progress.

ORA is the Quad Cities' largest and most comprehensive orthopedic provider proudly offering an integrated continuum of orthopedic care that includes orthopedic subspecialty clinics, walk-in care at our Urgent OrthoCARE clinics, diagnostic imaging, bracing, physical therapy, and outpatient surgery.

Total Joint Surgeon, Dr. Steven Boardman, quickly found the issue: Janell's right hip was weakened by severe arthritis, throwing off her new knee's mechanics.

It was then that Dr. Boardman identified Janell as a good candidate for robotic-assisted

hip surgery and that Mako Assisted-Robotic Arm available was now available at **UnityPoint Health - Trinity Muscatine**.

"I scheduled the surgery in June and it was totally worth it," she says.

Following surgery, Janell relied on the Trinity hospital-based orthopedic recovery team, which is nationally recognized for excellence in hip and knee replacement care.

"Our team specializes in getting patients back to movement safely and confidently," says Erika Hayes, RN, director of surgical services at UnityPoint Health – Trinity.

"Patients like Janell benefit from coordinated nursing, therapy, and surgical expertise that consistently ranks among the best in the country."

Janell felt that expertise immediately.

"It's amazing. Dr. Boardman needed to lengthen my leg slightly, but the technology made it so precise. I can really feel the difference," she says.

"Five months later, I'm doing fantastic," she adds. "I'm doing housework, walking, and biking again. The whole team has been wonderful."

Dr. Boardman says robotics have elevated his practice. "I've done hundreds of hip surgeries over my career, but with these robots, it's better than ever."

The level of precision can result in fewer complications and faster recovery.

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