Universal 2™ Total Wrist System is designed for substantial improvements over earlier generation wrist implants, including an optimal articular geometry that provides good balance and potential for early range of motion and early return to activities.

**The Universal 2™ system**

- Porous coated, titanium carpal plate with a fixed central peg and two variable angle screws create stability that is supported by intercarpal fusion.
- Cobalt chrome radial component is contoured to conform to normal distal radius anatomy for superior balance and motion.
- A bevel on the ulnar side of the radial component provides the option to preserve the ulnar head (refer to the picture).
- Both the radial and carpal component stems have a volar offset to improve joint stability and wrist extension.
- Beaded porous coating on the carpal plate and radial implant stem aids in osteointegration.
- Minimal bone resection is needed to accommodate implants.
- Broad ellipsed-shape articulation provided excellent stability and a functional range of motion.

**Indications**

The Universal 2™ Total Wrist System is indicated for use in patients suffering pain and/or loss of function due to:

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- SLAC wrist
- Osteoarthritis
- Traumatic arthritis

The Universal 2™ Total Wrist implant may also be indicated in the revision of a failed implant or in situations where clinical experience indicates that other reconstructive efforts are not likely to achieve satisfactory results.

**Contraindications**

The Universal 2™ implant is contraindicated in cases involving:

- Poor bone quality which may effect the stability of implants.
- Severe tendon, neurological, or muscular deficiencies that would compromise implant function.
- Infections; acute or chronic, local or systemic.
- Any concomitant disease which may compromise the function of the implant.
- Current highly active inflammatory disease of the wrist.
Pre-operative Planning

The proper implant size is estimated preoperatively using x-ray templates. With the carpal system aligned with the center of the capitate, the Ulnar Screw should enter the proximal pole of the hamate. In the AP view, the radial component should not extend beyond the edge of the radial styloid. The carpal component should not extend more than 2 mm over the margins of the carpus at the level of the osteotomy. In general, select the smaller implant size when deciding between two sizes.

General recommendations

Prophylactic antibiotic is administered. Either general or regional anesthesia is appropriate. A nonsterile tourniquet is used. A strip of transparent adhesive film is applied to the dorsum of the hand and wrist to protect the skin from damage during instrumentation. Fluoroscopy is a helpful adjunct to confirm positions of the guides and implants. Save all resected bone during the procedure for use in bone grafting the carpus to achieve an intercarpal arthrodesis.
**Step 1 • Surgical Incision**

- A dorsal longitudinal **incision** is made over the wrist in line with the 3rd metacarpal, extending proximally from its midshaft.
- The skin and subcutaneous tissue are **elevated together** off the extensor retinaculum, with care to protect the superficial radial nerve and the dorsal cutaneous branch of the ulnar nerve.
- The ECU compartment is opened along its volar margin and the entire retinaculum is **elevated radially** to the septum between the 1st and 2nd extensor compartments (Fig. 1).
- Each septum is **divided carefully** to avoid creating rents in the retinaculum, especially at Lister’s tubercle, which may need to be osteotomized.
- An extensor tenosynovectomy is performed if needed, and the tendons are inspected. **The ECRB must be intact or repairable** (preferably the ECRL is also functional). Vessel loops are used to retract the extensor tendons.

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**Step 2 • Joint Exposure**

- The dorsal wrist **capsule is raised** as a distally based rectangular flap.
- If the ulnar head is to be resected, the capsule is **raised in continuity** with the dorsal DRUJ capsule and the periosteum over the distal 1cm of the radius to create a broad exposure and long flap for closure (Fig. 2).
- The sides of the flap are made in the floors of 1st and 6th extensor compartments.
- If the distal ulna is to be preserved, the capsule on the ulnar side of the wrist is incised distal to the triangular fibrocartilage complex (TFCC).
- The brachioradialis and 1st extensor compartment are elevated subperiosteally from the distal styloid.
- The wrist is fully flexed to expose the joint. **Synovectomies of the radiocarpal and distal radioulnar joints** are performed when needed.
- If the distal radioulnar joint is arthritic or if there is severe erosion of the distal radius, the distal ulna is resected through its neck, or contoured into a cylinder.
**Step 3 • Preparation of radius**

- Using a Bone Awl, a hole is made through the articular surface of the radius about 5mm below its dorsal rim and just radial to Lister’s tubercle. Enlarge the hole with a curette.

- The Radial Alignment Rod is inserted in the hole and advanced far into the medullary canal. The rod should slide easily without bending (Fig. 3). Fluoroscopy is used to confirm the Guide Rod is centered within the canal.

- The Radial Guide Bar is slid over the rod until it abuts the radius.

- The radial cutting Guide (left or right) is mounted onto the guide bar and slid into proper position. It is positioned to guide the saw cut just beneath the articular surface. (Fig. 4)

- While the Cutting Guide is held aligned with the dorsal surface of the radius, **two or three 1.1mm K-Wires** are inserted through the holes in the Cutting Guide and drilled into the distal radius. The Cutting Guide has four rows of **three holes spaced 2mm apart**. By using the middle holes in the rows, the Cutting Guide can be adjusted proximally or distally if necessary (Fig. 5).

- The alignment rod and guide bar are removed and the Cutting Guide is slid down against the radius. Lister’s tubercle may have to be removed to fully seat the Cutting Guide. The K-Wires are cut above the cutting Guide (Fig. 5).

- The position of the cutting guide is checked for proper level of resection and adjusted if needed. A small, oscillating saw blade is used to make the radial cut. To complete the cut through the volar cortex, the cutting guide may have to be removed.

- The Cutting Guide and K-Wires are removed. If a large osteophyte remains on the volar rim of the distal radius, it should be resected.

- The Alignment Rod is reinserted into the medullary canal of the radius. The proper size Broach Head is inserted into the Broach Handle and set to the position marked for either “standard” or “minimal” broaching. The Broach is slid over the Alignment Rod and its sides are aligned parallel to the sigmoid notch and volar rim of the radius (Fig. 6).

- Using a mallet, the broach is driven into the distal radius until its collar is flush with the cortex (Fig. 7). The Broach and Alignment Rod are removed.

- A Trial Radial Component is inserted using the Impactor, with care to maintain proper alignment within the prepared metaphysis. For removal the Extractor Tool (T-handle) is applied and the Trial Radial Component is removed.
**Step 4 • Preparation of Carpus**

- The lunate is excised by sharp dissection or Rongeur.
- In applying the Modular Drill Guide, the barrel is pressed against the capitate head and the saddle is placed onto the 3rd metacarpal shaft over the skin (Fig. 8 and 8A). The sleeve for the Guide Wire is inserted in the Drill Guide Barrel. The 1.4mm (.54") guide wire is drilled through the capitate and into the 3rd metacarpal. The Sleeve and Drill Guide are removed sequentially.
- The 3.5mm cannulated drill for the minimal hole or the 4.5mm Cannulated Drill for the standard hole is placed over the Guide Wire and a hole is made in the capitate to the proper depth marked on the drill bit (approx. 20-22mm) (Fig. 8B).

- The appropriate Carpal Guide Bar, for either a standard or minimal hole diameter, is inserted into the capitate hole to its full depth.
- The Carpal Cutting Guide Block is mounted onto the Guide Bar and slid into proper position. It is positioned to guide the saw cut through the proximal 1mm (.45") of the hamate, which will pass through the capitate head, scaphoid waist, and mid-triquetrum (Fig. 9).
- While the Cutting Block is held aligned with the dorsal surface of the carpus, two to four 1.1mm K-Wires are inserted through the holes in the Cutting Block and drilled into the carpus. The Cutting Block has four rows of two holes spaced 2mm apart. By using the distal holes in the rows, the Cutting Block can be adjusted distally to resect more carpus if necessary. The K-Wires are cut above the Cutting Block.
- The position of the Cutting Block is checked for proper level of resection. Confirm that the cut will be made nearly perpendicular to the 3rd metacarpal shaft. A small, oscillating saw blade is used to make the carpal cut. To complete the cut, the Cutting Block may have to be removed, but the K-wires should be retained (Fig. 10). The Cutting Block can be reapplied to help stabilize the carpal bones during the remaining carpal preparation.
• The countersink is used to enlarge the opening of the drill hole to accommodate the “shoulder” of the carpal component’s stem.

• A Trial Carpal Component is inserted into the capitate hole and its dorsal edge is aligned with the dorsal surface of the carpus.

• The Modular Drill Guide is applied with its barrel in the radial hole of the trial carpal component and its saddle on the 2nd metacarpal shaft over the skin. A 2.5mm hole is drilled across the scaphoid, trapezoid, and 2nd CMC joint to a depth (marked on the drill bit) of 30mm to 35mm (Fig. 11). This hole is typically not perpendicular to the carpal component, however the component and screw heads are designed to accommodate screw insertions at oblique angles.

• A 4.0mm Self-tapping Trial Screw (blue color) can be inserted but not firmly tightened (Fig. 12).

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**Step 5 • Trial Reduction**

• The radial trial component is reinserted.

• A Trial Polyethylene Carpal Component is applied to the carpal plate, beginning with the standard thickness.

• The prosthesis is reduced and range of motion and stability are checked. The prosthesis is typically quite stable and should demonstrate approximately 35° of flexion and 35° of extension with modest tightness at full extension.

• If the volar capsule is tight and limiting extension, the radius may need to be shortened, but will usually only require a couple of millimeter (avoid excessive shortening). If a severe preoperative flexion contracture was present, a step-cut tendon lengthening of the flexor carpi ulnaris and occasionally the flexor carpi radialis may be required to achieve proper balance and motion.

• When volar instability is present, the volar capsule is inspected and if detached it is repaired to the rim of the distal radius. If the volar capsule is intact, a thicker polyethylene component may be required to increase soft tissue tension and joint stability. A mild dorsal instability should respond to capsule closure but a thicker polyethylene is considered for marked instability.
Step 6 • Implantation

- **Remove the Trial Components** and irrigate the wound thoroughly.
- Three horizontal mattress sutures of 2-0 polyester are placed through small bone holes along the dorsal rim of the distal radius for later capsule closure. If the ulnar head was resected, place sutures through its dorsal neck.
- When indicated by the surgeon, **bone cement** is prepared in the usual manner and injected into the cavities for the carpal and radial component stems just prior to final implantation.
- Mount the Carpal Plate onto the Impactor and drive it into the capitate hole while maintaining proper position.
- Insert the **4.5mm Bone Screws** (radial and ulnar sides) and tighten firmly.
- Remove any remaining K-Wires from the carpus.
- Using the **Radial Impactor**, the Radial Implant Component is driven into the metaphysis with care to maintain proper alignment.
- **OPTIONAL**: Apply the **Trial Polyethylene Component** to confirm the proper size for joint motion and stability.
- Using the **Impactor**, the Polyethylene Component is snapped onto the plate with firm mallet taps. Confirm the Polyethylene Component is **completely engaged** onto the Carpal Plate (Fig. 13).
- **Reduce** the prosthesis and make a final assessment of wrist motion, balance and stability.
Closure

The intercarpal articular surfaces of the triquetrum, hamate, capitate, scaphoid and trapezoid are removed using a curette or burr (avoiding the carpal component fixation screws). Cancellous chips from previously resected bone are packed into the spaces.

The dorsal capsule is reattached to the distal margin of the radius using the previously placed sutures. The capsule is reapproximated at the distal radioulnar joint or attached to the ulnar neck using the previously placed sutures if the head was resected. The medial and lateral aspects of the capsule are also closed. If the capsule is insufficient for closure with the wrist flexed 30°, the extensor retinaculum is divided in line with its fibers and one half is placed under the tendons to augment the capsule.

The entire prosthesis must be covered to achieve its proper stability and function and to avoid extensor tendon irritation. The remaining extensor retinaculum is repaired over the tendons to prevent bowstringing, however, the EPL, ECRB and ECRL are typically left superficial to the retinaculum. If necessary to maintain the ECU dorsally over the ulna, a separate sling is made from the retinaculum.

A suction drain is placed and the skin is closed in layers. A bulky gauze dressing and a short arm plaster splint are applied.

Postoperative Management

Strict elevation and early passive and active digital motion are encouraged to reduce swelling. At approximately 10 days, the sutures are removed and an x-ray is obtained to confirm prosthetic reduction. A removable wrist splint is fabricated and used when not performing exercises.

Gentle wrist exercises are begun, including active flexion and extension, radial and ulnar deviation, and pronation and supination. A therapist may be engaged to ensure progress. The splint is discontinued at the 4th postoperative week and hand use advanced. The exercise program is continued and strengthening is added. Power grip and lifting is discouraged for the first 8 weeks. A dynamic splint is occasionally used if recovery of motion is difficult or incomplete. The patient is advised against impact loading of the wrist and repetitive forceful use of the hand.
TOP LEVEL

A  Radial Trials (left & right)
B  Radial T-Handle
C  Carpal Trials (x-small, small, medium, large)
D  Carpal Poly Trials (standard, +1, +2)
E  AO Screw Driver Handle / Countersink / Hex Driver
F  1.1mm (.045") K-Wires
G  1.4mm (.054") K-Wires
H  2.5mm Drill Bit (solid & cannulated)
I  3.5mm / 4.5 mm Cannulated Drill Bits
J  Trial Screws (15, 20, 25, 30, 35mm)
K  Implant Screws 4.5mm x (15, 20, 25, 30, 35 mm)

BOTTOM LEVEL

L  Bone Awl
M  Carpal Plate Impactor
N  Modular Drill Guide & Sleeve
O  Radial Guide Rods (200 mm & 150 mm)
P  Radial Guide Bar
Q  Carpal Guide Bar
R  Radial Cutting Guide (left & right)
S  Carpal Cutting Guide
T  Radial Impactor
U  Poly Impactor
V  Radial Broaches (all sizes, left & right)
W  Broach Handle
X  Modular Drill Guide Plates
Features

- Minimal bone resection to accommodate implants.
- Radial component design optimal for the preservation of the ulnar head.
- Volar offset of radial articulation for ideal implant seating.
- Porous coating on radial and carpal implant surfaces.
- Central peg and two variable angle screws create stability through inter-carpal fusion.
- Complete range of carpal poly sizes to restore proper carpal height.
- Proven surgical techniques and refined instrumentation for precise and efficient implantation.

Instrument set

Component materials

- Radial Component & Porous Coating: Cobalt Chrome
- Carpal Component & Porous Coating: Titanium
- Carpal Poly Implant: Polyethylene (UHMWPε)
- Screws: Titanium (specifically designed for use with the Universal2 System)