

# Go Further with Synvisc<sup>®</sup>



The only **GEL**  
viscosupplement  
especially designed for  
treating osteoarthritis.

INFORMATION BOOKLET

**SYNVISC<sup>®</sup>**  
HYLAN G-F 20



**SYNVISC**<sup>®</sup>  
HYLAN G-F 20

**genzyme**  
BIOSURGERY

2700 Matheson Blvd. East  
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# SYNVI<sup>SC</sup>

## HYLAN G-F 20

Approved for use in Canada only.

Developed and Manufactured by

**genzyme**  
BIOUMED

a division of AMGEN CORPORATION  
1125 Research Drive, Boston  
Weymouth, MA 02187, USA

### TREATMENT PACK THREE SYRINGES - 2ml, EACH

For intra-articular injection into  
the synovial space only.  
Do not use intravenously.

Three disposable syringes each  
containing 2ml, sterile Hylan G-F 20.  
Store between +2°C and +8°C.  
Do not freeze.

## Treating osteoarthritis is a challenge.

If you or someone you know suffers from the pain of arthritis of the knee (osteoarthritis), it likely has caused both pain and limited movement.

Osteoarthritis, a disease that effects approximately 3 million, (1 in 10), Canadians, can be cruel and cause tremendous pain. And because of the pain it causes, osteoarthritis can severely limit the lifestyle and activity of the people it strikes.

This guide is your introduction to a treatment option called viscosupplementation with Synvisc. Synvisc has been available for 10 years, for people who suffer from osteoarthritis of the knee. Synvisc has freed many people from knee pain, giving them back the mobility they thought they had lost forever.

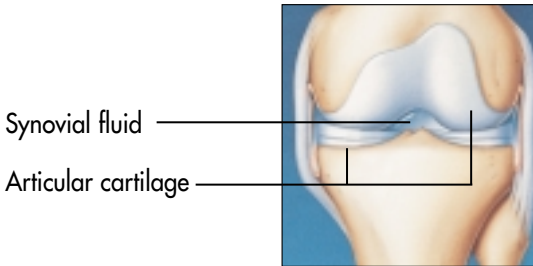
You might not have heard of Synvisc until now, because it is a rather specialized treatment. Now, through the pages of this guide, we present questions and answers that will help you and your physician determine whether you might become one of the many people who use Synvisc as a treatment to manage osteoarthritis, and walk away from pain back to an active life.

If you have a question that is not answered here, please call Synvisc Patient Information, toll-free at **1-800-796-7991**. We'd be pleased to answer your questions.

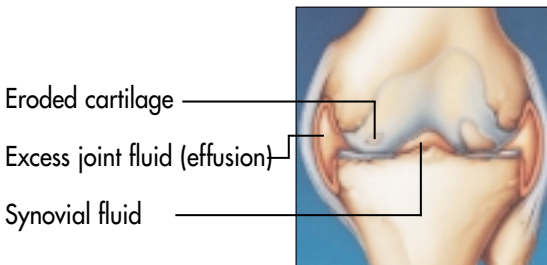
## Why does my osteoarthritis cause pain in my knee?

In a normal, healthy knee, an elastic and viscous fluid called synovial fluid acts as a cushion in the knee joint. If you suffer from osteoarthritis, the elasticity (cushioning) and viscosity (lubrication) of that fluid are reduced. Then, because the fluid is not as elastic and as viscous as it should be, it doesn't act as an effective shock absorber when you put weight on your knee. The result is pain.

### Healthy knee



### Osteoarthritic knee



## What is Synvisc?

Synvisc is a natural, elastoviscous substance – not a drug. When Synvisc is injected into the knee, it supplements the elasticity and viscosity of the synovial fluid – so it acts as a more effective “shock absorber”. This is the process of viscosupplementation, which is the process of supplementing your own synovial fluid.



## **What is it made from?**

Synvisc is made from hylans, which are derivatives of hyaluronan. Synvisc is natural and drug free because hyaluronan occurs naturally in the body, in the tissues, fluids, on the surface of and in the cartilage of the joint. Hylan is simply an engineered form of hyaluronan – the beneficial component of healthy synovial fluid.

## **How does Synvisc work?**

Synvisc goes to work right where the pain begins – in the synovial tissues of the knee joint. It brings the level of elasticity and viscosity in the synovial fluid back to that found in a young, healthy knee.

## **How does my doctor get Synvisc into my knee? Do I need surgery?**

Your physician administers Synvisc by intra-articular injection in your knee joint, directly into the space occupied by the synovial fluid. This process is called viscosupplementation. You will not need surgery.

## **Is viscosupplementation a cure of osteoarthritis?**

Synvisc is a highly-effective treatment – it is not a cure. However, in laboratory testing, it has been indicated that Synvisc may help to protect cartilage cells. And this protective quality may slow the progression of osteoarthritis. That means Synvisc may be effective in protecting against the progression of osteoarthritis.

So, if you haven't already done so, talk to your physician about whether you may be a suitable candidate for Synvisc treatment.

## **What are the main benefits of Synvisc?**

Synvisc can decrease or eliminate pain in the knee, reduce stiffness and help restore mobility and flexibility – all to help you return to a more active lifestyle.

## **Is Synvisc safe?**

Yes. Laboratory and clinical studies proved that Synvisc does not cause general harmful reactions.

## **Does that mean Synvisc is safer than other medications my physician might prescribe?**

Synvisc is safer than other medications because it is not a medication! Synvisc is made from a natural substance. There are no drugs of any kind in Synvisc. The medical community and the government of Canada classify Synvisc as a "device", because its action is physical – it goes directly to the site (the knee joint) and stays there to work as a shock absorber and lubricant.

## **Can Synvisc cause temporary discomfort in the injected knee?**

Yes. In a small percentage of cases, within a day after the injection, local discomfort has been observed. This is manifested by localized pain and swelling. This discomfort is transient, and does not necessarily interfere with the success of the treatment.

## Do I need prescription for Synvisc?

You must have your physician's recommendation for Synvisc: if your insurance plan covers the cost of Synvisc, you will also need a prescription. In any case, Synvisc must be administered by a qualified physician. So, first, thoroughly discuss the potential benefits of Synvisc treatment with your doctor. Synvisc is a truly remarkable treatment and many Synvisc users agree it is beneficial. But your physician is the only person to decide with you if it is suitable to help in managing osteoarthritis.

## Tell me about the treatment – I heard it is a three-step process.

If your doctor agrees that Synvisc would be a good treatment for you, he or she will inject Synvisc into your knee joint on 3 separate occasions – one week apart.

MONTH						YEAR
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## How quickly can Synvisc relieve the pain in my knee?

Some Synvisc users report a reduction in pain soon after the first injection, but most feel the full benefits of the treatment 8–12 weeks after the last injection.

## Then why not just one injection?

A part of the development process for Synvisc included clinical trials during which studies were made to determine the most effective treatment schedule. It was clear from the trial results that three injections, one week apart, provide optimal pain relief and restoration of joint mobility.

## **Will I be able to carry on as usual during the 3 weeks?**

Absolutely. In fact, walking and exercising as usual actually helps the treatment. It is recommended that you continue your normal activities, but it is important not to overuse the injected knee within the first 48 hours following the injection.

## **Will it be easier for me to get around?**

Synvisc users find that they enjoy improved mobility, some even after the first injection. The increased mobility also makes Synvisc work in harmony with your body to begin to repair some of the damage osteoarthritis has caused.

## **What are the side effects?**

Because Synvisc is a local (knee) therapy, not a systemic (entire body) therapy, Synvisc frees you from the potentially harmful side effects associated with some drug therapies, such as nausea – even ulcers. Synvisc remains at the knee joint, (to function just as natural synovial fluid does) and to protect the joint. There are no chemicals or drugs in Synvisc to enter your bloodstream and affect your system.

## **How long can I expect the Synvisc benefits to last?**

Everyone is different. Even people with the same level of pain and inflammation experience different results. Some people find that it is up to 12 months before they begin to feel discomfort or reduced flexibility and mobility in their knee.

## **How can I find out if I could benefit from Synvisc?**

Make an appointment to discuss Synvisc with your physician.

## **I think my osteoarthritis is too bad for Synvisc to help – my knee is really painful.**

Your physician or specialist is the best one to judge whether Synvisc could be beneficial for you. Our studies show that Synvisc is most effective in treating people who: 1) have moderate to high knee pain 2) stiffness and decreased mobility 3) have osteoarthritis classified as being in the early stages of joint pathology 4) have yet suffered severe cartilage damage.

We also know from experience that people with more advanced osteoarthritis have had good results from Synvisc treatment. So you may be pleasantly surprised.

## **What does Synvisc cost?**

If compared to the annual cost of prescription drug therapy or other therapies, the cost is, actually comparable. Remember, Synvisc is a proven treatment for osteoarthritis of the knee. The added benefit, of course, is that because Synvisc is not a drug, it can be used without the possibility of potentially harmful side effects commonly associated with arthritic prescription medicines, or conflict with other medication you may be taking. If you have a corporate or personal medical insurance plan, it may reimburse you for the cost of Synvisc.

## Will my insurance pay for Synvisc?

Most private insurance companies cover Synvisc. You should note, however, that not all insurers and plans reimburse the same way. For example, some private plans provide unrestricted open coverage where you need only fill your prescription at your local pharmacy. For others, you or your doctor may need to file additional documentation to obtain a prior authorization for reimbursement of Synvisc costs.

You should also note that Synvisc is being treated as a drug by some insurers while most are managing coverage under the major medical or supplementary health section of your insurance plan.

If you have questions about your coverage, you can call the Synvisc Reimbursement HELPLINE. Reimbursement specialists will be able to help you verify your benefits and answer any other questions you may have about Synvisc reimbursement.

The Synvisc Reimbursement HELPLINE is open from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm EST Monday through Friday. Simply call **1-866-401-8323** and a specialist will be pleased to help you.

## Where can I get Synvisc?

After consulting with your physician, Synvisc can be ordered through your local pharmacy or call 1-888-333-0506, for additional ordering information.

## Can Synvisc be sent directly to my physician's office?

Discuss that option with your physician during your consultation.

**Synvisc** can relieve osteoarthritis knee pain for up to 12 months with just one short course of therapy!

**Synvisc** therapy is administered into the knee in just three doctor visits over 15 days!

**Synvisc** can relieve the pain of osteoarthritic knees, helping you to enjoy more comfortable mobility and to return to a more vibrant, active lifestyle!

**Synvisc** may reduce or even eliminate the need for commonly-used pain relievers, such as anti-inflammatory drugs and analgesics-medications that can cause distressing side effects such as stomach upset!

**Synvisc** may be right for you! Discuss it with your doctor.

**For reimbursement assistance call**

**1-866-401-8323**

**For information call 1-800-796-7991**

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