

Transcript of Video Interview with Joanne Pepper, SYNVISC patient*

Joanne Pepper is retired, but hardly idle. When she's not busy as president of her tenants' association, her 30 grandchildren keep her on the go. She's had OA of the knee for more than 25 years.

My goals are to be able to walk like a normal person without pain, without a cane, without a walker. You know, get in and out of my house without being in pain.

My name is JoAnne Pepper, and SYNVISC has changed my life. It's made my life so much better. When the knee pain first came about it was a good 25 years ago or better.

I couldn't do the things that I always wanted to do. When my grandkids come running over and say "Nanna, pick me up," I can't, unless I sit down. For me it's emotional.

After a lot of tests they diagnosed me with osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis is arthritis. You're in pain. You deal with it. And that's what I thought. I just thought I had to deal with pain for the rest of my life.

I watched myself go downhill—just the small things that I could do before—and was thinking there's nothing else they can do. I got a new primary doctor, and she sent me to the arthritis and pain center in Memorial Hospital. And I found a fantastic orthopedic doctor. He gave me three choices: "We can give you some more stronger pain medication, operate on your knee, or try something called SYNVISC." I said, "What would you do?" And he said, "I'd go with SYNVISC."

My grandkids are the most important thing in the world to me. All 30 of them. It's, "Nanna, come see my toys, come see my new room." Being able to do that made a world of difference to me.



It was a shot. It was an injection like you would get for anything else. A flu shot. It was no more painful than that. When he was done I said to him, "What else?" And he said, "That's it." I said, "That's it?" He said, "Yeah, you're done."

Oh, I definitely made the right choice. Yeah. I asked him how soon I could get my other leg done, and within a month I had it done. And it's just incredible.

If I hadn't changed doctors I wouldn't have known that. I would have just kept on going with the surgery and the pain medication. When he said there was another option, I said, I'll go for it. It has to be better.

I was shocked. I was absolutely shocked. Because I never thought I could walk. I never thought I'd be this pain free for any length of time. It's never happened before. I couldn't walk from my apartment down to the hall without pain. Now not only do I enjoy coming down here, I run down here. My husband Bill's always yelling at me, "Stop running!" I can't, sorry. I haven't done it for such a long time.

I've called everyone and told them. And I tell anyone in the building, if I see them walking with a cane, "You've got to ask your doctor about it." I was at bingo at a different place the other night and I saw a lady walking. She had to sit down while trying to buy her papers. I said to her, "You have arthritis?" She said, "Yeah, I have osteoarthritis." I said, "What have you done?" She said, "Oh, I've got cortisone. I've been on pain pills." I said, "Do me a favor." And I wrote it down. "Try SYNVISIC. Ask your doctor about it. If he doesn't know about it, ask another doctor."

I can exercise again. In six months I'll see what happens. Hopefully I'll be a new me.

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Without SYNVISIC, by nine o'clock at night I was normally sitting in a chair with ice packs on my knee. With SYNVISIC I'm not doing that. I'm walking. I'm doing my laundry. I'm doing my dishes. I'm running out to visit someone. I can drive. I can walk up two flights of stairs to see my daughters and my grandkids. And SYNVISIC did that. SYNVISIC has made a big, big difference in my life.

For more information about SYNVISIC, visit www.SYNVISIC.com.

*This is a testimonial of one patient's story and her experience with SYNVISIC. Individual results may vary.

Important Safety Information

SYNVISIC is used to relieve knee pain due to osteoarthritis (OA). It is for patients who do not get enough relief from simple painkillers such as acetaminophen, or from exercise and physical therapy.

SYNVISIC is generally well tolerated. However, it may not work for everyone. The side effects most commonly seen when SYNVISIC is injected into the knee were pain, swelling and/or fluid buildup around the knee. Cases where the swelling is extensive or painful should be discussed with your doctor. Other side effects such as rash have been reported rarely. Before trying SYNVISIC, tell your doctor if you are allergic to products from birds—such as feathers, eggs or poultry—or if your leg is swollen or infected. Talk to your doctor before resuming strenuous weight-bearing activities after treatment. SYNVISIC has not been tested in children, pregnant women or women who are nursing. You should tell your doctor if you think you are pregnant or if you are nursing a child.

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