

Western University

Scholarship@Western

Inspiring Minds – Showcasing Western’s Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

September 2021

The body’s natural healing system (immune system) may be hindering post-surgery recovery

Holly T. Philpott

Western University, hphilpo2@uwo.ca

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds>

Citation of this paper:

Philpott, Holly T., "The body’s natural healing system (immune system) may be hindering post-surgery recovery" (2021). *Inspiring Minds – Showcasing Western’s Graduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity*. 112.

<https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/inspiringminds/112>

Title: The body's natural healing system (immune system) may be hindering post-surgery recovery

Few patients with knee osteoarthritis are prepared for the disappointment of a joint replacement surgery that doesn't improve their pain and function. Although many consider joint replacement a cure for osteoarthritis, at least 1 in 4 people are unhappy with their outcomes after surgery. Studies show knee joint inflammation can predict who will need a knee replacement in the future, but we don't know if inflammation can predict or explain poor outcomes after surgery. Our approach uses both clinical and lab-based tools to understand how an impaired immune system impacts the patient's experience. This work will improve our understanding of the role of the immune system in knee OA and improve the care/management of people undergoing joint replacement surgery.