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# Ankle arthrodesis by external fixation

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The ankle joint is a synovial joint of the modified hinge variety . The weight bearing surfaces are the upper facet of the talus and the inferior facet of the tibia. The stabilizing surfaces are those of the medial and lateral malleoli which group the sides of the talus. The average thickness of the ankle articular cartilage is approximately 1.6 mm .In general, the ankle joint cartilage can be damaged by several different etiologies: degeneration, trauma, infection, metabolic, autoimmune or neuropathy. Posttraumatic osteoarthritis is far more common than primary osteoarthritis in the ankle. Symptomatic ankle osteoarthritis can be found in