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PATIENT-SPECIFIC GUIDE FOR TOTAL PROSTHETIC KNEE REVISION

Abstract

A femoral component and a tibial component are respectively configured to exclusively couple with the distal end of a femur bearing a femoral prosthesis and with the proximal end of a tibia bearing a tibial prosthesis. The femoral component has a distal portion configured to face the distal end of the femur, bearing distal positioning holes facing a distal region of the femoral prosthesis. A frontal portion extends on the continuation of the distal portion and has a first abutment area operating against the femur bone part and a second area facing a frontal region of the femoral prosthesis. The frontal portion has at least two guide holes at the first abutment area, and at least two frontal positioning holes at the second area.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] The present application is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/602,436, filed on Oct. 8, 2021, which is a national stage under Section 371 of International Application No. PCT/IB2020/052371, filed on Mar. 16, 2020, which claims the priority from Italian Patent Application No. 102019000005430, filed on Apr. 9, 2019, each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention concerns a procedure for producing a patient-specific surgical guide to apply a total prosthetic knee revision. The invention also concerns the surgical guide that can be obtained via the above-mentioned procedure, which can be conveniently used in a method for performing a total prosthetic knee revision.

BACKGROUND

[0003] EP 2739216 B1 describes a surgical guide for implanting a knee prosthesis comprising a first component that is exclusively coupled to the distal end of the femoral epiphysis and a second component that is coupled to the proximal end of the tibial epiphysis. The installation of the prosthesis involves pre-operative planning during which the anatomical conformation of the distal end of the femur and the proximal end of the tibia of the patient is detected, typically by means of computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The prostheses to be implanted are produced, as well as surgical guides and/or other instruments specifically used for their installation in the patient, are produced based on the anatomical conformations detected.

[0004] The surgical guide is produced according to an internal conformation that adapts to that of the distal end of the knee, so that it is suitable for being coupled, according to a unique and predetermined position, to the bone epiphysis. Following the positioning of the surgical guide on the bone epiphysis, a series of pins that can be inserted through the corresponding guide holes arranged in the surgical guide enables the guide to be fixed to the epiphysis. Thus, the required resections can be correctly carried out in order to adapt the conformation of the femoral epiphysis to that of the prosthesis to be installed.

[0005] In the prior art, when replacing a prosthesis for a total knee arthroplasty, using conventional metal instruments, the prosthesis already in situ is removed and the femoral and tibial canals are opened using a special drill bit. The finishing of the intramedullary canals of the femur and tibia is then performed using cutters of lengths and diameters chosen specifically according to the size of the femoral/tibial stem to be joined to the new prosthesis, which must be implanted to replace the previous one. Additional work is performed on the distal end of the femur and/or the proximal end of the tibia to reshape the bone portions intended to accommodate the new femoral and/or tibial prostheses.

[0006] The presence of the patient's prostheses in the pre-operative planning phases precludes the possibility of adopting the same operating procedures, used in performing the first implant, for the processing of bone portions in order to prepare them to host the new replacement prostheses. In fact, the need to remove the prostheses to process the bone portions results in the loss of geometric

references that can be detected via computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging techniques.

[0007] Consequently, the coronal and sagittal plane tilt of the distal femoral cut and proximal tibial cut, which guide the final positioning of the implant and the finishing direction of the intramedullary canals for the extension stems, cannot be planned. The tilt of the bone resections and the direction of the canal finishing need to be manually defined by the surgeon during the operation, based on her/his experience and skills.

[0008] If the correct direction for finishing the intramedullary canal is not identified immediately, there is a risk of incorrectly positioning the stem inside the intramedullary canal. This may cause interference between the stem and the cortical bone, resulting in pain for the patient, risk to femoral bone cohesion, and/or difficulty in positioning the femoral and/or tibial component.

[0009] WO 2018/202271 and US 2017/0007331 A1 propose patient-specific methods and related tools for applying a revision total knee arthroplasty.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0010] The purpose of this invention is to overcome the limits of the prior art, by means of a tool that enables the bone portions intended to accommodate the new prostheses, replacing those previously installed, to be remodelled in a more precise and reliable way.

[0011] In particular, we want to offer a tool that enables the cutting guides to be uniquely and correctly repositioned, to recalibrate the resections of the bone ends, despite the presence of the primary prosthesis previously implanted.

[0012] In a first aspect, this invention concerns a patient-specific surgical guide to apply a total prosthetic knee revision, according to claim **1** and/or one or more subsequent claims.

[0013] In an additional inventive aspect, a preferential process for the production of the surgical guide comprising: detecting the anatomical conformation of the distal end of a patient's femur, wherein said distal end bears a femoral prosthesis; producing a surgical guide according to claim **1**, and/or one or more subsequent claims, on the basis of the detected anatomical conformation.

[0014] According to an additional aspect of the invention, the surgical guide according to the invention can conveniently be used in a method to apply a total prosthetic knee revision, comprising: [0015] exclusively coupling the femoral component of a surgical guide according to claim **1**, and/or one or more subsequent claims, against the distal end of the patient's femur; [0016] inserting at least two alignment pins into the guide holes of the femoral component and through the front cortical region of the femur; [0017] removing the femoral component from the distal end of the femur; [0018] removing the femoral prosthesis from the distal end of the femur; [0019] engaging said guide holes along the alignment pins to exclusively re-couple the femoral component to the distal end of the femur; [0020] preparing attachment holes through the femoral bone part, using a drilling tool guided through the frontal positioning holes and the distal positioning holes of the femoral component; [0021] removing the femoral component from the distal end of the femur; [0022] engaging frontal and distal positioning pins in the frontal and distal positioning holes, respectively; [0023] engaging a distal cutting block on the frontal positioning pins; [0024] performing a distal femoral bone resection while the distal cutting block is engaged on the frontal positioning pins; [0025] engaging a frontal cutting block on the distal positioning pins; [0026] performing a frontal resection of the femoral bone part while the frontal cutting block is engaged on the distal positioning pins; [0027] removing the frontal and distal positioning pins; [0028] positioning a revision femoral prosthesis on the distal end of the femur.

[0029] Before or after implantation of the revision femoral prosthesis the follow actions can, conveniently, be completed by means of the femoral component: [0030] exclusively coupling the tibial component of a surgical guide according to claim **14** and/or one or more of the subsequent claims, against the proximal end of the patient's tibia; [0031] inserting at least two tibial alignment pins into the tibial positioning holes of the tibial component and through the tibia's front cortical region; [0032] removing the tibial component from the proximal end of the tibia; [0033] removing

the tibial prosthesis from the proximal end of the tibia; [0034] engaging a tibial resection block on the tibial positioning pins; [0035] performing a proximal resection of the tibial bone part while the tibial component is engaged on the tibial positioning pins; [0036] removing the tibial alignment pins; [0037] positioning a revision tibial prosthesis on the proximal end of the tibia.

[0038] In at least one of the above-mentioned inventive steps, one preferred embodiment of the invention may also comprise one or more of the following features.

[0039] Preferably, the femoral component also has two lateral abutments bearing third abutment areas configured to act in abutment against the femoral bone part in, respectively, the medial and lateral epicondylar regions of the femur.

[0040] Preferably, the lateral abutments have corresponding auxiliary positioning holes extending through the third abutment areas.

[0041] Preferably, the lateral abutments are borne at the end by the corresponding brackets protruding from the distal portion.

[0042] Preferably, the second area, which can also be identified as the second abutment area, is configured to act in abutment against the frontal region of the femoral prosthesis.

[0043] Preferably, the distal portion has at least a fourth abutment area configured to act in abutment against the distal region of the femoral prosthesis.

[0044] Preferably, the fourth abutment area is substantially orthogonal in relation to the first abutment area.

[0045] Preferably, the first abutment area and the second area respectively extend continuously.

[0046] Preferably, the proximal portion has a transverse orientation in relation to the distal portion.

[0047] Preferably, the guide holes are configured to smoothly engage corresponding alignment pins that can be inserted through the front cortical region of the femur.

[0048] Preferably, the guide holes are each configured to guide the respective alignment pin through the femoral bone part in a position spaced apart from a peripheral edge of the femoral prosthesis.

[0049] Preferably, the guide holes are parallel to each other.

[0050] Preferably, the frontal positioning holes are each positioned between at least one of either the guide holes or the distal portion.

[0051] Preferably, the frontal positioning holes are oriented in their respective axes substantially parallel to the guide holes.

[0052] Preferably, the frontal positioning holes are oriented according to respective axes substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal extension direction of the femur, when the femoral component is coupled to the distal end of the femur.

[0053] Preferably, the frontal positioning holes are configured to smoothly engage a drilling tool that can be inserted through the femoral bone part when the femoral component is coupled to the distal end of the femur, after removal of the femoral prosthesis, to make holes in the femur that are arranged to accommodate the corresponding frontal positioning pins.

[0054] Preferably, the frontal positioning pins are configured to smoothly engage two first centring holes arranged on a removable distal cutting block engaged on the frontal positioning pins after removal of the femoral component.

[0055] Preferably, the distal positioning holes are oriented according to respective axes substantially parallel to a longitudinal extension direction of the femur, when the femoral component is coupled to the distal end of the femur.

[0056] Preferably, the distal positioning holes are configured to smoothly engage a drilling tool that can be inserted through the femoral bone part when the femoral component is coupled to the distal end of the femur, after removal of the femoral prosthesis, to make holes in the femur that are arranged to accommodate the corresponding frontal positioning pins.

[0057] Preferably, the distal positioning pins are configured to smoothly engage two second centring holes arranged on a removable frontal cutting block engaged on the distal positioning pins

after removal of the femoral component.

[0058] Preferably, the distal portion has a femoral centring housing configured for guiding the insertion of a bore cutter along the longitudinal axis of the femur. Preferably, the femoral centring housing is directly formed in the distal portion.

[0059] Preferably, the femoral centring housing is formed in a femoral insert that can be removably engaged to the femoral component.

[0060] Preferably, the femoral component bears at least one attachment seat for engaging a femoral reference rod configured to indicate the orientation of the femoral component in relation to the femur's longitudinal extension.

[0061] Preferably, the distal portion is at least partially delimited in relation to the frontal portion by means of at least one femoral guide notch, which is preferably formed on a plane substantially orthogonal in relation to the longitudinal extension of the femur.

[0062] Preferably, the surgical guide also comprises a tibial component configured to exclusively couple with the proximal end of a tibia bearing a prosthetic dish attached to a tibial bone part, wherein the tibial component has: [0063] a front portion having a first contact area configured to act in abutment against a front cortical region of the tibial bone part; [0064] a proximal portion projecting in cantilever fashion on the continuation of the front portion and having at least one second contact area configured to act in abutment against a working surface of the prosthetic dish surrounded by a peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish itself; [0065] wherein the front portion has at least one first pair of tibial positioning holes configured to face the front cortical region of the tibia, when the tibial component is coupled with the proximal end of the tibia.

[0066] Preferably, said first contact area has an upper portion that extends according to an arched extension along the peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish.

[0067] Preferably, said first contact area has a lower portion spaced apart from the peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish.

[0068] Preferably, the tibial positioning holes belonging to the first pair are arranged spaced apart from the upper portion of the first contact area.

[0069] Preferably, the tibial positioning holes belonging to the first pair are arranged in positions spaced apart from the first contact area.

[0070] Preferably, the front portion has an additional contact area extending in an arched extension and configured to act in abutment against the prosthetic dish along the peripheral edge thereof.

[0071] Preferably, the additional contact area and the first contact area respectively extend continuously.

[0072] Preferably, the front portion has at least a second pair of tibial positioning holes, respectively aligned along a direction parallel to a first direction of mutual alignment of the tibial positioning holes belonging to the first pair.

[0073] Preferably, the front portion has at least two second pairs of tibial positioning holes, respectively aligned along a direction parallel to a direction of mutual alignment of the tibial positioning holes belonging to the first pair.

[0074] Preferably, a second distance that can be detected between the direction of mutual alignment of the tibial positioning holes belonging to the second pair and the first contact area is greater than a first distance that can be detected between the same first contact area and the direction of mutual alignment of the tibial positioning holes belonging to the first pair.

[0075] Preferably, the front portion also has at least one pair of fixing holes oriented obliquely in relation to the tibial positioning holes and configured to face the front cortical region of the tibia in positions spaced apart from the upper portion of the first contact area.

[0076] Preferably, the fixing holes are arranged at the lower portion of the first contact area.

[0077] Preferably, at least one of the first and second contact areas subtends an arc greater than 90° about a longitudinal extension axis of the tibia along the peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish.

[0078] Preferably, the proximal portion has an end edge projecting over the working surface of the

prosthetic dish and extending parallel to the peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish.

[0079] Preferably, the second contact area extends along the peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish.

[0080] Preferably, the front portion has two arms projecting onto the working surface of the prosthetic dish and bearing respective terminal portions configured to act against the working surface itself at the second contact area.

[0081] Preferably, the second contact area extends along the whole extension of at least one of said arms, continuously with the first contact area.

[0082] Preferably, the proximal portion of the tibial component has a tibial centring housing configured for guiding the insertion of a bore cutter along the longitudinal axis of the tibia.

[0083] Preferably, the tibial centring housing is directly formed in the proximal portion.

[0084] Preferably, the tibial centring housing is formed in a tibial insert that can be removably engaged to the tibial component.

[0085] Preferably, the tibial component bears at least one attachment seat for attaching a tibial reference rod configured to indicate the orientation of the tibial component in relation to the tibia's longitudinal extension.

[0086] Preferably, the upper portion and the lower portion of the first contact area are at least partially separated from each other, by means of at least one tibial guide notch formed in the front portion, preferably on a plane substantially parallel to the working surface of the tibial dish.

[0087] Additional features and benefits will appear more clearly from a detailed description of a preferred, but not exclusive, embodiment of a patient-specific surgical guide to apply a total prosthetic knee revision in accordance with this invention.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0088] This description will be set forth hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings—provided to illustrate rather than limit the invention's purposes—wherein:

[0089] FIG. 1 shows in frontal perspective view a femoral component of a surgical guide according to the invention, applied to the distal end of a femur bearing a primary prosthesis;

[0090] FIG. 2 shows a side view of the femoral component in FIG. 1;

[0091] FIG. 3 shows a perspective view from the opposite side in relation to FIG. 1, highlighting the femoral component in the absence of the femur and primary prosthesis;

[0092] FIG. 4 is a perspective view similar to FIG. 3, in which the positioning of the femoral component in relation to the primary prosthesis is also represented, in the absence of the femoral bone part;

[0093] FIG. 5 is a frontal view of the femoral component applied to the distal end of the femur;

[0094] FIG. 6 shows the femoral component from a distal direction of the femur;

[0095] FIG. 7 shows in frontal perspective view a first embodiment of a tibial component of the surgical guide according to the invention, applied to the proximal end of a tibia bearing a primary tibial prosthesis;

[0096] FIG. 8 shows a frontal view of the tibial component in FIG. 7;

[0097] FIG. 9 shows a lateral view of the tibial component in FIG. 7;

[0098] FIG. 10 shows a perspective view of the tibial component from the opposite side in relation to FIG. 7;

[0099] FIG. 11 is a perspective view from a different angle to FIG. 10, highlighting the tibial component in the absence of the tibia and primary tibial prosthesis;

[0100] FIG. 12 is a perspective view similar to FIG. 11, in which the positioning of the tibial component in relation to the primary tibial prosthesis is also represented, in the absence of the tibial bone part;

[0101] FIG. **13** shows in frontal perspective view a second embodiment of a tibial component of the surgical guide according to the invention, applied to the proximal end of a tibia bearing a primary tibial prosthesis;

[0102] FIG. **14** shows a perspective view of the tibial component from the opposite side to FIG. **13**;

[0103] FIG. **15** is a perspective view from a different angle to FIG. **14**, highlighting the tibial component in the absence of the tibia and primary tibial prosthesis; and

[0104] FIG. **16** is a perspective view similar to FIG. **14**, in which the positioning of the tibial component in relation to the primary tibial prosthesis is also represented, in the absence of the tibial bone part.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0105] In accordance with this invention, a patient-specific surgical guide for positioning resection guides to apply a total prosthetic knee revision essentially comprises a femoral component—indicated, as a whole, with reference number **10** in FIGS. **1** to **6**—and/or a tibial component—indicated, as a whole, with reference no. **100** in FIGS. **7** to **16**.

[0106] For the purposes of this description, the term “patient-specific” refers to components or equipment specifically produced for use on a specific patient, based on prior surveys of the patient's bone anatomy. Since bone anatomy varies from patient to patient, a patient-specific surgical guide made for a particular patient cannot be used to perform surgery on another patient.

[0107] The femoral component **10** is configured to exclusively couple with the distal end of a femur **11** bearing a femoral prosthesis **12**, also called primary femoral prosthesis, attached to a femoral bone part. The tibial component **100** is, in turn, exclusively configured to be coupled to the proximal end of a tibia **101** bearing a tibial prosthesis **112**, also called a primary tibial prosthesis, attached to a tibial bone part.

[0108] For the purpose of this description, the expression “exclusively” refers to a mechanical coupling for which there is only one mutual orientation between the femoral component **10** or tibial component **100** and the patient's bone and/or prosthetic structure, so as to enable a mutual coupling when these elements are brought together in a predetermined direction. Once the coupling has taken place, mechanical bonds by mutual shape coupling ensure that the femoral component **10** or tibial component **100** and the corresponding bone structure remain permanently fixed with respect to each other in relation to any stress directed transversely or around the mutual coupling direction.

[0109] The primary femoral prosthesis **12** and the primary tibial prosthesis **112** have been implanted in the patient in a previous operation, and, in the example described here, they need to be replaced, e.g. due to wear due to prolonged use or other problems that may have arisen.

[0110] In the primary femoral prosthesis **12** a frontal region **13**, which faces the front in relation to the femur **11**, and a distal region **14**, which faces away from the femur **11** along a longitudinal extension axis **X11** of the latter, can be identified. The frontal region **13** and the distal region **14** are oriented substantially perpendicularly to each other, and mutually connected according to an arched profile as better shown in FIG. **2**. The primary tibial prosthesis **112** is, in turn, substantially formed by a prosthetic dish **102** attached to the bone part of the tibia **101**, and having a working surface **103** that, under operating conditions, faces the femur **11** to provide a sliding abutment seat for the femoral prosthesis **12**, after the interposition of an tibial insert (not illustrated). The perimeter of the working surface **103** is delimited by a peripheral edge **104** that outlines the contour of the prosthetic dish **102**.

[0111] The femoral component **10** has, essentially, a frontal portion **15** and a distal portion **16**, preferably oriented transversely to each other. As better shown in FIG. **2**, the frontal portion **15** and the distal portion **16** substantially extend over each other's continuation, preferably in such a way as to give the femoral component **10** an overall arched conformation on a plane containing the longitudinal axis of the femur **11**.

[0112] The frontal portion **15** has a first abutment area **17** configured to act in abutment against the femoral bone part in a cortical frontal region **18** of the femur **11** and a second area **19** configured to

face, preferably abutting against, a frontal region **13** of the femoral prosthesis **12**, when the femoral component **10** is coupled with the distal end of the femur **11**. As can be better seen in FIG. 3, the first abutment area **17** and the second area **19** can respectively extend continuously.

[0113] In the frontal portion **15**, two or more guide holes **20**—three in the example illustrated—are provided and oriented, respectively, according to parallel axes. These pass through the frontal portion itself so as to lead to the first abutment area **17**.

[0114] In addition, at least two frontal positioning holes **21** extend through the frontal portion **15** so as to lead to the second area **19**. The frontal positioning holes **21** are each positioned between at least one of the guide holes **20** and the distal portion **16**, and are preferably oriented according to respective axes substantially parallel to the guide holes **20**. Preferably, the frontal positioning holes **21** are oriented according to respective axes substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal extension direction of the femur **11**, i.e. to the longitudinal axis **X11**, when the femoral component **10** is coupled to the distal end of the femur **11**.

[0115] Preferably, one or more attachment seats **22** for engaging a femoral reference rod (not illustrated) configured to indicate the orientation of the femoral component **10** in relation to the femur's longitudinal extension **11** are provided, preferably in the frontal portion **15**.

[0116] Preferably, the femoral component **10** also has two lateral abutments **23** bearing third abutment areas **24** configured to act in abutment against the femoral bone part in medial and lateral epicondylar regions, respectively, of the femur **11**. More specifically, the lateral abutments **23** are borne at the end by corresponding brackets **25** protruding from opposite sides respectively of the distal portion **16**, and have corresponding auxiliary positioning holes **26** extending through the third abutment areas **24**, preferably according to respectively converging axes.

[0117] The distal portion **16** is, in turn, configured to face the distal end of the femur **11**, and preferably has at least a fourth abutment area **27**, preferably arranged in a substantially orthogonal orientation in relation to the first abutment area **17**, and configured to act in abutment against the distal region **14** of the femoral prosthesis **12**. Preferably, the fourth abutment area **27** is divided into two portions arranged in corresponding condylar zones.

[0118] The distal portion **16** bears at least two distal positioning holes **28**, **29**, preferably oriented along their respective axes substantially parallel to a longitudinal extension direction of the femur **11**. In the example illustrated, a first pair of distal positioning holes **28** and a second pair of distal positioning holes **29**, arranged at different distances from the frontal portion **15**, are provided. When the femoral component **10** is coupled to the distal end of the femur **11**, the distal positioning holes **28**, **29** face the distal region **14** of the femoral prosthesis **12**.

[0119] One or more femoral guide notches **30** formed on a substantially parallel plane orthogonal in relation to the longitudinal extension of the femur **11**, at least partially delimit the distal portion **16** from the frontal portion **15**. The femoral guide notches **30** can, advantageously, be used for guiding cutting tools and/or for engaging one or more reference plates, not illustrated as they are known, that make it possible to highlight for the surgeon the position and orientation of the plane according to which a distal resection cut must be performed on the femoral bone.

[0120] The distal portion **16** may have a femoral centring housing **31**, e.g. in the form of a hole or circular profile sleeve, configured to guide the insertion of a bore cutter along the longitudinal axis of the femur **11**.

[0121] The femoral centring housing **31** can be directly formed in the distal portion **16**, or borne by a femoral insert **32**, which can be removably engaged to the femoral component **10**, as schematically shown in dashed lines in FIG. 6.

[0122] In the tibial component **100** a front portion **105** and a proximal portion **106**, projecting in cantilever fashion onto the continuation of the front portion **105**, can be identified.

[0123] The front portion **105** has a first contact area **107** configured act in abutment against a front cortical region **108** of the tibial bone part **101**, when the tibial component **100** is coupled with the proximal end of the tibia. Preferably, as better shown in FIGS. 12 and 16, in the first contact area

107, an upper portion **107a**, which extends in an arched extension parallel to the extension of the adjacent peripheral edge **104** of the prosthetic dish **102**, and a lower portion **107b**, which is spaced apart from the peripheral edge **104** of the prosthetic dish **102**, can be identified.

[0124] At least at the upper portion **107a**, the first contact area **107** has an extension sufficient to subtend an arc greater than 90° along the peripheral edge **104** of the prosthetic dish **102** and around the longitudinal extension axis of the tibia. In the attached figures, the longitudinal extension of the tibia **101** is represented by the longitudinal axis X**101**.

[0125] One or more tibial guide notches **109** formed in the front portion **105** on a plane substantially parallel to the working surface **103** of the tibial dish **102**, separate, at least partially, the upper portion **107a** from the lower portion **107b** of the first contact area **107**. The tibial guide notches **109** can, advantageously, be used for guiding cutting tools and/or for engaging one or more reference plates, not illustrated as they are known, that make it possible to highlight for the surgeon the position and orientation of the plane according to which a frontal resection cut must be performed on the femoral bone part.

[0126] Preferably, the front portion **105** also has an additional contact area **110** (FIGS. **11** and **15**), extending in mutual continuity with the first contact area **107**, according to an arched extension. The additional contact area **110** is configured to act directly in abutment against the prosthetic dish **102** along the peripheral edge **104** of the dish, approximately in an area bound between the lying plane of the working surface **103** and a plane containing the lower edge of the prosthetic dish.

[0127] At least one first pair of tibial positioning holes **111**, configured to face the front cortical region **108** of the tibia **101** when the tibial component **100** is coupled with the proximal end of the tibia, is provided in the front portion **105**.

[0128] The tibial positioning holes **111** are preferably arranged in positions spaced apart from the first contact area **107** or at least from the upper portion **107a** of the latter. More specifically, the geometrical axes of the tibial positioning holes **111** belonging to the first pair are respectively aligned along a first alignment direction D**1** substantially parallel to the lying plane of the working surface **103** of the tibial dish **102**, at a first distance L**1** from the first contact area **107**.

[0129] There may also be at least one second pair of tibial positioning holes **112a**, **112b**, respectively aligned with their geometrical axes along a second alignment direction D**2** parallel to the first alignment direction D**1**. In a preferred embodiment there are two second pairs of tibial positioning holes, respectively indicated with **112a** and **112b**, parallel to each other and aligned along the second alignment direction D**2**. The second alignment direction D**2** is arranged, in relation to the first contact area **107**, at a second distance L**2** greater than the first distance L**1**.

[0130] The front portion **105** of the tibial component **100** also has at least one pair of fixing holes **113**, oriented obliquely in relation to the tibial positioning holes **111**, **112a**, **112b** and configured to face the front cortical region **108** of the tibia **101** in positions spaced apart from the upper portion **107a** of the first contact area **107**.

[0131] Preferably, as can be seen in FIGS. **11**, **12**, **15**, and **16**, the fixing holes **113** are arranged at the lower portion **107b** of the first contact area **107**.

[0132] The tibial component **100** also has, preferably on the front portion **105**, at least one engagement seat **114** for attaching a tibial reference rod (not illustrated) configured to indicate the orientation of the tibial component **100** in relation to the tibia's longitudinal extension.

[0133] In the embodiments respectively represented in FIGS. **7** to **12** and **13** to **16**, the proximal portion **106** has a different conformation respectively, but in both cases it comprises at least one second contact area **115**, configured to act in abutment against the working surface **103** circumscribed by the peripheral edge **104** of the prosthetic dish **102**.

[0134] More specifically, in the embodiments in FIGS. **7** to **12**, the proximal portion **106** has an end edge **116** projecting onto the working surface **103** of the prosthetic dish **102**, and extending parallel to the peripheral edge **104** of the prosthetic dish **102** itself. In this case the second contact area **115** extends substantially against the peripheral edge **104** of the prosthetic dish **102**, along the

peripheral extension of the same, preferably widely enough to subtend an arc greater than 90° about the longitudinal development axis of the tibia. This configuration is particularly suitable for use on tibial prostheses of the “fixed insert” type. In this type of prosthesis a fixed insert (not illustrated) can be provided, which will be positioned between the tibial dish **102** and the femoral prosthesis **12** in its operating condition without the possibility of its sliding onto the working surface **103**.

[0135] In the embodiment shown in FIGS. **13** to **16**, the second contact area **115** is formed on two arms **117** projecting onto the working surface **103** of the prosthetic dish **102**. The arms **117** have corresponding terminal portions configured to act in abutment against the working surface **103** itself at the second contact area **115**. Preferably, as shown in FIG. **15**, in at least one of the arms **117** the second contact area **115** occupies the entire extension of the arm itself, continuously connecting with the first contact area **107**.

[0136] This configuration is particularly suitable for use on tibial prostheses of the “movable insert” type. In this type of prosthesis, a movable insert (not illustrated) is provided, which will be positioned between the tibial dish **102** and the femoral prosthesis **12** in its operating condition with some freedom to slide onto the working surface **103**.

[0137] The proximal portion **106** may have a tibial centring housing **118**, e.g. in the form of a hole or circular profile sleeve, configured to guide the insertion of a bore cutter along the longitudinal axis **X101** of the tibia **101**.

[0138] The tibial centring housing **118** can be directly formed in the proximal portion **106**, or borne by a tibial insert **119**, which can be removably engaged to the tibial component **100**, as shown in dashed lines in FIG. **10**.

[0139] Performing prosthetic revision surgery in accordance with this invention requires that the patient-specific surgical guide, structured as described above, is produced in a pre-operative planning phase. More specifically, the production of the surgical guide **10**, **100** requires that the patient undergo radiography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, or another suitable detection method, to detect the anatomical conformation of the distal end of the femur **11** and the proximal end of the tibia **101**. As a result of this survey, a mathematical model representative of the anatomical configuration of the distal end of the femur **11** and the proximal end of the tibia **101**, including the primary, femoral **12** and tibial **102** prostheses previously implanted in the patient, will be obtained by means of electronic image processing and/or other acquired data. The mathematical model is then used to model, by means of mechanical processing and/or a 3D printing process, the abutment areas **17**, **19**, **24**, **27** of the femoral component **10** and the contact areas **107**, **110**, **115** of the tibial component **100**, so as to obtain the patient-specific surgical guide in which these areas are conformed so as to reproduce, in negative, the shape of the bone and/or prosthetic parts against which they must come into contact.

[0140] Once the femoral component **10** and the tibial component **100** have been created, the surgeon cuts the patient's epidermis and soft tissue until the knee of the patient to be operated on is exposed.

[0141] The femoral component **10** is positioned on the distal end of the femur **11** bearing the femoral prosthesis **12**. In this circumstance, the combined action of the first **17**, second **19**, third **24**, and/or fourth **27** abutment areas acting on both the surfaces of the bone part and the femoral prosthesis **12**, determines an exclusive and stable coupling between the femoral component **10** and the distal end of the femur **11**.

[0142] Corresponding alignment pins (not illustrated) are introduced along at least two of the guide holes **20**, the pins also being firmly inserted through the frontal cortical region **18** of the femur **11**. Each of the guide holes **12** is suitable for guiding the corresponding alignment pin through the femoral bone part, in a position spaced apart from the peripheral edge of the femoral prosthesis **12**. It can be arranged that, before the alignment pins are inserted, corresponding holes are drilled in the frontal cortical region **18** of the femur **11** by means of a drill bit or other drilling tool guided

through the corresponding guide holes **20**.

[0143] The femoral component **10** can then be removed from the guide pins and removed from the distal end of the femur **11** to allow subsequent removal of the primary femoral prosthesis **12** that needs to be replaced.

[0144] After removal, the femoral component **10** is repositioned by re-fitting the guide holes **20** along the positioning pins, the reciprocal engagement of which ensures that, despite the absence of the femoral prosthesis **12**, the femoral component **10** and the distal end of the femur **11** are re-engaged, exclusively and firmly, exactly in the exclusive engagement position previously assumed.

[0145] The correct positioning of the femoral component **10** can also be visually checked by means of the reference plates that can be inserted into the femoral guide notches **30**, and/or by means of the reference rod that can be inserted into the attachment seats **22**.

[0146] Two fixing pins that can be inserted, after any drilling, in the epicondylar regions through the auxiliary positioning holes **26**, can be used to additionally stabilise the positioning of the femoral component **10**.

[0147] Two pairs of frontal attachment holes are then drilled in the condylar areas of the bone part, using a drill bit guided through the frontal positioning holes **21** and through the first or second pair of distal positioning holes **28**, **29**. The femoral component **10** positioned on the distal end of the femur **11** can also be used to guide a drilling and/or milling tool through the femoral centring housing **31** to prepare the medullary canal of the femur **11** to receive a new femoral revision prosthesis. The finishing direction of the canal can therefore be guided according to the tilt of the distal resection cut of the femur **11** planned in the pre-operative phase.

[0148] Once the operations described above have been completed, the femoral component **10** and the guide pins can be removed.

[0149] A pair of frontal positioning pins and a pair of distal positioning pins (not illustrated) are inserted into the holes made through the frontal guide holes **20** and the distal guide holes **20** respectively.

[0150] Once attached, the frontal positioning pins are suitable for smoothly engaging two first centring holes arranged on a distal cutting block, which is positioned against the bone part and used, in a known way, to guide the execution of a distal resection cut on the distal end of the femur **11**. The tilt of the distal resection is given by the position of the positioning pins based on pre-operative planning.

[0151] Similarly, the distal positioning pins are suitable for smoothly engaging two second centring holes arranged on a frontal cutting block, which is positioned against the bone part and used, in a known way, to guide the execution of frontal, posterior, and bevelling resection cuts on the distal end of the femur **11**.

[0152] The choice of using the first or second pair of distal positioning holes **28**, **29** for operating purposes can be determined by the type of frontal cutting block the surgeon plans to use for subsequent resections. If the use of a frontal cutting block identical to the one previously used for implanting the primary prosthesis is planned, the distal positioning holes **28** belonging to the first pair will be used. If, on the other hand, the surgeon plans to use a different block from the one previously used for implanting the primary prosthesis, so that a revision resection can be performed in a different position from the resection performed during the attaching of the primary femoral prosthesis **12**, the distal positioning holes **29** belonging to the second pair can be used.

[0153] After the resection cuts have been made, the new revision femoral prosthesis can be attached after the removal of the positioning pins.

[0154] The surgery on the tibia **101** involves positioning the tibial component **100** on the proximal end of the tibia after removal of the tibial insert from the primary tibial prosthesis **112**. In this circumstance, the combined action of the abutment areas acting on both the surfaces of the bone part and the surfaces of the primary tibial prosthesis **112**, determines the exclusive and firm engagement of the tibial component **100** on the proximal end of the tibia **101**.

[0155] In at least one of the pairs of tibial positioning holes **111**, **112a**, **112b**, the corresponding tibial positioning pins are inserted through the frontal cortical region **18** of the tibia **101** after any drilling through the same tibial positioning holes.

[0156] The correct positioning of the tibial component **100** can also be visually checked by means of the reference plates that can be inserted into the tibial guide notches **109**, and/or by means of the reference rod that can be inserted into corresponding the engagement seats **22**.

[0157] The tibial component **100** positioned on the proximal end of the tibia **101** can also be used to guide a drilling and/or milling tool through the tibial centring housing **118** to prepare the medullary canal of the tibia to receive a new revision tibial prosthesis. The finishing direction of the canal can therefore be guided according to the tilt of the tibial resection cut planned in the pre-operative phase.

[0158] The tibial component **100** can then be removed from the tibial positioning pins and removed from the proximal end of the tibia **101** to allow subsequent removal of the primary tibial prosthesis **112** that needs to be replaced.

[0159] Once removed, the tibial positioning pins are suitable for smoothly engaging corresponding centring holes arranged on a tibial cutting block, which is positioned against the bone part and used, in a known way, to guide the execution of a tibial resection cut on the proximal end of the tibia **101**.

[0160] The choice of using the first or second pair of the tibial positioning holes for installing the tibial positioning holes can be determined by the type of tibial cutting block the surgeon plans to use for subsequent tibial resections. Should a tibial cutting block identical to the one previously used for implanting the primary tibial prosthesis **112** be used, the distal positioning holes **111** belonging to the first pair will be used. Should a different block from the one previously used for implanting the primary prosthesis be used for the purpose of performing a revision tibial resection, the tibial positioning holes **112a**, **112b** belonging to the second pairs may be used. The choice of either one or the other second pair of tibial holes **112a**, **112b** can also be planned in the pre-operative phase so as to avoid interference with the primary prosthesis.

[0161] After the tibial resection cuts have been made, the new revision tibial prosthesis can be attached after the removal of the tibial positioning pins.

Claims

1.-29. (canceled)

30. A surgical method for prosthetic knee revision, comprising: exclusively coupling a femoral component of a surgical guide against a distal end of a patient's femur bearing a femoral prosthesis attached to a femoral bone part, wherein the femoral component comprises: a distal portion configured to face the distal end of the femur, the distal portion defining at least two distal positioning holes configured to face a distal region of the femoral prosthesis when the femoral component is coupled with the distal end of the femur; and a frontal portion extending on a continuation of the distal portion and displaying a first abutment area configured to act in abutment against the femur bone part in a cortical frontal region of the femur, and a second area configured to face a frontal region of the femoral prosthesis, when the femoral component is coupled with the distal end of the femur, wherein the frontal portion of the femoral component defines at least two guide holes, extending parallel to each other through the frontal portion at the first abutment area, and defines at least two frontal positioning holes extending through the frontal portion at the second area; inserting at least two alignment pins into the guide holes of the femoral component and through a front cortical region of the femur; removing the femoral component from the distal end of the femur; removing the femoral prosthesis from the distal end of the femur; engaging said guide holes along the alignment pins to exclusively re-couple the femoral component to the distal end of the femur; preparing attachment holes through the femoral bone part, using a drilling tool

guided through the frontal positioning holes and the distal positioning holes of the femoral component; removing the femoral component from the distal end of the femur; engaging frontal and distal positioning pins in the frontal and distal positioning holes, respectively; engaging a distal cutting block on the frontal positioning pins; performing a distal femoral bone resection while the distal cutting block is engaged on the frontal positioning pins; engaging a frontal cutting block on the distal positioning pins; performing a frontal resection of the femoral bone part while the frontal cutting block is engaged on the distal positioning pins; removing the frontal and distal positioning pins; positioning a revision femoral prosthesis on the distal end of the femur.

31. The method according to claim 30, further comprising abutting third abutment areas of two lateral abutments of the femoral component against the femoral bone part in epicondylar regions, respectively medial and lateral, of the femur.

32. The method according to claim 30, further comprising abutting the second area against the frontal region of the femoral prosthesis.

33. The method according to claim 30, further comprising abutting a fourth abutment area of the distal portion against the distal region of the femoral prosthesis.

34. The method according to claim 30, further comprising smoothly engaging the guiding holes with the respective alignment pins that are inserted through the frontal cortical region of the femur.

35. The method according to claim 30, wherein the alignment pins are inserted through the frontal cortical region of the femur in a direction parallel to the guide holes.

36. The method according to claim 30, further comprising: inserting a drilling tool through the femoral bone part when the femoral component is coupled with the distal end of the femur after removing the femoral prosthesis; and smoothly engaging the drilling tools with the frontal positioning holes.

37. The method according to claim 30, further comprising: inserting a drilling tool through the femoral bone part when the femoral component is coupled with the distal end of the femur after removing the femoral prosthesis; and smoothly engaging the drilling tools with the distal positioning holes.

38. The method according to claim 37, wherein inserting the drilling tool is engaged with the distal positioning holes in a direction parallel to a longitudinal extension direction of the femur.

39. The method according to claim 30, further comprising inserting a bore cutter along the longitudinal axis of the femur, wherein the bore cutter is guided by a femoral centring housing of the distal portion.

40. The method according to claim 30, further comprising: exclusively coupling a tibial component of the surgical guide against a proximal end of a tibia bearing a prosthetic dish attached to a tibial bone part, the tibial component comprising: a front portion having a first contact area configured to act in abutment against a front cortical region of the tibial bone part; and a proximal portion projecting in cantilever fashion on a continuation of the front portion and having at least one second contact area configured to act in abutment against a working surface of the prosthetic dish surrounded by a peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish itself, wherein the front portion defines at least one first pair of tibial positioning holes configured to face the front cortical region of the tibia, when the tibial component is coupled with the proximal end of the tibia; inserting at least two tibial alignment pins into the tibial positioning holes of the tibial component and through the tibia's front cortical region; removing the tibial component from the proximal end of the tibia; removing a tibial prosthesis from the proximal end of the tibia; engaging a tibial resection block on the tibial positioning pins; performing a proximal resection of the tibial bone part while the tibial component is engaged on the tibial positioning pins; removing the tibial alignment pins; and positioning a revision tibial prosthesis on the proximal end of the tibia.

41. The method according to claim 40, wherein the tibial alignment pins are inserted in positions spaced apart from an upper portion of the first contact area, wherein the upper portion extends according to an arched extension along the peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish.

- 42.** The method according to claim 40, further comprising abutting an additional contact area of the front portion against the prosthetic dish along the peripheral edge thereof, wherein additional contact area extends according to an arched extension.
- 43.** The method according to claim 40, further comprising abutting against working surface terminal portions of two arms of the front portion.
- 44.** The method according to claim 40, further comprising inserting a bore cutter along the longitudinal axis of the tibia, wherein the bore cutter is guided by a tibial centring housing of the proximal portion.
- 45.** The method according to claim 30, further comprising, before exclusively coupling the femoral component: detecting anatomical conformation of the distal end of the patient's femur, wherein said distal end bears the femoral prosthesis; preparing the femoral component of surgical guide based on the detected anatomical conformation.
- 46.** The method according to claim 40, further comprising, before exclusively coupling the tibial component: detecting anatomical conformation of the distal end of the patient's femur, wherein said distal end bears the femoral prosthesis; preparing the femoral component of surgical guide based on the detected anatomical conformation.
- 47.** A method of manufacturing a surgical guide for prosthetic knee revision, comprising: detecting anatomical conformation of the distal end of a patient's femur, wherein said distal end bears a femoral prosthesis; producing the surgical guide based on the detected anatomical conformation, wherein the surgical guide comprises: a femoral component configured to exclusively couple with the distal end of a femur bearing a femoral prosthesis attached to a femoral bone part, wherein the femoral component comprises: a distal portion configured to face the distal end of the femur, the distal portion defining at least two distal positioning holes configured to face a distal region of the femoral prosthesis when the femoral component is coupled with the distal end of the femur; and a frontal portion extending on a continuation of the distal portion and displaying a first abutment area configured to act in abutment against the femur bone part in a cortical frontal region of the femur, and a second area configured to face a frontal region of the femoral prosthesis, when the femoral component is coupled with the distal end of the femur, wherein the frontal portion defines: at least two guide holes, extending parallel to each other through the frontal portion at the first abutment area; and at least two frontal positioning holes extending through the frontal portion at the second area; and a tibial component configured to exclusively couple with the proximal end of a tibia bearing a prosthetic dish attached to a tibial bone part, wherein the tibial component comprises: a front portion having a first contact area configured to act in abutment against a front cortical region of the tibial bone part; and a proximal portion projecting in cantilever fashion on a continuation of the front portion and having at least one second contact area configured to act in abutment against a working surface of the prosthetic dish surrounded by a peripheral edge of the prosthetic dish itself, wherein the front portion defines at least one first pair of tibial positioning holes configured to face the front cortical region of the tibia, when the tibial component is coupled with the proximal end of the tibia; and producing the surgical guide based on the detected anatomical conformation.
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