

The Difference Between Arthropods & Orthopods

Today, we help describe the similarities and differences between two interesting creatures: arthropods and orthopods. Let's begin!



An **arthropod** is an invertebrate animal with an exoskeleton that doesn't care about anyone else's [bones](#). An **orthopod** is a vertebrate animal with an endoskeleton that cares deeply about everyone else's bones; they show their affection by beating on them with hammers and drills. An **arthropod** has a segmented body and jointed appendages. An **orthopod** does not have a segmented body, and it loves joints and appendages. An **arthropod's** exoskeleton is made up of calcium. An **orthopod's** favorite mineral is calcium.

Whereas **arthropods** have adapted to life in both wet and dry environments, **orthopods** have adapted to life only in operating rooms (ORs). This explains why **orthopods** [consult everyone](#) known to man outside of the OR: they would perish on their own through natural selection. **Arthropods** account for more than 75% of the world's known species of animals, but **orthopods** account for an impressive 100% of the world's known hip and knee replacements.

Orthopods consult for preoperative "clearance" or post-op fever. **Arthropods** do not. Both **arthropods** and **orthopods** may not be very pleasant in person, especially if it's early and they haven't had coffee. Both **arthropods** and **orthopods** struggle with [electrocardiograms \(ECGs\)](#).

Insects are a subgroup of **arthropods** that are pesky and annoying. Interns (orthopodinos) are a subgroup of **orthopods** that are also pesky and annoying. Cockroaches and tarantulas are pretty unpleasant, but nothing compared to the

bolus of consults for orthopedic patients with [absolutely no medical problems](#).

Some **arthropods** have specialized parts to help them breathe (gills), collect information (antennas), and grasp (claws). All **orthopods** have specialized parts to help them breathe (lungs), collect information (smartphones), and smash (fists).

Arthropods have exoskeletons made up of three different layers: epidermis, epicuticle, and exocuticle. **Orthopods** do not have exoskeletons but still have three different layers: epidermis, scrubs, and a black fleece with a rad symbol or slogan on it. **Arthropod** exoskeletons are thick and strong, impermeable to stress. **Orthopod** skulls are thick and strong, impermeable to dialogue and suggestions. **Arthropods** have tremendously complex visual systems: compound eyes and ocelli. **Orthopods** have remarkably simple visual systems: "That's a bone!" or "That's not a bone."

Arthropods have communicated meaningful information through millions and millions of years of fossil records. **Orthopods**, however, [have yet to communicate any meaningful information](#) through decades and decades of medical records.

Now, do you know the difference between...

... [a medical student and a deer in headlights?](#)

... [a medicine service and a garbage dump?](#)

... [medical students & residents?](#)

... [RICE & rice?](#)

... [white clouds & black clouds?](#)