

Glossary

Abduction	Moving away from midline.
Abductor	Muscle involved in active abduction.
Acetabulum	Socket in pelvis, which receives head of femur.
Achilles Tendon	Prominent cord at posterior aspect of ankle.
Adduction	Move toward midline.
Alignment	The position of the components of a prosthesis or orthosis in space relative to each other and to the patient.
Anatomic Position	Reference position of the body permitting description of location and movements. The individual is standing erect. Head facing forward. Arms Parallel to the trunk, straight at the sides. Forearms and hands positioned so the palms face forward. Legs straight. Feet parallel to each other.
Anterior	Toward the front.
Asymmetrical	Not symmetrical; denoting a lack of symmetry between two or more like parts.
Atrophy	The degeneration, or shrinking of a muscle due to lack of use, such as in an amputation.
Axis	Imaginary line passing through center of joint; pivot point.
Bench alignment	Assembly and alignment of the components of a prosthesis or orthosis using only previously acquired data regarding the patient.
Bilateral	Two sides; used to describe an amputee missing both left and right extremities.
Bi-valve	A shell composed of two separate parts that open and shut; used to describe many braces that have two halves; clamshell.
Bulbous	Light bulb shaped; circumference small on one end growing larger at the bulbous end.
CG	C enter of G ravity.
Calcaneus	Heel bone
Calcification	Building up of calcium deposits; bone.
Callus	Thickening of skin.
Carpal	The wrist bones and their associated soft parts.
Cast modification	Process of modifying the positive model obtained by filling an impression in order to obtain a shape which specifies the whole, or part, of the form of the final prosthesis or orthosis.
Central Nervous System	Spinal column and brain.
Cervical Vertebrae	Top seven vertebrae of spinal column; neck; C1-C7.
Chopart	Amputation through the foot, the fore foot is removed and the heel and ankle remain in place.
Clavical	Collar bone.
Coccyx	Distal portion of vertebral column; tail bone
Compound Fracture	A fracture witch includes breaking of skin.
Conductivity	Ability to transmit certain forms of energy, such as heat, sound, or electricity.
Condyle	Distal surface of the Femur (thigh bone) and the Humerus (upper arm bone); the surface of the bone that the joint rides on.
Congenital	Birth deformities; born with.
Contusion	Hemorrhage beneath the skin; bruise.
Contraction	Act of making shorter.

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Contracture	A permanent muscular contraction due to tonic spasm or fibrosis.
Decubitis Ulcer	Bed sore; pressure sore.
Disarticulation	Amputation through joint; no bone is cut.
Distal	Away from the trunk; refers to the extremities; bottom.
Dorsal	Top of the foot or posterior surface of the trunk and upper extremity(back).
Dorsiflexion	Raising of the foot; toe pick up.
Drop Foot	Term indicating patient's inability to dorsiflex foot (pull toes up).
Dynamic alignment	Alignment of the prosthesis or orthosis using observations of the movement patterns of the patient.
Edema	Collection of fluids causing swelling.
Epicondyle	The bulbous distal end of the Femur (thigh bone) and the Humerus (upper arm bone).
Equinus	Planter flexion of the foot; causes toe walking.
Eversion	Turning outward. Example; foot, supination or causing an elevation of the medial edge.
Extend	To straighten.
Extremity	Pertaining to thigh and leg; arm and forearm.
Femur	Bone from hip to knee joint.
Fibula	Lateral bone of leg, from knee to ankle.
Flaccid	Relaxed; flabby; without tone.
Flex	To bend; to move a joint in such a direction as to make shorter.
Flexion-Contracture	A permanent muscular contraction due to tonic spasm or fibrosis.
Fracture	Any break in a bone.
Fusion	To grow together; a joint grows together and no longer bends.
Hematoma	Localized hemorrhage under the skin.
Hemophilia	One who bleeds very easily because of minimal aggravation.
Hemipalegic	Paralysis of one side of the body; paralyzed on one side.
Hemipelvectomy	Amputation above the hip joint; part of the pelvis is removed.
Humerus	Bone from shoulder to elbow.
Hyperextension	Angle of extension greater than normal.
Ilium	Lateral bone of the pelvis; located close to the belt line on both lateral sides.
Inferior	Away form the head; below.
Inflammation	Redness; may be accompanied by heat and swelling.
Interface	A surface that forms a common boundary of two bodies. Example, a tube sock is an interface between your foot and shoe.
Inversion	Turning inward; upside down. Example; foot, pronation or causing a lowering of the medial edge.
Involuntary	Motion or action without patient's effort or consciousness.
Ischial Tuberosity	Inferior prominence on the ischium. The two bones that sit on a bicycle seat.
Ischial Containment	To contain the ischium; used to describe a type of prosthetic socket that covers the ischium and contains it.
Ischium	Lateral and posterior bone of pelvis. The two bones that sit on a bicycle seat.
KB	K nee B earing; to bear weight on the knee.
Kyphosis	Spinal curvature; humpback.
Lateral	Away from the midline of the trunk; outside of leg.

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Lesion	Break in the skin.
Ligament	Connective tissue holding bones.
Lordosis	Spinal curvature; opposite of humpback; opposite of kyphosis.
Lumbar Vertebrae	Spine; lower back; between thoracic vertebrae and sacrum; L5-L1.
Malleolus or Malleoli	A rounded bony prominence on either side of the ankle joint.
Malignant	Uncontrollable growth; cancer.
Manipulation	Treatment by manual techniques.
Mastectomy	Amputation of the breast.
Medial	Toward the midline of the trunk; inside of leg.
Metacarpal	Bones of the hand; from wrist joint to fingers, 5 each.
Metatarsal	Bones of the foot; from toe joint to ankle, 5 each.
Multiaxial	Having more than one axis or pivot point; allowing movement in more than one direction.
Muscle	Tissue which has ability to contract when stimulated.
Muscular Dystrophy	Disease of the muscles.
Nerve	Tissue capable of transmitting impulses.
Non-Union	Failure of normal healing of a fractured bone.
Nudge Control	Used to describe a type of switch used on an upper extremity prosthesis; it is usually operated with the patient's chin to lock and unlock a prosthetic elbow.
Occipital	Relating to the back of the head.
Orthesis or Orthosis	An orthopedic brace or appliance.
A. Temporary Orthosis	Used only until the patient recovers from injury.
B. Definitive Orthosis	These are permanent devices which, it is anticipated, patient will use for some time.
Orthotist	One who designs, supplies and fits orthotic braces.
OT	O ccupational T herapist.
Paralysis	Inability to use muscles because of nerve damage.
Paraplegia	Paralysis of both lower extremities; paralyzed from the waist down.
Paraplegic	One who has Paraplegia; paralyzed from the waist down.
Patella	Bone, knee cap.
Perineum	The tendon extending from the anus to the scrotum on a male or anus to vulva on a female.
Phalanges	Fingers or toes.
Plantar	Bottom of foot.
PMR	P hysical M edicine and R ehabilitation.
Posterior	Toward the back.
Prognosis	Prediction of outcome of problem.
Pronation	Foot, causing a lowering of the medial edge. Hand, rotation of the forearm in such a way that the palm faces backward when in anatomical position.
Prosthetist	One who designs, supplies and fits artificial limbs.
Prosthesis	Device to replace missing body parts; artificial limb.
A. Post-op Prosthesis	This prosthesis is put on the patient immediately following surgery, to be worn for a short while.

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B. Definitive Prosthesis	This prosthesis is a permanent device.
Proximal	Toward the trunk; refers to the extremities; top.
PT	Physical Therapist.
PTB Socket	Patella Tendon Bearing Socket ; a type of socket for a below knee amputee.
PTS Socket	Patella Tendon Super-Condylar Socket ; a type of socket for a below knee amputee that comes over the condyle or knee.
Pubis	Anterior and inferior bones of pelvis.
Quadriplegia	Arms and legs paralyzed.
Radius	One of two bones from elbow to wrist joint; lateral.
Reflex	Involuntary motion.
Residual Limb	The stump; what is remaining after amputation.
Rigidity	Stiffness.
Sacrum	Spine; bone just below waist line; bone between lumbar and coccyx; S1-S5. It connects the pelvis to the spine.
Scaphoid	Bone of the foot; arch.
Scapula	Bone referred to as the shoulder blade.
Scoliosis	Lateral curvature of the spine; S shaped spine.
Sensory Receptor	Any one of the various sensory nerve endings in the skin.
Single Axis	Having only one axis or pivot point; allowing movement in one direction; used to describe a prosthetic foot that pivots in one plane only.
Socket	That portion of a prosthesis which actually receives the patient's stump.
Spasm	Involuntary muscle contraction.
Spinal orthosis	Brace applied to all or part of the trunk, head and neck and their intermediate joints.
Static alignment	Alignment of the prosthesis or orthosis while the patient is wearing it in a stationary position.
Sternal Notch	The hard U shaped spot just below the throat.
Sternum	Breast bone; center of chest.
Stroke	Rupturing of blood vessel in the brain.
Stump	The extremity of a limb remaining after amputation.
Superior	Toward the head.
Suction Socket	A type of prosthetic socket that is held on the patient with suction.
Supination	Foot, causing a elevation of the medial edge. Hand, rotation of the forearm in such a way that the palm faces forward when in anatomical position.
Suspension	To hold up; to suspend; used to describe the method of holding an artificial limb on a patient.
Symmetrical	Two or more parts that are alike.
Tarsal	Relating to the tarsus; Relating to the heel and all ankle bones
Tendon	Fibrous tissue connecting muscle to bone.
Terminal Device	Term used to describe portion of upper extremity prosthesis beyond wrist unit; hook, hand, etc...
Thermoplastic	A type of plastic that can be heated and reformed.
Thoracic Vertebra	Spine; 12 vertebra from shoulders down to about 6 inches above waist line; between cervical and lumbar vertebra; upper back; T1-T12.

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Tibia	One of two bones from knee to ankle joint; shin bone.
Tibial Torsion	Phenomenon which creates external rotation of foot from knee down; toe out.
Torso	The trunk; the body without relation to head or extremities.
Traction	External force used to pull body member.
Trauma	Injury.
Tremor	Involuntary shaking.
Trochanter	Enlarged bone end; hip; approximately 4 inches below waist line on both lateral sides.
Ulcer	Lesion or opening of the skin.
Ulna	One of two bones from elbow to wrist joint; medial.
Umbilicus	Navel.
Unilateral	One side only; used to describe an amputee missing one extremity.
Valgus	Bent or twisted outward; bowlegged.
Varus	Bent or twisted inward; knock-knee.
Vascular	Relating to or containing blood vessels.
Voluntary	Action requiring patient's effort and /or consciousness.