

A Step Ahead

Capitol Orthopedic Prosthetics Newsletter

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LOREN'S LINES

HELLO ALL! IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, I WILL USE THIS SPACE TO DISCUSS WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FIELD OF PROSTHETICS, HIGHLIGHTING PATIENTS, NEW PRODUCTS, NEW METHODS OR THEORIES, AND REVIEWING OLD ONES.

EXCITING NEW THINGS ARE ON THE HORIZON IN THE FIELD, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING A PART OF WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. AS I WRITE, NEW KNEE UNITS ARE BEING INTRODUCED AND NEW METHODS OF SUSPENSION ARE BEING TESTED.

AMPUTEES ARE OVERCOMING THE ODDS, CONQUERING EVERYTHING FROM MOUNTAINS TO OLYMPIC RECORDS.

IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE'S STORY YOU WANT TO SHARE, LET ME KNOW. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THAT STORY MIGHT INSPIRE. DO YOU HAVE A TOPIC YOU WANT DISCUSSED? LET ME KNOW, WE'LL DO A LITTLE RESEARCH AND COVER IT.

Partial Foot Prosthesis

Patients with partial foot amputations have several prosthetic options. A general list includes: Morton extension, toe filler, arch support with filler, slipper, boot, cosmetic restoration, ankle foot orthosis, or a ground reaction force AFO.

The most common is the arch support with filler, a combination of the slipper, and cosmetic restoration and the AFO with toe filler.

The arch support with filler is made by taking an impression of the affected foot and then making an arch support or insert for the residual limb. The filler for the removed portion of the foot is usually made of plastazote or a similar foam, often covered in leather to increase durability. The patient is able to transfer this prosthesis from shoe to shoe as needed. A spring steel shank or carbon foot plate is often added to provide needed stability due to the loss of the forefoot. This type of prosthesis is very practical and simple. It fits and is used almost exactly like a foot orthotic in a shoe.

A close match to the arch support with toe filler is the AFO with toe filler. A cast is taken of the patient's foot and the AFO is designed around this mold. The AFO is typically a polypropylene shell that supports the plantar aspect of the foot and rises posterior to the apex of the gastrocnemius. A strap contains the lower leg in the brace and a foam toe filler is added in

the end of the shoe.

This is a good option for active amputees because of the biomechanical advantage that is created with the AFO. A drawback to this method is that the patient may object to its cosmetic appearance, and it is much bulkier than the other methods discussed.

The final option is the combination of the slipper and cosmetic restoration. The method for fabrication is very involved and

will often take more than two months between taking the patient's impression



Custom silicone slipper prosthesis.

and delivery of the prosthesis to the patient. The advantage of this type of prosthesis is the exceptional cosmetic appearance. Patients can typically wear any shoe, and it has a very intimate fit as the prosthesis is donned like a slipper and is held in place by 'suction'.

No matter which method is chosen, the goal is to make up for the loss of the anterior lever arm which, during ambulation, can lead to poor gait and possibly to valgus foot deformities. Custom molding is always preferred as a better fit is achieved and the possibility for further injury due to a poor fit is reduced.

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A Step Ahead Inaugural Address



By now you should have had information delivered to your office letting you know that Capitol Orthopedic has expanded its services to include prosthetics. Loren Decker, Prosthetist, has been added to the staff. He received

his training at California State University Dominguez Hills and completed his residency in Kansas City.

The commitment from Capitol is to provide the highest quality patient care. By paying attention to details and listening to the patient and the rehabilitation team, we believe that we can provide the best possible care, allowing the patient to live to his/her fullest potential.

If you are looking for a

new option in prosthetic care for your patients, we believe that Capitol Orthopedic is the best choice. We are the only locally owned orthotic and prosthetic company in Johnson County.

A lot has changed in the orthotic and prosthetic industry in Kansas City in the last year. Companies have merged, allowing smaller companies have the opportunity to play a larger role in the care of prosthetic and orthotic patients.

Capitol Orthopedic is one of those smaller companies. We like being a small company, because it allows us to make the best choices for our patients, and to devote more time to patient care, which is why we are in the field of prosthetics.

If you have questions about the subjects in this newsletter or any topic regarding prosthetics, please give Loren a call any time at (913) 526-5271.