

Guide to Partial Foot Amputations

A Concept for the Prosthetic Treatment of Patients with
Amputations below the Ankle Joint



Introduction

Every year, more than 50,000 people in Germany undergo a partial foot amputation [Spo, p. 5]. After amputation, a prosthesis serves as a replacement for the lost limb. With it, the patient should be able to stand and walk as normally as possible again.

To achieve this goal, basic anatomical and physiological knowledge is necessary. The prosthetist has the demanding task of fitting the patient with a prosthesis in the best possible way. Depending on the amputation level, the prosthetic treatment is usually carried out using traditional treatment concepts. However, there is still a lot of untapped potential.

With the NEURO SWING system ankle joint, many traditional, inadequate prosthesis concepts for patients with partial foot amputations can be critically questioned. This guide has been created to provide a basis for the prosthetic treatment of patients with partial foot amputations and to show new possibilities. A targeted classification with three different types of treatment was developed as a foundation for the present treatment concept. The resulting treatment suggestions are based on practical experience and scientific findings concerning the NEURO SWING system ankle joint.

Our guide does not claim to be perfect. Rather, it is intended to be the impetus to rethink in the prosthetic treatment of patients with partial foot amputations.

We are grateful that we were able to count on the support of our customers during the planning and production of the first NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis. A big thank you also goes to the patients who had the courage to try out a new type of treatment.

With this guide we would like to show new ways for a better prosthetic treatment of patients with partial foot amputations. We cordially invite you to take this step with us.

Your FIOR & GENTZ team

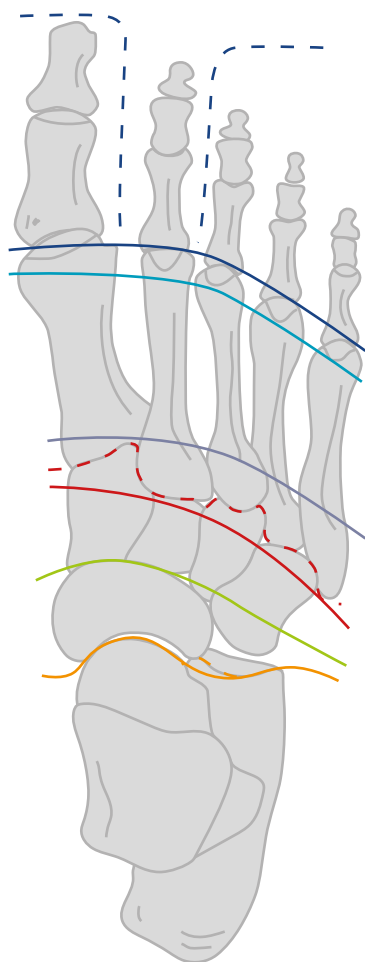
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Amputation is the complete or partial surgical removal of limbs. Depending on their severity, a division is made into major and minor amputations. In the case of the foot, it is considered a minor amputation if the anatomical ankle joint remains intact. A major amputation is associated with the loss of the anatomical ankle joint. In the case of a partial foot amputation, the distal part of the foot is amputated while the ankle joint remains intact.

The amputation should create a solid basis to restore the ability to walk. The amputation should be done as distally as possible to preserve maximum function. The anatomical lines (on which amputations are performed today) are named after the surgeons who established these amputations (see info box) [Bau, p. 136].

Amputations are always a last resort and are only carried out when there is no possibility of preserving the body part. An amputation may also be necessary if there are serious health consequences or severe chronic pain.



Metatarsophalangeal Amputation

- exarticulation of all toes at the base joint or
- exarticulation of one toe (broken line)

Transmetatarsal Amputation (Sharp)

- long midfoot residual limb
- separation at the spongy area of the midfoot heads

Transmetatarsal Amputation (Sharp-Jäger)

- short midfoot residual limb
- separation at the spongy area of the midfoot bases

Tarsometatarsal Amputation (Lisfranc)

- long tarsal residual limb
- removal of the metatarsal bones (Ossa metatarsalia)
→ uneven residual limb (broken line), hence rounding of the residual limb top (solid line)

Transtarsal Amputation (Bona-Jäger)

- short tarsal residual limb
- removal of the distal tarsal row consisting of the cuboid bone (Os cuboideum) and the cuneiform bone I-III (Ossa cuneiforme I-III)
→ increased equinus and supination deformity

Transtarsal Amputation (Chopart)

- long rear foot residual limb
- removal of the navicular bone (Os naviculare)
- ankle joint remains intact
→ muscularly caused deformity, can be compensated for by an offset of the m. tibialis anterior

Causes of Amputation

- 87 % peripheral artery disease (PAD) and diabetic foot syndrome
- 4% trauma
- 4% tumors and infections
- 0,2% congenital malformations (dysmelia)
- 5% other causes

Statistics on Partial Foot Amputations

Due to the lack of a national amputation registry, exact figures for Germany are not available. According to a survey, 13,048 major and 40,992 minor amputations were performed in 2014. There was no differentiation made between diabetes and PAD as the primary cause. There was a significant decrease in major amputations with a simultaneous increase in minor amputations between 2005 and 2014 [Krö, p. 135].

Another source reports 55,595 amputations in 2015, including 29,153 toe/toe ray amputations and 8,688 foot, midfoot, or forefoot amputations [Spo, p. 5].

Amputations mainly affect males. The gender distribution is two-thirds men versus one-third women. The frequency of all amputations increases with age [Krö, S. 135].

Complications

Complications after an amputation are caused either by problems during surgery or a poor fit of the prosthetic treatment or incorrect footwear.

A poor prosthesis fit may result from an inadequate residual limb socket or an increased residual limb volume. The pressure then exerted on the residual limb can cause residual limb pain and/or a pressure ulcer. On the other hand, a decrease in the residual limb volume creates a lack of end contact in the prosthesis which can lead to the formation of oedema.

In surgical technique, for example, nonrounded bones in the residual limb or excessively tight soft tissue coverage can lead to soft tissue perforation and inflammation of the corresponding areas [Brü, p. 178f]. If the nerves are traumatized too much during the amputation, the patient usually suffers from residual limb and/or phantom limb pain later on [Krn, p. 486]. In many cases, such complications result in a residual limb revision, i.e. a subsequent amputation, which further shortens the residual limb and necessitates an adaptation of the prosthetic treatment.

Physiological Stance and Gait

The overall goal of prosthetic treatment is to come closer to a physiological stance and gait. The table below shows the physiological gait in its individual phases [Per, p. 9ff.]. Two factors significantly influence a safe stance and gait:

1. length of the residual limb
2. removal of muscles and tendons

To 1. The length of the residual limb has the following effects on stance and gait:

The shortening of the foot caused by the amputation causes a shortening of the forefoot lever depending on the length of the residual limb with the following effects:

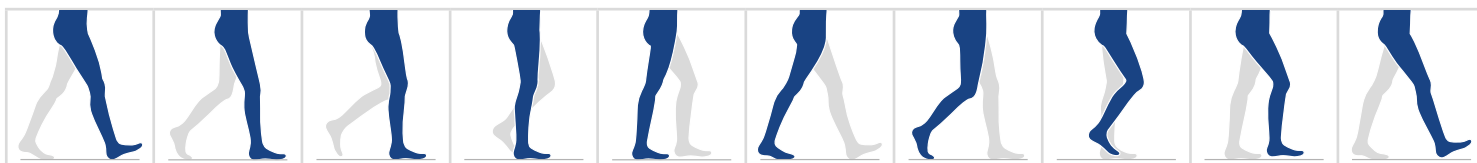
- during stance: reduction of the support surface and thus a reduction of stability [Grei, p. 160]
- during gait: movement restrictions due to the changed force transmission (e.g. reduced step length, asymmetrical gait, reduced walking speed) [Dil, p. 25; For, p. 45]

To 2. The removal of muscles and tendons by amputation causes functional and structural limitations with the following effects:

- reduction of range of motion of the upper and lower ankle joint
- deformity due to muscular imbalance [Grei, p. 160]
- balance difficulties

Due to the muscular imbalance, contractures develop in most cases. Usually, the patient develops mechanisms to compensate for the lost functions [For, p. 45].

Division of Physiological Gait into Different Phases According to Jacquelin Perry



Term (Abbreviation)									
initial contact (IC)	loading response (LR)	early mid stance (MSt)	mid stance (MSt)	late mid stance (MSt)	terminal stance (TSt)	pre swing (PSw)	initial swing (ISw)	mid swing (MSw)	terminal swing (TSw)
Percentage of Stride									
0 %	0–12 %	12–31 %			31–50 %	50–62 %	62–75 %	75–87 %	87–100 %
Hip Angle									
20° flexion	20° flexion	10° flexion	neutral position	5° extension	20° extension	10° extension	15° flexion	25° flexion	20° flexion
Knee Angle									
0–3° flexion	15° flexion	12° flexion	8° flexion	5° flexion	0–5° flexion	40° flexion	60° flexion	25° flexion	0–2° extension
Ankle Angle									
neutral position	5° plantar flexion	neutral position	5° dorsiflexion	8° dorsiflexion	10° dorsiflexion	15° plantar flexion	5° plantar flexion	neutral position	neutral position

Therapy Goal

Working in an Interdisciplinary Team

In order to achieve the therapy goal, the best possible approximation to physiological stance and gait, the interdisciplinary team has to work closely together. In the case of partial foot amputations, the interdisciplinary team mainly consists of a physician (orthopaedist or orthopaedic surgeon), nursing staff, prosthetist or orthopaedic shoemaker and physiotherapist.

The physician and nursing staff are usually the first point of contact for the patient in the event of an amputation and work to create a good basis for further treatment.

To obtain a healthy and resilient residual limb, the following points are important:

- optimal preparation (e.g. patient education, sensible choice of amputation level),
- careful execution of the operation (e.g. rounding of the ends of the bones on the residual limb) [Bau, p. 135],
- thorough follow-up (e.g. wound management).

The prosthetic treatment by the prosthetist or orthopaedic shoemaker should take the existing residual limb situation into account as best as possible. A qualified physiotherapy aims to use the remaining range of motion to its full extent by means of intensive gait re-education and to reduce any existing muscular imbalance.



Requirements for a Prosthetic Treatment

Depending on the amputation level, there are different biomechanical requirements for the prosthetic treatment. The more proximal the amputation, the more the anatomical ankle joint must be stabilised and the lost function must be compensated for.

A prosthesis for patients with partial foot amputations is designed to restore the function of the forefoot lever, replace the lost muscle function and establish a stable, dynamic balance.

This is relevant for safe stance and for high and/or prolonged loads both, e.g. long walking distances. In order to come as close as possible to physiological gait, the residual mobility in the anatomical ankle joint should only be minimally restricted.

When walking with the prosthesis, the shear forces on the residual limb should be avoided as much as possible. A potential subsequent amputation can severely change the biomechanical requirements for the prosthetic treatment. Likewise, one must expect a continuously increasing pes equinus position and supination.



Problems with Current Prosthetic Treatments

Sub-Ankle Prostheses (Treatments 1,2 and 3)

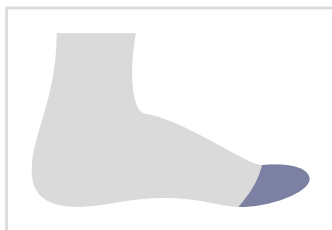
All common sub-ankle prostheses allow good adhesion to the residual limb, which is achieved either by high static friction (for silicone prostheses) or a close-fitting heel cap (for Bellmann prostheses). However, because of this heel cap Bellmann prostheses are contraindicated for patients with a residual limb which cannot bear the full weight [Brü, p. 179]. It is also problematic that the missing function of the anatomical forefoot lever, which differs depending on the residual limb length, cannot be compensated for. To achieve functional compensation, the prosthesis must be supplemented by a component above the ankle.

Above-Ankle Prostheses (Treatments 4 and 5)

Prostheses above the ankle enable functional compensation in the form of a mechanical forefoot lever and thus the stabilisation of the anatomical ankle joint. However, the blocking of the physiological range of motion and the lack of dynamics in the anatomical ankle joint can provoke secondary problems such as contractures. In addition, a simple adaptation of the prosthetic treatment is not possible.

1. Toe or Forefoot Replacement

A simple toe or forefoot replacement is used if one, several or all toes are lost. If the focus is on a cosmetic use, the replacement is usually made of silicone. Foam materials are used for a simple volume compensation [Dil, p. 1319]. If the big toe is lost, a functional compensation in the form of a carbon fibre sole is also necessary. However, a volume compensation placed loosely in the shoe causes irritation and pressure points at the distal end of the residual limb because the residual limb moves against the toe replacement when walking (shifting).



2. Toe Prostheses with Midfoot Guidance

If all toes are lost, a forefoot replacement with a shaft that extends over the midfoot can be used. Such a toe prosthesis is mainly made of silicone and enables a tight and optimal fit on the residual limb [Schä, p. 161].

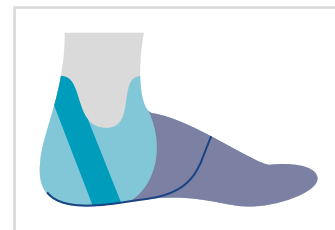
However, a toe prosthesis only provides volume compensation, and no functional compensation, in addition to appealing cosmetics. Due to the amputation, the function of the short toe flexors to support the swing phase initiation is lost. This restriction cannot be compensated for by a toe prosthesis, or only to a limited extent.



3. Sub-Ankle Foot Prostheses

Sub-ankle foot prostheses are available in different designs: a basic residual limb socket with a forefoot, an industrially produced silicone prosthesis or the so-called Bellmann prosthesis.

A secure fit on the residual limb is guaranteed either by an increased coefficient of static friction (silicone prosthesis) or the tight fit of a heel cap (Bellmann prosthesis).



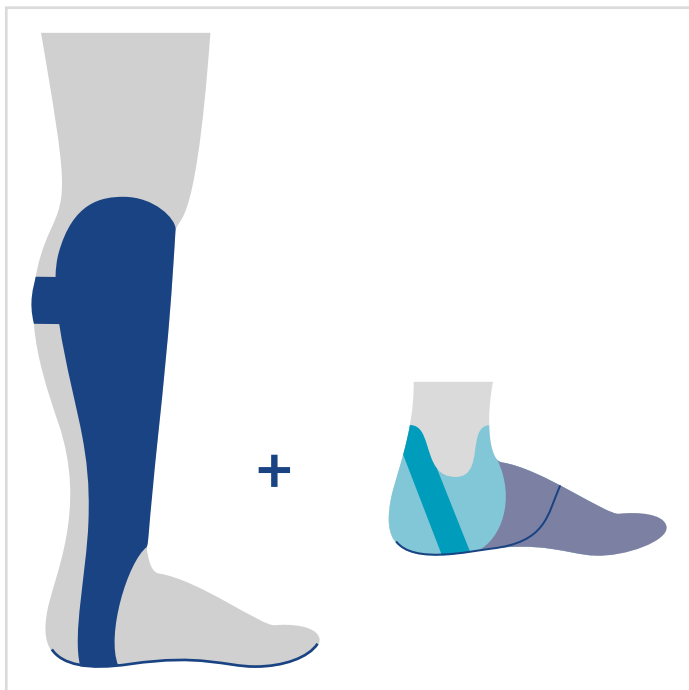
Both variants offer good wearing comfort. The anatomical ankle joint remains intact, which only slightly restricts the motion control of the foot [Bau, p. 138]. The attractive cosmetics are an individual advantage of silicone prostheses.

However, the force transmission is severely restricted, especially with a simple residual limb socket, and the forefoot lever is insufficiently restored. Therefore, sub-ankle prostheses are not suitable for high and/or long-lasting loads.

4. Sub-Ankle Foot Prosthesis + Ankle-Foot Orthosis

In order to compensate for the lack of function, especially in the case of short residual limbs, sub-ankle foot prostheses are often combined with custom-made carbon fibre clamshell orthoses [Schä, p. 163] or preproduced ankle-foot frame orthoses [Kai, p. 2; Kai2, p. 19].

A static carbon fibre clamshell orthosis does not allow any movement in the anatomical ankle joint. If the orthosis is equipped with a flexible foot piece, shear forces act on the end of the residual limb, causing pressure points. Preproduced ankle-foot orthoses without an ankle joint are not adjustable and thus do not provide an adequate control over plantar flexion and dorsiflexion [Kai, p. 6]. Due to the lack of a defined pivot point in this construction, this can lead to the shifting of the lower leg shell on the leg. Rigid preproduced ankle-foot orthoses may cause hyperextension of the knee joint (genu recurvatum).

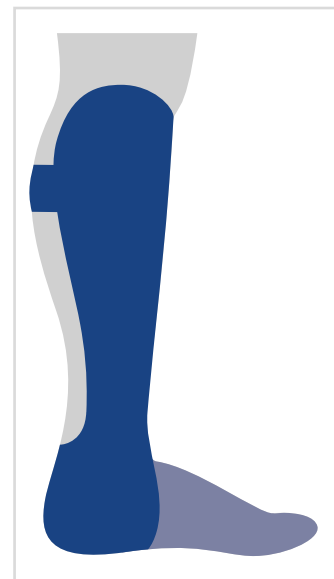


5. Clamshell Prosthesis

Clamshell prostheses are individually manufactured for the patient in different designs with closure or access flaps [Schä, p. 163; Kai, p. 2; Kai2, p. 19]. Arthrodesis boots also belong in this orthotic treatment category. All common constructions allow for a good residual limb fit as well as a forefoot lever.

The rigid connection of the lower leg and foot is used to reduce shear forces at the distal end of the residual limb. Depending on the remaining range of motion of the ankle joint, the prosthesis is either produced statically or with some range of motion. The construction with a range of motion does not provide

the necessary stability. The static construction blocks the motion in the anatomical ankle joint [Kai, S. 6], from which contractures and muscle atrophies can develop.



New Possibilities with the NEURO SWING Partial Foot Prosthesis

A dynamic above-ankle component is the optimal complement to a sub-ankle foot prosthesis. The integration of the NEURO SWING system ankle joint enables the stabilisation of the anatomical ankle joint and simultaneously providing range of motion by using a dynamic dorsiflexion stop. Thanks to the adjustability of spring force and range of motion, it is possible to react to situation changes of the residual limb. The precompressed spring units allow optimal control of the forces that occur during stance and gait.

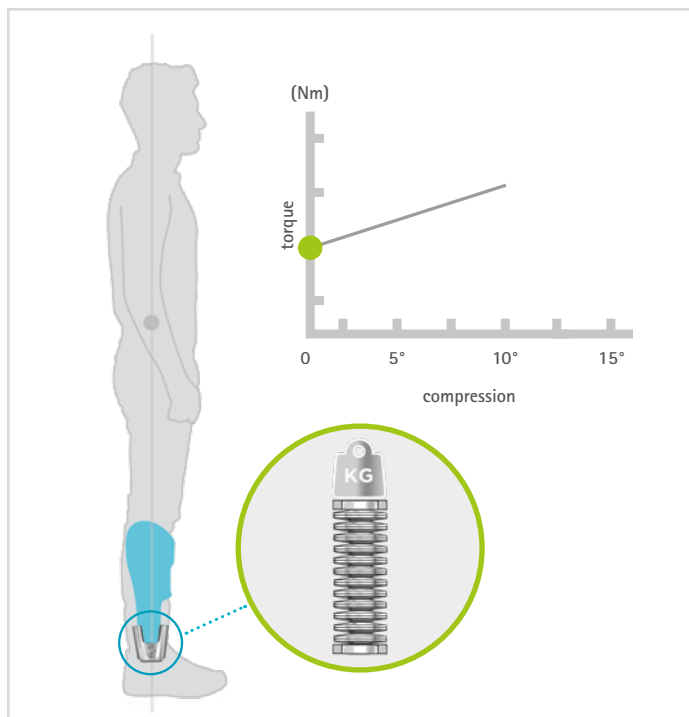
Precompressed Spring Units

In order to bring a body into a stable balance, the forefoot lever must be activated. Precompressed spring units with a high basic resistance with the NEURO SWING System Ankle Joint provide dynamic balance and stability. This allows for a secure stance and gait over different terrains. Since no medical devices other than the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis are required, the hands are free for everyday tasks.

In case of a weakness of the plantar flexors, the dynamic activation of the forefoot lever enables a knee-extending moment and guarantees knee stability.

Impacts in Terminal Stance

- heel lift
- body's centre of gravity at physiological height
- normal knee flexion on the contralateral side
- improved energy consumption during walking



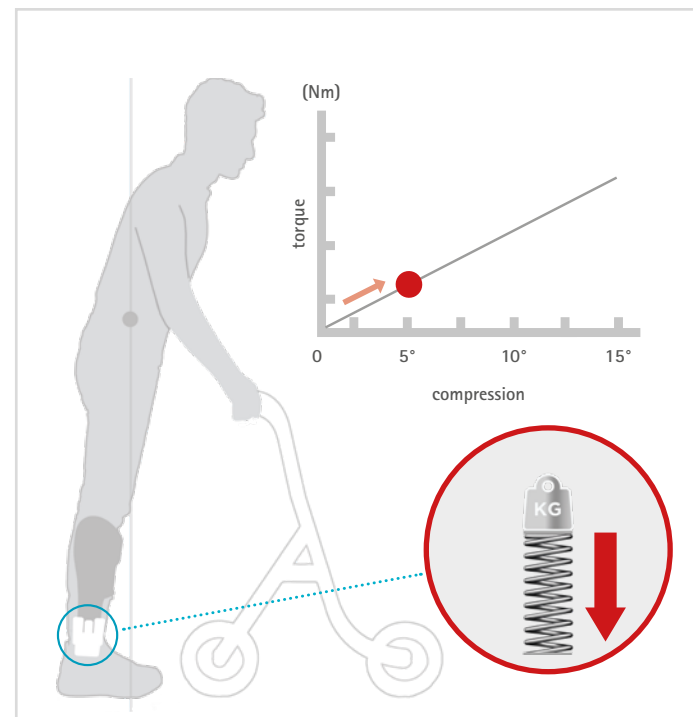
Non-Precompressed Springs



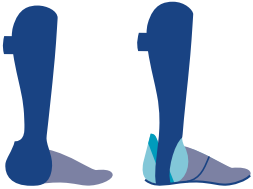
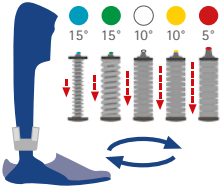
Commonly used coil springs must be heavily compressed to generate resistance. The nonexistent basic resistance due to the lack of precompression leads to a yielding of the spring when loaded during stance and, due to the missing security, to an unstable stance and gait. This requires the use of medical devices such as crutches or walkers. The hands are therefore needed for support.



In case of a weakness of the plantar flexors, the activation of the forefoot lever is not possible causing the absence of a knee-extending moment and a reduced knee stability.

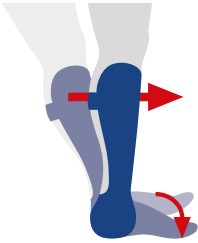
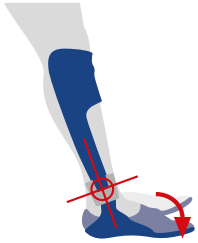
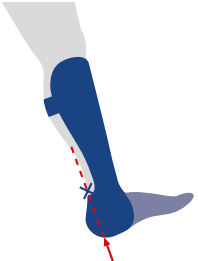
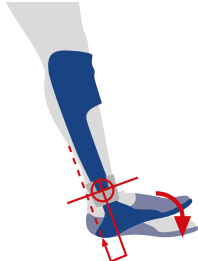
Impacts in Terminal Stance

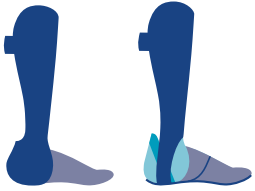
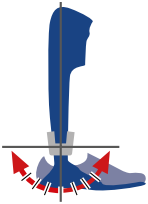
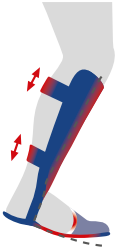

- no heel lift
- body's centre of gravity too low
- excessive knee flexion on the contralateral leg side
- energy consumption during walking too high



Disadvantages of Current Treatments	Properties of the NEURO SWING	Description
 <p data-bbox="118 719 360 743">no dynamic dorsiflexion stop</p>	 <p data-bbox="504 719 721 743">dynamic dorsiflexion stop</p>	<p data-bbox="849 461 1490 711">To activate the forefoot lever, a dorsal stop is necessary. The NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis is equipped with a dynamic dorsiflexion stop with an anterior spring unit. This allows for a stable yet dynamic balance in stance, a dynamic knee extension in late mid stance, and a physiological heel lift in terminal stance. An important prerequisite for this is that the spring units are precompressed. The dynamic dorsiflexion stop prevents possible knee hyperextension and shifting of the residual limb in the prosthesis.</p>
 <p data-bbox="140 1299 341 1323">no variable spring force</p>	 <p data-bbox="526 1299 702 1323">variable spring force</p>	<p data-bbox="849 1038 1490 1259">The requirements for a prosthesis can change, sometimes dramatically, in the course of therapy or due to a residual limb revision. In order to avoid a costly new treatment, the prosthetic treatment should be adaptable if the residual limb changes. With the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis, the spring force can be altered by exchanging the posterior and anterior spring units. There are five spring units with different spring forces, ranging from normal to extra strong.</p>

Disadvantages of Current Treatments	Properties of the NEURO SWING	Description
 <p data-bbox="137 719 341 743">no adjustable alignment</p>	 <p data-bbox="523 719 702 743">adjustable alignment</p>	<p data-bbox="847 461 1490 708">In order to achieve a physiological gait, the leverage ratios of the prosthesis must be adjusted to the patient (tuning). Thanks to the adjustable construction, the orthotist can also react to a possible increase in the pes equinus position (see chapter <i>Biomechanical Changes</i>). The NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis can also be easily adapted to different heel heights. This makes it easy to change the footwear. In addition, minor positional errors in the model technique can be corrected.</p>
 <p data-bbox="145 1299 333 1323">no defined pivot point</p>	 <p data-bbox="533 1299 695 1323">defined pivot point</p>	<p data-bbox="847 1038 1490 1259">A defined mechanical pivot point at ankle height plays an important role for the dynamic dorsiflexion stop and thus the activation of the forefoot lever. With the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis, the centred rotation prevents the lower leg shell from shifting on the leg or the sub-ankle foot prosthesis from slipping on the residual limb (shifting) during high and/or prolonged loads. The defined pivot point is also a prerequisite for passive plantar flexion.</p>

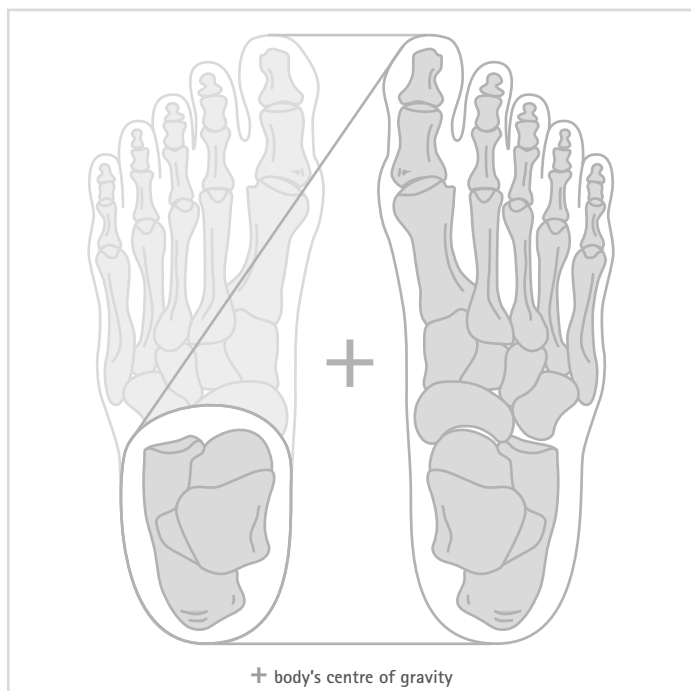
Disadvantages of Current Treatments	Properties of the NEURO SWING	Description
 <p data-bbox="140 719 338 743">plantar flexion blocked</p>	 <p data-bbox="513 719 711 743">plantar flexion possible</p>	<p data-bbox="847 496 1490 679">Passive plantar flexion causes the foot to lower and is an important mechanism for shock absorption during load transfer. Thanks to the range of motion in plantar flexion with the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis, an excessive torque in the knee can be prevented in loading response. This allows for a physiological quadriceps loading and knee flexion. It also prevents muscle atrophy and contractures.</p>
 <p data-bbox="177 1302 300 1326">no heel rocker</p>	 <p data-bbox="564 1302 660 1326">heel rocker</p>	<p data-bbox="847 975 1490 1321">Passive plantar flexion is triggered by the heel lever which runs from the point of heel strike to the ankle. The dorsal flexors control the heel rocker to prevent an uncontrolled landing of the foot. This muscular control is lost when the dorsal extensors are removed during amputation. The NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis enables the heel rocker against the resistance of the posterior spring unit, as there is a defined pivot point and range of motion in plantar flexion. This can counteract the development of contractures and support the approximation to a physiological gait. The resistance of the posterior spring unit can be precisely adjusted to the force of the muscular control lost due to the amputation.</p>

Disadvantages of Current Treatments	Properties of the NEURO SWING	Description
 <p data-bbox="113 719 368 743">no adjustable range of motion</p>	 <p data-bbox="496 719 727 743">adjustable range of motion</p>	<p data-bbox="847 496 1490 679">After a surgery or residual limb revision, a temporary immobilisation of the anatomical ankle joint might be necessary in certain cases. With the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis, the range of motion can be completely blocked and gradually released again. Thus, a precise adaptation to the range of motion of the anatomical ankle joint caused by the amputation is possible.</p>
 <p data-bbox="129 1302 349 1326">occurrence of shear forces</p>	 <p data-bbox="507 1302 719 1326">reduction of shear forces</p>	<p data-bbox="847 1007 1490 1286">To ensure that the sensitive residual limb is optimally protected in the prosthesis, shear forces must be avoided as much as possible. This requirement must be taken into account especially in the prosthetic treatment of diabetics, as many of these patients cannot perceive stimuli. The defined pivot point and the dynamic dorsiflexion stop of the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis prevent so-called shifting, which leads to shear forces on the residual limb. Similarly, dangerous pressure peaks on the residual limb can be minimised by the targeted and individual design of the foot piece.</p>

Partial foot amputations significantly influence the biomechanics of stance and gait. The degree of restriction depends on the amputation level and the resulting loss of muscular and bony structures. This loss results in a functional shortening of the forefoot lever, a change of the muscular balance between plantar flexors and dorsal flexors, and a reduction of the muscle strength of the muscle groups involved during stance and gait.

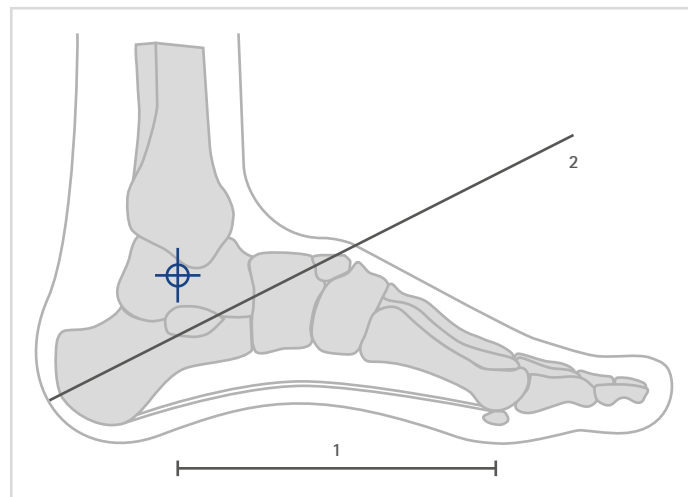
Loss of Bony Structures

The skeleton of the foot forms a support surface and thus the static basis for stance and gait. During a physiological stance, the load is distributed on the heel and the ball of the big toe and the ball of the little toe. When walking, the toes also represent an essential part of the support surface for the body's centre of gravity. After a partial foot amputation, the bony structures of the distal end of the residual limb limit this support surface. The shorter the residual limb, the smaller the support surface in the one- and two-legged stance [Bau, p. 135].



Structural Shortening of the Forefoot Lever

In the sagittal plane, as the residual limb length decreases, the calcaneal angle (2) and thus also the longitudinal arches of the foot flattens, resulting in an increasing equinus position and a functional shortening of the leg length. The loss of bony structures contributes to the structural shortening of the forefoot lever significantly (1).



Loss of Muscular Structures

With a partial foot amputation, the foot muscles remain intact. During the course of the surgery, the short plantar foot muscles and the plantar fascia are used for soft tissue coverage when closing the end of the residual limb. As both the short foot muscles and the plantar fascia stabilise the medial longitudinal arches of the foot, the flattening of the calcaneal angle caused by the loss of the bony structures is reinforced.

The loss of muscular structures significantly affects a safe stance and gait in two ways:

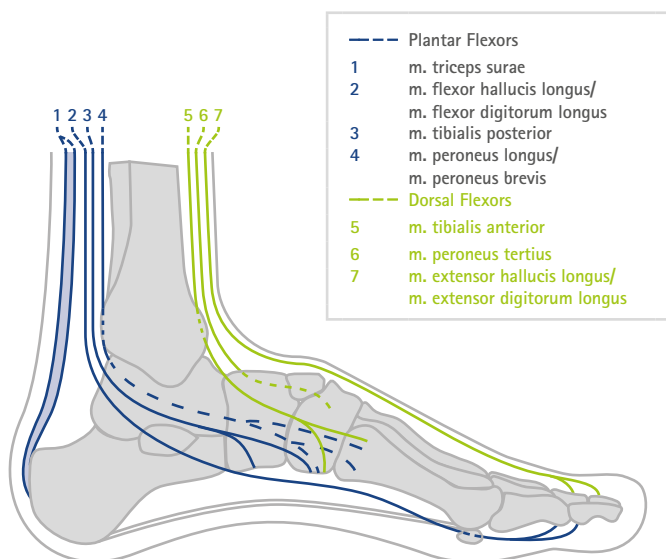
- change in the muscular balance
- reduction of muscle strength

Change in Muscular Balance

The long foot muscles affected by the amputation lose their attachment to the bone, resulting in a muscular imbalance. The triceps surae exerts a high plantar flexion pull on the residual limb via the Achilles tendon, which leads to the development of an equinus deformity (pes equinus). The more proximal the amputation, the more dorsal flexors controlling this pull will lose their attachment. This imbalance is particularly evident in Bona-Jäger or Chopart amputations due to the loss of the m. tibialis anterior (see figure). Due to this plantar flexed residual limb position, the range of motion of the upper ankle joint is severely limited, which can result in contractures. If the residual limb is held in slight dorsiflexion during the making of the negative cast, at least a functional range of motion is possible.

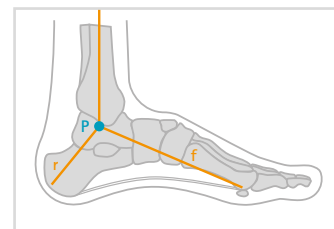
Reduction of Muscle Strength

The removal of the long and short foot muscles associated with amputation results in a reduced muscle strength of the dorsal flexors and plantar flexors [Dil2, p. 1328]. Both muscle groups are relevant to the physiological stance and gait. For example, the plantar flexors ensure activation of the forefoot lever, while the dorsal flexors ensure foot lifting during the swing phase. The extent of this reduction depends on how many muscles are still functional.



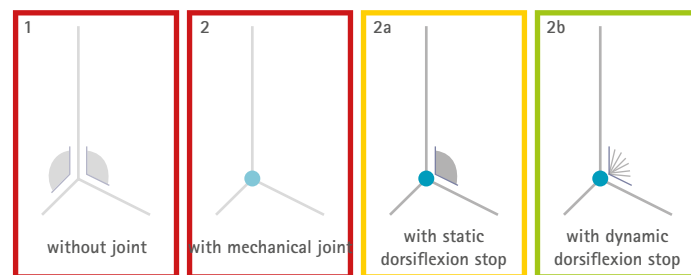
Functional Shortening of the Forefoot Lever

The biomechanics of stance and gait are largely determined by the effects of the anatomical pivot point (P) of the upper ankle joint in interaction with the forefoot lever (f) and rear foot lever (r).



Biomechanical restrictions during stance and gait in patients with partial foot amputations are primarily due to shortening of the forefoot lever. If there is no amputation, the forefoot lever is activated by the plantar flexors and causes energy-efficient stance and gait. During gait, a physiological heel lift, knee extension and raise of the body's centre of gravity in terminal stance takes place. The goal of a prosthetic treatment is to compensate for the loss of bony and muscular structures caused by the amputation. The basis for this is the replacement of the removed bony structures with a mechanical forefoot lever. If physiological activation by the plantar flexors is no longer possible without restrictions, the forefoot lever must also be activated mechanically.

The forefoot lever can be activated via a mechanical connection to the forefoot lever with no joints, as in classical orthopedics (1). However, in order to enhance and maintain the mobility of the upper ankle joint, the activation should preferably take place via a mechanical joint (2) with a static (2a) or, even better, a dynamic dorsiflexion stop (2b).

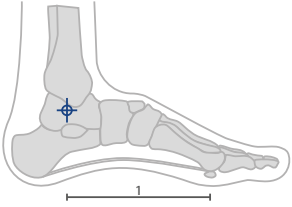




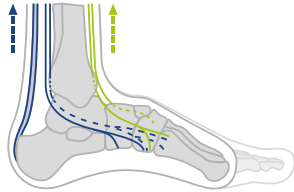








- 1 not recommended
- 2a recommended with restrictions
- 2b recommended

In order to optimally adapt the prosthetic treatment to the patient, the individual condition of the muscles and foot bones must be taken into account. To structure and systematize prosthetic treatments, the various amputations are assigned to types in which the requirements for a prosthetic treatment are the same.

The classification takes the length of the forefoot lever, the muscular balance between plantar flexors (PF) and dorsal flexors (DF), and the muscle strength of the DF into account.

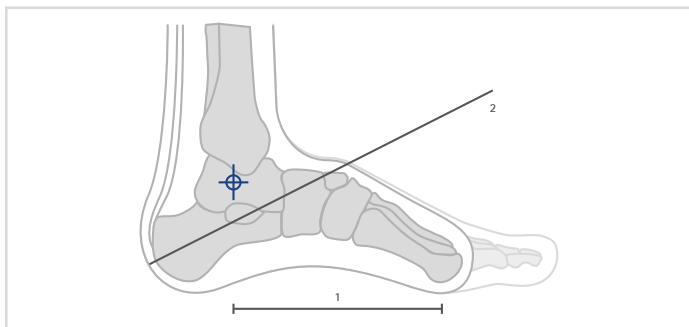
Example: in type 1, the attachments of the short and long toe flexors and extensors are no longer there, which is why the muscle strength of the DF is restricted despite the muscular balance.

Type	Amputation	Forefoot Lever	Muscular Imbalance	Muscle Strength
	not amputated			
		long	balanced	full muscle strength
1	metatarsophalangeal transmetatarsal (Sharp)			
		long	balanced	limited muscle strength
2	transmetatarsal (Sharp-Jäger) tarsometatarsal (Lisfranc)			
		medium	plantar flexors (PF) dominate	low muscle strength
3	transtarsal (Bona-Jäger) transtarsal (Chopart)			
		short	plantar flexors (PF) strongly dominate	no muscle strength

Biomechanical Changes

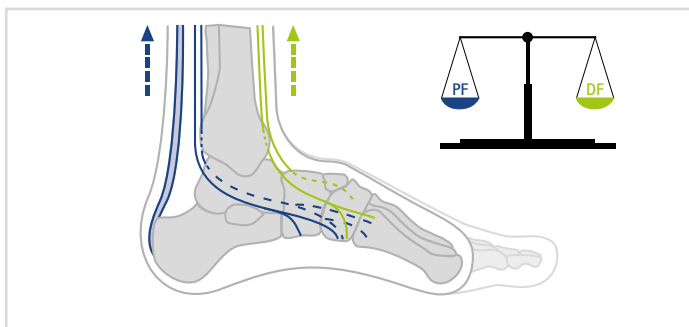
Type 1 includes residual limbs after a toe exarticulation, ray resection or amputation in the metaphyseal area at the midfoot heads (Sharp).

The forefoot lever remains relatively long (1). The support surface is hardly reduced during stance and in the stance phase when walking. The calcaneal angle is minimally flattened, which is why the stump only deviates into a very slight equinus position (2) and leg length discrepancy.



The attachments of the short and long toe flexors are no longer present. The deactivation of these muscle groups leads to a loss of passive pre-tension in pre swing, which eliminates the support of the push off to initiate the swing phase [For, p. 42f].

The muscular balance between dorsal flexors and plantar flexors is even. The muscle strength of both muscle groups is mostly normal [Dil2, p. 1328].



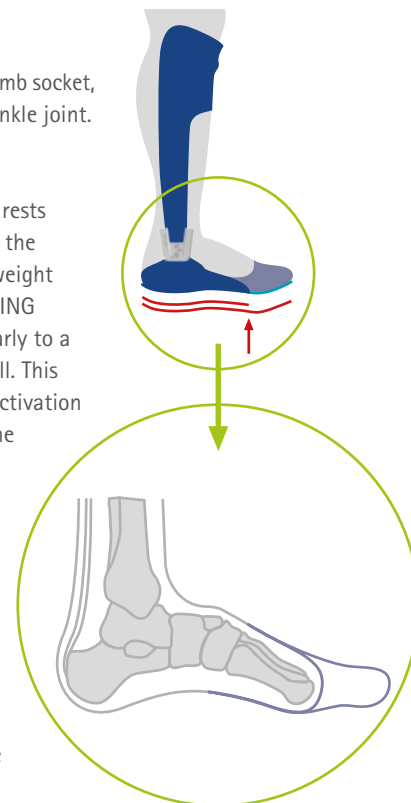
NEURO SWING Partial Foot Prosthesis

Consisting of:

- high anterior tibial shell,
- foot piece with residual limb socket,
- NEURO SWING system ankle joint.

High Anterior Tibial Shell

The high anterior tibial shell rests against the tibia. This allows the patient to apply their body weight directly onto the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis, similarly to a ski boot when skiing downhill. This feature enables immediate activation of the forefoot lever using the dynamic dorsiflexion stop.



Foot Piece with Residual Limb Socket

In order for the patient to be able to perform the heel-to-toe movement as physiologically as possible, a long partially flexible foot piece (rigid sole with flexible toe area) is recommended.

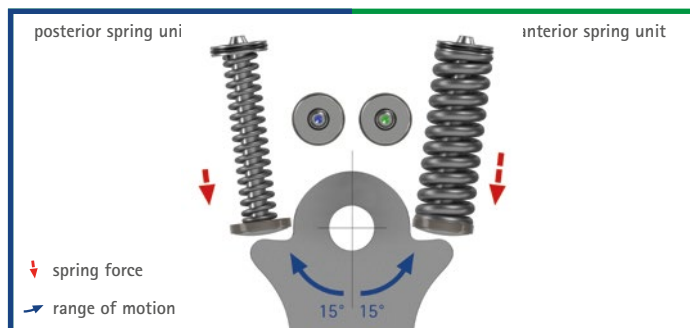
ATTENTION: when treating patients with a diabetic foot syndrome, a long rigid foot piece must be used instead of a long partially flexible foot piece.

The residual limb socket is an integral part of the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis and can either be produced as a toe prosthesis or firmly connected to the foot piece. In order to optimally bed the skin and soft tissue on the residual limb of the foot, the residual limb must be protected from pressure and shear forces. In addition to padding the end of the residual limb, the socket also serves as a toe replacement.

NEURO SWING System Ankle Joint

Spring units to be used:

- posterior: blue marking (normal spring force, max. 15° range of motion)
- anterior: green marking (medium spring force, max. 15° range of motion)



Individual adaptation to the partial foot prosthesis through:

- exchangeable, precompressed spring units,
- adjustable alignment,
- adjustable range of motion.

All three adjustment options can be chosen separately. They do not influence each other.

Effect of the NEURO SWING Partial Foot Prosthesis

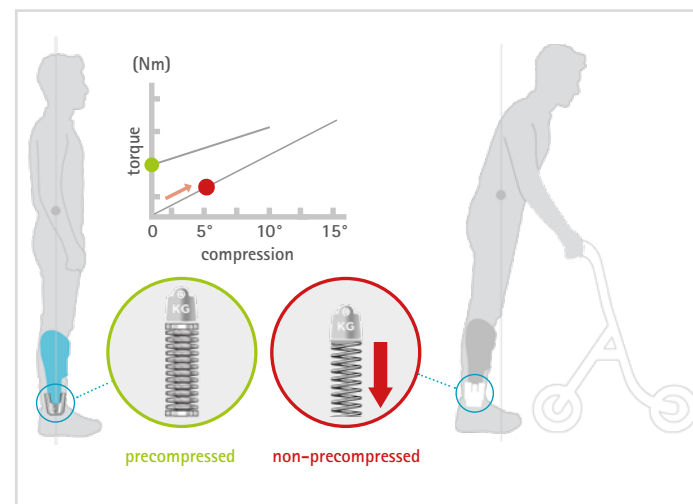
Stance

The dynamic dorsiflexion stop activates the mechanical forefoot lever and thus establishes the physiological support surface and a stable balance. The green spring unit of the NEURO SWING system ankle joint is precompressed and thus already generates the torque for a sufficiently high basic resistance during stance (see info box).

Gait

Between mid stance and terminal stance, the forward motion of the tibia directs energy into the green anterior spring unit. The dynamic dorsiflexion stop enables the heel to lift, thus allowing for a physiological stride length.

In pre swing, this energy is released and, combined with the partially flexible foot piece, supports the knee flexion in the swing phase initiation. The green spring unit's range of motion of 15° in the dorsiflexion direction promotes stretching of the long plantar flexors.



Current Treatment Options

Patients of this type have often been treated with a simple volume compensation for the shoe. This involves loosely placing the toe replacement in the shoe or attaching it to an insole. A functional compensation does not exist.

Such a treatment is disadvantageous in that volume compensation without the necessary padding exerts a high pressure on the end of the residual limb in the shoe during walking. This pressure is caused by the end of the residual limb moving against the volume compensation. In addition, no adequate functional compensation is provided for the lack of knee flexion during the swing phase initiation.

Note on the Treatment of Diabetics

Especially in patients with amputations due to the diabetic foot syndrome, increased attention is required to avoid pressure peaks on the residual limb. The immobilisation of the residual limb is achieved by means of a rigid sole, which can either be integrated into the shoe or directly into the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis as described.

Shoe

A shoe for a NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis must satisfy, among other things, the following requirements:

- inner volume with sufficient space for the NEURO SWING system ankle joint
- rigid heel cap for high stability of the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis in the shoe
- slip-resistant outsole

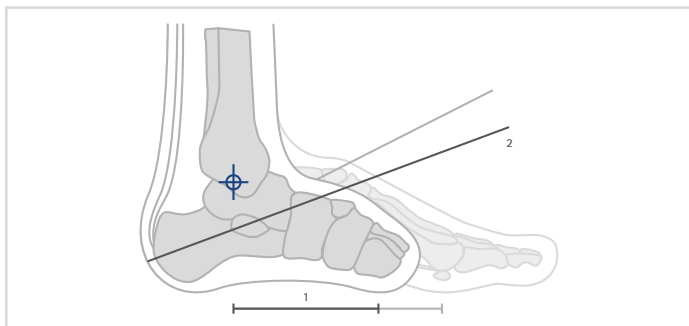
The orthosis shoes URBANSTREET, PARKSTREET, CITYDRIVE, and CROSSROADS from FIOR & GENTZ meet these requirements (the picture below shows the CROSSROADS orthosis shoe in black).



Biomechanical Changes

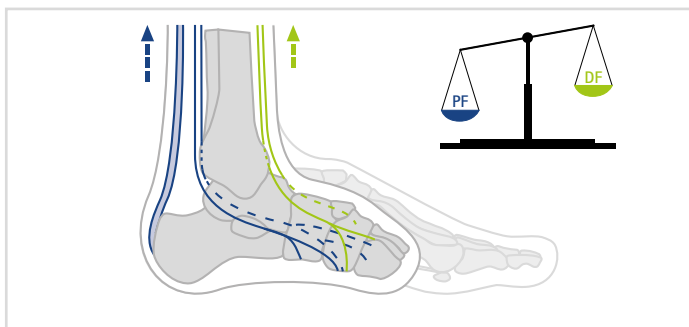
Type 2 includes residual limbs after amputation in the metaphyseal area at the bases of the metatarsal bone (Sharp-Jäger) and residual limbs after a tarsometatarsal amputation (Lisfranc).

The forefoot lever is of medium length (1) and the support surface is reduced, causing restrictions in stance and gait. The flattening of the calcaneal angle (2) causes an equinus position and a small leg length discrepancy to form.



In the case of a complete removal of the metatarsal bones (Lisfranc), the branch of the m. tibialis anterior attached to the upper base of the first metatarsal bone is removed. Thus, in addition to the limitations described for type 1, the control of the plantar flexion and supination caused by the m. triceps surae decreases.

There is a muscular imbalance between dorsal flexors and plantar flexors in favor of the plantar flexors. The muscle strength, especially of the dorsal flexors, is greatly decreased [DiI2, p. 1328].



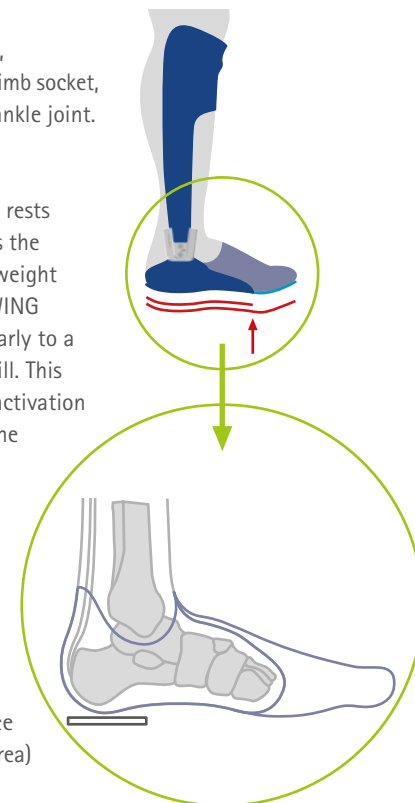
NEURO SWING Partial Foot Prosthesis

Consisting of:

- high anterior tibial shell,
- foot piece with residual limb socket,
- NEURO SWING system ankle joint.

High Anterior Tibial Shell

The high anterior tibial shell rests against the tibia. This allows the patient to apply their body weight directly onto the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis, similarly to a ski boot when skiing downhill. This feature enables immediate activation of the forefoot lever using the dynamic dorsiflexion stop.



Foot Piece with Residual Limb Socket

In order for the patient to be able to perform the heel-to-toe movement as physiologically as possible, a long partially flexible foot piece (rigid sole with flexible toe area) is recommended.

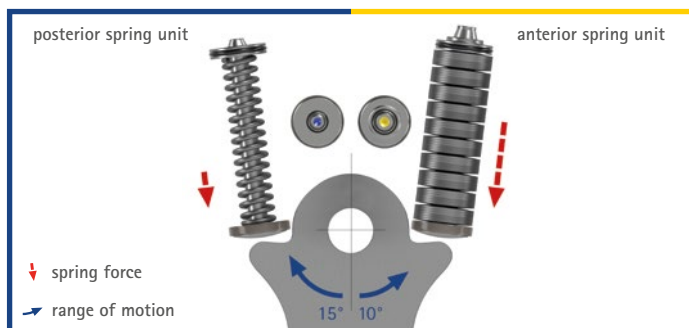
ATTENTION: when treating patients with a diabetic foot syndrome, a long rigid foot piece must be used instead of a long partially flexible foot piece.

The residual limb socket is an integral part of the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis and can either be produced as a sub-ankle foot prosthesis or firmly connected to the foot piece. In order to optimally bed the skin and soft tissue on the residual limb of the foot, the residual limb must be protected from pressure and shear forces. In addition to padding the end of the residual limb, the socket also serves as a forefoot replacement. The small leg length discrepancy is compensated for in the residual limb socket.

NEURO SWING System Ankle Joint

Spring units to be used:

- posterior: blue marking (normal spring force, max. 15° range of motion)
- anterior: yellow marking (very strong spring force, max. 10° range of motion)



Individual adaptation to the partial foot prosthesis through:

- exchangeable, precompressed spring units,
- adjustable alignment,
- adjustable range of motion.

All three adjustment options can be chosen separately. They do not influence each other.

Effect of the NEURO SWING Partial Foot Prosthesis

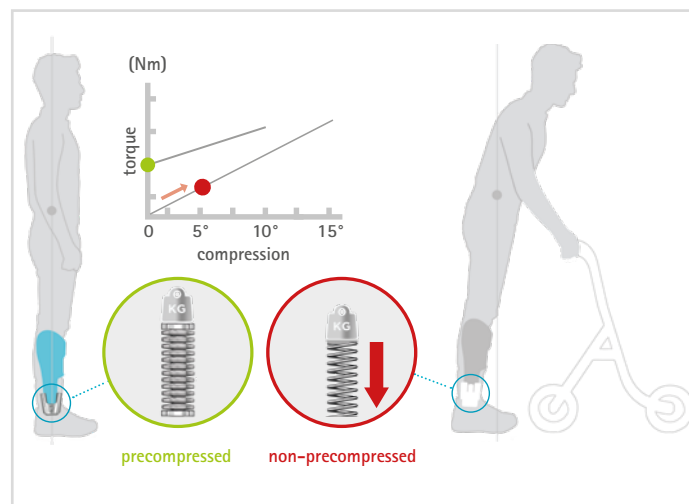
Stance

The dynamic dorsiflexion stop activates the mechanical forefoot lever and thus establishes the physiological support surface and a stable balance. The yellow spring unit of the NEURO SWING system ankle joint is precompressed and thus already generates the torque for a sufficiently high basic resistance during stance (see info box).

Gait

In mid stance, the long partially flexible foot piece restores the forefoot lever, which is activated by the very strong yellow spring unit of the NEURO SWING system ankle joint. The dynamic dorsiflexion stop enables a stable balance and controlled forward motion of the tibia in late mid stance, contributing to optimal knee stability.

In terminal stance, the dynamic dorsiflexion stop provides mobility over the defined mechanical pivot point of the joint in dorsiflexion direction, stretching the plantar flexors. The basic resistance generated by the pre-compressed spring units enables the heel to lift, thus allowing for a physiological stride length. By stretching the plantar flexors, the swing phase initiation is supported in pre swing.



Current Treatment Options

Patients of this type have often been treated with a sub-ankle foot prostheses (forefoot prosthesis according to Bellmann or silicone forefoot prosthesis) or residual limb sockets with a forefoot replacement and ankle-foot orthoses.

With sub-ankle foot prostheses, the forefoot lever can only be activated to a limited extent, despite good adhesion to the foot (heel grip with Bellmann; static friction with silicone). The prosthesis may shift during high or prolonged loads if weight is applied to the forefoot during terminal swing and pre swing.

The insufficient functional compensation of a simple residual limb socket should be compensated for through stabilisation, using a clamshell orthosis or a reproduced ankle-foot orthosis. However, most clamshell orthoses do not allow any motion in the anatomical ankle joint and thus do not help to achieve a physiological gait. In contrast, many reproduced ankle-foot orthoses are not stable enough to restore the forefoot lever [Kai, p. 6]. In addition, they cause the orthosis shells to shift on the leg due to the lack of a defined pivot point. The resulting shear forces in the foot piece exert great pressure on the sensitive end of the residual limb.

Note on the Treatment of Diabetics

Especially in patients with amputations due to the diabetic foot syndrome, increased attention is required to avoid pressure peaks on the residual limb. The immobilisation of the residual limb is achieved by means of a rigid sole, which can either be integrated into the shoe or directly into the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis as described.

Shoe

A shoe for a NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis must, among others, meet the following requirements:

- inner volume with sufficient space for the NEURO SWING system ankle joint
- rigid heel cap for high stability of the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis in the shoe
- slip-resistant outsole that can be shaped to compensate for the height difference due to the equinus position

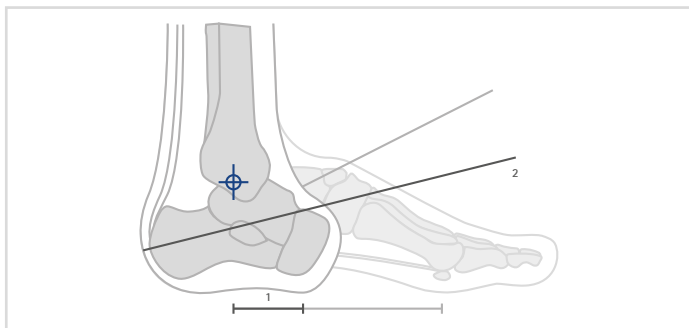
The orthosis shoes URBANSTREET, PARKSTREET, CITYDRIVE and CROSSROADS from FIOR & GENTZ meet these requirements (the picture below shows the CROSSROADS orthosis shoe in black).



Biomechanical Changes

Type 3 includes residual limbs after a transtarsal amputation (Bona-Jäger or Chopart).

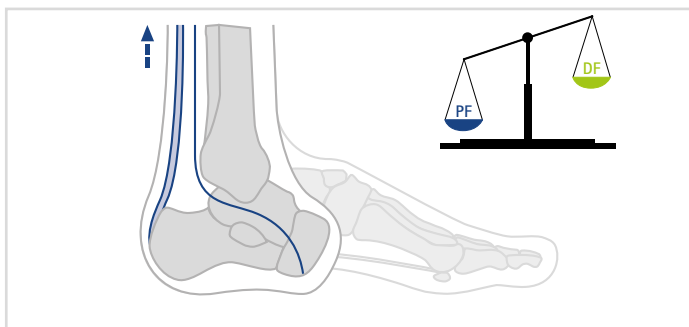
The forefoot lever is short (1) and the support surface is greatly reduced, which leads to considerable restrictions during stance and gait. Due to the flattening of the calcaneal angle (2), a pronounced equinus position and a leg length discrepancy is developed.



With this type, the last branches of the m. tibialis anterior and the m. peroneus tertius are removed, which leaves no muscles able to control the plantar flexion and supination of the m. triceps surae. Due to the prominent plantar flexion position of the residual limb and a lack of range of motion in the upper ankle joint, there is a risk of the development of painful contractures.

There is a muscular imbalance between dorsal flexors and plantar flexors, with a strong dominance of plantar flexors.

The dorsal flexors cannot develop any motion-related force [DiI2, p. 1328].



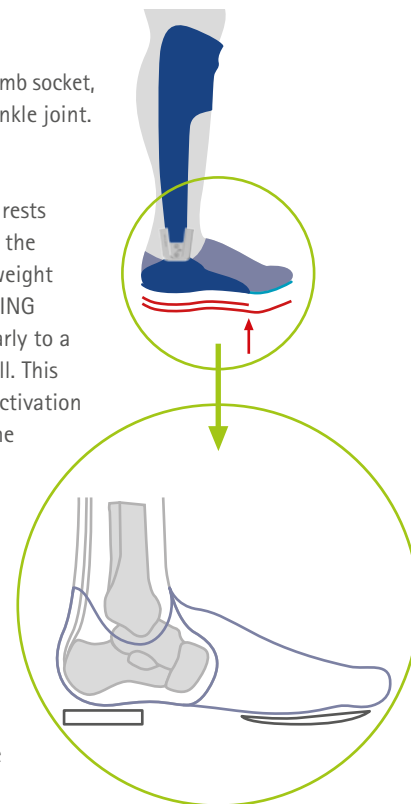
NEURO SWING Partial Foot Prosthesis

Consisting of:

- high anterior tibial shell,
- foot piece with residual limb socket,
- NEURO SWING system ankle joint.

High Anterior Tibial Shell

The high anterior tibial shell rests against the tibia. This allows the patient to apply their body weight directly onto the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis, similarly to a ski boot when skiing downhill. This feature enables immediate activation of the forefoot lever using the dynamic dorsiflexion stop.



Foot Piece with Residual Limb Socket

In order for the patient to be able to perform the heel-to-toe movement as physiologically as possible, a long partially flexible foot piece (rigid sole with flexible toe area) is recommended.

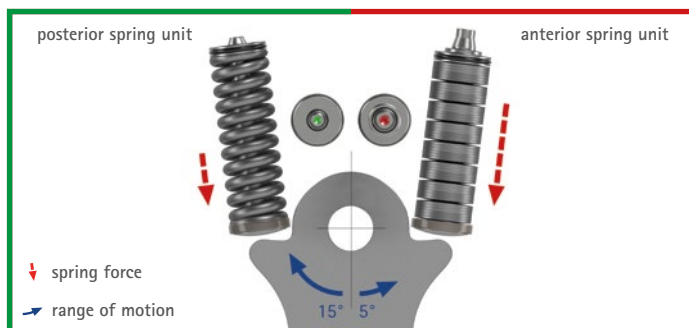
ATTENTION: when treating patients with a diabetic foot syndrome, a long rigid foot piece must be used instead of a long partially flexible foot piece.

The residual limb socket is an integral part of the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis and can either be produced as a sub-ankle foot prosthesis or firmly connected to the foot piece. In order to optimally bed the skin and soft tissue on the residual limb of the foot, the residual limb must be protected from pressure and shear forces. In addition to padding the end of the residual limb, the socket also serves as a midfoot and forefoot replacement. The leg length discrepancy is compensated for in the residual limb socket and/or in the shoe.

NEURO SWING System Ankle Joint

Spring units to be used:

- posterior: green marking (medium spring force, max. 15° range of motion)
- anterior: red marking (extra strong spring force, max. 5° range of motion)



Individual adaptation to the partial foot prosthesis through:

- exchangeable, precompressed spring units,
- adjustable alignment,
- adjustable range of motion.

All three adjustment options can be chosen separately. They do not influence each other.

Effects of the NEURO SWING Partial Foot Prosthesis

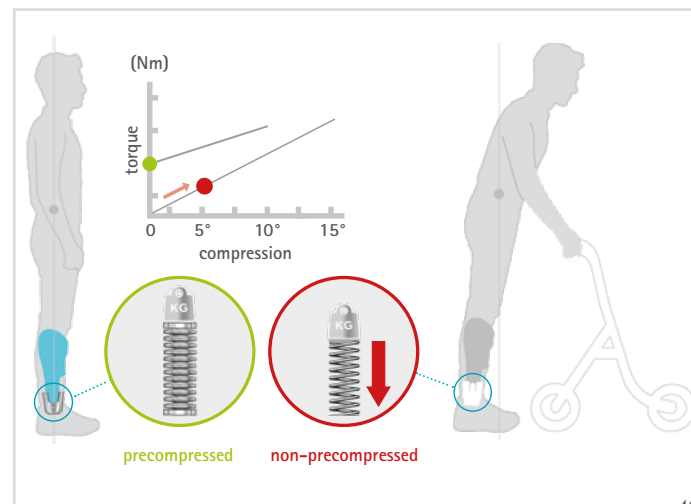
Stance

The dynamic dorsiflexion stop activates the mechanical forefoot lever and thus establishes the physiological support surface and a stable balance. The red spring unit of the NEURO SWING system ankle joint is precompressed and thus already generates the torque for a sufficiently high basic resistance during stance (see info box).

Gait

In mid stance, the long partially flexible foot piece restores the forefoot lever, which is activated by the extra strong red spring unit of the NEURO SWING system ankle joint. The dynamic dorsiflexion stop enables a stable balance and controlled forward motion of the tibia in late mid stance, contributing to optimal knee stability.

In terminal stance, the dynamic dorsiflexion stop provides mobility over the defined mechanical pivot point of the joint in dorsiflexion direction, stretching the plantar flexors. The basic resistance generated by the pre-compressed spring units enables the heel to lift, thus allowing for a physiological stride length. By stretching the plantar flexors, the swing phase initiation is supported in pre swing.



Current Treatment Options

Patients of this type have often been treated with above-ankle clamshell prostheses or sub-ankle foot prostheses (forefoot prosthesis according to Bellmann or silicone forefoot prosthesis).

However, sub-ankle foot prostheses do not provide patients with sufficient stability and only provide insufficient functional compensation. Therefore, these treatments are supplemented by ankle-foot orthoses (carbon fibre clamshell orthoses or reproduced ankle-foot orthoses)

However, carbon fibre clamshell orthoses, like above-ankle clamshell prostheses, do not allow any movement in the anatomical ankle joint and do not help achieve a physiological gait. In contrast, many reproduced ankle-foot orthoses are not stable enough to restore the forefoot lever [Kai, p. 6]. In addition, they cause the orthosis shells to shift on the leg due to the lack of a defined pivot point. The resulting shear forces in the foot part exert great pressure on the sensitive end of the residual limb.

Note on the Treatment of Diabetics

Especially in patients with amputations due to the diabetic foot syndrome, increased attention is required to avoid pressure peaks on the residual limb. The immobilisation of the residual limb is achieved by means of a rigid sole, which can either be integrated into the shoe or directly into the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis as described.

Shoe

A shoe for a NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis must, among others, meet the following requirements:

- inner volume with sufficient space for the NEURO SWING system ankle joint
- rigid heel cap for high stability of the NEURO SWING partial foot prosthesis in the shoe
- slip-resistant outsole that can be shaped to compensate for the height difference due to the equinus position

The orthosis shoes URBANSTREET, PARKSTREET, CITYDRIVE and CROSSROADS from FIOR & GENTZ meet these requirements (the picture below shows the CROSSROADS orthosis shoe in black).



A prosthesis must be optimally adapted to the pathological gait to produce the best possible biomechanical situation in each case. With the NEURO SWING system ankle joint, this goal is achieved through exchangeable spring units, an adjustable alignment and an adjustable range of motion.

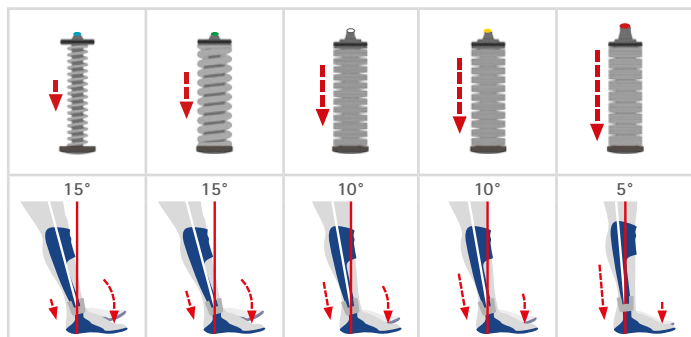
Effects on the Gait during Initial Contact and Loading Response

Due to the exchangeable spring units of the NEURO SWING system ankle joint, the spring force can be optimally adapted to the pathological gait. Finding the right spring force is an optimisation process which requires careful consideration of the different functionalities. Nevertheless, the fact that adjustments are an option is a great advantage for the individualisation of prostheses.

The NEURO SWING system ankle joint enables a passive plantar flexion as well as a physiological heel rocker by means of the defined pivot point and the adjustable range of motion. The range of plantar flexion depends on the chosen spring unit. The lowering of the foot is controlled by the posterior spring unit. In combination with a range of motion of 15°, a normal spring force (blue spring unit) enables the largest heel rocker.

The passive plantar flexion is controlled by the eccentric work of the m. tibialis anterior.

Adjusting the Heel Rocker

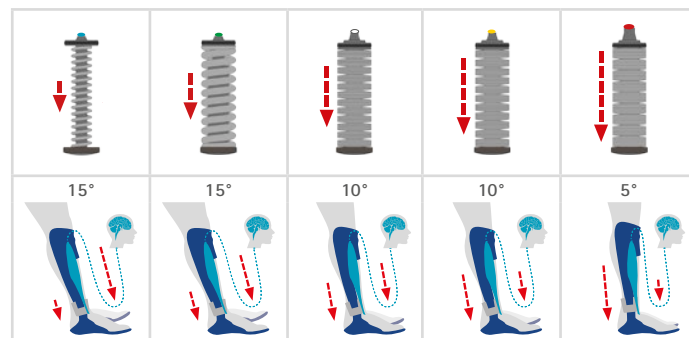


The lower the spring force, the larger the heel rocker.

The extent of this eccentric work and therefore the level of the motor impulses are influenced by the spring force and the range of motion.

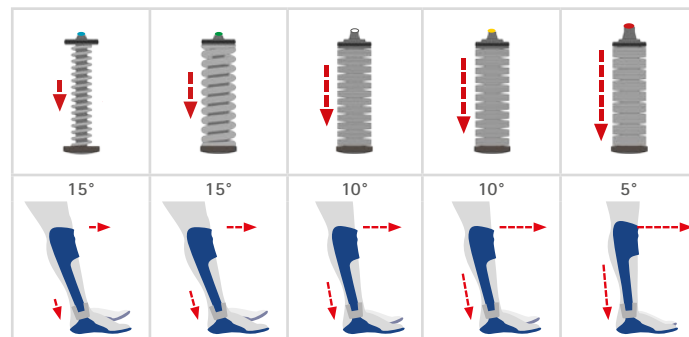
Since the range of the heel rocker and the passive plantar flexion is reduced with increasing spring force, a proportionately greater flexion moment is applied to the knee. This results in a faster tibial progression and a higher load on the m. quadriceps. Increasing the resistance against plantar flexion results in an increasing knee flexion between loading response and early mid stance as well as a smaller maximum plantar flexion [Kob, p. 458].

Adjusting the Eccentric Load on the M. Tibialis Anterior



The lower the spring force, the greater the eccentric load on the M. tibialis anterior.

Adjusting the Tibial Progression

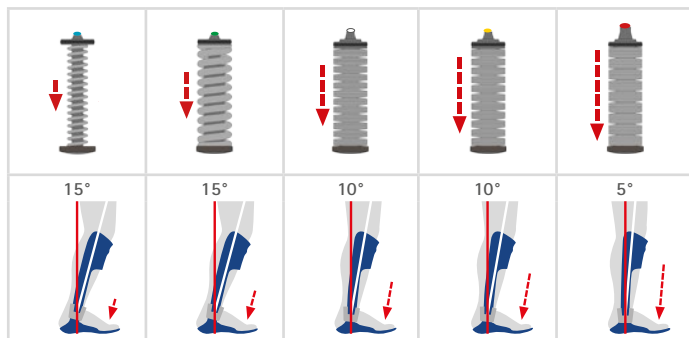


The higher the spring force, the greater the tibial progression.

Effects on the Gait during Mid Stance

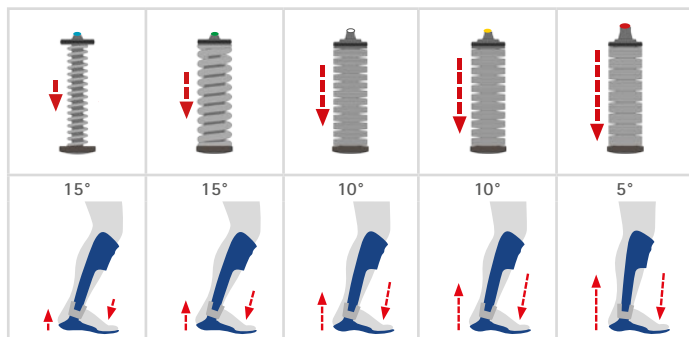
In mid stance, the forward movement of the lower leg is performed against the resistance of the anterior spring unit. A red spring unit with extra strong spring force produces the highest resistance. The applied energy is stored in the disc springs. The extent of movement in the ankle joint is limited by the range of motion of the chosen spring unit (5°–15°). In order to take full advantage of the adjustable alignment of the prosthesis during this gait phase, it is recommended to calculate a tibial tilt of 10°–12°. Optimum leverage ratios exist at this inclination [Owe, p. 257]. This adjustment of the prosthesis' alignment can be made directly at the joint.

Adjusting the Resistance against Dorsiflexion



The higher the spring force, the greater the resistance against dorsiflexion.

Adjusting the Heel Lift



The higher the spring force, the sooner the heel will lift.

Effects on the Gait during Terminal Stance

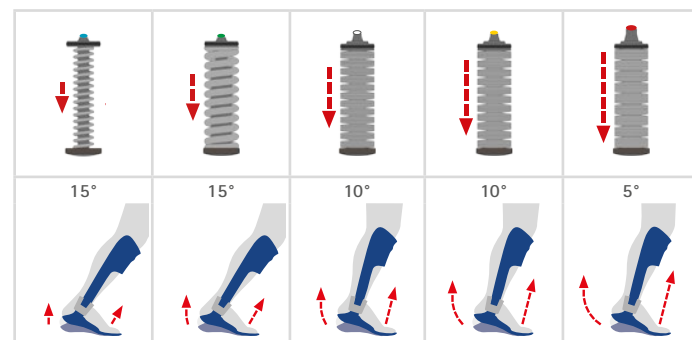
Between late mid stance and terminal stance, the compressed anterior spring unit causes the heel to lift from the ground. With a very high spring force and a range of motion of 5°, the heel lifts earlier than with a normal spring force and a range of motion of 15°.

Effects on the Gait during Pre Swing

The energy that was stored in the anterior spring unit is released during pre swing. Since the extra strong spring unit can store the most energy, it supports the push off of the leg the most. In an AFO with high spring forces and a defined range of motion, the push off can support an approximation towards a physiological gait during pre swing [Des, p. 150]. The spring units with the largest range of motion also cause the foot to take the longest way back into a neutral position.

Effects on the Gait during Swing Phase

Adjusting the Energy Recovery for Push Off



The higher the spring force, the more energy will be recovered for push off.

The strength of each of the five spring units of the NEURO SWING system ankle joint is sufficient to keep the foot in a neutral position or slight dorsiflexion, thus ensuring that the heel touches the ground at initial contact. This position is the most important prerequisite for a heel rocker and a physiological loading response [Nol, p. 659].

Amputation

Surgical or traumatic separation of a body part. A major amputation involves an amputation at the lower or upper leg. The ankle joint is then removed. With a minor amputation, the ankle joint remains intact.

Arthrodesis Boots

An arthrodesis boot blocks the motion in the ankle joint completely. In addition to the stabilising cap, a support strap and a rocker bottom sole are incorporated into the boot, which is why an arthrodesis boot is also called a fixed rolling-off boot.

Bellmann Prosthesis

A sub-ankle foot prosthesis developed by the Swiss prosthetist Dieter Bellmann. It is handmade and consists of a flexible shaft, a carbon rolling-off line and a forefoot replacement made of foam. The hold on the foot is achieved by a ↑heel frame with a bandage strap.

(Carbon) Clamshell Orthosis/Prosthesis

Medical device covering the ankle made from carbon. The foot piece is connected to the anterior tibial shell on the ↑medial and ↑lateral side. The patient steps into the orthosis or prosthesis from the ↑dorsal side as if through a frame.

Contracture

(lat. *contrahere* = to tighten): permanent tissue shortening or shrinking, e.g. of certain muscles or tendons. This leads to a reversible or irreversible mobility restriction or fixed deformity of the adjoining joints. There are elastic and rigid contractures.

Contraindication

(lat. *contra* = against, contrary to, lat. *indicare* = display): circumstance that prohibits the use or continued use of a particular medication or therapeutic measure that is appropriate in itself

Cosmetic

In prosthetics, cosmetics is the design of a prosthesis or a prosthesis covering that is visually adapted to the body.

Distal

(from Latin *distare* = to be distant): denoting a position away from the centre of the body. The opposite of distal is ↑proximal.

Dorsal

(from Latin *dorsum* = back): belonging to the back, located at the back. Location designation at the foot: on the side of the foot's dorsum.

Dorsiflexion

Lifting of the foot. The countermovement of ↑plantar flexion. Referred to as a flexion motion because it reduces the angle between the lower leg and foot. Functionally, however, it is a stretching movement in the sense of an extension. Muscles which perform this movement are called dorsal flexors.

Dorsiflexion Stop

Constructional element of an orthosis that limits the degree of ↑dorsiflexion. The dorsiflexion stop activates the ↑forefoot lever, thereby creating an area of support. Furthermore, a dorsiflexion stop causes, together with the orthosis' foot piece, a knee extension moment and a heel lift starting at terminal stance.

Dynamic

(from Greek *dynamikos* = active, strong): displaying movement, characterised by momentum and energy

End Contact

full contact of a residual limb with the enclosing shaft

Equinus

Fixation of the foot in ↑plantar flexion, causing the heel to be lifted. Since the heel does not touch the ground when walking, the equinus is also called dropfoot (pes equinus).

Exarticulation

Amputation of a limb through a joint. The ↑proximal bones remain completely intact. A toe exarticulation refers to the amputation of a ↑ray in which the base joint of the toe is severed.

Forefoot Lever

anatomical lever arm running from the upper ankle joint to the metatarsophalangeal joints of the toes

Heel Frame

fixation of the heel by the constructive element of a prosthetic shaft

Heel Lever

A lever, which uses the ↑point of heel strike as the pivot point and the distance of the point of heel strike to the anatomical ankle joint as the lever arm. At initial contact, the ground reaction force running ↑dorsally from the ankle causes a rotation around the point of heel strike.

Heel Rocker

Involves the complete rotation of the foot around the ↑point of heel strike. It occurs in the anatomical ankle joint between initial contact and loading response: from terminal swing to initial contact, the swing leg “drops” to the ground from a height of about 1 cm. The ground reaction force becomes effective at the point of heel strike. Its force vector (broken line) runs ↑dorsally from the ankle. The resulting ↑heel lever creates a plantar flexion moment in the ankle, which lowers the foot. The ↑m. tibialis anterior works eccentrically against this movement, thus allowing a controlled foot dropping.

Interdisciplinary

(from Latin *inter* = between): concerning the cooperation between several fields; cross-disciplinary

Lateral

(lat. *latus* = flank, side): laterally, facing away from the centre of the body

Medial

(lat. *medius* = the middle one): middle, oriented towards the center of the body, positioned towards the center

Metaphysis

(from Greek *meta* = between, amid; *physis* = nature): section of the long bones between the bone shaft (diaphysis) and the joint-forming end (epiphysis), which consists of spongy bone substance (↑spongiosa)

Metatarsophalangeal Joints

joints between the midfoot bone (ossa metatarsalia) and the proximal phalanges (phalanges proximales)

Muscle Atrophy

(from Greek *atrophia* = depletion, emaciation): visible decrease in the circumference of a skeletal muscle due to reduced strain

M. Quadriceps

Musculus quadriceps femoris: four-headed muscle of the femur. The largest muscle in the body. It causes the extension of the lower leg in the knee joint. It consists of the following submuscles: musculus rectus femoris, musculus vastus medialis, musculus vastus lateralis and musculus vastus intermedius.

M. Tibialis Anterior

Musculus tibialis anterior: anterior tibial muscle. A muscle running from the tibia to the medial edge of the foot, which causes the ↑dorsiflexion of the foot.

M. Triceps Surae

Musculus triceps surae: three-headed calf muscle. Summarising term for the two-headed gastrocnemius muscle and the soleus muscle.

Neutral Position

Refers to the body position that a person assumes as a normal, upright, approximately hip-width stance. The range of motion of a joint is determined from the neutral position.

Oedema

(from Greek *oidema* = swelling): water accumulation, water retention; leakage of fluid from the vessels which accumulates in the intercellular space

O. Metatarsalia

Ossa metatarsalia: metatarsal bone. These five long bones form the midfoot. Each consists of the proximal base, shaft, and distal head. The base forms the transition to the tarsal, the head the transition to the toe.

O. Naviculare

Os naviculare: navicular bone. Bone of the tarsal.

Pathological

(from Greek *pathos* = pain; disease): abnormally (changed)

Perforation

(from Latin *perforare* = pierce): puncture or perforation of a tissue surrounding a body cavity. For example, pointed bones can pierce the covering tissue after an amputation if they are not rounded.

Phantom Pain

Phantom pain is felt after an amputation in the body part that is no longer there. The patient can usually locate them very precisely outside of the body.

Physiological

(from Greek *physis* = nature; *logos* = doctrine): concerning the natural life processes

Plantar

(from Latin *planta* = sole of the foot): concerning the sole of the foot, towards the sole of the foot

Plantar Fascia

Plantar aponeurosis. The plantar fascia originates at the calcaneus (Os calcaneus) and runs in a v-shape into the joint capsules of the metatarsophalangeal joints and the end tendons of the toe flexors at the metatarsophalangeal joint.

Plantar Flexion

Lowering of the foot. Countermovement of ↑dorsiflexion. Muscles that perform this movement are called plantar flexors.

Point of Heel Strike

point where the heel first touches the ground at initial contact

Pressure Peak

Pressure is applied to the sole of the foot when walking. The level of pressure depends on the load. In the case of a bony prominence, the pressure is particularly high. This high pressure value is called a pressure peak.

Proximal

(from Latin *proximus* = the nearest): positioned towards the centre of the body. The opposite of proximal is ↑distal.

Push Off

Toe-off during pre swing. This accelerates the leg into a forward movement.

Ray

A ray consists of a midfoot bone and the associated toe phalanges.

Ray Resection

amputation of a complete ray at the base of the metatarsal bone

Residual Limb Revision

Recurrent amputation caused by complications on the residual limb. Thus, a residual limb revision results in a shortening of the residual limb.

Sagittal Plane

(from Latin *sagitta* = arrow): plane that cuts through the body from front to back. Viewed from the front, the sagittal plane appears as a line.

Shear Forces

Shear forces are mechanical forces in which surfaces are displaced in relation to each other.

Shifting

motion of the prosthesis against the residual limb tip during gait

Soft Tissue Coverage

Covering the bones cut during an amputation with soft tissues such as skin, muscles or subcutaneous fatty tissue. For partial foot amputations performed from the dorsum of the foot, the resilient soft tissue structures of the sole of the foot can be used to cover the residual limb.

Spongiosa

(lat. *spongia* = sponge): spongy bone interior made up of fine bone tubercles (trabeculae). The spongiosa is encased in a compact bone layer.

Static

(from Greek *statikos* = standing; causing to stand): the equilibrium of forces concerning statics, in equilibrium, at rest, standing still

Static Friction

The motion of two bodies in contact is reduced by the adhesive property of their materials.

Supination

(from Latin *supinare* = to move backwards, to lean backwards): outward rotation of the foot around its longitudinal axis and/or lifting of the inner edge of the foot. Muscles that perform this movement are called supinators.

Tarsometatarsal Joints

(lat. *articulatio tarsometatarsalis*): Lisfranc joint line; articulated connections between the individual bones of the tarsus and the midfoot bones (ossa metatarsalia I-V)

Tibia

(lat. *tibia* = "shinbone"): the stronger of the two lower leg bones, which is part of both the knee and ankle joints

Tight/Positive Fit

In mechanical engineering, this term refers to the gapless meshing of two workpieces to prevent motion. In orthopaedic technology, the term tight fit is used when the upper edge of a device (e.g. prosthesis shaft) is connected to the anatomical structure (e.g. stump) without any gaps.

Transmetatarsal

(lat. *trans* = beyond, above, *metatarsalia* = midfoot bones): In a transmetatarsal amputation, the amputation line runs through all five midfoot bones.

Transtarsal

(lat. *trans* = beyond, above, *tarsus* = foot root): in the case of a transtarsal amputation, the amputation line runs through bones of the tarsus.

Ulcer

(from Latin *ulcus*) : abscess

Upper Ankle Joint

(from Latin *articulatio talocruralis*): the upper ankle joint and the lower ankle joint are the two joints between the lower leg and the tarsus. It is a hinge joint composed of the tibia and fibula at the lower leg and the ankle bone of the tarsus. It is stabilised by a joint capsule and several ligaments. The upper ankle joint is mainly responsible for the ↑plantar flexion and the ↑dorsiflexion of the foot.

Wound Management

Structured, interdisciplinary wound treatment in a clinical setting. After an amputation, thorough wound management aims to shorten the wound healing process and increase the wound healing rate. This creates an optimal basis for the prosthetic treatment.

- | Abbr. | Source | Page | Abbr. | Source | Page |
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Orthosis Configurator

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