

Prosthetic Mobility Outcomes of Lower-Limb Amputees

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For individuals with lower limb amputation, mobility is an important indicator of successful rehabilitation. This study analyzed the mobility outcomes of patients with lower limb amputation who were fit with a prosthesis as part of the adult amputee program at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital (GRH) in Edmonton, AB. In the rehabilitation program at the GRH, standardized walk tests are administered to lower limb amputees at three time points: within 48 hours of initial prosthesis fitting, at discharge from therapy and at a follow-up visit 6 months after fitting. The results of these tests were retrospectively analyzed to evaluate how the mobility of individuals with lower limb amputation tends to change over time. However, findings revealed that the majority of subjects (111 out of 175) did not return for their 6 month follow-up appointment or were not tested at their 6 month appointment. Many of these patients were having issues with their prosthesis. For subjects with complete datasets, prosthetic mobility generally improved from baseline to discharge from rehabilitation and from discharge to 6 months. In addition, mobility outcomes were found to be related to demographic and clinical factors such as age and amputation level. This information can be used to better predict the mobility outcomes of a patient before prosthesis fitting and to inform decision-making regarding the patient's rehabilitation program.