

BOOK REVIEW

In Pursuit of Socket Harmony: Optimizing the Transtibial Socket Interface

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This book is a much needed and most welcome contribution to transtibial amputations. It provides surgeons with a better understanding of the issues amputees face after leaving their surgical theatre.

Amputations are often seen as a failure after other treatment attempts, rather than an opportunity to provide the patient with a functional limb and a good rehabilitation. For this reason, and because amputation specialists are rare, surgical outcomes are often variable. This book addresses this shortcoming in a very comprehensive and detailed way by discussing the key principles; before, during, and after surgery, that can enhance the chances of the amputee receiving a limb that heals and is optimized for prosthetic use.

Many factors (e.g. funding and cause of amputation) enter into the decision of whether a new amputee will be fit with a prosthesis, and if so, the type. With that said, this book comprehensively covers the scientific design principles that should be followed if the goal is to provide the amputee with the most responsive and comfortable prosthetic socket possible. To this end, the book specifically discusses the principles that stabilize daily limb volume, prevent piston action, and eliminate stressful limb pressures.

The book also contains an important chapter for people who have had or are going to have a transtibial amputation, and are looking to be fit with a state-of-the-art prosthesis. The importance of this cannot be overstated, as the amputee ultimately determines the quality of the limb and prosthesis received, and their maintenance.

I would strongly recommend this book to be an integral part of the education, as well as the postgraduate education, of any person or professional who works with transtibial amputees. I congratulate the authors on their 10 years of outstanding work writing this book, based on scientific papers and a lifelong experience dealing with transtibial amputations, as well as for Carl Caspers who has the unique experience of living the life of a transtibial amputee.

Adequate prosthetic fitting is an investment, not an expense.

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