

# Gait and Prosthetic Alignment

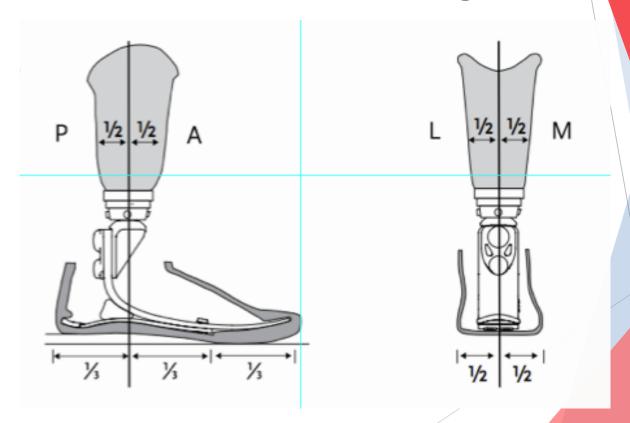
Jennifer Motylinski, CPO, LPO Samantha Stauffer, CO, Prosthetic Resident John Horne, CPO, CPed, LPO

### **Presentation Outline**

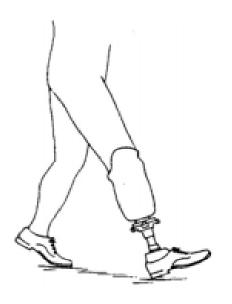
- Transtibial
  - Static Alignment
  - Dynamic Gait Deviations
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- Transfemoral
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## **Transtibial**

## Transtibial Static Alignment



## **Initial Contact**



Deviation	Possible Cause
Knee too extended	<ul> <li>Faulty Suspension</li> <li>Insufficient pre-flexion of the socket</li> <li>Foot too anterior</li> </ul>
Knee too flexed	<ul><li>Faulty suspension</li><li>Flexion Contracture</li></ul>
Unequal stride length	<ul><li>Foot too posterior/anterior</li><li>Poor gait training</li></ul>

# Loading Response



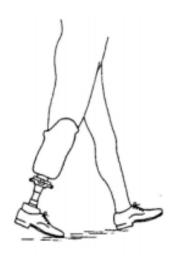
Deviation	Possible Cause
Knee remains extended and patient "rides" the heel  "Crushing" the heel	<ul> <li>Foot too anterior</li> <li>Socket too extended, Foot too plantarflexed</li> <li>Prosthetic foot heel too soft (requires a bumper)</li> <li>Heel on shoe too low</li> <li>Poor gait training</li> </ul>
Knee flexion is abrupt, instability with knee buckling	<ul> <li>Weak quadriceps</li> <li>Foot too posterior</li> <li>Socket too flexed, Foot too dorsiflexed</li> <li>Heel on shoe is too stiff or too high</li> <li>Prosthetic foot bumper or heel wedge too firm</li> </ul>
Foot Slap (may be present on hydraulic feet)	<ul> <li>Plantarflexion resistance too soft</li> <li>Incorrect foot category (weight gain)</li> </ul>

## Midstance



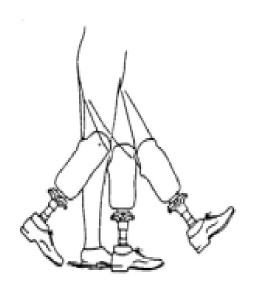
Deviation	Possible Cause
Pylon leans medially	<ul><li>Too much socket adduction</li><li>Foot too outset</li></ul>
Pylon leans laterally	<ul><li>Not enough adduction</li><li>Foot too inset</li></ul>
Too much or too little varus moment	<ul> <li>Too much - foot too inset</li> <li>Too little - foot too outset</li> </ul>
Feet too close or too far apart	<ul> <li>Too close - foot too inset</li> <li>Too far - foo too outset</li> <li>Gait training needed</li> </ul>
Lateral trunk bending to the prosthetic side	<ul> <li>Prosthesis height incorrect</li> <li>Residual limb pain</li> <li>Foot too outset</li> </ul>

## Terminal Stance and Pre-swing



Deviation	Possible Cause
Heel off occurs too early and patient "Drops offs" too quickly onto the sound side	<ul><li>Foot too posterior</li><li>Foot too Dorsiflexed</li></ul>
Heel off is delayed, might see hyperextension	<ul><li>Foot too anterior</li><li>Foot too plantarflexed</li></ul>
Socket drops away from the patient	Suspension too loose

# Swing



Deviation	Possible Cause
Foot "whips" medial or lateral during initial swing	Socket rotated on the patient
Prosthetic foot hits the ground	<ul> <li>Prosthesis is too long</li> <li>Suspension is loose</li> <li>Knee flexion limited</li> <li>Muscle weakness, gait training</li> </ul>

## Patient says....

"I feel like I'm walking down a hill"

"My knee feels like it wants buckle"

"I can't straighten my knee"

"I changed to a dress shoe or boot"

"I'm being thrown forward"



- Socket too flexed
- Foot too dorsiflexed
- Foot too posterior
- Prosthetic foot heel bumper too firm
- Patient shoe heel to firm or too high

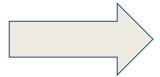
## Patient says...

"I feel like I'm walking up a hill"

"I can't bend my knee"

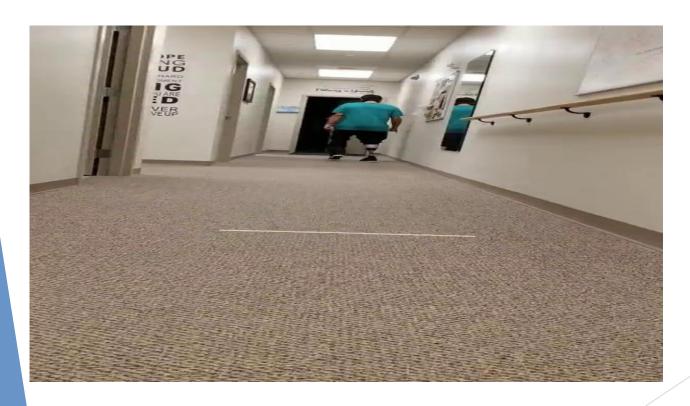
"I changed my shoe to a flat or a converse"

"I'm falling backwards"



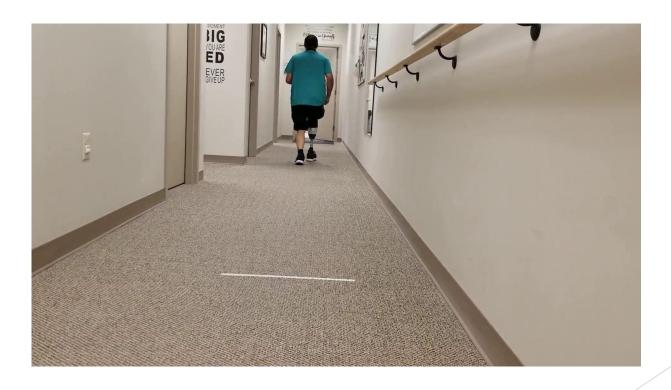
- Socket too extended
- Foot too plantarflexed
- Foot too anterior
- Prosthetic foot heel bumper too soft
- Patient shoe heel to soft or too low

#### Transtibial Gait Videos

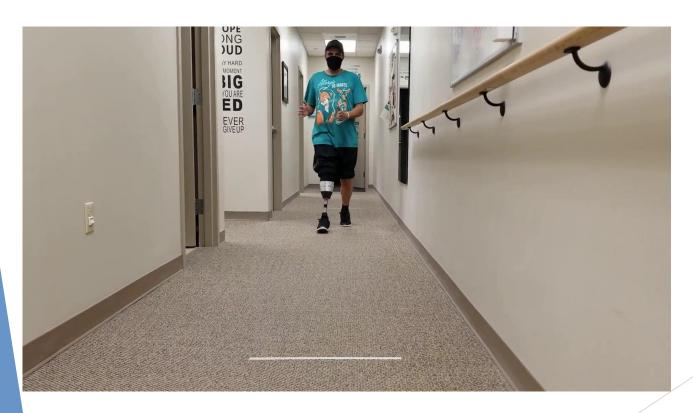








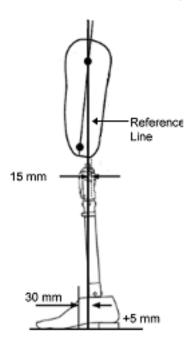




# Transfemoral

## Transfemoral Static Alignment

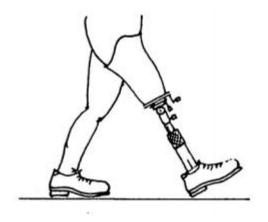
TKA Line – Line drawn through anatomical trochanter, prosthetic knee center and prosthetic ankle





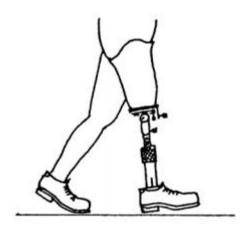


## **Initial Contact**



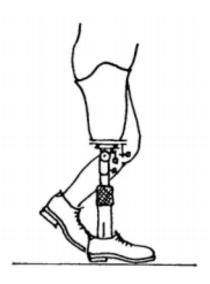
Deviation	Possible Cause
Knee Instability – Knee flexes	<ul> <li>Knee set too far anterior</li> <li>Heel bumper too firm in prosthetic foot</li> <li>Socket flexion does not match contracture</li> <li>Weak hip extensors</li> </ul>
Unequal step length – short prosthetic step	<ul> <li>Improper prosthetic knee friction or extension</li> <li>Unstable prosthetic knee</li> <li>Muscle weakness, patient insecurity, gait training</li> </ul>

# Loading Response



Deviation	Possible Cause
External foot rotation	<ul> <li>Prosthetic foot bumper too firm</li> <li>Loose socket fit</li> <li>Poor muscle control</li> </ul>

## Midstance



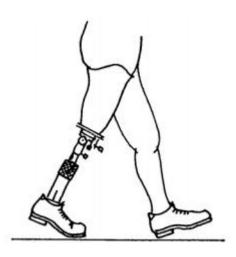
Deviation	Possible Cause
Abducted gait	<ul> <li>Pain or pressure on ramus or lateral distal femur</li> <li>Lateral wall of socket has space</li> <li>Prosthesis too long</li> <li>Patient weakness or contracture, lacks balance</li> </ul>
Lateral trunk bending	<ul> <li>Prosthesis too short</li> <li>Space within socket</li> <li>Pain or pressure on ramus or lateral distal femur</li> <li>Short residual limb</li> <li>Patient has weak or contracted hip abductors</li> </ul>

# Terminal Swing



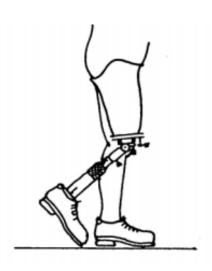
Deviation	Possible Cause
Pelvic rise	Toe lever too long
Drop off	Toe lever too short

# Pre-Swing



Deviation	Possible Cause
Medial Whip	<ul> <li>Prosthetic knee is external rotated</li> <li>Socket donned externally rotated</li> </ul>
Lateral Whip	<ul> <li>Prosthetic knee is internally rotated</li> <li>Socket donned with internal rotation</li> </ul>
Delayed knee flexion	<ul> <li>Prosthetic knee alignment too stable</li> <li>Prosthetic knee mechanical functions too stable</li> </ul>
Uneven heel rise	Prosthetic knee mechanical functions adjustments

## Initial and Midswing



Deviation	Possible Cause
Circumduction	<ul> <li>Excessive mechanical resistance to knee flexion</li> <li>Prosthesis too stable</li> <li>Prosthesis too long</li> <li>Inadequate hip flexion</li> </ul>
Vaulting	<ul> <li>Excessive mechanical resistance to knee flexion</li> <li>Prosthesis too stable</li> <li>Prosthesis too long</li> <li>Patient habit</li> </ul>

# **Terminal Swing**



Deviation	Possible Cause
Excessive terminal impact	<ul> <li>Patient habit to know knee extended</li> <li>Mechanical functions of prosthetic knee</li> </ul>
Unequal step length – long prosthetic step, short sound side step	Hip contracture not accommodated for in socket

#### Mechanical Functions of Prosthetic Knees

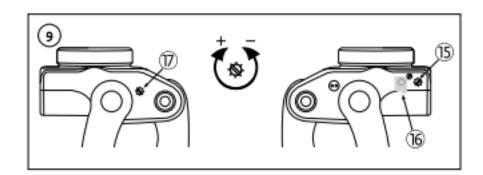
#### i.e. Total Knee

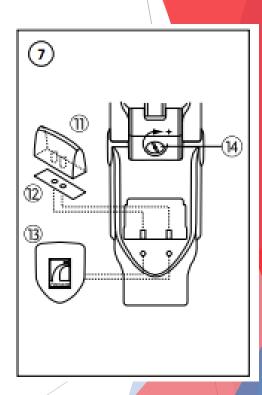
**Stance Flexion** – Amount prosthetic knee flexes at initial contact (11-13)

Flexion Resistance – Can control prosthetic knee stability and heel rise (15&16)

**Extension Resistance** – Controls knee from heel rise through terminal swing (17)

**Extension Assist** – Promotes knee extension from heel rise to terminal swing (14)



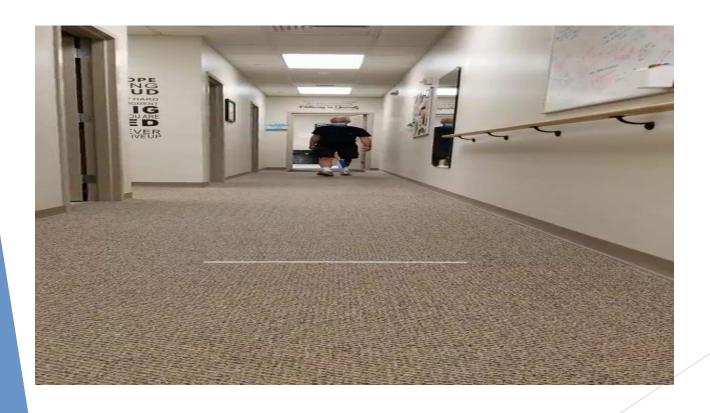


## Microprocessor Knee Control



## Transfemoral Gait Videos









#### Impact of Technology

