Listening to patients with a major lower limb amputation due to peripheral vascular disease and/or diabetes: Personal experiences of the temporary prosthesis period

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During the temporary prosthesis period in the context of major vascular lower limb amputation, we wished to listen to these patients, to understand how people had been dealing with this difficult situation. First of all, we wanted to explore the possible gap between the fact of dealing with a prosthesis and the ideas patients could have about it. After a series of questions, we finally extended the subject to what these people wanted to express.

In a first part, we develop epidemiological characteristics of this population and we reflect about psychological repercussions of this surgical operation. We present the way medical professionals in the rehabilitation department are taking care of amputated people. In a second part, we state the stories of the patients while they still were at hospital in Nantes, Rennes or Saint-Nazaire, or soon after their discharge to home. All the stories result from semi-directive interviews.

From the first interviews, we can underline five main points: the uniqueness of each personal experience, the deep desire for each one of them to keep their autonomy, the importance to find other patients to share with, the importance of the family support, and finally the evolution of the relationships between society and the person now disabled.

Amputation, considered like a last resort by the surgeon is for amputated people and the person now disabled.

The aim of the present work is to gather the patients’ and their families’ stories and to reflect about psychological repercussions of this surgical operation. We propose a classification of patients according to their perceived autonomy, the way they understand their illness, and the way they share and accept this loss. The goal of this study is to make a map of their situation and to explore their feelings and their family support. The families of amputated patients are often under intense stress. This study will also focus on the way we can help families in this situation.

Methods/Applications—An overview of the technical characteristics of all available knee joints is proposed. We then consider the different neuromuscular impairments and the medico-technical responses, describing the different components, including the different knee joints. Based on the example of the “Basko” orthotic joint, we describe the evolution of the reimbursement regulations, which at present rely on very scarce objective evaluation.

References


Assessment of the orthopaedic shoe “Pneumaflex®” among patients with foot drop

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Keywords: Orthopaedic shoe; Foot-drop; Neuropathy

Objective—Prospective assessment of patient satisfaction with a foot orthosis consisting in a jack-assisted device, mounted on a custom-made low-upper orthopaedic shoe.

Methods—All patients presenting with foot-drop and receiving this device were prospectively included. Their satisfaction was assessed with the QUEST questionnaire. Most of them had been previously equipped with different ankle-foot...