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Hold on to Hope!
Tori Martin

COMMON TERMINOLOGY

Upper Limb

UEA: acronym for an
Upper Extremity Amputation

- AE: acronym for Above-the-Elbow
also known as transhumeral
- BE: acronym for Below-the-Elbow
also known as transradial

Lower Limb

LEA: acronym for a
Lower Extremity Amputation

- AK: acronym for Above-the-Knee
also known as transfemoral
- BK: acronym for Below-the-Knee
also known as transtibial

Limb Loss Terms

- * Residual Limb: the portion of the arm or leg remaining after an amputation sometimes referred to as a stump or residuum
- * Revision: surgical modification of the residual limb
- * Stump: a word commonly used to refer to the residual limb
- * Extremity: another word for limb, refers to an arm or leg

Symptoms

- * Phantom Pain: pain that feels like it is coming from the part of the body that is missing
- * Phantom Sensation: the feeling that the missing body part is still there, uncomfortable but not necessarily painful - burning, tingling, or itching
- * Atrophy: decrease in the size, wasting away of body tissue, muscle mass, or organs due to decrease in function and/or use
- * Contracture: tightening of muscles around a joint resulting in restricted movement
- * Edema: type of localized swelling, characterized by excessive fluid in body tissues
- * Comorbidity: a coexisting or additional disease or illness
- * Neuropathy: abnormal or degenerative state of the nervous system; decreased sense of feeling in feet or other extremities



Procedures/Techniques

- * Debridement: cleaning of a wound by removal of necrotic or infected cells
- * Desensitization: reducing or removing any form of sensitivity in the residual limb

Directional Terms

- * Anterior: the front portion; to the front
- * Posterior: the back portion; to the back
- * Lateral: the side portion; to the side
- * Medial: the middle portion; toward the middle
- * Distal: end of residual limb. Part furthest from the central portion of the body
- * Proximal: part closest to the central portion of the body
- * Contralateral: opposite side of the body

Therapy/Rehabilitation Terms

- * Donning: putting on prosthesis/clothing item
- * Doffing: taking off prosthesis/clothing item
- * Assistive/Adaptive Equipment: devices that assist in activities or with mobility (i.e., ramps, grab bars, canes, walkers, reachers, etc.)
- * Gait: a manner of walking

Prosthetic Terms

- * Prosthetist: professional who designs, fabricates, and fits prostheses (includes socket and all associated components)
- * Prosthesis: an artificial body part that substitutes or supplements a missing part of the body
- * Socket: portion of the prosthesis that wraps around residual limb
- * Liners: material placed directly over skin; a barrier between the socket and the residual limb
- * Socks: material of varying ply to adjust the fit of the socket during times of volume changes
- * Prosthetic Technology: refers to the componentry that makes up the prosthesis
- * Suspension: how the prosthesis attaches to the body
- * Terminal Device: component on distal aspect (furthest from body) — passive, moveable, articulated, maybe be activity specific

References

- Amputee Coalition. (2008). Fact sheet: Limb loss definitions. <https://www.amputee-coalition.org/resources/limb-loss-definitions/>
- Hanger Clinic. (n.d.). Sockets, liners, & accessories. <https://hangerclinic.com/prosthetics/sockets-liners-accessories/>
- Latour, D. (2015, May 4). Series: Upper Limb Prosthetics. [On-Demand Webinar]. OccupationalTherapy.com <https://www.occupationaltherapy.com/ot-ceus/course/upper-limb-prosthetic-series>



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