

Amputee Rehabilitation: Glossary of Terms

- **Ambulate**
To walk
- **Amputation**
Loss of all or part of a limb
- **Artificial Limb**
A type of prosthesis that replaces a missing body part
- **Bilateral**
Both sides
- **Contracture**
Shortening of a muscle or tendon over a joint – this limits the movement of the joint
- **Doffing**
The act of taking something off (a prosthesis, a stump sock, a stump shrinker)
- **Donning**
The act of putting something on (a prosthesis, a stump sock, a stump shrinker)
- **Edema**
Swelling of body part caused by too much fluid in the tissue
- **Endoskeletal Prosthesis**
An artificial limb that is a pipe system with a soft foam cover
- **Exoskeletal Prosthesis**
An artificial limb with a hard outer shell
- **Ischial tuberosity (I.T. bones)**
The bony areas on the buttocks (the "sitting or bum bones") that may get sore when sitting on a hard surface for long periods of time
- **Liner**
A soft interface between the stump and socket
- **Lower Limb**
The hip, thigh, leg, ankle and foot (also referred to as lower extremity)
- **Neuroma**
After surgery a nerve may continue to grow producing an area which is tender on pressure
- **Phantom Pain**
The feeling of pain in the missing limb. This pain may feel like stabbing, burning, squeezing or unnatural positioning
- **Phantom Sensation**
The feeling that the amputated limb is still present
- **Prosthesis**
An artificial body part to replace a missing limb. More than one = prostheses
- **Residual Limb**
The remaining part of the limb after amputation, also called the "stump"
- **Sheath**
A thin nylon prosthetic sock (0 ply) that allows the stump to slip more easily into the socket
- **Sleeve**
A tube of material that suspends the prosthesis, by sticking to the socket and thigh
- **Socket**
The hard shell part of the prosthesis that fits over the stump
- **Stump**
The remaining part of the limb after amputation, also called the residual limb
- **Stump Shrinker**
An elastic sock worn on the stump to help reduce swelling and to shape the stump for a better prosthetic fit
- **Stump Sock**
A special sock worn with the prosthesis to provide a cushion between the skin and socket or to fill in space between the liner and the socket