

## THE USE OF SILICONE LINERS IN EARLY PROSTHETIC REHABILITATION

In March 2003, Prem Anandam, senior prosthetist/orthotist at Orthotic Prosthetic Services Tasmania (OPST) – Launceston General Hospital conducted a pilot trial in early prosthetic rehabilitation using a silicone liner for transtibial amputees.

The trials at the LGH indicated that early mobilisation with silicone liner prostheses promotes rapid wound healing without comprising the integrity of the wound. The use of silicone liners in patients who have delayed wound healing and who formerly would have been discharged prior to prosthetic fitting was positive. As a result of the positive outcomes, several clients who had been discharged earlier for delayed wound healing were called back to have silicone liner prostheses fitted and commenced prosthetic gait training immediately. Rapid and uneventful wound healing also occurred in this group. No silicone liner acclimatisation period was initiated in these cases. The use of large dressings to treat wounds with massive exudate did not exclude patients from early prosthetic mobilization and had a positive impact in this group as well.

Retrospectively, it is suggested that patients commence gait training with the POP socket on Day 12 with the acclimatisation period starting 4 days earlier. A dedicated and knowledgeable prosthetic rehabilitation team is necessary for the program to be successful. [A detailed analysis of the pilot trial is available on the **RehabTech** website.]



Day 31



Day 63

### Attending RehabTech Seminars and Courses at Video Conference Centres?

Non-members of the **RehabTech** supporters group will be charged a registration fee per individual attendance and a facility connection fee for 2004 seminars. These charges will not apply to **RehabTech** supporters. For session topics and dates, check the **RehabTech** website. Registration forms to be circulated.

REHAB Tech, Centre for Biomedical Engineering,  
Dept Electrical & Computer Systems Engineering, Building 35, Room G19,  
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INTERNET - <http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/>



## Job WATCH

### Locum Prosthetist/Orthotist Ballarat, Victoria

Responsible for clinical work involving provision of rigid removable dressings following surgery, interim prosthetic management for inpatients and provision of definitive prosthesis for VALP clients. Undertake orthotic duties at regional clinic.

[Closing date 30/4/04]

*Enquiries:* Peter Lendfers, Queen Elizabeth Centre,  
102 Ascot Street South, Ballarat Vic.

Phone: 03 5320 3878 Fax: 03 5320 3800

email: [PeterL@bhs.grampianshealth.org.au](mailto:PeterL@bhs.grampianshealth.org.au)

### Orthotist Westmead, New South Wales

Maternity relief position. Performing patient assessments and instituting orthotic treatment, management and prioritising of clinical load. Liaising with referring medical officers and allied health staff. Attend clinics, wards and operating theatres. Fabrication and fitting of orthotic and related devices.  
[Closing date 28/5/04]

*Enquiries:* Sean Hogan, Children's Hospital,  
Locked Bag 4001, Westmead, NSW.

Phone: 02 9845 3679 Fax 02 9845 0000

email: [mailto:seanh@chw.edu.au](mailto:mailto:seanh@chw.edu.au)

**For the latest positions and detailed information on vacancies as they occur, visit our website :**

Just follow the links from our home page: [www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech](http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech)

## COMING EVENTS

Calendar of events – now on the web – [www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech](http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech)

<b>April 16</b>	<b>Victorian Artificial Limb Service managers</b> information/discussion meeting at Monash University Clayton Campus. Contact <b>REHABTech</b>
<b>Mid May</b>	<b>Video Conference Series</b> of four lectures presented by John Michael, experienced Prosthetist/Orthotist active in clinical education in USA. <i>Session 1: Stance Control Orthoses</i> Contact <b>REHABTech</b>
<b>June 2 – 4</b>	<b>Australian Rehabilitation &amp; Assistive Technology Conference</b> Venue: Carlton Crest Hotel, 65 Queens Road, Melbourne. Early Bird Registration by 16 April. Email: <a href="mailto:arata@ammp.com.au">arata@ammp.com.au</a>
<b>June 11</b>	<b>Update Seminar Video Conference—Layers of Stump Problems</b> presented by Dr Andrew Nunn, Rehabilitation Specialist. Contact <b>REHABTech</b>
<b>July 12 – 15</b>	<b>Marlo Anatomical Socket - Medial Ramus Containment</b> Lecture and Instructional Course at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Contact NCPO, Michael Gurry (03) 9479 5037

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