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.]
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

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

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

COMING EVENTS


April 16
Victorian Artificial Limb Service managers information/discussion meeting at Monash University Clayton Campus.
Contact REHABTech

Mid May
Video Conference Series of four lectures presented by John Michael, experienced Prosthetist/Orthotist active in clinical education in USA.
Session 1: Stance Control Orthoses
Contact REHABTech

June 2 – 4
Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Conference
Venue: Carlton Crest Hotel, 65 Queens Road, Melbourne.
Early Bird Registration by 16 April.
Email: arata@ammp.com.au

June 11
Update Seminar Video Conference—Layers of Stump Problems presented by Dr Andrew Nunn, Rehabilitation Specialist.
Contact REHABTech

July 12 – 15
Marlo Anatomical Socket - Medial Ramus Containment Lecture and Instructional Course at La Trobe University, Melbourne.
Contact NCPO, Michael Gurry (03) 9479 5037