

TechLINK

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Good Luck to all involved in the Paralympics!!!!

All of us at **REHABTech** would like to wish the best of luck to all involved in the Paralympics 18th - 29th October -especially athletes, coaches, and volunteers (providing the athlete support). You can keep up to date with the ABC who will be showing 1 hour of highlights each evening and the official website at <http://www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/index.html>

Component Failure Review 2000

This is the second "Review of failed components referred to **REHABTech**". The full review is available from the web at <http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/info.htm#manufac>. It covers predominantly lower limb prosthetic components (89 %). It does not cover all prosthetic component failures in Australia but does represent failures from all States and Territories. In all 212 components from 202 reported failures are assessed.

Only 6.9% of components had been removed prior to failure. Thirty percent of failures had been on components not included in the **TechGUIDE**. This has dropped from 43 % in 1995. This is a reflection of the increasing number of components being tested to ISO 10328, however as the vast majority of components used in Australia are included in the **TechGUIDE**, it demonstrates that **TechGUIDE** provides a good basis for component selection. The most common type of components reported to fail are dynamic feet (12.8%).

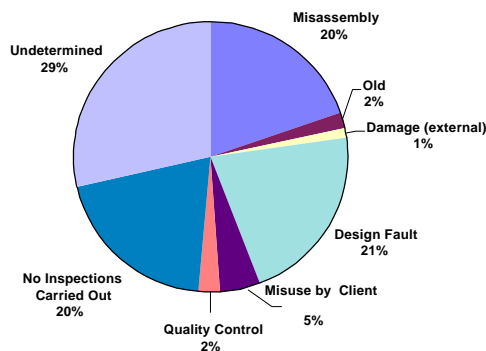


Figure 1. Primary causes of component failure referred to **REHABTech**

The review looks at the period of time components have been in use prior to failure, weight of patient using the component, causes of failure and failure modes.

From the data the best ways to prevent component failure are:

- Use components tested to ISO 10328,
- Ensure components are correctly assembled
- Set and review regularly inspection intervals on all components

World Wide Web site: Medical Devices Agency - United Kingdom

The primary task of the Medical Devices Agency (UK) is to help safeguard public health by working with users, manufacturers and legislators to ensure that medical devices meet appropriate standards of safety, quality and performance and that they comply with relevant Directives of the European Union. DTS2 is directly responsible for prosthetic and orthotic devices and has a "Prosthetics and Orthotics Newsletter" available at <http://www.medical-devices.gov.uk/mda-dts2.htm>

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Silicon/Gel Systems Survey for Artificial Limb Services within Australia

The ALSA recently conducted a survey regarding the provision of Silicon/Gel Systems within Artificial Limb Services around Australia. The summary of the survey is available for viewing on the ALSA website www.alsa.org.au.

TechGUIDE 2000

Is now going to print. To ensure your copy contact **REHABTech**. Over 2400 components are now included. Even when going to print more components were being submitted that could not be included due to time constraints. However all are available on the web based interactive version which gets updated as new components pass the requirements for inclusion. Last year this was updated over 30 times. The site also includes downloads of the printed versions. The site can be accessed at <http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/techgui.htm>.

The on-line version is the most up to date edition of the **TechGUIDE**. Different search functions allow the browser to search quickly for upper limb body powered prosthetic components and lower limb prosthetic components including exo-skeletal components.

A 'quick find' list of recently added components allows the user to see what components have been added since the last printed edition. All information in the printed version appears on our web page along with links to suppliers and manufacturers. Users are encouraged to provide feedback on the listed components.

An interactive version of the TechGUIDE is also available for use with the QALS patient management system. It enables limbs to be designed using components from the TechGUIDE and then linked back to a patient and limb in QALS. For further information contact REHABTech.

Annual General Meeting of AOPA pre ISPO 2000

There will be an AGM of the Australian Orthotic & Prosthetic Association Inc. on Wednesday the 1st of November 2000, at 5 PM. (After the ALS Managers Meeting and Industry Feedback Forum)

Venue: Lecture Rooms 2/50 & 2/51, Eleanor Harrold Building
Royal Adelaide Hospital, Frome Road, Adelaide.

See <http://www.rah.sa.gov.au/aboutrah/rahmap.htm> for exact building location.

For Further details please contact Lorraine Hagaman (Executive Officer)

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COMING EVENTS

11th - 13th October	5 th Scientific Congress, Paralympic Games Sydney 2000 Telephone: (02) 9262 2277
18th October	NSW-ALS Prosthetic Advisory Committee meeting
18th - 29th October	Paralympic Games - Sydney, Tickets available 1300 364 024. For TTY users call (612) 9212 5950. For international callers call (61) 13 63 63
22nd - 24th October	Access Expo, Australian Technology Park Convention Centre, Sydney. Inquiries on (03) 9415 1200
1st November	ALSA Managers Meeting - Industry Feedback Forum 3pm - 5pm at the Barron Townhouse, Adelaide. Contact: Secretary ALSA Managers Forum C/- REHAB Tech
2 - 4th November	ISPO ASM (Adelaide) Telephone: (08) 8227 0252

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