

The Walking Wood Man

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INTRODUCTION:

The number of people succumbed to lower extremity amputations have vastly increased over the years. The main reasons of the amputations are diabetes mellitus, trauma and cancer. Patients with a new amputation face uphill challenges in their daily life and social stigmata from society making their rehabilitation program slower than expected. We report a case of an elderly man with a history of above knee amputation and the life changes he had after prosthesis.

CASE REPORT:

A 75 year old gentlemen presented to us 45 years ago with an traumatic left lower limb injury after a heavy object fell on his left leg when he was working. He had multiple debridements done over his left foot and ended up with a transfemoral amputation due to the concomitant vascular injury post trauma. He was wheelchair bounded for 3months after amputation and have stopped working due to the limited availability of prosthesis at the time. Subsequently, he made himself a wooden prosthesis after 2years and he resumed to his daily tasks and work. The wooden prosthesis lasted until now and patient was free from the complications post amputation without prosthesis. He is still remain active and able to continue his work due to the self made prosthesis. He also able to walk normally without the aid of any walking stick.



Figure 1: Patient with his own self made above knee prosthesis

DISCUSSIONS:

The lost of a limb is a catastrophic in the amputee life. The patient can suffered physically and emotionally post amputation. The invention of prosthesis serves as a life changer to all amputee life and ensure that patient not only have a good quality of life, it also serves a confidence boost in terms of cosmetic satisfaction. A good quality prosthesis can help patient back to their normal life, remains active and reduce the complications that might occur if patient bed bound after amputation.

REFERENCES:

1. Carolyne E Horne, Janice A.Neil. Quality of life in Patients with prosthetic legs: A comparison study