

Suspension Sleeves

General Description:

Suspension sleeves hold the prosthesis on the residual limb. They work by wrapping over both a portion of the prosthetic socket and the person’s limb. The friction created between the sleeve and the underlying limb and socket is what holds the prosthesis on the limb. Some suspension sleeves also rely on vacuum created by an airtight seal between the sleeve and underlying socket and limb. In this case, vacuum along with friction holds the prosthesis on.

Suspension sleeves come in a variety of materials. Your prosthetist will determine which sleeve is the best option for you.

Application:

1. Invert the suspension sleeve over the top of the prosthetic socket prior to putting on. (see figure 1) Place the limb into the prosthesis in the manner you were instructed by your prosthetist. (see figure 2)
2. Pull the sleeve up from around the socket and over the limb onto the thigh (see figures 3 and 4). Make certain the sleeve is pulled up fully and that there are no wrinkles remaining in the sleeve.(see figure 5)



Figure 1



Figure 2

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Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Removal:

To remove the prosthesis, the suspension sleeve is either rolled or pulled down over the prosthesis and the limb can then be lifted out of the socket.

Care and Maintenance:

Follow the manufacturer's instructions on cleaning and maintenance.

Tips and problem solving:

If you have any problems with the sleeve, or with putting the sleeve on properly, contact your practitioner.

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