

## Chopart and Symes Prostheses

### General Description

A Chopart amputation is a forefoot/midfoot level amputation (See figure 1). A Syme's amputation is an ankle disarticulation or basically through the ankle amputation (See figure 2). Both types of amputations allow weight bearing on the remaining part of the foot, which means that the person can put weight on the bottom of the foot and is able to walk short distances, stand in the shower, etc. without the assistance of a prosthesis. For this reason alone, this type of amputation is advantageous. The disadvantages are that it is more difficult to produce a prosthesis that is cosmetically appealing and there are less available options for a prosthetic foot.



Figure 1 Chopart Amputation

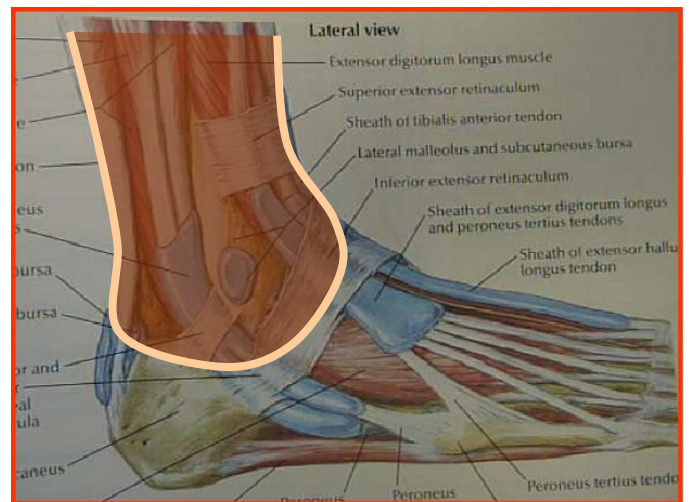


Figure 2 Symes Amputation

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Application

1. To apply the prosthesis, first a nylon sheath is pulled onto the limb. The sheath should be pulled up tightly without any wrinkles. The sheath helps to wick away moisture and reduce friction between the limb and the prosthesis. Some people prefer not to wear a sheath, which is acceptable as well.
2. Secondly, a prosthetic sock is pulled on over the sheath.
3. The limb is then pushed into the prosthetic socket.
4. The door is then closed and the velcro strap is tightened. Generally, a chopart prosthesis is made with the door on the back side (see figures 3 and 4) and a symes prosthesis is made with a door on the inside of the limb (see figures 5 and 6). One or two Velcro straps may be used to close the door.
5. When the door is tightened shut, there should be very little movement or pistoning within the socket. If it feels as though the limb is moving up and down, then an additional sock or thicker sock may be needed.



Figure 3 – Chopart prosthesis with door open



Figure 4 – Chopart prosthesis

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Figure 5 – Symes prosthesis



Figure 6 – Symes prosthesis

Care and Maintenance

The prosthetic socks and sheaths should be cleaned following that particular manufacturer’s directions. The prosthetic socket may be wiped out with warm, soapy water or alcohol as needed. Clean socks should be worn every day.

Tips and Problem Solving

Generally, the most difficult concept for an amputee to master is how to determine the correct sock ply to wear. Wearing the correct amount of socks is critical for comfort as well as safety. Your prosthetist and physical therapist will supply you with general guidelines in wearing socks, but if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact or visit your prosthetist.

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If there is movement or pistoning within the socket that cannot be remedied with sock adjustment, please see your prosthetist for an adjustment.

The Velcro straps may need to be replaced periodically when they become worn. Please see your prosthetist.

If you notice any red marks, bruising, or blisters on your skin or are experiencing pain, call your prosthetist immediately.

For further troubleshooting, see [BK Troubleshooting](#).

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