

## Below Knee Prosthesis

### Joint and Corset

#### General Description:

A joint and corset prosthesis is held on by a corset that is laced around the user's thigh and attached to the prosthesis using metal joints. A fork strap and waist belt may also be needed for additional suspension. A joint and corset is primarily used when another option cannot work or when the user is a previous wearer. A joint and corset is used when the user can tolerate very little weight bearing on the limb, has a very short residual limb, or has very weak muscles around the knee.



#### Application and Removal:

To apply the prosthesis, first a prosthetic sock is pulled onto the limb. The sock should be pulled up tightly without any wrinkles. Some patients may put on a nylon sheath first. The sheath helps to wick away moisture and reduce friction between the limb and the prosthesis. If a soft insert is being used, it may be necessary to pull the insert onto the limb at this time. This may vary depending on the shape of the limb. Some amputees may be able to leave the insert in the socket and not apply separately. The limb is then inserted through the top of the corset and down into the socket. Push the limb as far into the socket as possible. The corset is then laced up. It should be laced tight enough to achieve suspension, but not so tight as to cut off circulation. If a waist belt is also being worn, it is then attached and buckled around the waist.

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To remove the prosthesis, unlace the corset and lift the limb up and out of the prosthesis through the top of the corset.

**Care and Maintenance:**

The prosthetic socks and sheaths should be cleaned following that particular manufacturer's directions. The soft insert and the prosthetic socket may be wiped out with warm, soapy water or alcohol as needed. The leather corset may be cleaned with leather cleaner such as that used to clean leather shoes. 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.

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

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