

Amputee Performance Center

The Amputee Performance Center hosts a three-day seminar series for physical therapists, occupational therapists, and assistants focused on the specific needs of amputees. Our seminars are designed to provide therapists with the tools to maximize their patients' performance.

Seminars include morning lectures and afternoon patient contact sessions. Attendance is limited to ensure individual attention and detailed discussion.

Curriculum

Seminar One:

Acute Prosthetic Care

This seminar covers prosthetic care immediately after amputation up through early prosthetic fittings.

- Patient demographics and common co-morbidities
- Compressive dressing protocols and proper application
- Protective dressings
- Soft tissue complications: flexion contractures, adherent scars, and hypersensitivity
- Safety concerns: falls, cardiopulmonary stress associated with prosthetic use
- Initial prostheses: donning, doffing, care and wearing, and weight-bearing schedules
- Early gait training for lower-extremity amputees

Seminar Two:

Definitive Prosthetic Care

- Socket types
- Suspension systems
- Knees, ankles, and feet: indications, contra-indications, advantages, and disadvantages
- Evaluation of proper leg length and footwear
- Negotiating environmental barriers, stairs, curbs, uneven ground, recovering from a fall, swimming, sports, and running
- Common fitting and soft-tissue problems

Seminar Three:

Upper Extremity Care

This seminar will cover the advantages of various types of upper-extremity prostheses as well as required strengths, ROM, myotesting, and soft-tissue pressure tolerance.

- Passive, body-powered, and electric upper extremity prostheses
- Terminal device selection: hand vs. hook and why more than one are often required
- How the various types of prostheses are used, including stabilization, grasp, and developing a bimanual image.

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