

Non-Healing Amputation

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A non-healing amputation stump is the area where a body part (like a leg or toe) was removed but is not healing as expected. This can cause discomfort and other problems. In some cases, surgery may be needed to address non-healing stumps.

Signs and Symptoms

If you have a non-healing amputation stump, you might notice:

- Persistent pain in the stump
- Redness, swelling, or warmth in the stump
- Oozing or discharge from the stump
- Difficulty fitting the prosthesis (artificial limb)
- Open sores or ulcers on the stump

Causes of Non-Healing Amputation Stumps

Non-healing amputation stumps can occur for several reasons, including:

- *Poor blood flow:* When blood doesn't flow well to the stump area, it can slow down the healing process.
- *Infection:* Infections in the stump can prevent proper healing and lead to complications.
- *Skin breakdown:* The skin covering the stump can become damaged or irritated, making it hard for the wound to heal.
- *Pressure sores:* Constant pressure on the stump can cause sores that are difficult to heal.

When is Surgery Necessary?

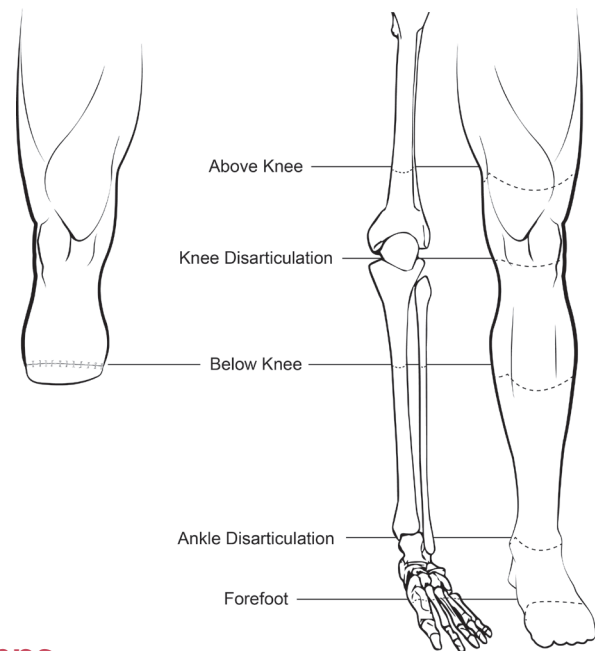
Most non-healing amputation stumps can be treated with wound care, medications, and other non-surgical methods. However, there are situations where surgery may be necessary:

- *Infection:* When an infection is deep or severe, surgery might be needed to remove infected tissue and prevent it from spreading.
- *Debridement:* In some cases, surgery can help by removing dead or damaged tissue to promote healing.
- *Revisions:* Stump revisions involve reshaping or adjusting the stump to better fit a prosthetic limb, which can improve comfort and function.
- *Vascular surgery:* If poor blood flow is causing the problem, surgery may be necessary to improve circulation to the stump.
- *Implants:* Some people may benefit from surgical implants that provide better attachment for prosthetic limbs.

Your healthcare team will carefully evaluate your situation and recommend the most appropriate treatment. They'll consider factors like your overall health and the specific issues with your stump.



It's essential to communicate openly with your healthcare provider if you have concerns about your non-healing amputation stump. They can provide guidance and help you make the best decisions for your recovery and quality of life.



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