



Below Knee Prostheses

There are many types of below knee prostheses. The type that an amputee is fit with depends on the shape of the residual limb, activity level, prognosis, and individual preference. First, the socket design is determined. The three main types of socket designs are:

- PTB or Patella Tendon Bearing (see below)
- 3S or Silicone Suction Suspension
- Vacuum Assisted

PTB or Patella Tendon Bearing

A patella tendon bearing socket allows the user to put weight on areas of the limb that can tolerate pressure, such as at the patella tendon (directly below the knee cap), and keeps the limb from bearing weight on areas which can cause problems such as on the very bottom of the limb. Almost all below knee amputees are candidates for the PTB design. In order to wear a PTB socket design, a method of suspension must be used to keep the prosthesis on the user's limb.

The most common methods of suspension with a patella tendon-bearing socket are:

- SC or Supracondylar
- SCSP or Supracondylar Suprapatellar
- Suspension Sleeve
- Suprapatellar Cuff and Waist Belt
- Joint and Corset