

What is Osseointegration?

Osseointegration is a surgical procedure that can be used as an alternative to traditional ways of attaching a prosthetic limb to an amputee. It involves implanting a metal rod into the femur that protrudes through the stump end to directly attach to the prosthetic limb and removes the need for a socket.



What are the benefits?

- Eliminates the need for a socket and associated issues
- Greater range of motion at the hip
- Ease of donning/doffing
- More comfort when sitting
- More control of the prosthesis
- Osseoperception (feeling transmitted from prosthesis to bone)

Contacts

Auckland Centre

7 Horopito Street, Mount Eden
Auckland 1024 New Zealand
FreePhone 0508 630 630
Email auckland@nzals.co.nz

Hamilton Centre

222 Pembroke Street
Hamilton 3204 New Zealand
FreePhone 0508 838 838
Email hamilton@nzals.co.nz

Wellington Centre

42-46 Mein Street, Newtown
Wellington 6021 New Zealand
FreePhone 0508 389 389
Email wellington@nzals.co.nz

Christchurch Centre

330 Burwood Road
Christchurch 8083 New Zealand
FreePhone 0508 383 383
Email christchurch@nzals.co.nz

Dunedin Centre

464 Cumberland Street
Dunedin 9016 New Zealand
FreePhone 0508 474 474
Email dunedin@nzals.co.nz

National Office

Phone (04) 385 9410
Email info@nzals.co.nz

www.nzals.co.nz



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NZALS

New Zealand Artificial Limb Service
Peke Waihangā, Aotearoa



FACT SHEET

Osseointegration



Produced with support from Limbs 4 Life Inc.

What's involved?

1. Referral and Funding

ACC Patients

Once all the assessments have been completed, ACC makes the ultimate decision on funding the procedure. Travel, accommodation and reimbursement for time off work will have to be discussed with your case manager.

DHB Patients

A referral with the Osseointegration cost will be sent to the DHB which you reside in. If appropriate, your DHB is responsible for funding the surgery and prosthetic components following Osseointegration. They will either support or reject the referral. If the referral is accepted, there are some funding streams to assist with accommodation and travel, however we can't guarantee to what extent these costs will be covered.

2. Assessment

This will take place in Christchurch. You will meet with the Orthopaedic surgeon, Clinical Prosthetist, Physiotherapist, Clinical Psychologist and Occupational Therapist who will assess your suitability for the procedure.

3. Surgery

The surgery is performed in 2 stages, approximately 8 weeks apart. Your old prosthesis can't be worn between surgeries which means along period of using crutches and/or wheelchair. Each surgery takes place at Burwood Hospital in Christchurch and each inpatient stay is usually for 1-2 days.

4. Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation takes place in 3 phases and requires a large time commitment.

Phase 1

Begins 5-7 days following stage 2 surgery and consists of loading increasing weight through the implant. At the end of this phase, you will be fitted with a basic prosthesis (locked knee) and be able to walk with crutches. You can then return home for a 10-14 day break.

Phase 2

Following the break, you will return to Christchurch to be fitted with your definitive prosthesis and begin early rehab on this.

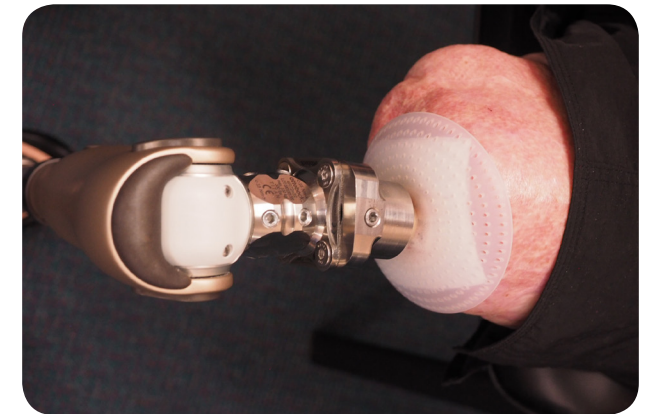
Phase 3

Return home with ongoing rehab and support from your local limb centre.



Considerations

- There are some medical conditions and patient specific considerations that may limit suitability.
- Caring for your stoma (the part where the implant exists through the skin) will be a lifelong commitment because there is an incomplete biological seal between the implant and the skin, which increases the risk of infection.
- It is recommended that the stoma isn't fully immersed in water especially in public swimming pools.
- You cannot participate in any high impact activities such as running or jumping after having Osseointegration.



Want to know more?

Please speak with your Prosthetist if Osseointegration is something you would like to consider. If they think you would benefit, they will arrange for you to attend a clinic to discuss further. To read further about Osseointegration, please visit our website www.nzals.co.nz

