

Types of Amputation

**Lower Limb Amputations**

Lower limb amputations vary from the partial removal of a toe to the loss of the entire leg and part of the pelvis. The following list provides a summary of the typical forms of lower limb amputation:

- **Partial foot amputation** – this commonly involves the removal of one or more toes. This amputation will affect walking and balance.

- **Ankle disarticulation** – an amputation of the foot at the ankle, leaving a person still able to move around without the need for a prosthesis.

- **Below knee amputations (transtibial)** – an amputation of the leg below the knee that retains the use of the knee joint.

- **Through the knee amputations** – the removal of the lower leg and knee joint. The remaining stump is still able to bear weight as the whole femur is retained.

- **Above knee amputation (transfemoral)** – an amputation of the leg above the knee joint.
• Hip disarticulation – the removal of the entire limb up to and including the femur. A variation leaves the upper femur and hip joint for better shape/profile when sitting

• Hemipelvectomy (transpelvic) – the removal of the entire limb and the partial removal of the pelvis

Upper Limb Amputations

Upper limb amputations vary from the partial removal of a finger to the loss of the entire arm and part of the shoulder. The following list provides a summary of the typical forms of upper limb amputation:

• Partial hand amputation - amputations can include fingertips and parts of the fingers. The thumb is the most common single digit loss. The loss of a thumb inhibits the ability to grasp, manipulate or pick up objects grasping ability. When other fingers are amputated, the hand can still grasp but with less precision.

• Metacarpal Amputation – this involves the removal of the entire hand with the wrist still intact

• Wrist disarticulation – this form of amputation involves the removal of the hand and the wrist joint

• Below elbow amputation (transradial) – the partial removal of the forearm below the elbow joint
• Elbow disarticulation – the amputation of the forearm at the elbow.

• Above elbow amputation (transhumeral) - the removal of the arm above the elbow

• Shoulder disarticulation and forequarter amputation is the removal of the entire arm including the shoulder blade and collar bone.

Images courtesy of Otto Bock Healthcare