

Limb loss: types of amputation

Amputation refers to the removal of a limb or part thereof. Usually amputation is a surgical measure used to control pain or disease process in the affected limb such as infection, though in some cases an amputation is carried out on individuals as preventative surgery. Amputation should only be considered if the limb is non-viable or non-functional.

Appropriate amputation surgery can successfully remove a dysfunctional or painful limb and can reduce further threat to health, for example from gangrene, ischemia or infection. In many cases it can also allow effective rehabilitation using a prosthetic limb in order to restore function.

Different types of amputation

Upper limb amputation

Ranging from removal of part of a finger to removal of the entire arm and part of the shoulder.

Partial hand amputation

Removal of fingertips and other parts of the fingers

Metacarpal amputation

Removal of the entire hand but excluding the wrist

Wrist disarticulation

Removal of the hand and the wrist joint

Below elbow amputation – transradial

Partial removal of the forearm below the elbow joint

Elbow disarticulation

Removal of the entirety of the forearm at the elbow

Above elbow amputation – transhumeral

Removal of the arm above the elbow

Shoulder disarticulation/forequarter amputation

Removal of the entire arm including the shoulder blade and collarbone

Lower limb amputations

Ranging from removal of a single toe to the removal of the entire leg and part of the pelvis.

Partial foot amputation

The removal of one or more toes

Ankle disarticulation

Amputation of the foot at the ankle

Below knee amputation – transtibial

Amputation of the leg below the knee but retaining the knee joint

Through the knee amputations/knee disarticulation

Removal of the lower leg and knee joint

Above knee amputation – transfemoral

Amputation of the leg above the knee joint

Hip disarticulation

Removal of the entire limb up to and including the femur

Hemipelvectomy – transpelvic

The removal of the entire limb and partial removal of the pelvis

If you have any questions for our specialist amputations team, please get in touch..

Call us for free on:
0800 923 2068

Or email:
limbloss@roydswithyking.com

More information is available
on our website at:
roydswithyking.com/limb-loss