



Application Instructions for Transtibial Shrinker

The transtibial shrinker is used postoperatively for below knee amputation. The purpose of the shrinker is to control the swelling that is common following amputation surgery and provide the medical attendant the ability to inspect the wound.



A sterile non-adherent dressing such as an Adaptic or Tefla Pad is applied to any open or draining areas of the wound **only for the first 3-4 days post surgery.**

A Soft Cling “conforming bandage” is then gently applied to the distal aspect of the residual limb. Use only as much bandage as necessary. Avoid a bulky accumulation of bandage material. In the above right illustration, the Soft Cling bandage has been applied with even and slight compression to the distal tissues.



A Soft Sock (a two ply, two way stretch sock) is applied snugly over the limb (Sock #1).

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Continuity of Care Document

Physician Orders Attached




Next, an elastic stockinette or beige Compressogrip is applied to the residual limb (Sock #2). It is pulled on to the thigh above the knee cap by 3-4 inches and marked with a line at the end of the residual limb. It is then twisted snugly about 90 degrees and reflected back up towards the knee cap. It should end just below the knee cap.

When the patient is lying in bed, a Velcro knee immobilizer should be used to prevent knee flexion contractures. When the patient is sitting, walking with a walker, or involved in physical therapy, the knee immobilizer should be removed.



This step is not necessary at this time



Physician's Orders:

Patient: _____

- *The shrinker should be removed daily and the wound checked for proper healing.*
- *The shrinker should be re-applied using the above-described procedure.*

Physician signature: _____ *Date* _____

If you should have any problems or questions regarding the proper application of the transtibial shrinker, please call American Orthopedics at (614) 291-6454. Please call with d/c information
