

Evaluation of the Upper Extremity Amputee and Levels of Amputation

Heikki Uustal, MD
JFK-Johnson Rehab Institute
Edison, NJ

Do I really need to see this?



Etiology of Upper Limb Amputation

- Trauma
- Cancer
- Infection
- Burns
- Congenital

Epidemiology -incidence

- Approx. 130,000 amputations per year in US
- 80-100,000 major amputations (>90% are lower limb BK 2/3, AK 1/3)
- Dysvascular disease= 82% (97% lower limb)
- Trauma = 16 % (68 % are upper limb)
- Cancer = <1 % (75% are lower limb)
- Congenital = < 1 % (60% are upper limb)
- 6-10,000 upper limb amputations per year

Epidemiology-prevalence

- Approx 1.6 million amputee survivors in US (2005)
- Only 32% are diabetic/dysvascular with higher prevalence in males and African Americans
- The majority are trauma related
- Age groups?

Morbidity- traumatic

- Revision surgery in trauma = 14 %
- Wound infection rate= 34%
- Risk of heterotopic bone/bone spurs is near 100% in thru bone amputations

Evaluation of the Patient

Injury History:

- Cause of amputation
- Hospital course, time frame
- Repeated surgical procedure
- Skin grafts, muscle flaps
- Nerve injury (brachial plexus, peripheral nerve)
- Other injuries (ortho, spine, brain)

Evaluation of the Patient

Pain History:

- Pain prior to amputation
- Pain related to surgery/procedures
- Phantom sensations
- Phantom pain
- Treatment for each of the above

Evaluation of the Patient

Social History:

- Social support system
- Involvement of support system
- Work history
- Contact/Discussions with employer
- Patient concerns about family, friends, employer
- Financial issues
- Education level

Evaluation of the Patient

Psychological History:

- Prior psychological issues (depression, previous disabilities)
- Current feelings about amputation
- Future concerns about function
- Body image issues
- Concepts about prosthesis
- Previous experience with prosthesis

Evaluation of the Patient

Avocational Activities History:

- Family Responsibilities
- Sports / Fitness
- Intimacy / Sex
- Driving
- Outdoor activities (swimming)
- Hobbies

Evaluation of the Patient

Physical Exam:

- Single limb vs. Multiple limb involvement
- Dominant vs. Non-Dominant limb loss
- Single limb loss – Examine remaining limb first in detail proximal and distal (makes exam of involved limb easier for doctor and patient)
- Check spinal alignment

Evaluation of the Patient

Physical Exam of the involved limb:

- Level of amputation, bone length
- Skin and soft tissue integrity
- Skin grafting or scarring
- Adherent skin
- Tenderness to palpation
- Sensation throughout

Evaluation of the Patient

Physical exam of the involved limb:

- Shoulder girdle muscles: (trapezius, rhomboids, pectoralis, latissimus, supraspinatus, infraspinatus, subscapularis, deltoid)
- Shoulder A/PROM: glenohumeral joint (FL, Ext, Abd, Add, IR, ER), scapulo-thoracic rotation and stability
- Cervical spine mobility

Evaluation of the Patient

Physical exam of the involved limb:

- Elbow motor (Fl, Ext)
- Elbow A/PROM (Fl, Ext)
- Wrist motor/ROM (Flex, Ext, Pron, Sup)
- Any remaining segments of hand

Introduce the P&O Team Concept

- Patient
- Physiatrist
- Prosthetist
- Physical Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Social Service
- Psychologist
- Vocational Counselor
- Case Manager

Review the Rehab Issues and Plans

Education – Pre-prosthetics Program:

- Need for early therapy to mobilize joints and maintain strength
- Regain independence in self-care and mobility
- Residual limb shaping and shrinking
- Pain control
- Psychological issues
- Buddy system with other patients

Review the Rehab Issues and Plans

Education – Prosthesis:

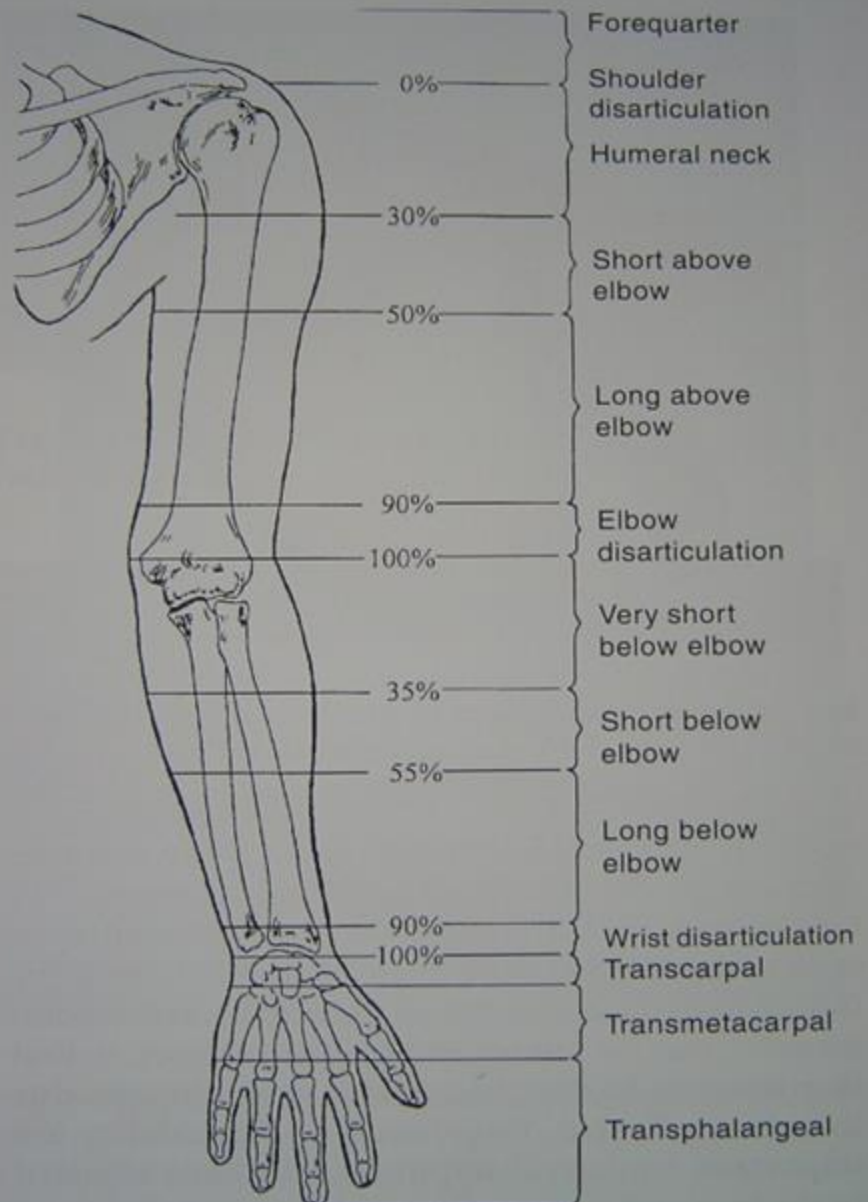
- Explain about fitting/fabricating prosthesis and component selection
- Explain cosmetic vs. functional issues
- Inquire about insurance coverage for prosthesis
- Clarify patient concerns or misconceptions about prosthesis

Review the Rehab Issues and Plans

Long term Management:

- Lifetime comprehensive management by P&O Team
- Skin tolerance issues
- Return to driving
- Return to work/school
- Return to avocational activities and sports

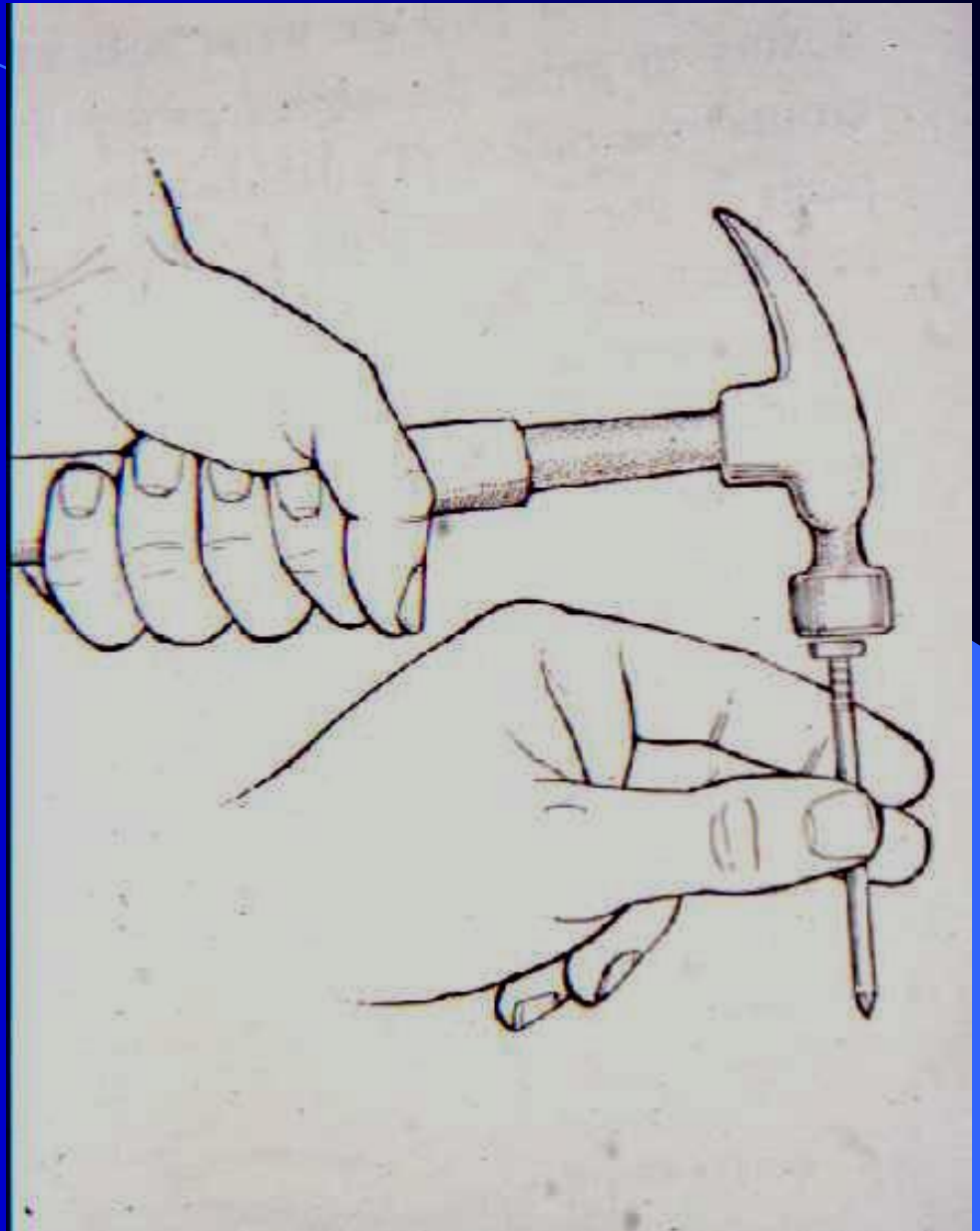
Levels of Amputation



Functional Impact of Finger Amputation

- Thumb → Opposition
- Index and Middle → Fine motor
- Fourth and Fifth → Power Grip

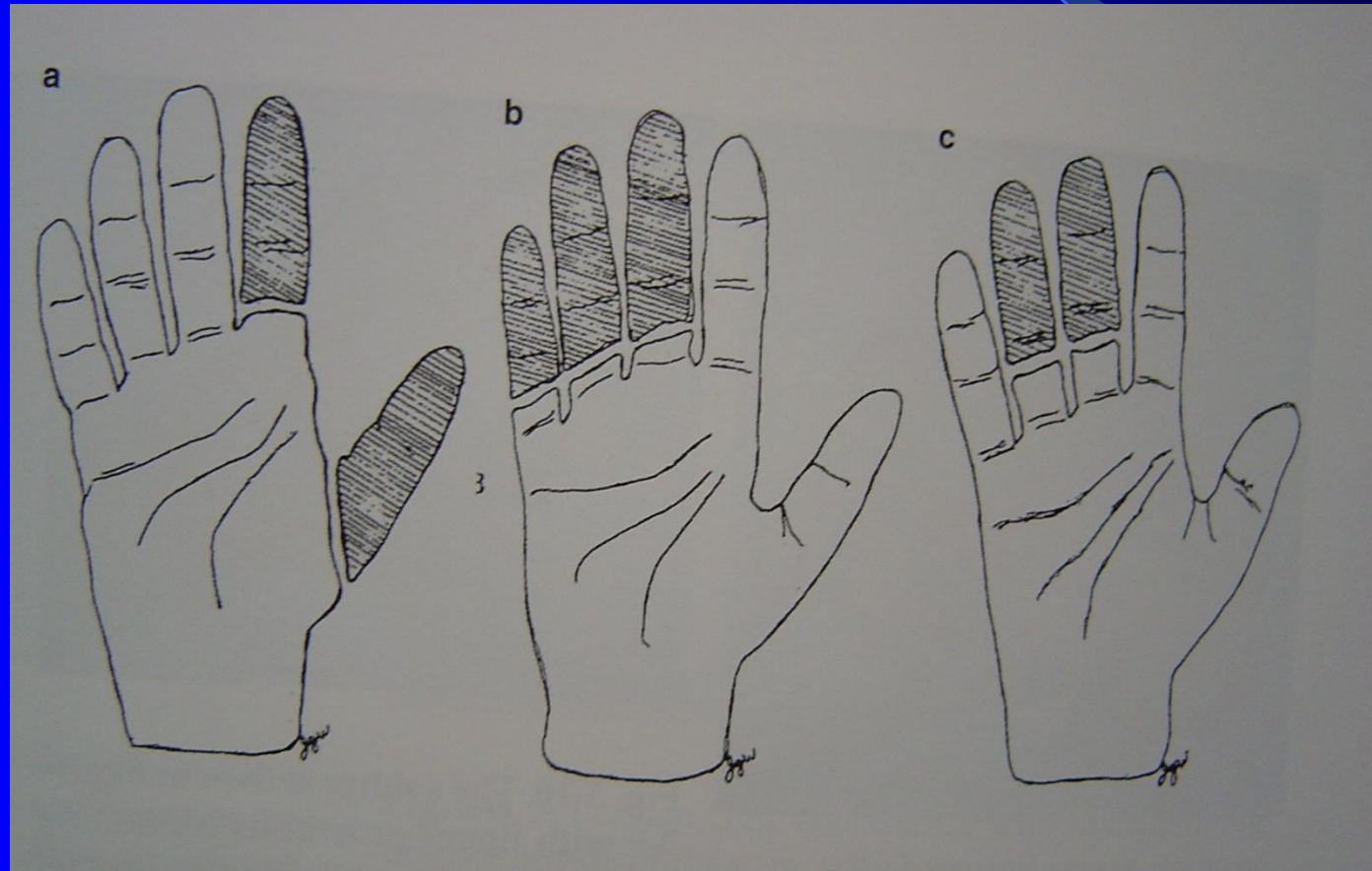
Finger Pinch and Gross Grasp



Single Digit Amputation



Multiple Finger Amputations



Multiple Finger Amputation



Functional Hook Grasp



Multiple Digit Burns



Multiple Digit Amputation



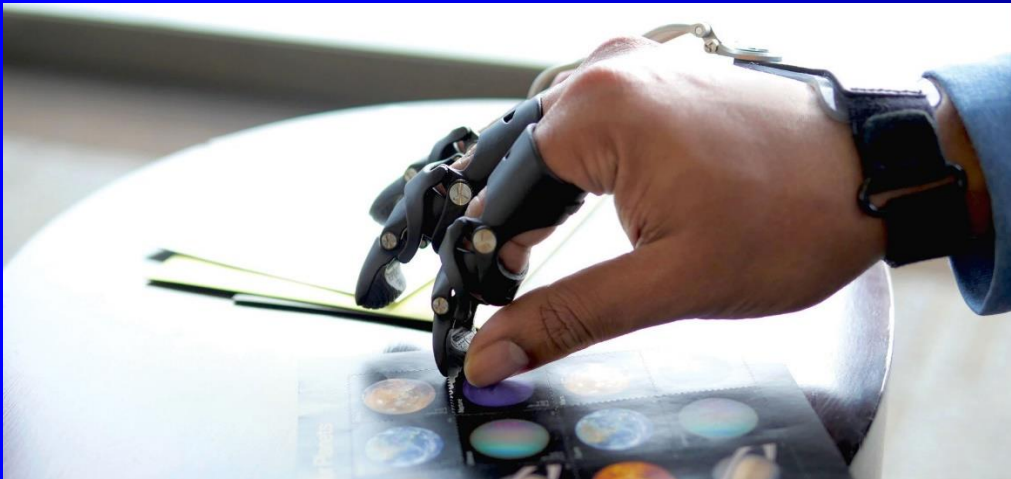
Functional Tip pinch



Functional Gross Grasp



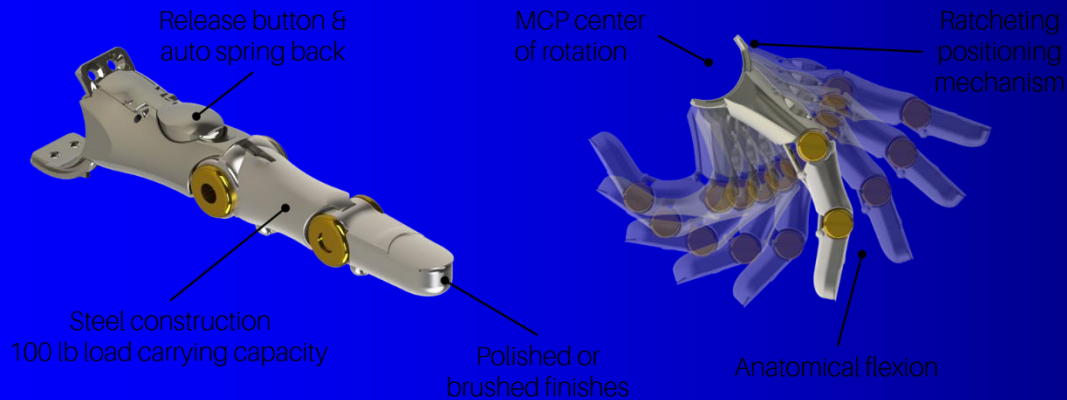
PIP driver



MCP driver



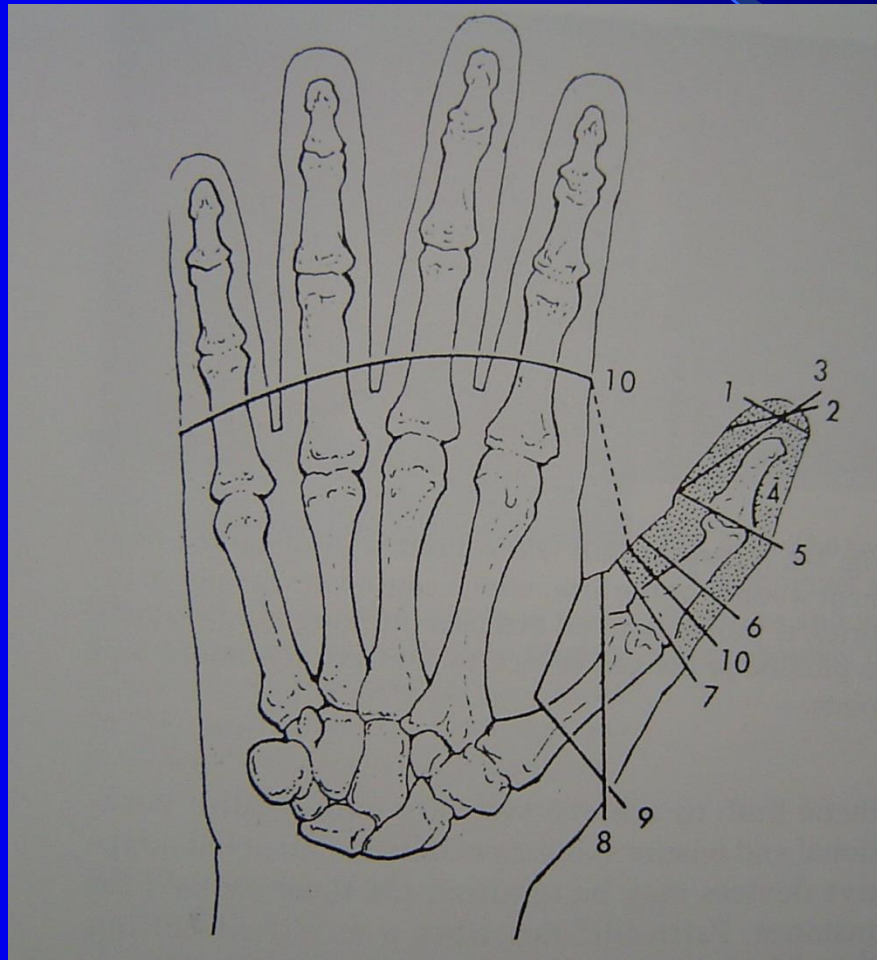
Point Design ratcheting fingers



Multiple Finger Amputation



Levels of Thumb Amputation



Partial Thumb Amputation Deepen First Web Space



Functional Gross Grasp



Finger Tip Pinch for Fine Motor Skills



Partial Thumb Prosthesis



Full Thumb Prosthesis



Thumb Prosthesis



Trans-metacarpal Amputation



Myo-electric partial hand



Trans-metacarpal Amputation



Trans-metacarpal Amputation



Electrocution Injury



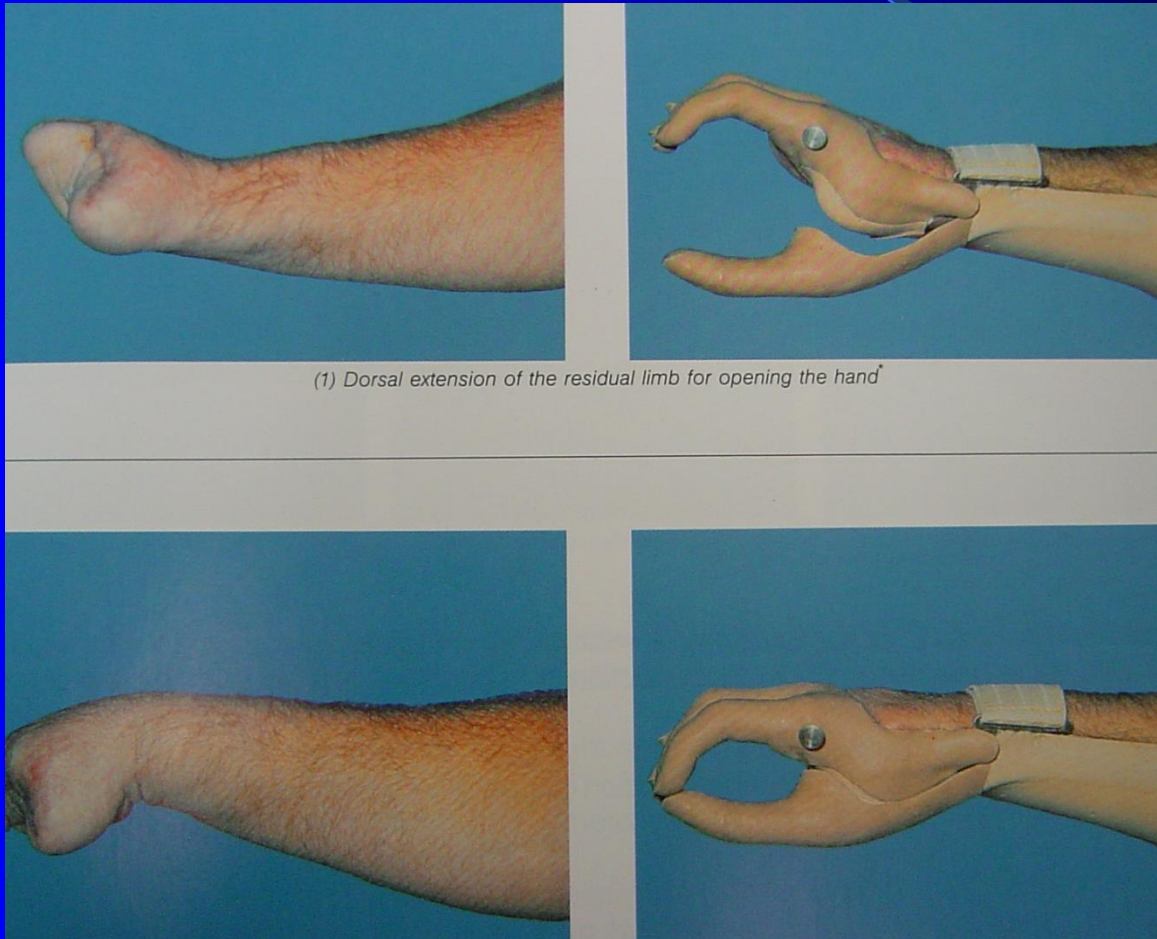
Partial Hand Prosthesis



Mitt Amputation with Burns



Mitt Amputation Prosthesis



Hand Amputation and Re-implantation



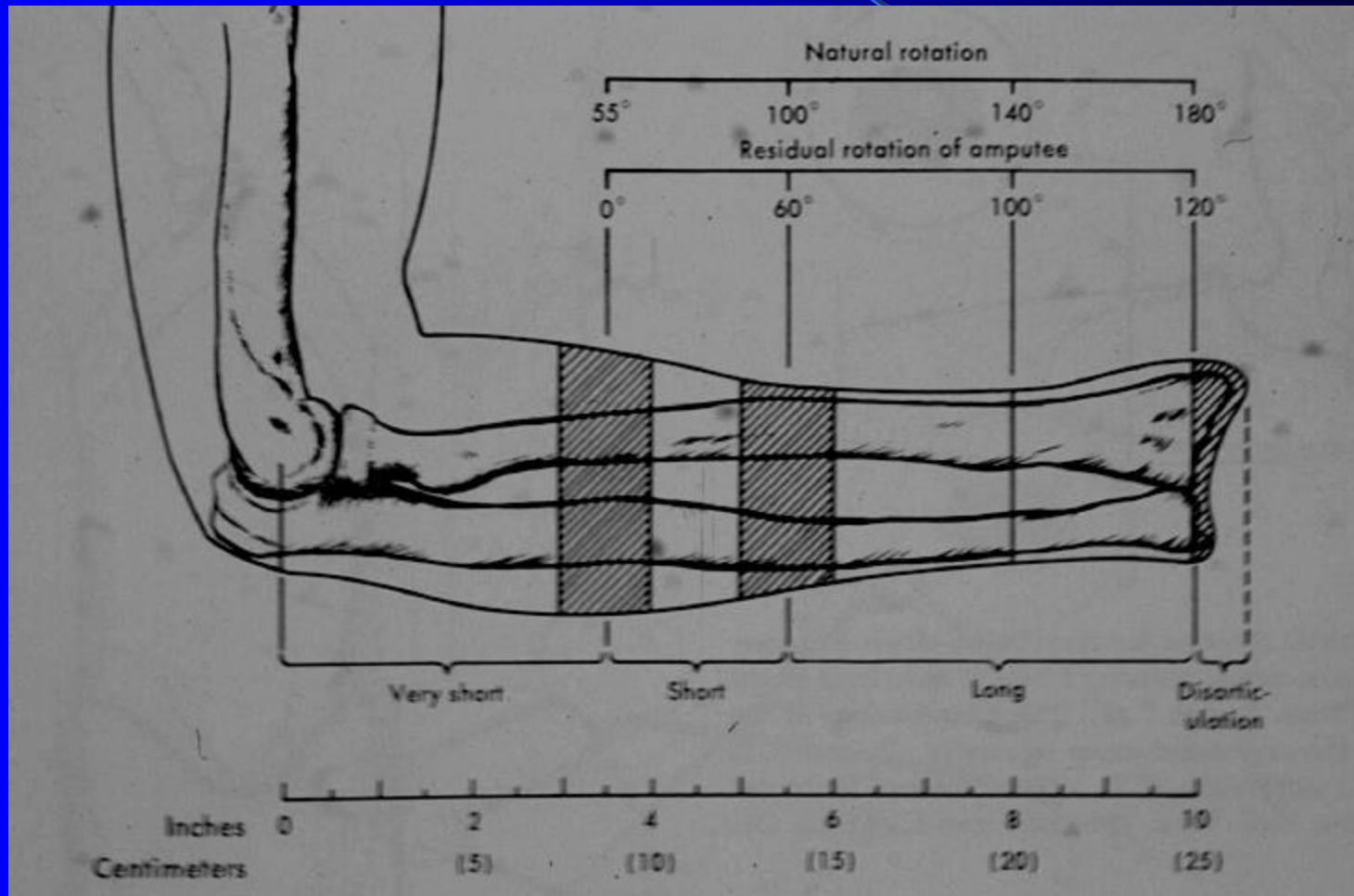
Functional Hand?



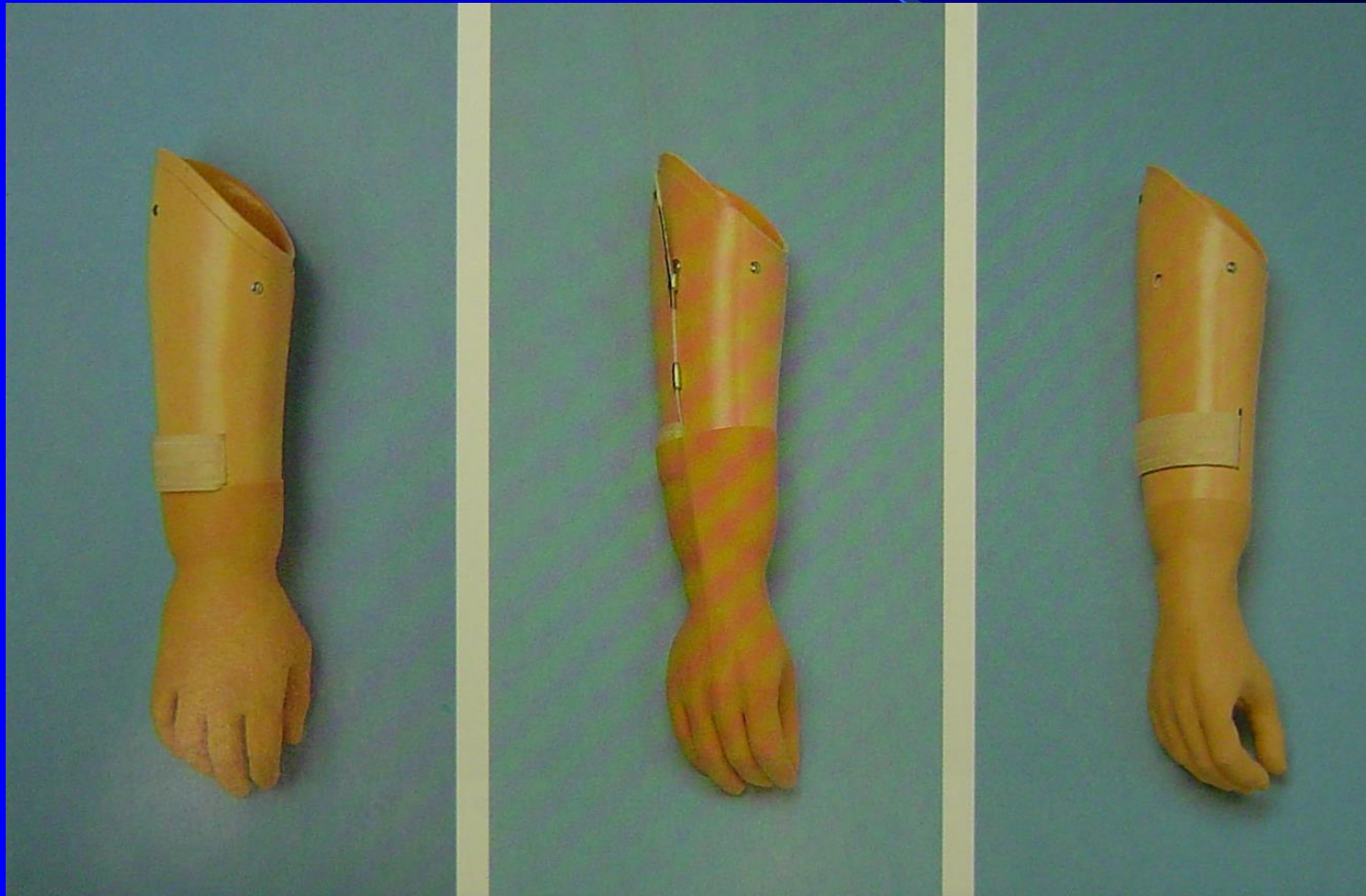
Wrist Disarticulation Amputation

- Advantages: Maximum Pronation/Supination
Maximum leverage for lift/push
- Disadvantages: Bulky distal end
Poor prosthetic cosmesis
Need 3-4 cm for wrist unit

Degrees of Pronation



Wrist Disartic Prosthetic Options (cosmetic, cable, myo)



Wrist Disarticulation Amp



Wrist Disartic Prosthesis Body-powered Socket Fitting

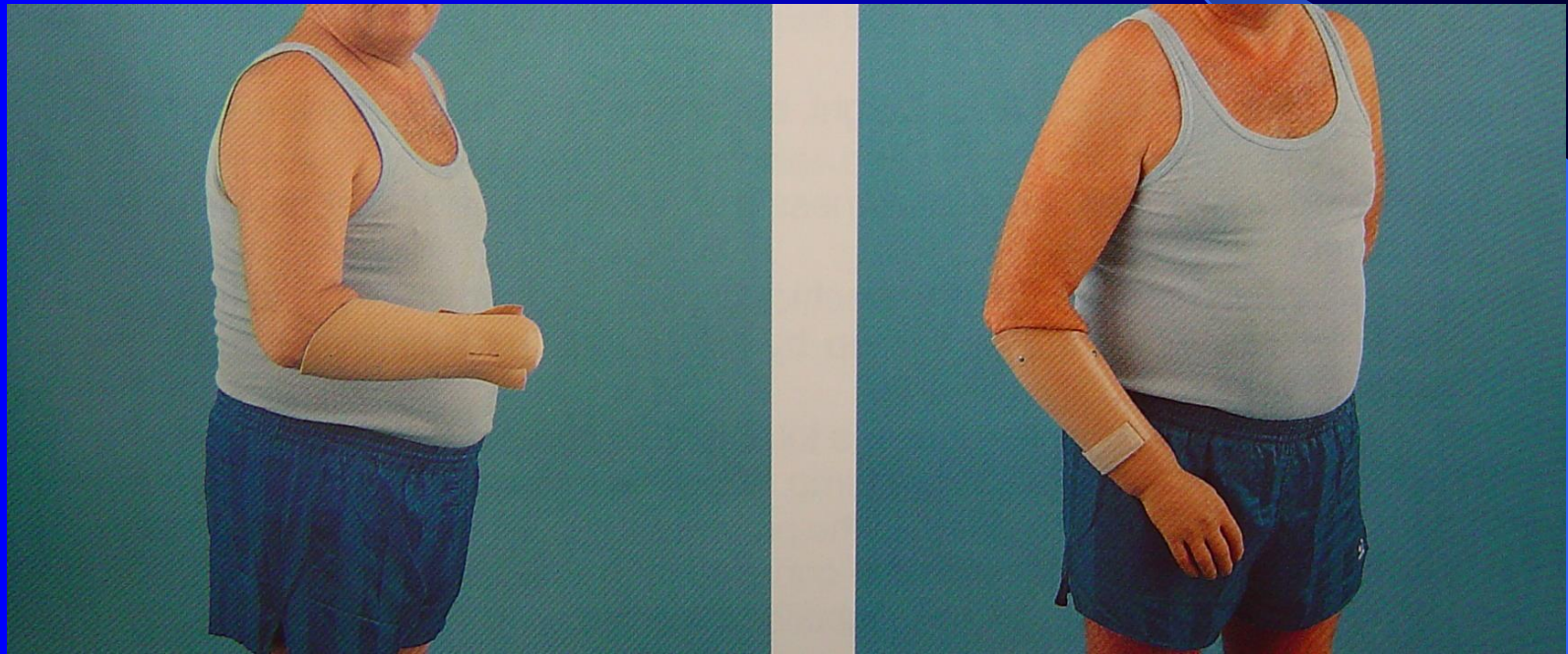


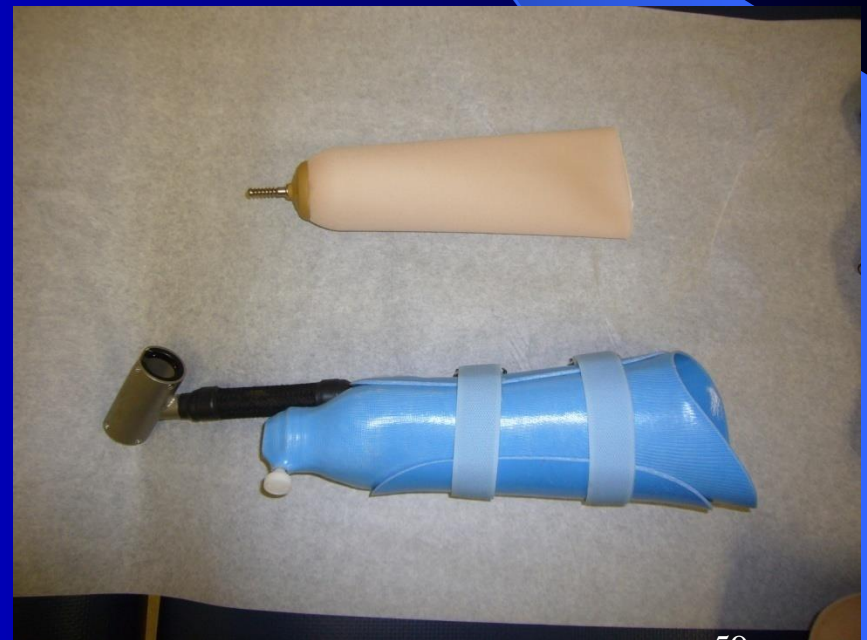
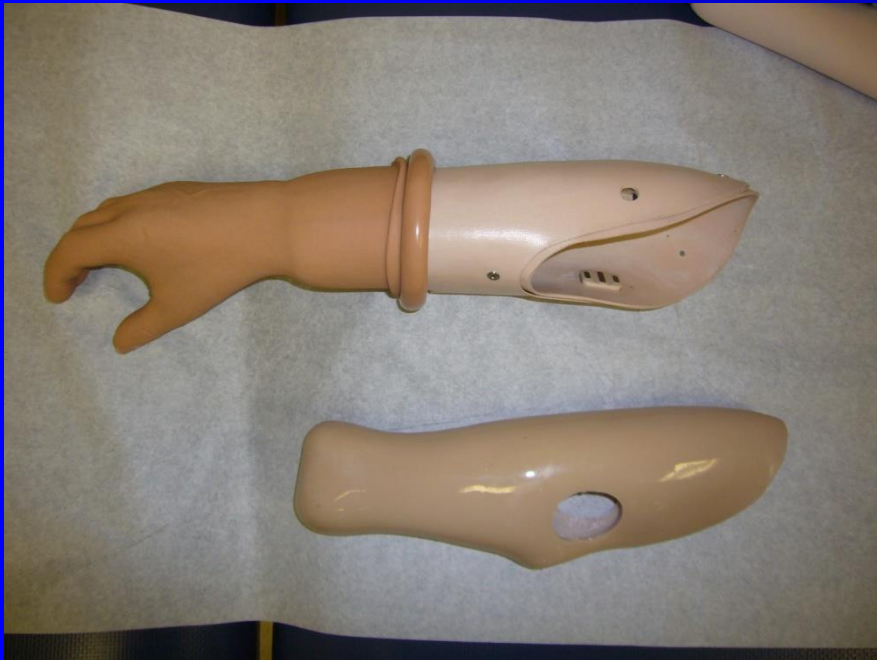
Figure-9 Harness with Control Cable to Terminal Device



Wrist Disartic Myo-electric Self-suspending Socket



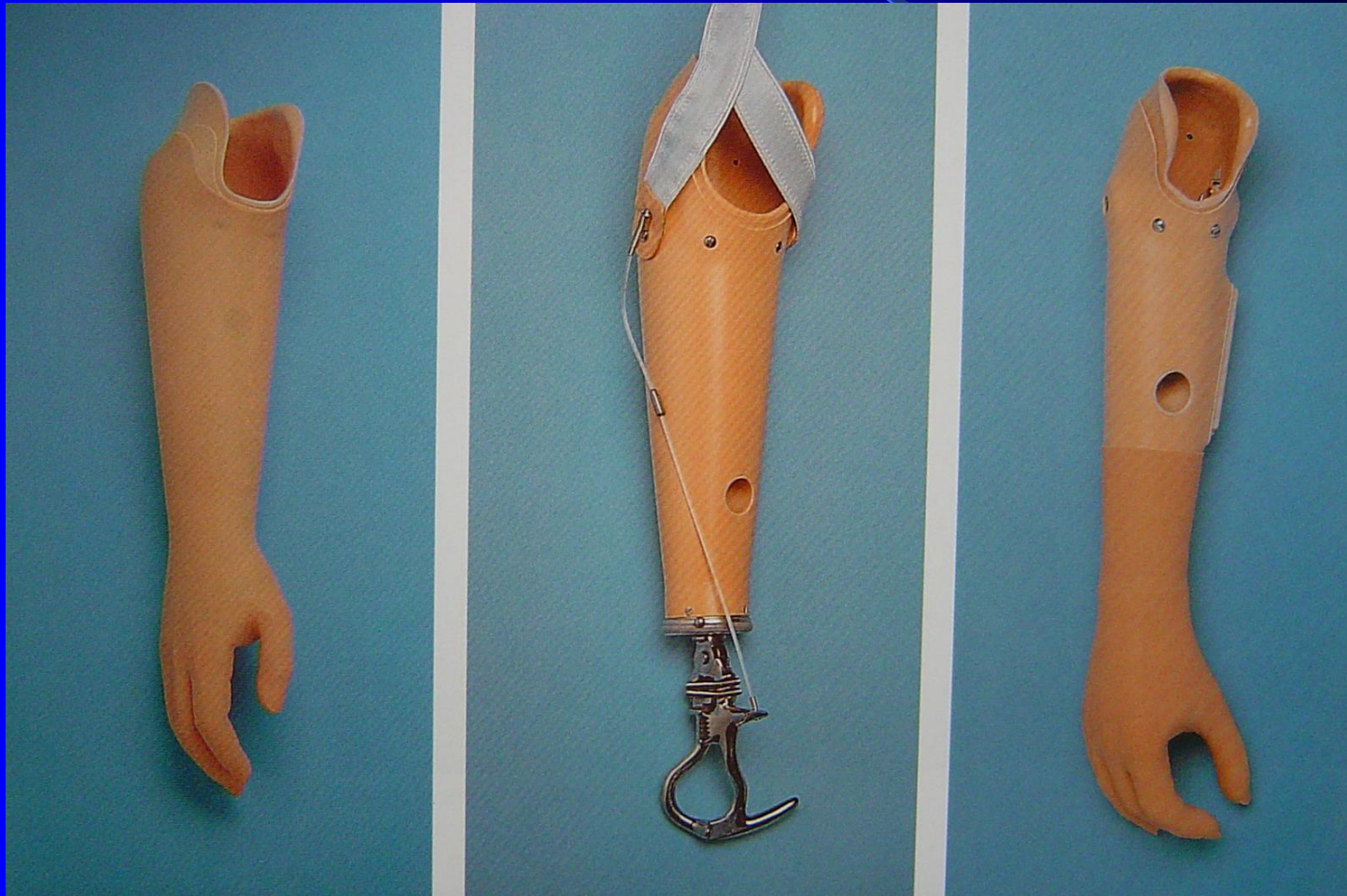
Wrist Dis-artic Prostheses



Trans-radial Amputation

- Long = 55-90 % of radius intact
 - Ideal length for function and cosmesis
 - Maintains most of pron/sup and leverage
- Short = 35-55 % of radius intact
 - Still very functional and fittable
- Very short = 0-35 % of radius
 - Difficult socket fit and limited function

Trans-radial Prosthetic Options (cosmetic,cable,myo)



Long Trans-radial Amputee



Long Trans-radial Amputation



Long Trans-radial Cable Prosthesis



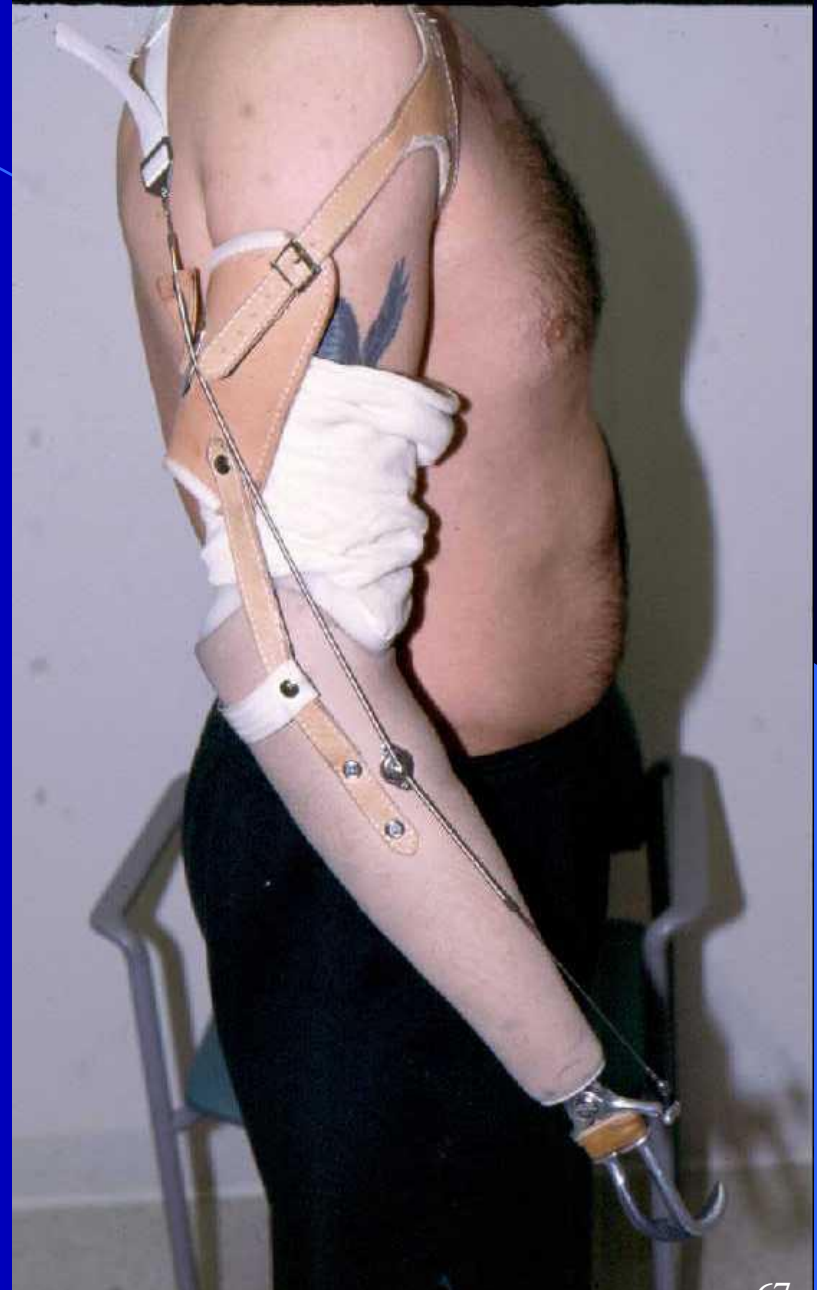
Figure-8 Harness



Short Trans-Radial Amp



Cable- Powered Trans-radial Prosthesis



Very Short Trans-radial Amputee



Krukenburg Reconstruction



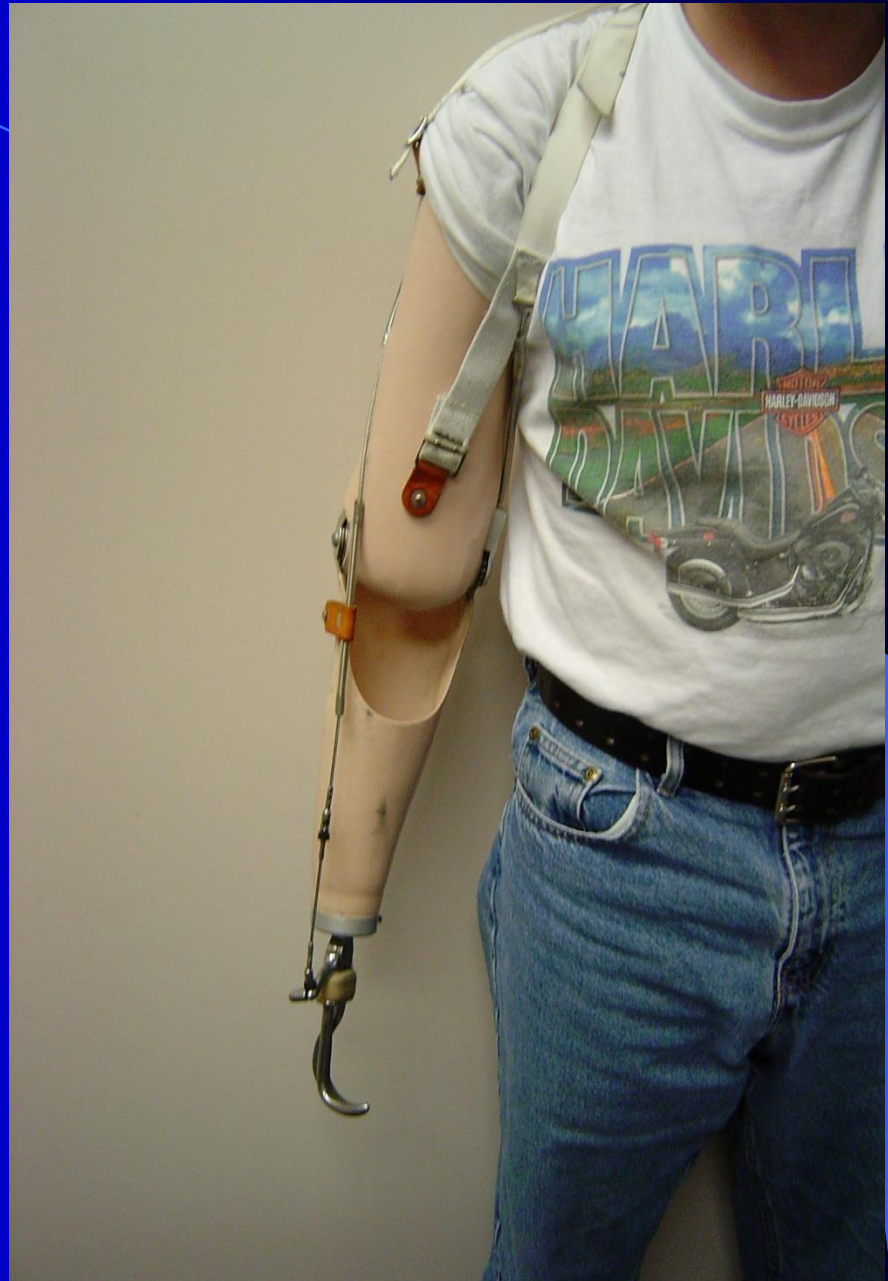
Elbow Disarticulation Amputation

- Advantages: Maximum leverage for lift/push
Humeral condyles assist with suspension
- Disadvantages: Bulky distal end
Poor prosthetic cosmesis
Must use external elbow joints
Need 4-5 cm for electric elbow

Elbow Disarticulation



Elbow Disartic Cable- powered Prosthesis



Elbow Disartic Prosthesis with Harness



Elbow Disartic Myo-electric Prosthesis with test socket



Smart idea?



Elbow Disarticulation Amp



Elbow Disarticulation Cable Prosthesis with external elbow joints

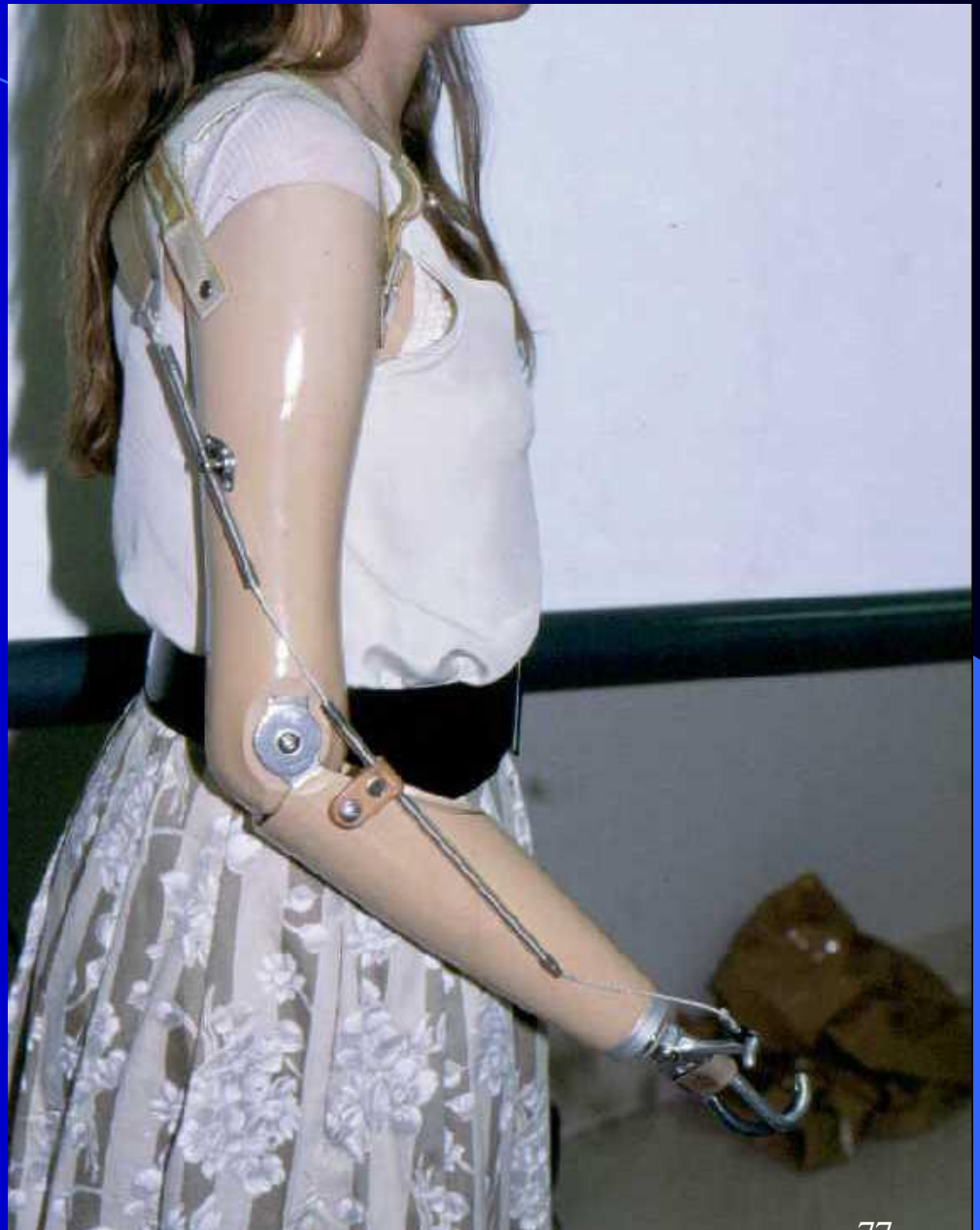


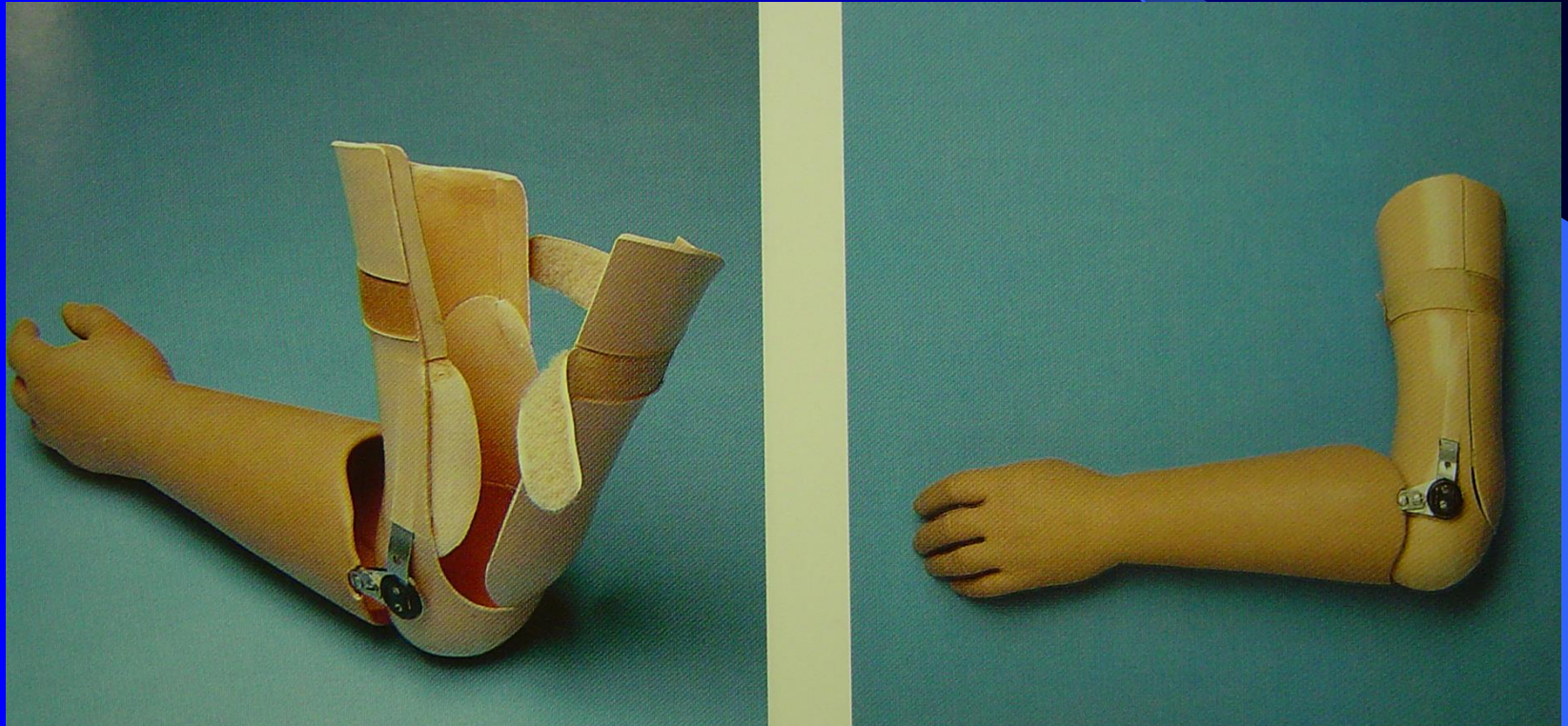
Figure-8 Harness Plus Suspension Straps and External Locking Elbow Joint



Hybrid Elbow Disartic Prosthesis with cable to elbow and myo- hand



Elbow Disartic Prosthesis Bi-valve Socket



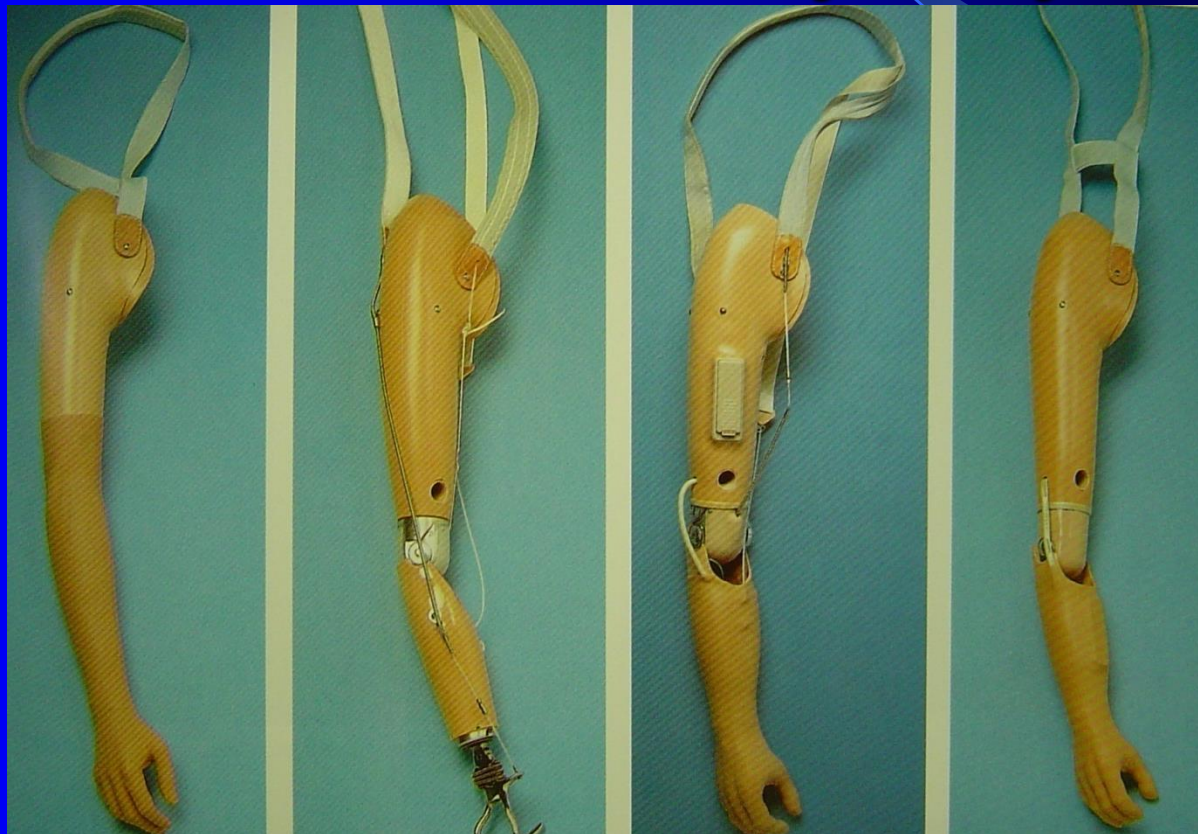
Elbow Disartic with Brachial Plexus Injury



Trans-humeral Amputation

- Long = 50-90 % of humerus intact
Ideal length for function and cosmesis
- Short = 30-50 % of humerus intact
Limited leverage for lift/push
Socket design now limits shoulder motion
- Very short = Humeral neck = 0-30 % intact
Fitted as shoulder disarticulation

Trans-humeral Prosthetic Options (cosmetic, cable, myo, hybrid)



Trans-humeral Socket Design

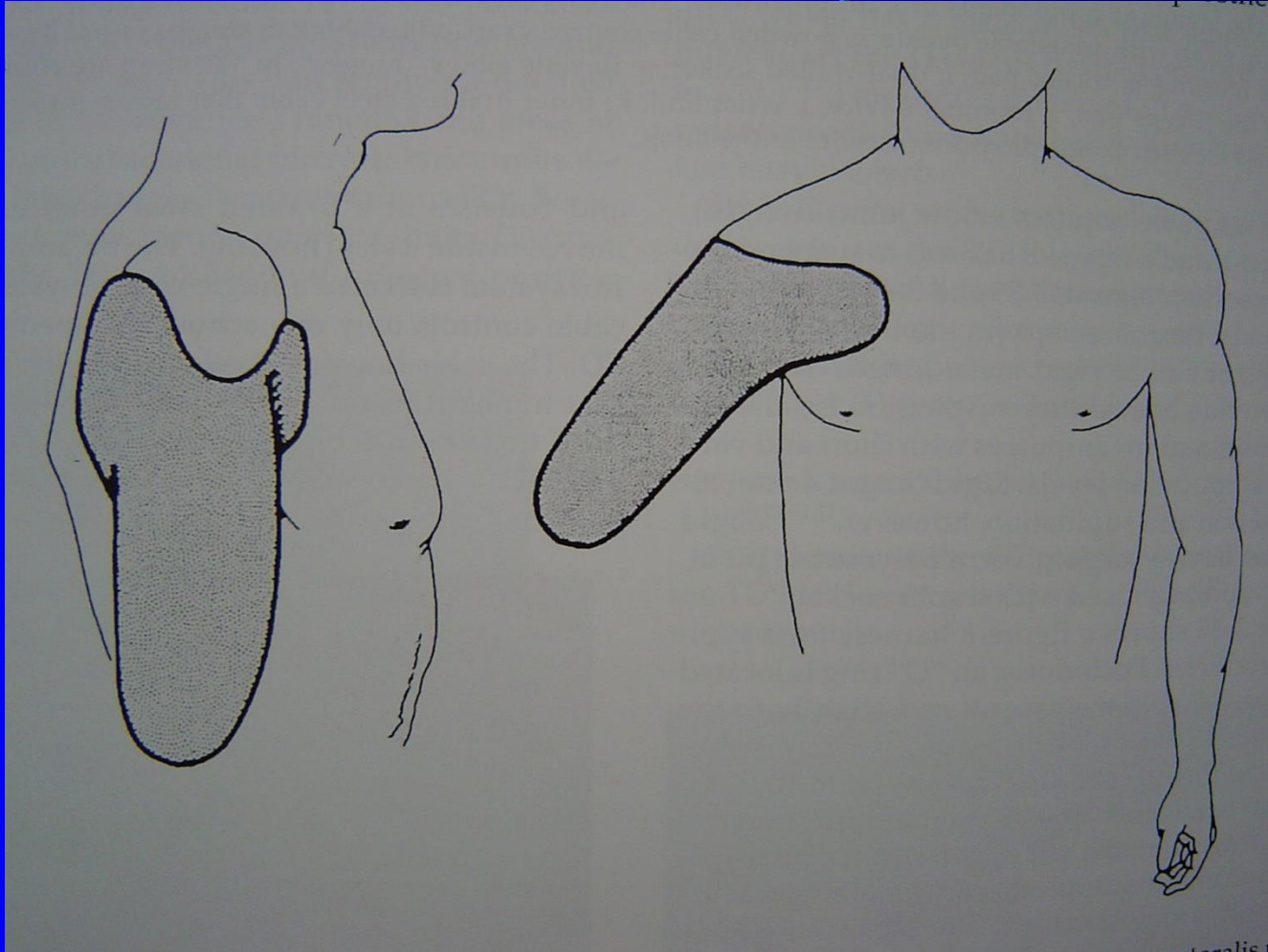
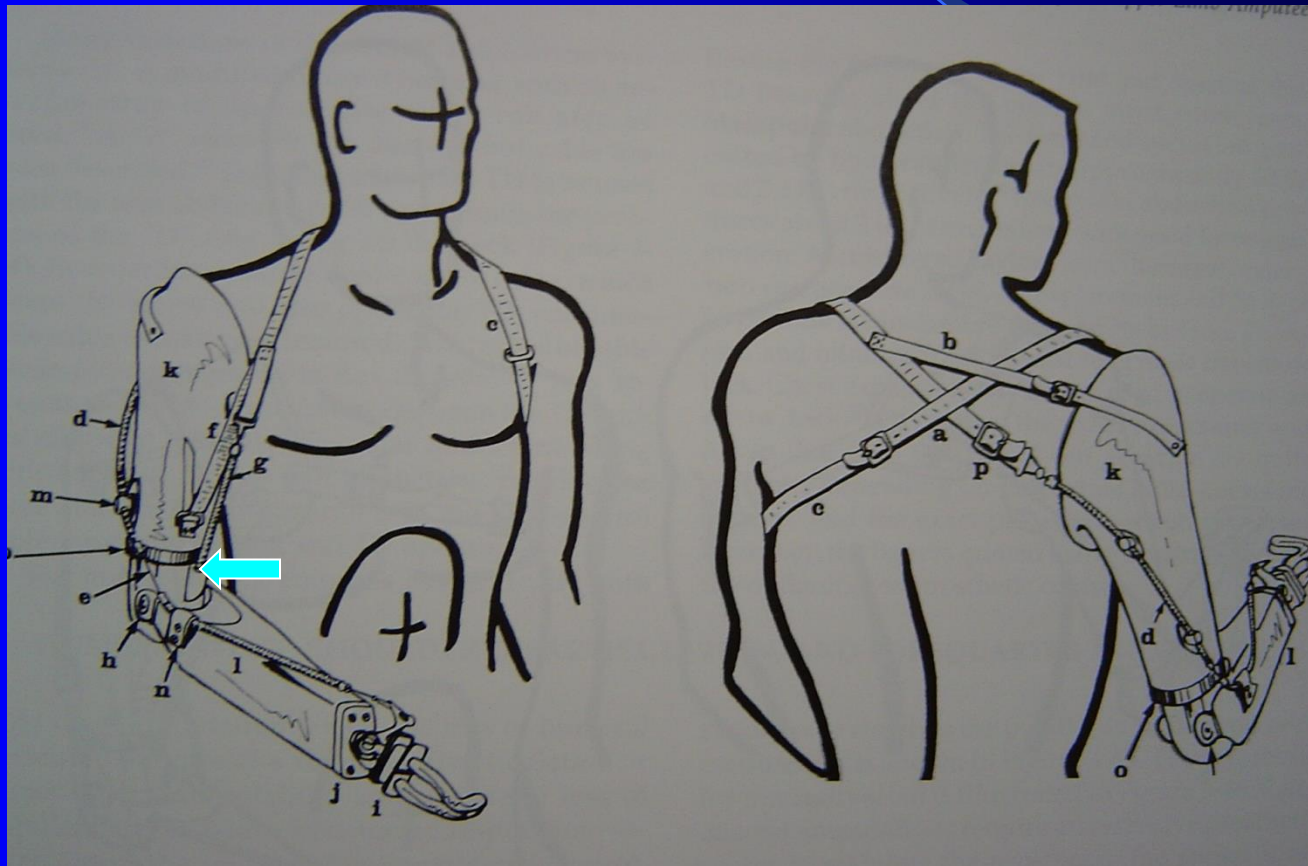


Figure-8 Harness on Trans-humeral Prosthesis



Long Trans-humeral Amputee



Long Trans-humeral Amputee



Trans-humeral Prosthesis



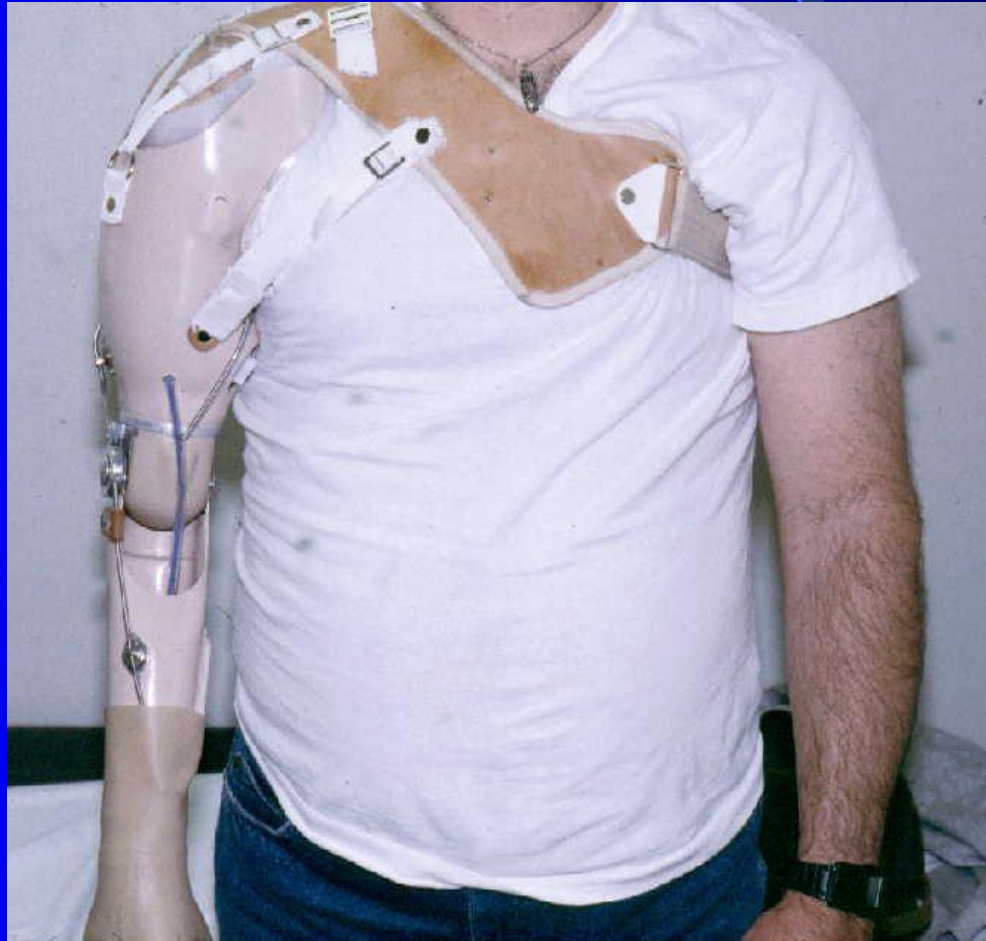
Trans-humeral Prosthesis with Hybrid Control (cable elbow)



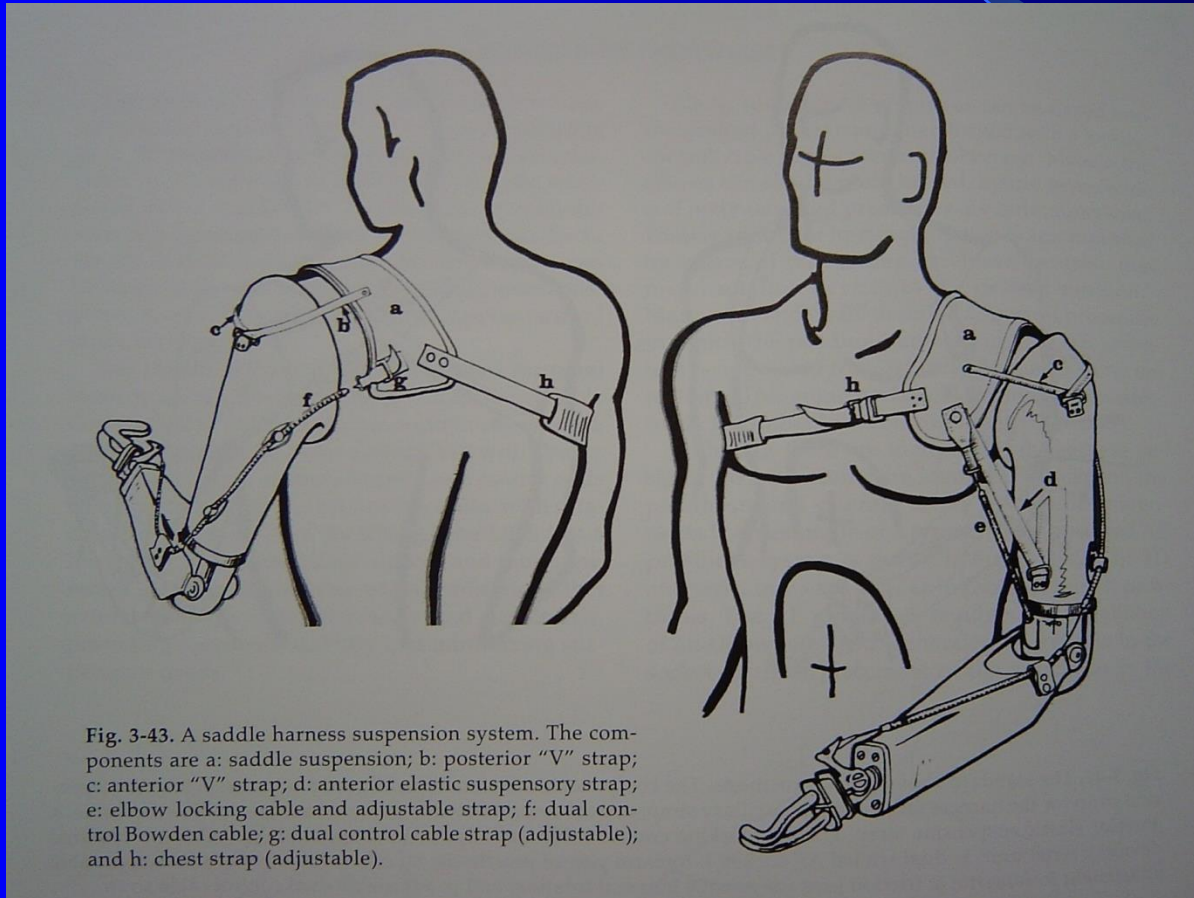
Short Trans- Humeral Amp



Hybrid Trans-humeral Prosthesis



Saddle Harness for Short Trans-humeral Prosthesis



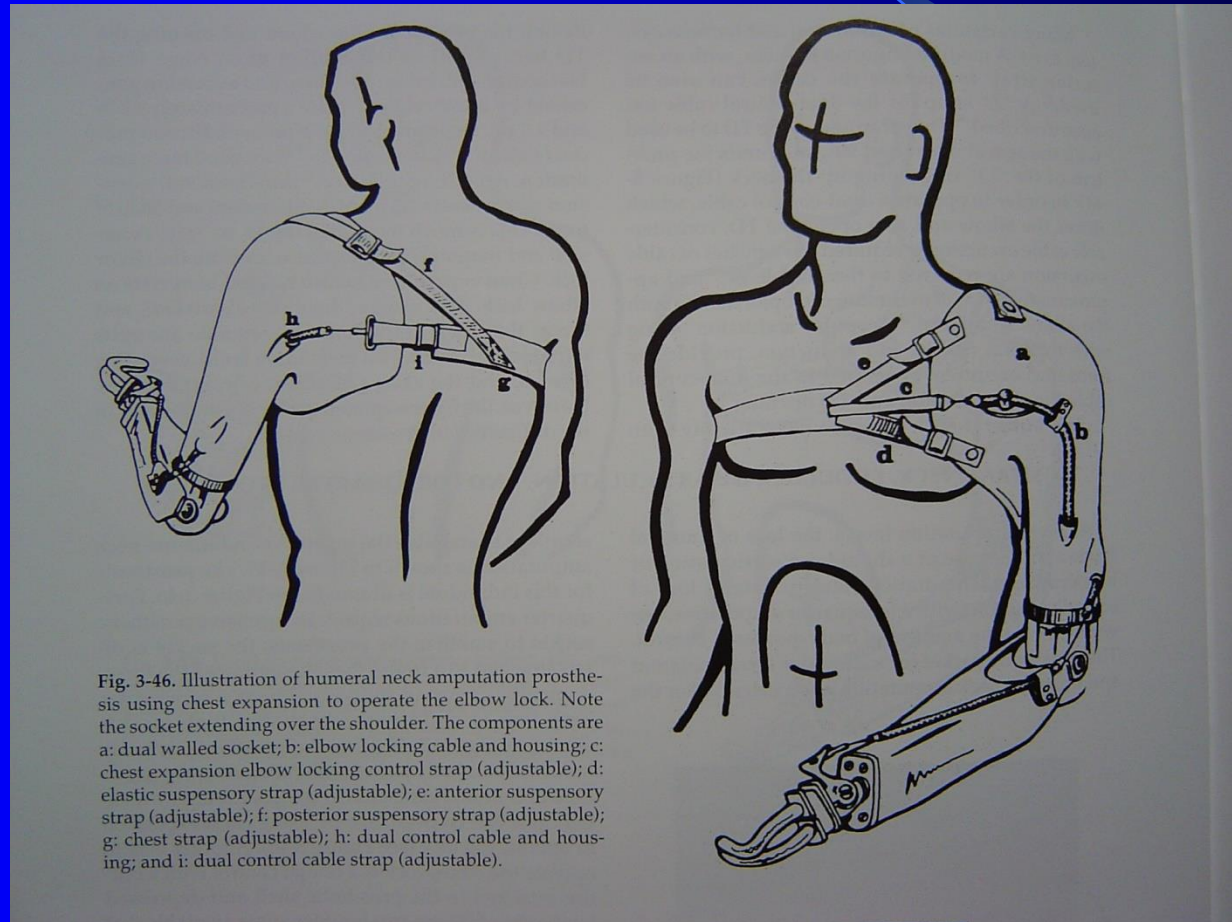
Humeral Neck Amputation



Humeral Neck Cable Prosthesis



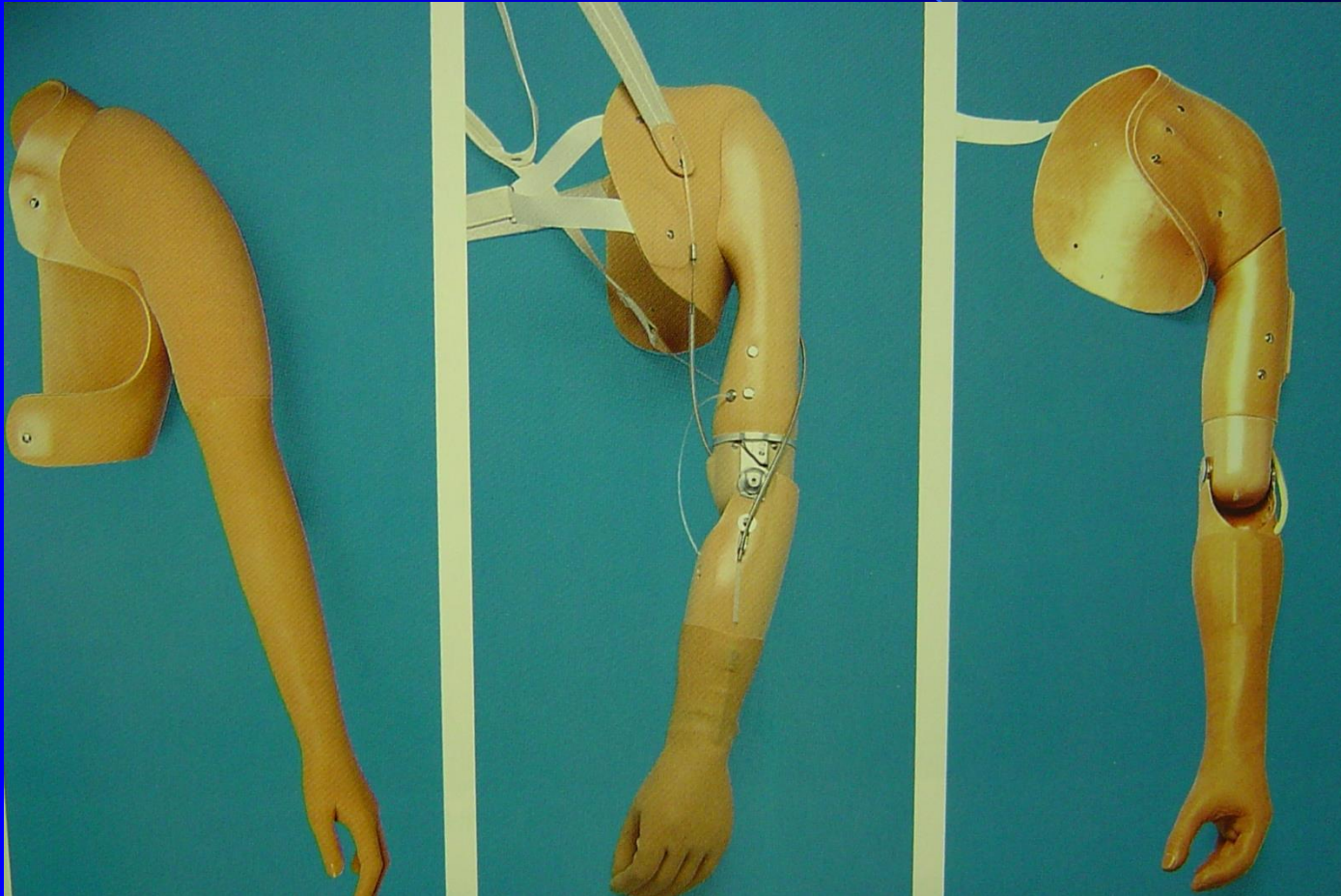
Humeral Neck Prosthesis with Cross-chest Strap Suspension



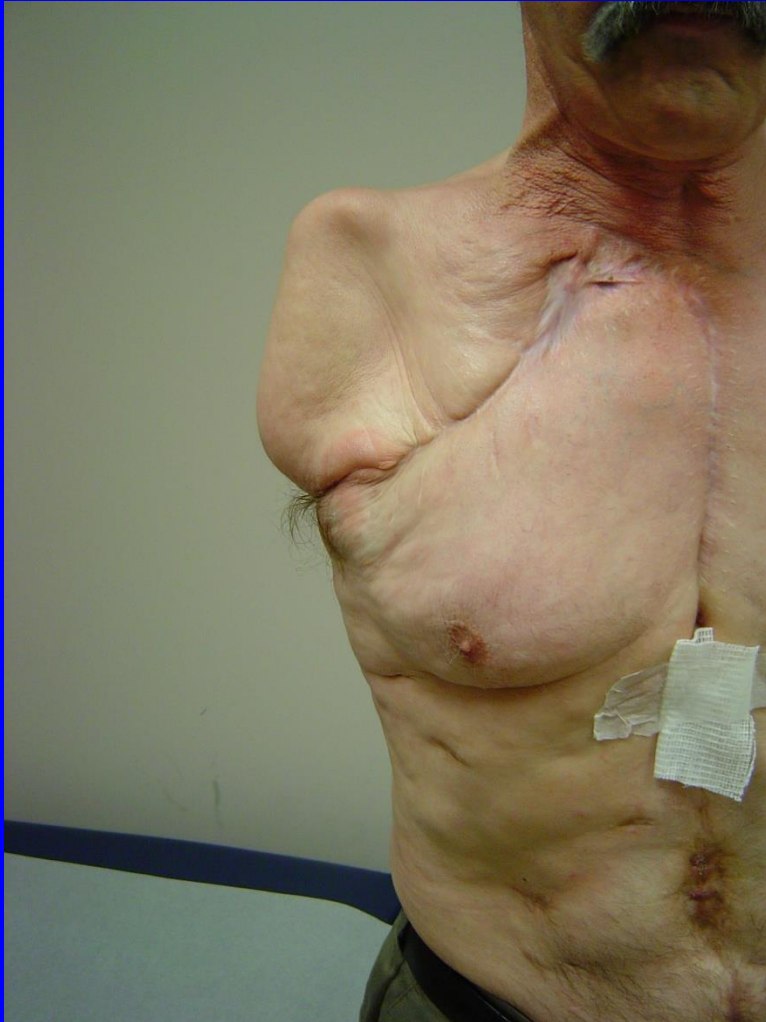
Shoulder Disarticulation Amputation

- Difficult socket design
- Difficult to achieve functional prehension
- Heavy prosthesis may not be tolerated
- Patient may choose to be independent without prosthesis if other hand intact

Shoulder Disartic Prosthetic Options



Shoulder Disartic



Shoulder Disartic Prosthesis Myo-electric



Shoulder Disartic Amputation



Shoulder Disartic Prosthesis Myo-electric



Forequarter Amputation

- Loss of entire limb and scapula
- Most commonly caused by tumor resection
- Lightweight cosmetic prosthesis is the most practical device

Bilateral Upper Limb Amputation

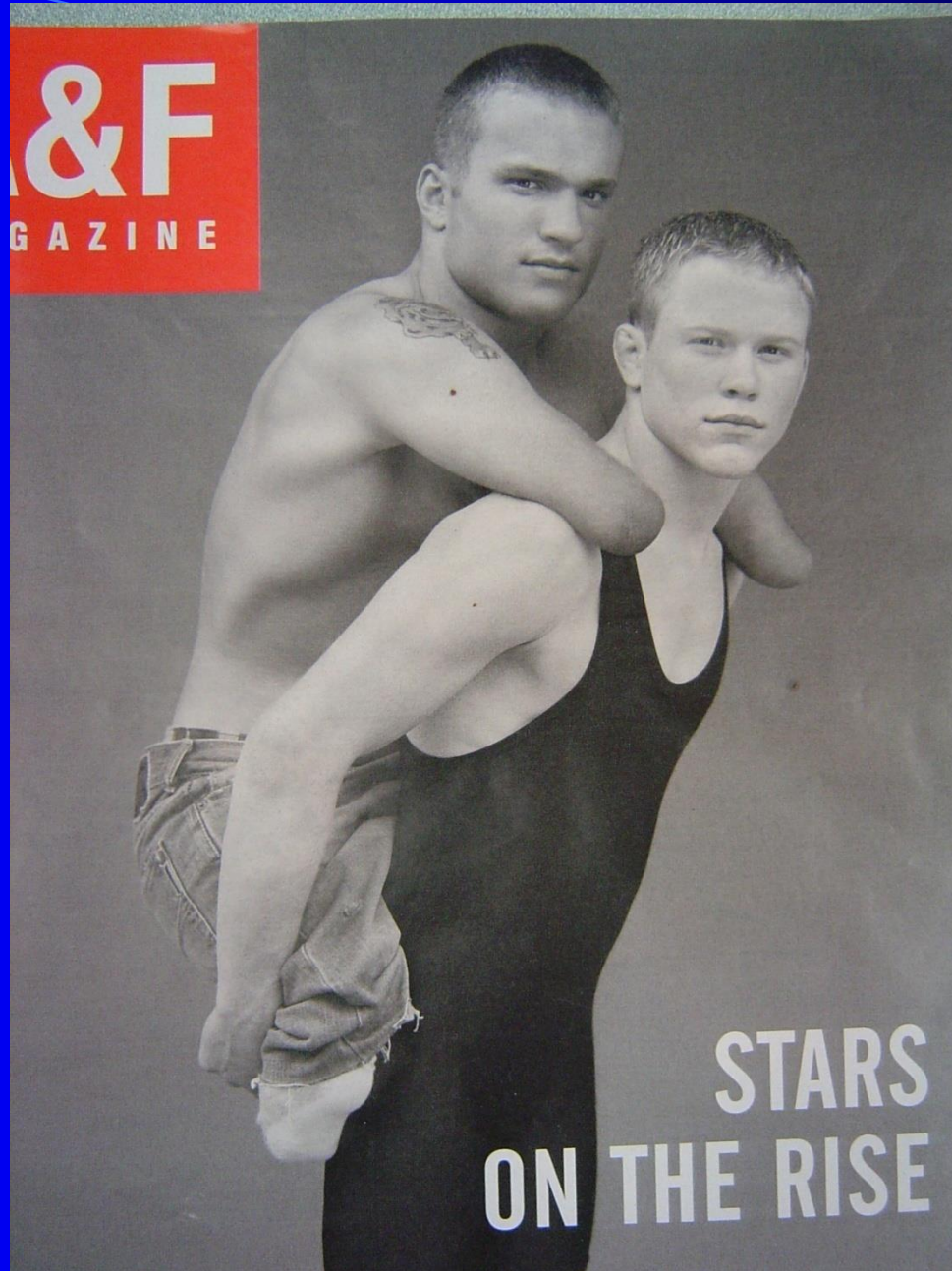
- Fit the longer residual limb with a prosthetic device for functional prehension (pinch and gross grasp)
- Fit the remaining limb as an assist for longer limb
- Use any and all available assistive devices to achieve independence in self-care and ADL's

Bilateral Elbow Disartic Prostheses



Complex Cases

- Multiple limb amputation
- Other confounding medical issues
- Timing of multiple limb prosthetic fitting
- If delay in fitting, preserve myo-electric sites with muscle isometric or FES







Thank You