

Evaluation of disabilities and activities of daily living of war-related bilateral lower extremity amputees

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Background: The long-term consequences and the activities of daily living of bilateral lower limb amputees are not well documented.

Objectives: Our study identifies the long-term effects of bilateral lower extremity amputations on daily activities to understand how these amputees cope with their mobility assistive devices.

Materials and Methods: A total of 291 veterans of war with bilateral lower limb amputations accepted to participate in this cross-sectional study.

Results: The average follow-up was 25.4 years. A total of 152 amputees (54%) were involved in sports on average 6.7 h per week. Bilateral amputees walked 10 m on average and they could walk continuously with their prosthesis 315 ± 295 m. They wore their prosthesis 6.8 ± 1.7 days per week and 7.9 ± 8.1 h per day. Of these, 6.7% of bilateral lower limb amputees needed help to wear their prosthesis; 88.3% of amputees used assisting devices for walking. According to this survey, 73 (42%) prostheses in right limb were appropriate, 95 (54.6%) needed to be replaced, and 6 (3.4) needed to be fixed. On the left side, it was 76 (42%), 92 (52.0%), and 9 (5.1%), respectively. A total of 203 (74.9%) amputees reported limitations in at least one domain of the activities of daily living. The most common single item that affected the patients was ascending and descending stairs (66%) .

Conclusion: Veterans with bilateral lower limb amputations suffer from a vast array of daily problems.

Keywords: Bilateral amputation, activity of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living score, war amputation