

AMPUTATION INFORMATION SHEET

General Indications for the Procedure:

The procedure of amputation is indicated to treat severe or progressive infection, deformity that places a limb at risk for infection or prevents normal function, and intractable pain in the extremity. The benefits of amputation include, but are not limited to resolution of infection, decreased pain or discomfort, improved mobility, and improved prosthetic fitting.

Description of Procedure:

The procedure of amputation will consist of excising or removing part or all of a limb using surgical incisions. Reconstruction of the remaining bone may involve the use of internal metallic implants such as pins, screws, staples, plates, or rods. A tourniquet may be used to limit surgical bleeding during the procedure. A surgically placed drain may be inserted into or near the surgical area to collect excess fluid that may accumulate after the surgical incisions are closed. Surgical incisions may not be surgically closed in the setting of infection or excessive contamination to the surgical area. In the setting of severe infection, one or more staged procedures may be indicated to fully treat the infection. The limb may be immobilized using a cast or splint. Depending on the specific circumstances of the patient's case, this procedure can be performed with local anesthesia, local anesthesia with sedation or twilight anesthesia, regional anesthesia or general anesthesia.

Risks of Procedure:

Risks include: postoperative infection, nerve injury, tendon injury, vascular injury, postoperative bleeding, swelling, complex regional pain syndrome, need for hardware removal, repeat debridement and closure of the amputation stump, the need for amputation at a higher level, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolus, excessive scar tissue formation, continued pain, the risks of anesthesia, and even death.

Procedure Alternatives, if any:

Alternatives to amputation include serial casting, local wound care, intravenous or oral antibiotics. Risks of this alternative care include, but are not limited to, progression of infection, failure of wound healing, the necessity for a higher level amputation, sepsis, and death.

Probable Consequences of Refusing Procedure:

Probable risks of refusing this procedure include, but are not limited to, progression of infection, failure of wound healing, the necessity for a higher level of amputation, sepsis, and death.

Person(s) Performing the Procedure:

The key portions of this procedure will be performed by the attending physician with the assistance of the Orthopaedic Resident Staff. All surgical tasks are performed in accordance with the hospital's policies and, in the case of the Residents, based on their skills set and under the supervision of the responsible Orthopedic Surgeon.