

# Direct skeletal fixation of limb prostheses using an intraosseous transcutaneous implant

Information for the public

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There is not enough evidence about how well this procedure works in the long term and there is evidence of serious complications. So it can only be done with special arrangements. This means you will have regular appointments afterwards to check how well it is working or if it has caused problems.

If all or part of a person's leg or arm (limb) is missing at birth or is amputated, they may use an artificial limb (prosthesis). A prosthesis usually has a socket, which is the part that fits snugly around the end of the missing limb (stump). It is then held in place by suction or using straps. A poor fit can lead to skin irritation and infection. In this procedure, a metal implant is inserted through the skin (transcutaneous) and into the centre of the bone (intraosseous) of the stump. A prosthesis can then be attached to the implant (direct skeletal fixation). The aim is to produce a more comfortable and secure attachment for the prosthesis, and to prevent infection.

## Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

## Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

## Information and support

The [NHS webpage on amputation](#) may be a good place to find out more.

- [NICE's information on HealthTech guidance](#) explains what HealthTech is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on HealthTech recommendations](#) explains what special arrangements are.

[Blesma, The Limbless Veterans](#) (0208 590 1124 or [bsoprosthetics@blesma.org](mailto:bsoprosthetics@blesma.org)) can give you advice and support.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

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