ACUTE PROSTHETIC UPPER EXTREMITY REHABILITATION OF BLAST WOUND INJURIES: A 21 MONTH REVIEW

John M. Miguelez, CP, FAAOP
Daniel Conyers, CPO
John Zenie, CPO
Chris Lake, CPO, FAAOP

CONTACT INFORMATION

John M. Miguelez, CP, FAAOP
Advanced Arm Dynamics, Inc.
123 West Torrance Boulevard, Suite 203
Redondo Beach California, 90274
Phone 310-378-5885
Fax 310-378-8116
JMiguelez@AOL.com

ABSTRACT

Providing prosthetic rehabilitative services for upper extremity amputees is a challenging endeavor. Providing acute rehabilitative services to multiple individuals who have suffered upper extremity blast wounds adds a further complexity. Perhaps not since the Vietnam War has an upper extremity traumatic amputee population of this size treated in one center utilizing consistent procedures and protocols. The authors have had the opportunity to provide upper extremity prosthetic services to over 90 U.S. soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 21 months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

This paper will review the unique protocols implemented to provide care in a military hospital to a young, athletic, and highly motivated amputee population. A review by amputation level includes surgical considerations, edema control, timeline for prosthetic management, prescription criteria, integration of occupational therapy and lessons learned through aggressive prosthetic intervention.