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Multi-articulating Hands & Fingers –

Technical Strategies for Improved Patient Function and Myoelectric Uptake

Since the commercial release of the i-LIMB Hand in September 2007, and the subsequent R&D release of ProDigits for partial hand users, there has been much interest from clinical professionals – to date (18 March 2008), more than 160 patients worldwide have been fitted with the i-LIMB Hand.

This terminal device is the world's first microprocessor controlled, myo-electric hand with proportional control, 4 articulating digits and a thumb which rotates 110 degrees. The i-LIMB hand can support 45 pounds weight and yet the articulating fingers produce realistic and dexterous hand movements that appeal to a wide range of male and female users.

Whilst the technical nature of the hand will always interest the professional – this presentation will address the ways in which technology and traditional thinking are challenged by the experiences and ambitions of patients.

The proposed presentation will dispel myths about grip forces and cosmesis techniques, will address new hand functions delivered by software and will demonstrate the future path for increased patient uptake of myoelectric devices. To date, only one i-LIMB Hand has been returned by a user – many i-LIMB users have previously rejected traditional myoelectric devices.