

Cleaning & Maintenance:

The prosthetic socket should be cleaned daily with mild soap (no perfumes, lotions or deodorants) and water. Depending on the skin sensitivity, alcohol or moist towelettes may also be used. The valve may also need periodic cleaning. Ask a prosthetist how to dismantle and clean the valve or see a prosthetist for periodic valve cleaning.

Tips and Problem Solving:

If the prosthesis no longer achieves suction there may be a leak in the valve. See a prosthetist for evaluation.

Weight change may cause a decrease in volume and lack of suction. The prosthetist should be seen for possible padding of the socket.

If the bottom of the residual limb is purplish in color or swollen, weight gain or volume fluctuation may be preventing the residual limb from going all of the way into the socket. See a prosthetist for evaluation.

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Prosthetist: _____

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Above Knee Prosthesis Direct Contact Suction Suspension CARE & USE INFORMATION



At **POSI**, we're all about helping you live better, work smarter and play harder. Our network of Prosthetic clinics represent some of the best clinicians in the country, ready to help you reach your goals.

You have been fit with an Above Knee Prosthesis with Direct Contact Suction Suspension. Suction suspension is when the residual limb is pulled into the socket with a pull sock or a donning sleeve through a hole in the bottom of the socket. The socket is smaller than the limb and the tissue is pulled into the socket developing a negative pressure between the socket and the limb. A valve will be inserted into the hole and vacuum is achieved. However, the limb must be volumetrically stable; weight gain or weight loss will affect the suction and the prosthesis may not stay on. Suction suspension also requires adequate arm and hand strength and balance in order to pull the limb into the prosthesis.

Putting on the Prosthesis:

1. Begin by applying a pull sock or donning a sleeve which is a cone-shaped sleeve made out of slippery material similar to parachute material. (**Figure 1**)
2. Pull it over the residual limb and up to the groin area. (**Figure 2**)
3. Pull the tail of the sleeve through the valve hole in the bottom of the socket while pushing the residual limb into the socket. Begin pulling the end of the tail through the valve hole.
4. Alternate between lifting up and pushing down while pulling the sleeve through the valve hole. Gradually, the sleeve will pull completely through the valve hole and the residual limb will be all the way into the socket.
5. While keeping weight on the prosthesis, the valve is then inserted into the valve housing. (**Figures 3 & 4**)

Removal of your Prosthesis:

To remove the prosthesis, remove the valve and press the release button and lift the residual limb from the socket.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4