

Traumatic amputations

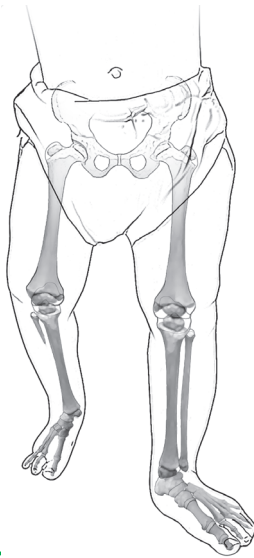
Trauma is the cause of most childhood amputations. Children who have amputations need pediatric specialists to take care of them. Our Limb Deficiency Program specialists know that a child's needs are different from an adult's.

Our team has special training to address and treat the following:

Growth plates

These are areas where new bone grows at the end of your child's bones.

- The growth plates close and are replaced by solid bone when your child stops growing.
- Your child's doctor will try to save the growth plate so your child's limb will continue to grow.



Skin healing

Your child has more stretchable skin and better blood supply than an adult. This will help him heal quicker.

Bony overgrowth

A lot of bone may grow around the end of the removed limb.

- This happens during normal child growth.
- This is a common problem for children who have amputations.

- It can happen at anytime while your child is growing.
- It may cause pain and redness.
- The extra bone can also cause problems while your child is wearing a prosthesis (artificial limb).
- Your child's surgeon will try to stop this from happening.



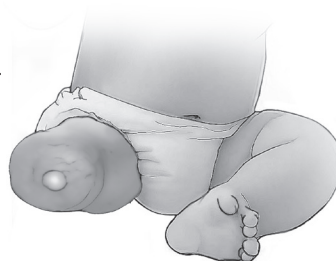
Knee disarticulation revision

Your child may need a different type of surgery if the trauma was severe enough to leave the surgeon no other option. This surgery is called disarticulation.

- This amputation happens through the joint rather than through the bone.

This means:

- The growth plate is not affected.
- Bony overgrowth does not happen.
- The end of the limb may be used to support your child's weight.



Support

An amputation can be tough for your child and for you.

- Our team will answer your questions.
- Your child's surgeon will help you make the best decision for your child.
- Child life specialists and social workers can help you and your child cope with the decision before and after surgery.

What you and your child will feel

Your child will need time to get used to losing a limb.

- It is OK for him to be angry and be sad about the loss of a limb.
- He might also have self-esteem problems.

How you react can help your child.

- Be positive.
- Take an active role in encouraging and supporting him.

It is common for parents to feel like they did something wrong. Family counseling is available through Children's to help you.



Visit choa.org/limbdeficiency to learn more about the Children's Limb Deficiency Program.

