

# Gait stability on slopes and lateral inclines in transtibial and transfemoral amputees.

Published: 04-05-2020

Last updated: 08-04-2024

To deliver: data to be used as part of a reference database for the EUROBENCH-framework. To assess: - to what extent transfemoral and transtibial amputees are able to adapt to standing and walking on slopes and laterally inclined surfaces in terms of...

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Other condition
<b>Study type</b>	Interventional

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON49022

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Walking with a prosthesis: ups and downs

### Condition

- Other condition

### Synonym

Leg amputation, Leg cut-off

### Health condition

Beenamputatie

### Research involving

Human

## Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Militair Revalidatie Centrum 'Aardenburg'

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W, Deel van het EUROBENCH-framework; European Union's Horizon 2020 grant agreement No 779963, OIM Orthopedie

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Amputation, Gait, Slopes, Stability

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

Standing stability measures for each slope:

- mean center of pressure (COP) velocity
- COP anteroposterior sway
- COP mediolateral sway

Gait stability measures for each slope:

- local divergence exponents
- foot placement coordination
- margins of stability

### Secondary outcome

Spatiotemporal gait parameters: step length, step width and step frequency.

Hip, knee and ankle joint kinematics (movements) and kinetics (moments).

Anthropometric data (height, weight, age, segmental circumferences).

## Study description

### Background summary

This study is part of the Dutch UDBenchmark-project, which is part of the European EUROBENCH-framework ([eurobench2020.eu](http://eurobench2020.eu)).

EUROBENCH aims to create the first framework for the application of benchmarking methodology on robotic systems. The framework, specifically focused on bipedal robotic technologies (humanoids and exoskeletons), will include methods and tools to measure System Ability Levels on a rigorous, quantitative and replicable way, both during stance and during gait.

The UDBenchmark-project is a collaboration between the VU University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Military Rehabilitation Center 'Aardenburg', Doorn, The Netherlands and Heliomare, Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. The goals of this project are to deliver:

- (1) a minimal and flexible measurement protocol, ...
- (2) data analysis software, ...
- (3) a reference database ...

to assess how exoskeletons and humanoids perform while walking on slopes and lateral inclines.

The measurements for which approval is requested can be used to assess:

- to what extent transfemoral and transtibial amputees are able to adapt to standing and walking on slopes and laterally inclined surfaces in terms of standing and walking stability and
- how this stability is related to different prosthetic components

Using a more extensive variant of this protocol we measured 20 healthy subject over a range of walking speeds, slopes and lateral inclines, both with and without an extension limiting knee brace or mobility limiting ankle brace. The protocol of this study was evaluated and approved by the Scientific and Ethical Review Board of the Faculty of Behavioral and Movement Sciences from the VU University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

## **Study objective**

To deliver:

data to be used as part of a reference database for the EUROBENCH-framework.

To assess:

- to what extent transfemoral and transtibial amputees are able to adapt to standing and walking on slopes and laterally inclined surfaces in terms of standing and walking stability and
- how this stability is related to different prosthetic components

## **Study design**

Quasi Experimental

## Intervention

During the experiment, subjects stand or walk on a treadmill at a pace of 0.6 (m/s) (2.16 km/h), while the slope of the treadmill increases in steps of 3 degrees from 0 to a maximum of 15 degrees in anteroposterior or lateral direction. Transtibial amputees will undergo this protocol on a carbon fibre prosthetic foot and a glass fiber prosthetic foot.

All combinations of these conditions and prosthetic components will be offered as individual trials, resulting in a total of 2 (standing/walking) x 2 (slope/lateral incline) = 4 trials for transfemoral amputees and 8 trials (4 trials x 2 prosthetic feet) in transtibial amputees.

If the subjects feel or appear unable to continue standing or walking on a given slope, the trial will be stopped.

## Study burden and risks

The duration of this protocol is up to 120 minutes for transfemoral amputees and up to 180 minutes for transtibial amputees. Since all subjects will be recruited from the Netherlands, and measurements take place in Doorn, maximal travel time is estimated 4 hours (2 hours from and to Groningen or Maastricht). The tests will be performed in an unfamiliar virtual reality laboratory, that can be somewhat intimidating to the subjects.

The amplitudes of imposed slopes could be larger than the maximal capacity of transtibial amputees and probably is larger than the maximal capacity of transfemoral amputees, which could result in a fall if the subject or researcher does not decide to stop in time. To prevent negative consequences as a result of a fall, all subjects will wear a safety harness.

The gait lab (CAREN: Computer Assisted Rehabilitation ENvironment) of the military rehabilitation center is used on a daily basis to improve patients' ability to walk on varying slopes as part of a multidisciplinary rehabilitation program. These patients include transtibial and transfemoral amputees.

The military rehabilitation center has worked with this system for more than 10 years. Dr. M.R. Prins, who will be present at all the measurements, is registered in the BIG-registry as a physiotherapist and has been working fulltime at the VR rehabilitation department of the rehabilitation center for 10 years (and still works there fulltime). Therefore, we estimate the chance of unforeseen risks as 'low'.

## Contacts

### Public

Militair Revalidatie Centrum 'Aardenburg'

Korte Molenweg 3  
Doorn 3941 PW  
NL  
**Scientific**  
Militair Revalidatie Centrum 'Aardenburg'

Korte Molenweg 3  
Doorn 3941 PW  
NL

## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Uni-lateral transtibial ( $n \leq 10$ ) or transfemoral ( $n \leq 5$ ) amputation;

Wearing a prosthesis for at least 1 year;

Able to walk without assistive walking aid on flat surfaces and mild slopes (3 degrees)

At least 18 years old;

### Exclusion criteria

Use of a computer assisted foot;

Stump problems;

Cognitive or communicative disorders;

Visual impairments.

Any condition (other than leg amputation) that might interfere with gait (e.g. neurodegenerative disease, peripheral vascular disease)

Any condition that renders unfit to be tested (e.g. severe cardiovascular conditions)

## Study design

### Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Other

### Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	01-07-2020
Enrollment:	15
Type:	Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	04-05-2020
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Brabant (Tilburg)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

## In other registers

### Register

CCMO

### ID

NL72723.028.20

## Study results

Date completed: 23-03-2022

Actual enrolment: 15