

**Intervention**

- Range of motion
- Strength and motor control
- Neuroplasticity
- External supports

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## CSM 2019

- Sports Medicine Secrets: **Ankle and Foot Strength, Mobility, and Coordination** Deficits. S. Bell, M. LeMoine, D. Marcos. (AOPT)
- PT from head (motor learning, **pain psychology**) to toe (**foot & ankle** mechanics). M. Hastings, R. Chimentil, B. Fisher (AOPT)
- The Athlete In Pain, Moving Beyond The Tissues to the Person. Z. Christopherson, M. Gist, T. Lentz, J.W. Matheson, B. Ness, H. Tao, K. Zimney (AASPT)
- The **Brain** has an **ACL** Problem. T. Grindstaff, D. Grooms, D. Lorenz (AASPT)
- Science Meets Practice: **Neuroplasticity** Following **ACL** Injury and ACL Reconstruction. R. Zarzycki, D. Grooms (AASPT)
- **Neurocognitive & Motor Control Strategies** in **ACL** Rehab. M. Sherry, PT, D. Cobian, K. Wittman (AASPT)
- The **Frozen Shoulder** Has A **Brain**. A. Louw, S. Schmidt, P. Mintken (AHUEPT)
- Dealing with the Dark Side of Neuroplasticity: **Pain** In **Neurorehabilitation**. S. Schmidt, A. Low. (ANPT)

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## Experienced-Based Plasticity Neuromotor

**Cortical-Body Matrix**

- the cortex's multisensory representation of the body and peripersonal space.
- develops in a predictable manner, but development is based on experience
- highly plastic based on experience, even after development is complete

Cortical-Body Matrix (Body Map)

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**Experienced-Based Plasticity**  
Neuromotor

Neuroplastic Changes: Self-Efficacy

<p>Low self-efficacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worry, kinesiophobia, anxiety, fear of injury</li> <li>• Impaired:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor skill performance</li> <li>• Postural control</li> <li>• Gait parameters</li> <li>• Range of motion</li> <li>• Increased falls</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>High self-efficacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher performance</li> <li>• Higher rehabilitation outcomes after neurological injury</li> </ul>
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Nott 2021, Jones 2011, Korpershoek 2011

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**Experienced-Based Plasticity**  
Neuromotor

Neuroplastic Changes: Self-Efficacy

Verbal suggestion can be more powerful than conditioning for performance.

Corsi, 2019

- When words hurt: Verbal suggestion prevails over conditioning in inducing the **motor nocebo effect**.

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**Experienced-Based Plasticity**  
Neuroplastic Changes: Sensory

Hyperperception

- Amplified perception of afferent information
- Hypervigilance of area
- Decreased ability to differentiate types of afferent information

Hypoperception

- Dampened perception of afferent information
- Decreased awareness of area
- Decreased ability to differentiate afferent information from area




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### Experienced-Based Plasticity

#### Neuroplastic Changes: Motor

Changes Impact:

- Readiness for motor learning
- Motor control
- Postural control
- Fall frequency
- Motor skill performance

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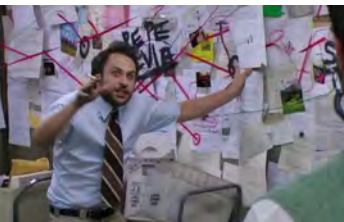
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### Experience-Based Plasticity

#### Neuroplasticity: Neuromotor Health Conditions

- When a patient experiences a neuromotor health condition, their motor skills are often impacted not only by the primary health condition, but also by experience-dependent cortical reorganization.




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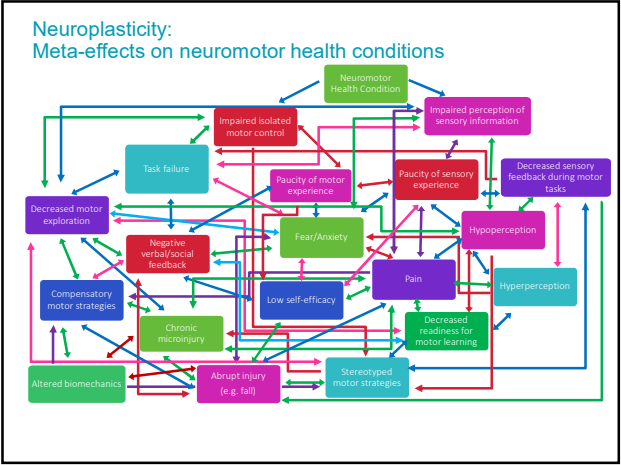
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### Experience-Based Plasticity Neuroplasticity in Neuromotor Health Conditions

Impaired isolated motor control

Impaired sensory perception

- Paucity of motor experience
- Task failure
- Low self-efficacy
- Decreased motor exploration
- Negative verbal/social feedback
- Pain
- Fear/anxiety
- Compensatory motor strategies
- Stereotyped motor strategies

- Paucity of sensory experience
- Decreased sensory feedback during motor tasks
- Hypoperception
- Hyperperception
- Chronic microinjuries
- Abrupt injuries (e.g. falls)
- Decreased readiness for motor learning

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### Experience-Based Plasticity Neuroplasticity in Neuromotor Health Conditions

**Neuromotor Health Condition**

- Impaired isolated motor control
- Impaired perception of sensory information

**Neuroplastic Changes**

- Further impair:
  - Motor function
  - Sensory perception




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### Experience-Based Plasticity Neuroplasticity in Neuromotor Health Conditions

- Natural history: neuroplastic changes will magnify the effects of neuromotor health conditions
- Impaired motor control and related sequelae that we traditionally attribute to neuromotor health conditions are actually amplified by experience-dependent neuroplastic changes.

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### Experience-Based Plasticity Neuroplasticity in Neuromotor Health Conditions

Example: Foot Intrinsic (“foot core”  
Mckee, 2015)

- Intrinsic muscles of the foot are advantageously positioned to provide immediate sensory information about changes in the foot posture, via stretch response
- Key for balance and fall prevention
- Excessive pronation leads to a loss of this information




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### Experience-Based Plasticity Neuroplasticity in Neuromotor Health Conditions

- NM health condition →
- Altered neuromotor function
    - Excessive pronation
      - Loss of key afferent information from the foot intrinsic
      - Negative neuroplastic changes
        - Additional balance/gross motor impairment




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### Neuromotor and Motor Control Findings

- Muscle activation and timing
  - Impaired recruiting \_\_\_\_\_
  - Excessive recruiting \_\_\_\_\_
  - Insufficient Force \_\_\_\_\_
  - Insufficient Endurance \_\_\_\_\_
  - Insufficient Range \_\_\_\_\_
  - Impaired Relaxation \_\_\_\_\_
    - Tonic contraction \_\_\_\_\_
- Atypical habitual patterns of movement \_\_\_\_\_
- Inconsistent Motor Patterns \_\_\_\_\_
  - Emerging Motor Control \_\_\_\_\_
- Balance Strategies \_\_\_\_\_




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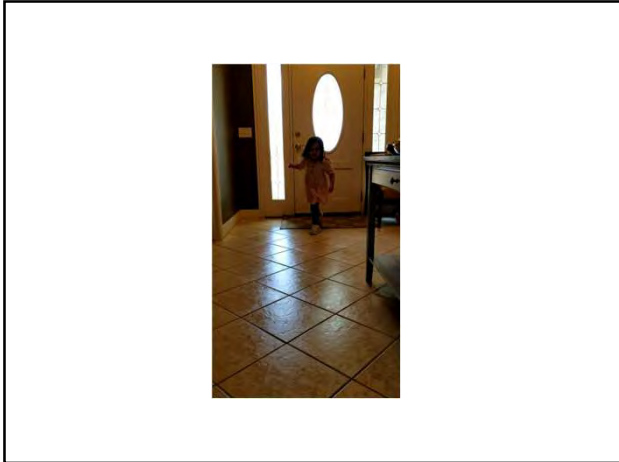
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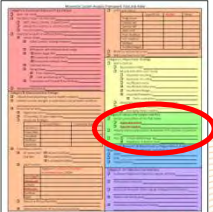
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Sensory Perception and Pain

- Perception of the foot/ankle
  - Hyperperceptive
  - Hypoperceptive
- Altered sensory/perception elsewhere in the greater movement system
- Pain
  - Amplified?
    - In foot/ankle/lower leg
    - Elsewhere in kinetic chain




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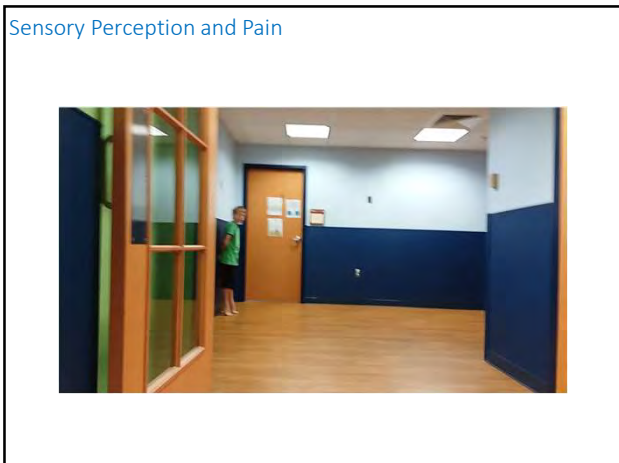
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**Neuroplasticity: Impact of Experience**

Neuromotor health conditions:

- motor skills are impacted not only by the primary health condition, but also by **experience-dependent** cortical reorganization.

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**Developmental Movement System Model**

- How do kinesiopathologic and neuroplastic influences impact individuals with pediatric health conditions?
- Do children with pediatric health conditions have special protections against the forces that impact adult movement systems?




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**Developmental Movement System Model**

Kinesiopathologic Model

- Repeated movements and sustained alignments influence structure and function

**Developmental** Movement System Model (Kinesioplasticity)

- Repeated movements and sustained alignments **during development** will influence structural and functional **outcomes**

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### Developmental Movement System Model

- Function of the movement system is multifactorial and depends **not just on the health condition**, but on the influence of multiple internal and external factors.
- The structure and function of the mature movement system will be impacted by **movement experiences during development**.

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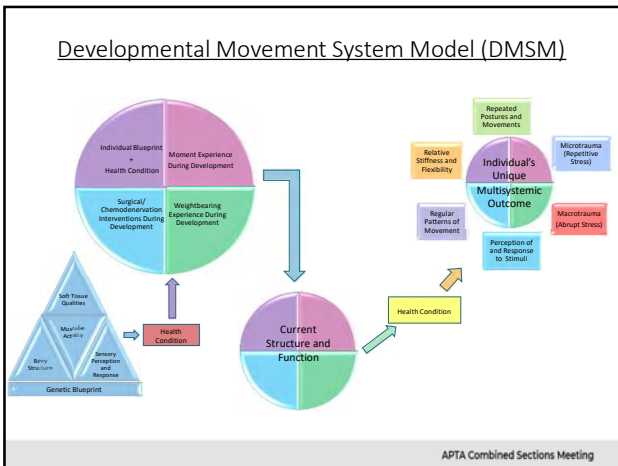
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### Developmental Movement System Model (DMSM)




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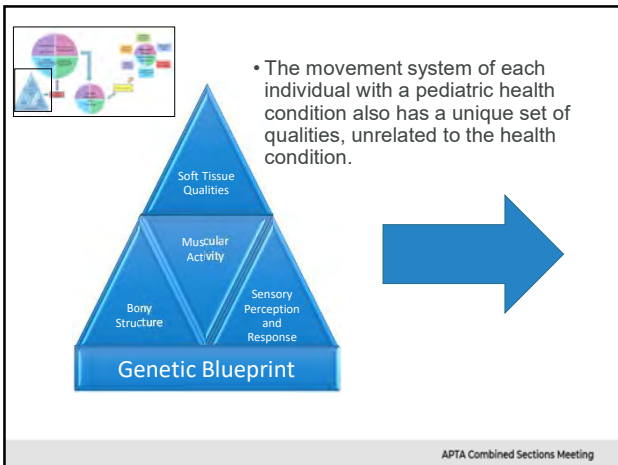
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- The movement system of each individual with a pediatric health condition also has a unique set of qualities, unrelated to the health condition.




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• Health Condition Heterogeneity: Health conditions are expressed differently in each individual.

APTA Combined Sections Meeting

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• Movement and weightbearing experiences during development will cause musculoskeletal and neuroplastic change.

APTA Combined Sections Meeting

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### Musculoskeletal Plasticity During Development

**Kinesiopathologic Model**

- Repeated movements and sustained alignments lead to adaptations in body tissues.

**Wolff's Law**

- Bone adapts in both internal architecture and external shape based on stress (weightbearing and muscle pull).

**Physical Stress Theory**

- All biological tissue adapts to physical stress.

How do these forces impact the **development** of the musculoskeletal system?

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### Musculoskeletal Plasticity During Development



The image contains three parts: a photograph of a man and a young boy sitting together, a photograph of a child's arm with a blue line tracing the path from the shoulder to the hand, and a second photograph of the same child's arm in a different position, also with a blue line tracing the path. A small diagram in the top right corner shows a flowchart of the developmental movement system model.

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### Neuroplasticity During Development



Neuroplasticity

- Experience of the movement system impacts the brain leading to changes in function.

Developmental Movement System Model

- Experience of the movement system impacts the brain **during development**, leading to changes in long-term functional outcomes.
- Due to the **increased plasticity** of growing brains, neuroplastic changes during development will **compound the magnification** of deficits

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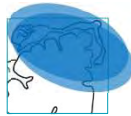
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### Neuroplasticity During Development



Causes of negative neuroplastic change:

Paucity of motor experience	Decreased sensory feedback during motor tasks
Task failure	Chronic microinjuries
Low self-efficacy	Abrupt injuries (e.g. falls, sprains)
Negative verbal/social feedback	Pain
Altered motor strategies	Fear/anxiety
Paucity of sensory experience	

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### Neuroplasticity During Development



- Pediatric Brain
- Neuroplasticity is greatest before specialization
  - There are critical windows for certain skills
  - Massed practice is required for skill development

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### Developmental Movement System Model

- DMSM hypothesis: Growing brains are by definition more plastic, and therefore even **more** susceptible to neuroplastic changes based on experiences.




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### Neuroplasticity During Development

- NM health condition →
- Altered neuromotor function
    - Excessive pronation
      - Loss of key afferent information from the foot intrinsics
      - Negative neuroplastic changes
        - Additional balance/gross motor impairment
- How developing in the context of overstretched foot intrinsics impact the **development** of the cortical matrix for balance?




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**Developmental Neuroplastic Changes will impact long-term outcomes**



Motor outcomes:

- Postural control
- Gross motor skill level
- Capacity for new motor learning
- Fall risk

Long-term perceptual abilities:

- Environmental information
- Body information
- Feedback during motor tasks & proprioception

Functional pain perception

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**Neuroplasticity During Development**

Developmental Movement System Model

- Impaired motor control and related sequelae that we traditionally attribute to pediatric health conditions are actually **compounded by experience-dependent** changes.

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**Neuroplasticity: Neuromotor Health Conditions Intervention:**

protect against:



Paucity of motor experience	Decreased sensory feedback during motor tasks
Task failure	Chronic microinjuries
Low self-efficacy	Abrupt injuries (e.g. falls, sprains)
Negative verbal/social feedback	Pain
Altered motor strategies	Fear/anxiety
Paucity of sensory experience	

APTA Combined Sections Meeting

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### Neuroplasticity: Neuromotor Health Conditions

Intervention: provide:



Abundance of motor experience	Decreased micro and microinjuries
Task success	Improved perceptual skills
High self-efficacy	Improved biomechanics
Confidence	Protective strategies
Improved & varied motor strategies	Increased readiness for motor learning
Abundance of sensory experiences	Decreased pain
Enhanced sensory feedback during motor tasks	Pain coping strategies
	Positive verbal/social feedback

APTA Combined Sections Meeting

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### Neuroplasticity: Neuromotor Health Conditions

Neuroplastic intervention can improve:



<p>Ability to perceive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>environmental information</li> <li>body information</li> <li>Feedback during motor tasks &amp; proprioception</li> </ul> <p>Functional pain perception</p>	<p>Motor skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postural control</li> <li>Gross motor skill level</li> <li>Capacity for new motor learning</li> <li>Fall risk</li> <li>Sports performance</li> </ul>
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APTA Combined Sections Meeting

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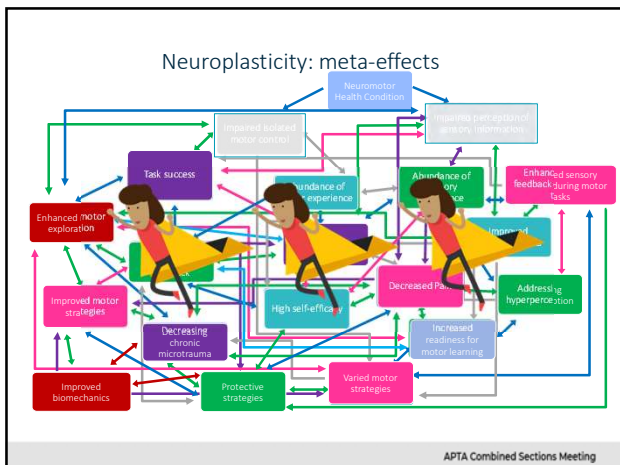
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### Developmental Movement System Model Intervention

If movement and weightbearing experiences during development of the movement system impact long-term structure and function

*\*then\**

we will influence long-term movement system outcomes with interventions during development.

APTA Combined Sections Meeting

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### Developmental Movement System Model Neuromotor Development



#### Pediatric Brain

- Neuroplasticity is greatest before specialization
- There are critical windows for certain skills
- Massed practice is required for skill development

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### Neuroplasticity: Impact of Experience

- Pediatric health conditions:
- increased plasticity of the developing system **compounds the magnification** of experience on cortical organization



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### Neuroplasticity: Pediatric Health Conditions


Neuroplastic intervention can impact long term outcomes:

**Ability to perceive:**

- environmental information
- body information
- Feedback during motor tasks & proprioception
- Functional pain perception

**Motor outcomes:**

- Postural control
- Gross motor skill level
- Capacity for new motor learning
- Fall risk
- Sports performance




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### How does the developing movement system create a useful cortical matrix of the foot and ankle?



Visual Exploration

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Sensory exploration with upper extremities (and mouth)

Bilateral LE sensory exploration



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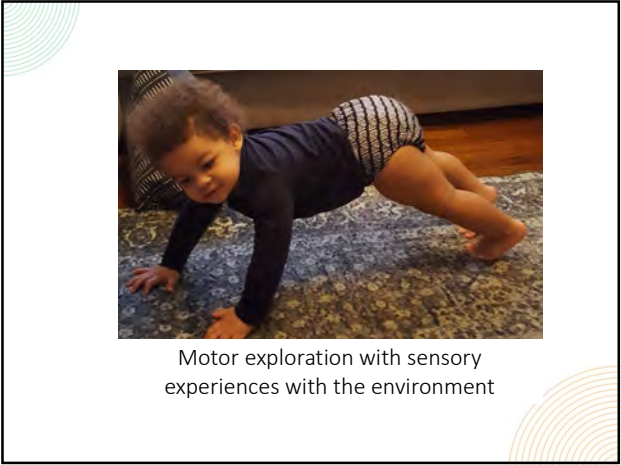
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Motor exploration with sensory experiences with the environment

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Neuroplasticity: Intervention

- How can we provide **age-appropriate** map-building information to the movement systems in the context of a neuromotor health condition?

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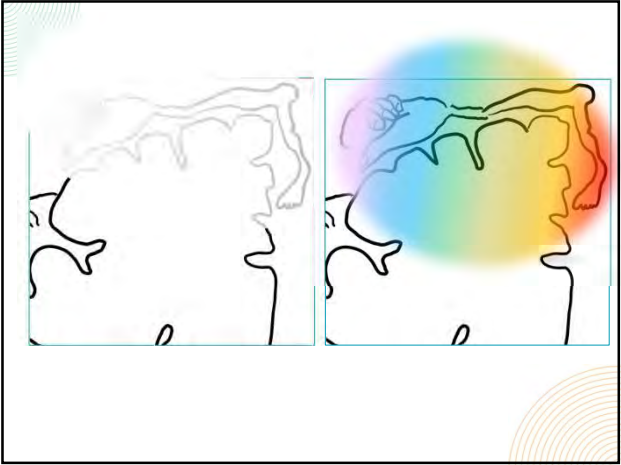
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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Direct Stimulation**

Example: vibration

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Sensory Exploration**

**FEETCRAFT**

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Sensory Exploration**

ABSTRACT ART  
FEET GRAFFITI

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Sensory Exploration**

Feet pizza

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Sensory Exploration**

"It's not delivery, it's de feet!"

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Enhanced Sensory-Motor Activities**

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Mapping Activities\***

Sticker matching: contralateral




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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Mapping Activities\***

Sticker matching: paper map




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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Mapping Activities\***

Assisted map building  
Color zones




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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Mapping Activities\***

Left/right, medial/lateral

The image contains three diagrams. On the left, two human figures are shown from the front and back, with labels for 'Anterior', 'Posterior', 'Medial', and 'Lateral'. To the right, two feet are shown from the top and bottom, with labels for 'Medial', 'Lateral', 'Plantar', and 'Dorsal'.

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Mapping Activities**

**Google Feetmaps**

The image shows three photographs of hands using colorful markers (red, green, blue, yellow) to map the anatomy of a foot on a blue surface. The markers are placed on various parts of the foot to represent different anatomical features.

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Mapping Activities**

**Google Feetmaps**

The image contains two colorful diagrams of a foot, where different parts are highlighted in various colors (red, green, blue, yellow, purple). To the right is a photograph showing hands performing the 'Google Feetmaps' activity with markers on a foot.

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Mapping Activities\***

2 point discrimination

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Mapping Activities\***

Stereognosis

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**Improving Cortical Mapping  
Use of Resistance**

Use of resistance to improve kinesthesia and motor response

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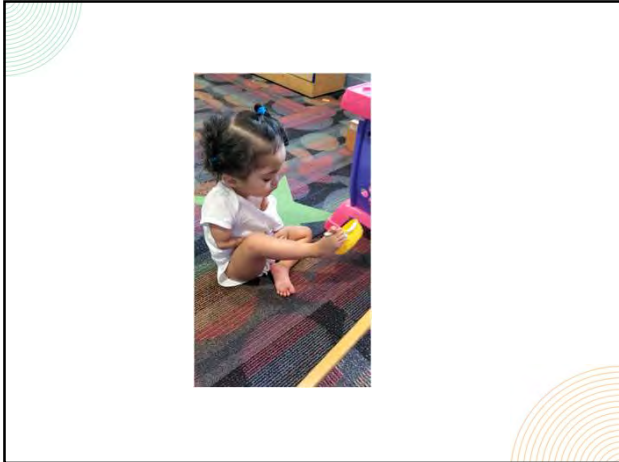
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Activity

1. Type in the chat or demonstrate (for extra credit) a cortical mapping activity for the feet using items available in your home or clinic  
 \*The problem with rice and shaving cream\*  
 Meaningful activity → neuroplastic changes
2. How you adapt these activities for someone with limited hip range of motion?

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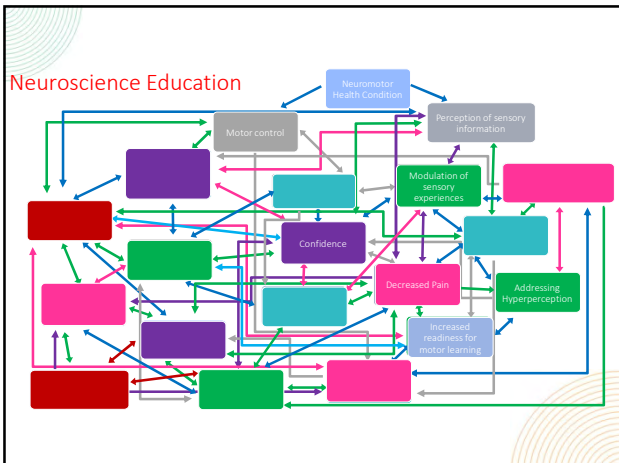
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Pain Neuroscience Education (PNE)

- **Pain Neuroscience Education: State of the Art and Application in Pediatrics.** (Robins 2016)
- **The efficacy of pain neuroscience education on musculoskeletal pain: A systematic review of the literature.** (Louw 2016)
- **The clinical application of teaching people about pain.** (Louw 2016)
- **Use of Pain Neuroscience Education, Tactile Discrimination, and Graded Motor Imagery in an Individual With Frozen Shoulder.** (Sawyer 2018)
- **Know Pain, Know Gain? A Perspective on Pain Neuroscience Education in Physical Therapy.** (Louw 2016)

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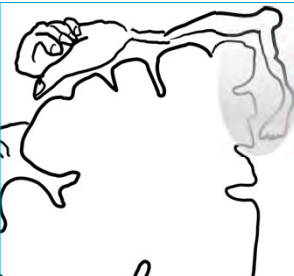
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Neuroplastic Changes: Pain

Nociplastic Pain

- Microglia cause changes in peripheral and/or central nervous system
- Amplified perception of afferent information
- Decreased ability to differentiate types of afferent information
- Hypervigilance of area



**Amplified symptom severity**  
**Treatment resistance**

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Pain (Therapeutic) Neuroscience Education (PNE)

According to the PNE research, individuals experiencing amplified pain need:

- To be heard
- Validation of their experience
- Reassurance
- Realistic \*but optimistic\* expectations
- Education regarding pain mechanisms

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**Pain (Therapeutic) Neuroscience Education (PNE)**

Functional changes have demonstrated after intervention of pain neuroscience education programs

*With as little as 30 minutes, x 1 of pain neuroscience education:*

- Positive shift in psychometric measures
- Improved range of motion
- Changes in fMRI

Understanding the role of neuroplasticity in the pain experience \*in and of itself\* can decrease the experience of pain

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**Addressing Nociplastic pain**

Emoji therapy: direct

- Acknowledging pain and emotional experience




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**D-PNE**

Emoji therapy: direct

- Acknowledging pain




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### D-PNE

Emoji therapy: indirect

- Acknowledging pain
- Directing attention

RIGHT

LEFT

RIGHT

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### Addressing Nociceptive Pain

Emoji therapy: indirect

Transitioning emotional experience toward positivity

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### D-PNE

Emoji therapy: indirect

- Acknowledging pain
- Directing attention

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**D-PNE**

Emoji therapy: indirect

- Acknowledging pain
- Directing attention



The diagram shows two pairs of feet. The top pair shows the tops of feet with a yellow smiley face emoji on each. The bottom pair shows the bottoms of feet with various emojis: a yellow smiley face on the left foot, a red sad face on the right foot, and a yellow smiley face on the right foot's heel.

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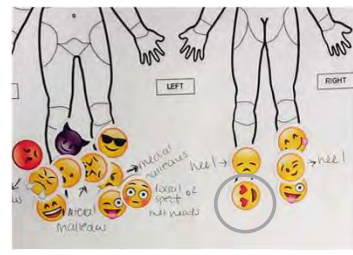
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**PNE**

Sending positive emojis



The diagram shows two legs labeled 'LEFT' and 'RIGHT'. Various emojis are placed on different parts of the legs and feet. Handwritten notes include 'medial malleolus', 'lateral malleolus', 'heel', and 'heel'. A circle is drawn around the right heel area.

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**Addressing Nociceptive Pain**

Progressing input

Ball Rolling (Adriaan Louw, PT, PhD)

- Finding the borders of pain
- \*Anxiety with loss of pain



A photograph showing a person's foot being rolled over a white ball on a wooden surface.

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Addressing Nociplastic Pain

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Addressing Nociplastic Pain

**Central De-Sensitization**

- Positive sensory experiences
- Positive movement experiences
- Positive emotional experiences
- Coping strategies
- Building resilience
- Building confidence
- Seeing experiences in perspective
- Understanding of pain mechanisms

=> positive neuroplastic changes

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D-PNE

Emoji therapy: direct

- Acknowledging pain

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**Neuroplastic Changes: Pain**

Hypoperception of pain



The image shows a child standing with a red vertical line drawn down their back, representing a pain pathway. To the right is a line drawing of a human head in profile, with a brain diagram showing neural pathways. The text 'Hypoperception of pain' is written above the child.

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**Developmental Pain Neuroscience Education (D-PNE)**

Supporting the individual to develop a developmentally-appropriate, personal system for

- understanding
- processing
- differentiating
- communicating

discomfort and pain.

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**Developmental Pain Neuroscience Education**

- Compare expectations of pain tolerance and expression to those of neurotypical children
- Education on various kinds of pain
  - Stretch/"good hurt"
  - Damage/"bad hurt"
  - Muscle soreness
  - Amplified pain

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### Developmental Pain Neuroscience Education

- Talk to patient about functional pain perception: the body's warning system
- Functional pain or discomfort
  - Something in shoe
  - Brace needs adjustment
  - Need for weight shift
  - Spend guided time feeling these sensations
- Listen, believe, acknowledge, explore, educate, and learn

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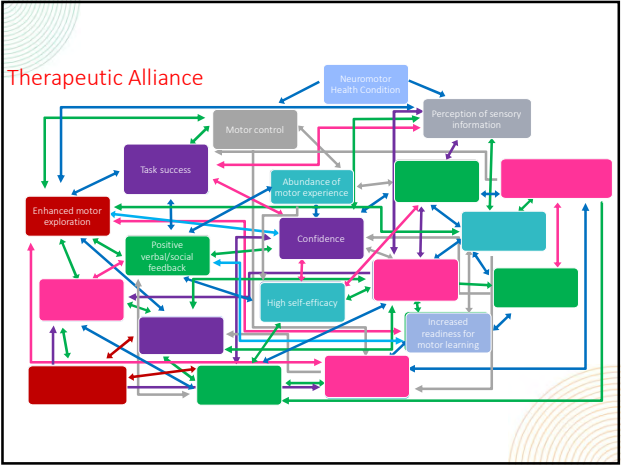
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### Health Condition Education

- Meet patient and caregivers where they are
- Use **positive**, developmentally appropriate language
- Help guide the patient and caregiver to a positive "story"
- Social model of disability
  - Medical model: people are disabled by their impairments or differences, the clinician should focus on fixing what is 'wrong' with the person. The clinician is the expert.
  - Social model: Disability is an individual difference. Problems come from society societal barriers. The individual and their family system are the experts, and can choose to consult professionals.

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**Health Condition Education**

Low self-efficacy

- Worry, kinesiophobia, anxiety, fear of injury
- Impaired:
  - Motor skill performance
  - Postural control
  - Gait parameters
  - Range of motion
- Increased falls

High self-efficacy is associated with higher performance

Verbal suggestion can be more powerful than conditioning for performance.

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**Therapeutic Alliance**

- Nocebo Effect
- Verbal suggestion can be more powerful than conditioning for performance.

When words hurt: Verbal suggestion prevails over conditioning in inducing the motor nocebo effect. Eur J Neurosci. 2019; 50: 3311– 3326. (Corsi, N)

**Self-efficacy**, flow, affect, **worry** and **performance** in elite world cup ski jumping. (Sklett 2018)

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**Developmental Plasticity**

- Promoting Self-Efficacy
 

Equinus	→	Plantarflexion Dorsiflexion restriction
Deformity Contracture	→	Structural variance Restriction Limiting structure Quality of end feel

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Health Condition Education

Sticky stories




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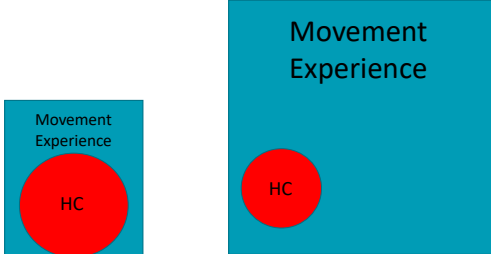
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Movement Experience

HC

Movement Experience

HC

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Stories and Growth Mindset:

- Podcast:
  - Hidden Brain: Watch Your Mouth, 10/3/22
  - Hidden Brain: Healing 2.0 Change Your Story, Change Your Life, 10/30/23 (27:00)
  - Happiness Lab: How to Adopt a Growth mindset 11/23/2021

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### Neuroplasticity: Promoting Self-Efficacy

During a patient interaction:

- Can you use positive language ONLY
- Without patronizing

We know that negative verbal feedback is detrimental to motor learning, so why do we do so much of it?

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*"Believe in your child so much the world thinks you're crazy. Then believe more."*

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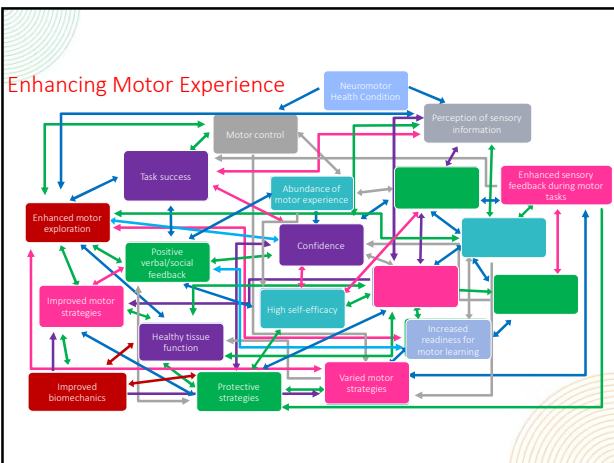
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Enhancing Motor Experience for Neuroplastic Change

- Engagement
- Effort
- Error

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Enhancing Motor Experience: Errors

- Errors are vital to motor learning
  - Reduced-error practice leads to increased errors in retention
  - Negative verbal feedback for errors decreases self-efficacy, performance, and retention
- Enhanced experience:
  - Create **augmented** errors that the nervous system can perceive
  - Structure the environment and task to allow for the motor response
- Experience with errors is vital for adaptability of motor skills to new tasks and new environments.

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@sailorkinsley




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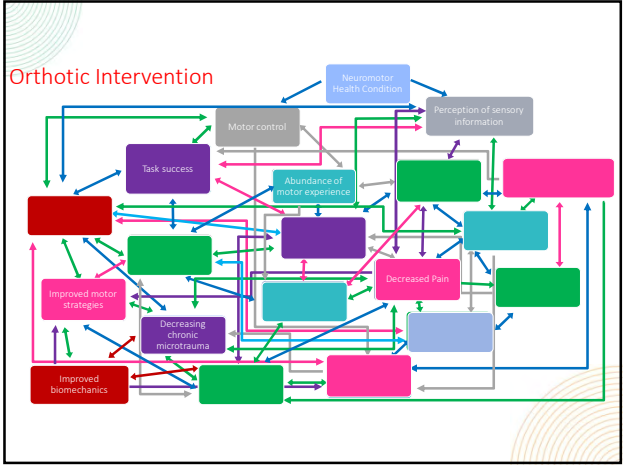
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**Orthotic Intervention: Neuroplasticity**

Orthoses can guide forces during repetitive movement and sustained alignments in order to:

- provide stress and strain compatible with healthy movement patterns.
- reduce the system's tendency to experience microtrauma and macrotrauma.
- provide **massed practice** of target motor patterns.

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**Orthotic Intervention: Developmental Neuroplasticity**

- Support for emerging neuromotor control
- Support for mass practice of motor skill
- Supporting repeated movements and sustained alignments that promote best possible structural development

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**Orthotic Intervention: Neuroplasticity**

Orthotic use can:

- Support foot posture and improve biomechanics
- Prevent tissue damage, pain

But it can also:

- Cause paucity of motor and sensory experience
- Restrict emerging motor skills
- How will you reduce this harm?

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**Orthotic Intervention: Neuroplasticity**

NM health condition →  
 → Altered neuromotor function  
 -Orthosis-  
 → ~~Excessive pronation~~  
 → ~~Loss of key afferent information from the foot intrinsics~~  
 → ~~Negative neuroplastic changes~~  
 → ~~Additional balance/gross motor impairment~~




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**Intervention Orthotic Intervention**

NM health condition →  
 → Altered neuromotor function  
 -Orthosis-  
 → Loss of key sensory information from plantar surface of foot  
 → Loss of kinesthetic information from ankle motion  
 → Negative neuroplastic changes  
 → Additional balance/gross motor impairment




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### Intervention Orthotic Intervention

Orthosis use can:

- Support foot posture and improve biomechanics
- Prevent tissue damage, pain

But it can also:

- Cause paucity of motor and sensory experience
- Restrict emerging motor skills

APTA Combined Sections Meeting

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### Orthotic Intervention: Neuroplasticity

- Consider the cost of removing a degree of freedom
- Bracing, especially solid-ankle does not mean no other intervention to the foot and ankle
- We should always look for opportunities to mobilize, strengthen, support motor learning, and provide an enriched experience




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### Discussion

- Questions or comments?
- Show and tell:
  - foot club box




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### Make Your Own Foot Club Box



#### Rules

- Do not talk about foot club.
- Only use clean glove or instrument in jars of skin emollients (no double dipping).
- Play-doh jars are one per patient, please label with initials once used.
- Clean IASTM instruments after use.

#### Possible Supplies

- Tennis-size ball
- Stickers
- Foot model
- Single-serve play doh/foam/gel
- Washable pens
- Massager
- Tools for IASTM
- Peg Blocks
- Toy Cars, dinosaurs, figurines
- Toe Puppets
- Forms: Exam, body maps, foot maps
- Use your imagination!**

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**Orthotic Design Question 1, Coronal Plane:** What support is required to correct alignment of hindfoot and midfoot in the coronal plane to allow dorsiflexion to occur **primarily** at the talocrural joint as the shank advances over the foot?  
**(Weightbearing Corrective Force Test)**



Tactile cues

Support at the calcaneus, medial longitudinal arch

Support at the calcaneus, ST, medial longitudinal arch, shaft of the 5<sup>th</sup> metatarsal

No Intervention/monitor/foot core training



Group 1: Foot Orthotics (FOs)

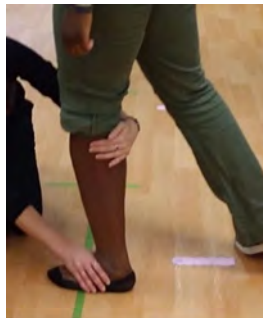


Support at the calcaneus, medial longitudinal arch, shaft of the 5<sup>th</sup> metatarsal and around the dorsum of the ankle

**Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses**  
-wrap around control



Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses (SMOs)



Support at the calcaneus, medial longitudinal arch, shaft of the 5<sup>th</sup> metatarsal, around the dorsum of the ankle, at the tibia for a longer lever arm

**Group 3: AFO with motion (with wrap-around)**  
-wrap around control with an extension proximal up the tibia for increased lever arm



Group 3: AFOs with Motion



Triplanar support at the calcaneus, medial longitudinal arch, shaft of the 5<sup>th</sup> metatarsal, around the dorsum of the ankle, and around tibia

Group 4: Solid AFO with wrap-around  
Group 4D: Solid AFO with wrap-around and dynamic element



Group 4: AFOs – Solid  
Group 4D: AFOs – Solid With Dynamic Element



**Question 2:** What amount of support does the foot and ankle complex need in the *sagittal* plane to obtain 5-15 degree shank angle in midstance? *How much assistance do you need to provide to the tibia (shank) to control flexion and extension forces during standing and walking?*

None/minimal assistance

None  
Shoe insert  
SMO  
SMO with proximal strap

Moderate assistance  
**WITHOUT** (or minimal) pronation or supination

**Group 5: Sagittal Plan Only**  
-Flexible upright with no/minimal/non-specific mid/hindfoot control.

Anterior strut: better for knee buckling  
Posterior strut: better for knee hyperextension

Lack of heelstrike  
Toe Drop

Knee extension during LR

Knee collapse/buckling

Excessive flexion during LR



Anterior Shell

Posterior Shell

**Group 3: AFO with flexible upright**  
-flexible upright with custom wrap-around

Moderate assistance  
**WITH** significant pronation or supination

Group 3: AFOs with Motion

Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Knee collapse/buckling

Excessively reclined shank (knee hyperextension)



**Group 4: Solid AFO with wrap-around**  
**Group 4D: Solid AFO with wrap-around and dynamic element**  
-work well when posting is required for shank kinematics  
-removes ankle from variables  
-focus of motor learning is at knee and hip

Maximal assistance

Group 4: AFOs – Solid

Group 4D: AFOs – Solid With Dynamic Element

Dependent standing

Non-weightbearing positioning





**Intervention**

- Range of motion
- Strength and motor control
- Neuroplasticity
- External supports



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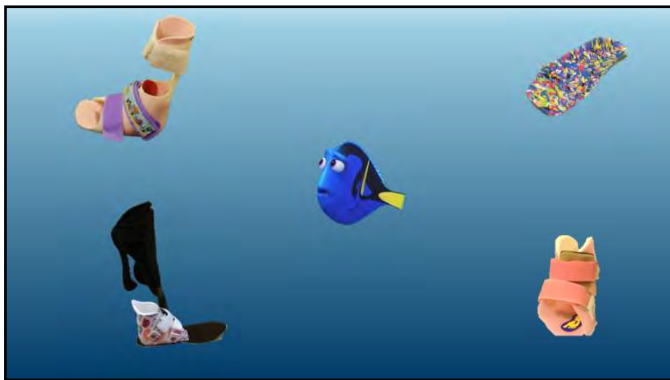
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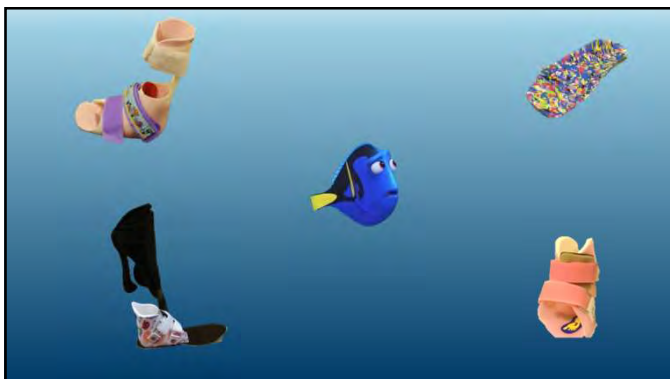
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External Supports  
Evidence based practice?



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Why the difference in recommendations?

Challenges to EBP

- ICF Model
- Heterogeneity
- Terminology
- Cultures of Intervention

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Challenges to EBP:

What is your idea of the perfect brace?



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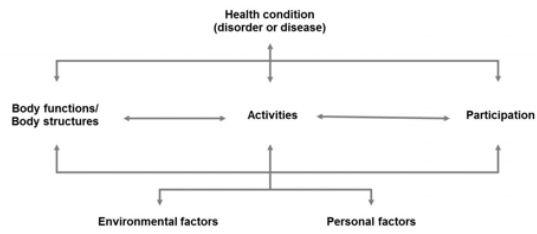
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### Perfect Brace: ICF Model



World Health Organization. (2001). International classification of functioning, disability and health : ICF. World Health Organization.

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### Challenges to EBP: ICF Model

- Prioritizing Body Functions and Structures versus Activity and Participation may lead to different recommendations
- Each clinician filters the impact of Environmental and Personal Factors through the lens of their own values and experiences
- Use of a movement system approach can help to facilitate these complex conversations

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### Goals

#### Body Structure and Function

- Lessen the impact of cumulative micro-trauma due to sustained alignments or repeated movements
- Externally support hypermobile structures in the movement system which have become the path of least resistance for ground reaction forces
- Direct forces toward target structures to increase their relative flexibility

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Goals

**Body Structure and Function**

- Restrict or resist motions in planes not compatible for healthy biomechanics
- Influence neuromuscular activation patterns during gait and other weightbearing activities

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Goals

**Activities**

- Improve
  - Function
  - Efficiency
  - Safety

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Goals

**Environment**

- Increase *direct access* to goal environments and structures

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Goals

Participation & Personal Factors

- Social acceptance
- Self acceptance
- Fit in
- Stand out
- Appear neurotypical
- Celebrate differences
- Be cool

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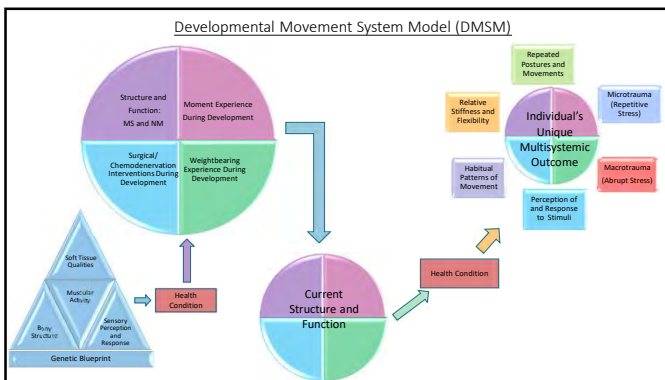
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Goals

Developmental Movement System Model

- For the patient as an **adult**:
- Minimize negative sequelae of developing in the context of a pediatric health condition
  - Minimize **pain**
  - Maximize **structural resilience** of the movement system
  - Maximize neuromotor function and **access to varied movement** options

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Goals

Developmental Movement System Model

For the patient as an adult:

- Maximize the **environments and activities** the patient can access with their movement system
- Maximize **acceptance** of individual differences
- Maximize the ability to **self-advocate** and access appropriate resources
- Maximize work and social **engagement** as an adult

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Challenges to EBP: "Efficacy" of Orthoses

What outcome does each study value?

What level of the ICF are they focusing on?

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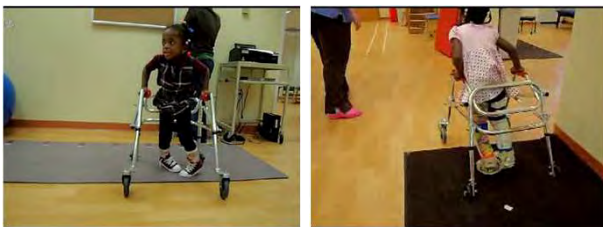
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Which bracing option is most "effective"?



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Challenges to EBP: Heterogeneity

Krzak JJ, Corcos DM, Damiano DL, Graf A, Hedeker D, Smith PA, Harris GF. *Kinematic foot types in youth with equinovarus secondary to hemiplegia*. Gait Posture. 2015 Feb;41(2):402-8.

- Participants **with hemiplegia and equinovarus** fell between - **Five distinct subgroups** -
- Neurotypical controls were distributed among **4** of the subgroups
- Noted: **inherent variability even in neurotypical, asymptomatic movement systems**

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Challenges to EBP: Heterogeneity

Are cohorts meaningful?  
Do glasses work for individuals with visual impairment?



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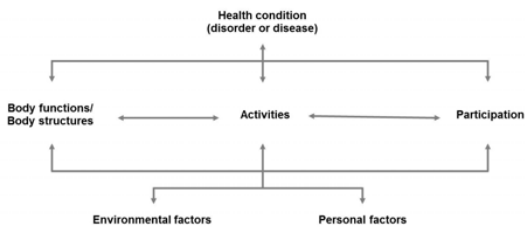
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Challenges to EBP:

Meaningful Cohorts



World Health Organization. (2001). International classification of functioning, disability and health : ICF. World Health Organization.

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Challenges to EBP: Terminology  
Speaking the Same (Sane) Language



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Challenges to EBP: Terminology  
Inconsistency

Terminology of orthoses

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External Supports

Evidence?

- Eddison M. Do research papers provide enough information on design and material used in ankle foot orthoses for children with cerebral palsy? A systematic review. Journal of children's orthopaedics. 2017;11(4):263-271.



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Building an orthotic decision-making framework



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External Supports

- Targeted use of external support to guide adaptive tissue-specific stresses
- Adjuncts to joint mobilization/soft tissue interventions

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External Supports

- Support for emerging neuromotor control
- Support for mass practice of motor skill
- Supporting repeated movements and sustained alignments that promote best possible structural development

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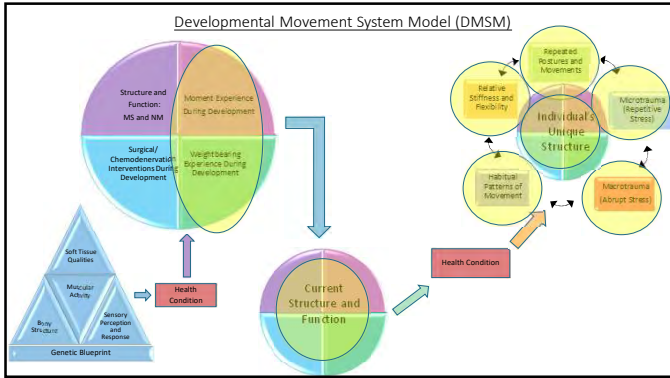
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**Orthotic Intervention**

**Developmental Movement System Model**

An orthoses can guide forces during repetitive movement and sustained alignments in order to:

- provide stress and strain that encourage tissues to form in a manner compatible with healthy movement patterns.
- reduce the system’s tendency to experience microtrauma and macrotrauma in the future.
- provide mass practice of target motor patterns.

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**Orthotic “Prescription” versus “Design”**

- Eddison M. Do research papers provide enough information on design and material used in ankle foot orthoses for children with cerebral palsy? A systematic review. Journal of children’s orthopaedics. 2017;11(4):263-271.

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Orthotic "Prescription" versus "Design"

**Prescription:** Capturing the individual characteristics of the movement system, including structural variants and support of compromised or at-risk structures

**Design:** Selection of brace features

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Orthotic "Prescription" versus "Design"

- Prescription: helping the body interface with the world



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Orthotic "Prescription"

- Developed from our Movement System Analysis
- This is a KEY ELEMENT of brace design, apart from style selection, and a key fault of ineffective orthoses.
  - If the style selected is correct, but the movement system has not been captured and supported specifically, the brace will not be appropriate.
  - Appropriate prescription may outweigh appropriate design.

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### Orthotic Prescription

Structural Findings

What structural findings need to be captured in the device to allow the movement system to interface with the world?

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### Orthotic Prescription: Musculoskeletal Findings

- Developing the orthotic prescription

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### Musculoskeletal Findings

- Structural variants
  - Atypical structure
  - TC Axis test: TC joint alignment
  - Structural findings:

	Coronal Plane	Transverse Plane
Hip/femur		
Knee/tibia		
Hindfoot		
Midfoot		
Forefoot		

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**Orthotic Prescription: TC Axis Test**

- Structural variants
  - Atypical structure
  - TC Axis test: TC joint alignment
  - Structural findings:

- Identifying the axis of the talo-crural joint
- Identifying structural variants




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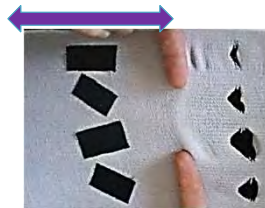
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**Orthotic Prescription**

Functional Findings

- In what way does the system tend to move?
- What structures need protection?
- What structures need forces directed to them?




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**Musculoskeletal Findings**

- Functional Variants
  - DF Stress test, End feel
  - Joint Function
- Neutral hindfoot
- Pronated hindfoot
- Supinated hindfoot

	Alignment, Joint Mobility, End feel, Arthrokinematics, ROM
Distal tib/fib	
Talo-crual	
Subtalar	
Midtarsals	
Forefoot	
Digits	

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Orthotic Prescription: DF Stress Test

- Functional Variants
  - DF Stress test, End feel
  - 1-Neutral hindfoot
  - 2-Pronated hindfoot
  - 3-Supinated hindfoot

- Where does DF (foot towards tibia) occur when a general stress is applied?
- What structures limit further motion in the direction of foot toward tibia?



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- Functional Variants
  - DF Stress test, End feel
  - 1-Neutral hindfoot
  - 2-Pronated hindfoot
  - 3-Supinated hindfoot

2. Pronated hindfoot



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- Functional Variants
  - DF Stress test, End feel
  - 1-Neutral hindfoot
  - 2-Pronated hindfoot
  - 3-Supinated hindfoot

3. Supinated hindfoot



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### Orthotic Prescription: Musculoskeletal Findings

- Do all individuals with structural or functional variants need orthotics?

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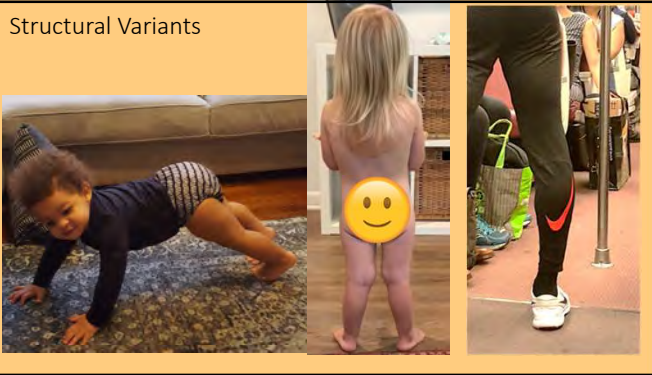
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### Structural Variants



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### Functional Variants



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Functional Variants



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Orthotic Prescription: Musculoskeletal Findings

- Joint Function
- Maladaptive relative stiffness/flexibility
- Altered line of pull of muscles around joints

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Orthotic "Prescription" versus "Design"

**Prescription:** Capturing the individual characteristics of the movement system, including structural variants and support of compromised or at-risk structures

**Design:** Selection of brace features

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Orthotic Terminology

- Eddison M. Do research papers provide enough information on design and material used in ankle foot orthoses for children with cerebral palsy? A systematic review. Journal of children's orthopaedics. 2017;11(4):263-271.



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Orthotic Design: Groups

- Group 1: Foot Orthotics (FO)
- Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthotics (SMO)
- Group 2+: SMO+
- Group 3: AFO with Movement (AFO-M)
- Group 4: AFO – Solid (AFO-S)
- Group 4D: Solid with Dynamic Element
- Group 5: AFO – Sagittal Plane Only (AFO-Sag)

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Group 1: Foot Orthotics (FOs)



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Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses (SMOs)

Custom-from casts



Compression-from measurements



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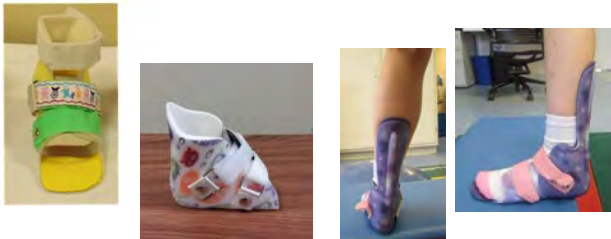
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Group 2+: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses+ (SMO+)



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Group 3: AFOs with Motion



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Group 3: AFOs with Motion  
Flexible Upright  
(Posterior Leaf Spring)



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Group 3: AFOs with Motion  
Flexible Upright



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Group 3: AFOs with Motion  
Articulated



Free DF

DF Assist

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Group 4: AFOs – Solid



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Group 4: AFOs – Solid



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Group 4D: AFOs – Solid With Dynamic Element



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Group 5: AFOs – Sagittal Only  
No Prescription



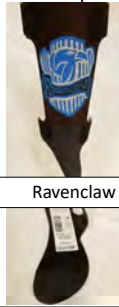
Anterior Shell



Posterior Shell



A/P  
(+ false coronal)



Ravenclaw

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- Questions about groups?

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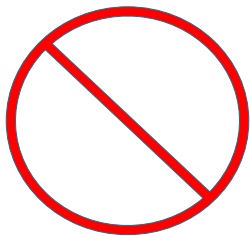
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Rules: Remember the Roast!



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Orthotic "Prescription" versus "Design"

**Prescription:** Capturing the individual characteristics of the movement system, including structural variants and support of compromised or at-risk structures

**Design:** Selection of brace features

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Brace "Prescription" versus "Design"

**Prescription:** Capturing the individual characteristics of the movement system, including structural variants and support of compromised or at-risk structures

**Design:** Selection of brace features

- 1. Coronal Plane
- 2. Sagittal Plane

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Orthotic Design Charts: [amandahallpt.com/resources](http://amandahallpt.com/resources)



Orthotic Design:  
Coronal Plane



Orthotic Design:  
Sagittal Plane

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Orthotic Design: Coronal Plane

NWB Corrective Force

What support is required to:  
Bring the foot and ankle in into  
position with the joints  
congruent?



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Orthotic Design: Coronal Plane

WB Corrective Force Test

What support is required to:  
correct alignment of hindfoot and  
midfoot in the frontal and  
transverse planes to **allow  
dorsiflexion to occur primarily**  
at the talocrural joint as the shank  
advances over the foot?



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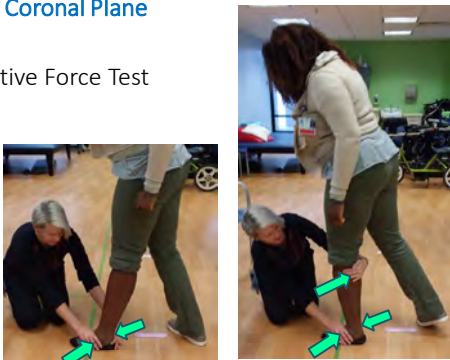
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Orthotic Design: Coronal Plane

WB Corrective Force Test



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\*Coronal Plane Chart  
Orthotic Design: Coronal Plane



Support needed:  
Cueing

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Group 0

- No Intervention
- Monitor
- Stability and foot core training



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Support at the calcaneus,  
medial longitudinal arch

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Group 1: Foot Orthotics (FOs)



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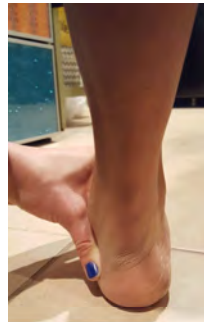
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Support at the calcaneus, medial longitudinal arch, shaft of the 5<sup>th</sup> metatarsal and around the dorsum of the ankle



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Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses (SMOs)  
Group 2+: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses+ (SMO+)



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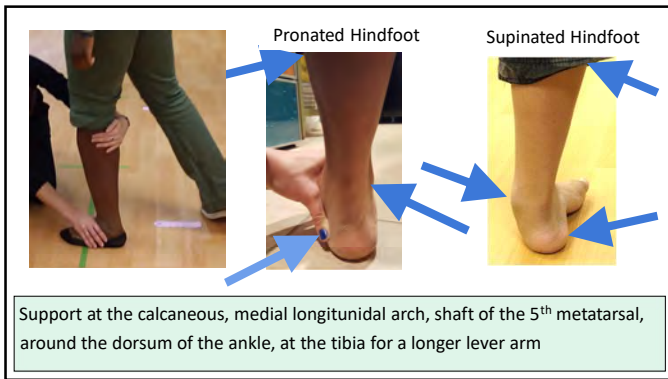
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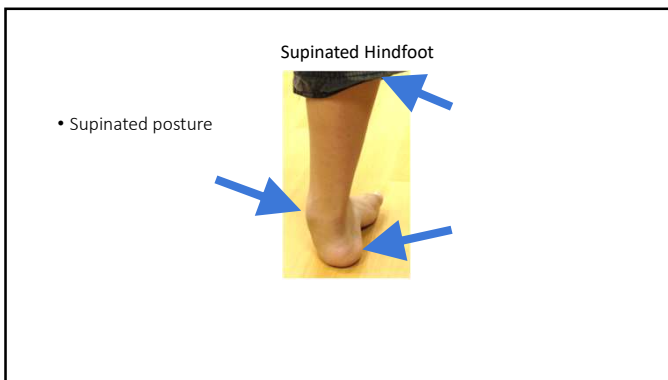
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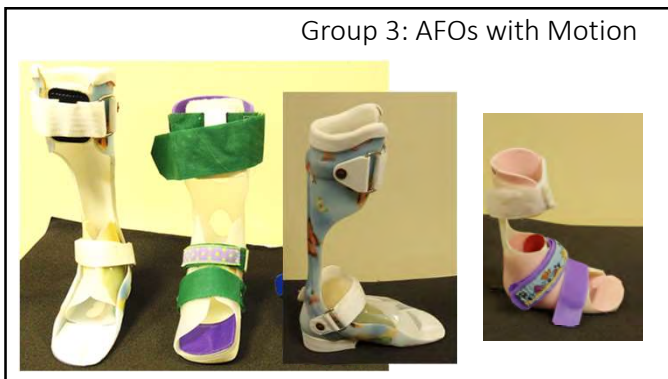
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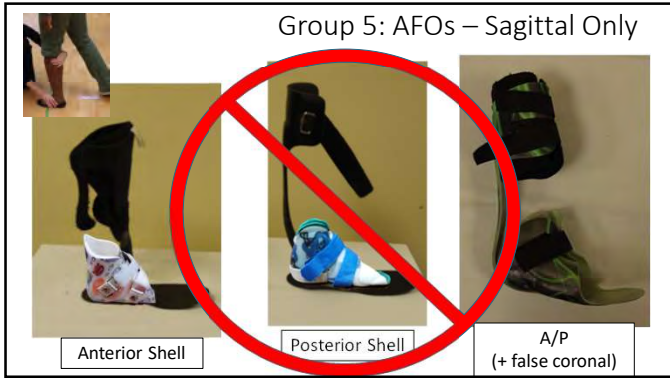
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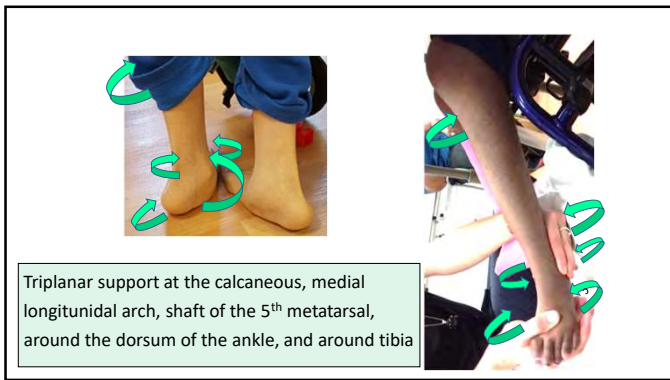
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Group 4: AFO – Solid



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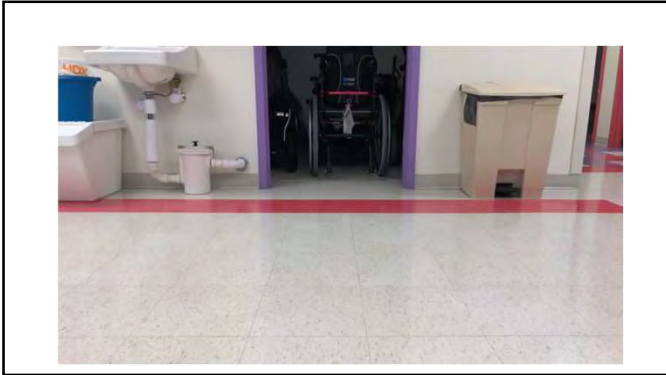
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### Brace “Prescription” versus “Design”

**Prescription:** Capturing the individual characteristics of the movement system, including structural variants and support of compromised or at-risk structures

**Design:** Selection of brace features

1. Coronal Plane
2. Sagittal Plane

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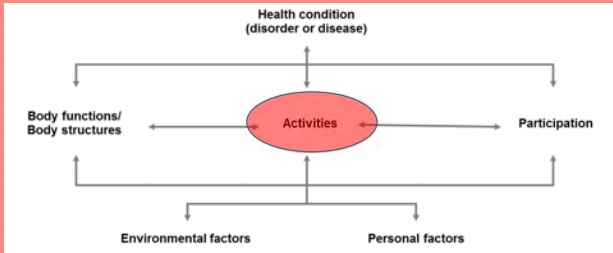
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## Functional Status and Task analysis



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## Sagittal Plane Chart Locomotor functions

- Stance stability
  - Propulsion
    - Advancement of the body over the supporting foot depends on stance limb mobility
  - Shock absorption
  - Energy conservation
- (Perry)

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## Orthotic Design: Sagittal Plane

- Does not stand
- Stands but does not ambulate
  - With device (stander or gait trainer)
  - Stands for transfers or other function
  - Pre-ambulatory

What support is required to:  
→ Support the foot and ankle for safety, weightbearing, and the individual's activities?

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Does Not Stand/Limited Standing

Group 0: No Orthotic



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Does Not Stand/Limited Standing

Group 4: AFO – Solid



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## Orthotic Design: Sagittal Plane

### Initial contact, loading response

What support is required to:

→ Encourage knee flexion versus extension moment during loading response?

or

→ Improve eccentric control of tibial advancement during loading response?



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Loading Response

Group 1: Foot Orthotics (FOs)

Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses (SMOs)



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Loading Response

Group 2+: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses+ (SMO+)



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Loading Response

Group 3: AFOs with Motion

- DF Assist, DF Free



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Loading response:  
Mechanical Assist to control GRF

**Assisted Loading response**

- Assist to dampen the impact of GRF through the kinetic chain
- Upright with dynamic element (PLS/PDE = Posterior Leaf Spring/Posterior Dynamic Element)



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Loading Response

Group 3: AFOs with Motion

Posterior Leaf Spring - Assist in eccentric slowing of the shank



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Loading Response

### Group 4: AFOs – Solid

Stops progression of shank, chooses one angle and takes you straight there.



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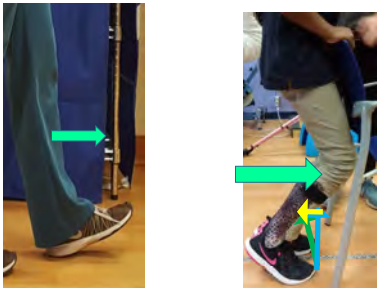
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Loading Response

### Group 4: AFOs – Solid

Stops progression of shank?



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Loading Response:  
Shank Reversal

### Group 5: Sagittal Only AFOs

Anterior Shell

Posterior Shell



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Loading Response:  
Impaired Eccentric Control/  
Knee buckling

### Group 5: Sagittal Only AFOs

Anterior Shell



Posterior Shell



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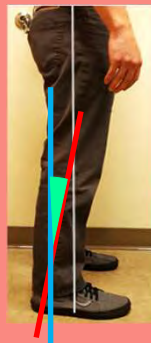
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### Orthotic Design: Sagittal Plane

#### □ Midstance

What support is required to:

- Obtain 5-15 degree shank angle in midstance/quiet standing?



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### Inclinometry: Shank Angle



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### Aligning Orthoses for Therapeutic Gait: Posting

- There can be 2 angles in an AFO:
  - Angle of the ankle in the orthosis
  - Angle of the shank (tibia) to the floor



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### Aligning Orthoses for Therapeutic Gait: Coronal Plane

- Hindfoot
- Forefoot



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### Aligning Orthoses for Therapeutic Gait: Coronal Plane



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Aligning Orthoses for Therapeutic Gait:  
Sagittal Plane



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Aligning Orthoses for Therapeutic Gait:  
Sagittal Plane



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Aligning Orthoses for Therapeutic Gait:  
Sagittal Plane



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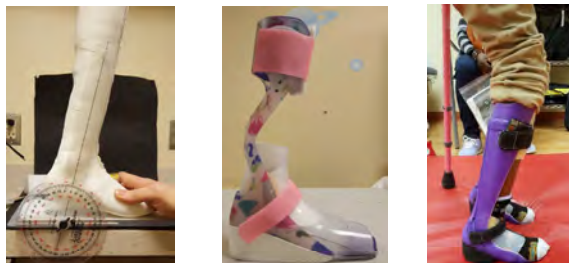
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### Aligning Orthoses for Therapeutic Gait: Sagittal Plane



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### □ 1-Shank Angle WFL

Movement system is able to compensate for any changes at the foot/ankle

-or-

The greater movement system is **driving** the change in the foot/ankle



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### I. Shank angle within functional limits

Goals for alignment:

- Heel contact at initial contact
- Hindfoot weightbearing throughout stance
- Increase step length and time in terminal stance
- Angle: typically 3-7 degrees



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## I. Shank angle within functional limits

### Assisted Initial Contact at heel

- Heel contact is a vital sensory trigger to stimulate eccentric GS function
- Bring floor up to heel




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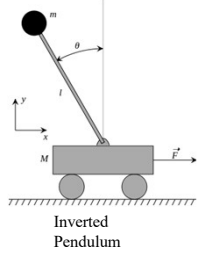
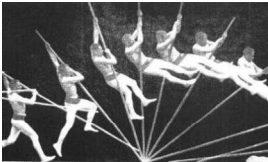
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## Midstance: Mechanical Assist for heel contact

### Assisted weightbearing through heel

- Heel contact mechanically stabilizes the calcaneus to allow for controlled tibial motion




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## ❑ 2-Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

### Weight line

- anterior to hip
  - posterior to the knee
- Shank angle > 15 degrees




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## II. Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Weight line is anterior to the hip and posterior to the knee.

All of the GRF moments are flexion, in all phases of gait.



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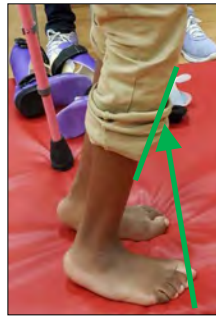
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## II. Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Old conventional wisdom: set shank in a negative angle to push the shank backwards.

In reality, the foot has an inefficient lever arm for this to be effective, and the patient lifts the heel.



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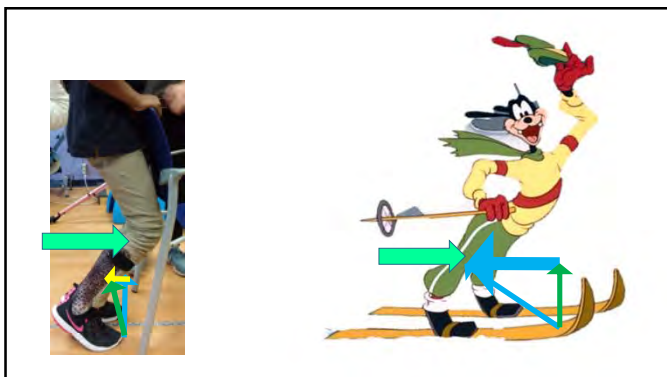
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## II. Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Current theory: Bring the floor up to the heel to provide:

- Heel contact at initial contact and midstance
- Provide a base for the thigh to move from reclined to inclined



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Begin to teach the motor system to load through the posterior aspect

Compromise towards the chosen shank angle to get heel contact

Gradually reduce the shank angle as posterior structures lengthen and motor learning occurs



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- Angle: typically 15-18 degrees



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## II. Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Treatment focuses on learning to bring the thigh from reclined to inclined over a stable base in midstance and quiet stance.



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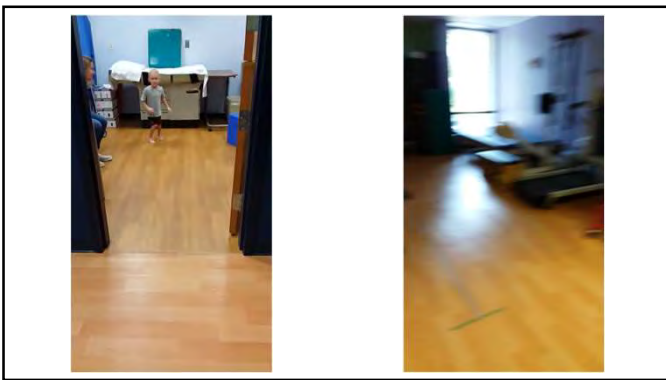
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Function:  
Supination of hindfoot  
Abducted MTPs

Function: "~~Pes Valgus~~"  
Pronated hindfoot, midfoot  
Abducted MTPs

Structure:  
Hindfoot varus  
Metatarsus adductus, **varus**

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❑ 2-Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Old conventional wisdom: set shank in a reclined angle to push the shank backwards. ("Floor reaction AFO")

In reality, the foot has an inefficient lever arm for this to be effective, and the patient lifts the heel.




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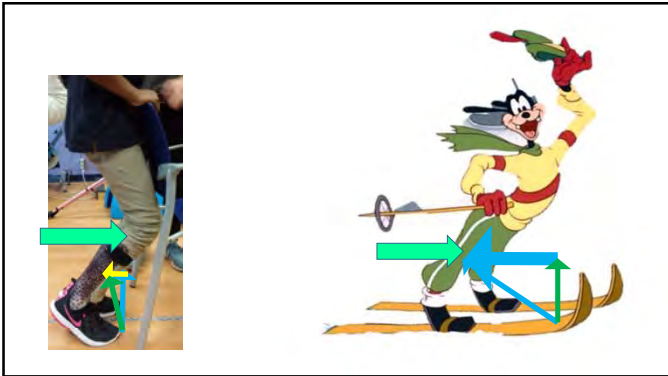
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2-Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Current theory: Bring the floor up to the heel to provide:

- Heel contact at initial contact and midstance
- Provide a base for the thigh to move from reclined to inclined
- Post to 15-18 degrees, goal to reduce shank angle over time



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2-Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Begin to teach the motor system to load through the posterior aspect

Compromise towards the chosen shank angle to get heel contact



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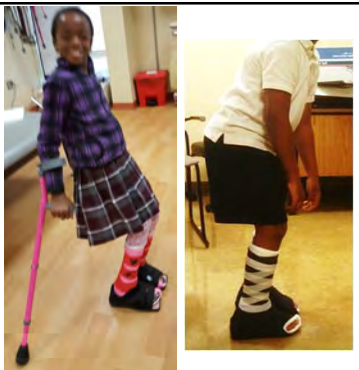
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2-Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

- Gradually reduce the shank angle as posterior structures lengthen and motor learning occurs



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Excessively Inclined Shank

Group 1: Foot Orthotics (FOs)  
 Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses (SMOs)  
 Group 2+: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses+ (SMO+)

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Excessively Inclined Shank

Group 3: AFOs with Motion

- DF Assist, DF Free

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Excessively Inclined Shank

Group 3: AFOs with Motion

Posterior Leaf Spring

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Midstance  
Mechanical Assist to slow tibial progression

**Assisted Midstance:**  
**Dynamic Upright (Posterior Leaf Spring/ Posterior Dynamic Element)**

- 1) Grade tibial progression
- 2) Stabilize the knee by slowing tibia motion relative to femur motion

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Excessively Inclined Shank

**Group 4: AFOs – Solid**

Removes a degree of freedom—provides a stable base to work on proximal skills for standing and gait alignment.

**Highly recommend dynamic solid for shock absorption**

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Excessively Inclined Shank

**Group 5: Sagittal Only AFOs**

Anterior Shell      Posterior Shell      A/P (+ false coronal)      Ravenclaw

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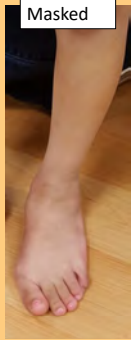
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Structural Variants


	Coronal Plane	Transverse Plane
Midfoot	Metatarsus Varus	Metatarsus Adductus



Masked



Joints Congruent



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2-Excessively inclined shank (crouch)

Treatment focuses on learning to bring the thigh from reclined to inclined over a stable base in midstance and quiet stance.





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Excessively Inclined Shank

Group 5: Sagittal Only AFOs

Anterior Shell

Posterior Shell

A/P  
(+ false coronal)

Ravenclaw

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❑ 3-Excessively reclined shank (knee hyperextension)

Weight line

- anterior to hip
- anterior to the knee

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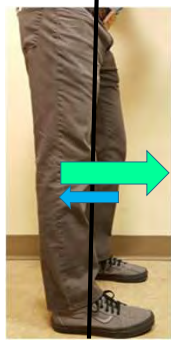
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❑ 3-Excessively reclined shank (knee hyperextension)

- Goal: bring the shank angle forward enough to overcome the tendency for the system to create an extension moment.



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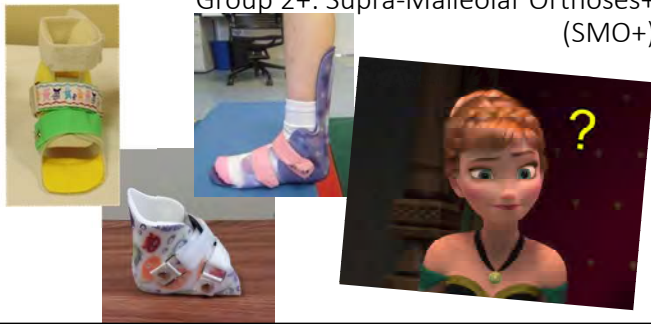
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Excessively Reclined Shank

Group 2+: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses+ (SMO+)



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Excessively Reclined Shank

Group 3: AFOs with Motion

- DF Assist, DF Free
- If set with a PF block, may overcome reclined shank moment while allowing the gastrosoleus perform eccentric control of DF.



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Excessively Reclined Shank

### Group 3: AFOs with Motion

Posterior Leaf Spring



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Excessively Reclined Shank

### Group 4: AFOs – Solid

- Removes a degree of freedom—provides a stable base to work on proximal skills for standing and gait alignment.
- This stability may assist with motor learning to increase loading through the limb.



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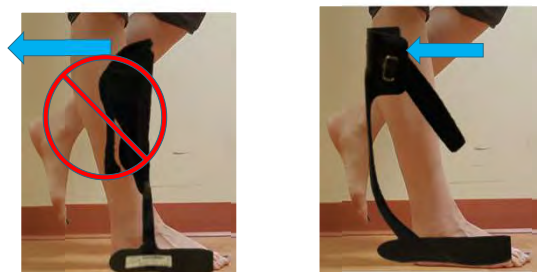
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Excessively Reclined Shank

### Group 5: Sagittal Only AFOs

Anterior Shell

Posterior Shell



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Special cases

- Primary muscular weakness

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❑ 3-Excessively reclined shank (knee hyperextension)

Weight line

- anterior to hip
- anterior to the knee



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Musculoskeletal Findings

❑ Altered muscle strength or endurance due to health condition

- Weight line is aligned anterior to knee to maintain knee stability
- Shank angle reclined
- Forcing the shank forward will cause uncontrolled knee flexion (buckling) and loss of stability in standing



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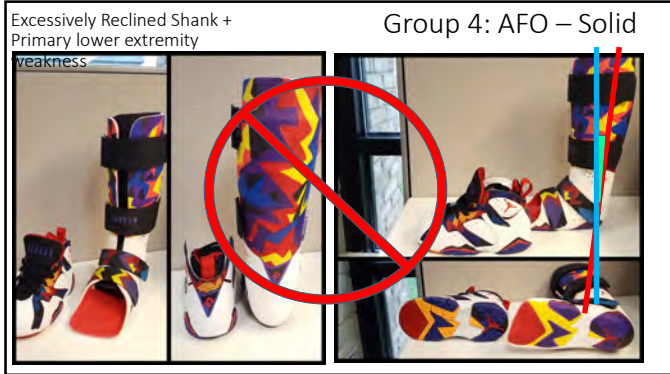
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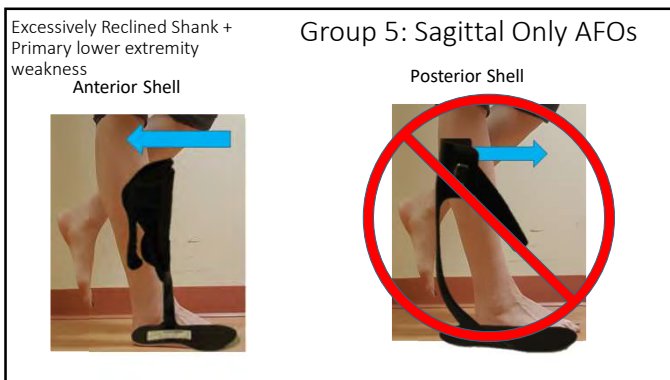
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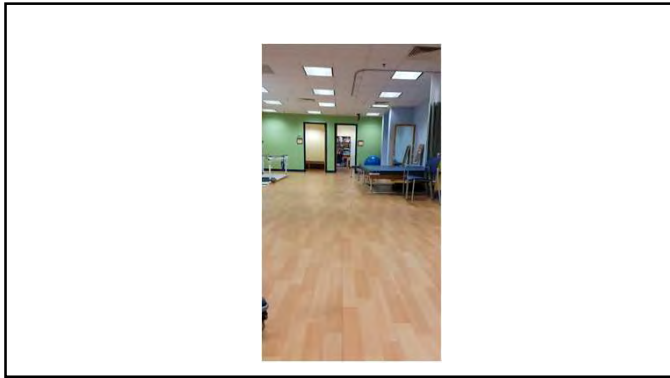
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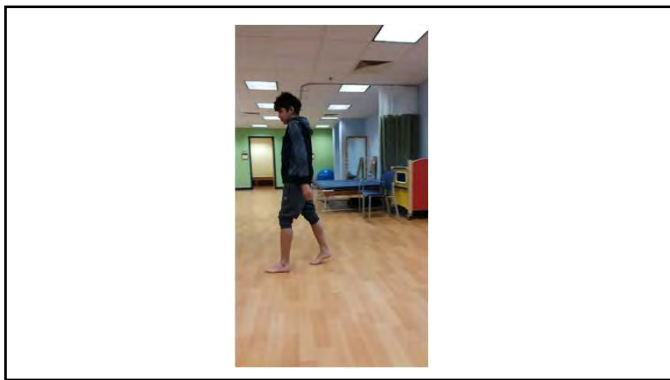
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Excessively Reclined Shank +  
Primary lower extremity weakness



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☐ Terminal Stance  
3<sup>rd</sup> Rocker

What support is required for:  
→ Heel contact  
→ with knee extension  
and  
→ hip extension



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3<sup>rd</sup> Rocker

Group 1: Foot Orthotics (FOs)

Stiff 3<sup>rd</sup> rocker

Flexible or free 3<sup>rd</sup> rocker



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3<sup>rd</sup> Rocker

Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses (SMOs)  
Group 2+: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses+ (SMO+)

Stiff 3<sup>rd</sup> rocker

Flexible or free 3<sup>rd</sup> rocker



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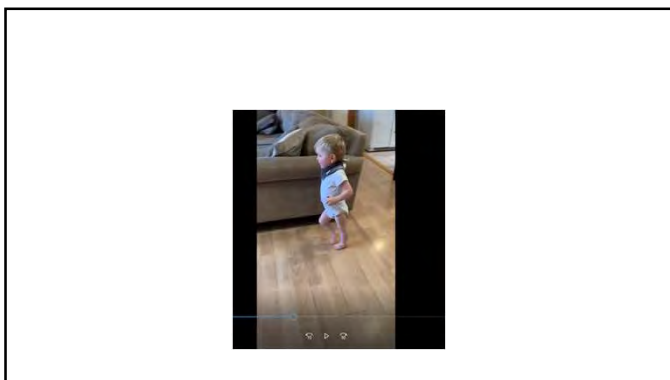
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Group 3: AFOs with Motion Flexible Upright



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Group 3: AFOs with Motion Articulated



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Terminal Stance  
4<sup>th</sup> Rocker

What support is required to:  
→ Store energy to assist with push-off  
→ Move from stance to swing efficiently?  
→ (Heel whip)



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Energy Storage

### Group 3: AFOs with Motion Flexible Upright



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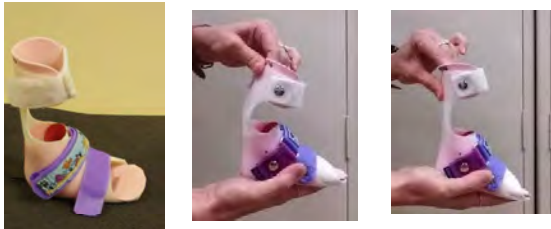
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Energy Storage



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### Mechanical Assist for "spring off"

#### Assisted terminal stance

- Upright with dynamic element (Posterior Leaf Spring/ Posterior Dynamic Element)



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Energy Storage

### Group 3: AFOs with Motion articulated



Free DF

DF Assist

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Energy Storage

### Group 4: AFOs – Solid



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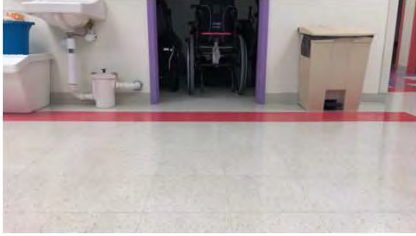
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Posterior Leaf Spring/ Posterior Dynamic Element



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Energy Storage

Group 5: Sagittal Only AFOs



Anterior Shell



Posterior Shell



A/P  
(+ false coronal)

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Functional Status and Task analysis

Swing phase  
 Foot clearance

What support is required for:

→ Foot clearance

→ Limb positioning at terminal stance

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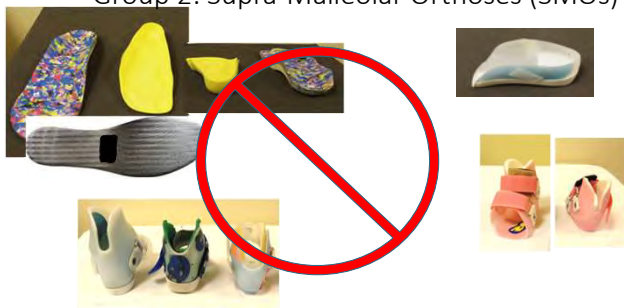
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Swing

Group 1: Foot Orthotics (FOs)  
Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses (SMOs)



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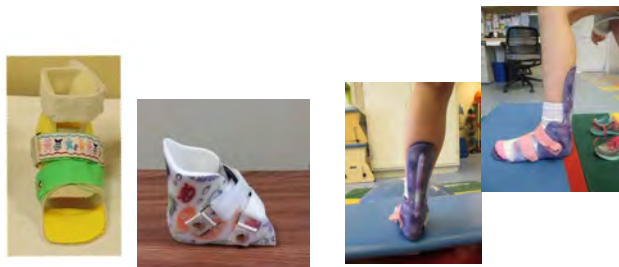
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Swing

Group 2+: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses+ (SMO+)



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Swing

Group 3: AFOs with Motion  
Flexible Upright



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Swing

### Group 3: AFOs with Motion articulated



Free DF



DF Assist

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### Group 4: AFOs – Solid



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Swing

### Group 5: Sagittal Only AFOs



2 points of control, depend on shoe for the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Effective to support clearance and pre-positioning with

- Weakness
- Cueing

\*not\* against active resistance.

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## Functional Status and Task analysis

- ☐ Transverse and Coronal Plane findings



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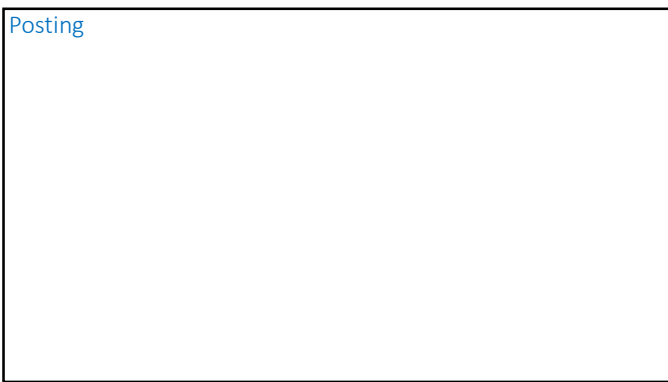
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## Posting



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## Loading response: Mechanical Assist to control GRF

### Assisted Initial Contact at heel

- Heel contact is a vital sensory trigger to stimulate eccentric GS function
- Bring floor up to heel



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Midstance:

Mechanical Assist for heel contact

**Assisted weightbearing through heel**

- Heel contact is a vital sensory trigger to stimulate eccentric GS function
- Heel contact mechanically stabilizes the calcaneus to allow for controlled tibial motion



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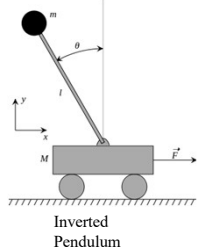
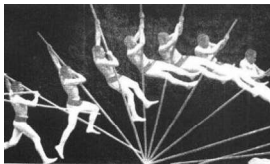
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Midstance:

Mechanical Assist for heel contact

**Assisted weightbearing through heel**

- Heel contact mechanically stabilizes the calcaneus to allow for controlled tibial motion



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Midstance:

Mechanical Assist for heel contact

**Assisted weightbearing through heel**

- Heel contact is a vital sensory trigger to stimulate eccentric GS function
- Heel contact mechanically stabilizes the calcaneus to allow for controlled tibial motion
- Relative stiffness of the GS and ankle are common; posting the heel may decrease functional resistance to forward movement of the shank
- Bring floor up to heel



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**Question 1: What aspect of support does the heel and ankle control, used in the sagittal plane, to allow 10 degree dorsiflexion to the ankle and maintain the foot flat on the ground during the heel strike phase of walking?**

**Question 2: What aspect of support does the heel and ankle control, used in the sagittal plane, to allow 10 degree dorsiflexion to the ankle and maintain the foot flat on the ground during the heel strike phase of walking?**

**Question 3: What aspect of support does the heel and ankle control, used in the sagittal plane, to allow 10 degree dorsiflexion to the ankle and maintain the foot flat on the ground during the heel strike phase of walking?**

**Coronal Plane**

**Sagittal Plane**

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**Group 1: Foot Orthoses (FOs)**

**Group 2: Supra-Malleolar Orthoses (SMOs)**

**Group 3: AFOs with Motion**

**Group 4: AFOs - Solid With Dynamic Element**

**Group 5: AFOs - Sagittal Only**

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## Functional Status and Task analysis

- ☐ **Lifespan Status**  
Goals related to movement experiences based on current developmental status.

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Lifespan Status

Older Adults

- Falls associated with:
  - Foot pain
  - Abducted 1<sup>st</sup> ray (Hallux valgus)
  - Lesser toe abduction/malalignment
  - Chronic midfoot pronation posture

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Lifespan Status

Older Adults

- Foot problems are associated with:
  - Falls
  - Frailty level
  - Decreased motor performance

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Lifespan Status

Older Adults

- Age-related changes
  - LE muscle strength and power
    - specifically great toe and ankle muscles
    - contribute decreases in balance and gait
  - Skin and soft tissue changes to the plantar surface
    - associated with:
      - decreased balance
      - increased fall risk

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Fall Risk Reduction in Older Adults

- Safer with shoes at all times, even in the house, especially for people with diabetes.
- The lower the top of the shoe is, the less stability and input it provides.
- Orthotics can improve sensory and mechanoreceptor input.
- AFOs improve stability and sensory input to improve balance and reduce fall risk.

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Orthotic Design: Neuromotor

- What external support is needed for mass practice of target motor skills?
  - What external support decreases tonic contractions which lead to sustained alignments that would contribute to pathoanatomical changes?
- Foot and ankle  
→Elsewhere in kinetic chain

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Sensory Perception and Pain

- Informs
- Orthotic design
- What support is needed for the foot intrinsics to receive relevant balance information?

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## Relevant Systems

Informs

- Orthotic decision
- Orthotic design

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## Individual Characteristics

Informs

- Orthotic decision
- Orthotic design
- Orthotic aesthetics
- Orthotic dosage

Minimizing Negative Impacts of Orthotic Intervention on Activities and Participation

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Individual Characteristics:  
Aesthetics

What are our beliefs around the rights of individuals with complex healthcare needs and:

- Fault
- Self Expression
- Autonomy
- Body boundaries

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Individual Characteristics:  
Aesthetics

- Physical therapists have an ethical responsibility to support the autonomy of patients, especially those who may have decreased abilities to make choices in their lives and particularly to set boundaries around their bodies.
- We should avoid adding “insult to injury” with ugly orthoses.



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Special cases

- Limited DF ROM
  - Stretching orthotics

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## Comprehensive Treatment Plan

- Consider the cost of removing a degree of freedom
- Bracing, even solid-ankle does not mean no other intervention to the foot and ankle
- We should always look for opportunities to mobilize, strengthen, and support motor learning
- Dosage can be key for multiple movement experiences

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- Do you resist to strengthen or support/assist?




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## Comprehensive Treatment Plan

Orthotic Plan		
	Setting	Schedule
No Device		
Device 1		
Device 2		
Device 3		

Physical Therapy:
Home Program:
Community Exercise Activity:

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Orthotics

Dosage and plan

What do your orthotic recommendations take away from the system?

How will you reduce this harm?

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Case Studies

1. Exam What are your suspicions in each area?
  - What do you want to test further?
  - What is your theory for the drivers and limiting factors
2. Goals
  - What are your goals in different areas of the ICF?
  - 1 month/6 months/1 years/5 years/10 years/20 years?
3. Manual therapy
4. Therapeutic Exercise
5. Neuroplasticity
  - \*Novel activity\*
6. Education
7. Orthotic
  - Consider multiple devices
  - Dosage and plan

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- Going above the knee



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- Ethics wheels versus walking




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Take Home

- Evidence: roast, parachute, stool
- DMSM: treating the future of the patient
- Exam: Finding true TC joint motion
- Mobilizations:
  - ↳ calcaneal with post talus soft tissue
- Ther ex:
  - resisted diagonal step down
- Neuroplasticity: Emoji therapy
- Therapeutic alliance: Challenge yourself to use positive language only
- Foot club box
- Orthotics: Coronal versus sagittal plane decision making




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graph TD
    HC[Health condition (disorder or disease)] --> BF[Body functions/ Body structures]
    HC --> A[Activities]
    HC --> P[Participation]
    BF <--> A
    A <--> P
    BF <--> P
    EF[Environmental factors] --> BF
    EF --> A
    EF --> P
    PF[Personal factors] --> BF
    PF --> A
    PF --> P
    
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Thank you!!!!!!!

- Tell a friend?
- Course feedback
- Hands-on Advanced Course
- Resources:  
[amandahallpt.com/resources](http://amandahallpt.com/resources)
- Questions/consultations:  
[info@amandahallpt.com\\*](mailto:info@amandahallpt.com)
- Facebook: Therapeutic Casting Forum
- IG: madcaster



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Thank you!

[www.amandahallpt.com/resources](http://www.amandahallpt.com/resources)

Facebook: Therapeutic Casting Group



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