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Governmental Perspective on Fair and Equitable Provision of Bone-anchored Prostheses: Barriers and Facilitators

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Speaker's information



Dr <u>Laurent Frossard</u> is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and University of Sunshine Coast (USC) as well as the Director/Chief

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He is a Biomechanist focusing on the locomotion and rehabilitation of individuals with lower limb loss. He is one of the very few independent experts in the clinical benefits of bone-anchored prostheses.

His academic track record includes over 140 publications, several grants, supervisions of students and international collaborations.

Background

Individuals with lower limb amputation fitted with conventional artificial limbs often experience continuous socket-related discomfort leading to a dramatic decrease in quality of life. Most of these functional issues can be overcome by replacing the socket with a surgically implanted bone-anchored prosthesis attached directly to the residual bone using an osseointegrated fixation.^[1-31] organizations Government are facing challenges adjusting procedures in to accommodate the emergence of bone-anchored prostheses.^[32-35] This study shares the knowledge gained by the Queensland Artificial Limb Service (QALS) an Australian State government organization, while implementing a procedure for fair and equitable provision of bone-anchored prostheses care.

Aim

The aim of this study was to share some insights drawn from QALS' experience with strong emphasis on barriers and facilitators encountered when implementing procedure for provision of bone-anchored prostheses care in Queensland, Australia.

Method

Barriers and facilitators were identified over nearly 3 years following typical phases of action research led by QALS' management team and researchers who consulted key stakeholders (e.g., 18 Queensland-based consumers, 3 prosthetists, 2 multidisciplinary clinical teams).

Results

One outcome of this study was the identification of barriers to overcome during the implementation of such a procedure including, but not limited to:

- Initial lack of a definitive rehabilitation program, particularly for the treatment with press-fit fixation. This issue is resolving as rehabilitation programs are becoming more established nationally and worldwide.^[1, 2, 4, 16-18, 36-39]
- Initial uncertainty in the relevance and timing of prosthetist involvement for pre- and post-operative prosthetic care.
- Need to fit bone-anchored prostheses' consumers with advanced microprocessing knees, providing critical biomechanical advantages but expensive.^[17-21, 25-30]
- Consistent updating of complex accommodate boneprocedure to anchored prostheses clinical improvements (e.g., surgical procedures, long terms outcomes) and development of prosthetic components biomechanical performance. (e.g., cost).^[10, 37, 40-54]

Equally important were the facilitators to implementation also identified during the development of the procedure including, but not limited to:

- Early and consistent consultations of stakeholders to warrant relevance and adhesion,
- Adapting existing processes rather than creating new ones,
- Use a passport of service to facilitate continuum of care particularly for multidisciplinary services performed interstate.

Discussion and Conclusion

To date, the proposed QALS' procedure has only been implemented over one year for 18 consumers. All consumers had unilateral transfemoral amputation. They were mainly located in metropolitan areas in reasonable proximity of prosthetists. Only a small number of dedicated prosthetists and clinicians were involved. Consequently, revisiting regularly the presented barriers and facilitators will be required following consideration for more complex case mixes (e.g., transtibial, multilevel amputations), the geographical spread of consumers extending to rural areas with limited access to a prosthetists, the increasing number of treatment sites in Australia and abroad as the surgery becomes more routinely performed.

For the first time, an overview of barriers and facilitators for implementation of procedure from one government organization for fair and equitable bone-anchored prostheses are presented. The QALS' experience reported here is a stepping-stone providing a working for both development template and implementation of procedure to stakeholders responsible for policies around prosthetic care.

To know more





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