

INTRODUCTION

Successful prosthetic rehabilitation extends beyond mobility and physical function. For some individuals, body image, symmetry, and cosmetic appearance significantly influence confidence, prosthesis acceptance, and social participation. These psychosocial factors are often difficult to quantify but can strongly impact long-term rehabilitation outcomes.

OBJECTIVE

To explore the lived experience of body image concerns following lower-limb amputation and examine the role of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) in supporting prosthesis acceptance and psychological adaptation.

METHODOLOGY

A qualitative two-patient case-study design was undertaken within a prosthetic rehabilitation setting. Clinical interactions and reflective observations were reviewed over multiple appointments following definitive prosthetic fitting. Thematic analysis was used to identify recurring psychosocial factors affecting prosthesis use and engagement with rehabilitation.

CASE DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

A bilateral below-knee prosthesis user, demonstrated good functional progression following fitting of her prosthesis, including improved gait confidence and occasional ambulation without a walking aid. Despite these physical gains, persistent concerns were regarding skin-tone matching, symmetry, and visibility of prosthetic and negatively affected her motivation and self-confidence. The patient expressed distress that the prosthesis “would never match” her natural limb and reported reluctance to wear clothing that exposed suspension sleeves, liners, or trim lines.

Several interventions were trialled to improve cosmetic satisfaction, including alignment modifications, selection of a matched cosmetic Skinergy cover, and adaptation of suspension sleeve positioning to reduce visible colour differentiation. While these adjustments improved satisfaction temporarily, the patient remained highly sensitive to minor cosmetic discrepancies. **Results:** MDT involvement, brought positive results after counselling support, and acceptance, self-image, and expectation management was improved.



ROLE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

The role of multidisciplinary team is an essential part of the modern healthcare structure. This case-study has elucidated the importance of multidisciplinary teams in prosthetic healthcare settings. The team acts like a “well-oiled machines,” and certainly shows the patient empowerment through following multidisciplinary pathways and clinical recommendations.

Probing the Case:

Following are the outcomes and critical analysis of this case-study in a gist:

- Cosmetic concerns became a major barrier.
- Psychological and social factors were significant.
- Expectations were an important clinical issue.
- MDT involvement was particularly valuable.
- Counselling contributed to improved acceptance.
- The case highlights the interaction between physical and psychological rehabilitation.

CONCLUSION

This case highlights the significant influence of body image on prosthetic rehabilitation, independent of functional success. Prosthetists and MDTs should recognise cosmetic concerns as clinically meaningful factors affecting motivation, confidence, and long-term prosthesis acceptance. Overall, the positive MDT outcome suggests that successful prosthetic rehabilitation should be defined by a combination of function, comfort, appearance, psychological wellbeing, self-image, acceptance and participation, rather than mobility outcomes alone.

REFERENCES

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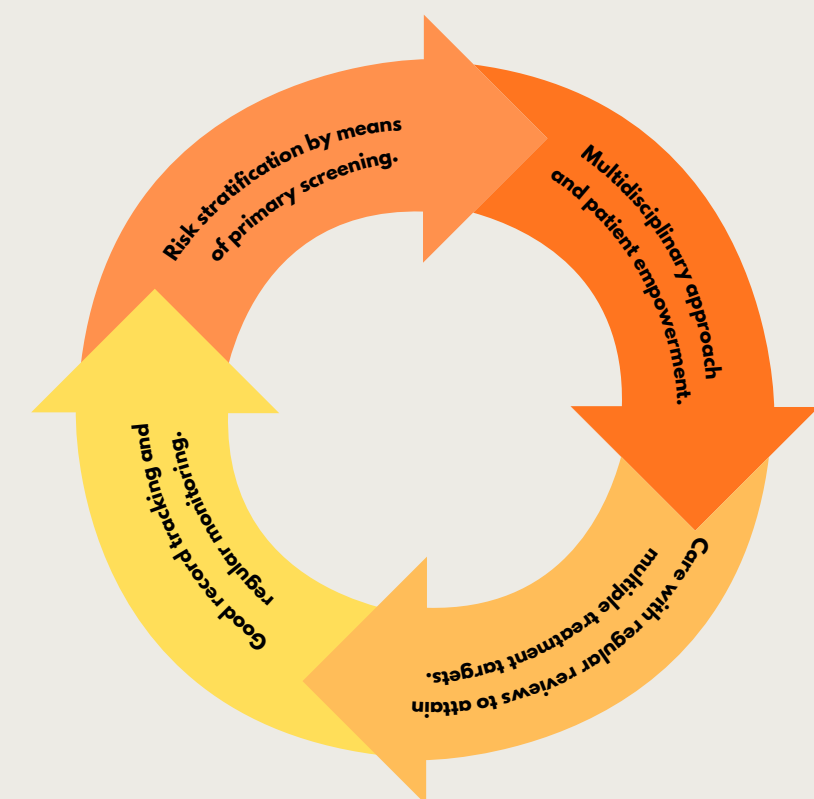


Fig. 1: Primary MDT Stratification Cycle.

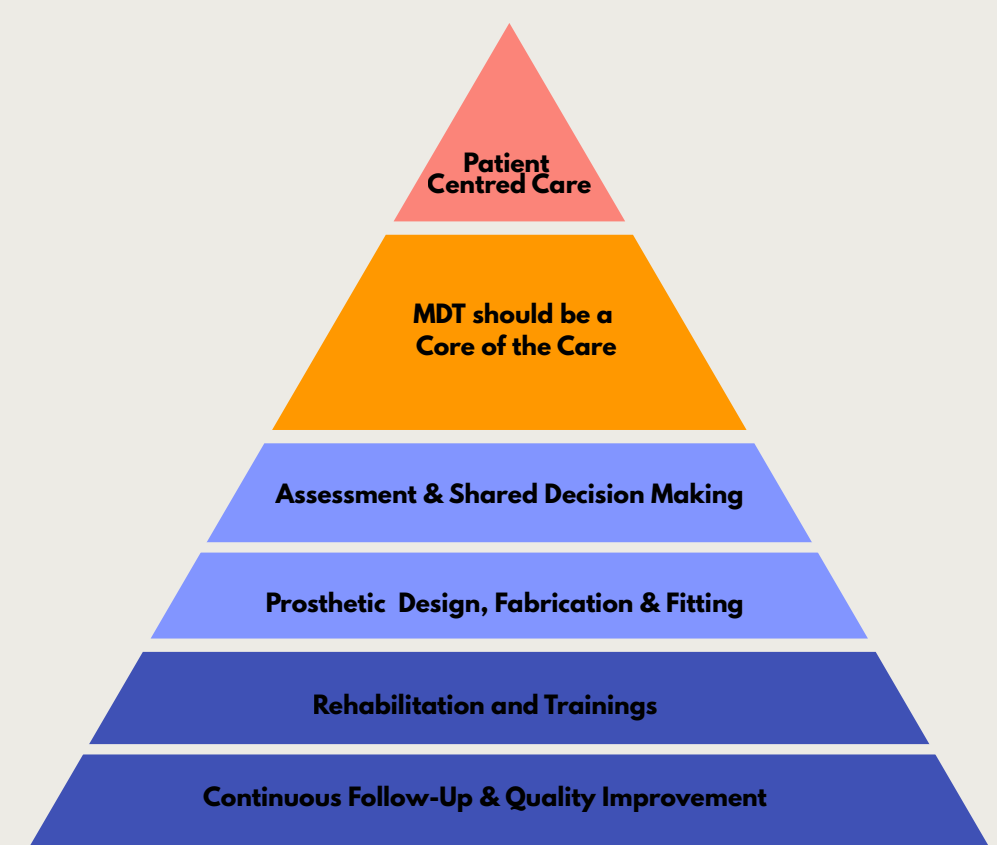


Fig. 2: MDT treatment pyramid in Prosthetic Facilitating settings.