



Do you use a below-knee prosthesis and are at least 65 years of age? If so, you are invited to participate in our research study.

Why do below-knee prosthesis users fall?

We are conducting a study to better understand why people who use below-knee prostheses are at an increased risk of falling. This study will help us design training plans and new prostheses to improve balance of prosthesis users.

The research will take place at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Motion Analysis Research Laboratory located within the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center at 680 N Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.

During the study, we will measure the way you walk, as well as collect information on your general health and leg function. You will wear your usual prosthesis during the entire study.

We request that participants visit the research laboratory twice on different days, with each visit taking up to 3 hours.

Please contact Matthew Major at (312) 503-5731 or matthew.major2@va.gov OR Rebecca Stine at (312) 503-5726 or rebecca.stine@va.gov if you are interested in learning more about the study or potentially participating.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Be 65 to 90 years old
- Have a single below-knee amputation
- Have used a prosthesis for one or more years
- Do not need to walk with an assistive device (such as crutches or canes)
- Have a healthy residual limb
- Not currently taking medications that are known to affect balance or walking

Participants will receive compensation for taking part in this study.

Study Title: "Sensory-Motor Mechanisms Underlying Fall Risk in Transtibial Amputees"
IRB Project Number: 932307
PI: Matthew Major, PhD, Research and Development
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Jesse Brown VAMC IRB can be reached at 312-569-7441 to determine if this study is real.