

# Suspension Sleeves

Suspension sleeves offer comfort, support and suspension of your prosthesis. Always follow specific instructions given to you by your doctor and practitioner.



## General Information:

Suspension sleeves come in different materials, thicknesses, lengths, and designs. Depending on the design of your prosthesis it may be used for suspension. Suspension sleeves create a seal between the sleeve, socket, and limb and rely on vacuum for suspension. Additional methods rely on friction created between the sleeve, limb, and socket.

Prior to wearing your suspension sleeve, liner and prosthesis, it is important to check the following things:

- Make sure your skin is clean and dry.
- Make sure your sleeve is clean and dry.
- Avoid the use of skin creams and salves prior to wearing the sleeve and liner.
- Examine your skin and look for abnormal redness, blisters, bruises, or sores at least 1 time a day. Using a mirror may be helpful if you have difficulty seeing any areas on the back of your leg.
- Make sure there are no cracks, rough edges, or worn areas on the device.
- Make sure any straps are secure on the sleeve.
- Check for worn areas or holes.

\*\* If you find any areas of concern or have questions, contact your practitioner before wearing your prosthesis.

## Precautions

- When you put your prosthesis on, make sure that the gel of the suspension sleeve touches and seals on the skin of your thigh. This needs to seal all the way around your leg.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for cleaning your sleeve. A general guideline is as follows:
  - Turn the sleeve inside-out. Clean the side of the sleeve that touches your skin by using hypoallergenic NON-Perfumed soap or Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing alcohol) and water. Make sure to rinse and remove all of the soap or isopropyl alcohol. **Do not** immerse in water. Allow the sleeve to dry completely. **NEVER** lay the sleeve flat to dry!
- Inspect sleeves for any worn areas, thin areas, rips, tears, or holes. If any of these areas are found, contact your practitioner immediately.
- After removing your prosthesis, roll the sleeve back up so that the gel is facing inward. **Do not** leave the sleeve rolled down over your prosthesis after removing your prosthesis. This can cause it to stretch and deform.
- If you have sleeves from different prostheses, check with your practitioner prior to wearing them with your new device. They are usually **NOT** interchangeable.

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