

Leg or foot amputation

**Basin Surgical
Jeff Durgin, MD, FACS
1811 W. Wall St
Midland, TX 79701**

**Martha Ramos, FNP-C
Phone: 800-218-4670
Fax: 432-247-1632 <http://www.basinsurgical.com>**

Leg or foot amputation

Definition

Leg or foot amputation is the removal of a leg, foot or toes from the body. These body parts are called extremities. Amputations are done either by surgery, or they occur by accident or trauma to the body.

Alternative Names

Amputation - foot; Amputation - leg; Trans-metatarsal amputation; Below knee amputation; BK amputation; Above knee amputation; AK amputation; Trans-femoral amputation; Trans-tibial amputation

Risks

Risks for any surgery are:

- Blood clots in the legs that may travel to the lungs
- Breathing problems
- Bleeding

Risks for this surgery are:

- A feeling that the limb is still there. This is called phantom sensation. Sometimes this feeling can be painful. That is called phantom pain.
- The joint closest to the part that is amputated loses its range of motion, making it hard to move. This is called joint contracture.
- Infection of the skin or bone.
- The amputation wound does not heal properly.

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Reviewed By: C. Benjamin Ma, MD, Assistant Professor, Chief, Sports Medicine and Shoulder Service, UCSF Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery. Also reviewed by David Zieve, MD, MHA, Medical Director, A.D.A.M., Inc.

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