

Orthopedics Abstracts

Title: ORTHOTIC MANAGEMENT OF THE SPINA BIFIDA POPULATION

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Background: Due to the complexity of Spina Bifida, orthotic management can be a challenging endeavor. Successful orthotic management is based on a comprehensive understanding of the disease and on reasonable expectations for the goals of the orthotic care as identified by the medical team. Success is predicated on a number of clinical issues that may include one or all of the following: level of neurological involvement; degree of musculoskeletal deformity; sensory impairment; acquired obesity; existing muscle strength; patient motivation and family support. Early patient examination and orthotic intervention are important first steps in order to achieve optimal functional outcomes.

Method: A review of literature and clinical experience

Results: A team approach, proper patient/family education, routine assessment, and early intervention all are essential for successful orthotic treatment but will go only as far as the orthotic practitioners ability to implement routine, competent and comprehensive orthotic care.

Conclusion: Proper patient assessment, impression/measurements, and design selection; observation or relevant biomechanical principles; proper orthotic fitting/function; patient family education; and routine follow-up all are requirements for providing comprehensive orthotic care that ultimately meets the needs of the patient and family. When such care is implemented and expectations are made clear to the patient and family, there is a much greater likelihood that goals will be met and family/patient satisfaction achieved.