

## Above Knee Amputation

### Vessels:

#### **Vessels are transected posterior medially**

In the posterior medial area, the vessels can be transected safely at this level. The tourniquet prevents blood loss.

The vessels are dissected free, divided, and the large deep femoral artery and both accompanying veins are clamped for later ligation.

#### **Vessels dissected and clamped**

The large deep femoral artery and both veins are dissected up proximally and clamped.

#### **Artery and two veins are double ligated**

##### Stick tie:

A stick tie of 0 silk suture is used first. The stick tie will not slip or pulse off of vessels, but does leave a hole that could bleed or lead to a pseudo aneurysm or an arterial/venous fistula.

##### Free tie:

A free tie is place proximal to the stick tie. The proximal free tie prevents bleeding at the site of the stick tie and also minimizes the chance of an arterial/venous fistula forming.

#### **Tourniquet down**

The sterile intra-operative tourniquet is let down, and lap sponges are used for compression and early hemostasis.

#### **Hemostasis**

Inspect the tissue, look for bleeding vessels. Hemostasis is obtained with electrocautery.