

Transfemoral Amputation

Skin/Flaps

Flap length

Drawing the incisions: length of the flaps is 1/2 the diameter of the limb at the level of the planned bone cut plus 1cm

Anterior flap level

Level selection for the anterior flap, above the zone of injury

Tourniquet

Application of the sterile tourniquet for limiting the blood loss during the amputation

Incisions

Incisions made in a decisive fashion to avoid feathered edges, through skin, subq tissue, and fascia. Anterior and lateral incisions through the muscle to the bone.

Dissect through periosteum

The goal is to dissect down to the level of the periosteum, then to dissect the soft tissues proximally off of the femur, and finally to divide through the periosteum at the level of the planned bone cut.

Heterotopic bone

Interestingly, very early formation of heterotopic bone is evident at the external fixator pin sites. This bone must be excised.

Posterior medial incision

Isolate the adductor

The adductor muscle and its tendon are protected and isolated because these are used for the adductor myodesis.

Posterior lateral incision

Divide muscles

Divide the vastus lateralis and lateral hamstring muscles. The use of the tourniquet allows early transection of the vessels.

©Prosthetics Research Study