

C-Brace®

Frequently Asked Questions – FAQs



Quality for life

What is the idea behind the development of the C-Brace®?

Based on many years of experience in prosthetics, Ottobock faced the challenge of making the proven C-Leg® technology available also for persons with paralysis of the legs. To meet this demand, Ottobock developed the customised C-Brace® orthosis system. It is the world's first electronic knee joint orthosis system with hydraulic stance and swing phase control.

Who is the C-Brace® suited for?

In principle, the C-Brace® can potentially be used for all neurological indications of the lower limbs. It is especially suitable for patients with incomplete paraplegia, following poliomyelitis, or who have post-polio syndrome. To be eligible to be fitted with the orthosis system, patients must have remaining muscle function in the hips and a maximum weight of 125 kilogrammes.

What advantages does the C-Brace® offer?

While conventional orthoses are used only for locking and releasing the knee joint, the C-Brace® reacts intelligently to the entire sequence of movement. As the world's first orthosis system with stance and swing phase control, it can adapt to routine situations and help the user achieve much greater mobility, such as when switching from walking at a rapid to a slower pace, or when stopping at a red light. In addition, descending stairs step over step, walking on uneven ground, and flexing under load more closely approach natural movement.

How does the C-Brace® technology work?

The C-Brace® technology is based on the mechatronic SSCO® system. SSCO®

stands for **S**tance and **S**wing Phase **C**ontrol **O**rthosis. The individually fabricated orthosis system consists of a thigh and calf shell as well as a foot component, all of which are controlled by a central joint unit. Thanks to its unique sensor technology, the C-Brace® controls the stance and swing phase in real time. An integrated microprocessor recognises the phase of the gait cycle and regulates resistance for extension and flexion.

How long does it take users to learn to use the complex technology?

Generally, the patient's individual situation determines how long the familiarisation process takes. Use and gait training therapy is crucial for successful treatment.

How can a patient obtain the orthosis system?

Since the C-Brace® is a completely new generation of orthoses, individual fitting by a selected medical supplies dealer is required. Ottobock offers expert training in mandatory certification seminars, which provide orthopaedic technicians with all the support necessary to create successful outcomes for their patients. This training includes how to use the special adjustment software for the customised configuration of the orthosis.

For further information:

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