



# Clinical Prosthetics & Orthotics



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## S-N-S Knees and the Bilateral A/K Amputee

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A.H., an active bilateral A/K ambulator.

We have under our care at VAREC eleven adult male bilateral A/K *ambulators*. Ten of these use Swing and Stance (S-N-S) knees and one, a missionary to a remote area in Africa, was fitted with single axis knees because of the obvious need for simplicity in his special circumstances. Eight of our S-N-S users are active individuals, but two are household and limited community ambulators. As would be anticipated, all of our above-knee amputee ambulators are in good physical condition and strongly motivated. These were important aspects in

prescribing prostheses. The S-N-S knees provided the amputees with the smooth gait characteristic of hydraulics, greater security, improved ease in reaching the sitting position, improved opportunity to recover from sudden stops or potential stumbles, better control when descending stairs, and the ability to lock one or both knees for negotiation of stairs. We have also found the S-N-S to be the sturdiest of the hydraulic units.

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