

Summary

Patients, who have had a trauma or operation involving the lower limbs are often using walking aids. This is because, they're not allowed to put full load on the lower limbs. After a trauma or operation, these patients are often sent to a physiotherapist. The physiotherapy treatments are based on regaining full load during gait, using different walking aids. Never the less, the terminology used in relation to load isn't clear in the handover addressed to the physiotherapy and there's a structured guideline missing. To draw up a guideline, you need to have enough insight in the size of the load on the affected lower limb during gait. A possibility to test the drawn up guideline is to use a measuring-instrument during a pilot study.

Before the guideline is drawn up, it's tried to clear up the terminology in relation to load by using the method concept analysis. This method includes a literature study and interviews with orthopaedic surgeons. After the terminology is cleared up, there's a guideline drawn up for the time being. The guideline is drawn up using a literature study as well as already existing guidelines of the hospitals, that have been visited. At the same time, the interviews with the orthopaedic surgeons provided a contribution to the drawn up. To test these new guidelines a pilot study has been used. Before this pilot study is carried out, there has been a search for a measuring- instrument, that will be the most useful for the pilot study. From the results of the study, the Pedar-system by Novel[®] is found to be the most useful to carry out a pilot study. During this pilot study two different groups to examine are measured. Group number 1 contains only healthy people (without a pathology of limbs). Group number 2 contains people with pathology of a lower limb.

Looking at the results of the measurements, it is concluded that these results aren't usable to drawn up a definitive guideline. From the results of the measurements of group 1 can be concluded, that the load on the affected lower limb by handling one elbow crutch on the non-dominant side is bigger than when handled on the dominant side. At the same time can be concluded, that walking with a delta-frame most of the time gives a much bigger load, then when using a different walking aid.