

VA Research Highlight

Development of an Ankle-Foot Prosthesis to Improve Rehabilitation Outcomes



Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Why this research is important:

Current ankle-foot prostheses do not allow rehabilitation teams to adjust levels of stability for new amputees learning to use a prosthesis.

Summary:

The VA MADE Program is developing a new system that will allow therapists, prosthetists, and rehabilitation physicians to alter the range of motion of prostheses during post-amputation care.

How the research will improve Veterans' lives:

This new system will improve Veterans' balance confidence early in their physical therapy, leading to improved outcomes after being discharged to the community. The ankle-foot system can also be adjusted as a patient's condition changes over time to best meet their needs.



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