



Know Your Options

Osteosarcoma Decision Aid

Amputation

Pros	Cons
The need for additional surgeries is minimal.	A prosthesis or assistive device is needed for walking, running, etc.
Since the need for surgeries is minimal, the cost and risks of surgery is also less.	A prosthesis can be very expensive, and insurances vary on their coverage.
Many amputees report a high level of function and can hike, ride bikes, and run.	A secondary device will be needed when not wearing a prosthesis, such as crutches or a wheelchair.
Amputees often use a variety of different legs for different purposes, such as a running blade for running.	It can take a long time (up to two years) for the swelling to go down in your residual limb; this may delay a comfortable fit in a prosthesis.
Some prostheses are waterproof and can be worn directly in water for swimming, boating, etc.	Reshaping of the limb may be necessary to get a better fit for the prosthesis.
Prosthetic technology in battery life and robotics can contribute to a better quality of life.	Weight gain or loss may require a new socket.
	Common issues include skin breakdown from prosthetic wear and phantom limb pain.