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Phantom phenomena and level of limb amputation: The mirror therapy

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Background: About 70% of the amputees will sooner or later experience phantom phenomena. Phantom sensations and phantom pain may occur immediately after the limb amputation or many months or even years later. One of the factors affecting the intensity of phantom phenomena is height of limb amputation.

Objective: To assess the relationship between height of limb amputation and the type of phantom phenomena.

Material: The study included 45 adults after single or multiple-limb amputations: 35 men and 10 women. The mean age was 68, 24±13.9 years.

Method: The pilot study used a survey questionnaire, numerical scale and McGill Pain questionnaire. The utility of mirror therapy was tested as well.

Results: The relationships were demonstrated between the height of limb amputation, age and the intensity of phantom phenomena ($\rho = -0.31, p < 0.05$; $\rho = 0.34, p < 0.05$, respectively). The time since putting on the prosthesis, total daily wear time and walking time during the prosthesis negatively correlated with phantom pain ($p < 0.01$). The mirror therapy supports effect of treatment.

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