“This is to let you know that the ulcer on my left foot has closed after just two weeks using the T-Brace. This is simply amazing. The best part is that there was no pressure transferred to the other foot, a result that had only been achieved by using a wheelchair up until this time. I was able to get around with no problems, and I cannot tell you what that freedom meant to me. Thank you doesn’t begin to say it, but thank you.

Sincerely, John Byrne

What is the TAG brace used for?

The TAG Brace can be used for any diagnosis where complete or partial unloading of the foot or ankle complex is desired. The main indications are Charcot’s Foot, diabetic ulcers, fractures and sprains.

Can the TAG Brace really unweight the entire lower extremity?

Yes. The design of the brace enables it to suspend the body’s entire weight through the calf section which completely unloads the foot and ankle complex. While complete unloading is easily obtainable, partial unloading of specified regions of the foot is also an option using our modular foot plate designs.

How does the TAG Brace suspension work?

That TAG brace uses patented and proprietary prosthetic suspension technology, similar to how a below knee prosthesis works for an amputee. This enables the TAG Brace to completely offload the lower extremity while providing comfortable, confident suspension.

Will the TAG Brace damage the already compromised skin of a diabetic patient?

The TAG Brace uses patented prosthetic suspension technology which includes a 3mm silicone liner designed for the protection of fragile or damaged skin. These design elements and its unique patella tendon loading KAFO capabilities ensure that further complications or skin breakdown does not occur.

Does the brace constrict vascular supply to the lower extremity?

No. The TAG Brace has been doppler tested and proven to not cause vascular constriction. The TAG Brace allows wound patients to remain ambulatory, and their wound(s) benefits from the normalized circulation effect which occurs during walking. This increased blood flow leads to improved granulation tissue formation in the wound healing process. A study to quantify this effect has not yet been undertaken.

Does the TAG Brace create a leg length discrepancy?

Of course, every brace on the market creates an LLD. The TAG Brace creates an LLD similar to a cam walker. We are generally not concerned when the healing period is short (4-6 weeks), but recommend a contralateral lift if the healing time goes beyond 6 to 8 weeks. For longer wear time, use of an “Easy-Up” lift is common. As well, we offer fabrication services which can add a lift to the contralateral shoe as long as it is sent in with the initial cast during fabrication.

Have there been any clinical studies performed on the TAG Brace?

Not yet. However, the anecdotal evidence has been overwhelmingly positive. Even with these significant and positive results in healing fractures and severe ulcerations, we have realized the need and importance of clinical studies. A number of clinical trials are being established which include a Gait and Ulcer healing study with the Southern Arizona Limb Salvage Association (SALSA) and a large study at the University Health System in Cleveland Ohio.

What types of fractures have been treated with the TAG Brace?

Some of the fractures treated include metatarsal fractures, calcaneal fractures, distal pilon fractures, and mid-foot fractures. The brace has also been used for charcot ankle and foot deformities, severely arthritic ankles and lower extremity pain, gracillis muscle transfers, bunionectomies, achilles tendon tears and a variety of other lower extremity complications.

Why is the TAG Brace the best choice for diabetic plantar ulcers?

The two issues that complicate bracing success in healing plantar ulcers are pressure and sheer. Braces such as a CROW (Charcot Relief Orthotic Walker) have been mildly successful by removing some pressure under the ulcer area. This reduces pressure, but sheer forces, increased humidity and pooling of perspiration and the inability to completely unweight the wound make the CROW a poor choice for success. The TAG Brace reduces both pressure and sheer and enables the patient to be ambulatory without the need for a wheelchair or crutches.

For a complete FAQ for both practitioners and patients, please visit www.toadmedical.com.

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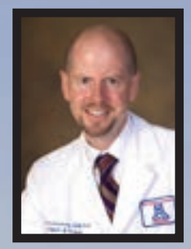
TOAD MEDICAL CORPORATION
Improving lives one step at a time

Toad Anti-Gravity Brace

(*TAG* Brace)

“I believe that with modern wound care techniques coupled with next-generation offloading technology such as Toad Medical's Anti-Gravity Brace, we can dramatically reduce the severity of wounds and amputations, worldwide.”

David G. Amstrong, DPM, MD, PhD,
Professor of Surgery and Director, Southern Arizona Limb Salvage Alliance (SALSA)



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Utilising patented prosthetic suspension technology, the custom Toad Anti-Gravity (***TAG***) Brace completely unloads the foot and ankle complex and eliminates pressure and shear which has been proven successful on patients that weigh up to 260kg! The ***TAG*** Brace has the ability to heal the most stubborn of foot ulcerations.

The ***TAG*** Brace is also the premier choice for Charcot's Foot, lower limb fractures and reconstructions that require unloading such as distal tibia, foot, ankle and metatarsal fractures.

By enabling the patient to ambulate during recovery time without the need for crutches, muscular atrophy is dramatically reduced while allowing the patient to apply weight to the rest of the skeletal structure to maintain bone density and stability.

Features

- Light-weight and comfortable carbon fiber
- Greatly reduces muscular atrophy and disuse osteopenia and instability brought on by inactivity during recovery
- Eliminates pressure and sheer on lower limb fractures and joint reconstructions
- Supports patients up to 260 kg
- Increases patient compliance
- Extremely cost effective
- No tourniquet effect - patella tendon loading
- Rapidly heals diabetic foot ulcers

Current Indications

- Diabetic Ulcers
- Foot Fractures
- Low Ankle Fractures
- Venous Stasis Ulcers
- Charcot Arthropathy
- Foot or Ankle Deformities
- Foot or Ankle Fusions
- Foot or Ankle Reconstructions
- Traumatic Foot or Ankle Wounds

Charcot's Foot

Greater Mobility

The Toad Anti-Gravity (***TAG***) Foot Brace unique design allows for ambulation without crutches, which in turn results in significantly greater mobility, resulting in major advantages to foot and ankle patients. Patients are able to better perform activities of daily living and therefore help maintain independence.

Unique Design

The Toad Anti-Gravity (***TAG***) Foot Brace is a unique device designed to unload the foot and ankle. What sets the Toad Anti-Gravity (***TAG***) Foot Brace apart from any other foot brace on the market is its ability to allow ambulation while keeping weight off the foot and ankle. It accomplishes this goal with several revolutionary patents. The mainstay of the foot brace is the posterior "L" bracket made from hi-tech carbon fiber which helps keep overall weight down.

By having the bracket positioned posteior to the tibia, it keeps width to a minimum which allows some flex while ambulating leading to a more natural gait. The foot and ankle are suspended from the calf and suspension height can be tailored to allow for various deformities, bulky dressings or skin lesions.

The design is particularly suited for patients with complex foot and ankle problems requiring prolonged protected weight bearing. By allowing unaided ambulation, leg strength can be maintained and atrophy of the supporting muscles in the thigh and hip can be minimised.

Brace In Use