



L2999 “Dream Joint” Negative Friction Dorsiflexion Ankle Joint

Cost per pair: 870.00

The Dream Joint is a high level ankle joint incorporated into prefabricated and custom AFO's. The joint is composed of machined steel encasing a friction clutch drive. The joint may be attached to stainless steel uprights for custom fabrication needs.

Traditional Ankle Joints(L2210) Traditional joints contain either springs or elastic components providing an active assist and counter-resistance. The joints provide a consistent mechanical spring keeping the foot in dorsiflexion, and releases into plantarflexion under a load. These joints have an inherent end range, usually the point of maximum compression or against a plantarflexion stop. This artificial stop will reduce the patient's mobility and alter a natural gait pattern. Secondary consequences are abnormal forces, both flexion and extension upon the knee. These joints wear out quickly, in the case of elastic components, or require maintenance and produce corrosion matter and noise, as in the case of metal double action joints.

The Dream Joint: This joint is activated solely by body position. When the foot is plantarflexing, the clutch mechanism drives through a resistance unhindered by an end point. This gives the wearer a full range of plantarflexion for a comfortable heel strike and transition to terminal stance. As the body transitions from terminal stance to toe off, the joint dorsiflexes through a negative resistance and captures the maximum end range of the wearer's ankle. Upon toe off, the joint will hold the foot in a dorsiflexed position for swing. The joint removes the abnormal forces upon the knee and gait by allowing a full ambulatory range of motion. This is the only joint of its kind in the market that incorporates this method of function.

Fabrication is very labor intensive, requiring a precision alignment jig that is a separate purchase and in many cases unable to be reused. Patients require several follow up appointments to learn the proper function of the device. Gait training is required by the orthotist to insure safe use and an effective function and alignment. Pre-definitive orthotic management is indicated in some patients with limited range of motion to improve their passive end ranges for proper cycling of this joint.

Medicare has recognized that this component does not meet the function description of an L2210, and therefore must be correctly billed as an L2999.