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News & Notes: The new DARCO hub in the UK
Featured Product: The Relief Insert® Walker
Expertise: Can an alternative modular walker be as effective as a common rigid, stiff walker?
Events: October 2018 – January 2019
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Welcome to the 16th issue of DARCO Europe E-Journal

Dear Reader,

2019: New design and a breath of fresh air!

After 4 years of sending out the DARCO Europe E-Journal we now decided to give a visual and technical facelift to the E-Journal. It remains our goal to provide insightful information to the medical community and to our distributors throughout Europe. From January 2019 on, it will be much easier for you to read all articles of DARCO Europe E-Journal with fewer mouse-clicks, making it more comfortable to receive all important information at a glance.

But you won’t have to wait for 2019 for something new from DARCO. In this final issue of 2018 we introduce to you a completely new innovation: Relief Insert® Walker.

The Relief Insert® Walker was designed here in Bavaria. By combining the insightful input from a German Dr. and the ingenuity of DARCO developers, we’ve created a versatile and effective healing orthotic. The Relief Insert® Walker was one of the highlights presented at the international OTWorld this year and it received profound recognition by international orthopaedic technicians and the medical professionals alike. We’re excited to share our latest innovation with you.

We hope you enjoy reading the DARCO Europe E-Journal.

Yours sincerely,
Rainer Kalleitner
Director of International Sales DARCO (Europe) GmbH

News & Notes

The new DARCO hub in the UK

hg DARCO Group welcomes V-M Orthotics Ltd.

We are delighted to announce that in 2018 V-M Orthotics Ltd., our longest serving distributor in the UK, has become part of our hg DARCO Group.

Through this acquisition, we are now able to service the UK market directly as well as facilitating the international exchange between the DARCO headquarters in the US, Europe, India and China; insuring consistent quality standards worldwide.

Welcome V-M Orthotics Ltd. to the DARCO community!

DARCO is a founding member of:

Gesellschaft für Fuß- und Sprunggelenkschirurgie e.V.
Society for Foot and Ankle Surgery

www.gesellschaft-fuer-fusschirurgie.de  www.woundcare-circle.com

hg DARCO Group

USA  Europe  India  China
The new modular walker from DARCO combines the valuable features of a classic walker with the advantages of a light weight, practical splint built right in. It’s the first of its kind on the market today.

**Indications**
- TMT 1 Arthrodesis (Lapidus Arthrodesis)
- post foot fracture surgery
- post rear-foot surgery
- post metatarsal fracture surgery
- post ankle ligament rupture
- after Hallux Rigidus-Valgus surgery
- after Hammer-Claw toe surgery
- fractures of the phalanges
- ligament rupture of the ankle joint

**Purpose**
- immobilising Foot and Ankle Walker orthosis
- used for mobility in conservative therapies and post-surgical
- secure subtalar fixation and calcaneus alignment under the tibia
- prevention against unintentional pronation/supination of the ankle joint
- lateral and medial border support
- supports the biomechanical structures of the foot and ankle in an off-loading therapeutic shoe
- comfortable and easy to adjust — modern design with increased patient compliancy
- time saving — cost effective

**Features**
- physiological, safe gait pattern in the walker
- sustainable therapy concept in conjunction with the Relief Dual® Off-loading Shoe
- easy to put on and take off
- can be worn on the right or left foot

Please find detailed information on our website www.darco-europe.com
Expertise

Gait Training – Off-loading shoes used correctly is essential

Common stiff walkers are mostly used as a cast replacement due to their rigid, stiff construction to immobilize the ankle joint. But do they immobilize in the ankle joint as required? And if so, in how far can a modular walker, combining an Orthosis / Splint and post-OP off-loading shoe, be similar or equal effective?

Complex reconstructive foot surgeries require a post-op treatment, which stabilizes and immobilizes the operated area. Biomechanically the immobilization of the neighboring joints already creates a certain level of off-loading / load-redistribution. This has been proven already for the Relief Dual® off-loading Shoe\(^1\).\(^2\).

Immediately after complex surgical intervention a half cast, splint, or similar stabilization is given to prevent movements in the operated area. This splint will be worn only during bedrest. Once the patient can be mobilized, the splint will be replaced by a cast or a common, rigid walker. Even after “Lapidus” procedures a walker might be indicated.

Although such a walker construction seems to be stiff and rigid, ankle movements can still be measured\(^3\). Due to a lack of anatomical fit in the ankle area. Therefore post-op treatments which require a full immobilization of the ankle will still require a full contact cast.

As the Relief Insert® Walker shows equal stability and equal joint movement as a rigid walker, it is definitely an alternative with the advantage to use the splint immediately posts-op in the OR, to build a fully functional walker for walking, removing the shoe at night time and still be secured with a splint. In addition to all this, the combination of the components also allows a “downgrading” from a walker to an offloading post-op shoe once convalescence allows a support with a post-op shoe only.

by Raphael Boehm, Vice President DARCO Europe

Literature:


\(^3\) Grabowski, N. / Peikenkamp, K. (2018) “Effectiveness Testing of the Relief Insert® Walker Lower Leg / Foot Orthosis” | in: Foot & Shoe, 01/2018, Maurer publisher, Geislingen, Germany
Events

October 2018

23rd – 26th October, 2018 | Berlin, Germany
DKOU | German Congress of Orthopaedics and Traumatology,
Booth 93 | Hall 4.2.
www.dkou.org

November 2018

5th – 7th November, 2018 | Harrogate, United Kingdom
Wounds UK Annual Conference, Booth 56
www.10times.com/wounds-uk-annual-conference

6th – 7th November, 2018 | Helsinki, Finland
3rd Nordic Diabetic Foot Symposium, Booth 17
www.nordicdiabeticfoot.com

7th – 9th November, 2018 | Edinburgh, Scotland
BOFAS Annual Scientific Meeting, Booth 26
www.bofas.org.uk

22nd – 24th November, 2018 | Bournemouth, United Kingdom
College of Podiatry Conference, Booth 36
www.scpod.org

30th November – 1st December, 2018 | Munich, Germany
26. International Symposium for Foot Surgery
www.gesellschaft-fuer-fusschirurgie.de

January 2019

20th – 22nd January 2019 | Paris, France
Journées CICATRISATIONS 2019 – SFFPC
www.cicatrisations2019.org

28th – 31st January, 2019 | Dubai, UAE
Arab Health
www.arabhealthonline.com

Imprint

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