In the postoperative period following a lower extremity amputation, trauma to the stump, usually at the incision line, is an unfortunate occurrence. When it happens, there is increased morbidity and possibly lengthened hospital stay and increased cost incurred by the patient. A delay in prosthetic fitting further compromises the patient’s program for independence.

We have developed a simple but effective means by which to protect the stump of a patient with a lower extremity amputation during the postoperative period. The device, depicted in Figures 1 through 4, is made from convoluted bed padding, or egg-crate foam, and requires approximately 15 min of an occupational therapist’s time.

The crossbar of the T-shaped pattern is approximately 1 1/2 times the girth of the stump, and the vertical portion is approximately 3 times the length of the stump measured from the medial joint line to the distal aspect. The length of the securing band is approximately 2 1/4 times the girth of the stump, cut from Velfoam, and has a touch-fastener closure sewn in place.

The figures show a below-knee amputation; above-knee amputations can be fitted as well, but more individual adjustment of the size of the cut foam is necessary to provide comfort.

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1Manufactured by Velcro USA, 406 Brown Avenue, Manchester, NH 03108.

**Figure 1.** Egg crate foam is cut in a T shape to fit the stump.

**Figure 2.** The vertical bar of the T is brought up to cover the distal aspect of the stump before the crossbar of the T is wrapped around the stump.
When applied, this device not only provides protection, but also, because of its bulkiness, enhances the patient's awareness of the stump and provides a visual cue reminding the patient to be cautious of trauma to the stump.

Since 1987, 34 patients have used the stump protector at our rehabilitation center. Although many patients have been admitted with previous trauma to the incision site, none have sustained injury to the stump while the protection device has been in place. This includes several patients who have fallen or struck their stumps against objects with sufficient force to have otherwise injured the integrity of the stump. We have found this stump protector to be extremely useful to maintain incision-line integrity, decrease morbidity, and assist in as rapid a prosthetic fitting as possible. ▲