**Below Knee Amputation**

A stump less than 6cm in length is not functional

Skin flaps should be 1/2 the AP diameter of the limb in length and medial and lateral apices should be at the level of bony resection

**Operative Technique**

1.Tourniquet (if not PVD)

2.Mark level of bony resection and measure AP diameter

3.Mark anterior and posterior flaps (1/2 AP diameter)

4.Divide skin, subcutaneous fat and fascia in the same line as with the periosteum of the antero-medial surface of the tibia

5.Elevate flaps to the level of the amputation

6.Identify superficial peroneal nerve between EDL and peroneus brevis, pull distally and divide

7.Divide anterior tibial vessels and deep peroneal nerve

8.Section anterior muscles 0.75cm distal the bony resection

9.Bevel tibia at level of resection prior to division of the bone (easier)

10.Section fibula 3cm proximal to tibia (? excise it in young people)

11.Divide posterior vessels and nerve

12.Fashion posterior flap and aponeurosis of gastrocnemius to meet anterior muscles

13.Release tourniquet and obtain haemostasis

14.Close wound in layers (fascia, fat and skin), drain and apply a stump bandage