

Reel Splint securely stabilises leg and knee injuries

The Reel Splint is a multi-angle immobiliser and traction splint that through the use of a hinge system can be applied to the lower limb despite the position of the leg.

Proper immobilisation, whether during extrication, transport or delivery, is the key to successful limb treatment. When dealing with leg injuries, especially those involving dislocated knees, the lower limb is often bent at 90 degrees making immobilisation challenging. Current practice is simply to immobilise the limb in the position found unless distal circulation, sensation or motor function is disrupted.

Vacuum splints and similar splints are often utilised, but if the knee is severely rotated, these conventional splints may not provide sufficient support for the leg both above and below the knee.

The Reel Splint, already in use in the US military and with the Royal Marines, is a splint that can be adjusted and moulded to the limb to fit almost any fracture or dislocation angle.

When first introduced to the splint at Ambex by manufacturer Reel Research and Development, first impres-

sions were it looked cumbersome and complicated. Following demonstrations and a short instruction we realised how wrong these thoughts were – we found that could rapidly immobilise lower limbs in a variety of positions.

The two hinges allow the middle of the splint to be bent, allowing the knee to be immobilised in just about any position. The splint is most often applied to the anterior (front) side of the limb, but it can also be applied under or laterally (sideways). Once applied, cross member handles provide for ease of limb management, and moveable support straps allow for wound access, monitoring and treatment. Extrication

patented Sureform™ ischial pad which is designed to provide a non elevating, neutral bone end alignment. Traction is easily applied and according to our patient, certainly effective.

When not in use the splint folds to a compact 14"x10"x9" space and as the fastening straps are permanently attached to the splint, are not likely to be lost or misplaced.



The Reel Splint is also available with an attachable traction ratchet.

from awkward locations, for example cars or confined spaces, is easily achieved with no movement of the knee.

The splint is also available with an attachable traction ratchet, supported by the

The Reel Splint can be applied to the lower limb without altering the leg position.

We found the Reel Splint System to be a very effective immobilizer and traction splint. After having tried to secure numerous dislocated knees in vacuum splints prior to extrication, we realise how ineffective this was in comparison to the immobilisation (and pain relief) achieved using the Reel Splint.

Thanks to Steve Furnell and Dynamed for the loan of the Reel Splint and Michelle Smith for kindly agreeing to play casualty.