

Important AFO Guidelines

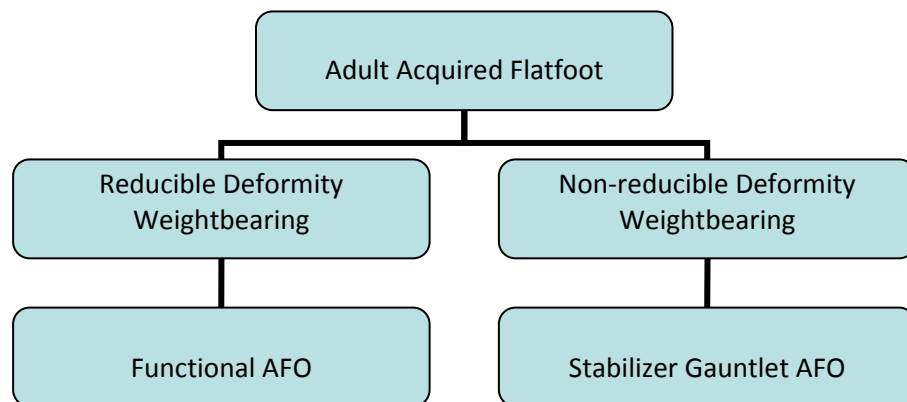
Prescribing and Choosing AFOs for Adult Acquired Flatfoot (posterior tibial dysfunction)

A *weightbearing examination* is essential to determine whether a functional AFO or a stabilizer gauntlet AFO will effectively treat adult acquired flatfoot (posterior tibial dysfunction). A non-weight-bearing exam may be misleading when determining the best device to prescribe and could result in ill-fitting, uncomfortable devices for your patient.

For the past several years we have tracked patients with adult acquired flatfoot who have been unable to tolerate their functional AFO. We have found an overwhelming majority of these patients were not properly prescribed.

These are three important determinations to make during the weightbearing examination:

- If the subluxed subtalar and midtarsal joint deformity cannot be reduced upon standing, the functional AFO will not be comfortable nor reduce the patient's symptoms.
- A reducible structural pathology in weightbearing is an indication for a functional AFO.
- A non-reducible structural pathology is an indication for a stabilizer gauntlet AFO. Any patient whose deformity cannot be reduced in a weight-bearing position must be prescribed a stabilizer gauntlet AFO.



ProLab Functional AFO



ProLab Stabilizer Gauntlet AFO