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Review study: variation of prosthetic feet, materials and production techniques

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ABSTRACT

Prosthetic feet play a critical role in restoring mobility and improving quality of life for individuals with lower-limb amputations. These prosthetic feet are not as versatile as normal feet, but they do enhance the patient's performance. When it comes to prosthetic feet, the choice of a device is determined by how well it fits the features of the human foot. Prosthetic feet must fulfil different specifications in which they depend on material qualities, foot design, and manufacturing method. This review explores the wide diversity of prosthetic feet currently available, with a focus on the materials used and the production techniques employed in their fabrication., By bringing these elements together, the review offers a clear picture of how design choices, material selection, and fabrication methods work hand-in-hand to improve prosthetic function and user experience. The goal is to support future innovation by connecting practical engineering insights with real-world impact.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The evolution of prosthetic feet reflects the broader trajectory of innovation in assistive medical technologies. From rudimentary wooden pegs used in ancient civilizations to sophisticated carbon-fiber and sensor-integrated devices of the present day, prosthetic foot design has undergone remarkable transformation. Early designs prioritized basic functionality—allowing individuals to stand and walk—while contemporary prosthetic feet aim to replicate the complex biomechanical behaviors of the human foot [1].

For individuals with lower-limb amputations, prosthetic feet play a critical role in restoring mobility, independence, and overall quality of life. A well-designed prosthetic foot not only supports daily ambulation but also reduces secondary complications such as joint degeneration, muscle imbalance, and posture-related issues. Beyond physical mobility, prosthetic feet contribute to psychological and social well-being by enabling greater community participation and self-reliance [2].

Despite considerable progress, the design of prosthetic feet continues to face significant challenges. Mimicking the natural gait remains a central goal, complicated by the foot’s dynamic role in shock absorption, propulsion, and balance [3]. Durability is another essential criterion, especially for users who rely on their prosthesis in varied environments and for extended durations. Comfort, too, is a persistent design consideration, closely tied to socket interface, material properties, and gait biomechanics. Finally, affordability remains a key constraint, particularly in low-resource settings, limiting access to advanced prosthetic technologies [4].

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2. VARIATIONS OF PROSTHETIC FEET

Prosthetic feet are no longer mere mechanical supports; they have evolved into dynamic systems designed to restore, as closely as possible, the biomechanical function of the human foot. The evolution of prosthetic foot design has been driven by an increasing understanding of human gait, advances in material science, and the growing demands of users seeking mobility, independence, and comfort [5]. This evolution in design is rooted in a multidisciplinary understanding of anatomy, biomechanics, materials science, and computational simulation. To effectively restore mobility and comfort, prosthetic feet must be designed to manage the complex interactions between body dynamics and ground reaction forces during walking and other activities.

Figure 1. evolution of prosthetics through the years.

2.1 conventional prosthetic feet

they are the earliest functional prosthetic designs and remain relevant, especially in low-resource settings. One of its forms is the SACH foot which is a rigid internal keel made from wood or hard plastic and a soft heel made of compressible foam. This heel provides a cushioning effect during heel strike, which somewhat simulates ankle plantarflexion. However, the absence of an articulating ankle joint and energy return mechanism limits its performance on uneven terrain and during fast or dynamic walking [6].

Harrison et al. (2022) designed A prosthetic foot utilizes a uniformly strong cantilevered beam for a more efficient and compliant approach, unlike conventional designs. This design allows for flexing and adjusting during use, enhancing comfort and functionality. A prototype was developed and tested for effectiveness, with a prediction model showing a 5% error in estimating rotational stiffness. The prototype showed the least stiffness among tested feet, suggesting greater compliance and a more comfortable experience for the user. This design is crucial for enhancing the prosthetic foot's functionality and comfort [7].

Lecomte, Ch., et al. (2012) constructed a prosthetic foot featuring with a foam-like heel component, designed for flexibility and comfort. The heel can be easily linked and detached, allowing for easy maintenance and customization. The heel is designed to fit a foot cover, ensuring a natural appearance and a comfortable fit. A lip is included to prevent slippage during usage. The durable materials, removable components, and customizable aspects aim to enhance the experience for those without limbs [8].

Falbriard, M., et al. (2022) focused on developing a cost-effective prosthetic foot for low-resource environments. It was developed in collaboration with the ICRC, utilizing numerical simulations and modeling to determine material properties. The design includes an internal keel made from composite materials, filling foam, and a cosmetic shell. The manufacturing process aligns with cost criteria, and prototype feet are tested for durability and performance. Preliminary evaluations show enhanced mobility compared to the standard SACH foot [9].

2.2 Energy-Storing and Return (ESR) Feet

The introduction of energy-storing and return (ESR) feet marked a paradigm shift in prosthetic technology. Unlike SACH feet, ESR designs leverage flexible composite materials, primarily carbon fiber, to absorb energy during foot loading and release it during toe-off. This energy exchange emulates the spring-like behavior of the anatomical foot, particularly during dynamic activities such as brisk walking, hiking, or light running [10].

von Scheidt ،(2019) attempted to construct an ESR feet typically feature a curved or C-shaped footplate or leaf spring. The foot deforms under the user's weight, storing mechanical energy that is later released to assist in forward propulsion. This mechanism offers superior gait symmetry, improved walking efficiency, and reduced metabolic cost compared to rigid designs [11].Tabucol, J., et al., (2021) created new arrangements of energy-storing and - releasing (ESR) feet for different weight categories, investigate systems that can modify stiffness/damping characteristics, and examine the performance of active prosthetic feet with actuators. The technique consists of three phases: design, validation, and functionality verification. The initial design phase uses a static 2D finite element model, which is efficient in forecasting ESR foot behavior. This method is useful for evaluating prostheses' dynamic behavior before testing prototypes with amputee users [12].

2.3 Dynamic and Running-Specific Feet

Running-specific prosthetic feet represent the high-performance tier of prosthetic design. These feet are often used by athletes and are engineered to maximize energy return and propulsion. Their hallmark is the use of curved, cantilever-spring structures that store and release large amounts of kinetic energy during high-speed running. Materials like carbon fiber dominate this category due to their high elasticity and low weight [13].

Unlike walking feet, these prosthetics sacrifice stability for forward momentum. The unique C- or J-shape allows for substantial anterior-posterior deflection, for instance, Petrone, N., et al., (2020) study presents a J-shaped and C-shaped wearable instrumented running prosthetic foot (iRPF) designed for real-time load data collection during track activities. The system uses strain gauge bridges to decouple loads during stance phase. The data is captured from lightweight loggers and transmitted via Wi-Fi to a base station for real-time monitoring. The iRPF methodology was employed in realistic sprint testing to gather track loads, examine the evolution of foot clamp loads, and compare braking and propulsive impulses for the comparative assessment of running tactics [14].

Recent studies, such as those by Shepherd et al., (2023) have explored prosthetic feet designed for running, characterized by curved cantilever springs. These feet have unique characteristics, including specialized size and shape, improved elastic potential energy storage, and improved mechanical properties. Finite element analyses reveal complex and nonlinear mechanics, adding challenges to custom mechanic design. Three running-specific prosthetic feet were developed, optimized for vertical and angular deflections and horizontal deflections. The findings suggest that shape optimization can improve athletes' mechanical performance and biomechanics by creating tailored prosthetic feet [15].

For prosthetic feet, replicating roll-over behavior is also essential to achieve a natural and energy-efficient gait. Mahmoodi et al., (2016) emphasized the integration of experimentally derived curved roll-over shapes into the prosthetic design process. The roll-over shape influences how forces are transmitted through the foot and into the residual limb, directly affecting gait symmetry and comfort. Deviations from the natural roll-over shape can lead to compensatory movements in the hips or knees, which may cause long-term musculoskeletal complications. Therefore, designers often use roll-over shape analysis as a guiding framework for defining foot curvature, material stiffness, and overall geometry [16].

However, the biomechanics of running with a prosthesis are highly nonlinear and complex, posing a challenge for universal design standards. Furthermore, these devices are expensive and require high customization, which limits their accessibility. Future research might investigate integrating sensors for real-time mechanical tuning or explore adaptive structures that shift form under different speeds or surfaces [17].

2.4 Smart/Electromechanical Feet

At the forefront of prosthetic foot development lie smart or electromechanical feet. These devices incorporate microprocessors, sensors, and even powered actuators to dynamically adjust stiffness and foot position based on real-time input. Unlike passive systems, smart feet can detect changes in terrain, speed, or user posture and respond accordingly, enhancing user safety and comfort.[18].

The benefits of smart feet are considerable. Users often report increased confidence while walking on stairs, ramps, or uneven surfaces. Some designs also allow for mode switching (e.g., walking, climbing, descending) and can be synchronized with the user's gait through embedded machine learning algorithms. Pană, C. F., et al., (2022) presents a prosthetic design and method for determining the kinematic and dynamic characteristics of the legs' stepping phase. It includes a sensing apparatus and a data collecting device with a microprocessor. The sensor uses resistive pressure sensors to measure weight distribution on the sole. The system is tested for measurement repeatability and homogeneity, and real-time data is communicated to a computer system for analysis. The system is flexible and can be tailored to any individual [19].

Despite their promise, smart feet face substantial barriers. High costs, complex maintenance, limited battery life, and environmental susceptibility (e.g., to water or dust) make them impractical for many users, particularly in developing regions. Moreover, most studies remain focused on short-term trials or limited populations. Longitudinal evaluations of smart prosthetics in real-world contexts remain scarce. Addressing these gaps is critical for broader adoption, especially in everyday and occupational settings [20].

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2.5 3D-Printed Prosthetic Feet

Additive manufacturing (particularly 3D printing) has emerged as a transformative technology in prosthetics. The ability to design, customize, and fabricate prosthetic feet at low cost and with minimal lead time holds immense promise. 3D-printed prosthetic feet are typically made from thermoplastics like PLA, ABS, or TPU, though recent advancements have incorporated carbon fiber-reinforced filaments and flexible materials for enhanced performance [21].

Zhen, Tao et al. (2017) outlined a method for designing passive prosthetic foot made from Polylactic acid (PLA) is designed using topology optimization and fabricated directly from a 3D printer, resulting in a 62% weight reduction from 0.79 kg to 0.30 kg. This lightweight, eco-friendly material reduces patient satisfaction and shortens the time required for design and production, making it an effective approach for reducing prosthetic weight [22].

Krishna, R., et al. (2019) The authors seek to tackle this challenge by employing 3D printing techniques, specifically fused deposition modeling, to produce prosthetic feet at a lower cost. They use materials like polylactic acid, thermoplastic polyurethane, and aluminum, which eliminate preheating and streamline the manufacturing process. This study aims to demonstrate how 3D printing can reduce prosthetic foot costs, increasing accessibility to a wider population. The results suggest that 3D printing could revolutionize the prosthetics sector [23].

Dhananjaya, Y. H. K. (2023) research focuses on creating a 3D-printable prosthetic foot with a honeycomb construction, aiming to improve prosthetic foot efficacy and cost-effectiveness. The honeycomb configuration offers elevated strength, rigidity, and adjustable stiffness, replicating the natural function of a human foot. The research uses 3D printing and Finite Element Analysis (FEA) technologies, demonstrating the effectiveness of the engineered prosthetic foot and its efficacy in designing and evaluating prosthetic devices [24].

However, challenges remain. The mechanical properties of 3D-printed materials, particularly under fatigue loading, are inferior to those of industrial composites. Additionally, consistent dynamic classification of these feet according to clinical standards remains a hurdle. While promising for low- to moderate-activity users, most 3D-printed feet have not yet demonstrated the reliability required for high-performance or long-term use. [25].

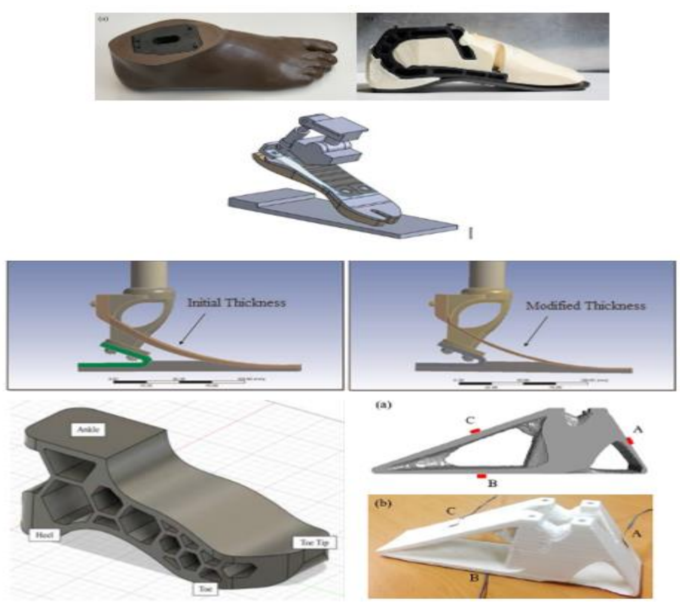

Figure 2. Different prosthetic feet [7-24]

3. MATERIALS AND THEIR IMPACT ON PERFORMANCE

Material selection plays a pivotal role in the design and functional performance of prosthetic feet. The choice of material affects nearly every biomechanical property of a prosthetic foot, including its weight, stiffness, energy return, shock absorption, and overall durability. As such, material science lies at the heart of prosthetic innovation, bridging the gap between design intent and real-world functionality [26]. In this section, we categorize the materials used in prosthetic foot manufacturing into three broad groups—conventional materials, advanced composites, and 3D-printable polymers—and assess their impact based on key performance indicators.

3.1 Conventional Materials: Plastics, Rubber, and Metals

Historically, prosthetic feet were constructed from materials that were readily available and relatively inexpensive. Plastics such as polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP), along with vulcanized rubber and lightweight metals like aluminum, formed the backbone of early designs. These materials were selected for their basic functional qualities—affordability, moldability, and structural rigidity [27].

Mohammed, H. S. and salman, J. M., (2020) developed a composite material for cost-effective prosthetic feet, enhancing accessibility and efficacy. They integrated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) with date palm wood (DPW), a subject not previously explored. The composite material improves mechanical qualities, provides a cost-efficient, lightweight alternative, and enhances life cycle performance, making it a cost-effective and lightweight alternative to current prosthetic designs [28].

Werner, M. G., (2022) explores the creation and evaluation of an innovative a new prosthetic foot design using a blend of 10% LLDPE and 90% HDPE. The goal is to enhance mechanical properties while maintaining cost-effectiveness. The study suggests this innovative prosthetic foot could be a practical option for those seeking a balance between cost, weight, and performance. It underscores the potential for improved prosthetic technology through innovative material combinations and design strategies [29].

Metals such as aluminum and stainless steel have been used for connectors or structural supports, particularly in modular foot designs. While they offer excellent strength, their higher density contributes to increased weight, which can negatively affect gait efficiency and user comfort, despite their limitations, conventional materials remain relevant in low-resource settings due to their affordability and ease of manufacturing. However, the inability of these materials to meet the dynamic demands of modern users has led to a gradual shift toward advanced alternatives [30].

3.2 Advanced Composites: Carbon Fiber, Glass Fiber, and Hybrids

The advent of composite materials marked a revolutionary shift in prosthetic foot technology. Carbon fiber, in particular, has become the gold standard in high-performance foot components due to its exceptional strength-to-weight ratio, elastic modulus, and energy storage capabilities. It is primarily used in Energy-Storing and Return (ESR) feet, where the material's ability to bend under load and return to its original shape is critical for mimicking the spring-like function of the natural foot [31].

Oleiwi, J. K., Hadi, A.N., (2016) Their investigation revolves use of polymer composite materials, specifically a blend of PMMA, SR, and PUR, enhanced with carbon fibers, for prosthetic foot production. Tensile tests and Finite Element Method (FEM) analysis were conducted to determine the mechanical properties of the composite materials. The results show that these materials are suitable for prosthetic applications, fulfilling the requirements of prosthetic feet and enhancing mobility [32]. Takhakh, A, M., Hussain, H. S., (2017) The study compares standard plastic materials like polypropylene and polyethylene with composite materials for partial foot prosthesis. The goal is to identify materials that enhance prosthesis mechanical properties, prolong its lifespan, and reduce patient costs. Two composite materials, Perlon-Carbon-Perlon (PCP) and Hybrid Carbon Fiber-Glass Fiber (Hybrid Cf-Gf), are investigated for their performance and potential to enhance user quality of life [33].

Magda et al. (2018) explore the use of composite materials, specifically carbon and glass fibers, in creating flexible Elastic Energy Storing Prostheses (ESPF). These feet offer a stable, lightweight structure, enabling energy storage and release during walking, enhancing walking efficiency. The effectiveness of these feet depends on fiber type, composite structure, material joining technique, and prosthesis design. Carbon fibers show superior performance, according to a comparative analysis [34].

Kadhim, F. M., et al. (2022) The study analyzed three materials: Carbon Fiber, Glass Fiber, and Hybrid Composite Material, focusing on their suitability for prosthetic foot production. Finite element analysis (FEA) was used to model the mechanical characteristics of these materials. The results showed that the hybrid composite material was the most suitable option, considering the amputee's weight, gait cycle, and material properties [35].

3.3 3D-Printing Materials: PLA, TPU, ABS, Nylon-6, HDPE, and Reinforced Filaments

Additive manufacturing has introduced new possibilities for prosthetic foot design, particularly in terms of customization and cost reduction. Materials commonly used in 3D printing—such as Polylactic Acid (PLA), Thermoplastic Polyurethane (TPU), Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS), Nylon-6, and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)—have varying mechanical properties that influence foot performance [36].

Rigotti, D. et al., (2018) discussed a study that aimed to developed a 3D-printed thermoplastic polyurethane blend with thermal energy storage properties for winter sport equipment. The mixtures were encapsulated with paraffin and used in 3D printing. The microcapsules showed efficient energy storage and release capacity, with melting enthalpy values exceeding theoretical values. The melamine formaldehyde resin improved rigidity, resistance to deformation, and hardness [37]. Rao, V. R., & Thilagar, K. (2020) investigated about materials stating that ABS combines toughness and impact resistance and is a common choice for prototyping durable foot shells. Nylon-6 provides better flexibility and wear resistance, making it suitable for structural components. HDPE is valued for its lightweight and decent fatigue resistance, though it lacks stiffness when compared to fiber-reinforced alternatives [38]. Amalina, A., (2023) created a cost-effective, ergonomic prosthetic foot using Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) material. The design was evaluated using a design selection matrix and refined using SolidWorks 2013. The prototype remained intact during testing, and the patient expressed comfort. This innovation could improve the quality of life for individuals with BKA by offering cost-effective prosthetic solutions [39].

To overcome the limitations of these polymers, researchers have started reinforcing them with continuous carbon or glass fiber filaments during the printing process. This composite 3D printing approach significantly enhances stiffness, energy return, and durability, bringing printed feet closer to the performance of traditionally manufactured ESR feet. Studies such as Warder et al. (2018) have shown that although these 3D-printed composites do not yet consistently meet the performance benchmarks of commercial carbon fiber feet, they represent a promising, low-cost alternative for many users [40].

Nonetheless, most 3D printing materials suffer from anisotropic properties, meaning their strength varies based on print direction. This poses challenges for load-bearing reliability. Additionally, long-term fatigue and environmental exposure are areas that require further research before 3D-printed prosthetic feet can become mainstream for active users [41].

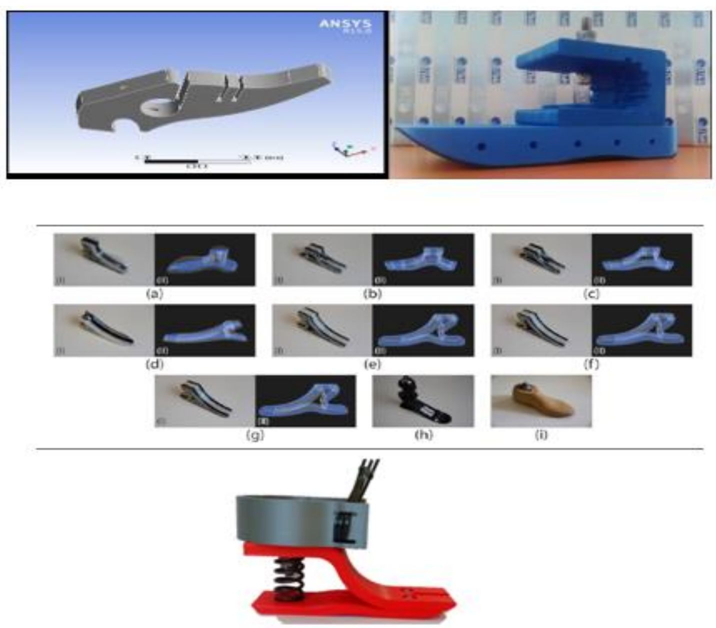

Figure 3. Different materials used in prosthetic feet. [28-40]

4. MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES

The manufacturing techniques used in prosthetic foot development have undergone a major transformation in recent decades. What was once a field dominated by traditional molding and machining processes has now expanded to include advanced digital fabrication technologies, such as additive manufacturing and topology optimization. These techniques have not only enabled rapid prototyping and cost reduction, but have also enhanced design precision, structural performance, and user customization [42]. This section explores the most prominent techniques used in the modern fabrication of prosthetic feet, namely additive manufacturing, topology optimization, CAD-based parametric design, and their collective impact on customization and production time.

4.1 Additive Manufacturing: FDM, SLA, and SLS

Additive manufacturing (AM), more commonly known as 3D printing, has revolutionized the prosthetic industry by enabling the layer-by-layer fabrication of complex geometries directly from digital models.

Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM) is the most widely used 3D printing technique in prosthetics due to its accessibility and cost-effectiveness. Rochlitz, B., et al., (2018) his research demonstrates the use of additive manufacturing in producing custom prosthetic feet using scanned data or parametric models. The designs, developed using Fused Deposition Modeling and ABS filament, undergo Finite Element Analysis (FEA) to enhance strength. These 3D printed prosthetic feet are promising for moderately active individuals who have undergone amputations. The prosthesis effectively restores energy and enhances strength, offering a more authentic user experience. Further research will focus on patient testing and enhancing prosthesis durability and lifespan [43] Porras, F. et al., (2023). developed A 3D printed prosthetic foot using additive manufacturing and continuous filament deposition. The foot, made of Nylon 6 and fiberglass filament, regained its initial form without any fractures under peak stresses of 4106 N. The non-linear stiffness behavior was observed, with stiffness rising proportionally to the applied force. The study suggests dynamic testing is necessary to assess fatigue resistance and energy storage and return capabilities of the prosthetic foot [44].

Selective Laser Sintering (SLS) is a more advanced technique that uses a laser to fuse powdered materials—such as nylon or composite blends—into solid structures. SLS offers the advantage of producing mechanically robust parts without the need for support structures, enabling more intricate and organic geometries. South et al. (2010) demonstrated that SLS-fabricated prosthetic feet could closely replicate the mechanical response of commercial ESR feet, validating the technique for high-performance applications. However, the cost and complexity of SLS systems remain a barrier for widespread clinical use [45].

Overall, additive manufacturing enables rapid iteration and on-demand customization, allowing clinicians and engineers to respond more quickly to individual user needs. As material science progresses, especially in the development of fiber-reinforced printable polymers, additive manufacturing is poised to play a dominant role in future prosthetic foot production [46].

4.2 Topology Optimization

Topology optimization is a computational design process that seeks to remove unnecessary material from a structure while maintaining or enhancing its mechanical performance. In prosthetic foot design, this technique is particularly valuable for minimizing weight without compromising strength or functionality—an essential goal given the repetitive load-bearing nature of prosthetic use [47].

Guo, Y., et al. (2021) describes how the process begins with a solid block model and boundary conditions (such as loading points, constraints, and material properties). Algorithms then iteratively remove material to find the most efficient internal structure. The result is often a biologically inspired, lattice-like geometry that provides strength where needed while reducing material usage elsewhere [48].

Kamel, H. et al., (2019) combined topology optimization, parametric computer-aided design (CAD), and 3D printing to create a practical and economical prosthetic foot. The design incorporates an energy storage mechanism, contributing to 70% of overall energy expenditure in healthy individuals. The prototype was tested using a specially built adaptor. The study plans to explore new materials like 3D printing filaments strengthened with chopped carbon fibers and the impact of fatigue loading. PLA is a promising material for prosthetic limbs, costing around $10 compared to $600 for a normal amputation limb [49].

Incorporating topology optimization into prosthetic foot development has yielded several advantages. First, it allows for precise control over stiffness distribution, enabling engineers to tailor flexibility in different zones of the foot (e.g., heel vs. forefoot). Second, it significantly reduces production weight, improving gait efficiency and comfort for the user. Finally, when combined with additive manufacturing, topology-optimized designs can be fabricated directly, bypassing the limitations of traditional molding or machining [50].

However, this process does present challenges Jansari, T., Deiab, I. (2019) indicated that the resulting geometries can be too complex for conventional manufacturing, and their mechanical behavior may be difficult to predict without high-fidelity simulations or physical testing. Additionally, topology-optimized components often require careful orientation and support strategies during printing to ensure strength and printability. Future work should focus on integrating real-time biomechanical feedback into the optimization process to allow adaptive designs based on individual gait profiles [51].

4.3 CAD-Based Parametric Design

Computer-Aided Design (CAD) tools serve as the digital foundation for modern prosthetic foot development. Beyond simply drafting geometries, parametric CAD systems allow engineers to define relationships between design parameters—such as foot length, arch height, stiffness zones, or toe angle—and generate variations with minimal manual adjustment. This is particularly advantageous in prosthetics, where patient-specific customization is essential [52].

For example, parametric modeling can be used to scale a foot design to match the user's body weight, walking speed, or residual limb characteristics. This reduces the need to start from scratch for each patient and accelerates the personalization process. Moreover, parametric CAD can be directly linked with optimization and simulation tools, such as FEA, to automatically evaluate and refine design iterations.[53].

Despite its benefits, parametric design requires a skilled engineering background and can be limited by the software's capability to handle highly complex geometries. The integration of AI-based generative design tools may offer a solution, enabling systems to propose and refine new designs autonomously based on defined functional goals [54].

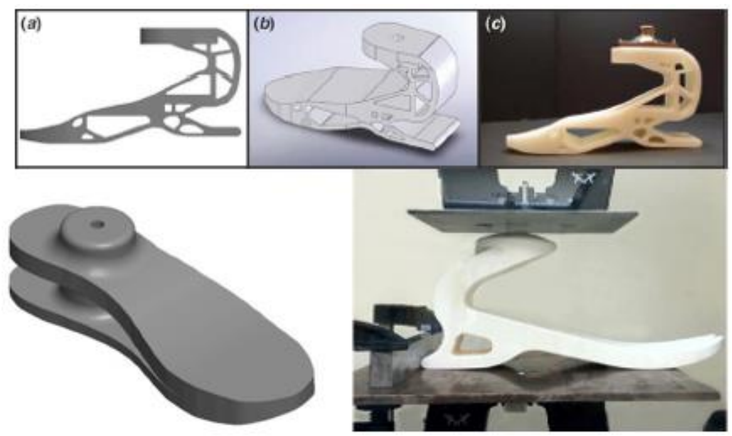

Figure 4. prosthetic feet produced in different ways. [43-49]

5. CONCLUSION

The field of prosthetic foot development has witnessed transformative advances in recent years, driven by breakthroughs in material science, biomechanics, and digital fabrication technologies. From rigid, unresponsive devices to energy-efficient, sensor-integrated prosthetic feet, the journey has been marked by a continuous pursuit of replicating the natural gait with greater fidelity, comfort, and efficiency.

This evolution has been largely driven by the strategic use of Finite Element Analysis (FEA) and additive manufacturing (3D printing). These tools have empowered engineers to simulate real-world stresses, rapidly iterate designs, and fabricate highly personalized components at reduced costs. Together, they have shortened development cycles and democratized innovation in ways that were previously unimaginable.

Material innovation has also played a central role in improving biomechanical performance. High-performance composites such as carbon fiber have enhanced energy return and reduced fatigue, while new printable polymers have opened the door to affordable, customizable designs. As understanding of gait mechanics deepens, future prosthetic feet will be increasingly biomimetic—mimicking not just the shape of the foot, but its dynamic response to motion and environment.

Looking forward, the integration of cross-disciplinary collaboration—linking clinicians, engineers, materials scientists, data analysts, and users—will be essential for driving holistic improvements. This includes smarter prostheses, more efficient clinical workflows, and greater attention to patient feedback and quality of life metrics.

As prosthetic feet continue to evolve, the ultimate measure of success will lie not only in mechanical performance, but in the restoration of human dignity, independence, and mobility. The next generation of prosthetic solutions must not only deliver real-world mobility benefits but do so with compassion, sustainability, and inclusivity at their core.

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