

Intended use and indications

Our walking aids are designed for people with significant mobility impairment with impairment to movements, compromised balance with sufficiently intact walking ability and unpaired coordination. They are used to maintain, promote and stabilise walking or to partially or fully relieve the strain on the lower limbs. The walking aids can be used both indoors and outdoors. **It is imperative that the safety instructions are also observed!**

Contraindication

The use of walking aids is unsuitable if there is a loss of limb in both arms or joint contractures/joint damage in both arms.

General safety information

Do not hang any bags, pouches or other objects on the walking aid! Walking aids may under **no circumstances be used for any other purpose than that for which they are intended**, e.g. for lifting or moving objects or as a tool for switching light switches or pressing buttons on lifts! It is essential that the ground has a good grip to ensure a secure hold of the walking aids! **Avoid wet floors or surfaces such as gravel, sand, foliage, ice or snow!** Pay attention to **stumbling points** such as unevenness, holes in the floor, loose floor coverings or edges, because the walking aid can unexpectedly slip away or sink in! Extra caution is recommended when lighting conditions are insufficient, since irregularities in the ground can then only be seen with difficulty! When adjusting the push-button, it must protrude from the hole as far as it will go (Fig. 2)! The holes for adjusting the walking aid undergo a certain amount of wear. It is important to ensure that they are not worn out, as this would prevent the push button from locking securely. When adjusting the clip, the plastic clip must have a positive fit when inserted (Fig. 1)! Prior to each use, make sure that all screw connections are firmly tightened! **If forearm crutches are used with the arm clip closed**, it must be ensured that the arm clip is not pressed down unintentionally; otherwise there is a risk of pinching or bruising the skin or fingers.

Adjusting the walking aid

Warning! Please contact your specialist dealer to ensure proper functional and ergonomic adjustment! Incorrectly adjusted walking aids may restrict the functionality of the walking aid or lead to overloading or incorrect loading of the patient! The walking aids are handed over to you as a patient in a proper condition, whereby they are individually adjusted to your body by your specialist dealer or health care specialist. If you have any doubts as to whether this is the case, please contact the responsible specialist personnel. The walking aid can only offer you the relief you desire if it is optimally adapted to your body size. **Adjustment:** If your walking aid is fitted with a union nut, this must be loosened by approx. half a turn anticlockwise prior to adjustment (Fig. 1). Unlock the height adjustment by pressing in the push button or pushing out the clip. Adjust the length of the supports to your body size by pulling the support tubes out or pushing them together. Lock the height adjustment once again by aligning the tubes as such, that the two locking holes are on top of each other, whereby the push-button engages again. In case of clip adjustment, reinsert the clip. **Following adjustment, the union nut must be tightened again.** Height-adjustable walking aids can be shortened by max. 10 cm in the lower part. Non-adjustable walking aids are shortened by individually adjusting the support tube to your size using a metal saw or a tube cutter. **Caution:** Risk of falling due to walking aids buckling when the height adjustment is not locked correctly! Check the correct locking after each adjustment by attempting to twist or move the support! It is possible to adjust the anatomical hand handle axially. Proceed as follows to adjust: 1. Push reflectors out of the front handle. 2. Loosen the sleeve screw with six to eight turns. 3. Pull the handle forward and adjust it. 4. Tighten the sleeve screw again and reinsert the reflector. You can use a standard hexagonal spanner for this.

Use

There are many different ways to use the walking aids and it all depends on the individual restrictions of the walking ability. Seek instruction in the use of the walking aids from your specialist dealer or health care specialist! Walking aids must not be used in water. Any penetrating water can lead to corrosion forming and consequently to an increased risk of breakage. Avoid prolonged contact of the walking aids with moisture. The walking aids must be dried appropriately when they come into contact with water. The correct handling of the walking aids takes some practice. We therefore recommend getting additional support from an assistant at the beginning. We recommend using walking aids in pairs when you require support on both sides! However, only one support should be used in general practice, and then always on the side opposite the injured leg or the leg that needs to be protected! Guide the walking aids close to the body, not at an angle facing outwards (Fig. 3)! You might fall otherwise! During use, grasp the handle(s) of the walking aid(s) completely and firmly with your hand! Always place the walking aids as straight as possible on the ground so that you do not slip away! Find chairs with armrests to sit on. You will then be able to support yourself on the armrests when standing up! Wear shoes that are as comfortable as possible with flat soles so that your leg can better withstand additional strain! **If you do fall:** if possible, let the walking aid fall to the side so that you do not fall onto it! Have someone accompany and support you if possible, so that they can catch you if you fall! Try and arrange for qualified personnel to instruct you in climbing stairs with a walking aid! When climbing stairs with only one walking aid, it is important to hold on to the railing using your free hand (Fig. 4)! When climbing stairs with two walking aids, hold both walking aids together in one hand and make sure to hold on to the railing firmly using your free hand (Fig. 5)!

Precautionary measure

Using a walking aid places an unusual amount of strain on individual parts of the body! This may result in the following undesirable side effects: The hands, arms or items of clothing may encounter pressure or chafing! We recommend the use of grip aid bracket pads as preventive measures. When using two walking aids, make sure that you bear the entire body weight with your arms and shoulders! Keep in mind that this can lead to pain and overexertion at the beginning or during prolonged exertion! It is important to take sufficient breaks!

Storage and care

Never store the walking aids in the vicinity of heat sources such as furnaces, heaters or in places susceptible to heat in a car! Do not expose walking aids to sunlight for prolonged periods of time! Strong sun or heat damages the plastic! Protect your walking aids from toppling over and from damage to the paintwork (e.g. by using straps or holders). **The rubber buffer is a wearing part and must be replaced at regular intervals.** Walking aids must only be used again after an extended period of non-use following prior inspection by qualified personnel! **Warning!** Never clean handles and rubber caps using oily substances! There is a risk of slipping! In the event of contamination, clean the walking aids using a mild cleaning agent and a soft cloth where necessary. **Never** use cleaners containing solvents, since these will damage the plastic! **Note:** Should disinfection be required, then a suitable disinfectant agent should be used. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.

Limitation of use

The walking aid must only be subjected to loads in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. **Observe the maximum permissible body weight that is specified on the product!** Please contact your specialist dealer in the case of greater loads or in case of any doubts. Bent or damaged walking aids must not be used under any circumstances, since they can no longer offer the necessary stability! Bent walking aids must also not be straightened because of the risk of breakage! **Note:** All serious incidents that occur in connection with the product must be reported to the manufacturer and the competent authority of the Member State in which the user and/or the patient is located.

Re-use (rental) / duration of use

We shall only accept liability pursuant to the Product Liability Act for the initial placing of our products on the market. We only consent to reuse if we have first inspected the product. **The service life of the forearm crutches is limited to 2 years.** The user shall be responsible for the continued use of the forearm-supported walking aids after this time.

Warranty and liability

You have purchased a high-quality Ossenberg product. In the event of a justified material defect in spite of the highest quality standards, Ossenberg reserves the right, as part of a 12-month warranty, to either repair the defective item or replace it with a defect-free follow-up delivery at its own discretion. Please note that stricter legal regulations are applicable to our finished products, in particular custom-made products. We shall not be liable for any damage caused by modifications to our products. The warranty does not cover defects attributable to wear and tear or improper handling. Wear parts are excluded from the warranty. Only original replacement parts and accessories must be used! Please contact your specialist dealer for replacement parts, accessories and repairs.

Disposal

Please consult your specialist dealer about the regional disposal regulations.

Accessories

The approved accessories for your walking aid can be found at: <https://shop.ossenberg.com/en/downloads-to-the-product/>



Replacement parts

Table 1.B

Technical data

Table 1.A

Symbol directory

REF Item number

LOT Batch number

Read the operating instructions

Attention

CE This product complies with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 (MDR)

Manufacturer

Distributed on by

Date of manufacture

Permissible body weight

MD Medical device