Information for patients
Movement Analysis Service

ORLAU
The Orthotic Research & Locomotor Assessment Unit
ORLAU
The ORLAU gait assessment service has been set up to help people with walking difficulties. We provide information to help plan treatment options which could include or combine surgery, with splinting and physiotherapy. We are also involved in on-going research and have an active training programme for staff and professional visitors.

Gait analysis
Walking analysis, otherwise known as gait analysis, is a team effort involving orthopaedic consultants, physiotherapists, engineers, orthotists and technicians.

Before attending your appointment we hope you will have returned our questionnaire about your problem. Please feel free to inform us of any additional problems or concerns you may have during your assessment.

When you come please bring with you suitable clothing, any splints/ walking aids and shoes (not new ones). The assessment can be very tiring so you might also like to bring your wheelchair if you have one.

Office Staff (Pictured Left to right)
1. Kathryn Mottram
2. Shirley Till
3. Nicky Pickles
4. Lesley Vine
5. Claire Taylor
6. Loraine Duncan
7. Karen Edwards

Before the assessment
Before any gait assessment is undertaken all the test procedures are explained and there is an opportunity to ask questions. The patient and/or parent is asked to sign a consent form to allow information to be collected and stored.

All patients referred to the unit will undergo an examination by a physiotherapist and/or an orthopaedic consultant. This will involve answering a few general questions and an examination of your range of movement and muscle strength, particularly in the legs.
## Department & Ward Locations

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<th>Department/Location</th>
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The assessment
To look at walking we need to be able to see how the whole body moves. For this, the patient should wear trunks, or close-fitting shorts or pants. Female patients may also wear a crop-top or rolled up t-shirt. Assessments can take up to half a day, depending on the tests carried out and on the patient’s needs.

All our walking assessments involve using video. This, like all the information gathered, is treated confidentially. Using video, we can examine walking from different angles and in slow motion, something which would be impossible with just the naked eye. Special instrumentation in the floor gives us an additional understanding of the forces involved in walking.

Sometimes video alone gives enough information. Often a three dimensional examination is also required. This involves putting small reflective markers on parts of the body, which are detected by 12 infra-red cameras, whilst the patient is walking.
Additional Tests
Additional tests may be done which involve testing walking effort and the activity of individual muscles. These tests are achieved by sticking recording sensors on the skin to ‘listen’ to either heart or leg muscles during walking. There are very few laboratories offering these services in Britain. ORLAU is an internationally renowned centre and we see patients from all over the country and beyond. We endeavour to provide a friendly and warm welcome to all who attend. At the end of the visit patients will know that their walking problems have been fully evaluated.

What happens next
After the patient has gone home, the results are processed on a computer, by our technicians and engineers. Preparation of gait analysis data is a time consuming process and for this reason we cannot suggest treatment on the day of assessment. When the results are ready, our multidisciplinary team gets together to produce a report containing recommendations. This report is sent to the patient’s referring clinician and GP and the data are sent to other involved clinicians. You will also receive a letter from us giving our findings or directing you where to get them.

Additional information
Patients travelling a long distance are offered the opportunity for basic overnight hospital accommodation the evening prior to their appointment. There are reserved parking facilities for disabled badge holders opposite the ORLAU building.

On your arrival please ask the staff on reception to unlock a space for you. We would also be grateful if you could inform us when you are leaving ORLAU, to allow the space to be reserved for the next patient.

If you have further queries please contact:
Lesley Vine
Tel: 01691 404532
Fax: 01691 404058
Email: Lesley.Vine@rjah.nhs.uk

This service is accredited by the Clinical movement Analysis Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland (CMAS). www.cmasuki.org
If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print. Arrangements can also be made on request for it to be explained in your preferred language. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: pals.office@rjah.nhs.uk

Feedback

Tell us what you think of our patient information leaflet. Please send your comments to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: pals.office@rjah.nhs.uk

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