Tibial Stent Design Team Progress Report

Client: *Dr. Matthew Halanski*
Advisor: *Dr. Paul Thompson*

Team:
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Date: *April 4th, 2014 – April 11th, 2014* *(Week 11)*

Problem Statement

(revised 02/03/14)

Tibia fractures are common in children, and these injuries are currently managed nonoperatively using casts; however, a surgically implanted device would provide more structural stability and aid the healing of the fracture. Adult patients with this injury typically have a rigid intramedullary device implanted into their tibia bone. Unfortunately, these implants cannot be used in pediatric patients due to the presence of growth plates at the implantation site. A previous design team produced a working device that can enter the medullary canal through a hole in the side of the bone and then expand outward to stabilize the fracture, held in place by static friction against the canal wall. This device is flexible enough to fit into the canal, yet rigid enough to maintain fracture reduction, can be secured in place with screws, and can be removed from the canal when desired; however, the device is not fully fixated against the walls of the bone canal, and the friction force of the device is not sufficient to prevent axial rotation within the canal. This rotation can lead to device failure resulting in unnecessary pain for the patient and extra surgery to correct the issue. Last semester, this team designed a theoretical device consisting of a threaded segmented centerpiece inside of a metal biaxial braid. When the centerpiece is rotated, the braid experiences a compressive load, which causes it to expand radially. This radial expansion would ultimately provide the force to stabilize the fracture; however, the current design does not allow for sufficient force to be applied to the centerpiece.

The goal of this semester is to improve the design from last semester by strengthening the centerpiece joints, which will give us the ability to build and test a prototype, and develop a novel tool that can rotate the centerpiece when the implant is placed into a bone.

Last Week's Goals (14-21 days ago)

- Analyze bend testing results over the weekend to confirm the efficacy of the proposed device
- Finalize design specifications over the weekend
- Confirm thread count of 5/64" and 3/32" diameter K-wires
    - +/-1 thread per inch error on the counts from the images due to the angle that the image was taken
- Order caps of both 5/64" diameter center hole & 3/32" diameter center hole from fabrication firm on Monday
- Contact manufacturers of hollow flexible shafts to discuss use of their product with our device
- Investigate the amount of torque that must be delivered to the nut for maximal fracture stabilization by the braid
    - plan preliminary testing if necessary – modify proof-of-concept to current design (no longer twisting centerpiece), scale down braid to appropriate length and measure torque required inside PVC

This Week's Goals/Individual Goals (14-0 days ago)

- Continue discussion with manufacturer regarding use of hollow flexible drive shaft for use with this device
- Plan specific modifications to flexible hollow drive shaft
- Determine exact thread count of the K-wires we will be using (3/32" and 5/64") –or– find a nut that will work with each K-wire

This Week's Accomplishments

- Suhner® Transmission Expert has offered to build a custom hollow drive shaft for use with our device for no charge
    - Sent email with specifications
- Continued discussion of modifications to drive shaft
- Obtained nuts from ACE Hardware (10 per diameter)

Project Difficulties

- Latitude Corp refused to make the caps for our device, so we are currently waiting on quotes from two other firms – the alternative plan is to purchase more nuts that fit each K-wire, ream the threads out of them, and use them in place of the caps

Next Week's Team Goals

- Obtain quote for caps or obtain more nuts, ream them out, and glue them together for use as caps
- Maintain communication with Suhner® to provide information about the requirements of the drive shaft and obtain information about the type of end that the drive shaft will have on it
- Obtain a socket for the end of the drive shaft and draw up an adapter or necessary modifications for use with the drive shaft end

Summary of Design Accomplishments

- The team is meeting weekly to accelerate the design process
- The team has a meeting scheduled with the client to discuss goals for this semester and to obtain information about quantifying device performance constraints
- The team has met with Dr. Halanski to discuss goals for this semester
- The team has completed the Design Matrices for this semester and the Midsemester Presentation
- The team has completed the Midsemester Report
- The team has conducted bend testing of K-wires and finalized 2 candidate diameters that are ideal for use with this device
- The team has ordered caps for both 3/32" and 5/64" diameter K-wires

Expenses

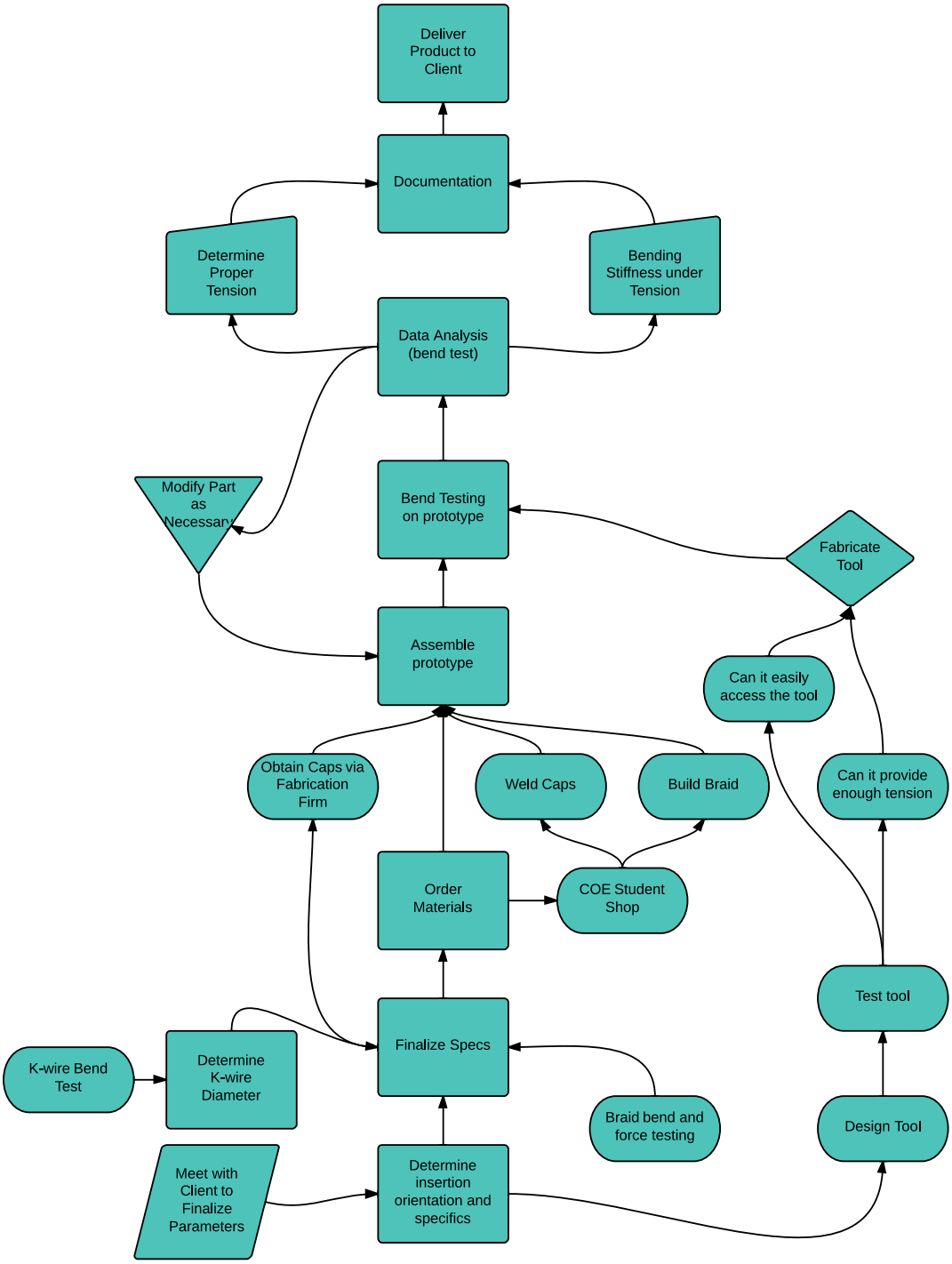
- ACE Hardware - $6

Schedule for Spring 2014

Task	*January*	*February*				*March*					*April*				*May*	
	31	7	14	21	28	7	14	21	28	31	4	11	18	25	2	9
Groundwork																
Set Meeting Time	X	X														
Brainstorming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
ECB 2005 Access	X	X	X	X												
Testing																
Cast Material					X	X	X									
Braided Structure					X	X	X									
Prototyping																
Order Materials						X	X	X								
Build Prototype							X	X	X	X	X	X				
Test Prototype								X	X	X	X	X				
Deliverables																
Progress Reports	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Notebooks	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
PDS	X	X	X	X												
Midsemester Presentation				X												
Midsemester Report				X	X											
Final Poster																
Final Report																
Meetings																
Advisor Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Team Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Client Meeting			X			X			X							
Website																
Update	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

Activities

Person(s)	Task	Time (hrs)	Weekly Total	Semester Total
Evan	*Team Role (Leader)*		3.5	82.5
	Weekly progress report	1.0		
	Developed next week's team goals	1.0		
	Other			
	ACE Hardware trip	1.0		
	Meeting Wednesday regarding drive shaft	0.5		
Karl	*Team Role (Communicator)*		7.0	83.5
	Contacted Latitude Corp	0.5		
	Emailed other firms	0.5		
	Contacted Caspersen re: cap specifications	0.5		
	Contacted Suhner re: drive shaft	1.0		
	Other			
	ACE Hardware trip	1.0		
	Meeting Wednesday regarding drive shaft	0.5		
	Measured diameter of nuts	0.5		
	Drafted specifications and emailed to Suhner	1.0		
	Researched external hex broaches	1.5		
Tyler	*Team Role (BPAG)*			55.0
	n/a			
	Other			
Sarah	*Team Role (BWIG)*		3.5	56.0
	Updated design website	0.5		
	Other			
	Team Meetings	2.0		
	Specs for hollow drive shaft	1.0		


Deliver Product to Client
Documentation
Determine Proper Tension
Bending Stiffness under Tension
Data Analysis (bend test)
Modify Part as Necessary
Bend Testing on prototype
Fabricate Tool
Assemble prototype
Can it easily access the tool
Obtain Caps via Fabrication Firm
Weld Caps
Build Braid
Can it provide enough tension
Order Materials
COE Student Shop
Test tool
K-wire Bend Test
Determine K-wire Diameter
Finalize Specs
Braid bend and force testing
Design Tool
Meet with Client to Finalize Parameters
Determine insertion orientation and specifics