



## Cause

The most common causes include previous injury to a bone in the leg as well as scoliosis, previous surgery, and especially joint replacements. Sometimes the cause of limb length discrepancy is unknown. Conversely a limb length discrepancy can occur due to an excessively flat arch which may artificially cause a functional limb length discrepancy but more often it is the pelvis, hips, or lower back which creates a foot problem.

## Symptoms

The body will try to adapt to or compensate for the difference in limbs. Generally the limb that is being forced closer to the ground causes flattening of the arch and accelerated degeneration of the joints on that limb, while the opposite side received less pressure and commonly there is a compensatory curvature of the spine. Moreover, the knee on the longer side becomes flexed. Sometimes this requires more effort walking and the “longer” limb takes more of the pressure which obviously increases the risk of development of degenerative arthritis in the hip of the longer limb. - Postural changes occur as well in which the shoulders lean towards the shorter side and the spine also becomes curved sideways (functional scoliosis). It may also cause lower back pain and knee pain. Or this can occur conversely in which the curvature of the spine artificially elevates and depresses each leg in relationship to the ground.



