

DF2® Brace

The **DF2 Brace** is used to treat femur (thigh) fractures. It replaces a traditional hip spica cast. The **DF2 Brace** allows for dressing changes, positional movement (such as sitting) and easy toiletry. It also provides adjustable compression over the fracture site, meaning it will not loosen over the course of the treatment period, as with a traditional cast. It is important that the straps and plastic shell stay snug over the femur to allow for proper healing.

The **DF2 Brace** should be treated like a cast, meaning it should be worn full time. Your child's doctor will determine if the brace can be removed at certain times during the treatment period. It is generally worn for **6 weeks**, but the doctor will determine the time frame based on healing.

Girdle/Waist- may be unfastened to allow for diaper/underwear changes.

Thigh section- there is a thin, plastic tongue that should be tightened down as swelling decreases to maintain constant compression of the fracture site.

Cleaning and Maintenance- The brace may be cleaned with a washcloth and warm water. It may be disinfected with rubbing alcohol or mild antibacterial wipes. Harsh cleaners, like bleach, are not recommended as the brace is in close contact with the skin.

Important Information:

- The brace should always be tight, especially over the thigh to maintain compression.
- Do not loosen screws or adjust hinge in any way. Your doctor will do this as needed during visits to the clinic.
- Do not give your child a shower with the brace on and do not submerge the brace in a bathtub. Sponge baths are best, unless directed otherwise by the doctor.
- If indicated, elevate your child's leg when lying down by placing a pillow or blanket under your child's calf. Do not prop directly under the heel; even soft material will cause a sore to form if the back of the heel is resting on a surface. Your child's heel should be suspended in the air when the leg is elevated, not resting on the supporting pillow or blanket.
- Always wear a sock underneath the brace. This will prevent skin breakdown and improve overall hygiene during your child's time in the brace. Sock changes will be directed by your child's doctor.



Brace System by OrthoPediatrics