

Fractures

For safety reasons, passengers with full-length above knee casts are required by some airlines to travel by stretcher. Otherwise, airlines require the purchase of an extra seat or seats, or alternatively to fly business or first class. Because air might be trapped beneath the cast, it is advisable for casts applied within 24-48 hours to be bivalve to avoid harmful swelling, particularly on long flights. (For further information see <http://www.britishairways.com/health>.) Likewise, if a pneumatic splint is used, some air should be released to allow for gas expansion at altitude, which could otherwise cause discomfort as well as circulatory embarrassment or neuropraxia. (Some airlines will not allow the use of pneumatic splints in flight.)