**Appendix 5.** Analysis of clinical interviews of psychological assessment. Extracts of the interview transcripts were translated from Italian.

<table>
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<th>Time Point</th>
<th>Recurrent Themes and Subthemes and Specific Issues</th>
<th>Extracts</th>
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</table>
| Baseline   | 1. Amputation as change of life.                  | Stefano: I felt changed, like I was done, I don’t know what was in my mind.  
Guido: You see yourself changed. . . . It (the amputation) changes your life. Before I had a job, everything was normal, like everybody else. . . . Now there is a prosthesis. . . . There is a loss, there is a trauma—there was also a psychological trauma. It is not easy to move from a life to another life. But then, you get used to the new condition.  
Paolo: . . . It was all new for me. All a new world, suddenly. |
|            | 2. Factors facilitating adjustment:               | Stefano: And, then, I came here [INAIL Prosthetic Center], I don the body powered. Already with the prosthesis, as to say, having the hand, you know... someone did not realize that I was an amputee. . . . Then, I wore the myoelectric and I started to drive, I got my driving license. . . . I got my life back, essentially I got my life back, again.  
Guido: As I wore the body powered, life was again. . . . Because I couldn’t do anything without the prosthesis. . . . When I had the first body powered, I went out on Saturday to visit friends. “Ah!! Let’s play cards!” they told me. “Eh, let see if I can,” I said. And, I held 13 cards, here. . . . Oh! I was so happy. . . . I was like a child that starts to walk. I remember this experience clearly. . . . Then, I wore the myoelectric, and slowly. . . . You restart to live again . . . to do thing you were doing before and you were not doing anymore after the accident.  
Paolo: I was lucky because, after I had the accident, I came here immediately, and I put on a body-powered prosthesis. . . . Then, I tried the myoelectric solution. . . . It saved me. It allowed me to drive. . . . At first I thought—I can’t do this, I can’t do that. . . . But the prosthesis has filled all gaps . . . especially the myoelectric.  
Alberto: When I got the myoelectric prosthesis, it opened a world to me, I could do . . . not the 100 percent . . . but it helps me a lot. |
|            | 2b. Support from others.                         | Stefano: I get over it because I had a kid. . . . I also had a |
partner that, in my opinion, she has been clever. . . . She was not the type “I’ll bring you that,” “I’ll do that for you.” . . . She let me adjust by myself.

Guido: Some friends took me out. . . . They make me doing things . . . going to the beach. . . . Because, at the beginning, I didn’t want to go anywhere.

Paolo: At first I did not want to go out. After a week, my friends invited me to dance. . . . They were all really nice to me and that helps me to get over it.

3. Having an artificial limb:
3a. How does a prosthesis have to be?

Fabio: I care about the functionality—also the cosmetics—but above all the functionality. If it (the prosthesis) has both, it is better!

Guido: I am not interested [in cosmetics]. . . . I am not interested in having a cosmetic solution, it is always a prosthesis. The important thing is that it works, because if it doesn’t . . . as I told you, I cannot do anything without prosthesis. I need its functionality. . . . I don’t care if it has a color or another color. . . . It must work.

Paolo: I never care about cosmetics. . . . It must work and never let me down, because I work with it. . . . The important thing is that it works and that allows me to do . . . to carry out everyday life, more than anything else.

Alberto: More is functional and better you can do your things. . . . About cosmetics, the gloves are the problem.

Stefano: I do everything with the myoelectric prosthesis. . . . I don’t see myself without it.

Fabio: I never refused the prosthesis, I mean . . . I always wore it, used it.

Guido: I cannot do anything without the prosthesis. When it breaks it’s a problem. . . . Once got used to the prosthesis, I’ve never taken it off!

Francesco: I’ve never left home without the prosthesis. . . . The first thing I do when I wake-up is wearing the prosthesis. It is not because . . . I feel the need. I also feel more useful with it. . . . It is essential.

Paolo: By now, there is a habit toward the prosthesis. When I start up, I immediately put on the prosthesis because I cannot do anything without it. . . . I don’t have the touch. Besides this, I can do everything [with the prosthesis].

Stefano: There are some movements, some things that it [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand] can do better. You do not need to stress the shoulder. . . . For example, when you hold a shopping cart. . . . You grasp it, I mean, you feel more comfortable. It facilitates you in movements, in grips.

Fabio: You do a lot more, without doubts. Even daily, at home, I live alone so . . . in washing dishes, for example, this [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand] is better.
Guido: There have been some improvements in doing little things. . . . With time, you realize all new things you can do. . . . I use it to do thing I couldn’t do before. . . . For example, the shoes. Another thing I discovered is that you can tie your shoe grasping laces between fingers. . . . It improves the level of life that we [people with amputation] do with prostheses.

Francesco: The movement of the wrist is really useful. . . . When I drive with [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand], it is a completely different thing.

Paolo: The lateral grip allows me to do 90 percent of my work. . . . I have to take note of something on my notebook [at work], I do it more easily with [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand]. . . . These are small things, but in the everyday life, these make the difference to me. . . . I am more realized. . . . It completes me!

2. “Like a real hand”—Natural postures and gestures.

Stefano: It is more human, the shape, it is more human [compared to tridigital prosthetic hand]. . . . It is more human while I am walking. . . . I feel more comfortable. I don’t care much about cosmetics but I feel more comfortable.

Fabio: When you shaking hands, it [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand] resemble to a real hand. It looks more human.

Guido: I do it [activity of daily living] in a more natural manner. . . . The movements are normal movements. . . . I do not block the wrist because I can do like this [leans prosthetic hand on leg]. Now, the shoulder is in a normal position.

Stefano: With [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand], it is difficult to note [that I have a prosthesis].

Fabio: Even if I don’t have such a problem. . . . People notice less that it is a prosthesis, speaking about cosmetics.

Guido: If I go to a party, there are people that I don’t know, and they look at me. . . . They see me as a normal person. . . . This is a good thing for me. . . . Even in the photos. I took a picture and looking at it I thought “My God! It seems like a real hand!”

Paolo: The wrist . . . it allows me to assume even more natural manners, which are less noticeable. . . . I prefer it [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand] compared to others . . . also as it appears to other people. . . . People asked me “Did you have a transplant?”

2a. Michelangelo prosthetic hand is less noticeable.

Guido: I was at a buffet . . . and, a glass of wine . . . I hold a stem glass [with the Michelangelo prosthetic hand]! . . . Before, I had to take a plate from the buffet and find a table to eat, not now! Now, I can also walk . . . I mean . . . the fact that I have to sit at a table, it was something that isolated me from others. . . . Instead, now it is normal . . . wonderful!

Paolo: Before, I did not play beach volley with my kids and friends. Now, I do even this . . . I was playing with my daughter, and I could grasp the little dresses and shoes of her

2b. Michelangelo prosthetic hand helps in social interactions.
dolls.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>Fabio</td>
<td>The old prosthesis [the tridigital prosthetic hand] is more reliable. . . Certainly, it [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand] has more functions but there are a lot of problems that need to be addressed from a technical point of view.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Francesco</td>
<td>There was a problem, I didn’t feel confident.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimension</td>
<td>Francesco</td>
<td>At first, the hand looked slightly bigger. But, I am a person that doesn’t think of it too much. I am interested in its use. . . The fingers are a little long. . . You look at the mirror and you see the difference with your arm, and also with the other prosthesis.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alberto</td>
<td>Considering cosmetics, it [the Michelangelo prosthetic hand] seems more awkward . . bigger, compared to the other one [the tridigital prosthetic hand]. The other one is proportioned to my hand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noise</td>
<td>Fabio</td>
<td>This prosthesis is noisier than the other one. If I walk around . . I don’t say that people’s heads turn, but they may say “What's wrong with him?”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Francesco</td>
<td>Another thing I note is the noise. This is like the noise of an old myoelectric prosthesis.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guido</td>
<td>The only thing is the noise, but . . the important thing is that it’s working.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>Stefano</td>
<td>It is heavier [compared to the tridigital prosthetic hand] but you do better.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fabio</td>
<td>I had problems with the stump because of the weight.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alberto</td>
<td>It is heavy. . . The stump gets tired.</td>
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