



Access Ability

Ability Prosthetics and Orthotics, Inc. www.AbilityPO.com

Spring 2008

Prosthetic Solutions Include:

- Microprocessor Controlled Feet, Knees & Arms
- Vacuum & Suction Prosthetic Socket Components
- Innovative Above-knee & Below-knee Socket Designs
- Custom Liner Technology
- Laser Imaging Technology
- Post-mastectomy Bras & Forms

Orthotic Solutions Include:

- Ultra-lightweight & Innovative Brace Designs
- Advanced Joint Options Allow for Multi-function Braces
- Functional, Performance & Diabetic Accommodative Foot Orthotics

Pediatric O & P Solutions Include:

- Fracture Bracing & Acute Orthopedic Bracing
- Cranial Re-molding Helmets
- Dynamic Ankle Foot Bracing
- Scoliosis & Spinal Bracing
- Passive & Functional Prosthetic Arms
- Hip, Knee & Foot Bracing
- Modular & High-activity Prosthetic Componentry



HELPFUL RESOURCES

- www.AbilityPO.com
- www.oandp.com
- www.amputee-coalition.org
- www.diabetes.org
- www.aopanet.org

INTRODUCTION

In This Issue

We are pleased to share the latest news regarding Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics, Inc. 2008 marks the beginning of our 5th year servicing patients. Our company has recently opened its 4th patient care center, was recently featured on MSNBC.com, our patients report high satisfaction scores and we remain active in the communities we serve.

In this issue you will find a company update, as well as a clinical overview of KAFO knee joint options and custom protective face guards, two devices that have tremendously improved performance and ability among users. Enjoy!

ASK ABILITY

Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis: New Joint Options Allow for Multi-function

Q: Are there alternatives to the conventional “metal & Leather” or “traditional plastic” KAFO’s?

A: Yes! While these basic style KAFO’s are still utilized among existing wearers, there are newer, radically different KAFO designs utilizing light-weight materials with advanced knee joint features, allowing for multi-function. As in prosthetics limbs, there are now microprocessor-controlled knee joints for KAFO wearers, resulting in fewer wearer limitations and enhanced biomechanical control.

Whereas traditional joints forced patients to adapt to joint functions and limitations, more advanced options accurately mimic anatomical movement of the knee, resulting in more comfort. Poly-centric joints allow for natural function during excessive knee flexion. Extension assist joints provide graded extension of the “shin” portion of the KAFO during swing-phase to increase stability. Stance phase control joints lock automatically when the limb is extended and unlocks upon subsequent dorsiflexion, bending or unweighting of the ankle allowing for a smooth and coordinated gait pattern.

Such new orthotic joint solutions now allow the user’s Orthotist to highly customize the brace and plan for rehabilitation gains by integrating joint capabilities with patient strengths and limitations; thus, brace performance and patient acceptance are maximized.

KAFO’s are indicated for but not limited to patients with neuro-muscular and musculo-skeletal pathologies involving the knee, foot and/or ankle resulting in paralysis or instability of the quadriceps (thigh), muscle weakness, excessive knee hyperextension and excessive knee varus/valgus.



Jared A. Howell, (with scissors) Prosthetist/Orthotist and managing practitioner of the recently opened Exton, Pennsylvania Ability patient care center



ABOUT ABILITY

Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics, Inc. celebrated its 4th anniversary on March 1, 2008. We began our 5th year of service by releasing our newly designed patient care brochure, opening our 4th patient care center, securing two Veterans Administration (VA) hospital contracts, and servicing our 2,000th patient!

Ability remains active in the communities it serves by supporting causes such as the Arms & Legs Foundation, Maryland Special Olympics, Special Love for children with cancer, the Orthotic Prosthetic Assistance Fund (OPAF) and the Gettysburg Hospital Children's Foundation.



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In a continual effort to provide our patients with the most comprehensive services and products, Ability is now a member of Medicare's provider outreach advisory board. We also provide much needed breast mastectomy products and services, as Wendy A. Carter, CFOM received her Orthotic Fitter & Mastectomy Certifications from the American Board for Certification (ABC).

In the coming months, Ability plans to focus on internal growth. We'll be enhancing patient protocols, improving our website, increasing patient satisfaction, and planning future growth to service more regions while continuing to provide service and education to our patients and referral sources in a timely, effective and compassionate manner.

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ACHIEVE ABILITY

The patient is a youth basketball player who suffered a nasal fracture early in the basketball season. After trying an uncomfortable and poorly functioning off-the-shelf face guard, the patient contacted Ability to provide a custom face guard.

Custom face guards are often prescribed status post nasal and facial fractures as well as following facial plastic surgery. The custom face guard functions to protect the nasal region of the face by increasing total contact or pressure in less vulnerable regions of the face; off-loading and protecting the nasal region. The guard is secured in place with 3 straps to prevent migration.

Given the delicacy of the area to be treated and the need for precision fit, Ability utilizes a portable, two-laser

scanner to capture a digital image of the face in less than 5 minutes. The finished face guard is then fit in 48 hours—getting the patient back to doing what they love!

The scanner technology is also available for functional knee braces, back braces, cranial remolding helmets and prosthetic limbs; allowing Ability to provide custom items within a week compared to the industry average of almost 3 weeks! To learn more, contact Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics to achieve your ability.

