

Westcoast Brace & Limb Fits the First in Florida With High-Tech Leg Brace

*"I've always wished for that 'bionic' leg!"
-Marilyn Berg, Post-polio sufferer*

Marilyn Berg was eleven years old in 1950 when she fell ill while traveling with her family. An emergency visit to a hospital revealed she was infected with Polio.

"I was immediately admitted to the hospital and spent the next four months fighting the disease. I won the battle for my life, but doctors were certain I would never walk again."

Marilyn did manage to walk out of the hospital, but the polio had especially weakened one of her legs and it continued to worsen as time passed. She began to fall frequently and soon found she required a full leg brace to help with stability.

Since that first primitive brace she has been fit with many others over the years, but nothing has raised her hopes and expectations like the electronic stance control E-MAG Active knee-ankle-foot orthosis from Otto Bock HealthCare.

"The standard leg braces just can't move with me and give me the stability I need to get around safely. I've experienced several traumatic injuries over the years from falls including dislocating my shoulder, a fractured hip, and several times I've struck my head and split it open."

The intelligent sensor system of the E-MAG Active is designed to resolve that very serious problem by 'learning' Marilyn's gait and adjusting as needed for an immediate impact on her stability and mobility. Using onboard programming, the E-MAG Active controller actually calibrates itself to capture a user's unique gait pattern.

The E-MAG Active can also be easily reprogrammed for changes in the user's gait. That unique feature adds a whole new dimension of functionality for people such as Marilyn who previously have had limited bracing options, such as a locked knee brace or a manual device. Also, because the joint is controlled independently from the ankle and sole of the foot, patients

with no ankle functionality are able to use the E-MAG Active and it can be fitted to a wide range of users who have lost mobility due to stroke, polio, or other debilitating health concerns.

The E-MAG uses a rechargeable battery that provides energy for up to 10,000 steps per day, and that is something Marilyn finds especially appealing.

“I’ve had to work hard to stay as active as possible over the years, so I’m looking forward to the greater energy and capability that the E-MAG promises to give me and especially that much higher level of safety. I’ve always focused on what I can do, not what I can’t do, and it looks like I’ve finally found a good partner to help me along the way.”

Westcoast Brace & Limb is the first to fit the E-MAG Active in the state of Florida and the only orthotic and prosthetic company in the state of Florida certified to fit the brace. If you would like more information, please contact Deann Marasco at (813) 985-5000 or email to deann@wcbl.com