

Local Amputees Experience Latest Prosthetic Knee Innovations

State-of-the-Art Prosthetic Technology Brought to Hudson Valley

Middletown, NY – October 19, 2011 – Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates, the leading provider of advanced prosthetic devices in the Hudson Valley and Catskill regions, today provided six local amputees with a unique opportunity to experience the latest technology available in the world for prosthetic knees. The highly-trained prosthetic team at Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates created customized appointments for these amputees to understand and evaluate the new **Genium™ Bionic Prosthetic System**.



Technology in prosthetics has taken a quantum leap over the last several years, largely due to the investments made by the federal government to assist wounded warriors returning from the ongoing wars. Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates has been at the forefront in bringing these innovations from the initial stages of product development to real world patients here in New York. With their extensive experience in using a wide range of computer-aided technologies, the clinical experts at Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates help patients regain activities in their daily lives that were previously not possible.

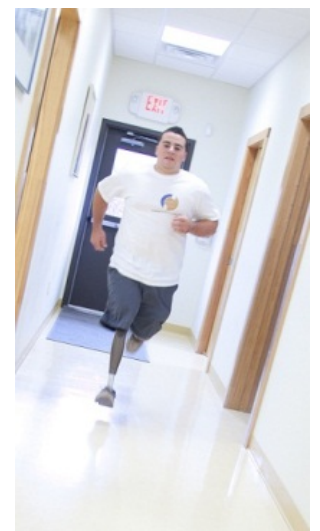
“Prosthetic technology has progressed to never before seen levels of functionality over the past 5 to 7 years,” said **Thomas Passero, Certified Prosthetist and President of Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates**. “As an organization, we have focused on being the clinical intermediary that brings cutting edge prosthetic innovations

from the development labs of manufacturers and universities to the real world here in New York and throughout New England. Our clinical team understands how to take complicated devices and use them to create simple solutions to our patients’ issues in their daily lives.”

The event today at Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates focused on previewing the Genium Bionic Prosthetic System created by Otto Bock for above knee amputees. The Genium builds on the knowledge gained from our experience with tens of thousands of C-Leg® wearers and decades of development. The unique Genium technology is not a next-generation C-Leg, but is a complex sensory system with a sophisticated rule set to mimic natural gait more closely than any other prosthetic knee. With multiple environmental inputs (including a gyroscope and an accelerometer), the Genium delivers unmatched functionality, including features to help step over obstacles and ascend stairs.

One of the attendees of the event, **Jason Gray**, has used a variety of different prosthetic devices over the years but, today, he was able to try the latest in prosthetic knee technology. “The freeness of the knee while sitting was great. I liked that I don’t have the resistance all the time”, comments Jason. **Michael Garone**, another attendee at the Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates event, said this about the Genium Bionic System, “It was amazing how quickly I could start to go up the stairs, step over step. When you combine the ability to go up the stairs with how more naturally it moves, I LOVE THIS KNEE!”

“The results today were really pretty amazing”, states **Jon Hess, Certified Prosthetist and Clinical Lab Manager for Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates**. “Our patients were amazed at how fast the motion from the knee becomes intuitive. Whether making a fast turn-and-grab to catch up with a runaway toddler, changing speed dramatically or backing up to navigate a crowd, or simply stepping over an



obstacle instead of going around, the Genium makes it all easier without risking stability.”

“As prosthetic technologies become more sophisticated, it takes a true commitment by providers to learn and understand how to get significant benefits from these innovations for our patients. It’s no longer enough to simply be a licensed facility.” clarifies Thomas Passero. “Our clinical team has dedicated themselves to being the most educated prosthetists in the northeast and our involvement in bringing the Genium Bionic Prosthetic System to our patients is the next step in bringing improved functional results to our patients living with limb loss every day.”

About Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates

Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates was formed in 1989 by Tom Passero, CP. The company is anchored in Middletown, NY and recently moved into a newly-constructed, 6,000 square foot office in the Wallkill business development near the Crystal Run Healthcare complex. Besides their new facility in Middletown, Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates provides clinical, insurance support, and administrative expertise for their offices in Monticello, Kingston, New York City, Poughkeepsie, and Mahwah, New Jersey. (www.poaprosthetics.com)

About Otto Bock

Minnesota-based Otto Bock Healthcare LLP was established in 1958 as the Americas corporate headquarters of Otto Bock HealthCare, GmbH, based in Duderstadt, Germany. Otto Bock has more than 3,800 employees worldwide and produces over 25,000 types of prosthetic and orthotic components, mobility and rehabilitation products, and is the U.S. leader in delivering continuous passive motion (CPM) services and related therapies. (www.ottobockus.com)

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