



GENESIS TODAY

July 18, 2008

www.genesishealth.com

New ultrasound therapy for hard-to-heal wounds

Wound treatment at Genesis gives Indiana welder his life back

Over three years, Rob Fatchett went to the nation's top health care centers to find a cure for the many open wounds on his leg that persisted and caused him overwhelming pain.

Without that cure, the 50-year-old welder from Warsaw, Indiana faced amputation of both legs.

Working on his feet took sheer will and determination to cope with extreme pain. Unable to wear boots on the job, he fashioned boot covers over sandals to protect his feet from the welding sparks. "I don't know how I was able to keep working on my feet, but I was dying inside," he says. "I was in unbelievable pain, and my legs looked like raw meat."

Then last September, his parents, Shirley and Wayne Fatchett of Moline, read a Genesis Today story about the Genesis Wound/Ostomy Clinic and the clinic's use of a relatively painless therapy that utilizes ultrasonic sound waves to heal wounds through cellular stimulation. New to wound care therapy, ultrasound waves disrupt bacterial cells to help destroy them.

Fatchett, who had tried traditional therapies to no avail, decided to make an appointment at Genesis with certified wound specialist and surgeon Dr. David Arnold, D.O., FACOS, CWS, to see if the treatment could work for him. At the time, he had about 14 chronic wounds.

Finally, he would find the "miracle" at Genesis he had searched for years to find.

Today, his chronic wounds are nearly healed thanks to a combination of therapies, including this next generation ultrasound system, the Quostic Wound Therapy System™, that's more effective than the one that first brought him to Genesis. He went to live with his parents in Moline while undergoing

treatment a couple of times a week. Now, he only has a couple of treatments per month.

'World-class' wound care

"I've been around the country, met a lot of famous doctors and been to a lot of prestigious clinics – from Mayo Clinic, to Cleveland Clinic to Brigham Women's College at Harvard. It turns out I found a world-class wound care doctor and staff right here in Davenport, Iowa," Fatchett says. "They're as much responsible for my improvement as this technology."

Fatchett's case was complicated by the fact he has the genetic disease Leiden Factor V mutation, which causes his blood to clot more than normal. Numerous blood clots over the years had damaged veins in his legs, causing minor skin ulcerations to develop into deeper and larger open wounds. Multiple, antibiotic-resistant bacteria then colonized the wounds.

Russian scientist Eliaz Babaev, Ph.D., developed the ultrasound wound therapy system. He is the CEO and President of Arobella Medical, based in Minnetonka, Minn. This new generation of ultrasound treatment is more aggressive because it focuses variable power ultrasonic energy directly on the wound and also debrides, or removes, by direct contact, superficial dead tissue.

"The vibrational energy transmitted via ultrasound does a number of things," explains Dr. Arnold, medical director of the Genesis Wound/Ostomy Clinic. "It disrupts bacterial cell walls and it cavitates the fluid in the superficial layers of the wound, so that a natural separation of bonds occurs between the good tissue and the bad tissue, allowing us to scrape away or debride the bad tissue. It also stimulates the growth of new cells to advance the healing process."

Dr. Arnold adds, "As far as I know, we were the first wound care facility to have the Arobella System. Other facilities have tested

the product in research and development, but we're the first community-based hospital to actually purchase this product for our patients."

The Arobella machine, by way of ultrasound, imparts low-frequency energy directly to the wound bed. "Mr. Fatchett had these wounds for so many years that there was a well-established biofilm, or community of bacteria living on the surface of the wound. This group of bacteria developed a synergy effect or an ability to thwart all other treatments."

"This whole idea of the biofilm, a community of colonized bacteria contributing to chronic wounds, is being studied with increased urgency due to the prevalence of community-acquired resistant bacteria. Arobella ultrasound therapy is one of the major new technologies now being used against MRSA to disrupt this biofilm environment, so chronic wounds can progress to healing wounds."

At one time, at least 6-8 different bacteria were cultured in Fatchett's wounds. "We combined this treatment with good wound care practices, such as optimizing the arterial and venous systems, appropriate wound cultures, systemic and or topical antibiotics, and compression with

specialized dressings to control swelling and drainage," Dr. Arnold adds. "All these different factors went together to produce a result that has been pretty phenomenal."

Fatchett says it's difficult for most people to comprehend how a persistent wound can dominate someone's life. Unfortunately, it's not as simple as putting a Band-Aid on a cut and waiting for it to heal in a couple of days.

"The treatment at Genesis has made a world of difference," he says. "I'm able to get around better. My life isn't consumed by pain, and my vitality, personality and essence have improved. Every part of my life is so much better."

Dr. Arnold is board-certified in general surgery and hyperbaric medicine and is a Certified Wound Specialist. Most of the clinic's nurses also are certified in wound/ostomy care. For more information about the Genesis Wound/Ostomy Clinic, located in Pavilion 2 of the Genesis West Central Park campus in Davenport, call (563) 421-1585.



Dr. David Arnold



Rob Fatchett



Susan Goodall-Embree, WOCN, performs Arobella ultrasound therapy on the chronic wounds of Rob Fatchett of Warsaw, Indiana at the Genesis Wound/Ostomy Clinic.