

*Providers · Insurers · Case Managers ·
Consumers*

Voice Newspaper

Medical Case Management/Physical Rehabilitation

Reprinted from:

November
2009

Vol. 19, No. 11

For “Real”

Alatheia Grows as a National Provider of Prosthetic Services

By Ray Brasted

“Lifelike” look Amazing as well as Practical for Clients

Alatheia Prosthetics is slowly becoming a popular “one call” for many case managers and workers comp companies due to the company’s unique position in the prosthetic community.

Although most prosthetic centers serve the needs of their local area, Alatheia Prosthetics is not a traditional prosthetic company.

Alatheia maintains a steady stream of national and international patients as their regular clientele. Although Alatheia’s service area is not limited to a local geographic area, they do not compete with local prosthetic centers; instead, they work with them, according to Emil Dovan, president of the company.

Since Alatheia is a manufacturer as well as a patient care facility, nationally and internationally located prosthetists use Alatheia’s products for their own patients. In addition, since Alatheia has established a world renowned reputation, amputees from across the globe are directly referred to Alatheia by their doctors and care givers.

Some of these patients choose to travel to Alatheia’s main patient facility in Brandon,

Mississippi, while others are fitted with Alatheia’s prosthetic restorations through one of their hundreds of affiliate offices. Recently, one of Alatheia’s patients was fitted with the latest in prosthetic technology, a hand in which individual fingers are myo-electrically controlled, known as the i-Limb hand. Emil Dovan says, “We remain committed to helping the client get back to normal function and that is the reason Alatheia stays abreast of all current technology.

Alatheia has appropriately trademarked their most popular prosthetic technology, “Dermatos” which literally means “of skin” in the Greek. Nothing could more accurately describe this material on account of its amazing life-like appearance.

At fist exposure, “there is often a battle between your mind and senses,” says Rick Psonak, CPO, director of Orthopedics at University Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi.

“Your mind knows that the prosthesis is not real, yet your eyes tell you otherwise. Except for the absence of body heat, Dermatos even feels like skin!” said Psonak. He should know, since he has been using Alatheia’s technology on his patients for years.

However, Dermatos prosthetic technology is not just prosthetic skin, but an entire process that is adaptable for fabrication into prostheses as small as a fingertip or as large as an entire

leg. Dermatos is even made into skin covers that protect and enhance the gripping power of bionic and body powered hands.

Although Dermatos is the most life-like prosthesis on the market (which explains their international following), these prostheses are also highly functional.

In fact, functionality is the main reason that case managers and prosthetists work with Alatheia.

Since most amputees are leg amputees, prosthetists rarely fit hands, partial feet and fingers. Customizing these types of restorations for the specific functional needs of each patient is Alatheia's specialty.

At the time of this writing Alatheia is the only company at that can offer off the shelf products as well as custom. "Alatheia is the perfect choice for prosthetics and case managers alike, according to Dovan, "because we can deliver the proper equipment and meet budgets that are challenged today".

Although Alatheia specializes when it comes to maximizing prosthetic function to the individual functional needs of each amputee, Dovan maintains that Dermatos prostheses also provide more function because they look real.

"Numerous amputees come to us because they are tired of people staring at them," Dovan says.

"People don't want to be stared at, but listened to for who they are and what they have to say as an individual, not as an amputee. So many amputees explain to us how a visually obvious prosthesis is like an eyeball magnet, hindering them from their job activities and ultimately slowing the growth of their career. Providing them with a prosthesis that looks like the real thing brings the attention back on them as a person, not their disability," he emphasized.

Dovan's point is well taken, especially when professionals such as lawyers and doctors, who become amputees, tout the functionality of realism.

One such doctor turned amputee, a Neurologist, has found the realism of his Dermatos arm to be an invaluable asset. It

enables him to examine and diagnosis his patients without them ever knowing that he is completely missing his left arm.

Prior to his Dermatos prosthesis, the Neurologist would have difficulty with his patients because they were often distracted by his very obvious prosthesis. Now, after wearing a Dermatos arm for several years, he cannot imagine his life without it. He says that it is the most functional arm prosthesis he has ever had.



Left arm amputee and Dermatos prosthesis user, Dr. Nathan, examines his patient.

Although Dermatos are the most lifelike prostheses on the market...they are also highly functional...

Statistics reveal that there are some 406,000 amputations in the United States each year. Of those there are 39,000 finger amputations. Many case managers now use Alatheia as the "go to" specialist that can go anywhere. This contact has enabled Alatheia to forge close relationships with prosthetists in every area of specialization.

This network of specialists has become a valuable tool for the numerous referrals Alatheia receives every week and it is another reason why many case managers are calling on Alatheia.

"The end result, said Dovan, is the best care, with the fastest treatment, and the comfort of knowing that the patient will be satisfied."