

From: Christine B <via email>

Date: April 6, 2006 02:07 PM EDT

To: Christian @ OPED Inc

Subject: Comments Regarding Vacocast

Hello,

I wanted to explain my story, so you can share it with your sales, advertising, customer service, & design teams how wonderful of a product the Vacocast is.

In October 2005, I fell down a few cement steps. My toes hit first then my ankle rotated completely around before my own weight & my friends weight came smashing down. I When I went to the ER & followed up with my physician later that week. I knew it was not just a sprain, as my foot & ankle never made popping sounds like that before. The next day my I was black & swollen from my toes to my knee (despite ice, evaluation, & medication). By the end of the week, I had stretch mark & my skin on top of my foot opened slightly. My doctor took x-rays twice, but did not see anything due to the swelling. I continued to see her every week for another month with no improvement.

In December, she referred me to an orthopedic, who took more x-rays & saw one fracture. I spent another few week on crutches. At the end of December my foot was still swollen & slightly bruised. This is when I was referred to a surgical podiatrist.

The podiatrist immediately ordered an MRI. Two days later, the doc called me at work & told me I needed to come in right away. During my visit, the first thing he said was, "Your foot is a mess!" The MRI showed multiple tears & partial tears of tendons & ligaments. One muscle was also partially torn. There was two other small bones between the upper foot & the lower ankle that were chipped with a hairline fracture. What was the most surprising was the amount of bone swelling. I had injured my bones, so it looked like severe degenerative arthritis in 4 of my bones. He offered surgery, but I declined. He put me in an ungodly fiberglass & plaster cast for the following weeks. That was absolutely terrible! Not only was it hot, itchy, heavy, bulky, had no way to check the skin, & caused rubbing sores, but it was also unable to get wet.

As the swelling went down, the cast became loose & had to be replaced. This was frustrating because I had to make another appointment, go through the same process & wait for it to dry. When the second replacement was needed, my doctor was concerned that the fiberglass cast would cause more harm than good. Then he decided to give me the Vacocast.

The difference was unbelievable!

12. It looks better than a fiberglass cast. I also realized that gray & purple are good colors for me to wear. :)
11. The straps always stayed secured, & I never had to worry about it loosening up.
10. The foot bottom has traction & prevented me from slipping & falling.
9. When I was not allowed to remove it, I still could take the bottom off to get pants on (unlike my other traditional cast).
8. When it got wet from the snow, it was okay. I just had to dry it.
7. Could be removed to take showers.
6. It was more sanitary, since I could wash every part of it (easily). The bottom foot could also be removed, so my bed would not get dirty.

5. It was easy to learn how to assemble/disassembly, apply it, adjust it, remove it, clean it, & care for it.
4. It has been very versatile & conducive to physical therapy by allowing gradual increases in range of motion, while still providing support & protection.
3. As the swelling reduced, I could vacuum more air out. This alone save me hours at the clinic.
2. It was not hot, itchy, heavy, or bulky & by far more comfortable.
1. The Vacocast's most significant impact has been on my emotional & mental wellbeing. I feel like I have more freedom & not bogged-down; therefore, I became more positive & optimistic about my recovery. As of this week, I am now seeing more ROM & strength in my foot with help from my physical therapist.

I think the engineering of this product is fabulous! I am so thankful that this wonderful product was available for me & only hope that others will have the same opportunity.

Sincerely,
Christine B
Kohler, WI