## ONE CLINIC'S EXPERIENCE WITH CARBON FIBER ORTHOSES IN NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE

Independent Study by

The Ohio State University, Wexner Medical Center, Department of Neurology

#### **Excerpts**

- "Conclusion: Anterior shell CFAFOs (carbon fiber AFOs) should be considered for most neuromuscular patients with distal leg weakness."
- "Overall, 89% (109 of 123) of the patients were satisfied or extremely satisfied. This included 38 individuals who previously had been prescribed custom-made, solid ankle posterior AFOs."
- "The most common reasons given by satisfied individuals were that the braces were lighter in weight, cooler to wear, assisted at push-off during ambulation, and allowed them to wear a normal-sized shoe."
- "What was especially gratifying was the number of patients who preferred the anterior shell CFAFO orthotic to their standard custommade solid ankle plastic AFOs."
- "Cost was generally not a factor, as the CFAFOs were only modestly more expensive (by 15%) than the posterior plastic type."
- "The overwhelming majority of ambulatory neuromuscular patients with distal leg weakness will benefit from off-the-shelf ToeOFF® or BlueROCKER® CFAFOs."
- "Our patient cohort with mixed neuromuscular diagnoses, who have ankle dorsiflextion and/or plantarflexion weakness, are good candidates for anterior shell CFAFOs and reported positively on their experience."







"After filling a
closet with numerous other
useless orthotics, the Allard braces
were spot-on. They provide comfort,
control, and confidence - and I can't
begin to put a price on those."

"Nine months
ago you'd have never
convinced me that I'd be
able to walk to the
mailbox."

"I have
been wearing your
BlueROCKERS® for the past four
years.They've enabled me to
remain fully ambulatory."

We are surrounded by inspiring stories from Allard AFO wearers:

"My walking
gait is greatly improved,
I'm starting to notice muscles
triggering that haven't in
years."

"Well, after two days, I love them. Walking is easier, noticed I'm not as tired, but the big plus is my balance."

"I put it on and
it was first time I felt like
I could walk normally since
my injury."

"I noticed an immediate improvement in the speed of my walk. I could walk at a normal (fast) speed again. I also could walk far further normally with it."

From a triathlete to a marathoner and a teacher to a wounded veteran, each Allard AFO wearer has a unique story. Different causes of foot drop include Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, stroke, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cancer, peripheral neuropathy, spinal and other nerve damage. Whether it's to walk to the mailbox, run a marathon or play with kids in the backyard, everyone has a reason to get back up.

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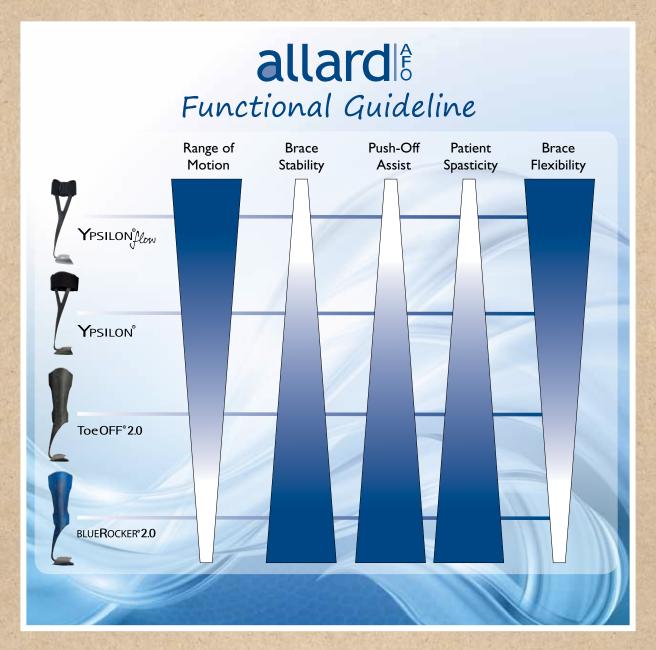








#### Allard's Carbon Composite AFO Technology



## Allard foot drop AFOs are recognized worldwide for providing dynamic response without limiting function.

Each brace is a technologically advanced, carbon composite foot drop orthosis that flexes in reaction to your weight and then releases kinetic energy to propel the leg forward. With varying sizes, degrees of stability strength and surface area support, these dynamic AFOs help wearers walk with a more natural gait pattern.

Allard foot drop AFOs are customized and fit by a certified orthotist or prosthetist. Fitting by a trained and certified orthotist/prosthetist with the proper equipment will ensure the patient benefits from optimal performance, comfort and longevity from the brace. A prescription is required for all Allard foot drop orthoses because professional customization is vital.

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