Omaha Receives New 3D Laser-Scanning Technology

October 20, 2004

Media Invited to Experience Laser, Meet Area's First Patient

Recipients, Meet Local Practitioner Certified in the Technology

A red laser swipes over a part of your body and a three-dimensional replica, accurate to within one millimeter, instantly appears on a computer screen in front of your eyes. Sounds like a scene out of the latest science fiction movie, doesn't it? Well, it's not; it's the latest patient treatment experience right here in Omaha.

Thanks to a newly developed motion-tracking laser scanner and 3D software called Insignia, Omaha residents needing prosthetic and orthotic care can experience a medical advancement that is revolutionizing patient treatment.

On Wednesday, October 27, 2004 media are invited to experience the new technology firsthand, see live demonstrations, meet the area's first recipients of the technology, and meet with Omaha's first Insignia-certified practitioner.

Wednesday, October 27, 2004 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics,
7820 Wakeley Plaza
Omaha, Nebraska 68114
402-397-1804

* Live demonstrations of the Insignia scanning process versus the traditional plaster casting method at 10:00 am and 11:00 am

** MEDIA NOTE -- High resolution photographs and b-roll footage available upon request. Digital press kit available at http://www.hanger.com/insignia.

What does it do? When an amputee needs a prosthetic device to replace an arm or leg, or when a patient needs an orthotic brace such as a spinal jacket or cranial helmet, a practitioner must obtain a representation of the patient's body part in order to develop a custom-fitting prosthetic or orthotic device. In the past, this has largely been done using a messy, invasive, and often inconsistent method of plaster casting. Insignia offers a faster, cleaner, and less invasive alternative. Using the laser scanner, a highly accurate three-dimensional replica can be captured within seconds. Traditional casting methods can take up to thirty minutes and require the patient to be wrapped in wet, messy plaster.

Meet Omaha's first patients to be fit with Insignia. Seven-year-old Jeffrey Zhuo is a below the knee amputee whose prosthetic leg was fit with the Insignia system. Also, local teacher Rebecca Holstrom is one of the first amputees in Omaha to be fit with Insignia. Holstrom lost her leg above the knee due to complications with diabetes. Both Zhuo and Holstrom will be on site for demonstrations and interviews.

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