Hanger Clinic patient thriving with waterproof X3 microprocessor-controlled leg

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Duluth, Minn., June 29, 2015 – After losing his leg above-the-knee as the result of a workplace accident in 2010, Terry Thewis, 51, is now thriving with the X3 microprocessor-controlled prosthetic knee, the first electronic leg that is completely waterproof. Thewis is back to work full time, manages his 20-acres of land, walks two-three miles a day for exercise, is back on the water boating, fishing, and paddle boarding, and recently completed the Fitgers 5K.

Last week, Duluth-area journalists attended Thewis's clinical follow-up appointment with his Hanger Clinic Clinician Jim L'Allier, CP. Following are some of the resulting news stories:

WDIO-TV (ABC): http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S3835233.shtml?cat=10335

KQDS-TV (FOX): http://www.fox21online.com/news/local-news/cutting-edge-technology-helps-local-amputee/33759586

About Thewis: While on the job at an electric utility company in 2010, Thewis came in contact with 7,200 high voltage, an accident that left him in the hospital for two months and necessitated the amputation of his leg. But with the help of prosthetic technology, Thewis has returned to nearly all the activities he enjoys, and feels his life is now very close to what is was prior to his amputation. He even serves as a trained AMPOWER peer mentor, where he inspires those who have recently undergone an amputation, or those who are about to undergo an amputation.

About the X3: The result of a collaboration between the US military and Ottobock, the goal was to develop a more durable and intuitive prosthetic leg to help injured service members with above-knee amputations return to normal activities of daily living as well as active duty if they choose. Features of the X3 include:

- - The first electronic leg that is completely waterproof, the X3 allows for unprecedented contact with water including showering, swimming, boating, fishing and more.
  - An accelerometer and a gyroscope that is able to intuitively tell where a user's leg is in space. These are the same technologies used in Wii™ gaming systems and in adjusting screen smartphones and cameras and allows for a virtually natural gait. That means less worry of a stumble or fall and less concentration needed when on the move.
  - More physical capabilities for the real world than any other prosthetic leg including running, walking backwards, crossing obstacles in a more anatomically correct way, and climbing stairs step-over-step without massive compensating movement an action that previously appeared impossible for those with above knee limb loss.
  - The X3 is 'ruggedized' based on conditions an active duty military member might face and is up to the challenge of adverse and rough terrain.
  - Programmed using a laptop and Bluetooth technology, five activity modes can be set for biking, golfing, driving, etc. and are activated using a key fob-sized remote. A mute mode is also available that silences all vibration and beep signals of the leg when needed for activities such as meetings, church services, hunting and more.

About Hanger Clinic: Founded in 1861 by the first amputee of the Civil War, Hanger Clinic, a business unit of Hanger, Inc., owns and operates 770+ patient care clinics nationwide, including 11 in Minnesota. The certified clinicians of Hanger provide patients with the latest in orthotic and prosthetic solutions, including microprocessor devices for those with limb loss and neuromuscular technologies for those with paralysis due to stroke, MS and other debilitating conditions. For more information on Hanger, visit www.Hanger.com, and for more information on Hanger Clinic, visit www.HangerClinic.com.

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