You've Heard of 'Seeing Doubles,' How About 'Seeing Triples'

July 12, 2005

Meet the Cook Triplets and Experience New 3D Laser Technology

Tony Cappa, BS., CPO of Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics has been seeing triples since May when he began treating the Cook triplets -- Faith, Paige, and Richard -- for plagiocephaly using a newly developed motion-tracking laser scanner and 3D software called Insignia.

On Tuesday, July 19, the media are invited to experience this new technology firsthand, see live demonstrations, and meet the Cook triplets. Born on January 12, 2005, all 3 of the triplets have Plagiocephaly, a condition characterized by a parallelogram head shape and a persistent flat spot on the back or one side of the head. Depending upon severity, plagiocephaly can be treated by the use of a cranial helmet. In order to fit an infant for a cranial helmet, Orthotists must gather very precise cranial measurements.

Prior to the development of the Insignia laser scanning system, Orthotists would cast infant patients with the traditional plaster casting process. But today, Insignia provides a faster, cleaner, and less traumatic alternative to traditional plaster casting. The Cook triplets were all scanned with Insignia in May and within one week, received their cranial helmets. The three have been wearing the helmets 23 hours a day ever since they received the helmets. The infants are expected to spend another month in the helmets. Meet the triplets, their parents Richard and Maria Cook, and meet with Insignia Certified Orthotist, Tony Cappa, BS., CPO.

Tuesday July 19, 2005 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics
814 Fulton Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735
(516) 847-0501

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

How does it work? The compact, portable laser scanner works by casting a fan of laser light over the patient's limb, head, or body, while the camera on the wand views the laser to record a cross-sectional profile of the object. The embedded motion-tracking device determines the position and orientation of the scanner's wand, enabling the computer to reconstruct the full three- dimensional surface of the object within Hanger's proprietary CAD/CAM software. Moving objects, such as a baby's head or a person's residual limb, can be scanned with accuracy. Insignia incorporates the same patented technology used by United States Armed Services, which enables image capture to occur in a rapid and accurate fashion.

What does it do? When a patient needs an orthotic device such as cranial helmet, brace, or spinal jacket, or when an amputee needs a prosthetic device to replace an arm or leg, 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, and often inconsistent method of plaster casting. Insignia offers a faster, cleaner, and less traumatic 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.

About Hanger -- Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics, a division of Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc (NYSE: HGR), owns and operates some 600 orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) patient care centers nationwide. Staffed by nearly 900 certified practitioners, Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics provides patients with convenient, consistent, high quality care.

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