

I have had Polio since the age of five and I started wearing a drop lock KAFO in May of 1996. I was approached by Gary Horton a few years ago and have been working with him as his test patient for the Stance Control Orthotic Knee™(SCOKJ™) ever since. Over the years, I have tried several different prototypes. I have been wearing the final version since June 4, 2001. It took me about 3 to 4 weeks to become comfortable with the switching mechanism and trusting the automatic locking position of the knee joint, since it is so foreign to the drop lock hinges I was used to. This brace allows a lot more freedom. In a normal drop lock, you were always taking chances if you left it in unlock. You were safe with it in lock, but you were restricted.



My favorite part of the new knee joint is the ability to lock, unlock, and have automatic locking. This allows me to unlock the knee for gaining access into a vehicle or to seat myself comfortably without fear of the knee joint prematurely locking. With the knee joint in the automatic position, I am able to walk with a more normal gate, bending my knee with out fear of collapse when placing my foot. The locked position offers total security, as did the original drop lock brace, this is my least favorite choice due to the lack of mobility.

Having worn the new brace for over a year, I prefer it hands down to the old drop lock brace. It has every thing the old brace had and more. Especially secure added mobility, with less energy required than walking with a locked brace. I enjoy being able to do the things that I could not easily do before, like mowing the yard, or walking for long periods of time on concrete, because my knee is now more at ease. I like being able to walk each day without having to worry about falling.

- Paul J. Ellis

