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."

