

Frontline Users Share Experiences

also a place to enter specific notes for the central lab. At the end of the day, the laptop is plugged into a standard phone jack and the data is downloaded to the users' choice of more than seven different fabrication labs across the country. Says Sevier, "In seven to ten days, you get your orthotics back priority mail. Cool stuff!"

An option on the 3DO system is "Request Biomechanical Analysis," Sevier notes, although he mentions he has not used it. "A typical report may include whether the patient pronates or supinates, time spent in specific phases of the gait cycle, metatarsal flexion / extension problems, or other gait abnormalities. This is a 'for a fee' item with the data is currently analyzed by Dr. Craig Lowe of the Quasar group, an expert in digital biomechanical analysis. The software that he uses provides a playback of the patient exam. This differs from other systems, where the system itself compares the dataset against known points of norm and provides a 'canned' analysis. These reports are very useful as third-party verification for insurance."

Greg Storz, CO, CPed, president, Orthocare Orthopedic Services Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska, also reports that he has used the Quasar Group 3DO scanning system for several months,

with good results. He also utilizes foam impression boxes when he feels a conventional method is needed.

Versatile technology has many uses. Courtesy of Tekscan



Losing the Touch

However, some practitioners who have tried automated foot technology systems are less than happy with computerization. Brian Moore, CPO, Arnold Orthotics & Prosthetics, Shreveport, Louisiana, says, "I have found that when the practitioner's hands are taken away from his craft by computers and scanning devices, both the patient and the practitioner lose something." Moore feels that the personal casting and hand manipulation of the underlying tissues in order to fabricate a custom device is becoming a lost art. However, Moore has tried some types of automated systems. "I have found that you get the same results from an OTS insert

with some slight modifications," he says. "I trust my hand casting over any computer-generated model any day. I believe that only competency can provide a well-fitting device of any type; whether one relies on a computer to do it for you is up to the individual."

more

Introducing the New Free-Flex Design from SOUTH WEST ORTHOPEDIC DESIGNS

- **Less Bulky**
- **Less Weight**
- **More Support**
- **Washable, Breathable**
- **Abrasion Resistance**
- **Colors: Beige, Black, Brown & Green**

5-7 Day Turn Around on request

For more information, contact:
Chuck Eral, CO
480.332.8120 • fax: 480.556.9764
ceral1@cox.net • www.pttd.com



Suggested L-Codes: L-1960,
L-2280, L-2275, L-2820

pttd.com

The **South West Ankle Brace** is one of the leading brands of custom thermo-molded ankle braces made for non-operative management of posterior tibial tendon dysfunction, as well as many other foot and ankle pathologies.

Clinical Conditions:

- Posterior tibial tendon dysfunction (PTTD)
- Ankle arthritis or Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD)
- Tibial tendonitis (posterior or anterior)
- Ankle, subtalar, or midtarsal trauma
- Severe pronation or pes planus
- Talocalcaneal varus or valgus
- Post CVA/Polio Syndrome