



Bioness Vector Gait & Safety System Revitalizes Therapy

If you've ever known a surfer, you know they'll stop at almost nothing until they're back doing what they love. Erin Kelly, advanced clinician for stroke and brain injury at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia, will never forget the time an incomplete spinal cord injury patient brought his longboard into the clinic and requested that they use the Bioness Vector Gait & Safety System® to help him regain his confidence in standing and balancing — both on the board and off.

While Kelly insists that the longboard request isn't typical, it is representative of the progress patients make with the system. Using the Vector, "we really can get people standing up and walking sooner," she said.

Magee Rehabilitation Hospital has a well-deserved reputation for being among the nation's best. The hospital is home to the nation's first CARF-accredited brain injury rehabilitation programs, and multiple times, Magee has been a top-rated rehabilitation hospital by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Their skilled, compassionate staff is a vital part of the facility's success, but Magee also seeks out cutting-edge treatments for patients. That's why, in 2013, they added a Vector.

The Vector rapidly became one of Magee's most in-demand pieces of equipment, preferred by therapists and insisted on by patients. "Our patients are excited to use it,"

Kelly said. "As soon as a spot opens up on the schedule, it's snapped up quickly."

The Bioness Vector Gait & Safety System is a revolutionary over-ground gait training system that promotes rapid rehabilitation in addition to patient and provider safety. The system utilizes dynamic bodyweight support, letting the therapist control the amount of body weight that the system supports, making it more or less challenging for patients. The system runs on a customized, ceiling-mounted track, so it's literally out of the way when it's not in use.

Vector helps speed rehabilitation and gait training for all kinds of patients — literally every shape and size. According to Magee therapy supervisor Alex Kobb, PT, "With bigger patients — someone who's 6'2" and close to 300 pounds — what you can do by yourself is amazing."

Unlike some equipment that takes as long as 20 minutes to get a patient set up, "With Vector, I can get a patient in the harness and upright in less than 5 minutes," said Kobb.

Kobb spoke of a recent hemipelvectomy patient's success with the Vector. "He was comfortable and he felt safe," he said. "We were able to be more aggressive with his therapy, and he was out and walking around in the community within two weeks."

At a high-performing facility like Magee, getting maximum



value from every purchase is important. Deb Kucera, MSPT, director of therapy services at Magee, reiterates that the Vector is one of their most-used pieces of equipment. "The Vector has also been a benefit to our occupational therapists and their patients," Kucera said. "It's even used in recreational therapy."

Kucera has first-hand

evidence of the Vector's popularity. Her office is adjacent to the therapy floor, where the Vector is in near-constant use. "All day I hear patients saying that they are able to do even more than they thought they could — they didn't think they could go that fast or that far. They are really surprising themselves." ■

