

Gene Laureano, US Veteran, Walks Again with ReWalk

My name is Gene Laureano.* I have a T8 incomplete spinal cord injury that I sustained in a fall in 2001. I started using ReWalk in 2013 at the James J. Peters VA in the Bronx, NY, and received my own personal ReWalk in 2015 through the VA's policy to provide exoskeletons to injured veterans.



How was the training?

I progressed quickly, and I was independent in 2 weeks. Once I learned to balance and trust the machine, it became easy.

Have you experienced any physical changes since you started ReWalking?

I went from being constipated all the time to completely regular. Before ReWalk, I used three prescription medications for constipation; now I don't need those.

My pain levels decreased. When I started using ReWalk, I was on Percocet and OxyContin three times per day. It hurt to tie my sneakers. I would wake in the night with pain. The more I used ReWalk, my core got stronger, I had less pain, and I tapered off

OxyContin completely. My spine is now supported, and I use less medication. I also took Baclofen and Tizanidine for spasticity, and now I only take Tizanidine as needed.

Has your overall level of activity changed?

My activity has gone through the roof. My self-esteem went up so my motivation went up. Now, I want to do as much as possible. I was not active at all prior to ReWalk.

My BMI (body mass index) is lower because I work out now. I didn't see the point to working out prior to ReWalk, but now I play sports like basketball. I now have unbelievable upper body strength, and the exercise alone takes away most of the medical issues.

Any other comments on how ReWalk has affected you?

I'm living again. After my injury, my days were boring. Because of ReWalk, I have a story to bring home at the end of the day. I go to VA (Veterans Affairs) to mentor the veterans who have to go through this. My confidence is back. I'm living again.

**This testimonial is based on individual experience and is not intended to represent clinical results of ReWalk.*