

The Right Fit, Right Now

With our adjustable
preparatory device



“I’ve been dealing with
prosthetics for about seven
years, and had constant
problems before getting my
iFIT legs. Now, I don’t have
to worry anymore.”

- Omar Rodriguez, User of iFIT’s prostheses



WATCH A BRIEF VIDEO ON HOW IFIT WORKS AT
IFITPROSTHETICS.COM, OR CALL **301-821-5414** FOR MORE DETAILS



iFIT Prosthetics is a Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB)



iFIT: Living Without Limits

For some, a diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes might prove to be a hurdle: inconvenient, but not insurmountable. An amputation due to diabetic complications might slow others down...and two amputations might stop most in their tracks, literally. But for 45-year-old Omar Rodriguez of Monroe Township, NJ, Type 1 diabetes has had about 40 years to get the best of him. And he's spent about 40 years to prove it won't.

"For me, I've always looked at living with diabetes as a tiny thing. I think it had to do with the emotional impact of being treated differently," he explains. "That's a point of contention for me. I hate people asking, 'How are you able to do <fill-in-the-blank>?' Same way as you do! Physical challenges are not challenges to me."

Diabetes is famous for making big problems out of normally small problems; people without the disease can heal much more quickly from life's scrapes and illnesses, with fewer complications. But Omar has fought the fight: He's lost the vision in his right eye and required two organ transplants over the years. Then in fall 2010, after an evening out with friends, he returned home and saw his right heel was bleeding. After getting treated by a local doctor, the wound continued to cause problems, so much so that, a year later, his leg required amputation.

"I wasn't going to let it stop me. I got a standard prosthetic, but it was hard; I had a lot of skin breakage and rashes because of it. I could never get used to the device," he recalls. "It was more like limping versus walking, most days."

A New Normal

In 2014, one of his prosthetic team members suggested Omar get a brace for his remaining left foot to help him with his gait. Omar assumed the prosthetist knew about his skin history and trusted the referral. But the brace caused a blister, which became problematic and ultimately required his hospitalization. Soon, his left little toe was amputated. Then, ongoing skin issues and neuropathy stalled his progress, and a potentially deadly, flesh-eating infection started deep inside his foot.

"I knew something was wrong, so I went to the doctor in August 2015 for an X-ray. He looked at it and said, 'This is so bad I can't tell if this is a lung or a leg,'" Omar recounts. "He immediately called the surgeon, who was on his way home, and told him to come back. I ended up having my left leg amputated quickly as the doctor believed if I'd waited even one more day to come in, I would have died from the infection."



"I got my iFIT devices in August 2018, and it was like going to the shoe store and finding the perfect fit right away. There was no discomfort, no tightness. You just put them on and go."

Still, Omar was determined to get back on his feet, literally and figuratively. For the past three years, he's been searching for truly workable prosthetic legs, but his diabetes causes specific challenges. Standard prosthetic fittings entail doing casts that remain a constant size, but kidney issues—common in diabetes—contribute mightily to fluctuating volume levels. For Omar, prosthetic legs that fit snugly in the morning might be practically falling off by afternoon. As such, he and his medical team tried to get creative, designing a "drawbridge" in the back of the prosthetics



The Right Fit, Right Now



“The best part of my iFIT legs is that I don’t have to worry about being in pain. It’s a complete 180 from my life even 24 months ago.”

to open when he needed more room, and a knob in the front to tighten them. But the adjustments always pinched, and the knob broke off, and he had to wear multi-ply socks that caused sweating and additional skin breakdown.

In Search of Comfortable Mobility

For Omar, adjustability was a key issue; his number-one goal is comfort. So, after what he says was constant trial and error, someone finally recommended he go to U-Penn to see the iFIT (*Immediate Fit, Innovative Technology*) team. As the only adjustable preparatory device on the market, iFIT offers **One-Stop Fitting for Nonstop Living**, handling fluctuating volume levels seamlessly. iFIT’s high-strength, lighter-weight socket provides tremendous comfort and stability while its unique, heat-moldable liner and safety-lock buckles adjust to every individual. Further, the device is compatible with most commercially made feet and pylons for even greater cost-effectiveness, making it an ideal secondary device.



The Right Fit, Right Now

“Time isn’t consumed with ‘Will I get a rash today?’ or ‘Will they fit today?’ With iFIT, it’s just a box you can check off and go do your day.”

Back In the Action

For Omar, this freedom with iFIT has opened up a whole new world: Instead of worrying whether his legs will fit every morning, he’ll be in pain all day, or his activities will be constrained due to mobility challenges, he’s looking forward and making plans to get back to being the active guy he always was.

“I was an athlete growing up—so active! I always think back to what summers were like. You wouldn’t find me in the house; I was always playing baseball or basketball or swimming,” he recalls. “With amputations, you’re kind of forced into a sedentary lifestyle...it can feel like you’re stuck. But now, because of so many years of not being as mobile, I want to get back to that active, healthy point again. In fact, I lost five pounds the first month of wearing my iFIT prosthetics simply because I could walk around so much better than before.”

Omar wears his iFIT legs up to 16 hours per day and, even with fluctuating volume levels, he only has to readjust his liners a bit at times to ensure a perfect fit. “I’ve been dealing with prosthetics for about seven years now and had constant problems before iFIT. Now, I have no skin challenges and don’t have to worry anymore; my iFIT legs are catapulting me toward a different future...one without limits.” •

Behind “The Right Fit, Right Now”

With sustained funding from the NIH, Dr. Timothy Dillingham, MD, MS developed iFIT—*Immediate Fit, Innovative Technology*—the world’s first immediately fit, adjustable device that’s perfect as a comfortable preparatory device, a definitive device for volume control, an affordable secondary/recreational device, or for relief efforts abroad. Army veteran and founder Dr. Dillingham, served during the Persian Gulf War and afterwards as a clinician-scientist at top medical centers in the United States. He’s applied his engineering background, 27 years of clinical experience, and industrial manufacturing know-how to create a prosthesis that better adjusts to individuals’ needs for greater use and satisfaction.

Watch a brief video on how iFIT works at iFITprosthetics.com, or call 301-821-5414 for more details.