



“I get up and I put it on and I take it off when I go to sleep.”

Zeus hand user, Piotr, finds his superpower.

Piotr was born with a congenital limb difference. As a child, he did not have access to advanced prosthetic devices. While his parents wanted him to try some prostheses, he shares that *“For me it was weird. It felt like a detached part of my body.”*

As Piotr got older, he began to recognize that while he was able to complete all the activities that his peers could complete, he was often getting the wrong kind of attention. *“I realized that for others, I’m different and people can see that. I personally never saw myself as disabled, I climbed trees as a child, sometimes better than others, but I was able to notice that people were looking at me and began to realize that I need a second hand because the world is designed to be used with two hands. So I started looking for solutions.”*

At 15 Piotr began exploring his options and started with a passive device which reminded him too much of the limb he didn’t have. While for some, a passive, more aesthetic device, is the right path to go, for others, that simply doesn’t match their personality. And, while an aesthetically pleasing passive device does allow for some function, it does not offer the same functionality as a myoelectric or body powered device.

Piotr kept searching for the prosthesis that would help him achieve his goals. His next prosthesis was a body powered device that finally allowed him to begin to practice some bimanual tasks, *“This was a huge leap for me because I was able to hold things and learn how to tie my shoes with two hands and ride a bike, which was safer to do with a mechanical hand since it had a better grip.”*

While he was finally able to do some things he wasn’t fully capable of doing previously, *“The biggest problem with the harness was that it wasn’t comfortable, and it limited the range of motion when you wanted to do something above your head. And the other thing was the appearance of these hands with a glove was not ideal. I was hiding it a lot and I didn’t feel very confident.”*

While Piotr yearned for something more, the Polish insurance limitations prevented him from being able to access advanced prosthetic devices as a congenital amputee. *“For most of my life I had been using a silicone covered prosthesis because that’s all that was available. So for me, every meeting with a new person was kind of stressful because some people see that there is something wrong with that hand and they wonder if it’s a prosthesis or a disease and some people did not notice at first and then suddenly it surprised them. For me, I constantly felt tension and like I was being treated differently.”*

It wasn’t until recently that insurance policies changed and allowed more of those in need, not just individuals who suffered from a work accident or another injury, to have access to advanced prosthetics like the Zeus Hand from Aether Biomedical.

“The current hand sets me apart in a better way. It looks futuristic and others have a better reaction. There are no more weird situations, it’s like a signal to others that I am open to talk about this. I’m not hiding anything, so it was the first time I didn’t fear others, and in a mental way it was a huge leap for me. I think it’s very personal because some people just want to blend but for me, I just wanted to stand out. For me it was a quick turnaround to have this super ability.”

Email

info@nutechsyn.com

Phone

937.956.5600

Address

1800 Gordon Road,
Jamestown, OH 45335

When reflecting on the importance of socket fit, Piotr shares that from the beginning, he had to struggle with socket fit issues, even with the passive device. As we know, poor socket fit is often what leads to device rejection and to a user ultimately blaming the terminal device for its poor performance. Piotr worked with his prosthetist to ensure that his passive device fit properly and didn't feel so heavy. His current outer socket was made by Glaze Prosthetics, also out of Poland, which he worked on for a year making sure that the inner socket fit perfectly. After 4 tries, it now allows Piotr to wear his Zeus hand for long periods of time. *"Some days I spend more than 24 hours with it while on set so it was very important for me to have a well-fitting socket."*

In his current day to day life, Piotr works as a cinematographer and a photographer in a marketing agency and has been a user of the Zeus hand for more than three years. He is proud of his device and continues learning and sharing how he uses it for light duty activities such as holding a glass to activities that allow him to successfully complete his job, such as holding heavy cameras. *"I am using it for most activities. I get up and I put it on and I take it off when I go to sleep. I use it 90% of the time and the other 10% I use body powered. I do almost everything with the Zeus hand!"*

Piotr has finally found his superpower, showing off his abilities with his Zeus hand, even though he never needed to prove anything to anyone.



[Learn more about Aether Biomedical & the Zeus hand on the NuTech Synergies website.](#)

Authored by Linda Calabris

Email

info@nutechsyn.com

Phone

937.956.5600

Address

1800 Gordon Road,
Jamestown, OH 45335