

New procedure helps Mary Shalz walk comfortably 39 years after amputation

	"Hello."
	In 1983, Mary Shalz was 18 years old when a diagnosis of bone cancer changed how she walked.
Mary Shalz Patient	"That was when they did the above-knee amputation."
	She pursued a career in teaching, got married and became a mom. But the prosthesis she wore was uncomfortable and she came to rely on crutches.
NATS	(Crutches clicking)
Benjamin Wilke, M.D. Orthopedic Surgery Mayo Clinic	"Mary has an extremely short residual limb. That poses difficulty with being able to fit her with the socket. So Mary has had constant problems."
	Physicians at Mayo Clinic had a solution: osseointegration.
	"With osseointegration, we're putting in an implant directly into the bone, the bone is growing on to that implant, and then the prosthetic limb actually attaches to the implant."
	"I just felt like it was an opportunity that I had to take."
NATS	(Operating room)
	A two-part surgery in 2021 put Mary on-track to a more mobile lifestyle.
	"The freedom of just clicking on this new prosthesis and going is just really exciting to me."

	Her first steps in a new prosthesis seen here in February 2022.
	"I see the future is just me being somebody who is just — it sounds weird — walking so much more."
	Or riding a stationary bicycle.
	"This is so cool!"
	Mary's hope is that her journey paves the way for others and to show why it's important to never give up.
	"I think the key is just to let people know that they can have a great life, even if they're an amputee and that there are so many possibilities out there with a prosthesis to keep people motivated to live their best life."