



## THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY IN REHABILITATION

**Adam Saylor** reaches previously unimaginable goals due to Bioness innovation.

Adding a New Label:  
**STROKE SURVIVOR**

At 45 years old, Adam Saylor knew who he was - a father, husband, avid boater and outdoorsman and environmental engineer. However, in June of 2019, he added another label: stroke survivor.

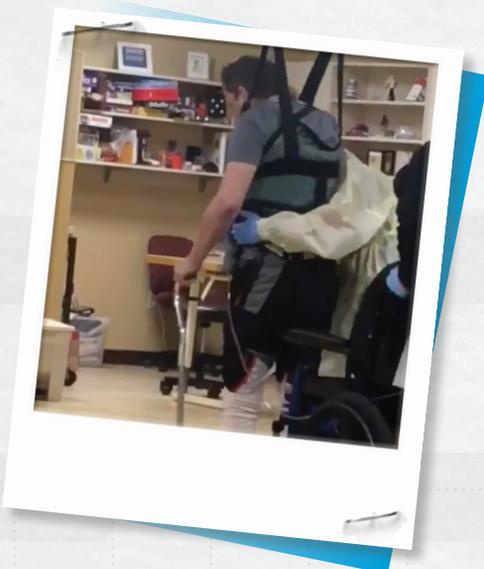
On June 21, 2019, Adam returned home from a business trip - not something out of the ordinary given his hectic work schedule. But something was off the next day, and he found himself staying home from work - something he didn't often do.

Thankfully that morning, his wife was also at home, as he began to suffer from stroke symptoms and she quickly drove him to the hospital. Within two days of hospitalization, Adam was up and walking, which seemed incredibly promising to his family and the hospital staff. However, shortly after, he began to experience heart complications and was immediately sent for further tests at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMM).

A blessing in disguise is how the transfer could be seen, as shortly after, it was there that Adam experienced his second stroke - this one massive and of grave concern.

This time, Adam was completely wiped out - unable to breath, talk, or eat on his own - forcing him to be placed on life support and a ventilator for a prolonged period of time. Such an unexpected turn of events, given how active and healthy Adam was, left him and his family shocked and frightened for the road that laid ahead.

At the start of the several weeks he spent in the inpatient stroke unit at UM Rehab, he began with basically no movement in his right arm and leg. As such, the intense rehab he faced both in the inpatient unit and through UMM's outpatient neurology program, was targeted at relearning everything related to movement, speech, and everyday necessities like eating or buttoning his shirt.



## TAKING ONE STEP AT A TIME

Immediately after Adam arrived in inpatient rehab, he began to set goals for himself, and big goals at that. He told his senior therapist, Amanda “Mandy” Leonard, PT, MPT, DScPT, NCS, that when the time came to be discharged, “I’m not going in the chair-- I’m going to walk out.”

Knowing his determination and goal-oriented ways, Mandy knew she needed a collaborative approach. The most effective way to get Adam to where he wanted to be would be through the use of the Bioness Vector Gait and Safety System, which would help to set his recovery strategy. Confidence is key, but getting out of the chair and taking those initial first steps after experiencing such trauma was a scary feat for Adam, as it is with most stroke patients. However, the Vector System’s unique design allows for a one-on-one therapist-patient ratio, maximizing efficiency and outcomes.

The Vector System allowed Adam to gain confidence in standing up and walking without fear of falling, by leveraging dynamic weight support and providing a real-world experience. With continuous use and specific plans drawn by his PTs, Adam relearned the skills for balance and gait, ultimately, walking in a way he thought he might never again.

After only six weeks, Adam began to hit some of his goals through the help of technology and the wonderful staff. Beginning with a few small target goals each week, Adam was of the nature that when they ask for 10 reps of some movement, he strove for 11. The Vector System allowed Adam the ability to fall and trust himself again, joking that Mandy had “let him fall,” just to remind him he could and would get back up again.

Eventually, he learned how to walk up a flight of stairs again, setting these “small” goals so that one day, he could push himself far enough to hit those final targets of getting his driver’s license back, driving his boat independently, and have the independence to go on a walk or trip to the grocery store alone.



Goal-oriented results:  
**THE POWER OF  
TECHNOLOGY & WILL**

Adam's therapist Mandy described his stroke as quite severe and his recovery ongoing, but noted that he never once gave up on himself and his future.

His determination, paired with the use of Bioness' Vector technology allowed him to incrementally regain confidence, strength and hope that achieving personal goals was not out of reach.

While Adam continues to push himself, his family reminds him of just how far he has come. A little over a year after Adam suffered from his second stroke, he was able to hit some of those long-term goals - returning to work part-time, driving his truck with adaptive controls, regaining speech, appreciating simple daily tasks, hiking with his son, and most important to him - driving his family around on their boat.

When Adam first arrived at the rehab center, he spoke with a man that shared his story, and assured Adam that if he could walk and talk again, he would too. Now, Adam is sharing his story of the power of hope, dedication, and the importance of innovative technology in hopes of inspiring others.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:**  
800.211.9136 option 2 | [BIONESSVECTOR.COM](http://BIONESSVECTOR.COM)



Individual results may vary. Patients are advised to consult with a qualified healthcare professional to determine if these products are right for them.

Important Safety Information and Risks: Indications for Use, Contraindications, Warnings, Adverse Reactions and Precautions, and other safety information are available on-line at [www.bioness.com/Safety\\_and\\_Risk\\_Information.php](http://www.bioness.com/Safety_and_Risk_Information.php) (also available in the Vector Gait & Safety System Clinician's Guide).

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