

A War Veteran In Pain

It wasn't so long ago that Josh could not have played in the yard with his four year old son without stopping from pain. Even ten minutes washing dishes at the sink caused Josh to lose the feeling in his fingers.

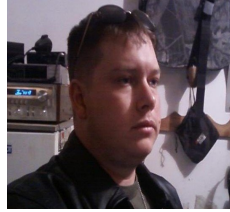
"Most dads' can go around and play soccer with their kids," he said. "I don't have the energy because I'm in pain all the time."

A member of the armed forces, Josh was attempting to fix a tire when it exploded – knocking him unconscious, cracking two vertebrae in his neck and dislocating his shoulders. Josh went on to serve 15 months in Iraq but never fully recovered from his injury.

Josh's story is all too common among war veterans. Over 360,000 veterans suffer from chronic lower back pain and others feel unrelenting pain from muscle and nerve damage.

Josh had been told that his only options for treatment were medication and risky back surgery. Fortunately, he was introduced to an alternative, affordable solution at the Ultimate Wellness Center. After only a few treatments at the center, Josh has already reduced his pain significantly and is hopeful for further recovery as his treatments continue

Veteran Pain Free Program



Josh



Pain Among Our Vets

During their lifetime, 80 percent of men and women will suffer from acute or chronic pain in the form of spinal, nerve, disk and muscle damage. This pain can last anywhere from a week to several years and on some occasions never receding at all. The same is for men and women in the armed forces. **Approximately 37 percent of all service-connected disabilities among veterans are due to musculoskeletal system conditions, affecting 4,471,591 veterans - a number that only increases when injuries to nerves, muscles, shoulders and knees are included.**

U.S. soldiers are afflicted with injuries in many ways while serving their country. Some are injured in combat or in vehicle accidents. Other chronic conditions can develop over time, such as those from the daily stress of traveling with packs weighing up to 100 pounds as well as the heavy emotional loads soldiers carry. Such conditions can damage quality of life by causing trouble sleeping, an inability to participate in certain physical activities or even walk without pain.

According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, when paired with post-traumatic stress disorder, pain can act as a reminder of the traumatic event and tends to make PTSD even worse.

Pain and depression can lead to missed days of work or unemployment. This economic stress on veterans and their families can cause them to become more dependent on government disability compensation and leads to higher costs for taxpayers.

The total cost of veteran service-connected disability compensations estimated by the Veterans Benefits Administration reaches \$36.5 billion annually.

Limited treatments

Pain medicines and muscle relaxants are often recommended, but can end up as a temporary solution. These drugs sometimes function as a bandage to cover the symptoms of a more serious health condition. Other common treatments for chronic pain include surgery, steroid injection and anti-inflammatory medications. There are many technologies available that our Doctors use that can Complement the traditional treatments currently being used.

Medical Grants: The protocols with technology that were used on Josh are now available through medical grants to veterans in pain.

4 Major Areas of Injury

- Disc Problems
- Nerve Problems
- Muscle Problems
- Spinal Problems

MORE THAN **1 in 3** OF ALL SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES AMONG VETERANS ARE MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM CONDITIONS—AFFECTING **4,471,591** VETERANS ESTIMATED TOTAL DISABILITY COMPENSATIONS COSTS WERE **\$36,485,965,838** IN 2010

*From the Veterans Benefits Administration Annual Benefits Report 2010