



PATIENT AMBASSADOR
Stephen Bennett

HOMETOWN

Port Saint Lucie, Florida

SURGEON

Dr. Anuj Prasher
South Florida Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine

PROCEDURE

ACDF C7-T1

SURGERY DATE

November 10, 2017

“After a point – when it feels like an icepick in your back – you just decide it’s time.”

About Steve: Nine years after his first fusion at C5-C7, Steve found himself struggling with painful symptoms from an adjacent spinal level: C7-T1. The pain had grown progressively worse, but things suddenly escalated on a trip to New York for a wedding. At the wedding reception, Steve dropped a plate...then he dropped three more. He grew even more alarmed when his arm, face, and ear started to go numb. Upon his return home, he immediately went to the E.R. The nurse attempted to contact multiple orthopedic surgeons with no success. Once Dr. Prasher came on the scene, Steve was immediately scheduled for surgery the very next morning.

Diagnosis: Arthritis, bone spurs

Path to Treatment: Symptoms progressed so rapidly that Steve didn't try any other conservative treatments prior to surgery.

Procedure Overview: ACDF C7-T1

Life Now: When asked how he's doing now, Steve says, "I'm fabulous!" He admits that all of this has slowed him down for the time being. He's had to press pause on bodybuilding and martial arts but is feeling ready to get back to his work as an aircraft mechanic. Always an active guy, Steve is already trying to safely push his limits as he recovers. Steve makes no bones about his feelings towards his surgeon, "Prasher is the man! I love that guy!" Grateful to be on the go once again, Steve has decided to give back to other spine patients by sharing his story of hope.

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