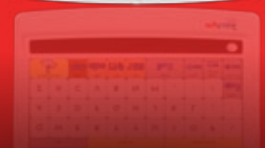




MyTobii P10 User Story **Making his voice heard again**



They can hear their father's voice again

Bjarne Thomsen's life fell to pieces overnight after suffering a stroke. Now, ten years later, his life has taken a new course. Bjarne uses MyTobii P10 to communicate with people around him – on his own terms.

"It's incredible. I finally have a brand-new means of communicating with people around me. My Tobii P10 has genuinely made my life as a disabled person easier now that I can express my thoughts much quicker. This in turn makes me considerably more self-sufficient, more independent and improves my quality of life," says Bjarne.

He greets us happily in the corridor just outside his room at the rehab and living facility, his home since his stroke ten years ago. Bjarne fixes his gaze on the screen, picking one letter at a time to form sentences. After a few seconds, a voice bids us "welcome". Bjarne smiles, his eyes twinkle and he gives a satisfied nod.

The sound comes from his MyTobii P10 – Bjarne's vocal outlet to the rest of the world. Mounted on his wheelchair, the equipment goes wherever he goes.

MyTobii P10 gives Bjarne a greater desire to speak with others. Despite his condition, he can now initiate communication in a completely different way.

Life took a new direction

The stroke hit like a bolt of lightning from a clear blue sky one summer night in 1999. A few hours later Bjarne Thomsen, then 34, was at the hospital, hovering between life and death. Waiting at home were his wife and two children, a son and a daughter.

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Bjarne survived but his life took a new direction. Long rehabilitation en route to a somewhat functioning existence replaced everyday things like changing diapers, picking up the children from day care and working as an accountant.

The stroke left him paralyzed from the neck down, depriving him of his ability to speak. It was a miracle that Bjarne did not lose his intellect, memory, hearing and eyesight. The first nine years after his stroke, he used a spelling board, body language and blinking to communicate.

Before his MyTobii P10, Bjarne relied more on his assistants. What he appreciates most about his new aid is that he can now speak with his children when they visit and communicate with them via email, etc.

"They can hear their father's voice again," he explains, pleased. Photos of his children hang here and there in his room. "My contact with my children is good, but I

see them much too seldom. My wife and I divorced shortly after my stroke."

Facebook and internet

With MyTobii P10, Bjarne spends a lot of time online; he's even on Facebook. Much of Bjarne's time is spent exploring MyTobii P10. He's glad to have the latest version of the equipment, and emphasizes how easy it is to use.

"I watch a lot of movies and I have a catalogue of all my favorites in P10."

But Bjarne devotes a great deal of his time to a very impressive challenge. He is using MyTobii P10 to write a book entitled 'Bjarne's story – my life as one of the living dead'. The book will describe Bjarne's life before and after the stroke and his thoughts about his current situation.

"But it will also be full of my dreams, visions and ideas for the future," Bjarne says in closing.

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