



Miraculously, Ben Rogers has returned to playing guitar after fracturing his elbow in an accident.

SHATTERED ELBOW, RIGHT SURGEON

SHARON MAN RECOVERS FULLY AFTER ACCIDENT

It was the Sunday after Thanksgiving 2018, and Ben Rogers was anxious to tick another item off his holiday decorating to-do list. So, when the Sharon, Wisconsin man saw a snowstorm moving in, he quickened his pace to make sure he finished hanging lights on the outside of his house. He has always been very safety-conscious, so he carefully ascended and descended his ladder as he moved it around. Unfortunately, he didn't anticipate the fact that the accumulating snow would make it difficult for him to walk as he was cleaning up. After he laid the ladder down in his driveway, it became covered with snow, which is why he didn't see it before tripping over it and falling down hard.

Ben felt no pain at first, but he noticed his left hand was facing the wrong direction and he couldn't move it. His cell phone was just out of reach, and as the shock wore off, he lay there in tremendous pain until his wife, Ellen, came to check on him about 20 minutes later. She called 911, and by the time the emergency medical technicians came, he had lost a lot of blood due to the injury. At his request, they took him to Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center-Walworth in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. "Every bump was painful," says Ben. "I was sweating so much, they had to open all the ambulance windows — in the middle of a snowstorm."



During Ben's accident, the end of his humerus bone broke in many pieces.

At the Mercyhealth emergency room, the doctor ordered an X-ray and computed tomography (CT) scan of Ben's arm. After looking at the images, the doctor told Ben he needed high-level specialty care at Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center in Janesville.

AN INTRICATE SURGERY

Thomas D. Lee, MD, is an orthopedic surgeon at Mercyhealth in Janesville who received specialty training in orthopedic trauma surgery during his fellowship. That means he is uniquely equipped to help patients who experience injuries due to motor vehicle accidents, falls and other trauma. As Ben was being transported from the Lake Geneva hospital to the Janesville

hospital, staff members called in Dr. Lee. He performed his first surgery on Ben that evening to clean out the wound and close the open injury to Ben's elbow. "Usually, the best plan is to wash the wound, start the patient on antibiotics to prevent infection, and then give him a day or two to recover before repairing the break," says Dr. Lee.

In Ben's case, the end of his humerus bone had broken into many pieces, and Dr. Lee needed to put it back together again. Additionally, the tendon in Ben's tricep was almost completely severed. During a second surgery two days later, Dr. Lee exposed the elbow joint and placed a plate and screws on both sides of the bone to hold it together

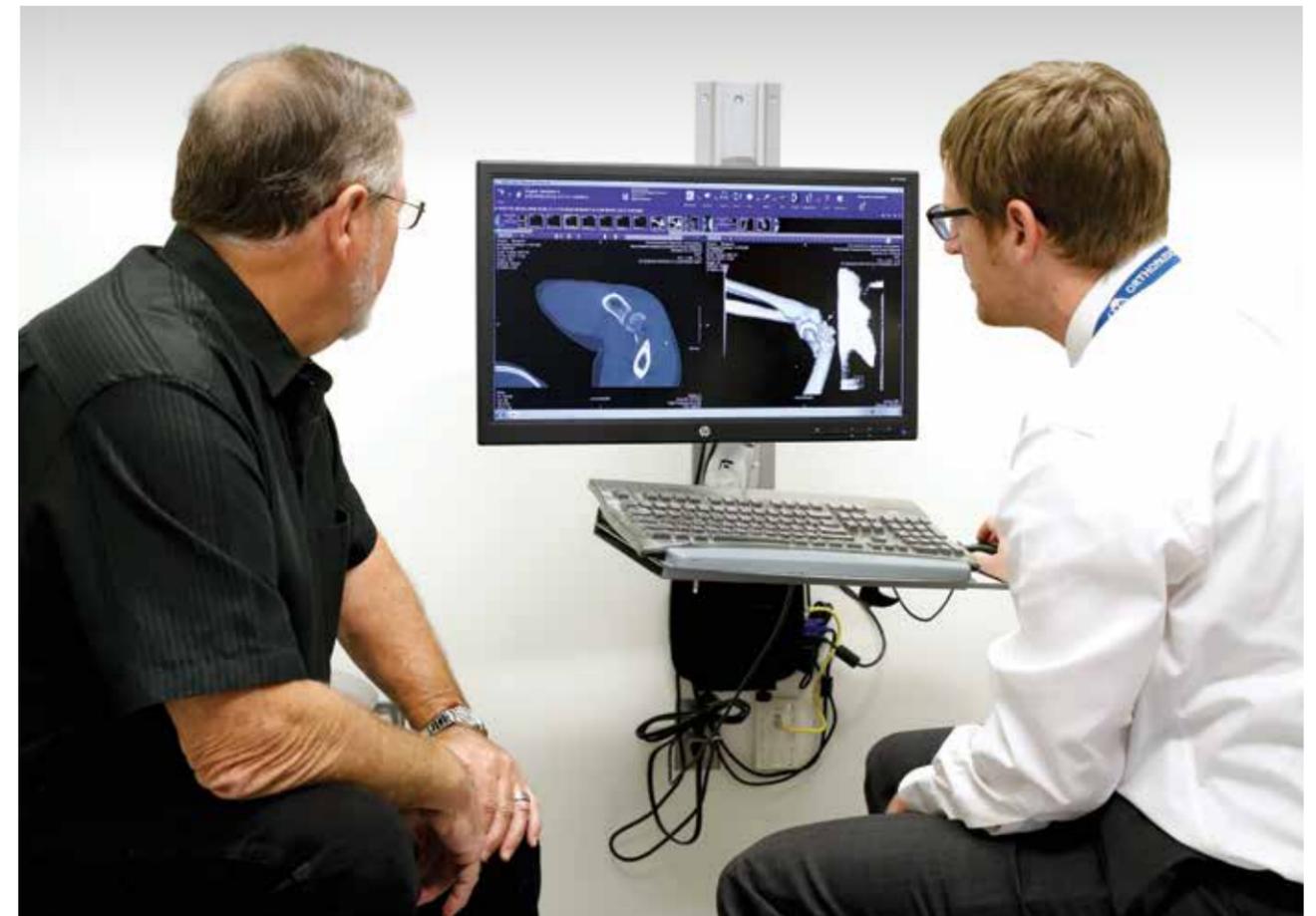


Thomas D. Lee, MD, orthopedic surgeon at Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center in Janesville

permanently. He also repaired the tricep tendon. Because there are many nerves and blood vessels in the elbow, Dr. Lee had to be very careful to protect them, so the surgery took five hours.

A MIRACULOUS RECOVERY

From Ben's perspective, the day of his accident was a blur. He was in excruciating pain the entire time, and he was worried about his wife, Ellen, who planned to drive through the snowstorm



At a follow-up appointment, Ben and Dr. Lee study an X-ray of his elbow.

to meet him at the hospital in Janesville. As it turned out, she wound up sliding into a ditch due to the storm and was stuck there an hour and a half before she could continue a very slow and treacherous drive to the hospital.

When Ben woke up after his first surgery, he became very emotional, as he was concerned about what had happened to his wife. After nurses assured him his wife had made it to the hospital safely and was waiting for him to awaken, he was ready to hear about the care he needed. Ben was fortunate, Dr. Lee told him, because the bone in his elbow missed a main artery by one millimeter. "God was definitely with me in that driveway," Ben says.

Throughout the whole experience, Ben says Dr. Lee was exactly the right physician to treat him. From the

moment he walked into Ben's room on the day of the snowstorm (with his ski jacket still on) to assess his injury, to the moment Ben walked out of the hospital three nights later, Dr. Lee helped Ben feel confident about the treatment he was receiving. "His bedside manner helped me feel so comfortable and at ease," says Ben.

Soon after Ben returned home, he began physical therapy at the Mercyhealth Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center—East in Janesville, and continued to work with a physical therapist at the Mercyhealth Rehabilitation Center in Harvard, Illinois. Much to his surprise — and Dr. Lee's — he didn't experience a great amount of pain during his recovery. "The reason he was such a success story was his attitude," says Dr. Lee. "I think the patient plays an important role in his recovery, and Ben

followed the instructions we gave him completely."

Ben was also able to recover so well because Dr. Lee was so careful during the surgery. "I'm willing to take the time in the operating room to make sure that his fracture is aligned perfectly, so his anatomy is restored as best it can be," Dr. Lee says.

Now, Ben has been able to return to many of the hobbies he loved before his accident — including playing the guitar in the praise band at his church, kayaking, and working on challenging outdoor projects around his house. "It's truly been a miracle," he says.

To make an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon at Mercyhealth, call (888) 39-MERCY.



Ben's scar is barely noticeable as he returns to his routine of weightlifting and yard work.



Ben has kept one of the fragments of his shattered bone as a souvenir.