

Bahamas native receives reconstructive surgery at SMC

SHREVEPORT -- Peter Carey, a 45-year-old from Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera, Bahamas, arrived in Shreveport this past April.

Carey, a construction worker, had been working in the Bahamas using an aluminum pole to float concrete construction blocks when the pole struck a high voltage line.

The electrical voltage went into Carey's right hand and exited his other three extremities, causing Carey to suffer electrical burns to both hands and feet.

After the accident, Carey underwent several minor surgeries in the Bahamas. He was left with little feeling and limited function in his left hand and had

no feeling or function in his right hand.

A Shreveport businessman, Stanton Dossett, who has a vacation home in the Bahamas, learned of Carey's accident and made arrangements for Carey to come to Shreveport for medical evaluation.

Carey arrived in Shreveport and was examined by John Knight, M.D., who specializes in surgery of the hand and upper extremities and reconstructive micro vascular surgery.

While examining Carey's hand dysfunction, Dr. Knight found that Carey had an open wound to his left ankle which exposed his tendons. The option was to amputate his left leg or

perform reconstructive surgery to cover the tendons.

Dr. Knight performed Carey's surgery on April 26 at Schumpert Medical Center. The operation was designed to reconstruct both of Carey's hands and to cover the tendons in his left ankle.

Dr. Knight performed two additional surgeries to relieve scar tissue on Carey's hands in June and July.

After the successful surgery, Carey began therapy as an outpatient at Schumpert Physical Medicine & Rehab.

Carey has regained all sensation in his left hand. His right hand is far from normal, however, he can grasp some objects, and for the first time

since the accident he can perform daily living activities such as shaving.

Dr. Knight attributes Carey's successful recovery to strong motivation, a supportive family, the generosity of Stanton Dossett, and the excellent staff at Schumpert Medical Medicine & Rehab.

"Any reconstructive surgery is a waste of time without aggressive and competent therapists who work closely with the patient and physician," said Dr. Knight.

Dr. Knight and the Schumpert Physical Medicine & Rehab Department hosted an early birthday and going away celebration for Carey on Friday,

July 29. Carey returned to the Bahamas Aug. 2. His birthday was Aug. 3.