



Mike Sutcliffe is able to work from home while he heals, thanks to his Alternate™ mattress.

Alternate™ Dramatically Enhances Quadriplegic's Quality of Life

When he was 21 years old, an accident left Mike Sutcliffe a C6 quadriplegic and forced him to live his life in a wheelchair. But that didn't stop him from doing what he loves.

"I've been in radio for 38 years. [Even from bed], I was doing my own show," Mike told Sizewise. "As long as I could sit up and put my laptop in front of me... I could voice track and do a complete radio show, and sound like I'm live on the air."

That worked well at first, as Mike suffered occasional pressure injuries (PIs); however, as he got older, PIs began forming more frequently, often requiring flap reconstructive surgery. In 2015, an especially complicated PI refused to heal—and Mike has been in bed ever since.

"He was in his own bed at home, and he was doing a good job of offloading [the PI] himself, but his pillow got behind him and was part of the trouble," said Mike's homecare nurse, Becky Rhone, APRN, CWS. "He had a memory foam overlay. Not a bad bed, but not adequate for his needs."

Mike called Sizewise and, with approval from his caregivers, was put on Alternate™ low air loss support surface.

For more information on Alternate, visit sizewise.com/alt or call 800-814-9389

"It allowed him to sink more into the mattress for more envelopment, and the mattress itself offloaded him better—even when he was on his back," said Becky.

Alternate provides 1-in-3 alternation therapy, targeting skin breakdown and increasing capillary bloodflow to the skin. It also produces clinically effective pressure redistribution, perfect for PI prevention and treatment.

"It's given me a better quality of life. It's allowed me to continue to work," said Mike. "It's sped the time up almost double as far as the healing's concerned."

In Jan. 2018, after more than two years on his back—including nearly a year on Alternate—Mike healed to the point where he was able to have a second flap surgery. He's looking forward to full recovery on the new mattress.

"[Alternate did] a much better job of pressure reduction for his particular wound," Becky said. "It really enhanced his quality of life."