



Ray Cralle finds gold in the midst of sorrow

By Diane Feen

Photo by Melissa Korman

Ray Cralle is a man of conviction. And one of his convictions is that he is in the caring business. That's why Cralle is so excited about the extraordinary work his team has done to heal Veterans coming back from the Afghanistan and Iraqi wars.

The signature injury of this war is concussive brain injury caused by IEDs, (roadside bombs), said Cralle, a Physical Therapist and specialist in Neuro-Rehabilitation therapy.

What really unnerves Cralle is that military hospitals like Walter Reed (and others) do not offer the healing techniques that he has perfected in the tiny town of Delray Beach.

Cralle now has the goods to prove that treating concussive injuries (affecting so many Vets) with Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy and Physical Therapy is nothing short of spectacular.

Take Robert for instance. The former Indiana soldier came home from the war with brain injuries caused by repeated exposure to blasts from IEDs. He could not sleep, lost much of his memory (he couldn't even

find his own house) and had trouble doing simple things like reading. Robert was so distraught he tried to commit suicide three times.

But it was Cralle's team who gave Robert back his life. "After a month of treatments - that included 40 dives of Hyperbaric Oxygen and Physical Therapy - Robert is now sleeping, reading, his memory has returned, and his brain has healed significantly," said Cralle.

The miracle treatment is not just hearsay. Through SPECT brain imaging it is clearly documented that Robert has improved cognitive and emotional scores. The six hour psychological and cognitive tests were given before and after treatment by Dr. Jeffrey M. Gran, Psy.D.

What is also astounding is listening to the men talk about their lives

after treatment (Cralle had a candid video of two soldiers talking about their amazing recovery).

"We changed the way the brain operates in these men. They had lost hope of ever being normal again. One of the patients (Adam) could not even walk straight. He had severe balance issues, from blast injuries, affecting his ears and he had difficulty talking. He was bleeding from his ear and eye after one exposure and lost consciousness for half a day," said Cralle.

But all that has changed.

After working with Cralle, Adam is a transformed man.

"I never felt like there was hope before. The military doctors kept giving me drugs and telling me to go back to my life but I couldn't function. I would fall while walking in my

house, I was nauseas and dizzy all the time," said the fair haired young man.

After Adam's four week stay in South Florida- that included treatments from Cralle and his staff- his life and outlook have changed dramatically. "My vertigo is almost gone, I can walk straight and the world seems back to normal. I am now able to sleep and my deep sleep has been restored."

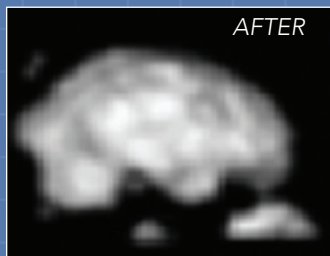
If you're wondering how Cralle came upon these young men with brain injuries from the war, just ask him. "I was so upset that no one was offering HBO in military hospitals. It is not fair that these men don't have access to this healing treatment for the signature injury of the war (PTSD). It was through GI Talk Radio that I was introduced to Dr. Hall from the Pentagon in Washington."

As Cralle tells it, Dr. Hall made him a challenge he could not refuse. "So you think you can help these men, are you willing to treat a few Pro-Bono?"

That's all it took to get Cralle roaring to go.

He got the Red Cross to pay for transportation and lodging, Dr. Jeffrey M. Gran donated the intensive neuropsychological testing, Alex Cruz (President & CEO South East Medical Imaging) did the brain scans, Dr. William Maxfield read them, Hayes Laboratories ran blood tests for bio markers, GE donated brain imaging dye, Dr. Charles Scherer examined the men and followed their progress and Cralle did the Physical Therapy

SPECT brain scan of Veteran R.B. before and after 40 Hyperbaric Oxygen treatments and intensive Neuro-Rehabilitation (right lateral view).





and Hyperbaric Oxygen treatments, all for free.

Both Dr. Gran and Cralle have seen significant improvements in memory, emotional stability, attention span and anxiety levels. "The soldiers suffering have a ripple effect on their families and society. If you catch it early on you can save enormous amounts of money. Ray's work speaks to the reason that more studies need to be done to stop this suffering," said Dr. Gran, a neuropsychologist.

For now no one is disputing that both Adam and Robert are thriving thanks to Cralle and his team. Adam has moved to Jacksonville and is running a blueberry farm and Robert is a lay minister who may run for Congress. Both men candidly admit that Cralle's work has changed their lives in miraculous ways.

Cralle is pretty happy as well.

"This breakthrough medical discovery has not been done before. We need to start telling senators and congressmen - the word needs to get out about these medical treatments."

There is another reason Cralle is so excited about this revolutionary healing protocol. "We are in the caring business. How can you not care about these brave men?"

If you would like to sponsor a veteran for similar care, a tax deductible contribution can be made to HopeSprings, a 501 (C3) foundation that Cralle started to help others.

There are over a hundred thousand troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq with traumatic brain injuries from roadside bomb blasts. The Military plans to test Oxygen chambers as TBI treatment next year, said Cralle.

Cralle's team plans to publish this work in a medical journal with the help of Sheldon Gottlieb, PhD, who helped Dr. Richard Neubauer pioneer the techniques used for treating brain injury

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