

Israeli Medical Achievements

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An eight-year old Darfur refugee with one leg arrived at Loewenstein Hospital Rehabilitation Center. One week later he left the hospital to play football in Eilat.

Five years ago, in the Darfur civil war, a bomb was thrown at the car in which A., then three years old, and his family were traveling. In one terrible moment his father, grandfather and grandmother were killed and the young child's left leg was amputated.

A. fled the Darfur genocide with his mother and brothers, taking refuge in Israel after an arduous journey.

Ran Tessler, a volunteer who helps refugees, noticed A., now eight years old, in Eilat. He immediately contacted Prof. Eli Isakov, head of the Orthopedic Rehabilitation Department at Loewenstein Hospital, who rose to the challenge. A. arrived in Ra'anana with his mother and a volunteer.

Eshed Orthopedics donated a prosthesis worth thousands of dollars. When A. was given his new prosthesis he held onto it and refused to let go. Only after Prof. Isakov promised him that he would be able to play football soon, the child smiled broadly and said, "Tamam", which means alright in his native tongue.

Every morning A. held Schneider's hand and learned how to put on the prosthesis by himself. They went on long walks along the hospital corridors, climbed up and down stairs and played on the hospital lawns.

Five days later, when she watched her son playing football with the other patients, A.'s mother allowed herself to smile for the first time in a long time. ■



Prof. Isakov with his patient from Rwanda