



Lance Thornhill works on a home project.

ON HIS FEET AGAIN

Lance Thornhill, 61, a general contractor and carpenter, is the definition of an active man. He spent years as a safety inspector for the city of North Richland Hills and relished remodeling his home and hardscaping his backyard with a gazebo and waterfalls.

But out of the blue, when he woke up the day after Halloween 2012, he couldn't move his right leg.


When he tried to sleep at night, the pain was so bad, "my wife, Trudee, held me while I bawled," he said.

She took him, limping all the way, to his primary care provider and a neurologist, among others, who offered various incorrect diagnoses, "all fatal," she said, including spinal tumors and Lou Gehrig's disease. The best they could get: a diagnosis of "foot drop," which makes it all but impossible to lift the front part of the foot.

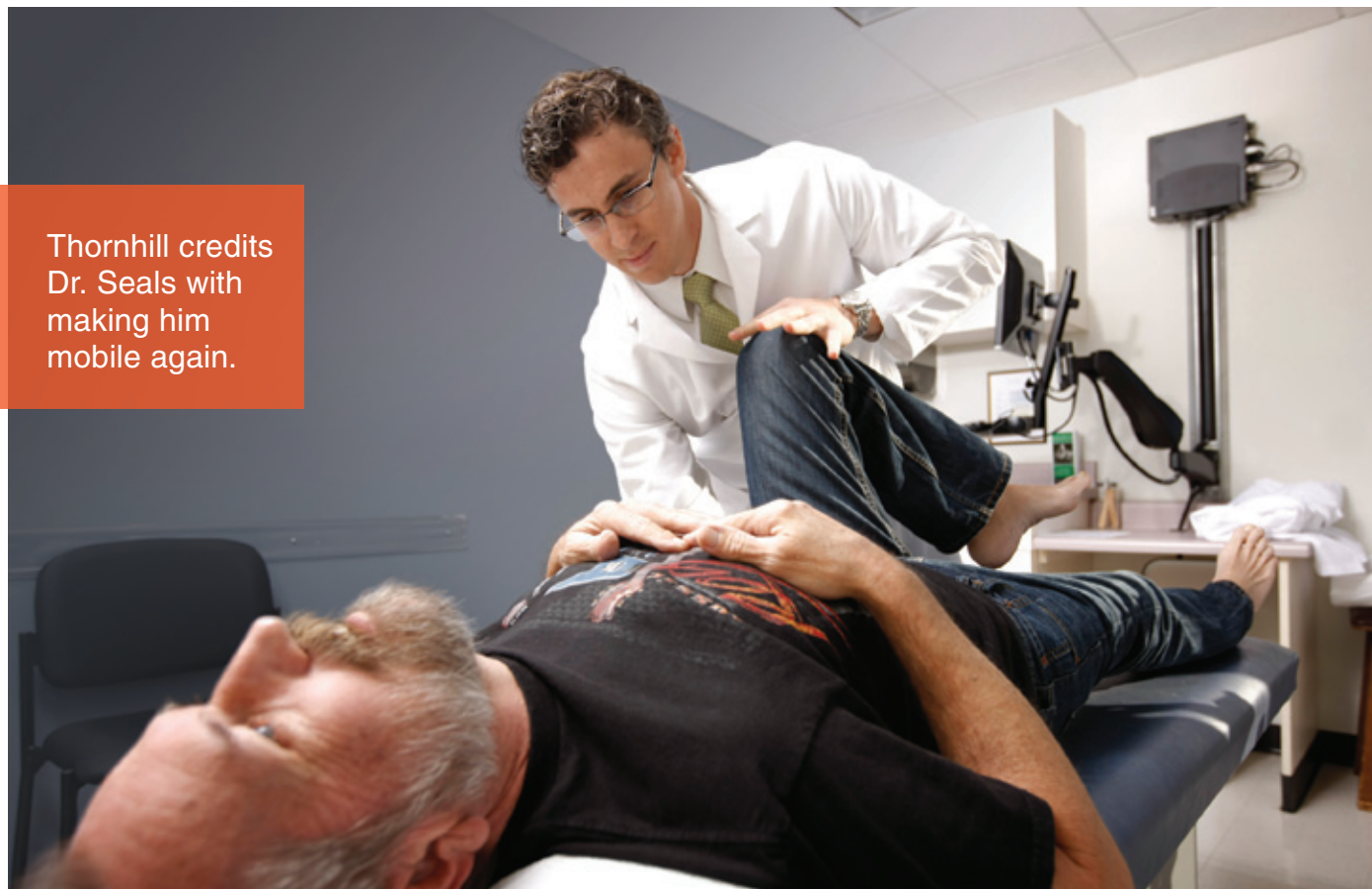
Then he met Ryan Seals, DO, Assistant Professor of Osteopathic Medicine, who practices at UNT Health's Patient Care Center on the

UNTHSC campus. After just two treatments, Thornhill was moving almost normally. Today, he's walking vigorously for exercise and receives treatments from Dr. Seals every three weeks.

"I'm pleased that he's making progress," Dr. Seals said. "The dropped foot has resolved, and now we're working on back pain and sensory issues."

"The first doctor in this whole sorry mess to really care was Dr. Seals," Thornhill said. "He got me functional and back in the race as a human being." 

Thornhill credits Dr. Seals with making him mobile again.



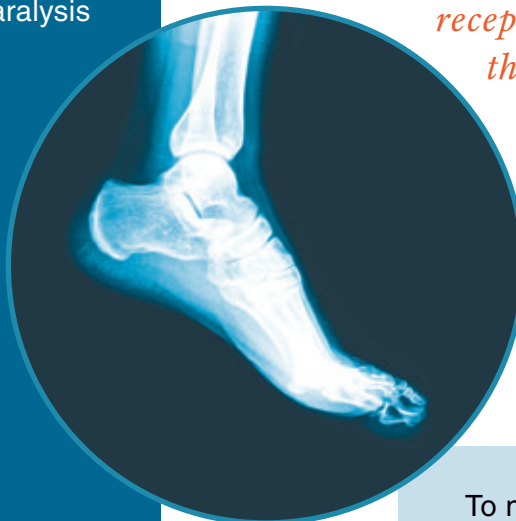
Foot drop

What it is: The inability to raise the front part of the foot because of weakness or paralysis of the muscles that lift the foot.

What causes it:

- Multiple sclerosis
- Stroke
- Cerebral palsy
- Polio
- Lou Gehrig's disease
- Nerve root injury
- Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Peroneal nerve damage
- Muscular dystrophy
- Myositis

Source: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke



“Everyone at UNT Health cares about the patient – nurses and receptionist included. And the doctor actually listens to you.”

~Lance Thornhill

To make an appointment with a UNT Health physician, please call 817-735-DOCS (3627).