



Case Study: Adaptive Athlete Returns to Sled Hockey with Central Line Securement

Gus Gear's® Central Line Vest helped prevent central line dislodgement and enabled a competitive adaptive athlete to safely return to sled hockey — restoring confidence, independence, and team connection

For many individuals who rely on central venous access devices (CVADs), staying active can be challenging. For Keko, a 30-year-old adaptive sled hockey player living with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and reliant on a central line for ongoing treatment, the challenge was especially daunting.

After a traumatic brain injury changed the course of their life, sled hockey became more than a sport—it became essential therapy, a source of community, and a place where Keko felt free and equal on the ice.



“On the ice, I don’t have a disability. I’m just like everybody else.”

However, repeated central line dislodgements threatened to take that away, forcing Keko to reconsider whether continuing the sport was possible.

Challenge

After years of relatively stable central line use, Keko experienced six central line losses in just eight weeks due to accidental dislodgement.

Even simple movements—such as raising an arm or showering—could cause the line to pull out, largely because Ehlers-Danlos syndrome weakens connective tissue and makes skin more fragile. Maintaining a secure line placement became increasingly difficult.

These frequent complications raised serious concerns for both Keko and their medical team. Continuing to play a high-contact sport like sled hockey suddenly felt too risky. Keko began missing practices and games, worried that a fall or collision could result in another emergency line replacement.

“We even talked about whether I could safely get on the ice at all. If I fell, my line could come out. That would be game over.”

Solution

Determined to find a solution, Keko began researching options and learned about the Gus Gear® Central Line Vest, a device designed to provide securement and protection for central lines.

The vest uses flexible internal securement combined with a protective vest design to stabilize the CVAD and reduce the risk of dislodgement during daily activities and physical movement.

The Central Line Vest provides:

- Stabilization of the central line
- Protection during falls or physical contact
- Securement of the central line against pulls or tugs
- Reduced risk of dressing disruption
- Greater confidence during movement and athletic activity

Outcome

Since wearing the Gus Gear® Central Line Vest, Keko has had **zero central line dislodgements**, even while playing competitive sled hockey. The added stability has allowed Keko to safely return to full participation on the ice.

“When I have the vest on, I don’t have to worry. I can check people into the boards, shoot at the net, fall over, and get back up — just like before.”

Beyond the physical protection, the vest has helped restore Keko’s sense of belonging and confidence. Previously, dressing disruptions sometimes forced them to leave the locker room early or miss post-game team moments. Now, Keko can fully engage with teammates on and off the ice.

“Being part of a team is huge. After games we talk, celebrate, connect. Now I can stay for that. I know my line is secure.”

Most importantly, the vest has helped Keko reclaim a vital part of their identity.

“This gave me back the part of my life that made me feel whole again. If it helped me this much, I know it can help other people too.” - Keko

Learn more at www.gusgear.com