

Introducing K-Zone Technology from ING Source: An Alternative to Taping

By Joe Haig, OST, C.Ped, BOCPD,
and Director for Ortho 360, LLC.

For the past two years I have had the pleasure of collaborating on a new motion control technology in foot and ankle support with **ING Source, Inc.**, the creators of the OrthoSleeve, OS1st and Foot Gym Professional products. The patented technology built into their Plantar Fasciitis Sleeve and other bracing sleeves is known as **Compression Zone Technology (CZT)**.

Our collaboration included my partner and wife, Pam Haig, C.Ped, BOCPD, and Vice President of The Robert M. Palmer, M.D., Institute of Biomechanics, Inc., along with reviews from podiatric and orthopedic physicians. We have created an expansion of ING's CZT in medical grade compression sleeves with 360 degree bracing, also termed multi-planal motion control; circumferential, medial, lateral, with skin-friendly adhesion for orthotic impact; distal to proximal.



an effort to align structures of the foot and ankle more appropriately.

This new technology product can be used as an adjunct liner to AFO's for added balance and stability or for cases where an AFO or orthotic may not be needed. Two paramount objectives in our development were patient compliance and cost. Even with our best efforts as medical providers, we all see patients not using our prescribed devices as often as recommended. The AF7 Ankle Bracing Sleeve will accomplish these goals due to its ease of use, ultra-thin fit, and stabilizing features. The AF7 is registered with the FDA along with all products from ING.

ING Source is the manufacturer

for Ortho360, LLC's patent-pending product. With ING's international reach, our new technology will enhance patient lives worldwide. ING Source products are dispensed by more than 1,000 podiatrists and foot health providers under the OrthoSleeve brand, most often the FS6 Foot Sleeve. The company will now be changing its podiatry branding to OS1st Brace Layer System, which is sold widely in USA sports and running specialty stores. In fact, OS1st is the #1 selling sports brace in the running retail marketplace. Further, OS1st has made its way into the military and VA hospitals.

Dave Higgins, Inventor and CEO at ING, says "OrthoSleeve has become a broadly distributed brand in pharmacy, HME and orthopedic retail. The OS1st brand aligns more effectively with podiatry. Many podiatrists have a strong orientation to sports medicine and OS1st will be a familiar name to their patients." Ben Pearl, DPM, Arlington Foot and Ankle, commented, "I have been part of consulting and beta testing the AF7 concept. This product provides more lateral support for ankle instability and peroneal weakness than the standard FS6 sleeve, which I have been using successfully for mild ankle instability."

As a pedorthist, I have manufacturing and clinical experience in the orthopedic and podiatric communities with complex hindfoot pathologies. I am proud of this new

K-Zone concept and honored to have been part of the collaboration along with an innovative group of medical professionals from multiple disciplines. We are pleased that **Allied OSI** is the primary distributor of OS1st products into the podiatry market, continuing their founding commitment to enhance lives through advanced theory.

For more information, call **Allied OSI** at 800-444-3632, call **ING Source** at 877-647-0386, or [click here](#).

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We were not trying to create a replacement for proven treatments such as orthotics, AFO's, etc. for more serious conditions. With the goal of adding value to these devices, we also wanted to fill the void for those needing more motion stabilization with a better, thinner addition to, or alternative for, patients seeking more active lifestyles. The first new product with these features was launched last month. It is named the "AF7 Ankle Bracing Sleeve" and is processing for APMA review and acceptance.

The AF7 introduces a *newly-created medical compression knitting design using patterns of "low-stretch" supports and the addition of silicone gel layering*. The result of this technique offers the thinnest known bracing system ever made. These patterns function in a similar way to semi-rigid "stays", while the silicone adheres to the skin so that the compression sleeves can create proprioceptive planal pulling force(s) in similar ways to taping in