

Perth dad Gwynne Erasmus learns to walk again despite suffering rare nervous disorder

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A Perth father who was told he'd never walk again has proved the medical world wrong.

Gwynne Erasmus suffers from a rare nervous disorder called Erythromelalgia, which blocks the blood vessels, causing swelling, redness and pain.

He said one morning a few years ago, he just could not stand up.



Gwynne Erasmus suffers from a rare nervous disorder called Erythromelalgia.

“(It was like) pouring acid on your foot,” he said.

“It was just that burning, painful sensation the whole time.”

Just as he was coming to terms with spending the rest of his life in a wheelchair, Mr Erasmus met physiotherapist Kevin Lau, who was determined to help the dad walk again.

He devised a treatment program, trying everything from dry needling to massage and manipulation to get Mr Erasmus moving again.



Gwynne Erasmus with Dr Kevin Lau.

“We got to the point where I said to Gwynne, ‘Are you ready? Shall we try and stand and see how you go?’” Dr Lau said.

“I couldn’t believe it.”

“He started to cry when he first saw me because it was a big step,” Mr Erasmus added.

Eventually Mr Erasmus was able to walk away from his wheelchair for good.

Dr Lau credits his holistic approach to physiotherapy for the success.

“Seeing (Mr Erasmus) be able to walk again is the highlight of my professional career,” he said.