

Barry Ratcliffe didn't have time to let a hand injury get in the way of his busy acting career.

That's why Ratcliffe, perhaps best known for his work on the TV show "Outsiders" and the movie "The Longest Ride," turned to Summit Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation to regain normal function of his hand.

While filming "Outsiders," he suffered a flexor tendon and nerve injury in his hand that required surgery. Certified Hand Therapist Georgette Vrabel, OTR/L, CHT, worked with Ratcliffe to rehabilitate his hand and even designed his splint so it wouldn't be noticeable on camera.

"This is the best facility I've been to, and I've been all over the world," Ratcliffe said. "They care about the person, not just the injury. That makes a world of difference."

He explained that normal hand function is vital to his acting career because his hands will appear in close-up shots. Through therapy, Vrabel and the team at Summit Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation helped Ratcliffe regain strength and range of motion in his hand while keeping up with his busy acting career – including his upcoming role in the season-four premiere of the CBS show "The Inspectors."

"They take the time to get to know you. They realize it is a process and they spend time talking about what your goals are with therapy," Ratcliffe said. "I'm very happy with the progress I've made, and so are my doctors. I'm right where I need to be."

While splitting his time between Los Angeles and Franklin County, Ratcliffe has also been following up with Dr. Jeffrey Lutton of Summit Orthopedic Group, who has been an important part of his healing process.

"It's clear he puts the patient first," Ratcliffe said. "And I love his sense of humor."

What is a certified hand therapist?

A certified hand therapist (CHT) is a physical therapist or occupational therapist with advanced education and clinical experience in hand therapy. To achieve the certification, therapists must complete 4,000 hours or more in hand therapy practice and pass a comprehensive examination.

"We're fortunate to have three certified hand therapists in our outpatient clinics," Vrabel said. "This ensures we are able to provide our patients with the most advanced hand therapy."

Certified hand therapists work closely with providers and patients to provide a continuum of care for conditions of the hand and arm. Therapists are specialized in treating traumatic injuries, fractures and dislocations; sports injuries; tendonitis; carpal tunnel; tendon and nerve injuries; arthritis; and other conditions.

If you are experiencing symptoms related to these conditions, contact your health-care provider and request a referral for hand therapy. Summit Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation offers hand therapy at three locations:

Results Therapy & Fitness, 1600 Orchard Drive, Chambersburg

Shippensburg Medical Campus, 46 Walnut Bottom Road, Shippensburg

Waynesboro Hospital, 500 E. Main St., Waynesboro