

# Man with reattached leg out of hospital

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A UNION BEACH man whose left leg was reattached by doctors at Bayshore Community Hospital three months ago walked out of the hospital on both legs yesterday using a walker.

Arthur Slover, 37, a sanitation worker for Morris Tetro & Sons Disposal, Union Beach, was injured when a tire blew out on the garbage truck he was in and it careened over the Route 36 divider in Union Beach. He and his two co-workers were "five minutes from home," he said.

The Nov. 4 accident shattered Slover's upper left leg. All the muscles and veins were severed and the leg was attached only by a small piece of skin, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The team of doctors consisted of Dr. Marshall P. Allegra, orthopedic surgeon; Dr. Franklin P. Hernando, general surgeon; Dr. Sergio C. Villa, chief of surgery, and Dr. Armand E. Bedikian, director of anesthesia.

Over his three-month hospital stay, Slover underwent 12 operations to reconstruct his leg and received physical therapy whirlpool treatments on a regular basis.

Many of the hospital staff associated with his recovery turned out to wish him good luck yesterday. His discharge from the hospital was festive, with balloons decorating and non-alcoholic champagne flowing in the main lobby.

Slover left for home in a limousine courtesy of the hospital.

"It was quite an emotional time, so many of the people in the hospital have grown to know him over the last three months," Allegra said.

Allegra said Slover is recovering nicely.

A high rate of amputation, infection and death is associated with the type of

injuries Slover suffered in the accident, Allegra has said.

He said that because the entire leg had basically been severed, doctors only had a six-hour window to get circulation re-established in order to reconstruct the leg.

Rods were inserted in the leg as part of the reconstruction, and a team of doctors reinserted a vein that had been severed to restore Slover's circulation.

About three to four weeks ago, Slover took a turn for the worse and doctors had to once again replace his vein.