

# Intensive Therapy After Spinal Cord Injury: What's the Return on Investment?

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# Objectives:

- Participants will describe the impact of intensive therapy after SCI to promote lifelong recovery and health.
- Participants will describe the key areas of return on investment associated with intensive therapy after SCI.
- Participants will review case studies demonstrating the positive impact of utilizing intensive therapy to promote lifelong term health, wellness and independence after neurologic injury.
- Participants will review current literature focused on the use of intensive therapy after SCI and the impact on life care planning.
- Participants will discuss the future of technological advancements that may play a critical role in the evolution of neurorehabilitation over the next 5-10 years.





So What?

# ROI: Lifetime Cost

## Life Care Planning Projections for Individuals With Motor Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury Before and After Locomotor Training Intervention: A Case Series

Sarah A. Morrison, PT, Jamie L. Pomeranz, PhD, CRC, CLCP, Nami Yu, MHS, CRC, Mary Schmidt Read, PT, DPT, MS, Sue Ann Sisto, PT, MA, PhD, and Andrea L. Behrman, PT, PhD, FAPTA

**Background/Purpose:** We present a retrospective case series of 2 individuals with motor-incomplete spinal cord injury (SCI) to examine differences in lifetime cost estimates before and after participation in an intensive locomotor training (LT) program. Sections of a life care plan (LCP) were used to determine the financial implications associated with equipment, home renovations, and transportation for patients who receive LT. An LCP is a viable method of quantifying outcomes following any therapeutic intervention.

**Case Description:** The LCP cases analyzed were a 61-year-old woman and a 4½-year-old boy with motor-incomplete SCI and impairments classified by the American Spinal Injury Association Impairment Scale (AIS) as AIS D and AIS C, respectively.

**Interventions:** Each patient received an intensive outpatient LT program 3 to 5 days per week. The 61-year-old woman received 198 sessions over 57 weeks and the 4½-year-old boy received 76 sessions over 16 weeks.

**Outcomes:** The equipment, home renovation, and transportation costs of an LCP were calculated before and after LT. Prior to the implementation of LT, the 61-year-old woman had estimated lifetime costs between \$150 247.00 and \$199 654.00. Following LT, the estimated costs decreased to between \$2010.00 and \$2446.00 (a decrease of \$148 237.00 and \$197 208.00). Similarly, the 4-year-old boy had estimated lifetime costs for equipment, home renovation, and transportation between \$535 050.00 and \$771 665.00 prior to LT. However, the estimated costs decreased to between \$97 260.00 and \$200 047.00 (a decrease of \$437 790.00 and \$571 618.00) following LT.

Shepherd Center, Atlanta, GA (S.A.M.); Department of Behavioral Science and Community Health (J.L.P., N.Y.), the University of Florida, Gainesville; Magee Rehabilitation (M.S.R.), Philadelphia, PA; Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation (C.W.), West Orange, NJ; Stony Brook University (S.A.S.), Stony Brook, NY; and Department of Physical Therapy (A.L.B.), University of Florida, Gainesville.

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**Discussion:** The lifetime financial costs associated with equipment, home renovations, and transportation following a motor-incomplete SCI were decreased following an intensive LT program for the 2 cases presented in this article. The LCP, including costs of rehabilitation and long-term medical and personal care costs, may be an effective tool to discern cost benefit of rehabilitation interventions.

**Key Words:** body weight-supported treadmill, life care plan, locomotor training, motor incomplete spinal cord injury

(JNPT 2012;36: 144–153)

### INTRODUCTION

Individuals who sustain spinal cord injury (SCI) experience a significant economic burden due to the immediate and long-term medical expenses associated with this injury. Significant medical and other expenses are incurred to allow the individual to return to home, school, and/or his or her preinjury community. In addition, the financial implications resulting from loss of gainful employment amplify these financial concerns. This economic burden is estimated to be \$9.7 billion annually.<sup>1</sup> One method of determining the lifetime medical and rehabilitative costs associated with an SCI is through the development of a life care plan (LCP).

An LCP is defined as a dynamic document based upon published standards of practice, comprehensive assessments, data analysis, and research.<sup>2</sup> Life care plans are often performed for litigation purposes within arenas such as personal injury and worker's compensation. The methodology is also used for case management, special needs trusts, and geriatric care management. The LCP provides an organized concise map for current and future needs with associated costs for individuals who have experienced catastrophic injury or have chronic health care issues.<sup>2</sup> There are 14 common topics that are covered by an LCP that encompasses a wide range of injury-related needs and services to consider. Table 1 describes each topic area and gives examples for each.

The LCP serves as a guide to ensure the provision of quality care and services throughout the lifespan of an individual with a disability. It involves a multidimensional, dynamic methodology based upon the actual needs of the individual and can serve both as a "roadmap" for case managers as an educational tool for the individual with a disability, his

**Outcomes:** The equipment, home renovation, and transportation costs of an LCP were calculated before and after LT. Prior to the implementation of LT, the 61-year-old woman had estimated lifetime costs between \$150 247.00 and \$199 654.00. Following LT, the estimated costs decreased to between \$2010.00 and \$2446.00 (a decrease of \$148 237.00 and \$197 208.00). Similarly, the 4-year-old boy had estimated lifetime costs for equipment, home renovation, and transportation between \$535 050.00 and \$771 665.00 prior to LT. However, the estimated costs decreased to between \$97 260.00 and \$200 047.00 (a decrease of \$437 790.00 and \$571 618.00) following LT.

Severity of Injury	Estimated Lifetime Cost if Injured at 25 yo
High Tetraplegia (C1-C4) AIS ABC	\$4,724,181
Low Tetraplegia (C5-C8) AIS ABC	\$3,451,781
Paraplegia AIS ABC	\$2,310,104
Motor functional at Any Level D	\$1,578,274

# Life Care Planning Projections

- 3 case studies modeled after what was published in the literature (Morrison et al 2012)



- Certified life care planner did not assist in developing this information
- 3 specific components of the LCP were chosen for this report
  - Equipment Needs/Transportation
  - Architectural renovation: VA guidelines
  - Personal Care

<sup>3</sup>According to the Veteran's Administration, an individual who sustains a loss of use of one lower extremity together with other disabilities that preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair qualifies for up to \$50 000 in architectural renovations.

# Sherown

**Age:** 31

**Diagnosis:** C4 AIS C SCI as a result of wrestling accident.

**Goals:**

- Play with kids
- Independent with ADLs
- Walk Independently
- Return to work



# Discharge from Inpatient Rehabilitation



## Functional Independence Measure

Task	Score	Assist
Grooming	3	Mod A
Bathing	3	Mod A
UE Dressing	3	Mod A
LB Dressing	2	Max A
Toileting	1	Total A
Bed/wheelchair	2	Max A
Toilet	2	Max A
Tub/shower	2	Max A
Walk	1	Total A
Stairs	1	Total A

# Pre-Intensive Therapy



## Assumptions:

- Life Expectancy:  $31y + 47.5y = 78.5y$

## Equipment

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Hospital Bed	3-12.5 y	\$2000-2700
Air Mattress	1-6 y	\$250-800
Portable Lift	1-5 y	\$3,000
Manual w/c	5-7 y	\$2000-3500
Power w/c with tilt	5-7 y	\$20,000
Shower Chair	5-7 y	\$3000
w/c cushion	1-3 y	\$450-550
w/c parts	1 y	\$575-2000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$362,893-381,453</b>

## Transportation

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Driving Evaluation	1 x	\$1,000
Wheelchair Accessible Van	1 x	\$45,000
Van maintenance & Adaptation	1y	\$28,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$74,500</b>

## Architectural Needs

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Renovation	1 x	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>

**Total: \$487,393 – 505,953**

# Pre-Intensive Therapy

## Assumptions:

- Ave personal care hours for motor incomplete SCI: 39.9 hours/week  
(French et al 2007)



## Personal Care

Item	Hours/week & cost/hour	Cost
Personal Care	39.9 hours/week at \$13/hour	\$26972.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>*47.5y</b>	<b>\$1,281,189</b>

## Totals

<b>Equipment, Architecture, Transportation</b>	<b>\$487,393</b>	<b>\$505,953</b>
<b>Personal Care</b>	<b>\$1,281,189</b>	<b>\$1,281,189</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,768,582</b>	<b>1,787,142</b>

# Locomotor Training

## Evaluation



## 55 min Treadmill Training BWS



## 30 min Community Mobility

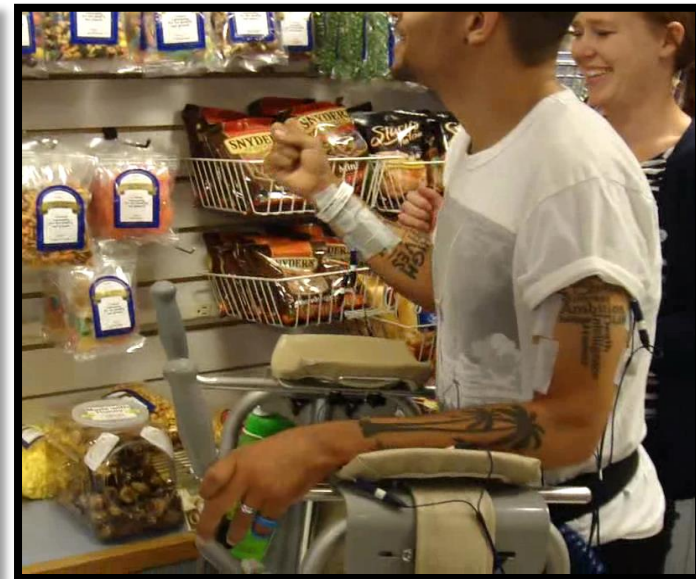


# Upper Extremity Training

NMES to trunk  
and UEs

Task Specific Training  
with NMES

Community  
Integration



# Intensive Therapy Outcomes



80 PT and OT Sessions

## Functional Independence Measure

	Inpatient D/C FIM	FIM D/C NRN	Assist Level
Grooming	3	6	Modified Indep
Bathing	3	3	Mod A
UE Dressing	2	6	Modified Indep
LB Dressing	2	6	Modified Indep
Toileting	2	3	Mod A
Bed/wheelchair	1	6	Modified Indep
Toilet	1	6	Modified Indep
Tub/shower	1	5	Supervision
walk	1	6	Modified Indep
Stairs	1	5	Supervision



120 PT and OT Sessions



# Outcome Measure Improvement

Outcome Assessment	Initial Assessment	Discharge Assessment
10 Meter Walk Test	Non-Ambulatory	0.43 m/s
6 Minute Walk Test	Non-Ambulatory	500 ft
Berg Balance Measure	3/56	42/56
Neuromuscular Recovery Scale	1B	2C

# Post Intensive Therapy

## Assumptions:

- Life Expectancy:  $31y + 47.5y = 78.5y$



## Equipment

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Hospital Bed	3-12.5 y	NA
Air Mattress	1-6 y	NA
Portable Lift	1-5 y	NA
Manual w/c	5-7 y	NA
Power w/c	5-7 y	NA
<b>Padded Bench</b>	<b>5-7 y</b>	<b>\$300</b>
W/c cushion	1-3 y	NA
w/c parts	1 y	NA
<b>Rollator</b>	<b>1y</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Forearm Crutches</b>	<b>1y</b>	<b>\$130</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$13,420 - \$24,072</b>

## Transportation

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
<b>Driving Evaluation</b>	<b>1 x</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
Wheelchair Accessible Van	1 x	NA
Van maintenance & Adaptation	1y	NA
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>

## Architectural Needs

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Renovation	1 x	NA
<b>Total</b>		<b>NA</b>

**Total: \$14,420 – \$25,072**

# Post Intensive Therapy

## Assumptions:

- Life Expectancy: 31y + 47.5y = 78.5y
- Ave personal care hours for bathing/toileting: 2 hours/day



## Personal Care

Item	Hours/week & cost/hour	Cost
Personal Care	14 hours/week at \$13/hour X 1 year	\$6,760
Total	*47.5y	\$449,540

## Totals

Equipment, Architecture, Transportation	\$13,420	\$24,072
Personal Care	\$449,540	\$449,540
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$463,960</b>	<b>\$474,612</b>

# Return on Investment

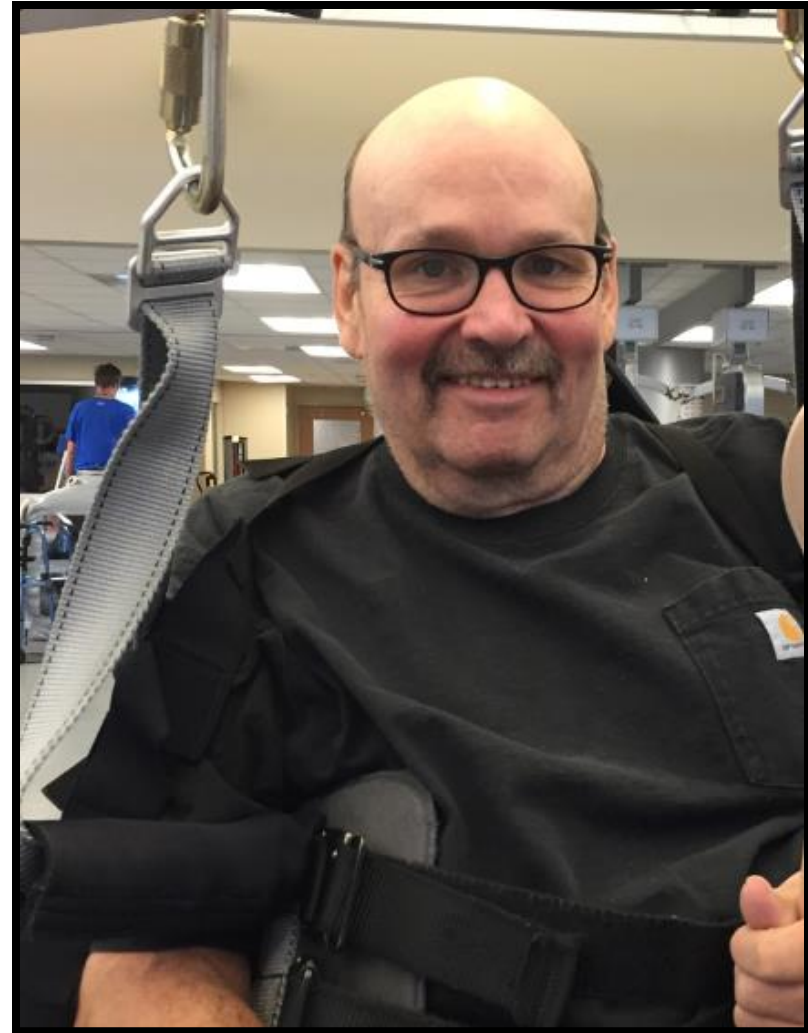


	Pre Intensive Therapy	Post Intensive Therapy
Total Cost	\$1,787,142	\$474,612

**Cost Reduction ~ \$1,312,530**  
**Outpatient Therapy Costs: \$150k**  
**Total Savings: ~\$1.16 million dollars**

# Pete

- 54 y.o. Boilermaker, Rural Montana
- C4 AIS C: Fall in the home
- Goals
  - Return to his home vs. SNF
  - Stand up and walk independently
  - Transfer into a car
  - Use a manual WC vs. Power WC



# Discharge from Inpatient Rehabilitation



## Functional Independence Measure

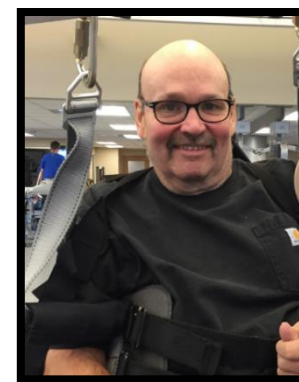
Task	Score	Assist
Grooming	6	Mod I
Bathing	2	Max A
UE Dressing	2	Max A
LB Dressing	1	Total A
Toileting	1	Total A
Bed/wheelchair	2	Max A
Toilet	2	Max A
Tub/shower	2	Max A
Walk	1	Total A
Stairs	1	Total A



# Pre-Intensive Therapy

## Assumptions:

- Life Expectancy:  $54y + 22.7y = 76.7$



## Equipment

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Hospital Bed	3-12.5 y	\$2000-2700
Air Mattress	1-6 y	\$250-800
Portable Lift	1-5 y	\$3,000
Manual w/c	5-7 y	\$2000-3500
Power w/c with tilt	5-7 y	\$23,000
Shower Chair	5-7 y	\$3000
W/c cushion	1-3 y	\$450-550
w/c parts	1 y	\$675-2100
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$179,366-206,539</b>

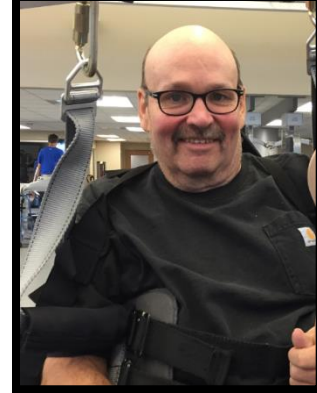
## Transportation

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Driving Evaluation	1 x	\$1,000
Wheelchair Accessible Van	1 x	\$45,000
Van maintenance & Adaptation	1y	\$28,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$74,500</b>

## Architectural Needs

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Renovation	1 x	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>

# Pre-Intensive Therapy



## Assumptions:

- Ave personal care hours for motor incomplete SCI: 39.9 hours/week (French et al 2007)

### Personal Care

Item	Hours/week & cost/hour	Cost
Personal Care	39.9 hours/week at \$13/hour	\$26972.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>*22.7</b>	<b>\$612,273</b>

### Totals

<b>Equipment, Architecture, Transportation</b>	<b>\$303,866</b>	<b>\$331,039</b>
<b>Personal Care</b>	<b>\$612,273</b>	<b>\$612,273</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$916,139</b>	<b>\$943,312</b>

# Standing Progression

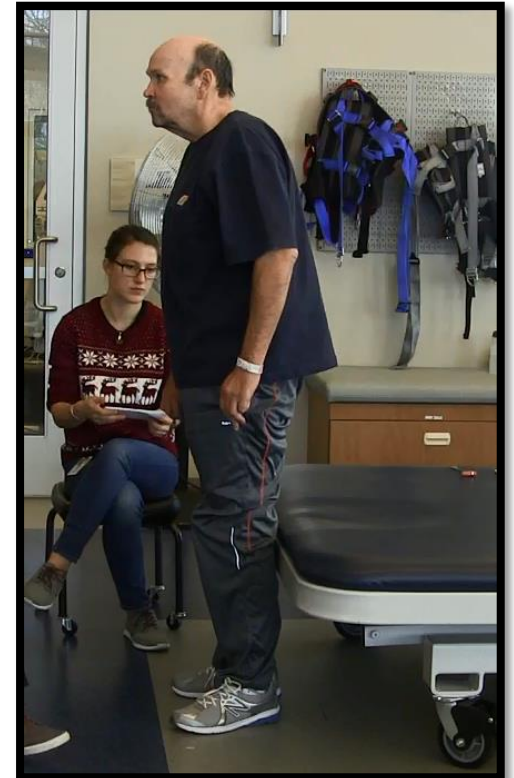
Initial Eval  
6/1/15



1<sup>st</sup> Re-eval (20 sessions)  
7/2/15



Discharge eval (120 sessions)  
12/11/15



# Locomotor Training Progression

Inpatient DC



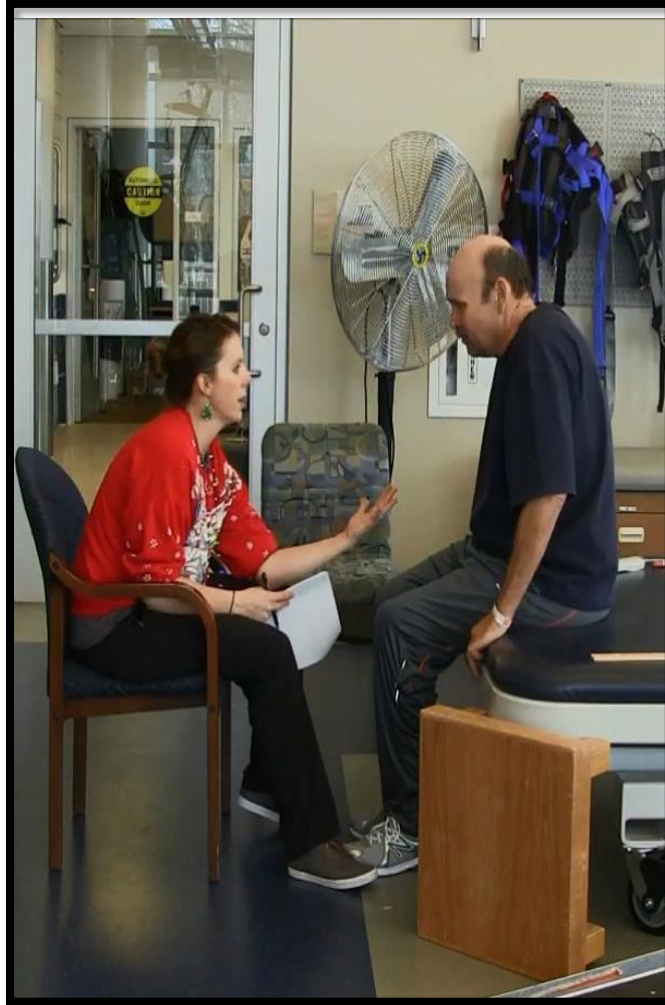
Outpatient Therapy



Outpatient Therapy



# Discharge Outpatient Therapy



# Discharge Intensive Therapy

120 PT and OT Sessions



## Functional Independence Measure

	Inpatient D/C FIM	FIM D/C NRN	Assist Level
Grooming	6	6	Modified Indep
Bathing	2	4	Min A
UE Dressing	2	4	Min A
LB Dressing	1	6	Modified Indep
Toileting	1	3	Mod A
Bed/wheelchair	2	6	Modified Indep
Toilet	2	6	Modified Indep
Tub/shower	2	5	Supervision
walk	1	6	Modified Indep
Stairs	1	5	Mod A

# Outcome Measure Improvement

Outcome Assessment	Initial Assessment	Discharge Assessment
10 Meter Walk Test	Non-Ambulatory	0.61m/s
6 Minute Walk Test	Non-Ambulatory	662 feet
Berg Balance Measure	4/56	36/56
Neuromuscular Recovery Scale	1C	2C

**Discharge Disposition: Home**

# Post Intensive Therapy

## Assumption:

- Life Expectancy:  $54y + 22.7y = 76.7y$

### Equipment

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Hospital Bed	3-12.5 y	NA
Air Mattress	1-6 y	NA
Portable Lift	1-5 y	NA
Manual w/c	5-7 y	\$2,000-3,500
Power w/c	5-7 y	NA
Activaid 202	5-7 y	\$500
W/c cushion	1-3 y	\$450-550
w/c parts	1 y	\$675-2,100
Rolling Walker	1y	\$150
Forearm Crutches	1y	\$130
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$43,402-67,442</b>

### Transportation

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Driving Evaluation	1 x	\$1,000
Wheelchair Accessible Van	1 x	NA
Van maintenance & Adaptation	1y	NA
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>

### Architectural Needs

Item	Freq of Replacement (yrs)	Cost
Renovation	1 x	NA
<b>Total</b>		<b>NA</b>

**Total: \$44,402-68,442**

# Post Intensive Therapy

## Assumptions:

- Ave personal care hours for bathing/toileting: 2 hours/day

### Personal Care

Item	Hours/week & cost/hour	Cost
Personal Care	14 hours/week at \$13/hour X 1 year	\$9464
<b>Total</b>	<b>*22.7y</b>	<b>\$214,832</b>

### Totals

<b>Equipment, Architecture, Transportation</b>	<b>\$44,402</b>	<b>\$68,442</b>
<b>Personal Care</b>	<b>\$214,832</b>	<b>\$214,832</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$259,234</b>	<b>\$283,274</b>

# Return on Investment

	Pre Intensive Therapy	Post Intensive Therapy
Total	\$943,312	\$283,274
<b>Cost Reduction: \$660,038</b> <b>Outpatient Therapy Costs: \$150k</b> <b>Total Savings: ~\$510,038</b>		

**\*\*Planned skilled nursing facility discharge before Intensive outpatient therapy program**





# Evidence: SCI

Locomotor tr

**Walking improvements demonstrated in acute and chronic SCIs using various forms of locomotor training...**

Rehabilitation

7:98:2320-31



Spinal Cord



K.K. Yu, PhD,<sup>b</sup>

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, The Hong Kong

**Cochrane Conclusion (2012): There is insufficient evidence to conclude that any one approach to locomotor training is more effective than another for improving walking function in people with spinal cord injury.**

spinal cord injury (SCI).  
that compared robot-assisted upper limbs or lower  
involving people with complete or incomplete SCIs.  
Trials (Cochrane Library), and Embase to August  
training on subjects with SCI were screened to avoid

for functional ability were included. Assessments  
ective outcome measures were excluded from this

analysis was performed on the included studies.  
8%) and endurance (53.32m; 95% CI, -73.15 to  
groups. Lower limb robot-assisted training was also  
per limb robot-assisted training studies; therefore,

for patients with SCI. Future high-quality studies  
otatory recovery of patients with SCI.

This is a reprint of a Cochrane review, p  
2012, Issue 11

**Meta-Analysis Conclusion (Cheung 2017): Lower limb robotic training was also found to be as effective as other types of body-weight-supported training**

ction is usually observed after cervical SCI,  
ove the lumbar region can cause different de  
b disability depending on the severity of the  
lead to dependency in the activities of daily  
lation, and other complications, including  
rdiovascular diseases,<sup>3</sup> all of which degrade

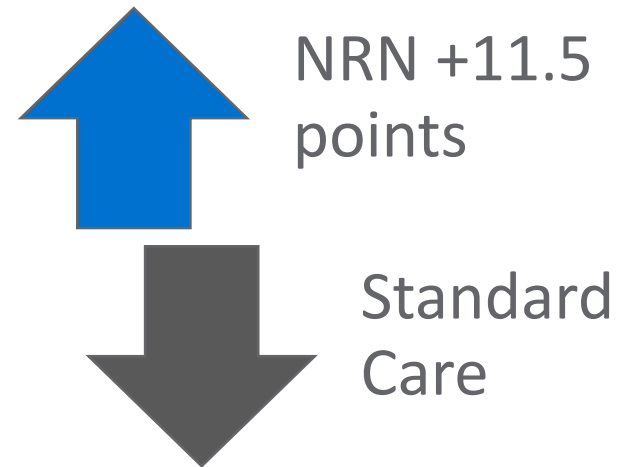
tion and the plasticity of the spinal cord after  
the spinal cord has some self-repair capacity;  
e, task-specific, functional training is consid-  
regaining functional ability after SCI. Func-  
manual assistance and body-weight-supported  
BWSTT) are common treatments.<sup>6</sup> However,  
quire manual assistance from a therapist to  
movements, which may limit the training's

Locomotor training for walking after spi  
Copyright © 2011 The Cochrane Collabo

# SCI Model Systems Data

## One Year Mobility Outcomes: N=144

Self-Care FIM Categories	Mobility FIM Categories
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Eating</li><li>2. Dressing–Upper Extremity</li><li>3. Dressing–Lower Extremity</li><li>4. Grooming</li><li>5. Bathing</li><li>6. Toileting</li></ol>	<p><i>Locomotion</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Walk, Wheelchair</li><li>2. Stairs</li></ol> <p><i>Transfers</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Bed, Chair, Wheelchair</li><li>2. Toilet</li><li>3. Tub, Shower</li></ol>



NRN patients had statistically significant higher mobility scores at 1 year than matched controls who received traditional therapy.

5 point FIM change = \$25k savings 1<sup>st</sup> year and \$4k each year after (Miller et al 2016)



NRN Savings: \$50k first year and \$8k each additional year

NRN Lifetime Saving: \$330k x 72 people = \$24 million dollars

# Odds of Walking Independently

Cases vs. Controls	N	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Walk 150ft In the Home	113	5.065	(1.435, 17.884)	0.013*
Walk 1 Street Block	113	2.933	(0.868, 9.910)	0.082
Walk 1 Flight of Stairs	113	5.817	(1.424, 23.756)	0.015*



NRN 5x more likely to walk independently in the home at 1 year than matched controls



NRN 3x more likely to walk 1 street block independently at 1 year than matched controls

NRN 6x more likely to walk 1 flight of stairs independently at 1 year than matched controls

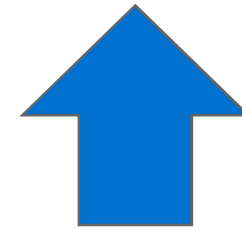
# One Year Life Satisfaction Outcomes

## The Satisfaction with Life Scale

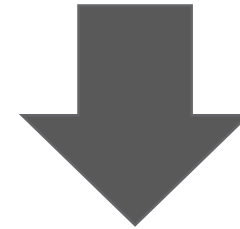
DIRECTIONS: Below are five statements with which you may agree or disagree. Using the 1-7 scale below, indicate your agreement with each item by placing the appropriate number in the line preceding that item. Please be open and honest in your responding.

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Slightly Disagree
- 4 = Neither Agree or Disagree
- 5 = Slightly Agree
- 6 = Agree
- 7 = Strongly Agree

- \_\_\_ 1. In most ways my life is close to ideal.
- \_\_\_ 2. The conditions of my life are excellent.
- \_\_\_ 3. I am satisfied with life.
- \_\_\_ 4. So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.
- \_\_\_ 5. If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.



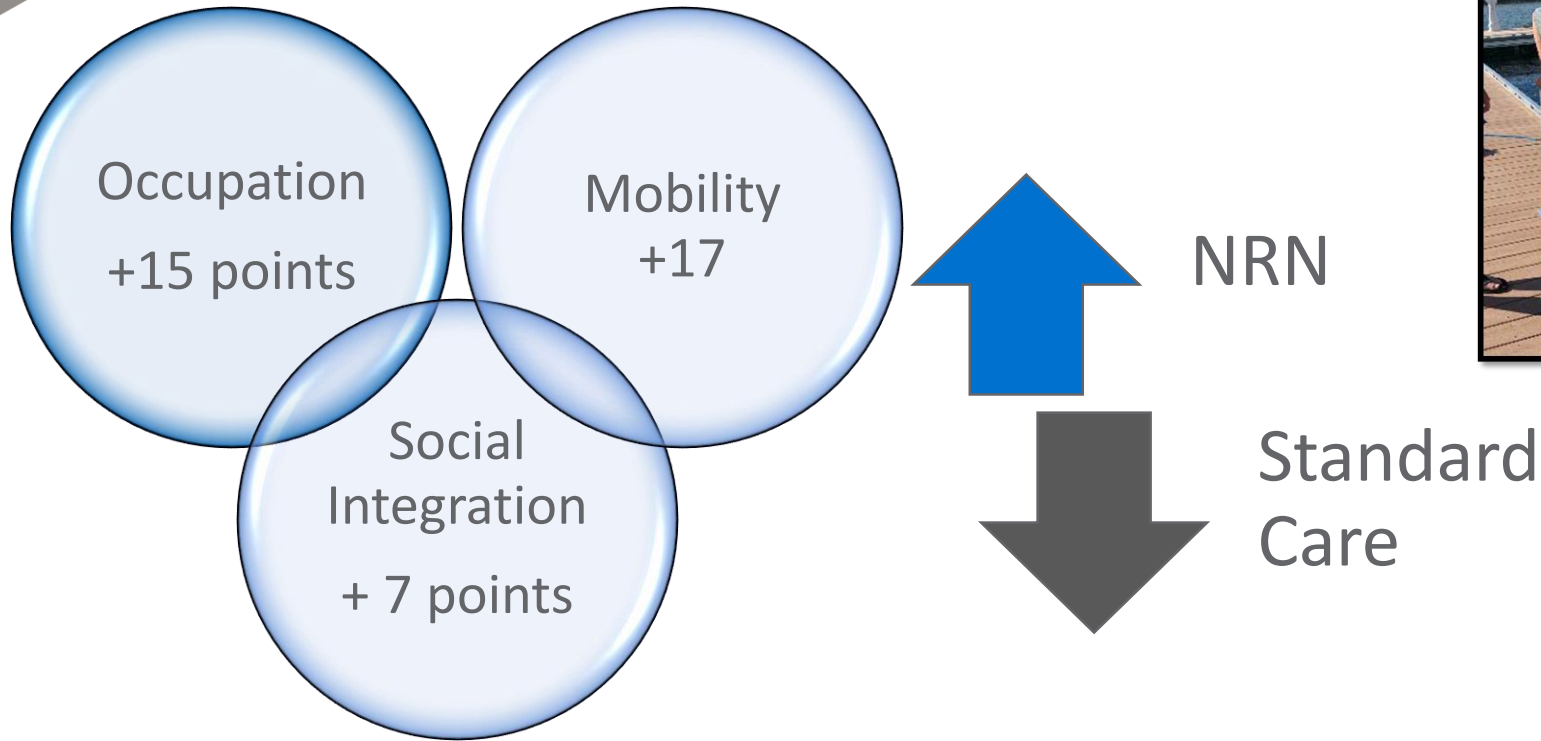
NRN +4  
points



Standard  
Care

NRN patients had statistically significant higher Life Satisfaction scores at 1 year than matched controls who received traditional therapy.

# One Year Community Participation Scores



NRN patients had statistically significant higher Community Participation Scores at 1 year than matched controls who received traditional therapy.

# One Year Re-Hospitalization Data



NRN

Each Hospitalization = \$40k  
NRN: \$400k  
Standard of Care: \$880k



Standard of Care 2.2x more likely to be re-hospitalized during the first year of injury.

	1 <sup>st</sup> year Re-hospitalization	Total Re-hospitalizations
NRN Group	8	10
Standard of Care	16	22

# Is Walking Important?

Shavelle et al 2015

- Model Systems Data
- AIS Ds
- Independent walking associated with **longer survival**
- ↑ Mortality associated with incontinence and being non-ambulatory
- **Life Expectancy ~90% of normal for Independent walking and continent vs. < 75% of normal**



# ROI: Health Care Costs



Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

journal homepage: [www.archives-pmr.org](http://www.archives-pmr.org)

Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 2013;94(4 Suppl 2):S87-97



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Rehospitalization in the First Year of Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury After Discharge From Medical Rehabilitation

**Conclusions:** Re-hospitalization rates among individuals with SCI in the first post-injury year remain high..... Re-hospitalization risk was associated with younger age, being a woman, unemployment, retirement, and Medicaid coverage.

**Those who had more intensive physical therapy had lower odds of re-hospitalization.**

The diagram illustrates a cycle of hospital re-hospitalization. It shows a path starting from a 'HOSPITAL EXIT' on the left, moving through a central area where a healthcare worker in a green uniform is pushing a patient in a red wheelchair. The path then leads to a 'HOSPITAL ENTRANCE' on the right. A red arrow curves from the entrance back to the exit, completing the cycle. A text box above the path states: 'Those who had more intensive physical therapy had lower odds of re-hospitalization'.

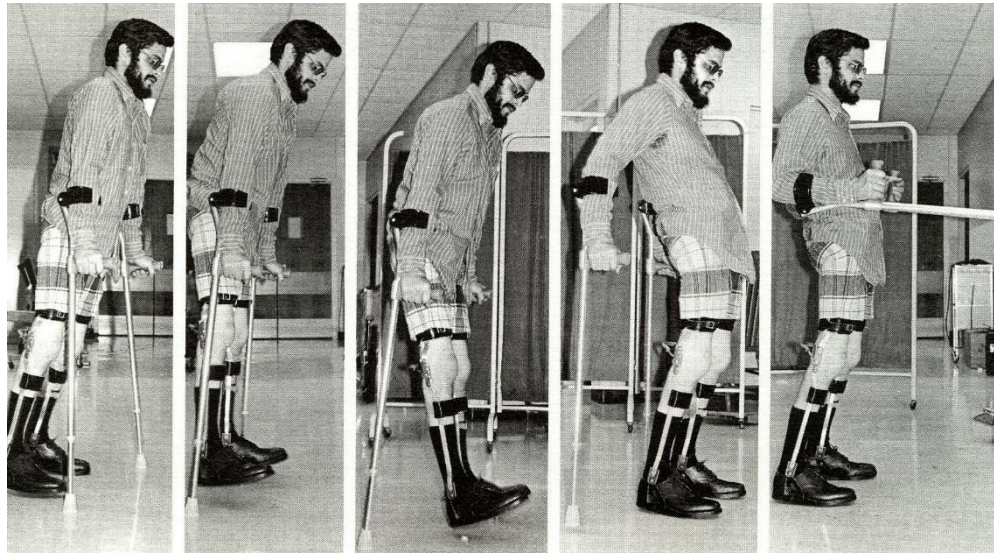
Those who had more intensive physical therapy had lower odds of re-hospitalization

## So What...



- Research supports intensive therapy interventions may facilitate recovery after neurologic injury
- Intensive therapy may reduce life time care costs:
  - Sherown: ~\$1.15 million dollars
  - Pete: ~ \$500,000
- NRN vs. Standard of Care: 24 million dollars (n=72)
- Decreased 1 year re-hospitalization rates and health care costs associated with intensive therapy
- What about individuals who are motor complete....New technologies on the horizon....

# “I Want to Walk” .....



# KAFOs and RGOs

## Considerations:

- Shoulder ROM & strength
- Shoulder joint integrity
- Hip ROM (extension)
- Physiological cost of walking
- Walking speed

## Rejection Rates ~75%

- Energy expenditure
- Applied UE forces

Swing Through Pattern



Reciprocating Gait Orthosis (RGO)



Karimi, Mohammad Taghi, and Francis Fatoye. "Evaluation of the performance of paraplegic subjects during walking with a new design of reciprocal gait orthosis." *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology* 11.1 (2016): 72-79.

Arazpour, M., et al. "The physiological cost index of walking with mechanical and powered gait orthosis in patients with spinal cord injury." *Spinal Cord* 51.5 (2013): 356-359.

Leung, Aaron KL, et al. "The physiological cost index of walking with an isocentric reciprocating gait orthosis among patients with T12-L1 spinal cord injury." *Prosthetics and orthotics international* 33.1 (2009): 61-68.



# Exoskeleton Survey of Stakeholder Perspectives

- Online survey of wheelchair users and health care professionals
  - 481 responses analyzed
    - 354 wheelchair users and 127 healthcare professionals
    - Mostly highly rated reason to recommend an exoskeleton: Health Benefits
    - 4 most important design features:
      - Minimization of fall risk
      - Comfort
      - Independence with donning/doffing
      - Purchase Cost

# Emerging Devices



**Rex™**

- Weight: 84 lb
- Control: Joystick/BMI
- No AD needed
- Slopes/Stairs



**Ekso™**

- Weight: ~ 50 lb
- Control: trigger on assistive device and torso tilt
- Variable Assist mode
- Crutches/Walker
- FDA: Rehab use only



**ReWalk™**

- Weight: ~56 lb
- Control: Wrist pad and torso tilt
- Available in Rehabs
- Gait all surfaces
- Crutches only
- FDA: Home Use



**Indego™**

- Weight: 27 lb
- Control: Postural
- Addition of FES
- Modular
- Variable power assist
- Gait all surfaces
- Crutches/Walker
- FDA: Home Use

# Exoskeleton Literature

- Walking speed .03-.45m/s (max .51m/s) Esquinazi 2012, Yang 2015, Louie 2015
- Reports of improvements in pain, bowel, bladder function and spasticity Esquinazi 2012, Miller 2016
- Subjects reported they enjoyed training Esquinazi 2012
- Metabolic cost of walking 3.5-4.3 METS/light to moderate exercise Evans 2015, Kozlowski 2015
- Training completed with CGA/close supervision Esquinazi 2012, Kozlowski 2015
- Efficacy has not been demonstrated Lajeunesse 2015
- Exoskeleton generally did not meet subjects' high expectations in terms of perceived benefits Benson et al 2016

# Community Wellness Center

## T3 AIS A x 20 years

- 2-3x/week x 3 years
- Walking without physical assist 72 visits
- Paying out of pocket for all sessions
  - ↓ Bowel program time
  - ↓ # of UTIs
  - ↓ Spasticity
  - ↑ Feeling of Health
- Research



# Out Patient Integration

## T4 AIS A/TBI

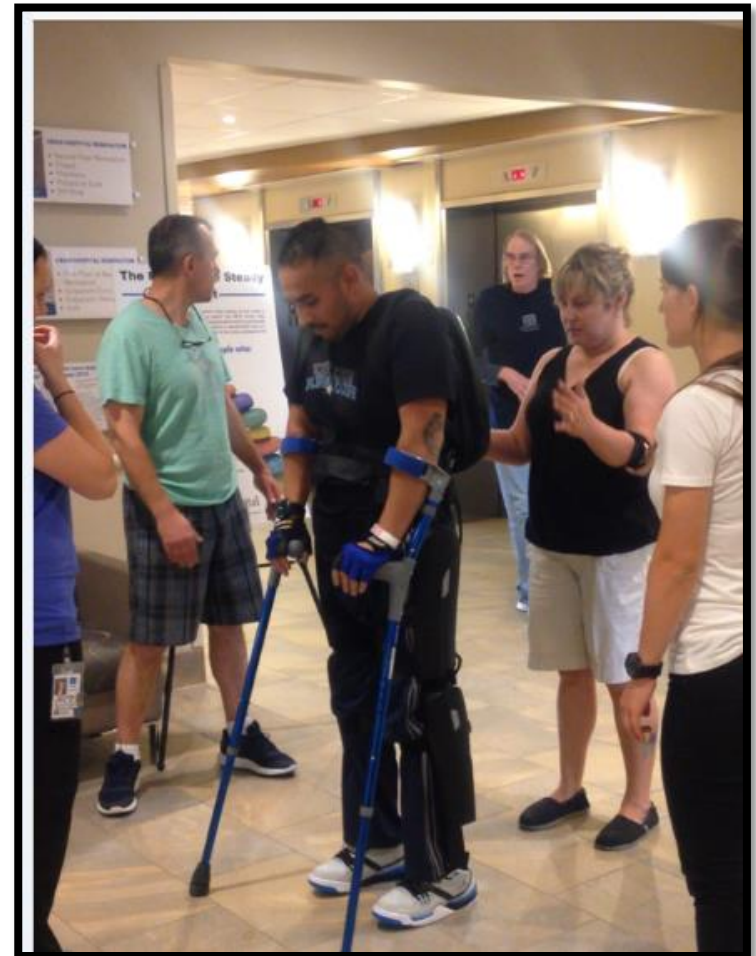
- 40 exoskeleton sessions in the community fitness program
- Purchased ReWalk independently
- Pays “companion” to walk with him 3-4x/week for health and wellness benefits
- 36 PT visits to achieve Min A level with companion
- Consistent follow through X 2 years

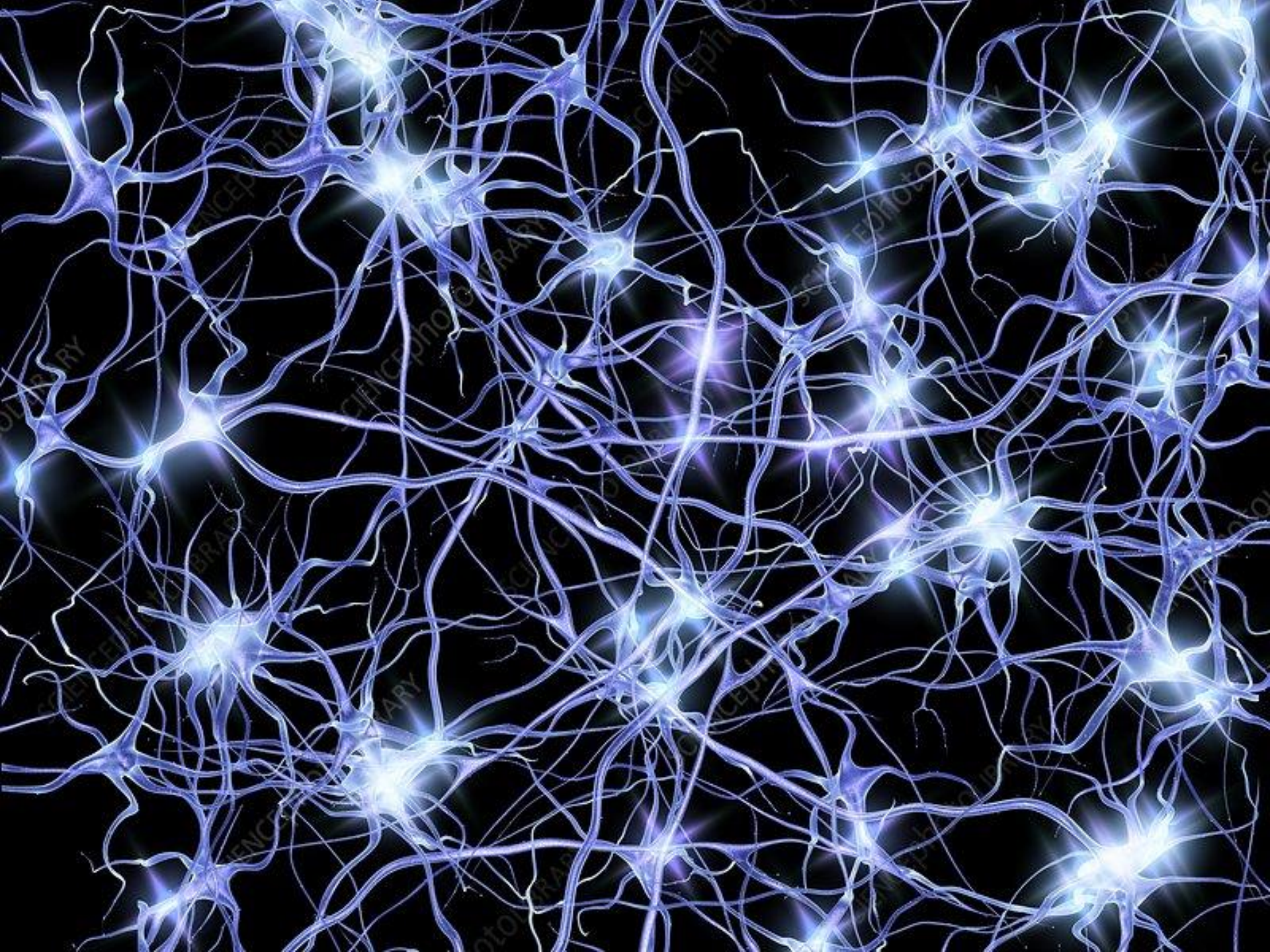


# Out Patient Integration

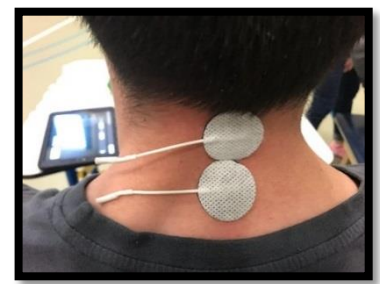
## T4 AIS A:

- Received Home Unit through foundation grant
- 28 sessions (~6 weeks)
- CGA ~16-18 sessions level ground
- Supervision: Sit→Stand; transfers; donning/doffing
- Companion needed more training with follow up after return to home
- Follow up: Not utilizing at 1 year





# Neuromodulation



**ACRM** Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ymrp  
Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ISSN:0895-2800) Sept 2015:95(9)

**CLINICAL NOTE**

**Preliminary Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation in Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury**

Dylan M. Nielson, BS,<sup>1</sup> Curtis A. McKnight, MD,<sup>1</sup> Riddhi N. Patel, BS,<sup>2</sup> Andrew J. Kalnin, MD,<sup>1</sup> Walter J. Mysiw, MD<sup>3</sup>

From the <sup>1</sup>Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH; <sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH; and <sup>3</sup>Department of Radiology, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH.  
 Content affiliation for keywords: (Lehigh University School of Medicine, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ)



**Effects of Lumbosacral Spinal Cord Epidural Stimulation for Standing after Chronic Complete Paralysis in Humans**

Enrico Rejc<sup>1</sup>, Claudia Angeli<sup>1,2</sup>, Susan Harkema<sup>1,2\*</sup>

**1** Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, United States of America, **2** Frazier Rehab Institute, Kentucky One Health, Louisville, Kentucky, United States of America

\* [SusanHarkema@KentuckyOneHealth.org](mailto:SusanHarkema@KentuckyOneHealth.org)

**Non-invasive brain stimulation for the treatment of symptoms following traumatic brain injury**

Simarjot K. Dhaliwal<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin P. Meeke<sup>1</sup> and Mandana M. Modirrousta<sup>2</sup>

Department of Psychiatry, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

*J Neurophysiol* 113: 834–842, 2015.  
 First published November 5, 2014; doi:10.1152/jn.00699.2014.

**Initiation and modulation of locomotor circuitry output with multisite transcantaneous electrical stimulation of the spinal cord in uninjured humans**

Yury Gerasimenko,<sup>1,5</sup> Ruslan Gorodnichiev,<sup>2</sup> Aleksandr Puhov,<sup>2</sup> Tatiana Moshonkina,<sup>1</sup> Aleksandr Savochin,<sup>1</sup> Victor Selonov,<sup>2</sup> Roland R. Roy,<sup>5,6</sup> Daniel C. Lu,<sup>4</sup> and V. Reggie Edgerton<sup>1,5,6\*</sup>

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Submitted 14 August 2014; accepted in final form 3 November 2014.

Clinical Research Article

**Epidural Electrical Stimulation for Stroke Rehabilitation: Results of the Prospective, Multicenter, Randomized, Single-Blinded Everest Trial**

Robert M. Levy, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Richard L. Harvey, MD<sup>2,3</sup>, Brett M. Kissela, MD<sup>4</sup>, Carolee J. Winstein, PhD<sup>5</sup>, Helmi L. Lutsep, MD<sup>6</sup>, Todd B. Parrish, PhD<sup>7</sup>, Steven C. Cramer, MD<sup>7</sup>, and Lalit Venkatesan, PhD<sup>8</sup>

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# Driving Recovery Forward

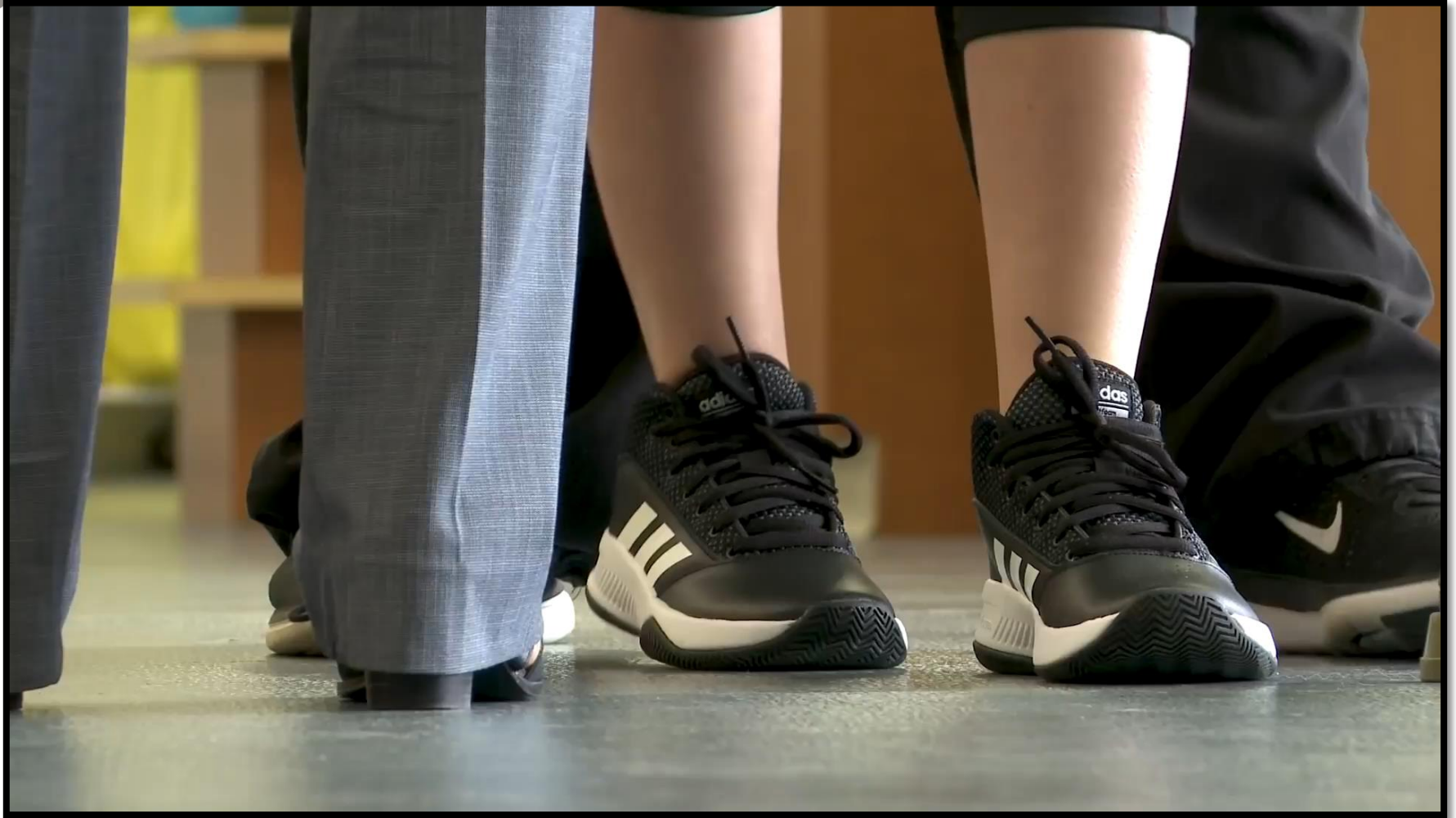
The Reeve Foundation's research programs are developing and delivering treatments and cures for spinal cord injury.



Epidural stimulation results in "Unprecedented Breakthrough" for paralysis community

Four young men who have been paralyzed for years achieved groundbreaking progress – moving their legs – as a result of epidural electrical stimulation of the spinal cord. [Learn more.](#)

# Epidural Stimulation







# Craig Hospital

Redefining Possible for People with Spinal Cord and Brain Injuries

[craighospital.org](http://craighospital.org)



thank you

**Questions?**