



Ekso Bionics Newsletter: Spinal Cord Injury

This month, we are highlighting challenges and strategies of rehabilitation in patients with Spinal Cord Injury. Acute care and skilled nursing facilities are looking for new strategies and technologies to get patients up and walking sooner as length of stay has been significantly reduced (SOURCE: NSCISC National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center 2016 Annual Report). A few state-of-the-art SCI technology trends to get patients up and walking earlier include wearable robots, Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES), stem cell therapies, and brain-computer Interfaces.



SCI Rehabilitation

With over 275,000 people in the US reported to have spinal cord injury (and 17,000 new cases each year), it's not surprising that acute care and skilled nursing rehab facilities are increasingly pressured to improve outcomes and patient turnover rates. From the time an SCI patient starts in an acute care facility to the time they are released from a skilled nursing facility is on average only 6-1/2 weeks.

[Click here for a larger view.](#)



SCI Patient Describes Walking in Ekso GT™

Sabrina McCoy, an SCI patient at Warm Springs Rehabilitation hospital shares her experience working with Ekso Bionics. What Sabrina, and other SCI patients often describe is how walking in Ekso GT™ makes them feel, getting closer to the person they were before their injury.

[Watch video here.](#)

Technology in SCI Rehabilitation

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital (Institute for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering) in Omaha, Nebraska began offering sessions with Ekso GT™ with Variable Assist to get patients up and walking

CASE STUDY

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital



Using Technology to Stay Ahead of Your Competition

Overview

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital is a national leader in specialized rehabilitation programs for traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke and pulmonary conditions for children and adults. They have been using Ekso GT with Variable Assist since April 2014. While their initial focus was for use with SCI patients, more recently their use of the gait-training device was expanded to include rehabilitation of patients with lower extremity weakness due to spinal cord injury (SCI) and strokes, in their rehabilitation institution.*

Challenge

As a cutting edge hospital, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital keeps its eye on the future of medical possibilities and is heavily invested in technologies that drive better patient outcomes. After acquiring a robotic weight supporting treadmill solution, they discovered an important transitional step was missing between that platform and traditional manual gait training tools.

Solution

After carefully researching their options, Madonna decided to purchase the Ekso GT with Variable Assist software because of the ability to progress their patients during gait training. They estimated at least 5 percent of their hospital patients with spinal cord injury would benefit from rehabilitation with the Ekso GT gait training system and believed that the total number could grow as use expanded to other patient populations.

Implementation

Initially it took Madonna longer than anticipated to increase the Ekso GT's use while its physical therapy staff adjusted to the technology. However, in under a year Madonna witnessed greater frequency of use. This is due in part to using the Ekso GT with Variable Assist Software (VAS) with patients presenting with lower extremity weakness due to SCI and Stroke.* In January, Madonna booked 35 Ekso GT sessions and the number continues to climb weekly. As the program's popularity increases, Madonna is training more therapists and recently purchased a third training course to teach additional PTs.

Highlights

Q&A with Chris Lee to learn more about Ekso GT at Madonna

Q: What has been your patients' reaction to the Ekso system?

A: There is a lot of excitement about this technology. Some

"We felt this technology would fit our patients' needs well. Additionally, having this type of technology helps make the case for why patients should travel regionally to receive services at our facility. I think our staff has embraced it as another technological tool for aiding recovery. It's versatility and the range of patients it fits has been pleasantly surprising to us."

Christopher A. Lee,
MSPT, FACHE Vice President of Rehabilitation
Madonna rehabilitation hospital

patients/families specifically state that they came here to use the technology as part of their rehabilitation and want to be sure they have the opportunity. Those who use it give it very good reviews.

Q: How has having the Ekso GT impacted your hospital's reputation?

A: Use of the Ekso is a significant benefit in my opinion. I think the technology is at a place now where any facility that does not have it will not be viewed as a serious regional provider.

Q: What are the benefits that are unique to Ekso GT gait training device?

A: It enables a wide range of people to benefit from over ground gait training as part of a rehabilitation program.

Q: What do you see as the next step with Ekso Bionics?

A: We would like to add a second unit at some point.

*for full indications for use please visit www.eksobionics.com

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with significant results for both patient and Physical Therapist.

[Read more here.](#)



Meet Mark Pollock: A lifetime's worth of inspiration

Some people are larger than life. Mark Pollock is one such person. Unbroken by blindness at 22, it didn't stop him from competing in ultra-endurance races across deserts, mountains, and the polar ice caps, including an epic 2-month expedition race to the South Pole.

Then, in July 2010, the challenge chose Mark. A tragic fall from a second story window left him paralyzed, and Mark is now exploring the frontiers of spinal cord injury recovery, combining the most innovative technology, cutting-edge research, and otherworldly commitment.

[Read the article here.](#)

Popular Mechanics Annual 2016 Breakthrough Awards

Popular Mechanics highlights Ekso Bionics as a breakthrough awards recipient. The award recognizes the research, innovators, scientists, and students who've made the world a little better this year.

[Read Full Story Here.](#)



Fall 2016 Conference Schedule

This fall, Ekso Bionics will be participating in 6 major industry conferences. Please visit us at our booths.

Aging 2.0

Oct 12 -14
Visit us at Booth #103



AAPMR PHYSIATRY CONFERENCE

OCT 20-23
Visit us at Booth # 201



ACRM American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

Oct 30 – Nov 4
Visit us at Booth # 300 – 302

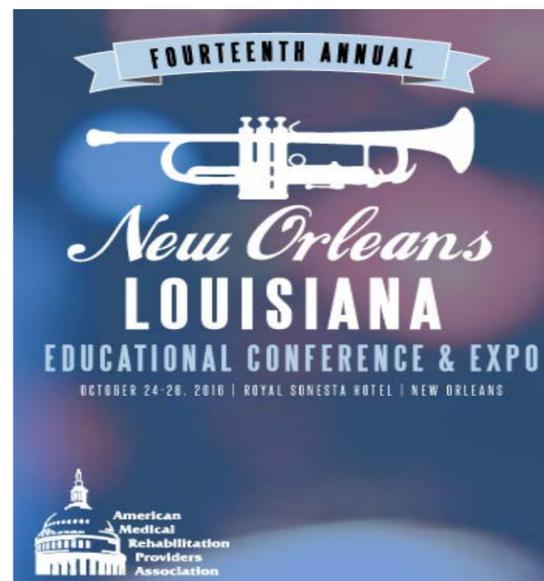
AHCA American Health Care Association

Oct 16 - 19
Visit us at Booth #584



AMRPA MED REHAB CONFERENCE

OCT 24-26



ASNR NEURO REHAB CONFERENCE

NOV 10-11

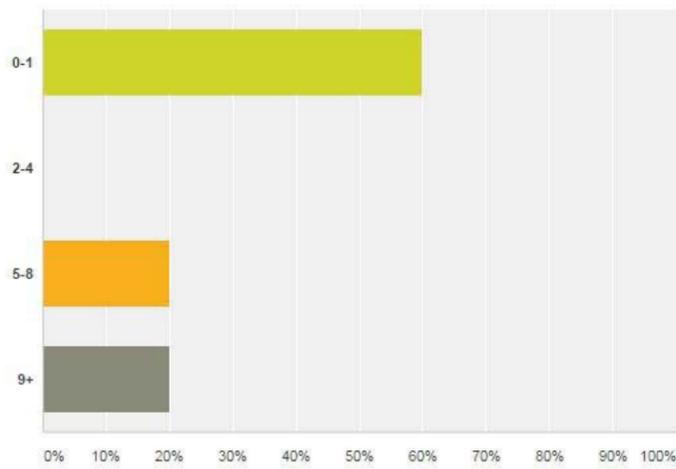


We want to learn from you!

Within each Ekso Bionics monthly themed newsletter, you will notice 1 (or 2) survey questions on neuro-rehabilitation. This month we are highlighting Spinal Cord Injury and would appreciate you taking 30 seconds to answer this question, shedding light on gait relearning and SCI. We will show survey results in the next month's newsletter. Click on this link to answer this month's question.

[Take survey here.](#)

How many different mobility interventions (including technology), ie walker/standing aid, FES bike, elliptical or passive standing frame, virtual reality, manual or robotic BWSTT, FES exoskeletons has your clinical practice used with stroke patients in the past 3 years?



What has been the MOST important criteria for your clinic to successfully integrate new mobility technologies?

