

# BENEFITS OF STANDING FOR ADULTS WITH NEUROMOTOR DISORDERS

Maryann M. Girardi, PT, DPT, ATP

Altimate Medical, Inc.

Disclosure: Maryann Girardi is an employee of Altimate Medical, Inc.

## List

List a minimum of 3 neuromotor disorders that benefit from the use of standing technology.

## Discuss

Discuss the evidence supporting the use of standing technology for adults with neuromotor disorders

## Describe

Describe how standing technology can be integrated into an individual's plan of care.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Caused by  
damage to the  
central nervous  
system

Can be  
developmental or  
acquired through  
injury/illness

Affects muscle  
tone, movement,  
posture, and  
gross/fine motor  
skills.

# NEUROMOTOR DISORDERS

# STANDING UPRIGHT SYMBOLIZES:

Moral rectitude

Vigor

Dignity

Autonomy



# PERCEIVED BENEFITS

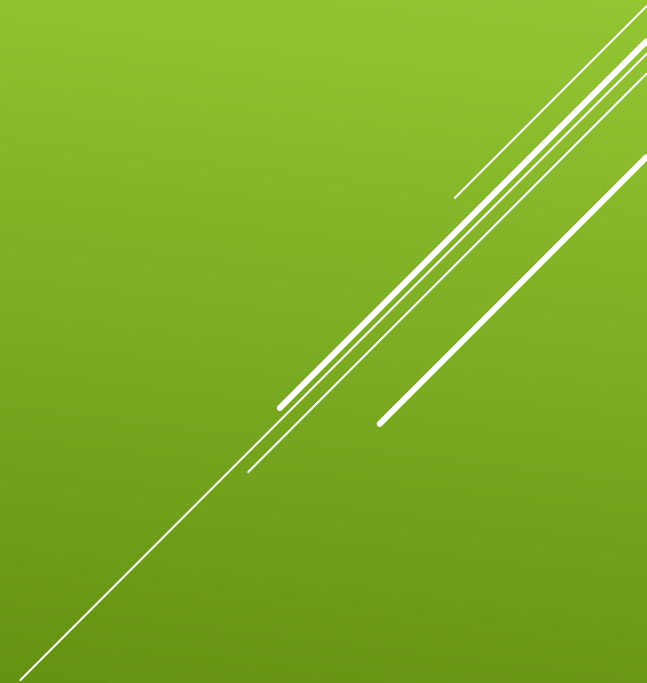


- 87% improved sense of well-being
- Sense of normality and enjoyment
- Increased participation in activities
- Sense of freedom
- 25% reported improved sleep

Dennett R, Hendrie W, Jarrett L, et al. "I'm in a very good frame of mind": a qualitative exploration of the experience of standing frame use in people with progressive multiple sclerosis. *BMJ Open*. 2020;10(10):e037680. Published 2020 Oct 28. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-037680

Eng JJ, Levins SM, Townson AF, Mah-Jones D, Bremner J, Huston G. Use of prolonged standing for individuals with spinal cord injuries. *Phys Ther*. 2001;81(8):1392-1399. doi:10.1093/ptj/81.8.1392

BUT THESE ARE NOT  
MEDICALLY  
NECESSARY





# MEDICAL BENEFITS OF STANDING



Bone Mineral Density

Spasticity

Range of Motion

Motor Skills

Respiration

Bowel and Bladder Function



# STANDING PROVIDES

Mechanical Loading

Symmetrical alignment

Prolonged stretch

Stimulates proprioception, touch, and vestibular systems

Initiates postural reactions



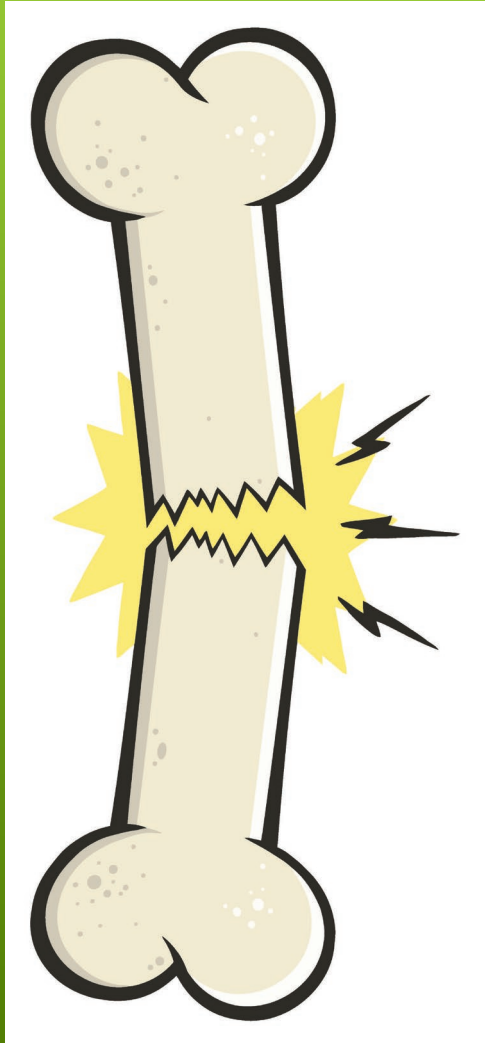
Toccolini BF, Osaku EF, de Macedo Costa CR, et al. Passive orthostatism (tilt table) in critical patients: Clinicophysiology evaluation. *J Crit Care* 2015;30(3):655.e1-655.e6556. doi:10.1016/j.jcrc.2014.12.018

# DISUSE OSTEOPOROSIS



- Bone loss due to local skeletal unloading
- Sclerostin levels increased
- High bone resorption and low bone formation
- Weightbearing decreases reabsorption

# BMD AND FRACTURES



1.5 million osteoporosis-related fractures each year

SCI-100 times fracture rate by age 50

Stroke-7 times fracture rate

MS-20-40% increased fracture rate

Contributing factors

- Immobility
- Mechanical unloading
- Time since injury

# BMD SCI

Initiated 1-4 weeks post injury

Immobilization loss 6.9%-9.4% of BMD

standing and standing and walking had moderate loss or moderate increase in bmd

- Immobilization
- Standing
- Standing and walking





# BMD SCI

Peak increased  
resorption 3 months  
post injury

Supported standing 1  
hour/day 5 days/week

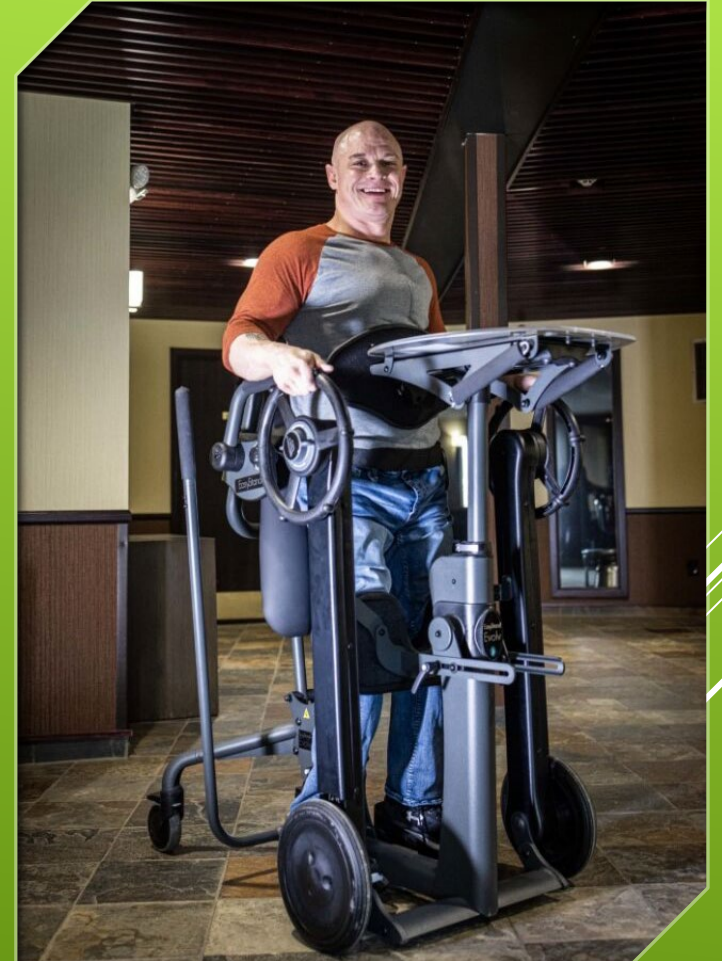
- Initiated 8-12 weeks post SCI

BMD Loss during first  
year

- Standing 19.62%
- Non-standing 24%

LE BMD at 2 years post  
SCI-

- Standing 1.018 g/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Non-standing 0.91 g/cm<sup>2</sup>



# BMD STROKE



Majority of reduction is in the first 7 months

Non-ambulatory

- 10% loss on paretic side
- 5% loss on non-paretic side

Ambulatory

- 3% loss on paretic side

BMD dependent on

- ambulation
- amount of weight born on paretic leg



# SPASTICITY

38% of stroke survivors experience spasticity within one year after a first stroke

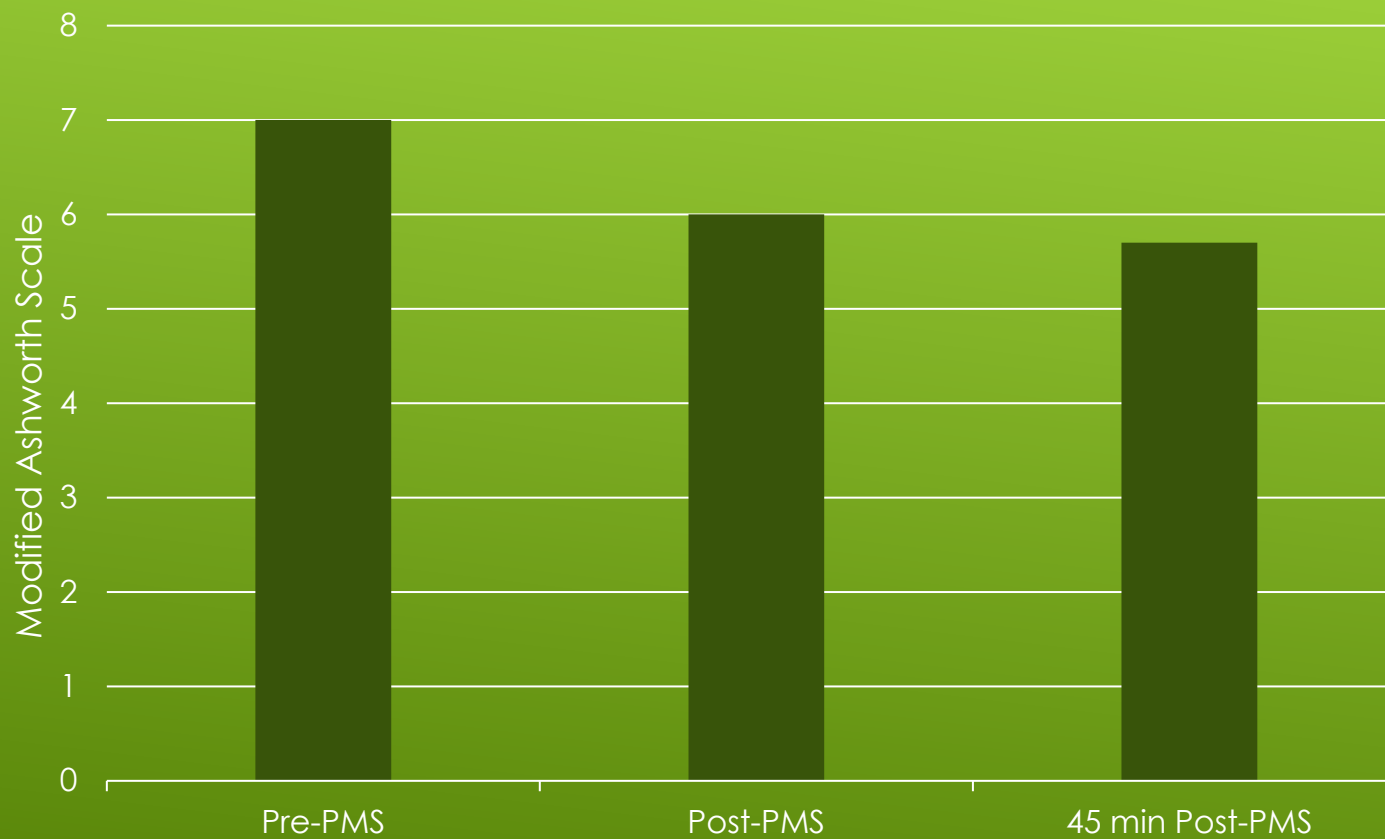
84% of MS (34%, it affects their daily life)

62% of SCI

82.9% of CP

# Spasticity STROKE

30 minutes of standing



Tsai KH, Yeh CY, Chang HY, Chen JJ. Effects of a single session of prolonged muscle stretch on spastic muscle of stroke patients. *Proc Natl Sci Counc Repub China B*. 2001;25(2):76-81.

# SPASTICITY sci



9 paraplegics

8 sessions on 4 consecutive days

30 min of stretch or weight load

Stretching- braced in max dorsiflexion in supine

85° standing with 15° dorsi or plantarflexion

Spasticity reduction

- Standing-32% dorsiflexion and 26% plantarflexion
- Stretching- 17%

# STRETCHING



4 weeks of daily stretching did not change ankle ROM in recent SCI

Sustained stretching of longer duration more effective to improve range of motion and reduce spasticity

# ROM SCI



20 patients with recent SCI

12-week standing program

30 min standing 3 x/week

Mean increase

- 4° ankle ROM
- 0.005g/cm<sup>2</sup> increase BMD



# ROM MS



6 adults dx with secondary progressive MS

Single blind randomized crossover study

Standing 30 m/d or daily exercise program cross over after 3 weeks

Significant Improvements in hip and ankle ROM in standing phase

Downward trend in Modified Ashworth scores



# ROM TBI



36 adults with severe TBI and ankle plantar flexion contracture

6 week standing E-stim and ankle splinting vs standing alone

Standing alone had an average of 3° more passive dorsiflexion

Leung J, Harvey LA, Moseley AM, Whiteside B, Simpson M, Stroud K. Standing with electrical stimulation and splinting is no better than standing alone for management of ankle plantarflexion contractures in people with traumatic brain injury: a randomised trial. *J Physiother.* 2014;60(4):201-208. doi:10.1016/j.jphys.2014.09.007

# MOTOR FUNCTION MS

MS patients 36 weeks  
home standing  
program

Significant increase  
(mean of 4.7 points) in  
motor score measure  
by Amended Motor  
Club Assessment

Significant increase in  
dynamic sitting  
balance



# MOTOR FUNCTION STROKE



Single Blinded Randomized controlled trial

50 Acute stroke patients 18+ years of age

Conventional therapy & 30 min standing **OR**  
Conventional therapy 5d/week for 2 weeks

Significant changes in both Berg Balance  
Scale and River Mead Motor Assessment

Rakesh RD, Hegde M, Chippala P. Effect of supported standing on functional ability in patients with acute stroke: a single-blinded randomized controlled trial. International Journal of Current Research and Review 2015; 7(19): 65.

60 stroke patients

Tilt table- 30 minutes daily for 3 weeks for test group

LE function significantly increased compared to control group

LE FUNCTION



# MOTOR FUNCTION

CP



Standing 30 min/day  
3 days/week

- Head control > 30 seconds
- Functional stand pivot transfers

# Motor Function STROKE

58-year-old male left hemiparesis & contraversive pushing (CoP) secondary to frontoparietal intracerebral hemorrhage

No active movement, impaired sensation and proprioception, increased tone and left inattention

Initially standing in therapy until tolerated standing consistently then group standing sessions

Measures Burke Lateropulsion Scale (BLS) and FIM

Date	BLS score	Total standing time	FIM Efficiency
Admit assessment	11/17 (Mod CoP)	0 min	
Admit + 24 days	0/17 ( No CoP)	380 min	1.1



# MOTOR FUNCTION

13 SNF residents ages 71-93 years old

12-week physical activity in standing device

Increase in LE strength and FIM scores

60% of those who required assistance to stand

- Independent sit to stand
- Independent standing 1 min
- Walked 14 min with walker



# RESPIRATORY ISSUES



3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for individuals with a disability

Decreased

- Vital capacity
- Tidal volume
- Forced expiratory volume

# RESPIRATION

Increased Vital capacity

Increased forced expiratory volume

40% improved breathing

Sezer N, Akkuş S, Uğurlu FG. Chronic complications of spinal cord injury. *World J Orthop*. 2015;6(1):24-33. Published 2015 Jan 18. doi:10.5312/wjo.v6.i1.24

Lin F, Parthasarathy S, Taylor SJ, Pucci D, Hendrix RW, Makhsous M. Effect of different sitting postures on lung capacity, expiratory flow, and lumbar lordosis. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*. 2006;87(4):504-509. doi:10.1016/j.apmr.2005.11.031





# RESPIRATION



15 adults intubated and mechanically ventilated <5 days

Passive tilt 70° for 5 min

Increased

Minute ventilation

Tidal volume

Respiratory rate

Maintained during and immediately past tilt

Chang AT, Boots RJ, Hodges PW, Thomas JT, Paratz JD. Standing with the assistance of a tilt table improves minute ventilation in chronic critically ill patients. Arch Phys Med Rehabil 2004;84:1972–6.

# BOWEL FUNCTION

48% stroke

41% TBI

50% MS

58% SCI

SCI

Stood 5  
times/week

Improvement in  
frequency of BMs

Decreased bowel  
care time



Hoenig H, Murphy T, Galbraith J, Zolkewitz M. Case study to evaluate a standing table for managing constipation. *SCI Nurs*. 2001;18(2):74-77.  
Li J, Yuan M, Liu Y, Zhao Y, Wang J, Guo W. Incidence of constipation in stroke patients: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Medicine (Baltimore)*. 2017;96(25):e7225. doi:10.1097/MD.00000000000007225

# BLADDER FUNCTION

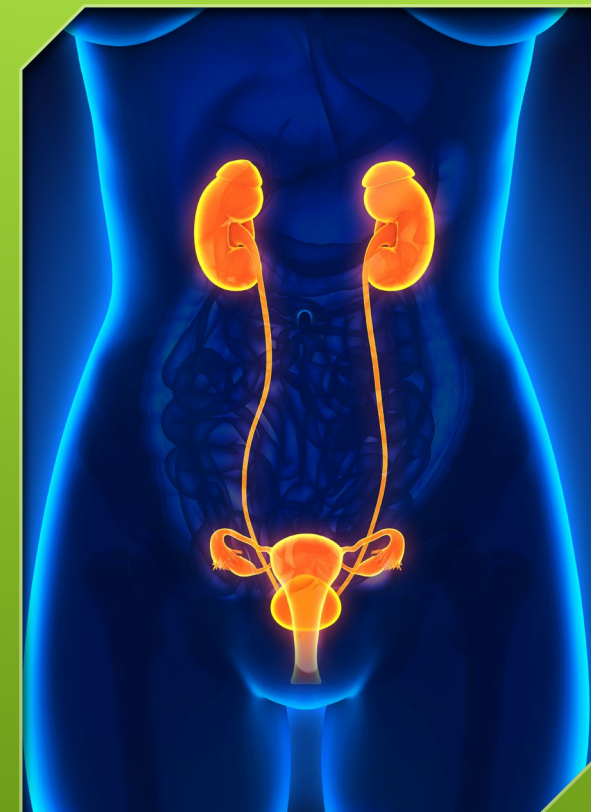
Bladder distension most common trigger for Autonomic Dysreflexia

Bladder pressure increased in standing

Increased glomerular filtration rate

21% improved emptying

Decreased calciuria





# DISORDERS OF CONSCIOUSNESS



23 patients 18+ , intubated or tracheostomized and weaning from mechanical ventilation

Daily verticalization

Increased scores on Glasgow Coma Scale and Richmond Agitations-Sedation Scale

# DOC STROKE

Randomized blinded case control-study

Verticalization started 8-11 days post onset

8-13 training sessions

Increase in consciousness after 4-6 sessions

No negative effects ( orthostatic, CT/MRI changes)



# SCI

- ▶ 74% improved circulation
- ▶ 61% improved reflex activity
- ▶ 53% improved bowel and bladder
- ▶ 45% improved digestion
- ▶ 42% reduced LE edema
- ▶ 39% improved respiration
- ▶ 32% decreased pain

# All Users

65% improved circulation

59% reduced tension/stiffness

41% improved BMD

41% prevents deformities

31% improved respiration

18% reduced risk of pressure

# PERCEIVED MEDICAL BENEFITS

# STANDING PROGRAMS

30 MIN/DAY 5 DAYS/WEEK



- Initiate as soon as possible
- Start in therapy and then incorporate into daily routine
- Identify activities that can be done in stander
  - Vocational
  - Recreational
  - Therapeutic
    - Active exercise
    - Stretching
    - UE activities





“Although experimental evidence is limited due to many factors, lived-experience and cohort data suggest that successful integration of standing programs into age-appropriate and meaningful activities may enhance function, participation, and overall health.”





[Maryann.Girardi@altimatemedical.com](mailto:Maryann.Girardi@altimatemedical.com)

Phone: 507-697-2786

Cell: 978-773-0320

**QUESTIONS?**

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