

Early Identification: Mobility and Positioning Priorities for Children with Cerebral Palsy



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Disclosures

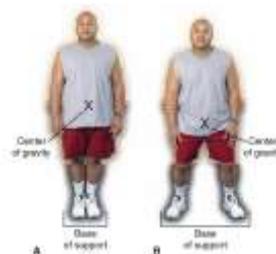
- Elisabet, Debbie and Roslyn have nothing to disclose.
- Ginny is a paid educational consultant for Prime Engineering, a manufacturer of standers and gait trainers.



Instability - function

- 9 of 10 unstable in manual wheelchair
- 6 of 10 unstable in power wheelchair
- 4 of 10 cannot propel due to instability
- Instability restricts arm and hand function

Conditions for stability



Stability requirements



Instability - attention

Interaction Between Executive Attention and Postural Control in Dual-Task Conditions

“Children with spastic CP are significantly more unstable compared with typically developing children, in the dual-task condition”

Instability

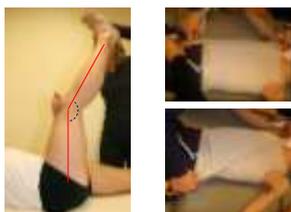


- increases the risk for deformities
 - increases the energy cost
 - reduces function
 - makes it difficult to sit and sleep comfortably
- Identification of postural asymmetry should be a red flag to screen for contractures and deformities

How can we measure it?



Range of motion



Posture and Postural Ability Scale

Quality, frontal (score 1=yes, 0=no)	
Head midline	
Trunk symmetrical	
Pelvis neutral	
Legs separated and straight relative to pelvis	
Arms resting by side	
Weight evenly distributed	
Total score	



The changes start early...



Brown 1985

- The pattern is established very early this gives us a very good reason for saying that early diagnosis and early intervention is important to overcome the immobility
- **“If the child cannot change his own position, change it for him”**
- Start within a few weeks of birth if the child shows any delay in the development of normal postural skills!

Postural management Consensus statement

- A postural management programme is a planned approach encompassing all activities and interventions which impact on an individual's posture and function.
- Programmes are tailored specifically for each child and may include special seating, night-time support, standing supports, active exercise, orthotics, surgical interventions, and individual therapy sessions.
- Children should start 24-hour postural management programmes **in lying as soon as appropriate after birth, in sitting from 6 months, and in standing from 12 months**

There is ~~is~~ **POWER** in Mobility

