

POWER WHEELCHAIR DRIVING METHODS, PART 1



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Quantum Rehab Studio

Stealth i-Drive Head Array

QUANTUM®


STEALTH PRODUCTS
Solutions For Life

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Introductions

- Hello!
 - Introductions all around!
 - Goals for today
- Disclosure:
 - Michelle: while I do teach educational courses for Stealth Products, a manufacturer of alternative driving methods, I am in Private Practice, I use a variety of equipment, and will attempt to present this information in a non-biased way
 - Wade: I am a Physical Therapist by background and am currently employed by Quantum Rehab as a Clinical Education Manager.



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Learning Outcomes:

1. The participant will be able to describe 3 reasons clients may not be able to use a standard joystick.
2. The participant will be able to list 3 alternative proportional driving methods and clinical indicators for each.
3. The participant will be able to operate a power wheelchair with at least 3 alternative proportional driving methods.

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Handouts


- Mini Proportional Joystick Comparison Chart
- Joystick Decision Making Tree
- Non-proportional Driving Methods Decision Making Tree
- Head Array Comparison
- Programmable Driving Methods

• Also available at www.atilange.com, under Resources

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What we will be covering:



- Power Wheelchair Driving Methods
 - Driving Methods – Proportional (Analog)
 - Driving Methods – Non-Proportional (Digital)



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Do I get to play?

- Hands-on time today!
 - Yes!
 - We also have lots of videos and can have lots of discussion!
 - And we encourage you to follow-up with your manufacturer reps to try these out further!

ASL ATOM

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Power Wheelchair Driving Methods

- There are many power wheelchair driving methods available
- This provides a means of independent mobility for a wide variety of clients, including children



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Some thoughts...

- Impact on Power Wheelchair Driving Method success:
 - Optimal positioning
 - PWC assessment
 - Drive wheel configuration
 - Tracking technologies
 - Programming
 - Mobility training



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Proportional Driving Methods

- Also called **Analog**
- Primarily Joysticks
- 360 degree directional control
- Speed control
- vs. **Digital**



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Joystick - hand

- Proportional joystick control requires grading of force and distance of movement
- Grading requires co-contraction of the flexors and extensors
- Difficult for clients with abnormal muscle tone



Quantum Rehab Q-Logic 3 joystick

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Clinical Decision Making

- Does the client have the ability to grade the force and distance of their movement?
 - Yes
 - Explore Standard Joysticks
 - No
 - Explore Digital Driving Methods



R-net joystick

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Clinical Decision Making

- Does the client have adequate movement and motor control for joystick use?
 - Yes
 - Explore Standard Joystick
 - No
 - Explore Digital Driving Methods



Invacare LINX joystick

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Clinical Decision Making

- Can the client optimally control a standard joystick mounted at the end of the armrest?
 - Yes
 - Explore standard mounting
 - No
 - Explore alternative placements



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Joystick placement

- Sometimes the problem is location...
- Most joysticks are mounted at the end of the armrest to one side of the wheelchair



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Swing away joystick mounts

- Allows more midline placement



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Joystick Angles

- The angle of the joystick can also be changed to match the angle of client movement



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Remember...

- We can make the client 'fit' the equipment
 - or
- We can make the equipment 'fit' the client

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Clinical Decision Making

- If a midline mount is required, does the client need to independently move this out of the way?
 - Yes
 - Explore power mounting
 - No
 - Caregiver can move mount out of way for transfers

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Power Options

- Motion Concepts Power joystick mount



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Clinical Decision Making

- Does the client have difficulty grasping a standard joystick handle?
 - Yes – Explore other style joysticks or other handles
 - No – Explore standard joystick



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Mushroom Joystick

- Designed for clients who cannot grasp a joystick handle
 - Two handle sizes
 - Provides a resting spot for the wrist
 - Also works well at the foot
- Alternative:
 - Bodypoint dome handle
 - Textured



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Joystick Handles

- Goal post style designed for poor grasp



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Clinical Decision Making

- Does the client have excessive force which could break a standard joystick?
 - Yes – Explore heavy duty joystick
 - No – Explore standard joystick



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Heavy Duty Joystick

- Heavy Duty to withstand significant forces
 - Significant force may mean decreased control



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Heavy Duty Joystick

- Mo-Vis
- All-round Heavy Duty Joystick
- For clients who use excessive force
 - Enlarged throw (40 mm) and force (650 grams)
- Non-removable handle
- 2 switch jacks
 - Power and Mode
- Mini USB port for programming
- Retrofit a standard joystick to accommodate excessive force



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Mo-Vis

- Mo-Vis is in Belgium
- Distributed by Stealth Products and Permobil
- Great line of alternative driving methods
- Unique programming software



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Time-Out!

- In the USA, we have 4 main PWC Electronics packages:
 - R-Net
 - Permobil
 - Quickie PWCs (under Sunrise Medical)
 - Q-Logic
 - Quantum Rehab PWCs (under Pride Mobility)
 - LINX
 - Invacare PWCs
- Each electronics package has unique programming features



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Power Wheelchair Driving Methods

- Each power wheelchair comes standard with a joystick
- Alternative driving methods are made by companies which are owned by the major PWC manufacturers:
 - Invacare
 - Adaptive Switch Labs (ASL)
 - Quantum Rehab
 - Stealth Products, Mo-Vis
 - Permobil
 - HMC, Mo-Vis
 - Quickie
 - Switch It
- Most driving methods are compatible with ANY PWC



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Clinical Decision Making

- Is there adequate room to mount a standard joystick where required for optimal control?
 - Yes – Use a Standard Joystick
 - No – Consider Compact Joystick

Quantum Rehab
Q-Logic 3 joystick



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Compact Joystick

- Compact Joysticks take up less space
- Increases mounting options
- Strategy required to change modes and control power



Mo-Vis All Round
Compact joystick



ASL
Compact
Joystick
Single

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Compact Joystick

- Compact Joystick Single Switch
- Textured for easier grasp
- Top is non-removable
- One switch on top of joystick acts as a Reset
- Dual Switch version
 - Two switches on top of joystick send signals thru 2 switch jacks



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Time-Out!

- Mode?
- When a PWC is first turned on, it is in Driving Mode
- The Reset or Mode switch changes the Mode of operation of the PWC
- The Reset/Mode switch can provide access to:
 - Reverse
 - Speeds
 - Power Seating
 - Mouse emulation (through BT)
 - IR transmission
 - Control of an interfaced AT device



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Compact Joysticks

- ASL
 - Compact Joystick Single Switch
 - Dual Version
- Mo-Vis
 - All Round Joystick
 - Light version
- Switch It
 - Versa Guide
 - Light version (EZ)



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Max

- Max uses a Compact joystick to drive his power wheelchair
- Reset behind his left elbow
- Splint for stability and consistent wrist position for optimal joystick control



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Clinical Decision Making

- Does the client have the ability to grade the force and distance of movement, as well as have adequate movement and motor control, but not at the hand?
 - Yes, at the foot
 - Explore proportional foot control
 - No – explore Digital Driving Methods



Movis

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Foot Control

- Proportional foot control
- Attaches to compact joystick
- Some clients will have better control with the foot "free"



Movis



HMC/Permobil



Stealth Footrest Adapter for Mushroom

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Riley

- Riley drives with her right foot on a custom 3D handle similar to a goal post style, mounted to a Stealth Products Mushroom Joystick



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Clinical Decision Making

- Does the client have adequate force to initiate and sustain joystick direction?
 - Yes – Explore Standard Joysticks
 - No – Explore Mini Proportional Joysticks



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Mini Proportional Joysticks

- Mini Proportional Joysticks require less active force and travel to activate
- Standard joystick requires approximately 250 grams of force
- Many Minis require approximately 50 grams of force
 - Often appropriate for use at the chin
- Many Minis require approximately 10 grams force
 - Often appropriate for use at a finger or thumb

Switch It Micro Pilot



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Clinical Decision Making

- Will the client use the mini joystick by the chin?
 - Yes
 - Mini proportional joysticks require less force than a standard or compact joystick, reducing RSI risk
 - Minis requiring approximately 50 grams of force work best at the chin

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Mo-Vis Mini Proportional Joysticks

- Mo-Vis
- Mo-Vis Multi Joystick
 - 49 grams
 - 7.1 mm throw
 - 2 switch jacks on joystick and on interface box
 - Mini USB on configuration box for programming
 - Various mounting options



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Switch It Mini Proportional Joysticks

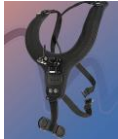
- MicroPilot
 - Isometric joystick
 - Requires very little throw
 - Relies on force instead, approximately 10 -50 grams
 - Adjustable force
 - May result in less extraneous movement by the chin
 - Can mount parallel to floor



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Clinical Decision Making

- Will the client use the mini joystick by the chin?
 - Yes
 - Are Secretions an issue?
 - Yes
 - Use a sealed mini proportional joystick



Mo-Vie Chin Control Harness



Stealth Products

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ASL Mini Proportional Joystick

- Extremity Control
 - 120 grams
 - sealed



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Stealth Mini Proportional Joysticks

- Precision Mini Proportional Joystick (PMP)
 - Sealed
- i-Drive version
 - A line of alternative access methods that work on any PWC electronics package and can be programmed through the PWC programmer or separately through i-Drive software on a computer or tablet
 - Can combine with switches



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iDrive

- A line of programmable driving methods
- Stealth Products
- Includes USB and BT programming options
- iClick mouse emulation capable
- Compatible with Loonz App
- Compatible with Stealth VR



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Clinical Decision Making

- Will the client use the mini joystick by the finger or thumb?
 - Yes
 - Minis with approximately 10 grams of force work well in this area
 - Less leverage by finger or thumb than by chin



Permobil HMC

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ASL Mini Proportional Joysticks

- ASL Extremity Control
 - 120 grams, sealed
- Molecule
 - Magnet returns joystick to center
- MEC
 - 18 grams



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Mini Proportional Joysticks

- HMC
 - Permobil
 - 13 grams



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Mo-Vis Mini Proportional Joysticks

- Mo-Vis
- Mo-Vis Micro Joystick
 - 8.5 grams
 - 3.3 mm throw
 - 2 handles
 - 2 switch jacks on interface box
 - Mini USB on configuration box for programming
 - Various mounting options



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Mo-Vis Configurator Software

- Many parameters can be adjusted separate and in addition to the power wheelchair programming parameters
- Road Compensation
 - The wheelchair automatically slows when encountering uneven terrain
 - Prevents reduced control with sensitive joysticks mounted at the hand or chin
 - Adjustable in X & Y axes
- Tilt Sensing
 - If joystick is tilted more than 45 degrees, it will not longer respond
 - Can be enabled or disabled



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Switch It Mini Proportional Joysticks

- MicroPilot
 - Isometric joystick
 - Requires very little throw
 - Relies on force instead, approximately 11 - 50 grams
 - Adjustable force
 - Can mount parallel to floor
- Micro Guide
 - Non-Isometric
 - 25 grams



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Clinical Decision Making

- Does the client have difficulty using a joystick by the hand during cold conditions?
 - Yes
 - Try a hand warmer



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Other Items!

- Mo-Vis
- Hand Warmer
 - Hard to drive when hands are cold
 - MS
 - Duchenne
 - Recycles air from in front of warmer to reduce energy consumption
 - Programmable
 - Temperature, fan speed
 - Optional Hand Hood



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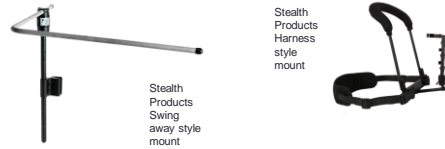
Mini Proportional Joysticks

- Mounting options
 - Hand
 - Head

55

Clinical Decision Making

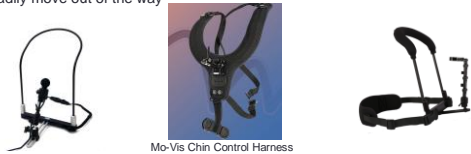
- Choose a mount by the chin.
 - Swing away mount stays in position relative to the wheelchair
 - Bib or harness mount stays in position relative to the client
 - Does the client need to move the mount independently?
 - Power mount



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Mounting - Head

- Harness and bib
- Some clients need the joystick mounted at the chin
- Some mounting options mount to the client
- This keeps the joystick in better alignment with the client, though does not readily move out of the way

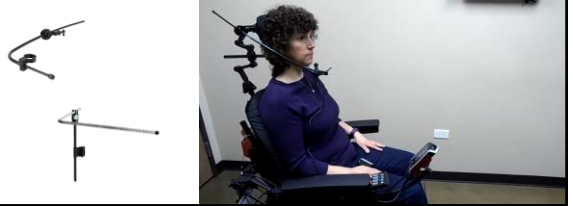


Mo-Vis Chin Control Harness

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Mounting - Head

- Swing-away bar
 - Stays in position relative to the chair



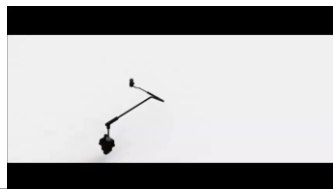
58

Head - Power Options

- Power swing away
 - Joysticks
 - Slip 'n Puff
 - Any control by mouth
 - Hydration
 - Lightweight devices



Mo-Vis Multi Swing



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Clinical Decision Making

- Choose a mount by the hand.
 - Ensure that the forearm, wrist and hand are well supported
 - Armtrough or tray
 - Ensure the joystick is mounted in the optimal position
 - Hand pad
 - Midline and/or swing away mount, as needed



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Mounting - Hand

- Many clients using a mini proportional joystick by the hand require hand and forearm support
- Mounting in a tray or hand tray provides support, protects the joystick and provides height adjustment in relation to the tray



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Ryan

- Micro in a handpad
- Mode by medial knee, twister switch on locline



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Review Time!

- What is an option for each of the following scenarios?
 - The client does not have the best control of the joystick at the end of the armrest
 - Midline mount
 - The client needs a smaller joystick, perhaps for alternative placement
 - Compact joystick
 - The client needs a more sensitive joystick
 - Mini Proportional joystick

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POWER WHEELCHAIR DRIVING METHODS, PART 2

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Learning Outcomes:

1. The participant will be able to describe 3 reasons clients may not be able to use a proportional driving method.
2. The participant will be able to list 3 alternative non-proportional driving methods and clinical indicators for each.
3. The participant will be able to operate a power wheelchair with at least 3 alternative driving methods.

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Non-Proportional Driving Methods

- Also called Digital
- Primarily Switches
- One switch per direction
- Speed control
- vs. Analog



AbleNet switches

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Clinical Decision Making

- Client cannot use any type of joystick
 - Joystick control requires the ability to grade the force and distance of movement
 - The client must also have adequate movement and motor control to use a joystick
 - No – explore Digital Driving Methods



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Clinical Decision Making

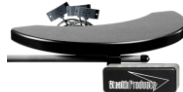
- Client has fair upper extremity control
- Common DXs: CP, TBI, MS, MD
 - Individual mechanical switches on a tray surface



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Clinical Decision Making

- Client has fair upper extremity control
- Common DXs: CP, TBI, MS, MD
 - But client does not have controlled vertical movements
 - More difficult for clients with increased tone
 - Proximity array under tray



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Proximity Array

- Clinical Indictors:
 - Fair upper extremity control
 - Accommodates larger movement
 - Eliminates a plane of movement



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Proximity Switch Arrays

- Typically placed under a tray
- Consider tactile cue above (i.e. loop Velcro)
- Consider pigtail cable
- ASL, Stealth



ASL



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Proximity Switch Arrays

- Magitek Rotatable Sensor Array
- Great for people with ALS who still have control of the lower extremities



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Clinical Decision Making

- Client has good fine motor control, but limited activation travel and force
- Common DXs: ALS, SMA, MD
 - Fiberoptic switches

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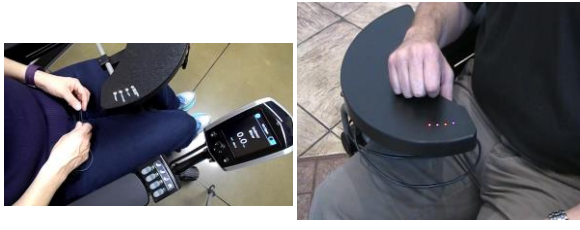
Fiberoptic Switch Arrays

- Small targets
- Accommodates very small movements with no force
- Typically placed by finger or thumb
- Cables are fragile
- ASL, Stealth



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Fiberoptic Switch Driving



81

Fiberoptic Switch Arrays

- ASL
- Teach mode to set activation distance, then turn off
- Fine tune manually



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Stealth Products Fiberoptic Arrays

- 2, 3, 4 switch arrays
- Handpad mount option with mini goosenecks
- Tuning



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Clinical Decision Making

- Client has good head control, but little extremity control
- Common DXs: SCI, ALS, CP, MS
 - Switch It Vigo
 - Magitek (proportional)
 - Proportional Head Control (RIM) (Proportional)



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Switch It Vigo

- Now Technologies Switch It Vigo
- Wireless wheelchair head controller



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Magitek Drive Control

- Older driving method with some new features
- Sensor mounted at top of head
- Translates head movement into wheelchair movement
- Requires very good head control
- Stop: enter Neutral Zone



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Magitek Drive Control

- Features
- Emergency Stop Switch Port
- Over rate
 - Shuts down system with sudden movement (i.e. sensor falls off head)
- Over range
 - If the client moves too far from center and stays there, the PWC stops



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Clinical Decision Making

- Client has fair head control, but little extremity control
- Common DXs: CP, TBI, high level SCI
 - Head Array



Switch-It

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Head Array (proximity switches)

- 3 -5 proximity switches in a tri-pad headrest
- Clinical Indicators:
 - Fair to good head control
 - Little extremity control



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ASL and Switch It original Head Arrays

- Older driving method
- Tri-pad Head Array



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ASL ATOM Head Array

- Electronics are attached to the head pad
- New features
 - Client can turn the head array on and off by pressing an external switch (user switch)
- Hold user switch for a programmable amount of time (long beep) and then use directional switch to send a wireless switch signal to another AT device (i.e. SGD, Computer, tablet)
 - No Interfacing component required
- Can change reset double tap to longer hold (R-net, Q-Logic)
- Can turn on auditory feedback when a directional switch is activated



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ASL ATOM Head Array

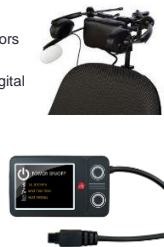
- Various configurations available



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ASL Fusion

- Pads include proximity switches and pressure sensors
- Increased force increases speed (proportional)
- Each pad can be programmed as proportional or digital
- Can wirelessly connect to AAC device, Tecla E
- Auditory feedback
- Can assign pads to different directions
- Mouse emulation through ATOM wireless mouse emulator



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Permobil Head Array

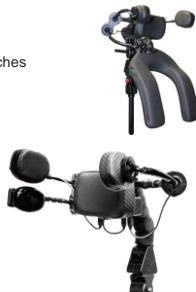
- Total Control Head Array System
 - Can combine electrical and mechanical switches
 - 2 Proximities in rear pad to facilitate diagonals
 - Can program to require that both switches have to be activated to drive or just one
 - 6 input jacks on back (1/8")
 - Mechanical mono
 - Electrical stereo



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Stealth Products i-Drive

- Can combine proximity and mechanical switches
 - Mechanical switches require short adaptor cable
- Can assign each switch using a Tablet
- Reverse:
 - Double tap or Mode switch to Toggle
- Works with wide variety of head supports



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Head Array - iDrive



Jonathan

97

Switch It Dual Pro

- Programming can be done on back pad
- 3 control options:
 - Proximities only
 - Mechanical only
 - Increased force on switch increases speed
 - Proximities and Mechanical
 - Proximities respond immediately
 - Increased force increases speed
- Increased force and lead to increase tone, difficulty stopping, and increased fatigue



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Head Array and Reverse

- Mode switch to Toggle Forward and Reverse
- Quick tap of the Head



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Clinical Decision Making

- Client has good oral motor control, but little head or extremity control
- Common DXs: high level SCI
 - Sip 'n Puff

Permobil



101

Sip 'n Puff

- Clinical Indicators:
 - Little control of head or extremity movement
 - Good oral motor control, lip closure, intact palate
 - Full directional control and speed control



Therafin

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Sip 'n Puff programming

- Traditional control: 4 pressure
 - Forward: hard puff
 - Right: soft puff
 - Reverse (or stop): hard sip
 - Left: soft sip
 - Latch
 - Speeds



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iDrive Sip 'n Puff

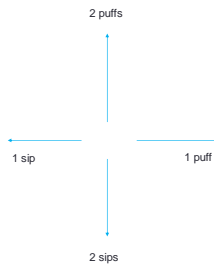
- 4 pneumatic commands
- Pressures programmed on iDrive software
 - Can hold on tablet in front of client for better feedback
- Proportional speed
 - i.e. creeping up to table
 - Stage 1
- Traditional control
 - Stage 2



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Sip 'n Puff programming

- 2 pressure
 - Q-Logic
- 2 puffs = Forward, 1 puff = Right
- 2 sips = Reverse, 1 sip = Left
- Sampling Delay
- Between time



105

Clinical Decision Making

- Client has partial oral motor control and partial head control
- Common DXs: MS, TBI, SCI, CP
 - Sip 'n Puff Head Array Combo



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Sip 'n Puff Head Array

- Left and Right pads active on the Head Array
- Any puff is Forward
- Any sip is Reverse
- May work for clients who cannot discriminate between hard and soft pneumatic commands



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Combination Systems



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Clinical Decision Making

- Client has adequate motor control at 4 specific body sites
- Common DXs: CP, TBI, ALS, SMA, MD
 - 4 mechanical and/or electrical switches for Forward, Left, Right and Reverse or Reset
 - Optimal switch placement is where client has **small, isolated, repeatable, and sustained ability to activate and release a switch**



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4 switch combination

- Clinical Indicators:
 - Ideally, 3 switch sites provides Forward, Left and Right directional control
 - Strongest switch site = Forward
 - If a 4th switch can be identified, Reset provides the most function
 - And requires the least motor control



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Switch Interfaces

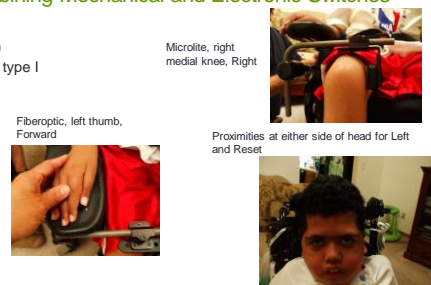
- Stealth Products iDrive
- Any combination of mechanical and electrical switches
- Stealth Products 5/6 switch box
- Any combination of mechanical switches
- Switch-It Cool Cube
 - Interfaces with any combination of mechanical and electrical switches
 - Pro Spot switches
 - Speed increases with pressure



112

Combining Mechanical and Electronic Switches

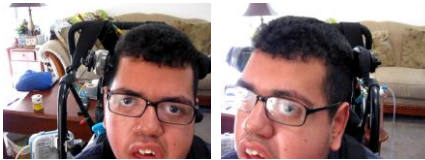
- Julian
- SMA, type I



113

Julian

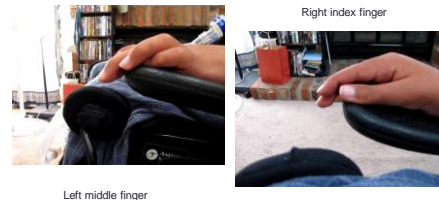
- As his needs changed, so have his switch locations and types
- Proximities by either side of his head



114

Julian

- Fiberoptics by each hand
- Fingers flexed to improve movement



115

Julian



116

Clinical Decision Making

- Client has adequate motor control at 3 specific body sites
- Common DXs: CP, TBI, ALS, SMA
 - 4 mechanical and/or electrical switches for Forward, Left, and Right
 - Reverse or Reset can be added later or consider Standby



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AJ Driving with 3 switches

- Switches by each lateral knee
 - Left
 - Right
- AbleNet Specs switch in left hand
 - Forward
- Cerebral Palsy



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Miles driving with 3 switches

- Switches by either side of head for Left and Right
- Switch on tray for Forward
- Age 3 years
- Meningitis at 3 months



119

Clinical Decision Making

- Client has adequate motor control at 2 specific body sites
- Common DXs: CP, TBI, ALS, SMA

120

2 switch fiberoptic array

- Cover both beams for forward
- Cover left for left directional control
- Cover right for right directional control
- 3rd switch can be used as reset
- Proportional version
- ASL
- Stealth i-Drive



ASL

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2 Switch Control

- Q-Logic
 - This has been around for a little bit, but many folks have not heard of this yet
- Switch 1:
 - 2 activations = Forward, 1 activation = Left, double click = mode
- Switch 2:
 - 2 activations = Reverse, 1 activation = Right



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2 Switch Control

- Stealth i-Drive: Link
 - Can program 2 switches to act like 3
- Activate both switches for Forward, left switch for Left and right switch for Right
 - Come off switches to toggle Forward and Reverse
- Reset
 - Double left activation
 - If client can use a 3rd switch, this can be Reset
- Can use with mechanical and/or electrical switches



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Clinical Decision Making

- Client has adequate motor control at 1 specific body site
- Common DXs: CP, TBI, ALS, SMA

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Single Switch Scanning

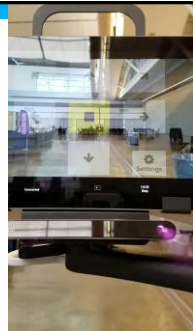
- Clinical Indicators:
 - only 1-2 switch sites can be found
 - Client can see and monitor display
 - May be included on PWC Display
 - Options vary with electronics package
 - Newer ASL option:
 - UNO Single Switch Scanner with BT



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Eye Gaze

- Tolt Technologies Ability Drive
 - Modified tablet and eye tracking camera
 - Look at 1 of 8 possible directions



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Review Time!

What is an option for each of the following scenarios?

- The client has fair to good head control, but little control of their extremities
 - Head Array
- The client has fair to good upper extremity control, but cannot use any joystick
 - Proximity Array in tray
- The client has very small, well-controlled movements
 - Fiberoptic Array
- The client only has one switch site
 - Single Switch Scanning

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Next steps:

- Work with your supplier and manufacturers for further inservices, product and client evaluation!
- Contact your local reps to try out some of this awesome technology!
- Drive!
- Identify potential clients and evaluate and/or refer!

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Take Home Message:

- There are many ways to drive a power wheelchair!
- Positioning, Drive Wheel Configuration, Tracking Technologies, Programming, and Training optimizes driving for an individual

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Other Resources:

- www.atilange.com
- Under Resources:
 - Indoor Power Mobility Criteria
 - Pre-Mobility Training Guidelines
 - Mobility Training Guidelines

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Contact Information:

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- Cameron Sant
- csant@quantumrehab.com
- Stealth Products
- www.stealthproducts.com
- Check out Dealer & Clinician Resources, Provider's Corner



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