

Adults WITH Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury Needed

The WISE Trial - Walking Improvement for SCI with Exoskeleton

WHO: Chronic (≥ 1 year after the injury), community-dwelling men and women between the ages of 18 and 75 years diagnosed with motor incomplete spinal cord injury (AIS C and D), with minimal walking function

WHAT: This research study is being done to find out how different forms of walking-based physical therapy impact walking outcomes and quality of life. If you agree to participate, you will be randomly assigned to one of three groups: Ekso intervention, therapist-assisted treadmill training, or daily home care (no gait training).

If you are assigned to the Ekso or treadmill groups, you will receive therapy 3 times per week for 12 weeks. You will spend 30 minutes in the Ekso or on the treadmill and 15 minutes doing overground training. Your function will be assessed weekly.

If you are assigned to the home care group, you will continue with your normal, daily activities for 12 weeks. You may not begin any new therapy or medications or participate in gait training during that time period. You will be assessed at 6 and 12 weeks. After the week 12 assessment, you can choose to receive either Ekso or treadmill training for 12 weeks.

No matter what group to which you are assigned, you will be enrolled in this study for 6 months.

RISKS: Risks associated with the Ekso and treadmill interventions include fatigue, falling, discomfort, pressure, bruising, or pain where the device/harness contacts the skin, blood pressure or autonomic reactions to standing, increased spasms, device malfunction, fracture, and muscle or tendon sprain. Subjects may also find the time commitments to be inconvenient. Every effort will be made to ensure your safety and comfort.



Ekso GT™ Wearable Robot

BENEFITS: By participating in this study, you may experience improvements in your health, independence, and quality of life, but since it is not known whether the findings from this study will be effective in your case, you may not receive any benefit. This study may benefit others in the future by advancing treatment protocols for patients with SCI to return to walking. **Travel reimbursement of \$50.00 per completed study session.**

WHERE: All interventions and testing will take place at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, 801 N. Broadway, Baltimore, MD

CONTACT: Research Coordinator at the International Center for Spinal Cord Injury (443) 923-9235 or clinicaltrials@spinalcordrecovery.org

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IRB Protocol: IRB00124044
Version/Date: 1, 2/6/2017