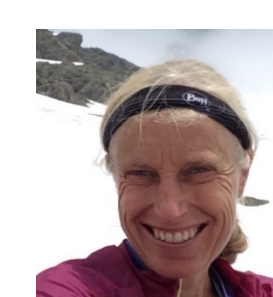


How do children/youngsters rate sitting and rolling in their hand rim wheelchair?

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Study aim

To gain insight in how children/parents perceive the wheelchair-child-interface related to rolling and sitting.

Introduction

A good **wheelchair-child-interface** is an important prerequisite to be able to participate in meaningful activities. This is achieved through proper adjusting and modifying of the wheelchair for optimal postural support (sitting) and functioning (e.g. rolling). How do children rate their wheelchair?

Methods

Children and adolescents (aged 5-18 yrs) and/or their parents filled out the free available **smart screening-tool** <https://www.checkjezit.nl/hoe-geschikt-is-je-rolstoel/check-je-zit/>



Dutch version



English version

Results

In total **35 children and adolescents** (13 +/-4 yrs, M:13, F:22) with diagnoses e.g., Cerebral Palsy, Muscle Disease or Spinal Cord Injury, filled out the screening-tool.

Sitting and **rolling** was rated **'poor/mediocre'** by respectively 37% and 31%, 'reasonable' by 28% and 23% and 'good' by 34% and 45%.

Sitting and rolling was **'tiring'** in, respectively, 54% and 63% and **'painful'** in 31% and 20% of the children.

Fiftyfive % 'lacked support' by their wheelchair and 69% thought 'sitting could be improved'.

Some problems e.g. **lack of support 'below the thighs'**, or **'at the lower back'** may be related to mal-adjustments of the wheelchair to the (growing) child.

Clinical message

By using the screening-tool, children, adolescents and their parents can reflect on **problems** but also on **improvements** e.g.: *to sit 'more supported' or 'upright', a better 'shoulder position for rolling' or 'more grip on the handrims'.*

Insight in perceived wheelchair-related-problems may contribute to **shared-decision-making** regarding realization of improvements in the wheelchair-child-fitting.

Check also: https://www.checkjezit.nl/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/WIN_Waaijer90.pdf



5. Conclusion

A significant portion of the children did not feel adequately supported by their wheelchair and were dissatisfied with sitting comfort or (rolling) ergonomics.



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