

# C.A.S.E. NEWSLETTER

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## Expanding the Role of the Hoyer® Stand Assist Lift in Diverse Rehabilitation Settings

- Progressive healthcare organizations utilize patient lifting equipment to redesign manual patient lifting tasks
- A stand assist lift will facilitate the process of standing and mobility in addition to application possibilities of gait training.

◀ *The Hoyer Journey® was the first on the market with adjustable spreader bar for supporting functional ability for a range of heights and sizes.*

Caregivers in the healthcare industry understand that manual lifting and moving of residents and patients is often beyond their physical capabilities. Progressive healthcare organizations utilize patient lifting equipment in attempts to redesign manual patient lifting tasks. Recognizing the need for evolving rehabilitation, stand assist lifts present a realistic alternative for supporting additional patient needs.

Though the stand assist lift has not been a traditional tool used in the world of rehabilitation, Joerns Healthcare's Hoyer Pro Journey recently aided in exceeding established rehabilitation expectations.

A paraplegic patient, who suffered a significant spinal cord injury as well as a shattered left femur resulting in a three inch leg length difference, lost all movement in his lower extremities and was confined to a wheelchair as his only method of mobility. Following the accident, he was introduced to an aggressive rehabilitation program which focused on upper extremity strength training, standing tolerance, balance training, and weight shifting. Using a platform walker and minimum to moderate assistance, he was able to improve from zero mobility to 10 feet to eventually 45 feet.

Although the patient achieved significant unintended milestones in his mobility, the use of the platform walker did not provide the needed exploration of shifting the predominance of weight bearing from the upper extremities to the lower extremities. In hopes to further improve his functional mobility, Joerns Healthcare's Patient Handling Clinical Solutions Specialist, Michael Fragala RN, BSN, introduced the Hoyer Pro Journey. This lift could be used as a standing assist modality and possible tool for gait training.

The Journey was introduced into the patient's rehabilitation care plan extending his ability to stand with improved posture for a maximum of 20 seconds to a total of 10 minutes at a time with no safety concerns to the patient and staff. The Journey assisted in improving his gait training with a greater emphasis on weight bearing through the lower extremities. He began to take steps forward in a somewhat natural gait with the Journey device affording him the ability to sit and rest in other chairs around the room. Additionally, he was able to transfer those lower extremity weight bearing gains to improved functional use of the platform walker for increasing his mobility.

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Results beyond expectations in a traditional rehabilitation program were achieved due to Joerns Hoyer Pro Journey. The specific features provided by the Journey and the associated benefits achieved in this case indicate that a stand assist lift will facilitate the process of standing and mobility, in addition to significant application possibilities with gait training.

The application of a stand assist lift into rehabilitative programs offers potential benefits for enhanced care and optimistic expectations for improved functional abilities. With a strong commitment to both patients and care providers, safety and rehabilitation advancements in the healthcare industry will continue to evolve, expand, and exceed expectations.



◀ *The Hoyer Journey® lift is an ultra compact, portable folding stand aid.*



◀ *The unique adjustable spreader bar supports a range of resident heights and size.*



◀ *The sculpted knee pad is easily adjusted for ultimate resident comfort.*

*Dr. Pat Carley, Professor from American International College, Springfield, MA is the co-author of this article.*

*Dr. Guy Fragala is nationally known in both ergonomics and healthcare safety. He is currently a senior advisor for ergonomics at the Patient Safety Center of Inquiry, Tampa, Florida, and has published over 100 publications related to occupational safety and health and ergonomics.*



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