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eWALK

Transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation combined with locomotor training to improve walking ability in people with chronic incomplete spinal cord injury: a multi-centre double-blinded randomised sham-controlled trial

Researchers at Neuroscience Research Australia are seeking **VOLUNTEER RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS** to study the effects of 12 weeks of electrical spinal cord stimulation applied over the skin combined with walking training in people with incomplete spinal cord injury. **Would the research project be a good fit for me?**

The study might be a good fit for you if:

- you are aged 16 years or older
- have been diagnosed with a spinal cord injury between the levels of T1 and T11 at least 1 year ago
- you are willing and able to participate in a training program three times a week for 12 weeks
- you are able to take a few steps, up to 10m, within parallel bars with the assistance of two people or less
- able to voluntarily produce a muscle flicker/contraction in at least one of the muscles that flexes or extends the hip, knee, ankle or big toe on either side of your body

and you **DO NOT** have any of the following:

- a history of clinically significant autonomic dysreflexia
- cannot tolerate spinal stimulation at a therapeutic intensity
- experience of hypotension in response to prolonged standing
- severe lower limb spasticity or contracture
- any other brain or nervous system disorder or cancer
- pregnant or think you might be pregnant
- any metal hardware under the stimulation electrode or any electronic implants in your body
- an upper limb injury preventing prolonged weight bearing through your arms
- are not able to give informed consent

What would happen if I took part in the research project?

- you would visit Neuroscience Research Australia, Randwick 3 times per week over a 12-week period and once at 16-weeks for a follow-up assessment.
- you would receive electrical stimulation of your spinal cord administered using gel electrodes placed on your back and stomach for 30 minutes
- while receiving the stimulation you will undergo walking training with one physiotherapist and up to two assistants, each session could last for up to 60 minutes
- you would undergo neurological and clinical assessments of walking, strength, sensation and spasticity with and without stimulation before, during and after the 12 week training program

Will I be paid to take part in the research project?

You will be offered \$20/hour for your commitment of time. We will provide travel cost reimbursements or taxi vouchers for your travel to Neuroscience Research Australia.

Who do I contact if I want more information or want to take part in the study?

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