

## Core Mobility and Stability

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### Trunk Asymmetry in Bed or Wheelchair

- Be careful when patient is not ambulatory because of difficult positioning in a wheelchair
- Extra time should be spent on wheelchair positioning to prevent musculoskeletal and perceptual secondary impairments\

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## Assessment

Observations

- Why are they doing that?

Look at their static & dynamic position

- Alignment of the head, trunk, rib cage, UEs, LEs
- Note atypical patterns and common tendencies

Perform evaluation through function

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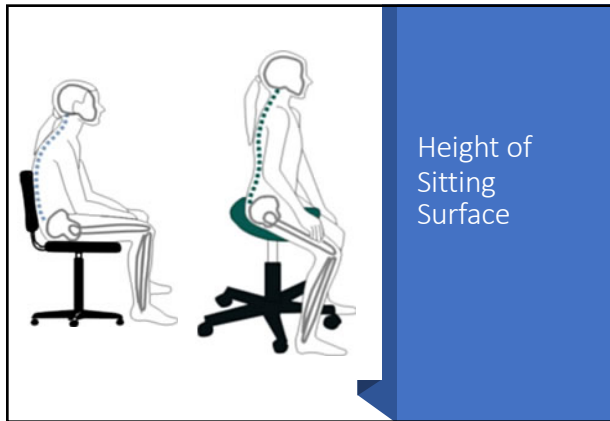
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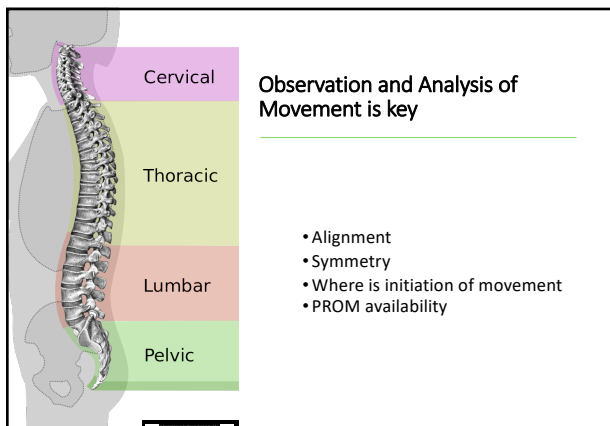
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## Sidelying PNF Pelvic Patterns

• Sharma V, Kaur J. Effect of core strengthening with pelvic proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation on trunk, balance, gait, and function in chronic stroke. *Journal of exercise rehabilitation*. 2017 Apr;13(2):200.

	Anterior Elevation	Posterior Depression
Manual Contacts	Iliac Crest, on and just anterior to midline Hands overlapped, lumbrical grip	Ischial tuberosity, hands overlapped, use proximal carpal ridge
Verbal Commands	"Shrug your pelvis up, pull up"	"Sit into my hand, push"

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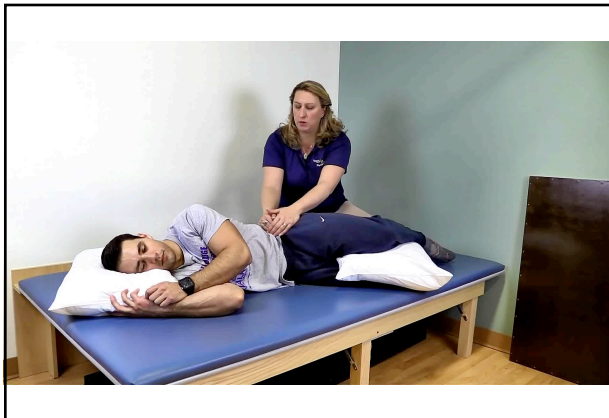
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Sitting

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# CORE STRENGTHENING



## Low Tone Positioning and Shoulder Subluxation I

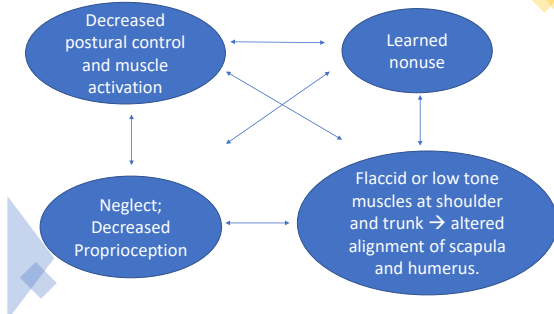
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What causes – and sustains – poor positioning?



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## Early UE/Shoulder Positioning is Important

- In the **initial days-weeks post stroke**, **90% of survivors exhibit hypotonia/flaccidity**
- Poor positioning causes decreased symmetry, **sitting balance**, and poor (suboptimal?) activity performance
- **LEARNED NONUSE** happens quickly and in multiple mm groups
- “Hypotonic shoulders” are highly susceptible to damage of the structures surrounding the shoulder (muscles, tendons, ligaments)

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## SLINGS AND OTHER AIDS **FOR SUPPORT AND POSITIONING:**

Joint protection strategies - used AT ANY STAGE of recovery to prevent or minimize shoulder pain.

- Positioning and supporting the arm during rest [Evidence Level A].
- Protecting and supporting the arm during functional mobility [Evidence Level B].
- Protecting and supporting the arm during wheelchair use or transfers by using a hemi-tray or arm trough [Evidence Level B].

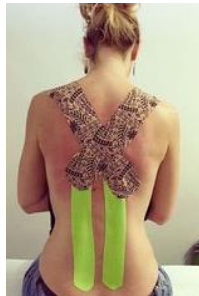
During the flaccid stage slings can be used **to prevent injury**; however, **beyond the flaccid stage the use of slings is controversial**.

Canadian Stroke Strategy

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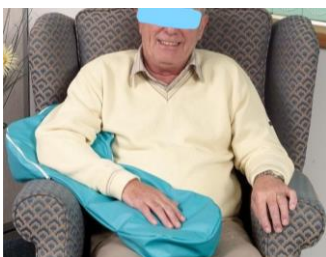
### ***But First...*** **Optimize Position**

"Poor positioning causes decreased symmetry, **sitting balance**, and poor (suboptimal?) activity performance"



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**Which sling or support can I use for support and transfers?**  
(see lesson for handout)



#### PILLOWS

**PROS:** Abundant; Pliable; Many sizes; useful in Side Lying or sitting

**CONS:** May not maintain or approximate appropriate shoulder position; Not useful while standing.

**Variations:** wedges; lateral arm supports (w/c)

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## Which sling...for support and transfers?

### Hemi-Sling

**WHAT:** Sling that supports UE across body and underneath elbow w strap near or around neck

**PROS:** Abundant; Keeps UE across body during transfers; Good for patients w neglect; May assist w balance (1)

**CONS:** Does not approximate position in humerus; May facilitate learned nonuse; deconditioning; poor arm swing



Alt: Fanny pack; Scarf

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### Humeral "Cuff" Slings

**WHAT:** Humeral cuff that is held in place by adjustable straps, either around body or proximal to cuff.

**PROS:** Approximates humerus position; some allow UE swing; worn under or over clothes; adjustable; some allow distal UE use; Can integrate modalities with some types

**CONS:** limits shoulder mobility (e.g., external/internal rotation); tricky to don – requires practice!

Neurexa shoulder orthosis (Walmart)



Ali-Med Hemi Shoulder sling



OmoTrain shoulder brace

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### Distal Support Slings

**WHAT:** Supports UE distally; uses weight of the patient's forearm as a counterbalance to maintain positioning between the humerus and the shoulder joint (GHJ)

**PROS:** Approximates humerus position in some pts; adjustable; SOME allow distal UE use at different areas of the UE; Can integrate modalities

**CONS:** May discourage arm swing; If hemiparesis is dense, may not effectively approximate shoulder; May restrict distal UE use; May encourage synergy



AliMed shoulder saddle sling

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## Do you “like” the Giv-Mohr?

- Unweights the UE
- Provides distal input
- If the arm “rolls” use a thin splint (air splint?) to keep it in neutral

“Be careful of balance; the changes in arm swing may throw it off. Work on proximal stability and train them with it.”



Givmohrsling.com: ≈ \$72.00  
Alimed: ≈ \$78.00  
Amazon: ≈ \$86.00

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## SLINGS AND OTHER AIDS (e.g., lap boards) AS A RESTORATIVE TX

MOTOR FUNCTION			
LoE	Conclusion Statement	RCTs	References
1b	Sustained positioning may not have a difference in efficacy when compared to conventional therapy for improving motor function.	1	Chen et al. 2008
1b	Continuous passive range of motion exercises may not have a difference in efficacy when compared to self-directed range of motion exercise for improving motor function.	1	Lynch et al. 2005
SPASTICITY			
LoE	Conclusion Statement	RCTs	References
1a	Sustained or static positioning may not have a difference in efficacy when compared to conventional therapy for improving spasticity.	3	Chen et al. 2008, Ada et al. 2016, Turtur & Bollen 2005
1b	Continuous passive range of motion exercise may not have a difference in efficacy when compared to self-directed range of motion exercise for improving spasticity.	1	Lynch et al. 2005
RANGE OF MOTION			
LoE	Conclusion Statement	RCTs	References
1a	Sustained or static positioning may not have a difference in efficacy when compared to conventional therapy for improving range of motion.	5	Chen et al. 2008, Gustafsson & Westberg 2005, Ada et al. 2016, Turtur & Bollen 2005, Chen et al. 2009

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## SLINGS AS THERAPY

- Immobilization increases the risk of other pain syndromes including adhesive capsulitis and joint contracture and should be avoided (Dohle, 2013).
- May encourage flexor synergies, inhibit arm swing, contributing to contracture formation.
  - GIVE-MOHR: Good for maintaining arm swing; ADL participation???
- Slings are likely not beneficial for shoulder hemiplegia following stroke. (Ada et al., 2016; van Bladel et al., 2017)
- Ada et al, Cochrane Database Systematic Review: “There is insufficient evidence that to conclude whether slings and wheelchair attachments prevent subluxation, decrease pain, increase function or adversely increase contracture in the shoulder after stroke”
- Bladel et al., 2017, sling vs no sling, 6-week duration  
“The control group (no sling) showed the least amount of shoulder subluxation. There were no significant differences between groups for pain, PROM, spasticity, or function between groups.”

EBRSR: “Slings are likely not beneficial for shoulder hemiplegia following stroke”

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## The Big Winner?

### Acupuncture/Acupressure

#### ACUPUNCTURE:

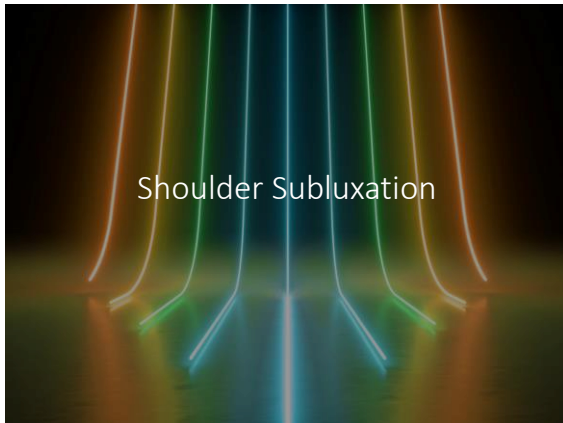
- 4 major RCTs across approx. 500 subjects between 2013 and 2017
- 3-5x/week for 2 wks.

#### ACUPRESSURE:

- Similar effects and LoE but fewer RCTs

MOTOR FUNCTION			
LoE	Conclusion Statement	RCTs	References
1b	Acupuncture with herbal therapy may produce greater improvements in motor function than acupuncture.	1	Song et al. 2012
SPASTICITY			
LoE	Conclusion Statement	RCTs	References
1b	Acupuncture may produce greater improvements in spasticity than conventional therapy.	1	Mendipati-Gomez et al. 2016
RANGE OF MOTION			
LoE	Conclusion Statement	RCTs	References
1a	Acupuncture may produce greater improvements in range of motion than conventional therapy.	2	Mendipati-Gomez et al. 2016; Zhao et al. 2015
2	Superficial needling acupuncture with club swing may produce greater improvements in range of motion than conventional therapy.	1	Ni et al. 2017
PAIN			
LoE	Conclusion Statement	RCTs	References
1a	Acupuncture may produce greater reductions in pain than conventional therapy.	2	Mendipati-Gomez et al. 2016; Zhao et al. 2015
1b	Acupuncture with herbal therapy may produce greater reductions in pain than acupuncture.	1	Song et al. 2012
2	Superficial needling acupuncture with club swing may produce greater reductions in pain than conventional therapy.	1	Ni et al. 2017

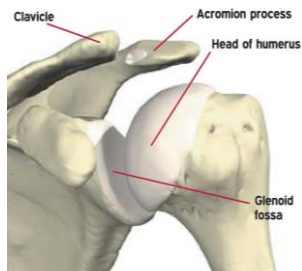
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### Why Shoulder Subluxation? The Key Players...

- Ball and socket between the humeral head and **shallow** glenoid fossa.
- Major joint connecting the upper limb to the axial skeleton
- Mobility > stability



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## Shoulder Subluxation Assessment

Palpation/Fingerbreadth method (Hall et al., *Am J Occ Ther*; 1995)

Fingerbreadth Palpation Method

Good intrarater reliability (ICC=.980) and discriminant validity (Kumar, et al., 2011);

**Moderate** inter-rater reliability (0.79)

**Cannot detect small sublux < .05 cm**



Ultrasound: More sensitive (Kumar et al., 2011; Lee IS, et al., 2009; Huang et al., 2012)

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## QUESTIONS?



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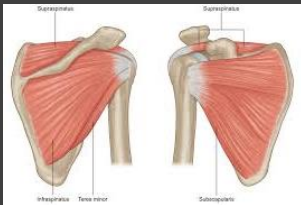
## Potential predictors of upper extremity recovery

- **Active finger extension** was found to be a strong predictor of short, medium, and long-term post-stroke recovery (Smania et al. 2007).
- **Minimal shoulder abduction and upper motor control of the paretic limb upon admission to rehabilitation** had a reasonably good chance of regaining some hand capacity whereas patients without proximal arm control had a poor prognosis for regaining hand capacity (Houwink et al. 2013).
- The EPOS study demonstrated that **patients with some finger extension and shoulder abduction on Day 2 after stroke onset** had a 98% probability of achieving some degree of dexterity at 6 months; this was in contrast to only 25% in those who did not show similar voluntary motor control.
- In addition, **at 6 months 60% of patients with finger extension within 72 hours had regained full recovery of upper limb function** according to ARAT score. (Nijland et al. 2010).

EBMR 2016

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## Stretching and mobilizing for scapular mobility



- Kumar R, Metter EJ, Mehta AJ, Chew T. Shoulder pain in hemiplegia. The role of exercise. *Am J Phys Med Rehabil.* 1990 Aug;69(4):205-8. doi: 10.1097/00002060-199008000-00007. PMID: 2383382.

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## Scapular Elevation

- Approximate scapula and humerus
- Perform scapular elevation with inferior angle between therapist's thenar and hypothenar eminence of hand
- Have pt. move into posterior pelvic tilt "Slouch and touch your chin to your chest"



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### Scapular Depression

- Approximate scapula and humerus
- Therapist places fingertips on patient's spine of scapula
- Have patient move head in lateral direction away from you. Ear on non-involved side to shoulder on non-involved side



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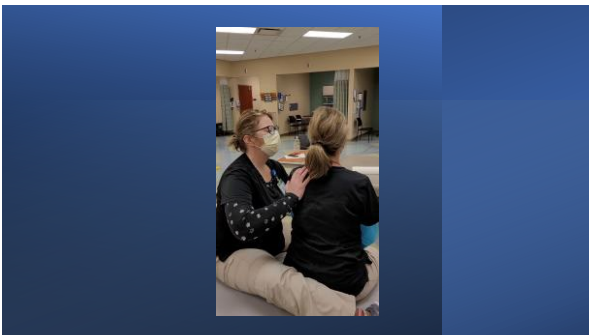
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## Scapular Retraction

- Approximate scapula and humerus
- Therapist has patient's axillary in web space between fingers and thumb
- Perform adduction and maintain hold
- Ask pt. to slowly turn head in opposite direction
- For additional stretch ask patient to place opposite hand opposite hip with thumb pointing down

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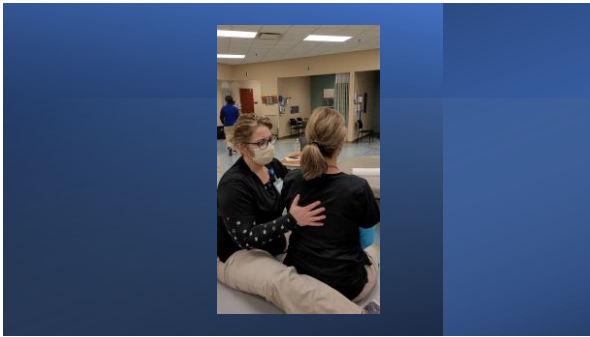
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## Scapular Protraction

- ~ Approximate scapula and humerus
- ~ Therapist places PIP's onto medial border
- ~ Perform Abduction and maintain
- ~ Ask pt. to slowly turn head toward therapist and reach for therapist's shoulder



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### Upward Rotation

- Patient side lying on unaffected side
- Approximate scapula and humerus and support upper limb
- Therapist places PIPs on medial border by inferior angle
- Perform upward rotation and hold

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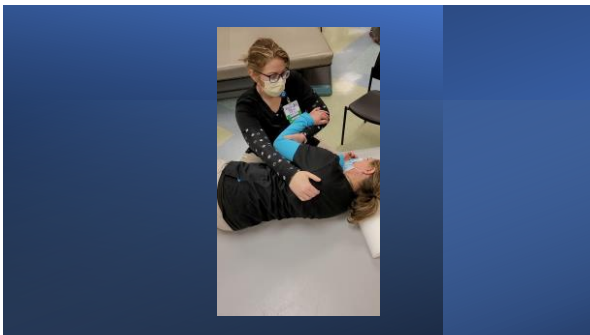
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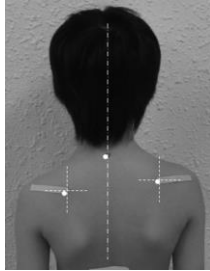
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What stretch  
does the left  
scapula  
need?




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What stretch does  
the right scapula  
need?

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Which  
stretches  
would you do  
to the right  
scapula?




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Which stretches would you do to the left scapula?



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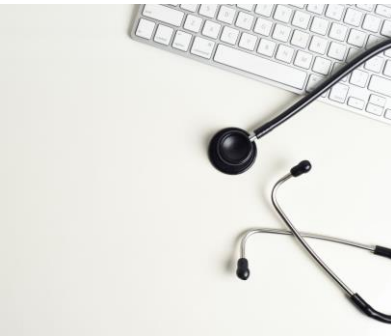
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Intervention for scapular stabilization



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Start early



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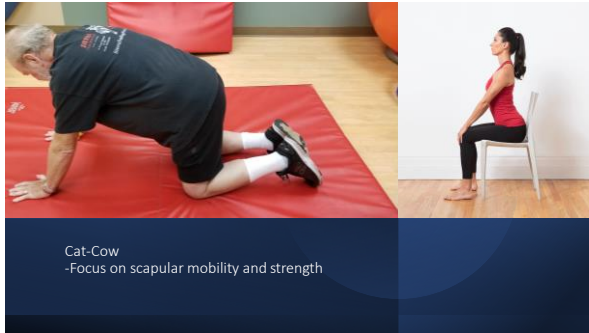
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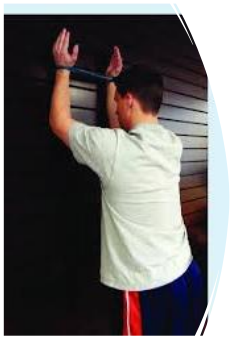
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- Position patient standing with elbows and forearms against a wall
- cue for scapular depression and retraction
- Patient to slide forearms up and down the wall maintaining scapular position
- keep arms parallel through entire exercise

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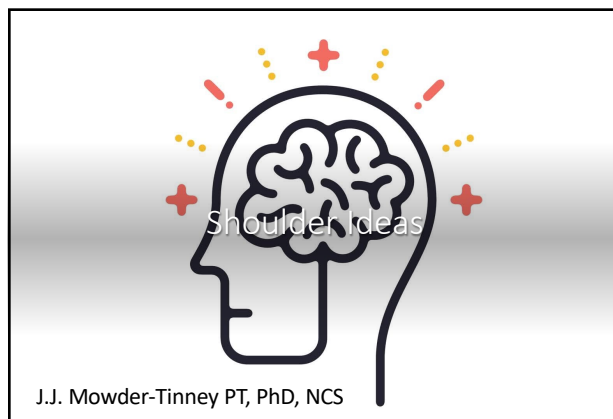
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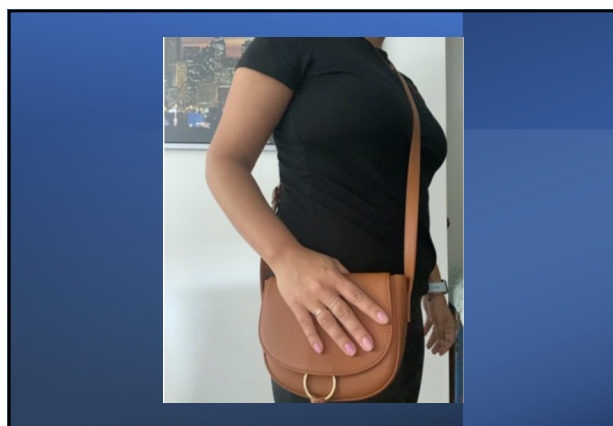
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However you prefer to mobilize  
the scapula is great!

Just check its position and  
mobilize first

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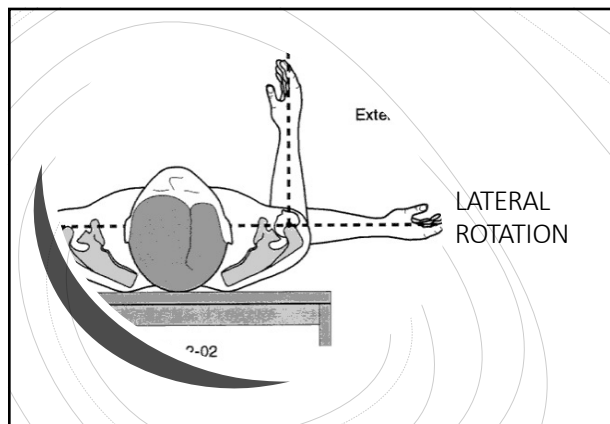
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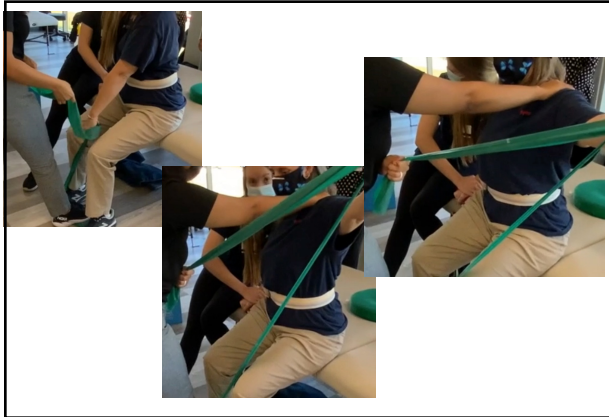
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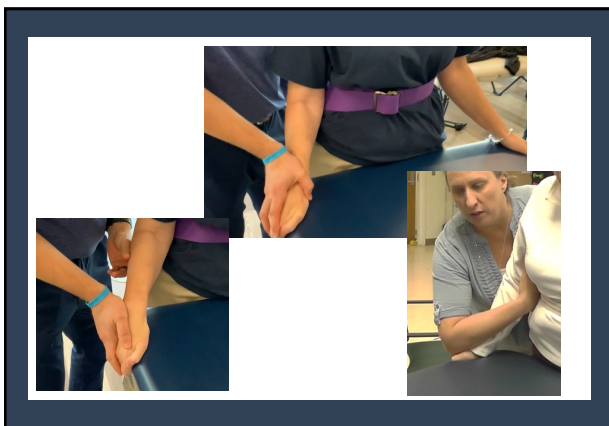
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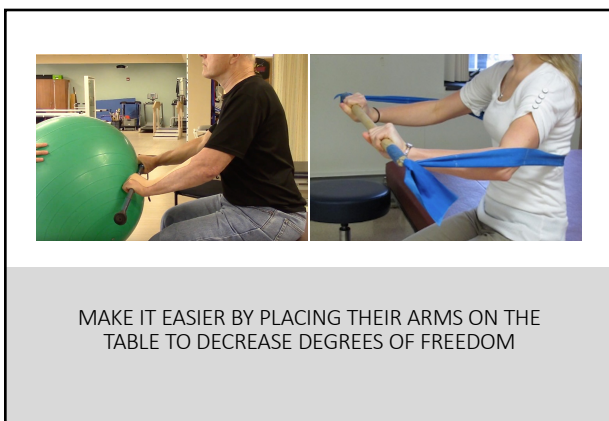
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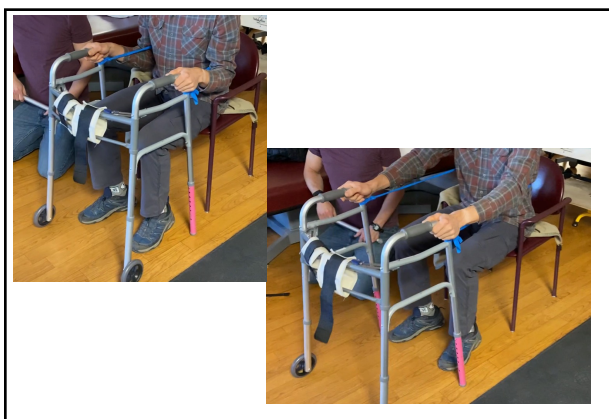
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## Movement Initiation

Where is movement initiated when reaching?

To retrain the UE, consider the following:

- Maintain the shoulder in alignment
- Understand the normal movement components of the activity being trained – distal movement first
- Facilitate the scapula into proper upward rotation

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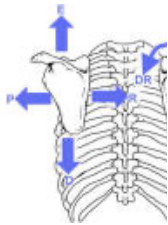
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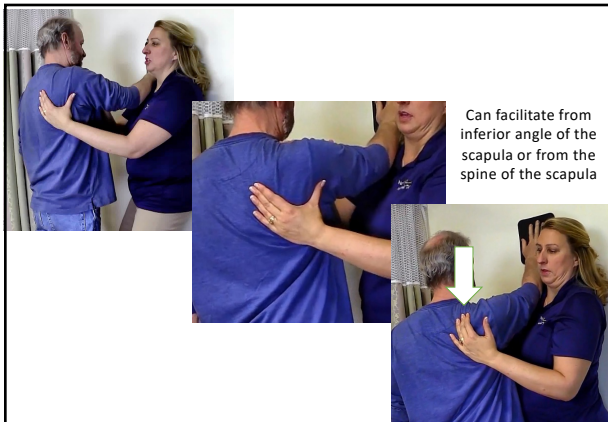
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## Scapular Upward Rotation



### Muscle imbalances

- Deltoid/rotators
- Serratus/upper & lower trapezius
- Overuse of upper trapezius
- Elevated scapula & loss of upward rotation resulting in tightness



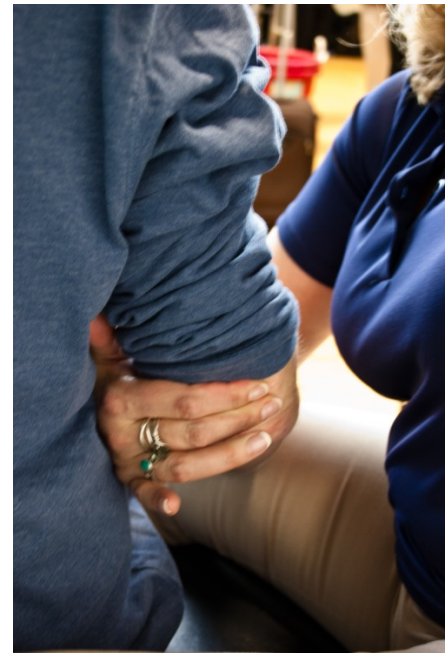
# Supplemental Handout

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jjmowder@gmail.com

## Facilitating External Rotation in Closed Chain – Moving Body on UE



Provide a surface to place the hand in a closed chain position while maintaining alignment.



Provide pressure through the triceps tendon down into the hand to increased sensory input and facilitate the push.



The back leg can be used to maintain trunk alignment and the pelvis into an anterior pelvic tilt.



Rotate opposite arm and out to the side along with the head.



## Facilitating UE Activity in Closed Chain w/ Visual Cues



Utilize some external cue to provide a visual of activation of the UE. This can be tipping a chair, ironing board, ladder, walker, or pvc piping.



The back leg can be used to maintain trunk alignment and the pelvis into an anterior pelvic tilt and thoracic extension.



Provide pressure through the triceps tendon down into the hand to increased sensory input and facilitate the push.



Allow tipping of the object. Progress to adjusting the position and the sequence.

## Scapular Upward Rotation Mobility



Place hand on wall on an object to allow sliding. Stand in front and place arm on shoulder to take away gravity and tendency to elevate shoulder.



Find the spine of the scapule to make sure that elevation is not taking place.



Slide the hand up the wall making sure the movement is facilitated distally.



Repeat the up and down movement to retrain the motion.

## Documentation Options

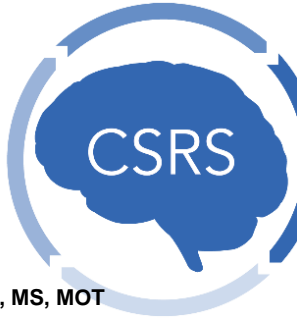
Make sure to include the **position** of the patient, the **activity** being performed, the **assist** (both amount and location), and any **equipment** used. Incorporate number of reps OR time performed with each.

Activity	Documentation
<b>Scapular Mobility</b>	Patient in short sitting (or can be done in standing) actively moving unimpaired arm in all planes of motion with head and eyes tracking hand movement. Therapist is maintaining impaired scapula in alignment and stationary with hands over body of scapula and anterior to acromion. (Add laundry activity, or wiping down mat, or putting away dishes if using environment)
<b>External Rotation</b>	Patient in short sitting actively moving unimpaired arm in all planes of motion with head and eyes tracking hand movement. Therapist has impaired arm extended and on knee (or whatever object you use) to place hand in closed chain position facilitating extension at triceps tendon and alignment of trunk in neutral with hands and knee.
<b>UE Activation</b>	Patient is in short sitting with both hands (or impaired hand only) on tipped walker (or whatever piece of equipment you are using) pushing and pulling object back and forth. Therapist maintains trunk alignment and anterior pelvic tilt with back leg, maintains shoulder in alignment and facilitates triceps tendon with moderate assist of one hand and maintains patient hand on device with second hand.
<b>Scapula Upward Rotation</b>	Patient is in standing facing wall with impaired hand on wall in hand piece (or mouse pad, or towel) sliding hand up and down wall. Therapist has back against wall facing patient to support arm. One hand is inhibiting upper trapezius activation with second hand on spine of scapula (or inferior angle of scapula) facilitating upward rotation of scapula while pushing up the wall)

## Low Tone Positioning and Shoulder Subluxation II

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## General Rules of Thumb

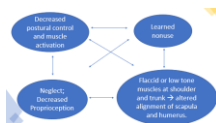
- Incorporate **functional/meaningful/avocational objects and/or activities at all points**
- *If patient has no volitional movement*, passively move the limb through the movement, encouraging participant to assist as able toward a target. **Do not just range.**

Grade up when ≈ 6-7/10 successful attempts (ICARE; ExCITE)

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## Sitting balance progression

**What muscles will she use?**



Ipsilateral anterior nonparetic



Ipsilateral posterior nonparetic

Personal collection of Steve Page;  
consent obtained and on file

3



## Sitting balance progression

**How can I increase challenge?**  
(eg, change height of chair)



Ipsilateral anterior nonparetic



Ipsilateral posterior nonparetic

Personal collection of Steve Page;  
consent obtained and on file

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## Sitting balance progression:

Stabilize @ the elbow and wrist →

A single functional unit & control at the shoulder



Contralateral anterior paretic



Contralateral posterior paretic



IMAK Pillo Splint



LQO Adult Elbow Fixation stabilizer

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## Sitting balance progression (cont'd.)



Contralateral anterior nonparetic



Contralateral posterior nonparetic

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## Sitting balance progression (cont'd.)



Ipsilateral anterior  
paretic



Ipsilateral posterior  
paretic)

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### Progress to sidelying



High-low  
table

Shoulder flexion,  
Gravity eliminated



### Progress to sitting up; UE w full gravity w assistance

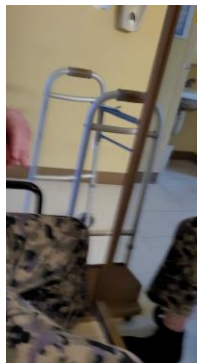


Elbow flexion,  
Gravity eliminated

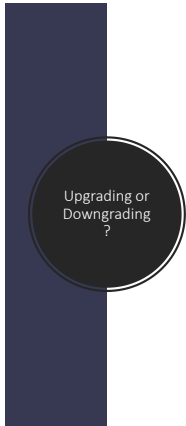
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## Upgrading or Downgrading?



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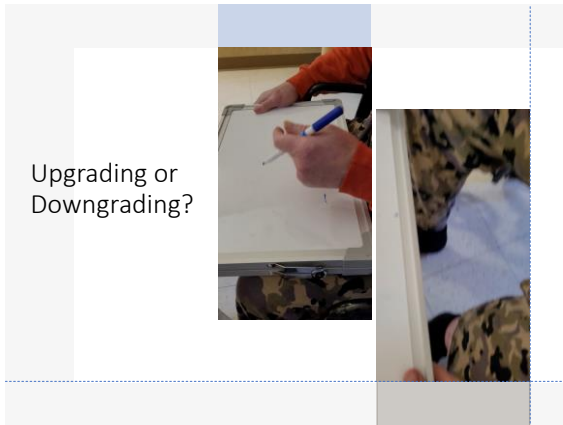
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Upgrading or  
Downgrading?

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11

## Distally-based UE Motor Strategies



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## Who is “Distally-based”

Individuals in this group can moderately (at least):

- Participate in motor therapies
- Learn new information
- Learn from intrinsic and extrinsic feedback, and from results (KR)
- Retain new information over time
- Show insight about their functional limitations

Effective strategies for this group (should) feature learning and skill acquisition that incorporates/encourages:

- |                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Repetitive, active attempts  | Homework                             |
| Active (forced?) exploration | Use of high-meaning activities       |
| Open practice environments   | Paretic UE Use                       |
| Overload & Specificity       | Patient involvement & self-direction |

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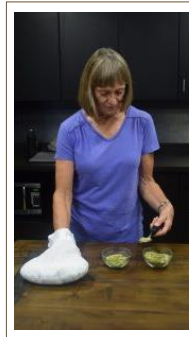
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## Distally-Based UE Strategies

- CIT/mCIT
  - 30 mins to multiple hours of repetitive UE clinical practice
  - Sustained practice at home for hours at a time
 (Duration and Frequency that are necessary???)
- REQUIRES "10x10x10"
- HOME PRACTICE REQUIRES: INSIGHT, DISCIPLINE, SAFETY, ACTIVITY TOLERANCE



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## The Grasp Protocol

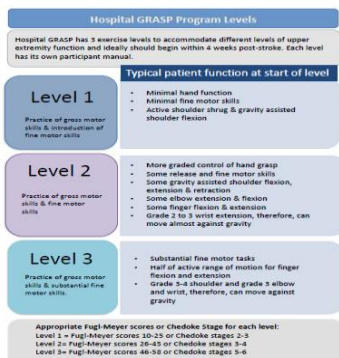
- Can be performed by patient as homework, without direct supervision (indirect supervision recommended)
- 3 levels of exercises to accommodate level of impairment
- 1 hour/day
- Manualized



<https://neurorehab.med.ubc.ca/grasp/>

5

## Selection of appropriate patients for GRASP



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Equipment List			
Buttoned shirt	Target Board Tennis in apparatus	Tennis ball	Bean bag
Wrist weight 0.5-lb	Hand Gripper-5lb resistance	Knife & Fork	Towel
Cup	Popside sticks & toothpicks	Various sizes of Lego	Various sizes of blocks
Various sizes of clothes pins	Various sizes of paper clips	Therapy	Various jars
		Poker chips, pennies, dimes	

GRASP Behavioral Contract- Sample	
<p>Return the GRASP Behavioral contract and confidence form to the participant. Ask the participant to fill out this confidence form so that you can discuss ways that might help the participant meet the exercise targets. Record the level of confidence for your records. If confidence is less than 6, then discussion is required to brainstorm barriers/obstacles and to develop a problem-solving strategy.</p>	
<p>Stroke participant:</p> <p>I will do the GRASP exercises ONE hour each day, seven times a week starting _____ (date) and ending _____ (date).</p> <p>How confident am I that I will do this? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being <u>not at all confident</u> and 10 being <u>completely confident</u>.</p> <p>Signed _____ (patient)</p> <p>Family/Caregiver I will assist _____ (patient name) with the GRASP exercises _____ times per week starting (date) and ending _____ (date).</p> <p>How confident am I that I will do this? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being <u>not at all confident</u> and 10 being <u>completely confident</u>.</p> <p>Signed _____ (family/caregiver)</p>	

<https://neurorehab.med.ubc.ca/grasp/grasp-manuals-and-resources/>

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Grading Overview	
<p>These exercises need to be challenging to the participant to improve brain function. For instance, if the participant completes the hand exercise without making any mistakes, such as misplacing or dropping the object, the exercises need to be made more difficult. See below for some ideas of how to make the exercises more challenging.</p> <p>Use smaller objects for the fine motor exercises</p>	
	Use toothpicks instead of popsicle sticks
	Use smaller pegs
	Use smaller coins, Lego or blocks
	Use various sized objects for the exercises, for instance, a variety of jars with different mouth sizes (eg. ketchup, salad)

GRASP Daily Log Sheet							
<p>Customize the calendar by writing in month and date on the lines. Write the number of minutes you did GRASP exercises each day into several spaces such as the or surgery that may have prevented GRASP practice. Also note if pain or excessive fatigue.</p> <p>Month: _____</p>							
Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
GRASP minutes							
GRASP minutes							
GRASP minutes							
GRASP minutes							
GRASP minutes							

8

GRASP- Exercise Progress Check				
Do you have problem doing _____				
How many sets and repetitions do you do for this exercise? Is it easy or hard for you? Any problems?				
Set	Reps	# sets	# reps	Notes
1	10	1	10	
2	10	2	20	
3	10	3	30	
4	10	4	40	
5	10	5	50	
6	10	6	60	
7	10	7	70	
8	10	8	80	
9	10	9	90	
10	10	10	100	
11	10	11	110	
12	10	12	120	
13	10	13	130	
14	10	14	140	
15	10	15	150	
16	10	16	160	
17	10	17	170	
18	10	18	180	
19	10	19	190	
20	10	20	200	
21	10	21	210	
22	10	22	220	
23	10	23	230	
24	10	24	240	
25	10	25	250	
26	10	26	260	
27	10	27	270	
28	10	28	280	
29	10	29	290	
30	10	30	300	
31	10	31	310	
32	10	32	320	
33	10	33	330	
34	10	34	340	
35	10	35	350	
36	10	36	360	
37	10	37	370	
38	10	38	380	
39	10	39	390	
40	10	40	400	
41	10	41	410	
42	10	42	420	
43	10	43	430	
44	10	44	440	
45	10	45	450	
46	10	46	460	
47	10	47	470	
48	10	48	480	
49	10	49	490	
50	10	50	500	

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Review > Top Stroke Rehabil. 2016 Apr;23(2):116-25. doi: 10.1179/1945511915Y.0000000007.  
Epub 2016 Feb 8.

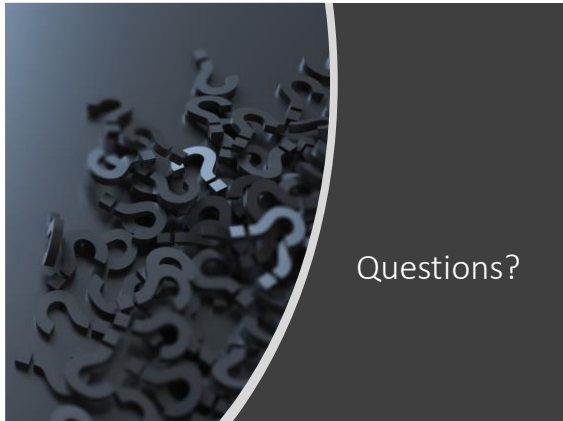
### Error augmentation as a possible technique for improving upper extremity motor performance after a stroke – a systematic review

Sharon Israely<sup>1</sup>, Eli Carmel<sup>1</sup>

Affiliations + expand  
PMID: 26382572 DOI: 10.1179/1945511915Y.0000000007

- Finger weights
- Weighted gloves
- Pulling them into error (wrong plane; use a theraband or manual resistance to pull them posterior)
- Trunk restraint (bending and reaching – good or bad??)

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# FMC and in hand manipulation

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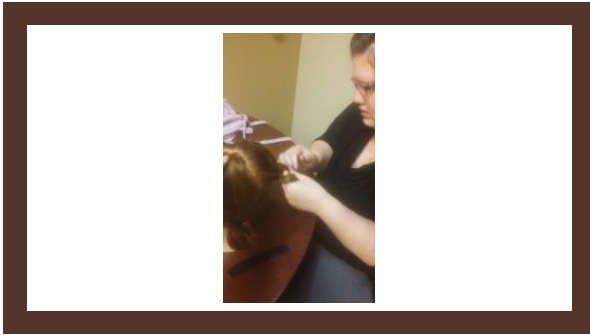
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- Crumpling paper
- Self feeding small snacks/foods
- Coloring with a broken crayon
- Wringing out washcloths
- Tapping fingers to a beat
- Craft projects
- Shuffling cards
- Rotate golf balls in palm
- Use fidgets

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