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# Improving effect of enhanced axial rehabilitation on trunk control deficit in children with cerebral palsy

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Recently, several studies have shown that children with cerebral palsy (PC) have trunk control disorders both while sitting [1] and walking [2]. If most therapeutics focus on lower limb and gait disorders, trunk control deficit can roughly affect daily life. Lately, new tools to evaluate trunk control have appeared.

The Trunk Control Measurement scale [3] is a clinical scale developed to assess trunk control in children with CP in several ways such as static sitting balance, selective movement control and equilibrium reaction.

Another tool is the unstable sitting device (Fig 1) that allows static and dynamic posturography of the trunk. Moreover, it can be calibrated in order to homogenize the difficulty between the subjects according to their anthropometric characteristics, during unstable posturography [4].

The aim of our study was to test the effects of enhanced axial rehabilitation (EAR) on trunk control during seated posture in CP children.



CP and TD childrens were first compared on the TCMS and unstable sitting posturography.

Then, the performances of CP childrens were compared before and after an enhanced axial rehabilitation (EAR) of 3 months.

The EAR leaded by a physiotherapist was based on exercises in different postures performed by the child each day that strongly involve the trunk to cope with balance. Exercices included unsual movements such as lumbar delordosis and scapular and pelvis belt dissociation.





Fig 1 : unstable sitting device on a 3D forceplate for sitting posturography



Fig 2 : exemples of enhanced axial rehabiliation exercices



Enhanced axial rehabilitation during 3 months improved trunk control in seated posture for children with CP. Theses improvements where both on gross and selective trunk control as assed by the TCMS. COP Sway Area reduction attest a more acurate postural control while reduced RMS COP Instant Speed show a less energetic depense for postural control of the upper body.

The next step is to show that the improvement of axial segment postural control have a benefic effect on dynamic balance and lower lmb kinetics during gait.

### References:

[1] :Liao, S. F., Yang, T. F., Hsu, T. C., Chan, R. C., & Wei, T. S. (2003). Differences in seated postural control in children with spastic cerebral palsy and children who are typically



