

Serving the Seating & Wheeled Mobility Professional



HOME COVID-19 READ PRODUCTS & TECH RESOURCES WEBINARS SUBSCRIBE ABOUT US

Home Articles

ATP Series

CAN THE RIGHT SEATING TECHNOLOGY CURE SCOLIOSIS?

By Laurie Watanabe | Oct 01, 2015

Receive your FREE print subscription to *Mobility Management*.

Printable
Format

E-Mail
this page

SHARE THIS PAGE

LinkedIn Facebook
Twitter Google

LATEST PODCASTS

- 29 Frames Per Second: Keys to Successful Telehealth Outcomes
- How a Pandemic Could Change the Lives of People with Disabilities
- Tilt Talk: Posterior, Anterior, Lateral

Jobs from Indeed

What: Find Jobs
Where:

jobs by indeed

SUBSCRIBE TO EMOBILITY

Mobility Management's free email newsletter keeping you up-to-date and informed.

Email Address

I agree to this site's Privacy Policy



Lelia and Dale Ginder

The question of whether or not scoliosis can be “cured” with the right wheelchair seating is a critical one because of how common the condition is among wheelchair users, how frequently it progresses, and its potential impact not just on posture, but also on multiple systems within the human body.

So can the right seating equipment — with the usual complex rehab technology caveat that no single component or system is the perfect solution for every client — stop scoliosis in its destructive tracks? Furthermore, can the right equipment choices reverse scoliosis that already exists?

REVERSING THE TREND?

Katherine Sims, VP of communications for Matrix Seating USA, says yes — that certain types of seating products can cure scoliosis.

“Adjustable micro-modular seating (AMMS) is utilized to provide superior seating and positioning for complex rehab wheelchair users,” Sims says. “AMMS is being used as an orthotic in Europe to decrease the progression of scoliosis and has been proven to correct it. This is the way of the future for custom-molded seating in the United States.”

As an executive of a company that provides just that type of seating system, Sims is naturally biased. So she points out a study by Steve Cousins and Ron Clarke, both from the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability in London. (The study and other research and media reports are available on the matrixseatingusa.com Web site in the Publications section.)

Cindi Petito, OTR/L, ATP, CAPS, president of Seating Solutions, a Florida-based occupational therapy practice, acknowledges that the idea of correcting conditions such as scoliosis is a new one in the United States.

“Considering the possibility that spinal and postural deformities can be corrected with the use of a seating system is a new methodology in the United States,” Petito says. “Steven Cousins, Ph.D., BASc, MASc, PEng, in collaboration with an orthotic engineer in Sweden, began exploring the possibilities of using AMMS for corrective positioning in the late 1990s. As this methodology is better understood through case studies and research in the U.S., custom-molded seating will eventually become utilized to decrease the progression of scoliosis and other diseases where they may be present.”

A PROACTIVE APPROACH

Sims says the possibility of being able to halt scoliosis would be welcome news for people like Lelia Ginder, Gainesville, Fla., whose son, Dale, has Duchenne muscular dystrophy and uses a power chair.

Sims says Lelia Ginder “hopes the AMMS system he is using will help keep him supported so that he does not develop severe scoliosis, which can be an issue for Duchenne boys as they lose muscle. [She] feels like she is being proactive with their choice of seating system. The fact that AMMS can be adjusted and will grow with Dale means that he will always have the correct postural support.”

This article originally appeared in the [October 2015](#) issue of Mobility Management.

About the Author

Laurie Watanabe is the editor of Mobility Management. She can be reached at lwatanabe@1105media.com.

RELATED ARTICLES

- [New Podcast: Brad Peterson Talks About Tilt](#)
- [CRT Awareness Week Commemorated by Industry Organizations](#)
- [Clinician Task Force to Present Access Webinar on Aug. 13](#)
- [Stealth Products Launches UniLink Hardware](#)
- [New Podcast: “29 Frames Per Second” Features Steve Mitchell on Telehealth Experiences](#)

PRODUCTS

- [QUICKIE SEDEO PRO](#)
- [Custom Seating](#)
- [Seating & Positioning](#)
- [Pediatric Diego Seating](#)
- [Wombat Living](#)

RESEARCH

- [Pressure Ulcer Research: A New Frontier](#)
- [2018 Cushion & Backrest Comparo](#)



[Contact the Editor!](#)

[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Advertise](#)
[Reprints & Permissions](#)
[Terms of Use](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)

[Contact Us](#)
[Magazine Subscription](#)
[Newsletter Subscription](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)

[Auto Access](#)
[Consumers & Caregivers](#)
[Home Accessibility](#)
[Legislation & Policy](#)
[Pediatrics](#)
[Power Chairs](#)
[Reimbursement](#)
[Scooters](#)
[Seating & Positioning](#)
[Ultralightweights](#)

2121 Alton Parkway, Suite 240
Irvine, CA 92606

©2020 1105 Media, Inc.. See our [Privacy Policy](#), [Cookie Policy](#) and [Terms of Use](#). CA: [Do Not Sell My Personal Info](#)