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Get A Grip: Spinal stimulation for upper limb and respiratory function in tetraplegia

Researchers at Neuroscience Research Australia are seeking volunteers with chronic tetraplegia to participate in research investigating the effects of electrical spinal cord stimulation paired with exercise therapy that targets upper limb and respiratory function.

The study might be a good fit for you if you are:

- aged 18 years or older
- diagnosed with a spinal cord injury between the levels of C2 and C8 at least one year ago and able to breath independently
- willing and able to participate in a training program three times a week for 6 weeks

And you do NOT have any of the following:

- a progressive neurological disease or other major neurological condition other than the spinal cord injury (e.g., severe traumatic brain injury, syring or stroke)
- open surgery within the last 3 months
- severe upper limb spasticity or contractures
- any serious medical condition, cognitive impairment (i.e. trouble remembering or learning), drug dependency, psychiatric illness or behavioural problem preventing you from adhering to the protocol
- cardiac pacemaker or pregnancy

If you decide to take part, we will:

- Assess your upper-limb dexterity, function and strength and respiratory muscle strength before and after the exercise intervention.
- Assess your upper limb muscle reflexes by electrically stimulating your spinal cord using gel electrodes placed on your arm, back and shoulders.
- You would undergo 30 min of exercise training with spinal cord stimulation, via electrodes placed on your skin, 3 times a week, for 6 weeks at NeuroMoves or NeuRA.

Will I have to pay, or be paid, to take part in the research study?

There is no costs to participate in the study. You will not be reimbursed for travel expenses or time.

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

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