

A Case Study Which Illustrates the Benefits of Wijits “Javier”



Javier is a 19-year-old male who sustained a C6-7 Spinal Cord Injury and a head injury on June 2007 when he was a helmeted rider involved in a ATV accident. Javier was hospitalized, and participated in rehabilitation programs until he was discharged home in August 2008. Javier is now in high school and intends to attend college. Also, Javier receives Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy from CCS of Monterey.

Javier has both a power wheelchair and a manual wheelchair. On January 2009, Javier was provided with a Wijit drive system for his manual wheelchair. Some of the most significant functional benefits directly related Javier’s use of the Wijit drive system are outlined below.

Status or task	Prior to receiving WiJit system	Currently (2011)
Manual wheelchair mobility	Indoors on flat surfaces for 5-10 feet	Exclusively throughout fair weather days on various surfaces and inclines.
Transfers	Hoyer lift or 1-2 person dependent	Contact guard (after set-up) or minimal assist
Weight shift (forward while in manual wheelchair)	Moderate assistance with weight shift loops	Modified independence (without weight shift loops)
Dynamic BUE activities while long sitting or sitting at the edge of matt	Maximal assistance	Supervision assistance
Bed mobility (rolling, sidelying to sit)	Dependent (dep.)	Contact guard to supervision
Upper extremity dressing	Moderate assistance	Modified independence
Lower extremity dressing	Maximal/dep. assistance	Min./Contact guard assistance
Voice volume (vital capacity unavailable)	No greater than a whisper (unable to use a voice/speech recognition program.	Good voice volume sufficient to ask for help across a room, and <u>use a voice/speech recognition program.</u>

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Since Javier started using his manual wheelchair with the Wijits he has lost approximately 30 lbs. Javier’s manual wheelchair mobility has increased such that he is able to repetitively manage approximately 200 feet with a 3-8% incline/slope (i.e., now, 8 times in 45-minutes,-- initially he was able to manage the distance and slope 1 time in 45 minutes). Javier has competence with the Wijits and enjoys the physical benefits he receives when he propels his wheelchair with the Wijit system. Javier now prefers the use of his manual wheelchair instead of his power wheelchair.

“The Wijit system on Javier’s manual wheelchair enables Javier to effectively propel his manual wheelchair while strengthening his upper extremities and trunk. The change in his strength and endurance is significant, such that, his overall function and independence has improved. Javier would not have improved as dramatically without the use of a Wijit system.”

Michael Chassion, OTR/L CCS
Occupational Therapist