



NEWS

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Saint Luke's offers therapy options for stroke and neurological patients

Technologies help neurological patients regain function and mobility

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Imagine technology so advanced that it helps stroke and other neurological patients regain mobility and achieve greater independence and hand control to grasp objects, tasks that stroke victims once believed to be impossible.

This technology is now a reality at Saint Luke's Hospital through two devices now netting impressive results called the NESS H200™ and the NESS L300™. Saint Luke's Hospital is among the first in the region to offer these breakthrough therapies and serves as a regional assessment site for therapists and patients interested in trying out the new devices.

NESS H200 for hand and wrist recovery

The NESS H200 consists of a soft polymer fitting that rests over the patient's hand and forearm. Embedded in the device are five surface electrodes that stimulate muscles in the hand and wrist. A microprocessor allows the user to program the device with a series of exercises customized for each patient. Clinical trials support the effectiveness of the NESS H200 in facilitating return of function for patients in the acute phase of recovery following stroke and brain injury, as well as for select patients whose injuries are years old.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialist Brad Steinle, M.D., said the NESS H200 provides a major adjunct to traditional therapy for stroke, spinal cord, and brain-injured patients. "We are very excited about the encouraging results we're seeing in both our acute rehab program and our outpatient services," said Dr. Steinle. "There are substantial clinical studies pointing to the value of neuromuscular re-education early in a patient's recovery. We are maximizing rehabilitation by using the device between therapy sessions, and even encouraging patients to purchase the NESS H200 and take it home with them."

NESS L300 helps foot drop patients regain mobility

Central nervous system injuries often result in foot drop—leading to instability and difficulty walking. The NESS L300™ neuro-rehabilitation system is a revolution in Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) technology, designed to help patients experiencing foot drop regain mobility and help “normalize” walking and gait. The L300 uses wireless communication to “talk” to its components, eliminating cumbersome wires and allowing the clinician the ability to fine-tune settings while the patient is actually walking. This user-friendly system is appropriate for a broad range of conditions, including stroke, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and incomplete spinal cord injury.

About Bioness

California-based Bioness Inc. was formed in 2004 by the Alfred Mann Foundation for Scientific Research, a world leader in medical technology, and NESS Ltd., a company headquartered in Israel that develops and manufactures neuroprosthetic and rehabilitation systems. To learn more about Bioness Inc. or the L300, visit www.bioness.com.

For more information about the new devices or to schedule an evaluation, call Rehabilitation Services during weekday business hours at (816) 932-4578.

Saint Luke's Hospital is part of Saint Luke's Health System, which consists of 11 area hospitals and many primary care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.

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