



UNIVERSITAIRE  
ZIEKENHUIZEN  
LEUVEN



**Fysische Geneeskunde en Revalidatie**

**uw bericht van**

**uw kenmerk**

**ons kenmerk**

**Leuven**

**2005-10-06**

To whom it may concern

The University hospital Leuven is a hospital with an 1895 bed inpatient facility . On the intensive care there are 56 postoperative surgical beds. We treat patients with various disabilities such as polytrauma, burns, respiratory diseases, acute neurological patients...We have a team of 7 motivated physiotherapists offering a continuum of care for the population we serve.

Four years ago we bought a first Motomed. The ICU patients were getting on line to use the machine and we had to schedule their treatment on the 4 ICU units. Due to the demand we bought another one last year. The company kindly adapted this one with more sophisticated feedback equipment.

The benefits of the Motomed are numerous for the ICU patients, as we can exercise lower extremities passively in the beginning of their stay. In addition, and a cooperative patient can see for himself his improvement. Seeing your own legs move (even passively) gives the ICU patients hope and the drive to maximally cooperate with their rehabilitation programme.

Because more and more severely ill patients survive and have longer ICU stays it is necessary to start exercises as soon as possible trying to reduce muscle weakness and improve cardiopulmonary status. As we can find in the literature , outcomes after critical illness have shown that there are both long term physical and neuropsychological consequences of severe illness. We need to gain a better understanding of the specific determinants of patients inability to resume their prior work/lifestyle so that an multidisciplinary intervention can be designed and tested. Therefore we decided to use Motomed for a rehabilitation protocol starting soon on the ICU patients under the supervision of Professor Gosselink, Dean Faculty of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Sciences of the Leuven University. In this study we would like to show that systematic use of this equipment improves the functional capacity of patients and reduces ICU and hospital stay.

We hope to prove the benefits that our experience with the Motomed system and will inspire other therapists and medical staff in the care of critically ill patients, even for home use.

Kind regards,

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