Effect of Ankle-Foot Orthoses (AFOs) on Continuous Walking in Persons with Post-Stroke Hemiplegia

A study is being conducted to evaluate the effect of ankle-foot-orthoses (i.e., a leg brace or splint) on continuous walking in persons with hemiplegia following stroke.

The research will take place at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Motion Analysis Research Laboratory located within the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center at 680 N Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.

During the study, participants will perform 12 minutes of walking while wearing their currently prescribed AFO, a custom tuned AFO, and without an AFO. Fitting of the custom tuned AFO will take place at the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center.

The study lasts approximately 6 weeks and involves 5 study visits.

Please contact Dr. Stefania Fatone (312) 503-5717 or s-fatone@northwestern.edu in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation if you are interested in learning more about the study or potentially participating.

Participants must meet the following criteria:
• be 18 to 65 years of age
• have post-stroke hemiplegia
• be at least 6 months post-stroke
• regularly use an AFO
• be able to walk continuously for a minimum of 12 minutes
• be able to speak and read English

Subjects will be screened to confirm eligibility.

Participants will receive compensation for taking part in this study.

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