

Staff News at REHABTech

This week, 4th year Swinburne biophysics and engineering student, Katherine Ortiz, began her industry-based learning year at REHABTech and CGMC.

Katherine plans to ‘...learn as much as possible in this clinical and practical environment, which is so different from lectures and classrooms’.



Step-Counter Takes Steps in the Right Direction

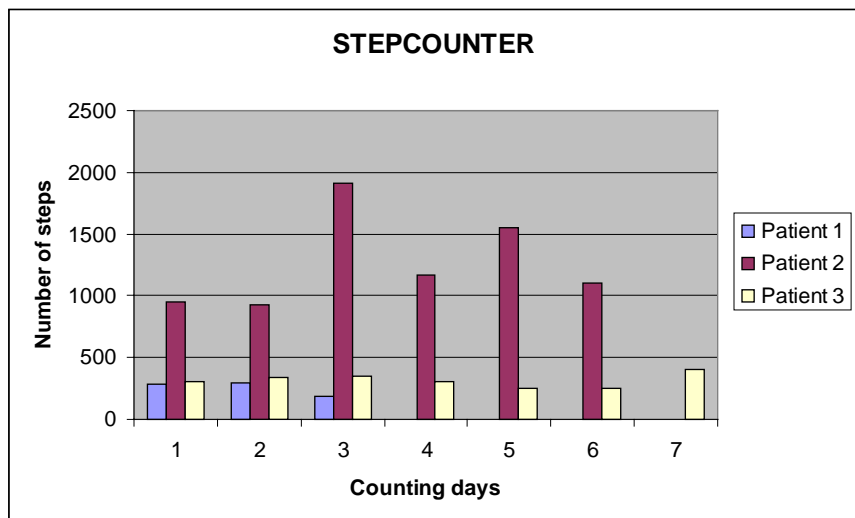
Student research placement, Janita Meijeringh, used a step-counter to monitor the progress (over seven days) of three patients learning to walk again following below-knee amputation.

Patient 1 (aged between 55–65) walked with wheelywalker.

Patient 2 (aged between 45–55) walked with a stick.

Patient 3 (aged between 55–65) walked with wheelywalker.

The first two patients walked well, taking real steps without resorting to sliding the foot along the floor. This allowed the step-counter to record impact of each step taken. Because of stump sensitivity, patient three began to slide rather than step. The graph below reflects their walking activity.



Future experimentation with the step-counter will explore:

- the results of patients using it over a longer period,
- modifications to the design of the step-counter to enable it to record foot movement other than impact on walking.

The step-counter provided physiotherapy staff with a record of progress for each patient. In a clinical situation this information helps staff assess the needs and problems of individual patients more accurately. Technically, a number of different step-counter designs are being evaluated.

Coming Events

10–14 April

Clinical Management of Upper Limb Amputees, RehabTech.

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