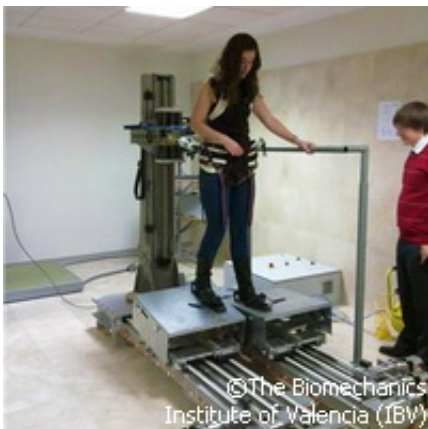


# Innovative rehabilitation for stroke victims

January 11 2013

---



Credit: The Biomechanics Institute of Valencia (IBV)

A pioneering rehabilitation system has been developed, with the aim of improving the quality of life of those suffering from brain damage.

The WALKX project, was co-funded for two years by the European Commission through the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), and developed by the [Biomechanics](#) Institute of Valencia (IBV) in Spain.

The home rehabilitation system supports the patient from sitting to standing position and improves overall manoeuvrability. This improves [patient autonomy](#), particularly for those suffering from stroke (cerebrovascular accident), which is the most common cause of adult disability in Europe. Around 75 % of sufferers survive, but many people lose the ability to live independently in their own home.

As strokes often result in long-term disability, rehabilitation and hospitalisation represent a major [economic burden](#) for the EU of around EUR 34 billion annually. Currently, the annual incidence is approximately 2 per 1,000 inhabitants in the EU, with the number predicted to double over the next 50 years due to the ageing of population.

Ignacio Bermejo, market innovation director at IBV, says, 'An upper body stabilising and controllable supporting vest will be developed. Early in the [rehabilitation process](#) it will be used under supervision of a therapist, but with greatly reduced need for physical support from the therapists. This is intended to reduce the need for help from others and increase freedom of movement and [personal autonomy](#) of the patient.'

One of the aspects of the device is a vest with attachment points on the patient's waist to regulate the mobility of the trunk. The device is modular and made available at relatively low cost. Preclinical tests have been carried out in collaboration with the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Hospital Universitari i Politècnic La Fe of Valencia.

**More information:** [www.walkx.com/](http://www.walkx.com/)  
[www.ruvid.org/](http://www.ruvid.org/)

Provided by CORDIS

Citation: Innovative rehabilitation for stroke victims (2013, January 11) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-01-victims.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.