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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Post-stroke rehabilitation devices offered via the Internet: Based on randomized controlled evidence?

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Key words: stroke; rehabilitation; stroke rehabilitation; neurological rehabilitation; physical and rehabilitation medicine

Dear Editor. In 2013, there were 25.7 million stroke survivors and 6.5 million stroke-related deaths [1]. Previous studies have indicated that approximately 40% of stroke survivors remain with functional impairments and need physical rehabilitation [2]. However, many barriers could limit access to continuous physical rehabilitation for these patients, so devices that complement or assist in the rehabilitation process can be of great help [3].

The quality, safety and efficacy of medical devices should be evaluated in randomized controlled trials (RCTs) [4]. However, the efficacy of many medical devices entering the market in the United States and the European Union (EU) has not been evaluated [5]. Unproven post-

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