

Involving children and young people in the development of upper limb prostheses

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Upper limb dysfunction can have an adverse impact on development at all stages of childhood and adolescence (Ibbotson, 2002). There is, however, a rejection rate of upper limb prostheses of up to 50% amongst young people (Shida-Tokeshi, et al., 2005). Research has suggested that children may choose to use a different prosthesis depending on the task they wish to use it for (Egermann, Kasten & Thomsen, 2008), but there is a distinct absence of the views of children in the existing literature and little is known about the psychosocial, occupational and environmental factors of upper limb prosthesis use for children.

This research will aim to explore the views of children and young people on upper limb prosthetic devices to inform the design of child-centred prosthetic upper limbs.

Between 18 and 30 young people aged between 7 and 16 with upper limb dysfunction and experience of using an upper limb prosthesis will be recruited for this study. They will be asked to take part in 2 focus groups to gather their views on upper limb prostheses to contribute towards the design of new technologies in this area.

References

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