

POLIO AND INJURY

If a walking man breaks his leg, which then is armoured with plaster, he can jump on his second leg using crutches. But if a non-walking polio survivor breaks his leg (although it occurs rarely), its plastered stiff weight limits already the patient's movement from his bed to his wheelchair and then complicates his sitting in it. All is additionally more difficult, if the injured person is an older non-walking polio survivor weakening due to the post-polio syndrome. The most limited possibilities affect non-walking men, if they break their arm, because arms often compensate their paralyzed lower extremities. A wheelchair user with only one able arm can navigate his manual vehicle only with extreme difficulty. Therefore, dear colleagues polio survivors, be attentive of such "luxury" injuries.

Contemporary non-walking polio survivors with weak trunk muscles meet sometimes other troubles, e.g., in hospitals, too. Younger nurses, who do not remember the muscle weakness of polio patients, are sometimes impatient, if a patient with paralyzed muscoli obliqui turns too slowly in bed. Similarly younger nurses do not understand, why a patient with backside muscles "stolen" by polio. is unable to make a "bridge," an arch over a bedpan for expected extremities ...

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