

Risk & Regulatory Working Group

Exoskeleton - G Meeting

Marriott Gateway June 28 and 29, 2017

Where we Started



Risks

- Who is liable for user injuries and equipment failures; manufacturer, user, other?
- How is fitness-for-service assessed?
- What are the requirements for basic knowledge, proficiency, and refresher training established?
- Should the use of exoskeletons be a personal choice?

Assessment by Group

Need Common Terminology

- Concerned with Safety and Insurance
- Existing Standards
 - Robotic Standards
 - ISO 13482 Robots and Robotic Development Safety Requirements for Personal Care Robotics
 - > ANSI 15066
 - Collaborative Robot Standards
 - UL 227 Electric & Fire standard
 - There are no ergonomic standards
- However, No consensus standards

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Needing Data



- Exoskeletons are TRL 6 Today, but Need to be TRL 8
- FDA Approves Medical Devices & OSHA will approve Industrial Exoskeleton Devices
- Acceptable Risks a concern, for example at Harley Davidson, a worker requires a hoist to lift a motorcycle frame of 70#, an exoskeleton might be able to eliminate the use of the hoist and change time and money
- However, injury reports from companies are protected and secretive (not accessible)
- We need to understand safety, including PPEs
- For example, is an exoskeleton valued as an automobile or hammer (tool) for liability concerns?

Today, No compilation of Knowledge on Exoskeletons (No Data)

Issues Needing Answers

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- What are the long-term effects to the user?
- What essential muscle groups should we measure with sensors?
- Exoskeletons require the "Human Subject Research Protocol"
- We Do Not Know The Long Term Effects of Exoskeletons
- Need Training Protocols long term activity
- IRB needs extensive testing and being transparent

Barriers to Entry

Need sharing mechanism to collect data

Broad-use not regular



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