

Making Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Engineering a Sure Bet
**Power Wheelchair Selection, Utilization and Satisfaction
by Patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

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ABSTRACT

Thirty-two patients completed a 31-question survey investigating patient's patterns of selection, satisfaction, and frequency of PWC use, prior, during, and after acquiring a PWC. Sixty six percent of patients thought the chair evaluation was timed correctly, and 19% wished they had started sooner. There was a statistically significant difference in how patients used their wheelchair features initially and currently in terms of seat elevate and attendant control, but not tilt, recline and elevating leg rests. Respondents rated initial and current overall comfort and ease of use with the chair as well as specific features on the chair. Overall, 88% of respondents said they would get the same type of chair with the same features again and 81% felt like the chair was a good value for the cost. Based on this survey, ALS/MND patients seen for their wheelchair evaluation with experienced clinicians, exhibit high utilization and satisfaction with their PWC's.

KEY WORDS

Assistive Technology, Durable Medical Equipment, Questionnaire

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