

Abstract

Clinical Trial of the Freedom Bed

Immobility results in complications of many body systems. Frequent, regular turning of individuals in bed has been found to decrease the incidence of pressure ulcers and other complications. This frequent turning requires an extensive time commitment of care-givers. The Freedom Bed is designed to automatically turn a patient up to 30 degrees at time intervals as preset on the built in computer.

The study was designed to evaluate patient satisfaction and comfort, as well as skin and respiratory status while on the Freedom Bed. Twenty-four subjects who had a degenerative disease, stroke, or spinal cord injury consented to use the Freedom Bed for four weeks. Researchers completed a demographic survey, did a skin assessment, and assessed each subject using the Braden Risk Assessment Scale prior to beginning use of the Freedom Bed and after four weeks on the bed, for those completing the study.

Subjects completing four weeks on the bed rated the Freedom Bed as more comfortable than their own bed. Qualitatively, subject satisfaction ranged from satisfied to ecstatic at the relief from pain obtained when on the Freedom Bed. There was a significant improvement in sleep quality among subjects when using the Freedom Bed. No skin breakdown or deterioration in respiratory status occurred while on the Freedom Bed. The Freedom Bed could "pay for itself" in a very short time because of less need for care-giver assistance when turning bed-bound patients.