

Upper extremity functioning in individuals with spinal cord injury

– From body functions to participation

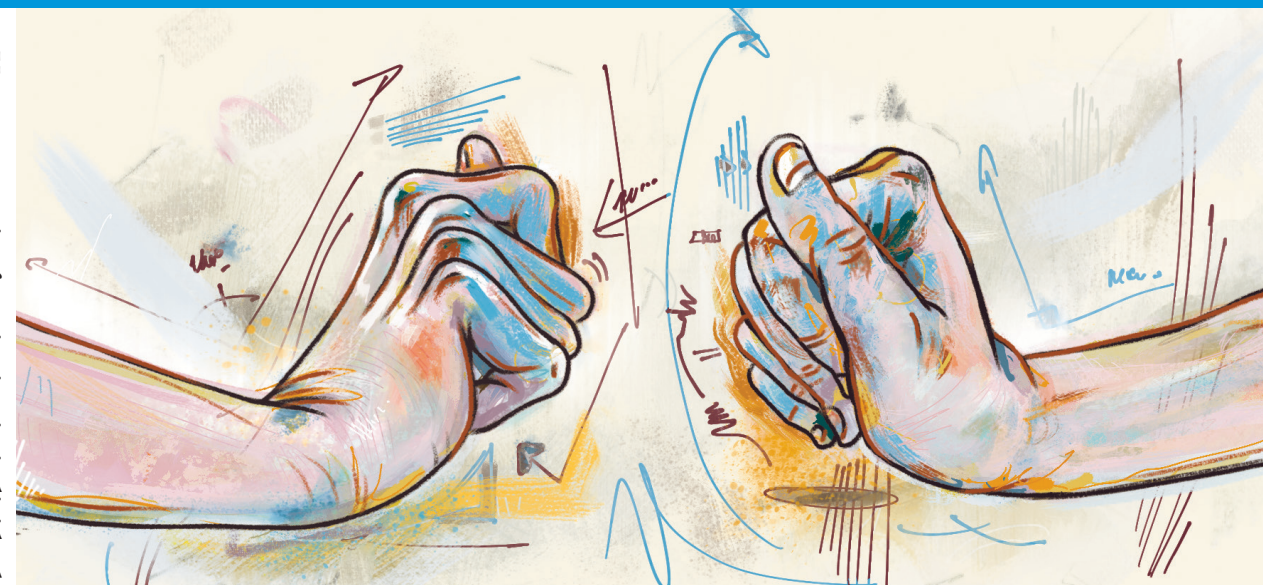
This thesis, comprising four studies, focused on upper extremity functioning in individuals with SCI across various domains of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health. Individuals with SCI and non-disabled controls were recruited. Assessments of upper extremity function (including kinematic analysis during the drinking task) and activity (i.e., capacity and performance) were performed. Data were collected from a self-reported questionnaire on autonomy in participation. Results revealed that certain kinematic measures, such as movement time, smoothness, and wrist angle, were associated with clinical assessments such as self-care, transfers, breathing, and sphincter management. Assessments of performance correlated with self-perceived autonomy in certain life areas, but autonomy showed only weak correlation with upper extremity function and activity capacity. Most participants reported restricted autonomy outdoors, in family role, and indoors. This thesis points out the importance of addressing upper extremity functioning within rehabilitation practises, taking into consideration multiple aspects of functioning and disability.



Lamprini Lili is a physician specialised in physical medicine and rehabilitation, with Master of Science degrees in Clinical Nutrition and Healthcare Management. She practised medicine in Greece from 2007 to 2012 and has been working in various Swedish rehabilitation centres since 2012. She has been affiliated to the Rehabilitation Medicine research group at University of Gothenburg during her PhD studies since 2017.

ISBN 978-91-8069-357-8 (PRINT)
ISBN 978-91-8069-358-5 (PDF)
<http://hdl.handle.net/2077/76811>

Printed by Stema Specialtryck AB, Borås



Upper extremity functioning in individuals with spinal cord injury

– From body functions to participation

Lamprini Lili

**SAHLGRENKA ACADEMY
INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE AND PHYSIOLOGY**



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG