

Evaluation: ROHO® Agility™ Back System in Shropshire

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Kate Huetson is a Senior OT from Shropshire Wheelchair and Posture Service, Lancaster Road Shrewsbury.

Kate has been working as a Wheelchair Specialist

Therapist for 5 years and has previous experience as an Occupational Therapist in Rehabilitation, Elderly Care, Orthopaedics, Surgery, Rheumatology, Oncology and Community practice.

Kate was part of a team of experienced clinicians involved in a focus group for Agility prior to the UK launch in November 2012 and was excited about a number of features, particularly the air insert option but was keen to evaluate Agility in practice to understand the possible opportunity for Agility within her clinical practice.



SHREWSBURY ASSESSMENT SUITE

CLIENT

The client choice for evaluating Agility was M a 12 year old boy with cerebral palsy. He had been living in Poland where he was issued a buggy which he had since outgrown. Following a move to the UK last year he was referred to Shropshire Wheelchair and Posture service for a complete postural and mobility assessment. This assessment was carried out by Kate and Mark Stephens, Rehabilitation Engineer.

M cannot communicate verbally and his mother speaks little English - all assessments were attended by a translator. M demonstrates good levels of non-verbal communication and is highly expressive and responsive.

The challenge with M was to provide a comfortable seating environment enabling him to interact fully and accommodate thrust extension, occurring as reflex as well as expression.

Although M has reasonable trunk control he also has a slight pelvic obliquity and a flexible kyphosis. The equipment had to be light and small enough to fit in the family car.

To complement the choice of Action Junior Wheelchair (with straight posts), ROHO Agility Back was considered a good option. It is lightweight, easy to use and has the additional benefit of an adjustable air infill option to offer a degree accommodation of his Kyphosis and protruding vertebra.

Kate chose the minimum contour depth to provide mild lateral postural trunk support as the client was able to maintain a mid-line posture and to allow the use of chest support harness which has proved highly effective in helping M retain a good posture previously.



ROHO AIR INSERT

“An excellent postural outcome was achieved and appeared to deliver a significant improvement to client comfort”

SET UP AND ADJUSTMENT

Initial selection of ROHO Agility was challenging as all sizing references related to wheelchair widths rather than client measurements – this is common with many back support manufacturers and requires reviewing. Using a combination of client measurements and the wheelchair size selected a minimum contour 1416 Agility with an air insert was chosen for the evaluation.

Prior to the clinic appointment, Agility brackets were fitted to the new wheelchair along with the Back shell.



BRACKETS AND SHELL WERE FITTED



IT WAS EASY TO REMOVE AND REPLACE THE SHELL

The brackets were easy to use and removing the back shell was very simple. Replacing the back shell was easy after a couple of practices (once the location of hardware and technique became familiar).

During the appointment the foot rests and pelvis were addressed initially, a foam contour cushion was chosen to give comfort and stability. The foot supports and arm rests were appropriately adjusted and the ROHO Agility Back air insert set with minimal inflation to allow maximum kyphosis accommodation.



-15°



0°



+15°

FULL RANGE OF TILT ADJUSTMENT ±15°

Possible Agility Back adjustments include a full range of tilt from 15 degrees forward to 15 degrees back, height adjustment of 4 inches and depth adjustment of 2 inches.

Once in the wheelchair, it became clear M's shoulders were tending to fall forward leading to

hyperextension of his neck muscles in order to continue to interact. A one inch adjustment of depth and 10° backward tilt of Agility Back enabled better contact and support in the lumbar region. In conjunction with a correctly sited head rest affixed through existing holes in the back shell, these adjustments delivered a much more comfortable and sustainable position for M.

Overall, an excellent postural outcome was achieved and appeared to deliver a significant improvement to client comfort.

During the clinic appointment, time was taken to explain the wheelchair configuration and how to remove/replace Agility back for ease of transportation. Both mum and family member had the opportunity to practice this before leaving and both found it quick and easy.

A questionnaire was given to the family to complete once they had experience of the new wheelchair and back in their own environment.

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