



The perfect wheelchair fitting with the **e-motion** add-on drive

Extends the action radius and reduces the strain on muscles and joints

INFORMATION BROCHURE FOR THERAPISTS



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What is a pushrim-activated add-on drive?

With a pushrim-activated Add-on drive system, the electric motors in the wheel hubs amplify the wheelchair user's driving movement, in a similar way to an electric bicycle.

Special sensors attached to the pushrims measure the pressure of the push during motion and convert it into corresponding power assistance. Integrated lithium-ion batteries provide the required energy.

Pushrim-activated add-on drives can be attached to almost any manual wheelchair using lightweight and discreet adapters which, generally, do not change the characteristics of the wheelchair. In most cases, the manual wheelchair wheels can still be used.

The drive wheels of the e-motion add-on drive are simply attached to the chair instead of the manual wheelchair wheels. The battery is integrated into the wheel hub.



Why a pushrim-activated add-on drive?

Manage longer distances and slopes

Many wheelchair drivers do not have sufficient strength in their arms and hands to safely propel themselves over longer distances. Even slight slopes can make it much more difficult to move the wheelchair. Braking on downward slopes is another challenge that should not be underestimated and can sometimes even lead to dangerous situations. These challenges often reduce the activity level of wheelchair users, restricting their freedom and making them dependent on the assistance of other people.

With the assistance of electric motors and high-performance batteries, a pushrim-activated add-on drive can enable drivers with reduced arm and hand strength to easily manage longer distances and slopes. The amplified braking also helps to control the speed on downward slopes.

No fatigue throughout the day

Sometimes strength or stamina is not enough to keep the wheelchair driver moving throughout the entire day. Actions that seem easy in the morning can become a burden at noon or in the evening, leading to premature fatigue.

By reducing the effort by up to 73%, a pushrim-activated add-on drive can ensure that even wheelchair users with limited strength and stamina get through their day.

40 Nm /
80 Watt

up to
73%
less strain¹⁾



Preventing strain and its consequences

Wheelchair drivers with sufficient strength and stamina often complain about an entirely different problem: The permanent strain on shoulders, elbows and wrists. This strain can cause injuries and premature wear and, therefore, pain. According to a study, 75 % of all wheelchair drivers complain of symptoms over their lifetime.²⁾ The healthcare costs for additional treatments and operations should also be considered.

The reduced effort when driving with a pushrim-activated add-on drive considerably reduces the strain on the entire musculoskeletal system and therefore protects against wear in the long term.³⁾

At the same time, the wheelchair driver stays active and therefore continues to maintain their health and vital functions.

Areas particularly affected:

Shoulders
(rotator cuff, tendinitis)

Elbows
(tendinitis)

Hands and wrists
(e.g. carpal tunnel syndrome)



1) J. Arva, S.G. Fitzgerald, R.A. Cooper, M.L. Boninger – Medical Engineering & Physics, 2001.

2) R.A. Cooper, D.S. Boehniger, A.M. Koontz – Investigation of the Performance of an ergonomic handrim, 2006.

3) M.G. Kloosterman, J.H. Buurke, W. de Vries, L.H. van der Woude, J.S. Rietman – Medical Engineering & Physics, 2015.



It is safer and much easier to drive on upward and downward slopes with the e-motion add-on drive

What are the advantages of the e-motion?

The e-motion M25 is a state-of-the-art pushrimactivated add-on drive. At 7.8 kg / 17 lbs per wheel, it is one of the lightest systems on the market. The integrated electric motor is silent and high-powered. The system assists a wheelchair driver to propel themselves at up to 8.5 km/h / 5.2 mph.⁴⁾

The wheels can be easily removed from the wheelchair in a single movement and transported in any kind of vehicle. Travelling is also made easy with features that ensure the integrated batteries are safe for air flight.

The e-motion also has additional special features that make life easier.

- ✓ The patented rollback delay prevents the wheelchair from rolling back on slopes and therefore ensures a much more relaxed grip and trip.
- ✓ Optionally, a cruise control function is available via an additional control unit (DuoDrive). This function maintains a constant speed without additional pushes. This is particularly helpful on uphill and downhill slopes (braking function). The e-motion thus becomes a temporary power wheelchair that can be controlled without joystick via the pushrims. This provides the security of knowing to reach the desired destination in any situation, even if physical strength is temporarily weak.

⁴⁾ Depending on configuration



Benefits at a glance:

- ✓ Fits almost all wheelchairs
- ✓ Powerful assistance on slopes
- ✓ Assists when braking downhill
- ✓ Up to 25 km / 15.5 m range with a single battery charge
- ✓ Integrated rollback delay on hills
- ✓ Optional with additional control unit for Cruise Mode (DuoDrive)
- ✓ The wheels fit into any car (only 7.8 kg / 17 lbs per wheel)

With the optional Cruise Mode function (DuoDrive) it takes just one twist on the control unit to maintain a permanent speed. This can be very helpful, especially on extreme slopes.



The drive wheels of the e-motion can be removed in a single movement and fit into any car

Who is the e-motion suitable for?

The e-motion can be used by almost any wheelchair user, meeting a wide range of pediatric and even geriatric needs. In our experience, the e-motion is especially useful for wheelchair drivers with neurodegenerative conditions. It enables them to continue moving independently throughout the day and prevents or at least delays them from having to use an electric wheelchair.⁵⁾

The e-motion is also ideal for paraplegics and quadriplegics.⁶⁾ The drive wheels are available with four different pushrim coatings and provide sufficient grip even for users with limited hand function.

The e-motion fits a wide range of pathologies, even in the geriatric sector



It is important to know that the driving behaviour of the e-motion can be easily adapted to meet the needs of any wheelchair driver:

FLEXIBLE

For each drive wheel, the sensitivity of the sensors on the pushrims can be adjusted in seven steps. This makes it easy to balance any strength imbalances between the left and right half of the body and ensures that the wheelchair user can drive in a straight, avoiding being pulled to one side or the other.

INTELLIGENT

With the free smartphone app, users can choose from five preset driving profiles. These profiles provide different drive behaviours, adjusting the power, speed and responsiveness of the e-motion. A custom profile can be programmed in a password-protected area.

INDIVIDUAL

Each drive profile has two assistance levels for indoor and outdoor use that can be selected with the optional remote control or smartphone app. A special learning mode is also available, allowing the wheelchair driver to get used to handling their e-motion.



Adjustable sensitivity of the drive sensor in seven steps



Optional coated pushrim with ergonomic shape for users with limited hand or triceps function (e.g. Quadriplegics)

Areas of use:

- ✓ Neurodegenerative pathologies
- ✓ Paraplegics
- ✓ Quadriplegics
- ✓ Geriatrics
- ✓ Childcare

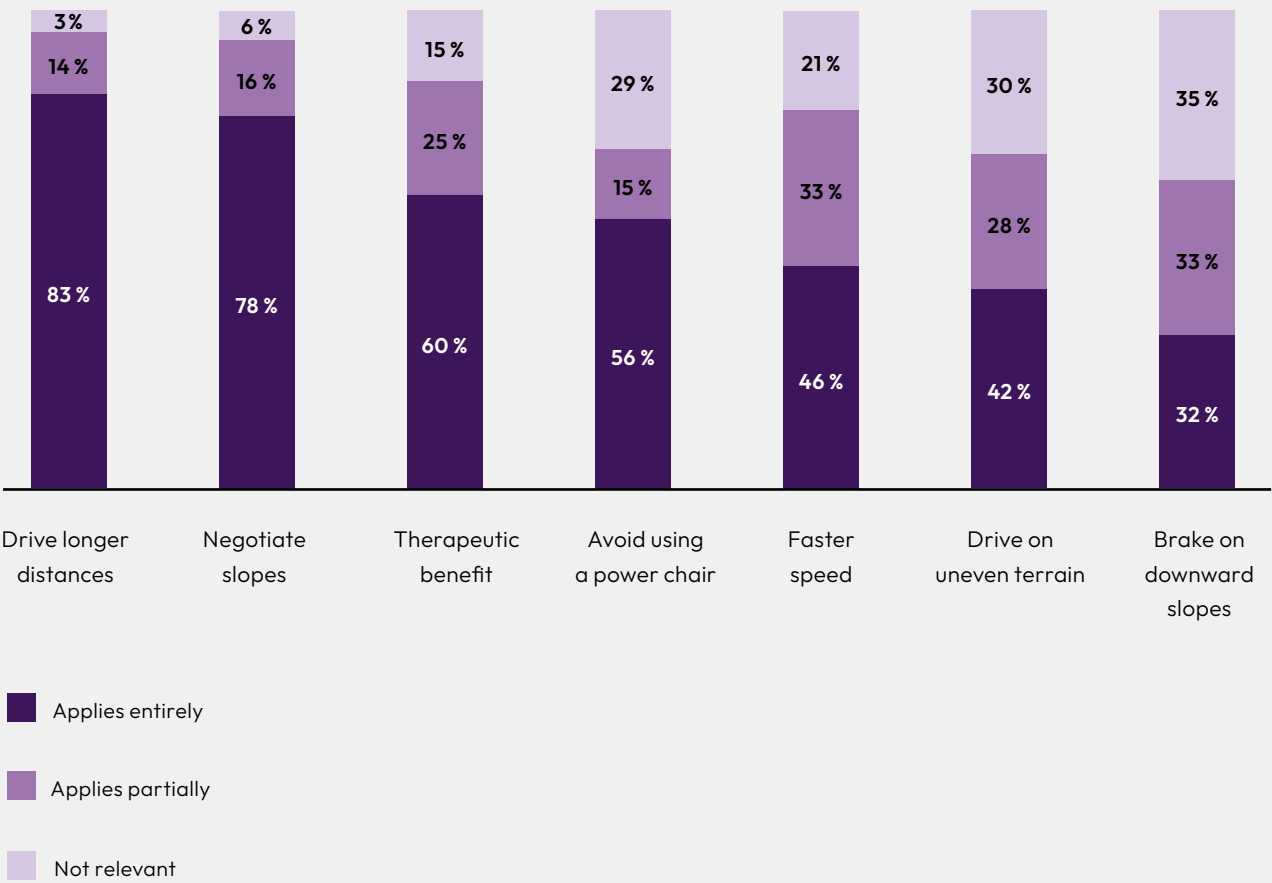
5) E.M. Giesbrecht, J.D. Ripat, A.Q. Quanbury, J.E. Cooper – Disability & Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology, 2009.
6) S.D. Algood, R.A. Cooper, S.G. Fitzgerald, R. Cooper, M.L. Boninger – Arch Phys Med Rehabil, 2004.

Has the therapeutic benefit of e-motion been proven?

In recent years, Alber has held more than 10 customer polls with a total of more than 1,000 e-motion users. All of whom confirm great satisfaction with the add-on drive: **88 % of all e-motion users would choose this add-on drive again and recommend it to friends and family.**⁷⁾

Numerous studies on pushrim-activated add-on drives have been published, which certify the therapeutic benefit of e-motion.

Reasons for choosing the e-motion



Overview of studies on pushrim-activated add-on drives

Authors	Released Title/Date	Summary of the outcome
R. de Klerk, T. Lutjeboer, R. J.K. Vegter, L. H. V. van der Woude	De Klerk et al. Journal of NeuroEngineering and Rehabilitation Juni 2018	Compared to the control group, the test subjects with motivation improved their mechanical efficiency, reduced their stroke frequency, right-left and right-left deviation, and forward-backward deviation on the treadmill, and experienced less perceived exertion (RPE - Rate of Perceived Exertion) over time.
M.G. Kloosterman, J.H. Buurke, W. de Vries, L.H.V. van der Woude, J.S. Rietman	Medical Engineering & Physics October 2015	In conclusion, compared to hand-rim propulsion power-assisted propulsion seems effective in reducing potential risk factors of overuse injuries with the highest gain on decreased range of motion of the shoulder joint, lower peak propulsion force on the rim and reduced muscle activity.
M.G. Kloosterman, G.J. Snoek, L.H. van der Woude, J.H. Buurke, J.S. Rietman	Clinical Rehabilitation Issue 27 September 2012	Power-assisted propulsion might be beneficial for subjects in whom independent hand-rim wheelchair propulsion is endangered by arm injury, insufficient arm strength or low cardiopulmonary reserves. Also, subjects who have difficulty propelling a wheelchair in a challenging environment can benefit from power-assisted wheelchair use.
E.M. Giesbrecht, J.D. Ripat, A.O. Quanbury, J.E. Cooper	Disability & Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology Issue 4 September 2009	Additional knowledge was gained about the benefits pushrim-activated add-on drive technology. Participants were able to continue participating independently in their self-identified community activities using the pushrim-activated add-on drives, and identified comparable ratings of satisfaction and performance with the pushrim-activated add-on drives and the power wheelchair. For some individuals requiring power mobility, the pushrim-activated add-on drives may provide an alternative to the power wheelchair.
S.D. Algood, R.A. Cooper, S.G. Fitzgerald, R. Cooper, M.L. Boninger	Arch Phys Med Rehabil January 2005	For subjects with tetraplegia, pushrim-activated add-on drives have the potential to improve functional capabilities during certain ADLs, especially when propelling up ramps, over uneven surfaces, and over thick carpet.
S.D. Algood, R.A. Cooper, S.G. Fitzgerald, R. Cooper, M.L. Boninger	Arch Phys Med Rehabil November 2004	For subjects with tetraplegia, pushrim-activated add-on drives reduce the energy demands, stroke frequency, and overall joint range of motion when compared with traditional manual wheelchair propulsion.
R.A. Cooper, S.G. Fitzgerald, M.L. Boninger, K. Prins, A.J. Rentschler, J. Arva, T.J. O'Connor	Arch Phys Med Rehabil May 2001	With the pushrim-activated add-on drive, the user had a significantly lower oxygen consumption. Pushrim-activated add-on drives may provide manual wheelchairs with a less physiologically stressful means of mobility with few adaptations to the vehicle or home environment.
J. Arva, S.G. Fitzgerald, R.A. Cooper, M.L. Boninger	Medical Engineering & Physics January 2001	Pushrim-activated add-on drives provide on average 73% of the total power when subjects propel with power assistance. Significantly increased efficiency and reduced requirement of user power is achieved using pushrim-activated add-on drives. With use, the pushrim-activated add-on drives may contribute to delaying secondary injuries of manual wheelchair users. In addition, it may be suitable for people who have (or at risk for) upper extremity joint degeneration, reduced exercise capacity, low strength or endurance who currently use electric powered wheelchairs.

The e-motion and e-motion DuoDrive are produced by Alber in Germany, the specialist for portable and user friendly mobility aids.

e-motion and e-motion DuoDrive are CE-compliant according to the European Medical Devices Directive (MDR) 2017/745 and tested and certified on a voluntary basis by the TÜV Süd, in line with the currently valid edition of the product standard EN 12184.

About Alber

Our company is certified to the latest quality management standard (including the respective latest amendments) set out in ISO 13485 for medical devices. With our environmental management system, certified to ISO 14001, we ensure the environmentally compatible manufacture of our products.



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