

## **EXPERIMENTAL FORWARD OPERATION WITH JOYSTICK IN RIGHT OR MID-LINE POSITION**

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The standard position for joystick on powered wheelchairs are on the right or left armlean. Earlier studies rose the idea that a placement in the drivers mid-line would be more beneficial for the drivers postural alignment and function. A pilot study was conducted with one healthy female. The pattern of ground forces exerted by buttocks during forward operation, were measured with two force plates. Five trials with the joystick positioned at the right side and five in a mid-line position were registered and analysed. Operation with right positioning caused reaction forces from the right buttock in a backward direction and from both buttocks in a leftward direction. Mid-line positioning caused reaction forces from the left buttock in a backward direction and from both buttocks in a lateral direction, i.e. securing pelvis stability. If the pattern is general it can lead to a change of standard position for joystick. Further studies are planned.