

*Building capacity for excellence in service
provision for people with disabilities*

Study Visit to Don Gnocchi Foundation

17-18 November 2016, Milan, Italy

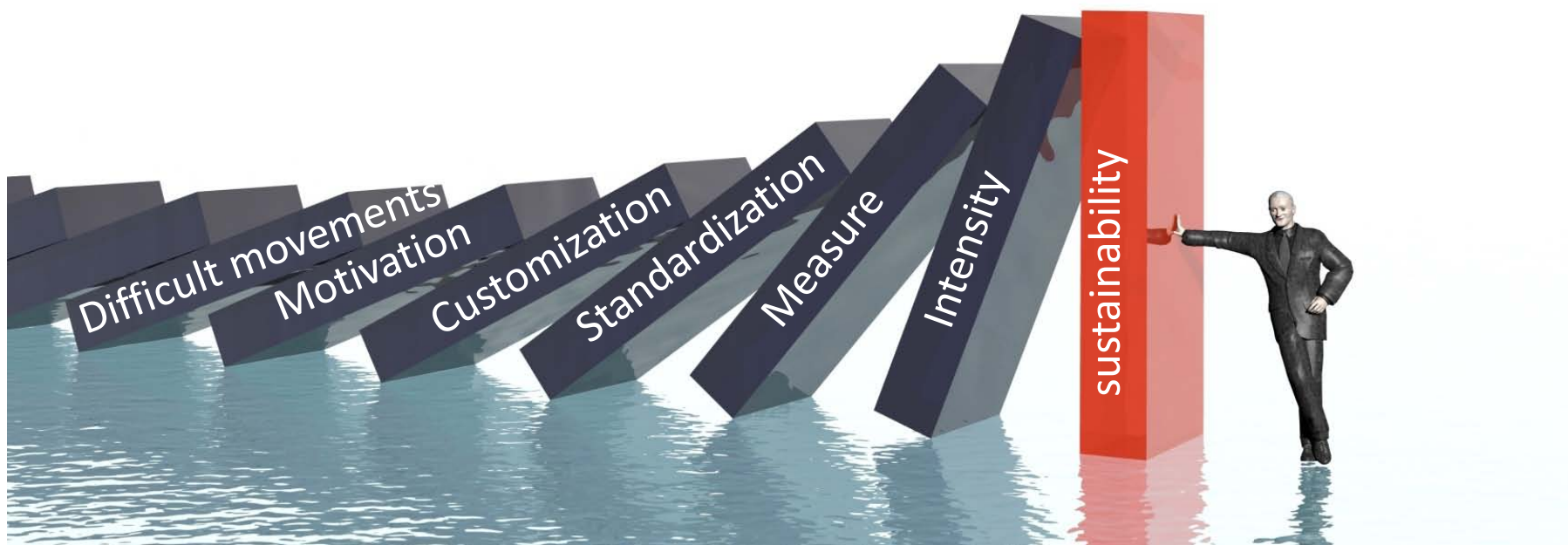
for EPR members involved in medical rehabilitation

Experiences with rehabilitation robotics

Irene Aprile

Neurologist, FDG Centre S.Maria della Provvidenza (Roma)

Why?



Efficacy

Cost-effective

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Filters activated: Clinical Trial, Publication

1. [Robot assisted upper limb therapy effective on a range of outcomes, a rehabilitation alone for people with](#)

NCBI Resources How To

PubMed.gov PubMed ("robot"[Title/Abstract]) AND "rehabilitation"[Title/Abstract] AND "meta analysis"[Publication]

US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

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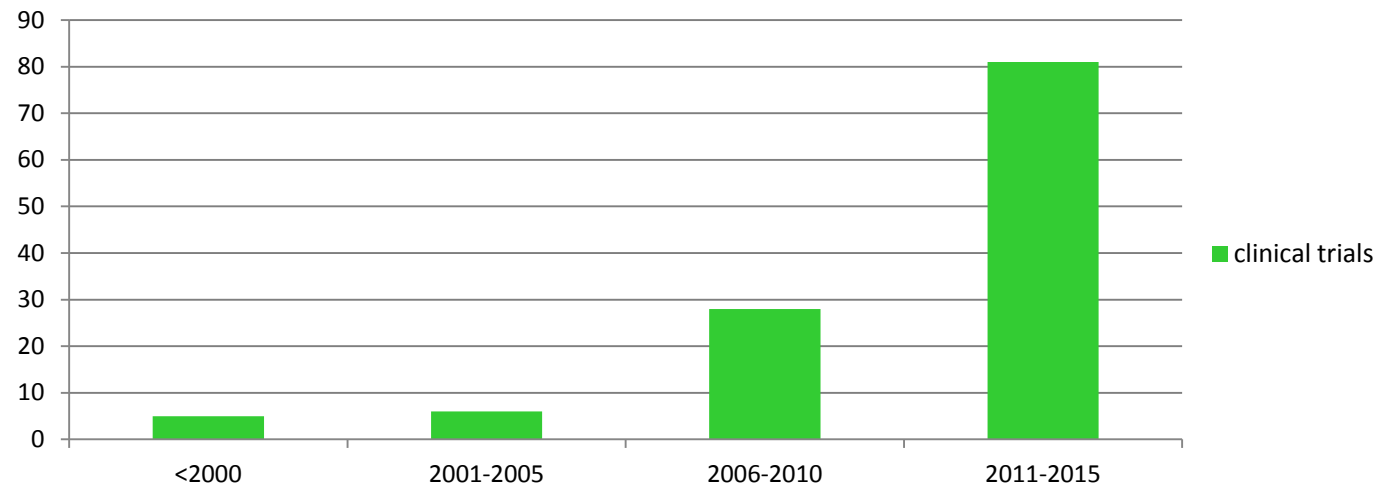
Search results

Items: 7

Text availability

There has been growing interest on this topic but the scientific evidence is low

clinical trials



2012 - 262 patients

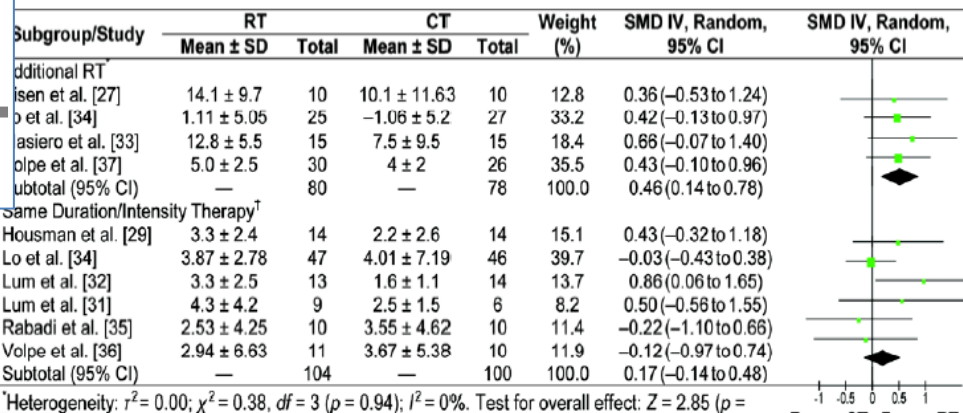
JRRD

Volume 49, Number 4, 2012
Pages 479-496

Effects of robot-assisted therapy on stroke rehabilitation in upper limbs:
Systematic review and meta-analysis of the literature

Nahid Norouzi-Gheidari, MSc, OT,* Philippe S. Archambault, PhD; Joyce Fung, PhD

School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Feil/Oberfeld/CRIR
Research Centre, Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital, Laval, Quebec, Canada



When the duration/intensity of conventional therapy **is matched** with that of the robot-assisted therapy, no difference exists between the two groups in terms of motor recovery, activities of daily living, strength or motor control.

When the RT **is added** to CT, a greater effectiveness can be observed, when compared with regular CT alone

is in Fugl-Meyer (F-M) score between robot-assisted therapy (RT) and conventional therapy (CT). Two meta-analyses based on relative duration/intensity of RT and CT. In these meta-analyses, standardized mean difference in F-M score in Aisen et al., 1997 [27], Housman et al., 2009 [29], and Lo et al., 2010 [34] and SMD of F-M Proximal

people with stroke. Rather, robots deliver highly repetitive therapeutic tasks with minimal supervision of a therapist and these additional sessions of RT improve motor recovery of the hemiparetic shoulder and elbow of patients with stroke. Developing new function-based RT protocols, building robotic devices for rehabilitation of prehension and with more degrees of freedom, and conducting new RCTs that consider the factors discussed in this review are recommended for future studies.

2012

Electromechanical and robot-assisted arm training for improving generic activities of daily living, arm function, and arm muscle strength after stroke (Review)

Mehrholtz J, Hädrich A, Platz T, Kugler J, Pohl M



This is a reprint of a Cochrane review, prepared and maintained by The Cochrane Collaboration and published in *The Cochrane Library* 2012, Issue 6

<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

19 trial (666 partecipanti)

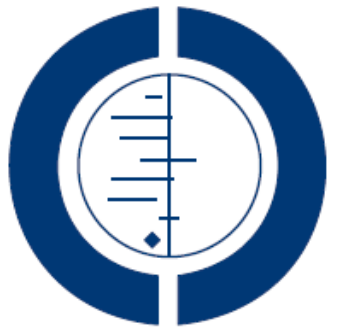
Robotic therapy was more effective in improving upper extremity function and ADL, but not muscular strength.

But the studies reviewed were heterogeneous, then the results should be interpreted with caution.

2015

Electromechanical and robot-assisted arm training for improving activities of daily living, arm function, and arm muscle strength after stroke (Review)

Mehrholz J, Pohl M, Platz T, Kugler J, Elsner B



THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®

This is a reprint of a Cochrane review, prepared and maintained by The Cochrane Collaboration and published in *The Cochrane Library* 2015, Issue 11

<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

Robotic therapy VERSUS conventional therapy, placebo or no treatment.

34 RCTs: 1160 patients

RT was more effective than other therapies in improving activities of daily living, motor function and muscle strength of the upper limb.

RT was well accepted by patients, there was no marked increase in the number of drop-outs and serious adverse events were rare and unrelated to the robotic treatment

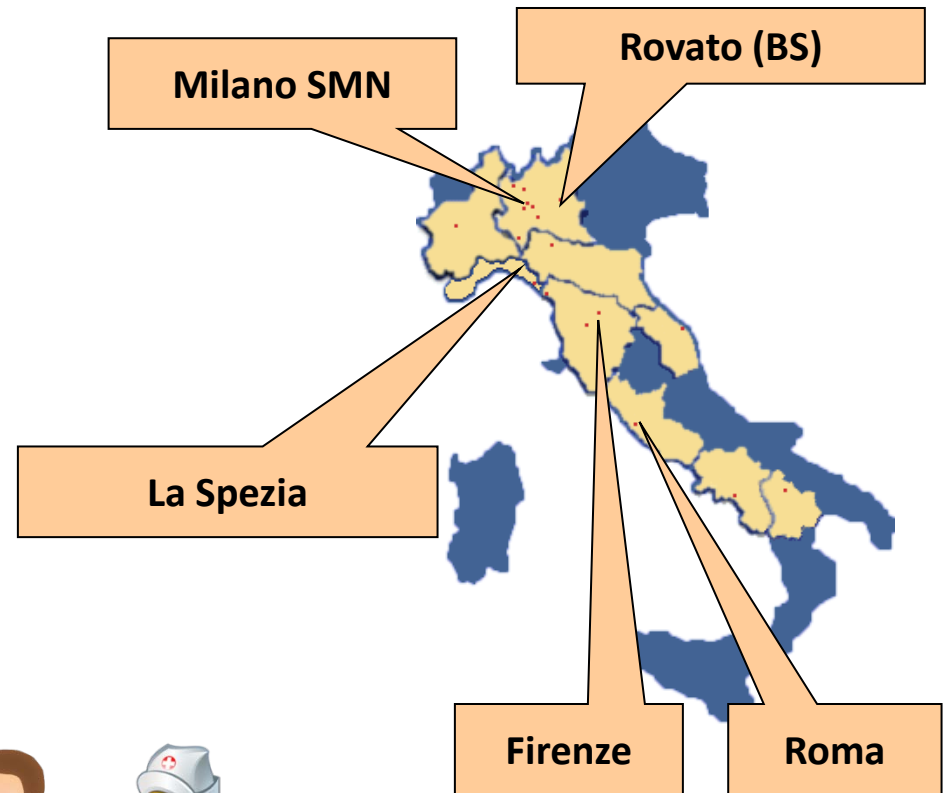
Still the studies reviewed are heterogeneous, then the results should be interpreted with caution.

Phase 1

June 2015

Aim: choosing the best robotic devices for the rehabilitation

- Composition of the group:
 - Head of Health Technology Assessment
 - Medical Director
 - 3 Physiatrists, 2 Neurologists
 - 3 Physical Therapists
 - 4 Bioengineers
- ...Coming from 5 centers of the FDG



ROBOTIC SYSTEM CHARACTERISTICS FORM

General information

Compiler Name _____
Profession _____

Date 23/06

System Name

Manufacturer

Company Website

Compiler Confidence level

System characteristics

Type of system

Multiple versions or models
(i.e.: with different HW...)

Segment

Pathologies indicated to
treatment

Maximum Level of
impairment

Contraindications

Stage of development

Portability

Movement

Assisted Joint Movement
(example: shoulder ab-
adduction, elbow flex-
extension, knee flex-
extension etc.)

Type of Assistance¹
(multiple choices are
possible)

Is it possible to customize
user interface/exercises?

Main Control Inputs

Are Outcome Measures
provided?

Normative values for the
outcome variables

Accessibility for the patient
with his/her own wheelchair
during therapy?

Safety issues

Scenario

Special needs for installation

Autonomy

Group Therapy

Number of clinicians
involved in the treatment

Preparation time (or time to
wear the robot)

Therapy administration

Literature

Free test period

Maintenance Costs [if
available]

Cost (detailing cost for
multiple versions)

Demonstration

- ☐ Yes (When: 8/5/15; Where: Milan)
☐ No
☐ To be scheduled (When _____
Where _____)

Company contact person

- ☐ Name: _____
☐ Phone: _____
☐ Email: _____

Is the enterprise open to
future collaboration?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Technical documentation
attached

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Compiler evaluation

Purchase priority

- ☐ Low – Not purchase
☐ Medium – Suggested purchase
☐ High – Purchase with Priority

Purchase priority choice
explanation

Sistema portatile, può essere portato a letto del malato, prevede un appoggio del gomito sul tavolo che evita la caduta della spalla, può aiutare con attività assistiva e permette di eseguire un movimento "pulito e corretto da sistema", deve essere dotato di un tavolino ad altezza regolabile.

Notes

Esiste una versione molto simile su internet della
che si chiama

Evaluation of 18 systems

- 8 upper limb/hand
- 8 lower limb
- 2 hand

...exoskeletons , end-effectors

...but also

- Treadmill with virtual reality
- Systems for verticalization



Set of technological/robotic systems for a
global treatment of the upper limb

July 2015




- Pilot study (bicentric study, involving two centers in Rome)
- Aim: to compare the conventional therapeutic approach (ratio of one therapist to one patient) with a robotic approach (ratio of one therapist to every three or four patients)
- **30 patients enrolled** (October 2015 - February 2016)

Inclusion Criteria

- Age > 18 years.
- unilateral emiparetic stroke
- Time latency since stroke less than six months

Exclusion criteria

- Visual deficits
- fixed contraction deformity



Less
restrictive
criteria

The pilot study

Evaluation

Outcome measures



```
graph TD; A[Outcome measures] --> B[PRIMARY OUTCOME<br/>•FUGL-MEYER]; A --> C[SECONDARY OUTCOME<br/>•ARAT<br/>•Motricity Index<br/>•MRCS<br/>•Modified Ashworth Scale<br/>•Barthel Index<br/>•Hand grip];
```

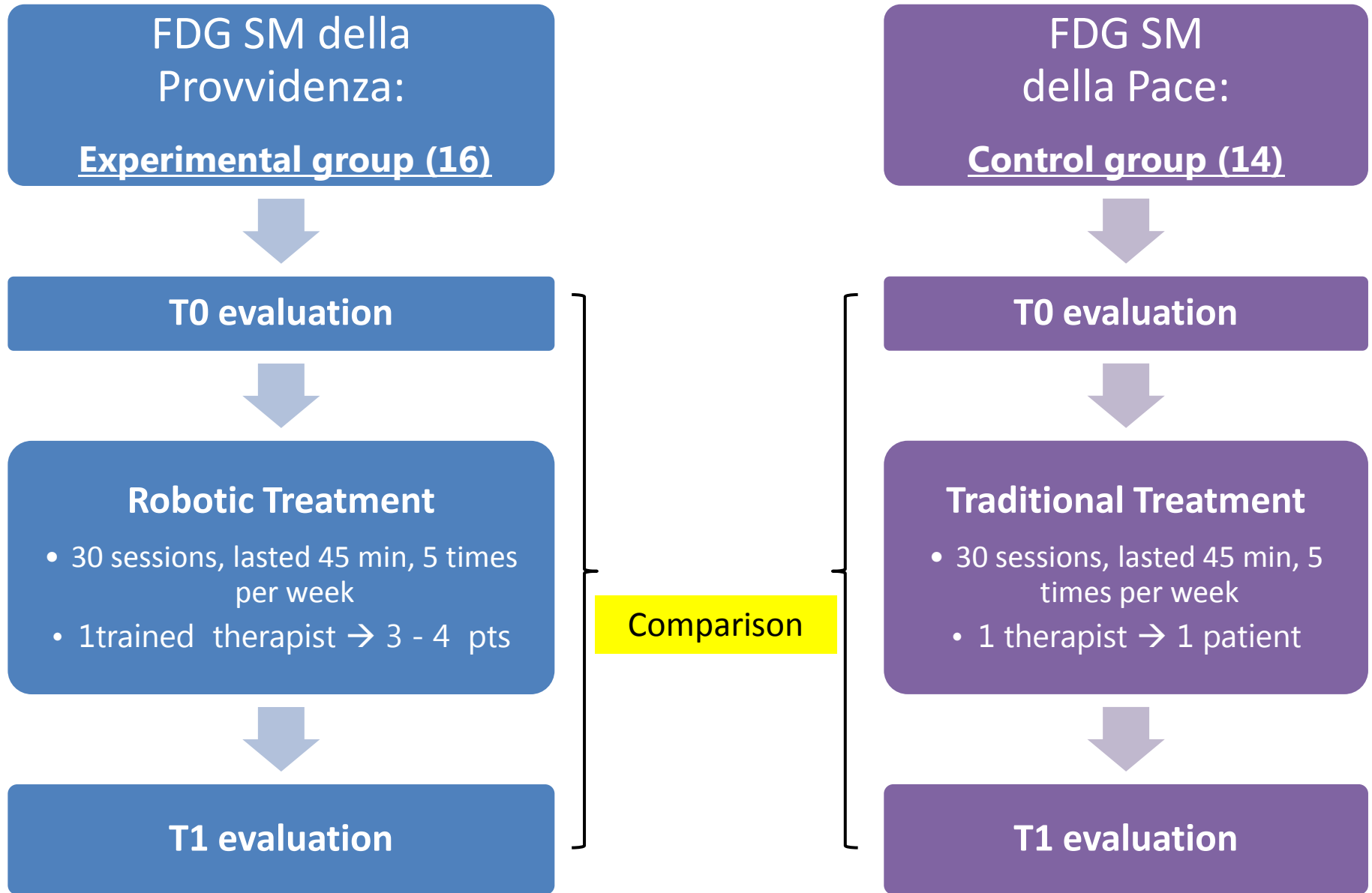
PRIMARY OUTCOME

- FUGL-MEYER

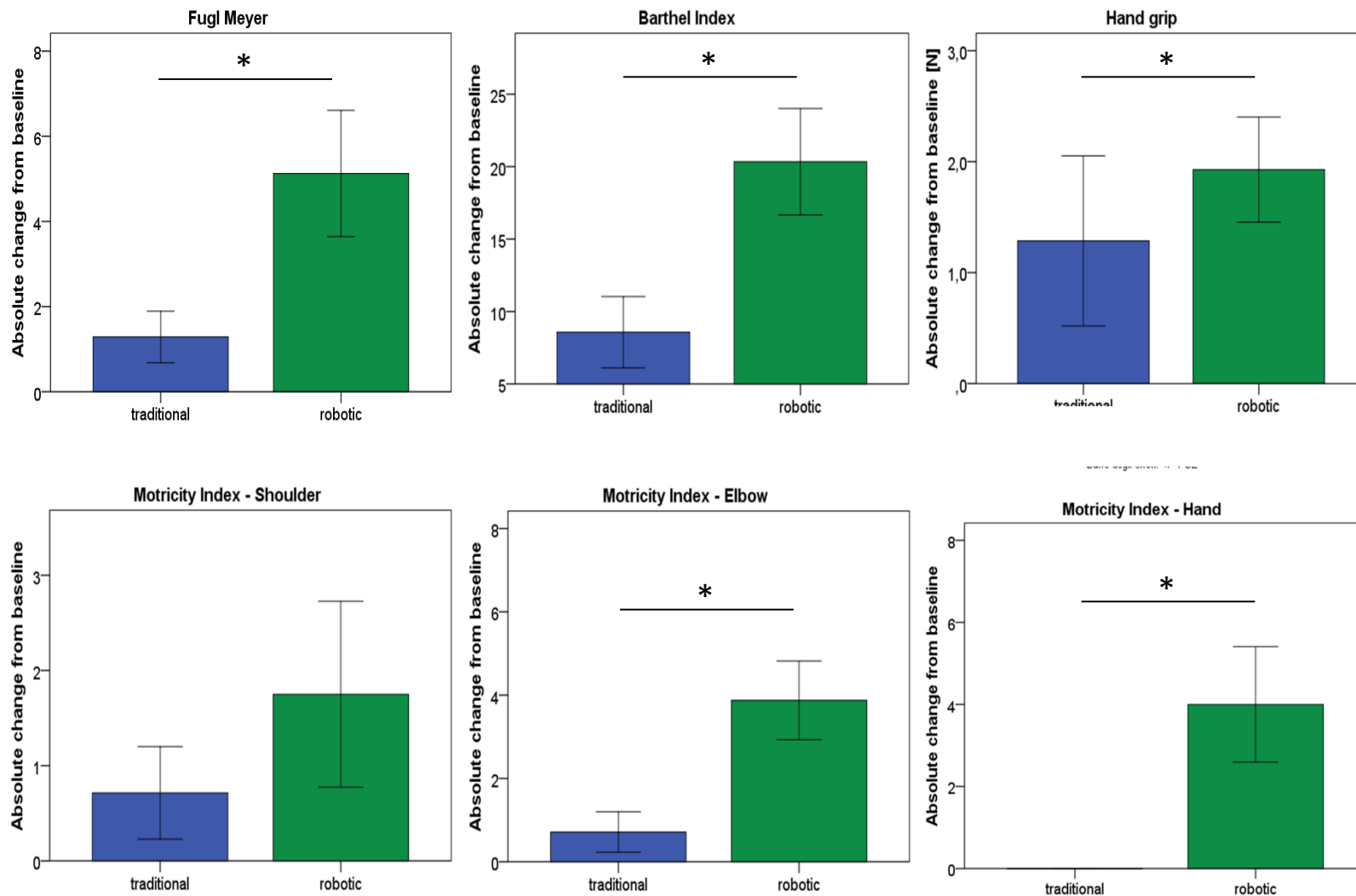
SECONDARY OUTCOME

- ARAT
- Motricity Index
- MRCS
- Modified Ashworth Scale
- Barthel Index
- Hand grip

The pilot study



Results



- During 2016, 6 centres of FDG were equipped with the set of devices tested in Rome
- Currently, 7 centres are equipped with robotic devices for upper limb rehabilitation
- They are located in *Roma, Milano, Firenze, Fivizzano, La Spezia, S. Angelo dei Lombardi e Rovato*



Protocol

SAMPLE

344 patients
(both inpatients,
outpatients and day
hospital)



Inclusion Criteria

- unilateral hemiparetic stroke
- age between 40 and 80 years
- sufficient cognitive and language abilities (SDC >2)
- Time latency since stroke ranging from two weeks to six months

Exclusion Criteria

- fixed contraction deformity;
- severe deficits in visual acuity;
- upper extremity Fugl-Meyer score >58.

Evaluation

Outcome measures

PRIMARY OUTCOME

- FUGL-MEYER

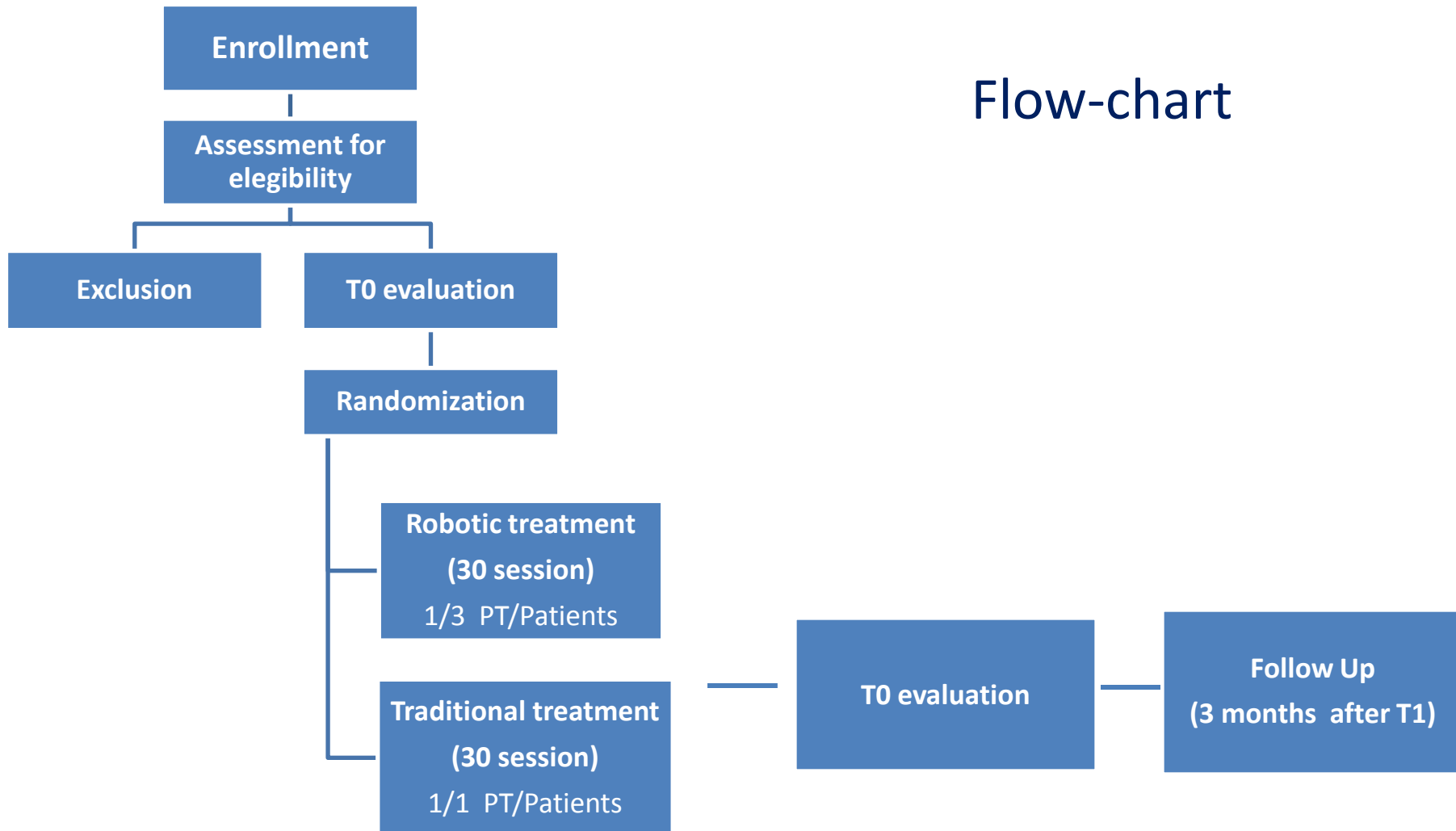
(Single Evaluator blinded to the treatment assignment)

SECONDARY OUTCOME

- ARAT
- Motricity Index
- MRCS
- Frenchay Arm Test
- Modified Ashworth Scale
- ROM
- Modified Barthel Index
- Verbal Fluency test
- Human figure test NRS
- DN4
- SF36

Multicenter, randomized, controlled trial

Flow-chart



Sample

| Recruiting center | Enrolled patients | Drop out | Treated patients |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------|
| Milano | 14 | 4 | 10 |
| Firenze | 14 | 3 | 11 |
| Rovato | 13 | 2 | 11 |
| Fivizzano | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Provvidenza | 13 | 1 | 12 |
| Pace | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| Massa | 11 | 1 | 10 |
| La Spezia | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Tricarico | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| S. Angelo dei Lombardi | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Acerenza | 5 | 0 | 5 |

Enrolled patients (total) : **96**

Updated to Nov 15, 2016

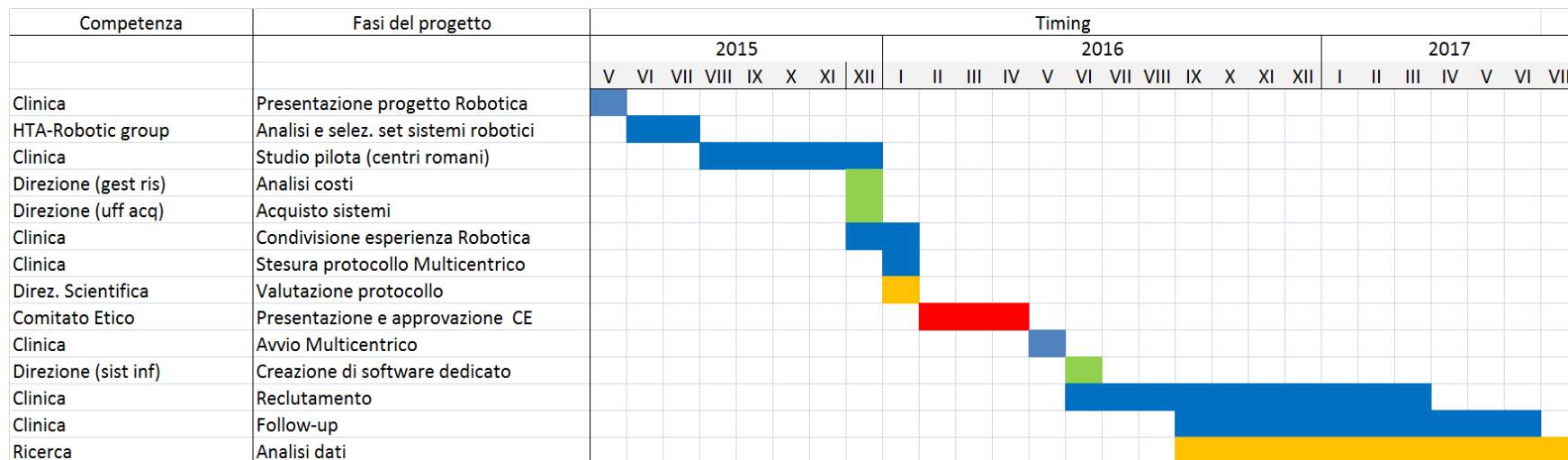
Don Carlo Gnocchi Onlus Foundation Centers involved in the study

- Roma (RM SM della Provvidenza)
- Milano (MI)
- Rovato (BS),
- La Spezia (SP)
- Firenze (FI)
- Massa (MS)
- Fivizzano (MS)
- Roma (RM SM della Pace)
- S. Angelo dei Lombardi (AV)
- Tricarico (MT)
- Acerenza (PZ)



... unity is strength!

Gantt



ClinicalTrials.gov

A service of the U.S. National Institutes of Health

Example: "Heart attack" AND "Los Angeles"

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Trial record 1 of 1 for: Multi-segmental Robotic and Technological Upper Limb Rehabilitation in Stroke

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Multi-segmental Robotic and Technological Upper Limb Rehabilitation in Stroke

This study is currently recruiting participants. (see [Contacts and Locations](#))

Verified August 2016 by Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi Onlus

Sponsor:

Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi Onlus

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

Irene Giovanna Aprile, Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi Onlus

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

NCT02879279

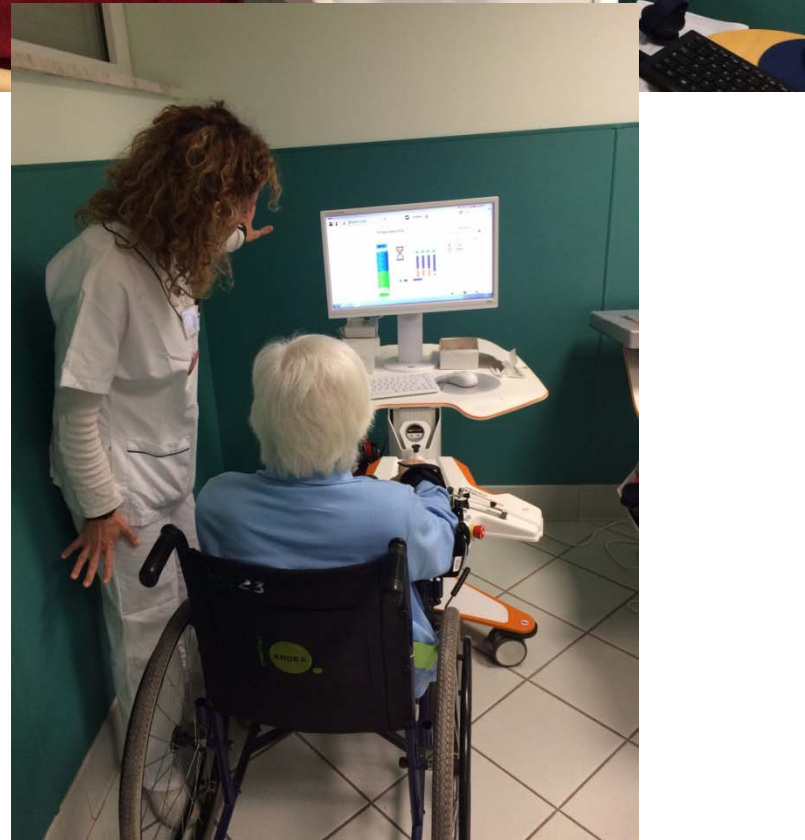
First received: August 11, 2016

Last updated: August 22, 2016

Last verified: August 2016

[History of Changes](#)









Future project: to test robot mediate treatment for walking in a wide sample (RTC)

Staff

Roma Santa Maria della Provvidenza (RM): Irene Aprile, Marco Germanotta, Arianna Cruciani, Cristiano Pecchioli, Simona Loreti, Stefania Lattanzi, Laura Cortellini, Dyonisia Papadopoulous, Giuliana Liberti, Francesca Panzera, Piera Mitrione, Dario Ruzzi, Giuliana Rinaldi, Donatella Caccia, Simona Adduci, Enrica Di Sipio, Chiara Iacovelli, Chiara Simbolotti, Isabella Imbimbo, Luca Padua

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Acerenza (PZ): Vito Remollino, Emanuele Langone, Marcello Magliulo, Giuseppe Araneo