

WIN
A WEEK IN CORNWALL!

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4 STAR PRODUCT

CATEGORY: MOBILITY AID

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OVERALL RATING


MEDIMOTION: STRUZZO PLUS STANDING FRAME

The Struzzo Plus from Medimotion is a standing frame with the added benefit of a smooth powerful motor that lifts the user into a comfortable, safe upright position, while an easy-to-use joystick enables movement around the house at a variety of speeds.

As well as trying out the Struzzo Plus ourselves we've also spoken to two people who have been using the standing frame on a daily basis in order to get a fuller picture of how it helps them. For Mr Johnson one of the benefits is as simple as being able to enjoy a game of darts again. He's used standing frames before but was unimpressed that they didn't incorporate a mechanism for movement. "I couldn't play darts in the other one because I could throw them into the board but I couldn't get them out again," he told us.

Even at first glance we were able to see that this is a device that can be used by almost anyone. The fully adjustable callipers, supports and fine tuning options mean that the standing frame is comfortable and easy to use without the concerns of rubbing or straining. The only stipulations to use are the fairly broad height (150-190cm) and weight (up to 100kg) parameters of users.



IMPRESSED

Another user, Mrs Johnson told us: "My consultant said that if I could stand in a frame it would be beneficial to all of my internal organs as well as muscles and bones instead of being permanently in a wheelchair. My physiotherapist came down to help me with it and he was very impressed. He thought it was brilliant piece of machinery."

The basic function of the standing frame is to allow people without full use of their legs to gently raise themselves, securely, into a standing position. The health benefits to wheelchair users are clear, including the release of pressure on buttocks and internal organs as well as a reduction in spasticity. There is also evidence that the Struzzo will prevent lower limb muscle retraction and lowers the risk of ulcers and venous return deficiency.

The plus side also includes an aid to maintaining bone trophism, improving diaphragm respiratory excursion and stimulating the cardiovascular system.

LUMBAR SUPPORT

The Standing frame lifts the user into an upright position powered by a smooth motor running on rechargeable batteries; lifting the user can stop at any point while being supported by the seat. When in the upright position the seat provides safe restraint and lumbar support. "Once I'm out of my wheelchair and into position I feel in control at all times," said Mr Johnson.

All of the medical benefits of a conventional standing frame are in place with the added plus of freedom of movement. Mr Johnson added: "Ordinary walking frames are OK but they can only stand in one place." For Mrs Collins, meantime, it's the simple things that she enjoys the most. "I can move around the kitchen whilst my husband cooks a meal. We stand and chat and drink a glass of wine," she said.

With the always excellent Medimotion customer service levels in mind, this is seriously edging towards five stars and would be awarded so, but for a few more centimetres of ground clearance. The Struzzo Plus is a remarkable piece of kit; small enough to fit into everyday life without rearranging rooms around it; strong, while gentle in use and with the added feature of movement. ■

"Once I'm out of my wheelchair and into position I feel in control at all times."

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