Preference for reconstructive interventions of the upper extremities in Tetraplegia
the impact of treatment characteristics

INTRODUCTION
- Hand and arm function regarded as very important by tetraplegic individuals
- Possibility of augmentative treatment of the tetraplegic hand
  - Freehand system
  - Reconstructive surgery
- Clinical experience: interventions not accepted by patients despite functional limitations
- Aim: Insight into factors that determine willingness to accept assistive technology

METHODS
- Discrete choice Conjoint Analysis
- 7 attributes with 2-4 levels
- Attribute validation by expert panel
- 20 choice sets
- 53 patients recruited; 49 included
- Logit and hierarchical bayes regression modelling of relative weight

RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS
- Inpatient rehabilitation time greatest impact on decision making
- Neural implant rejected by 10%
- Reducing in-patient stay and limiting surgical procedures to one increases overall preference

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