

Stroke Topics: Hemiplegic Arm

It is part of your responsibility to protect the hemiplegic arm



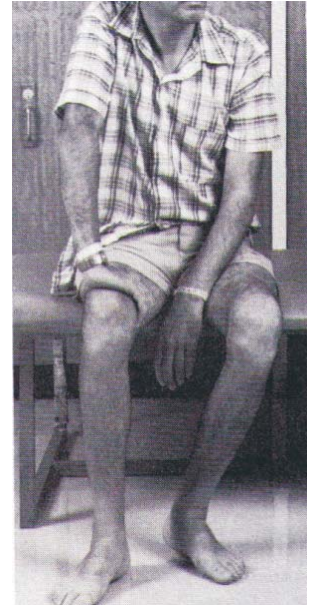
A low tone hemiplegic arm is **susceptible to injury**.

Vulnerable tissues may be **stretched, torn or inflamed**.

These injuries **directly impact potential functional recovery** of the hemiplegic arm.

Poor handling and **poor positioning** in the bed and wheelchair are key contributors to **pain** and potentially of **subluxation** of the hemiplegic shoulder.

Pain can become **chronic** and difficult to treat. Subluxation is **not correctable**.



PREVENTION IS THE KEY!!

What can you do as a nurse?

1. During bathing and dressing, **support** the hemiplegic arm and move the joints **slowly** and **gently**
2. **Never pull** on the hemiplegic arm to help roll or sit up your patient
3. **Do not lift** the entire weight of their arm by lifting **only their hand**, support upper arm and wrist
4. **Never lift** through their **axilla**, you are asking an unprotected joint to support body weight
5. Always transfer using a **transfer belt**
6. **Apply a sling correctly** to support the weight of their hemiplegic arm before standing and transferring



X
WRONG

