

TCS/19/14 - SaeboGlove therapy for severe upper limb disability and severe hand impairment after stroke: a pragmatic multicentre, parallel group RCT

Severe arm and hand weakness causes disability after stroke. Recovery is best when people practice high numbers of movements needed for everyday life, such as reaching and grasping. Often people with severe weakness are excluded from rehabilitation trials or receive treatments that don't work well because they lack sufficient hand opening movement to do these functional movements. This limits recovery for those most in need.

SaeboGlove is a new rehabilitation aid that helps hand opening. It can help people grasp and release objects such as cutlery, clothes or a hairbrush during everyday activities, even when weakness is severe. This may enable people with severe weakness to practice beneficial movements based on everyday functional-based tasks and may increase their chance of a better recovery. Some clinical services use SaeboGloves but they lack a high-quality evidence-base. We will find out if SaeboGloves help people with reduced hand opening to take part in functional-based therapy and recover better, and if they should be used in the NHS. All participants will receive usual care. Half will also receive 6-weeks of SaeboGlove therapy involving independent practice +/- help from a carer. Outcomes will be assessed. Thereafter control participants will also be offered SaeboGlove therapy.