

Elements Body

Elements Body is a custom made Medical device, Class I, and complies with the requirements of Annex 7 of Medical Device Directive 93/42/EEC.

The fabrics used in Elements Body have been carefully selected and are produced & certified according to Oeko-Tex standard 100, product class II. Due to early use of Elements Body in some cases, additional tests have been carried out to meet safety requirements for children under three (3) years. These tests are extensive and requirements are high, therefore only beige fabrics have been tested and approved for infants.

General description of the product

Studies since the mid-1980's show that treatment with Lycra-based dynamic orthotics can control abnormal muscle tone, stabilize posture and increase functional abilities of people with neurological disorders. Most studies have been done on children with Cerebral Palsy (CP). CP is the term used for the physical disorder caused by brain injury or dysfunction occurring before the age of two. There are many different causes of cerebral palsy and the degree of functional impairment varies in each child from close to function, to pronounced functional impairment.

Children with Cerebral Palsy often have increased tone (spasticity) in certain muscles while other muscles may be weakened. There is often an imbalance between muscles that stretch over a joint. This imbalance can lead to the shortening of muscles and muscle contractures.

In some children, the muscle imbalance around the hip joint can lead to the head of femur being pulled out of position leading to hip dislocation. Imbalance in the back can lead to a mishaped spine or scoliosis. (Source: CPUP)

Since the early 1990's Camp Scandinavia AB has witnessed the development of the dynamic Suit. The production and some development of textile orthoses for Camp Scandinavia were located to Camp UK (former sister company) where the first development of the Suit was made. Since the sale of this company Camp has acted as a distributor for the Suit to the Scandinavian market and through the years followed the development of this product.

The Lycra suit provides pressure to the trunk and extremities and increases sensory and proprioceptive feedback. The ability to do fine motor functions may be improved by wearing this product as instructed. Through various reinforcements, flexion, extension, pronation and supination can be controlled.

Elements Body is a product concept based on the experience we have accumulated over the years. The product must be adapted to each individual's measurements to give the best results. The suit should be snug against the trunk and extremities. It is the fitter in consultation with the physician that assesses and defines how and who the product should be prescribed for by specifying the dimensions and possible reinforcements to the product. Note that not all patients will accept or improve when using the product

Before placing an order for Elements Body the fitter will be trained by Allard, in the principles of design, layout, reinforcements and how to take measurements.

This product may be beneficial for patients diagnosed with:

Cerebral Palsy, ADHD, Downs syndrome, Autism, Ehlers Danlos syndrome.

The following basic shapes are available:

SUIT

With long sleeves / long legs; short sleeve / short legs; long sleeves / short legs; short sleeve / long legs;
no sleeve / short legs; no sleeve / long legs

VEST

With long sleeves; short-sleeve or sleeveless

BODY

With long sleeves; short-sleeve or sleeveless

TROUSERS

With long legs or with short legs

GLOVE

Forearm; Elbow; Full arm/ with long fingers or with short fingers

GLOVE

Gloves without fingers

All the reinforcements to limit / increase or decrease the stability of a joint / joints, are described in a separate document for each basic product.

Warning

Caution must be expressed when prescribing a suit if the patient has signs of;

- Poor lung function - the pressure of the suit can aggravate this
- Edema - patient may be at risk of blisters and pressure sores
- Poor temperature control
- Circulatory disorders
- Skin problems
- Brittle bones - can cause problems in donning and doffing
- If cognitive ability is impaired, the acceptance of a full suit may be low.
- Ensure the selected design allows the patient to use the toilet easily

Advised wearing Instruction

It is advised that the suit is worn a minimum of 6 hours and a maximum of 8-10 hours per day. If the suit is worn more than 10 consecutive hours, the patient may in some circumstances feel overstimulated which may cause increased tiredness.

- The suit should not be worn while sleeping.
- When donning the suit it is important that the patient is in a stable and safe position to ensure falls are avoided.
- Once the suit is donned check the application and ensure all reinforcements and zippers are in the correct position.
- The patient should be monitored regularly by a health professional to prevent skin irritations, including blisters and ulcers. The health professional should also ensure the suit does not become too small. This is especially important for growing children that are gaining weight.