



Chapter

Converging Clinical and Engineering Research on Neurorehabilitation II

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Upper Limb Robot Assisted Rehabilitation Platform Combining Virtual Reality, Posture Estimation and Kinematic Indices

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Abstract

Support

Upper limb rehabilitation is critical for patients affected by spinal cord injury (SCI). Currently, robotics and Virtual Reality (VR) have changed the way in which rehabilitation therapies are provided. However, a still unreached precondition for these systems is the precise and practical estimation of limb posture and an objective evaluation of patient’s improvement. In this manuscript we present an upper limb rehabilitation platform combining VR, patient posture estimation and objective kinematic indices. This manuscript describes the software platform and criteria which integrate the modules of the system. We report preliminary results of the kinematic indices and platform usability by practitioners.

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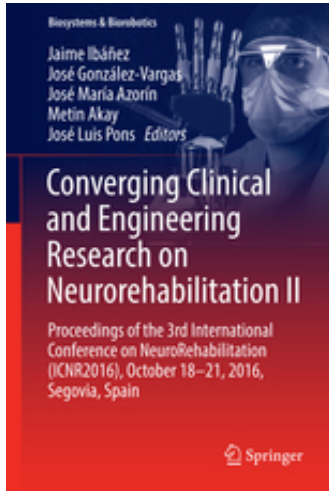
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The book reports on advanced topics in the areas of neurorehabilitation research and practice. It focuses on new methods for interfacing the human nervous system with electronic and mechatronic systems to restore or compensate impaired neural functions. Importantly, the book merges different perspectives, such as the clinical, neurophysiological, and bioengineering ones, to promote, feed and encourage collaborations between clinicians, neuroscientists and engineers. Based on the 2016 International Conference on Neurorehabilitation (ICNR 2016) held on October 18-21, 2016, in Segovia, Spain, this book covers various aspects of neurorehabilitation research and practice, including new insights into biomechanics, brain physiology, neuroplasticity, and brain damages and diseases, as well as innovative methods and technologies for studying and/or recovering brain function, from data mining to interface technologies and neuroprosthetics. In this way, it offers a concise, yet comprehensive reference guide to neurosurgeons, rehabilitation physicians, neurologists, and bioengineers. Moreover, by highlighting current challenges in understanding brain diseases as well as in the available technologies and their implementation, the book is also expected to foster new collaborations between the different groups, thus stimulating new ideas and research directions.

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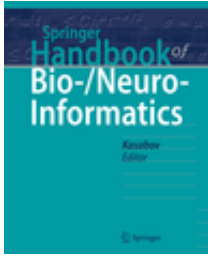
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