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Mobility solutions with handicap Independent mobility again after stroke

It is often only a short moment and suddenly everything changes. A stroke usually comes unprepared and then quick intervention is called for. The effects can also be very different, some are lucky and get away with minor restrictions after a rehabilitation phase, some have a very difficult way back to life ahead of them. This also applies to mobility: Will I be able to drive a car independently again or which wheelchair can make my life or the rehabilitation phase easier.



Stefan is mobile again, he could not imagine a life without a car. Thanks to automatic transmission and the MultiMote multifunctional rotary knob, he can now operate his vehicle with just his left leg and left hand. Photo: PARAVAN

Stefan was lucky because everything suddenly changed for him a year ago. A stroke turned Stefan's life completely upside down. The left side of his body was severely impaired: From then on, he was dependent on outside help in everyday life, and even driving a car was no longer possible without outside help. With great difficulty, he fought his way back into everyday life, his professional life and his mobility. An important milestone: his new adapted car.

To pick up his Ford Puma, he came to the PARAVAN mobility park in Aichelau wearing a very special T-shirt - "PARAVAN - I say thank you". The mobility consultants were surprised; this kind of thing doesn't happen often. "Everything changes," the 55-year-old domestic technician answered spontaneously when asked how his life would change with the car. "You just take back your life, your freedom, your independence!" In the future, he will drive an automatic vehicle. He will steer with the help of the PARAVAN MultiMote with his right hand. The multifunctional steering wheel knob can be used to operate the vehicle's most important secondary functions. It also ensures a return to work.

"Most often, customers come to us with limitations on the right or left side of the body," reports mobility consultant Joachim Glück. In this case, for example, a pedal shift from right to left can be installed in the

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vehicle, which can be switched at the touch of a button. If one hand is also impaired, a steering wheel knob or a multifunction knob - such as the PARAVAN MultiMote, which integrates the vehicle's most important secondary functions - can be installed. If the customer is dependent on a wheelchair, other conversions are also possible, such as a wheelchair loading device or a slide board. Even in the case of greater impairments, individual solutions can be found, such as the use of a cassette lift or the Space Drive driving and steering system for accelerator and brake.

However, the basic prerequisite is that the driver is still cognitively capable of driving a vehicle. "This is determined by a traffic medical expert in a first step," explains Glück. If this is possible, then the concrete implementation and vehicle planning can begin. In most cases, stroke patients already have a driver's license. This means that a TÜV (German technical inspection agency) assessment is then necessary, together with the entry of the relevant characteristics in the driver's license.

PARAVAN GmbH also has solutions in its portfolio for more difficult cases. Be it ride-on solutions in the vehicle sector or wheelchair solutions. For example, the use of the PARAVAN PR 40 stand-up wheelchair or the PARAVAN Biolution therapy wheelchair can provide a significant therapeutic advantage. For example, if mobility has been completely lost on one side of the body, a stand-up wheelchair can provide an enormous therapeutic advantage. Patients can once again actively participate in family life and, if necessary, go on small excursions. Standing exercises are thus also possible independently at home, which are otherwise only possible in the context of rehabilitation or at the therapist's with a standing board. Corresponding standing curves can be stored directly in the RNet control of the wheelchair.

"Uprighting the patient also has an extremely positive effect on the entire circulatory system, the entire central and autonomic nervous system and breathing, which can positively influence the rehabilitation process," adds Stefan Ludwig, head of wheelchair systems at PARAVAN GmbH. In addition, the tilting or reclining function of the wheelchair can relieve pressure on the buttocks or ischial tuberosities and the diaphragm, allowing patients to breathe more easily. Thus, the standing wheelchairs offer an optimal possibility of mobilization and are an important building block for active participation in everyday life.



MultiMote, automatic transmission and possibly another left throttle if the impairment is on the right side of the body are the most common adaptation solutions for stroke patients. However, if the impairment is more severe, there are other options, such as the Space Drive accelerator and steering system, wheelchair loading aids or a cassette lift to get into the vehicle. Photo: PARAVAN

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Before delivery, there are adjustment drives with the PARAVAN driving school. Is fatigue-free driving possible? After TÜV approval and entry of the required key numbers in the driver's license, the customer can once again participate independently in traffic. Photo: PARAVAN



The PR 40 a full-fledged everyday companion, whether you're out and about with it or need some rest and relief from sitting for long periods of time. Photo PARAVAN



Thanks to the PR 40 stand-up wheelchair, users can once again participate in life at home and get around without outside help. The standing function additionally achieves a positive therapeutic effect for the user. Photo: PARAVAN

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About Paravan GmbH:

PARAVAN GmbH is the world market leader for highly individual vehicle solutions for the disabled. Around 180 employees develop and produce individually adapted automobile conversions, electric wheelchairs and even specially specialized driver training. PARAVAN pursues a holistic approach with its "one-stop concept". The technological highlight is Space Drive, an intelligent digital control system based on the drive-by-wire

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principle. Thanks to the active redundancy of the servo motors, it is completely fail-safe and the first to be approved for road use. With the help of this innovation, severely disabled people, some without arms or legs, can drive independently and safely. It is not possible for these drivers to simply intervene in the steering wheel. Worldwide, Space Drive has proven itself on over one billion road kilometers in the last 20 years and is used by numerous industrial customers for test vehicles in the field of autonomous driving. The system is available as a retrofit kit with an open interface for all known vehicle types. <http://www.paravan.com>