

Spinal Cord Injury Management Cont..

C6 Injuries

- Loss of all motor function below the shoulders and upper arms
- Loss of sensory function below the clavicle, except arm and thumb sensation
- Loss of voluntary respiratory function, bowel and bladder control
- May achieve independent feeding, dressing, and grooming with assistive devices, but needs an electric wheelchair and assistance in chair, bed, and toilet maneuvers.

C7 Injuries

- Loss of motor and sensory function in portions of the arms and hands
- Retention of reflexes in the triceps
- Loss of voluntary respiratory function, bladder, and bowel control
- Can perform some ADLs and with assistive devices, induce finger flexion, push a wheelchair, and drive a specially equipped car

C8 Injuries

- Loss of motor function in portions of the arms and hands
- Loss of sensation below the chest and in portions of the hands
- Loss of voluntary respiratory function, bowel, and bladder control
- Can do pushups in a wheelchair and achieve some sitting tolerance
- Can grasp and release hands voluntarily and achieve independence in most ADLs, catheterization, and rectal stimulation for bowel movements

T1 –T6 Injuries

- Loss of all motor and sensory function below the mid-chest region, including loss of motor function in the trunk muscles
- Some loss of voluntary respiratory function
- Loss of bowel and bladder function
- Full independence in a wheelchair and in managing urinary drainage and inserting suppositories
- Can achieve full-time employment and does not need major architectural changes in living quarters