Mounting Speech Generating Devices and Tablets to Wheelchairs

Presenter: Michelle L. Lange, OTR/L, ABDA, ATP/SMS

Moderated by: Amy Natho, M.S., CCC-SLP, CEU Administrator, SpeechPathology.com

SpeechPathology.com Expert eSeminar

Need assistance or technical support during event?
Please contact SpeechPathology.com at 800-242-5183

Earning CEUs

- Log in to your account and go to Pending Courses under the CEU Courses tab.
- Must pass 10-question multiple-choice exam with a score of 80% or higher
- Two opportunities to pass the exam
Peer Review Process

Interested in Volunteering to be a Peer Reviewer?

APPLY TODAY!

3+ years SLP Professional Experience Required

Contact Amy Natho at anatho@speechpathology.com

Mounting Speech Generating Devices and Tablets to Wheelchairs

Michelle L. Lange, OTR/L, ABDA, ATP/SMS

Mounting AT to Wheelchairs

- Speech Generating Devices (SGDs)
  - Larger
  - Smaller (less than 5 lbs)
- Computers
  - Notebooks
  - Tablets

Dynavox T Series
Poll Time

- Are you working with Mounting Systems?
  - I recommend them
  - I mount them
  - Nope
  - I would like to!

Whose Job is This? Recommendation

- Partly, it comes down to funding
  - If the SLP orders a mount with the device, then the SLP may need to “spec” this out
  - If the wheelchair supplier orders the mount, they may “spec” this out
- Sometimes, it is the Occupational Therapist
  - The OTR may determine the optimal SGD access, placement and mounting system

Whose Job is This? Ordering and Funding

- If the mount is ordered with the SGD, funding may be for both and the SLP typically does this
- If the mount is ordered with a new wheelchair frame, the wheelchair supplier may order the mount, or at least a new frame clamp
- If a mount is ordered alone, whoever can pursue funding may order
Whose Job is This: Mounting

- Who holds the Allen wrenches?
- Typically, whoever ordered the mount
- The wheelchair supplier often knows how, but if they did not pursue funding, they will not put on the mount
- Mounting is usually too difficult for a client or caregivers to do competently
- Whoever attaches the mounting system must be competent and assumes liability

Terminology

Frame Clamp

- Mounting plate
- Tubing and joints
- Frame clamp

Horizontal and/or vertical sections of tubing with or without joints dictate final position of mount
Terminology
• Mounting Plate connects the mount to the AT device. A device adaptor may be required.

Why Mount?
• Access
  • Direct
  • Head Mouse
  • Eye Gaze
• Visual Regard
• Security
  • Falling
  • Theft
How Do I Get Started?

- Device Type
- Which device?
- What mounting plate will be required?
- Will a device adaptor be required for the device itself?
- Choose appropriate mounting category

How Do I Get Started?

- Device Placement
- Determine approximately where the device needs to be placed
  - For optimal visual regard and access
  - Within boundaries of wheelchair so device doesn't get bumped
    - i.e. through doorways
  - Not blocking client's view of
    - Communication partner
    - Blackboard
    - Where they are propelling MWC or driving PWC

How Do I Get Started?

- Mount Placement
How Do I Get Started?

• Mount Placement
  • Where will the frame clamp be placed based on desired device placement?
  • Place above tilt
  • Avoid moveable parts
  • Ensure mount can move out of the way for transfers
    • Fold, swing-away or remove
  • Ensure mobility base will not tip over from weight of mount and device if to the side during transfers

Ordering Help

• Some Mounting manufacturers offer additional help
• For example, take photos from several directions holding the device where you want it in relation to the wheelchair
• They will spec out what you need!
  • REHAdapt VMS

Questions?
Mounting Speech Generating Devices (SGDs)

Mounting: SGDs

- Larger devices include:
  - Dynavox Maestro
  - PRC ECO, Essence
  - Tobii
- Smaller devices include:
  - Dynavox T series
  - PRC Accent
  - Saltillo NovaChat series

Mounts for Larger SGDs

- Larger devices are bigger in dimension and weight
- Usually not a weight limit due to variety of configurations and usage
- Devices accessed by eye gaze always require a heavier capacity mount due to both weight and height requirements
Mounts for Heavier SGD

- BlueSky Designs
- CJT Enterprises
- Daedalus
- Dynavox
- Prentke Romich
- REHAdapt

BlueSky Designs

- Mount n Mover

Specifications

- Pros:
  - Allows the user to independently move the mount in various positions for transfers and access. It can be especially helpful with Eye Gaze technologies.
  - Supports wide range of wheelchair frame sizes
  - Supports wide range of SGD
### Specifications

**Cons:**
- Heavy
- Bulky
- Large frame clamp
- Does not fold

**Cost**
- $710-1300

---

### CJT Enterprises

- Profiler
- Profiler Angular

---

### Specifications

**Pros:**
- Fits most frames
- Many options for placement on frame
- Supports wide range of devices
Specifications

- Cons:
  - Heavy
  - Bulky
  - Large frame clamp
  - Does not fold

- Cost:
  - $856-1400
  - Standard and Super versions

Profiler Angular

- Can attach under the seat pan or behind seat back

Daedalus

- Rigid
- Folding
- Locking Swing Away
- Rear Folding
- Positioner
Specifications

• Pros
  • Wide variety of frame clamps, including custom sizes, locking clamp for tilt frames, side clamp for placement on seat rail
  • Clamp takes up little space on frame
  • Supports many devices
  • Folding version

• Cons
  • Heavy
  • Pin in frame clamp can slip during tilt if locking clamp is not used

• Cost
  • $600 - 1100

Rigid

• Rigid
  • Lighter than others
  • Simple
  • Less costly
Folding
- Folds away to side
- Allows transfers without base tipping
- Device is facing out – risk of damage

Rear Folding
- Very heavy
- Non-removable
- Allows device to remain on chair out of the way, even during transport

Locking Swing Away
- Allows client to pull down on cable and push mount to the side for independent transfers
- Can be difficult to operate
Positioner

- Different joints than other Daessy mounts
- Less bulky
- More planes of adjustment at joints

DynaVox

- ConnectIT
- Made by REHAdapt

Specifications

- Pros
  - Lighter weight than other mounts in this category
  - Fits most frames
  - Frame clamp is small
  - Tubes flow through joints for increased adjustability
Specifications

• Cons:
  • Only supports Dynavox products
  • Does not fold

• Cost:
  • $1100 base

Prentke Romich

• Wheelchair Mounting Kit (WCMK)
  • Basically a Daessy Rigid Mount

Specifications

• Pros:
  • Simple
  • Easy to mount
  • Less costly than some other options
Specifications

- Cons:
  - Rigid with little adjustment
  - Heavy
  - Only supports PRC products

- Cost
  - $675

REHAdapt

- Monty 3D

Specifications

- Pros:
  - Lighter weight than other mounts in this category
  - Fits most frames
  - Small frame clamp
  - Tubes flow through joints for more adjustability
  - Works with a variety of devices
  - 3 positions for transfers
  - Knob or tool adjustment versions
Specifications

• Pros:
  • Folding version (3DK)
  • Heavy duty version for eye gaze
  • systems (3D eye)

• Cons
  • Pin can slip during tilt without Swivel Joint with lever (not included on standard 3D)

• Cost
  • $755 - 1100

Power Options

• Some clients need to reposition a SGD for varying access methods (i.e. Direct and Eye Gaze)
• Some clients need to reposition a SGD for visual field during mobility
• Some clients need to move a SGD out of the way for transfers
Power Options

- Power mount
- Motion Concepts

Mounts for Smaller SGDs

- Smaller in dimension and weight
- If client uses excessive force against the device and/or mount, a heavier mount may be indicated
- Generally lack the height available in heavier mounts
  - i.e. for eye gaze

Mounts for Smaller SGDs

- CJT Enterprises
- Daedalus
- REHAadapt
CJT Enterprises

- ProLite

Specifications

- Pros:
  - Holds up to 5 lbs
  - Smaller and lighter than standard mounts

Specifications

- Cons:
  - Some frames require larger frame clamp

- Cost:
  - $565.00
Daedalus

• M series
  • Mini-Adjustable Mount
  • Mini Folding
  • Mini Rigid

Mini Adjustable

Specifications

• Pros:
  • Smaller and lighter than standard mounts
  • Holds up to 10 lbs
  • 3 versions

Mini Folding

Specifications

• Cons:
  • Heavier than many other mounts in this category

• Cost:
  • $900

Mini Rigid
REHAdapt

- Tablet Mount
  - Supports other device adaptors for smaller SGD

Specifications

- Pros:
  - Smaller and lighter than standard mounts
  - Versions include knob (QS) or tool adjustment
  - Frame clamps for most size frames
  - SuperClamp for unusual sizes
  - Device adaptors and mounting plates for most lightweight SGD, including tablet based devices

QS version

Specifications

- Cons:
  - None that I have come up with...yet

- Cost:
  - $275-355

Questions?

Mounting Computers
- Notebook/Laptop
- Tablet

Mounting Notebooks
- BlueSky
- CJT Enterprises
- Daedalus
BlueSky Designs
• Mount 'N Mover

CJT Enterprises
• Profiler
• Angular

Daedalus
• Daessy series
Questions?

Poll Time
• Are you being asked to mount Tablets?
  • All the time!
  • Occasionally
  • Never

Mounting Tablets
• REHAdapt
• Stealth
• Therafin
• Others
Mounting Tablets

• There are an ever increasing amount of Tablet mounts
• Some do not hold their position well or offer adequate positioning, so are not included here

REHAdapt

• Tablet Mount
• Pros:
  • Versions include knob or tool adjustment
  • Frame clamp fits most size frames
  • SuperClamp available for unusual sizes
  • Various tablet mounting plates available

• Cons:
  • None that I have come up with yet…

• Cost:
  • $275-355
Stealth Products

• Tablet Mount
• Pros:
  • Various links can be added or removed to achieve desired position
  • Adjustable mounting plate holds various size tablets
  • Swing away option

• Cons:
  • Heavy

• Cost:
  • $375 Gatlin style
  • $555 Standard

Therafin Corporation

• Communication Mount
• Pros:
  • Holds iPads, iPad minis, 7" and 10" tablets
  • Extension kit adds 3-6" to any mount
Therafin Corporation
- Communication Mount
- Cons:
  - Frame clamps are limited
- Cost:
  - $510 - 815

Other
- Resourceful? Check out RAM mounts
- http://www.rammount.com

Funding
- Can you get funding for a Tablet mount?
- Yes – if Tablet is being used for communication
- No – most of the time
Questions?

Thanks!

References:

Contact Information

• Michelle L. Lange, OTR, ABDA, ATP/SMS
• MichelleLange@msn.com
• www.atilange.com