



# Virtual Reality and Stroke Rehab

**David McAdon, PTA – Alternative Modalities Specialist**  
VA Central Iowa Health Care System  
Des Moines, IA





## **Purpose:**

*Introduce How the Use of Virtual Reality can Provide Clinical Staff with a New Way to Rehab Stroke Patients*

### **Objectives:**

**Define** immersive technology

**Explain** what Virtual Reality is and different ways it can be used in Stroke Rehabilitation

**Describe** patient interventions and modifications used to increase independence of the post-acute stroke patient as it relates to mobility, ADLs, and communication." how Virtual Reality can be used in Stroke Rehabilitation

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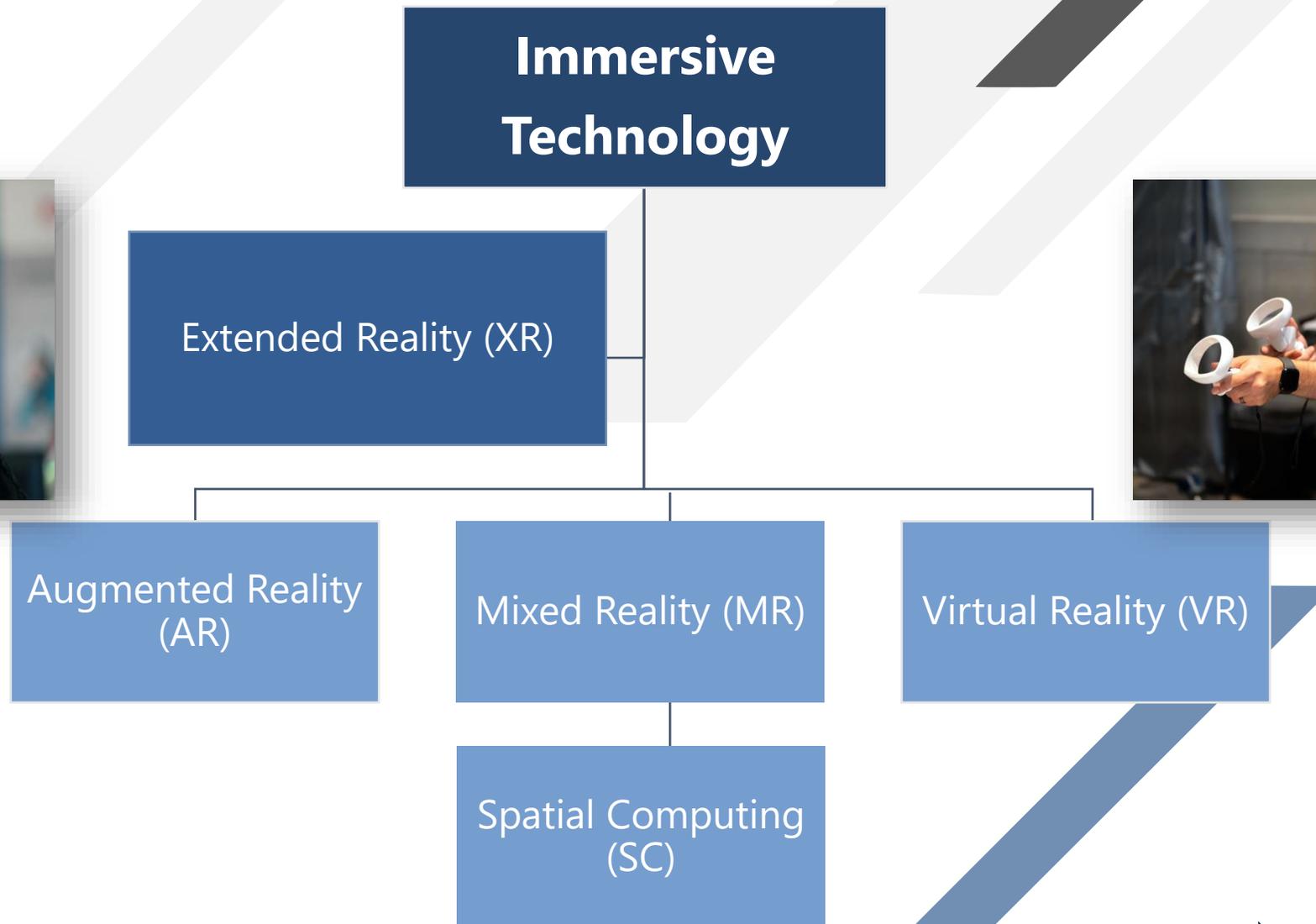
## ***DISCLAIMERS AND GUIDANCE:***

VA does not endorse and has not approved any specific product or company.

Immersive technology (like VR) is not intended to replace treatment with a provider. Additionally, immersive technology is not meant to be used as a standalone treatment for any condition; it can be used to supplement or support self-care.

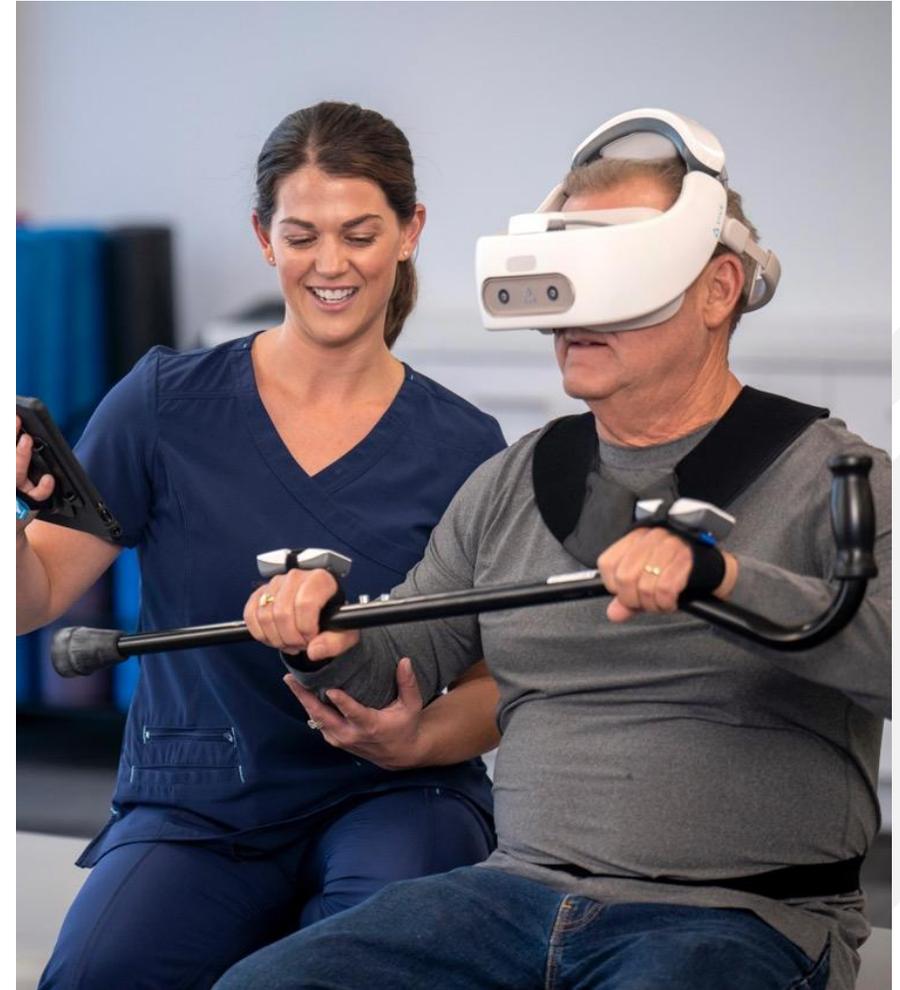


# IMMERSIVE TECH, defined



## *Benefits of VR*

- Immersive Learning
- Safe Training Environment
- Clinically / Cognitively designed
- Individualized, customizable sessions
- Drives patient engagement and motivation
- Portable
- Age agnostic
- Multi-disciplinary tool
- Data Collection and Assessment
- Adjustable Settings
- Improve Overall Mental Health





# VA Central Iowa Healthcare System

| Uses             | Outcomes   |
|------------------|--|
| Physical Health  | Pain management, ROM, activity tolerance/endurance, balance                            |
| Mental Health    | Anxiety, depression. mindfulness, relaxation   |
| Cognitive Health | Memory, direction following, matching, sustained attention, awareness, problem solving |
| ADL's / IADL's   | Meal Prep & Feeding, Dressing, Toileting, Bathing / Grooming, Functional Mobility      |



# *Indications / Contraindications*

## **Use Exclusion Criteria**

Individuals should not use this virtual reality system if they have:

- History of seizures or epilepsy
- Head, neck, facial injury and/or surgery in the last 6 weeks
- Implanted medical device(s) potentially subject to electromagnetic interference

Unless under the direct supervision of a nurse, physician, or trained healthcare professional, individuals should not use this virtual reality system if they have any of the following:

- Severe frailty
- Active psychosis and/or delirium
- Active nausea or dizziness
- Stroke and/or head trauma in the last 6 weeks



# *Cybersickness Symptoms*

**If the Veteran experiences any of the following symptoms associated with cybersickness discontinue the session:**

- Eye Strain
- Sudden Fatigue
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Vertigo
- Nausea
- Blurred Vision
- Anxiety
- Any exacerbation of pre-existing symptoms

## INFECTION CONTROL

### Disposable Wipes

- All surfaces except lenses
- Lightly dampen soft cloth for lenses

### Cleanbox

- UV lights to sanitize
- All parts of VR system can go inside
- 60 sec cycle
- Better for irregular surfaces





## *Oculus Quest / Meta*

- Utilizes an app downloaded to a smart phone or tablet device
- Can download experiences through device or headset
- Requires Wi-Fi or hotspot connection
- Downloaded experiences of choice
- Some free options, some paid
- Price: \$400 - \$500





## *Real System Y Series*

- No Controllers – Hands free
- No WiFi Required
- Rehabilitation-based Activities
- Clinician Required

## *Waya Health*

- Headset and Hand Controllers
- No Wi-Fi needed
- Wellness and Rehab Activities
- VR & AR
- Gaze and Voice Control





**VA**



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## *Benefits of VR in Stroke Patients*

- Improved motor function
  - Increased Repetitions
  - Task Specific Training
  - Intensity
- Increased Motivation and Engagement
- Accessibility
- Mood Improvement
- Adjunctive Rehabilitation Intervention



# *Considerations for use of VR in Stroke Patients*

- Patient Capabilities and Performance
  - Controller-based vs Non-Controller Based
  - Ability to Grasp and control Fine Motor control
- Alternative Solutions
  - Control Straps
  - Gaze Based Systems
  - Voice Controlled Systems
- Non-Immersive vs Immersive Systems



## *Limits in Stroke VR Research*

- Determining the optimal method of delivering VR (immersive, non-immersive, or semi-immersive).
- Identifying specific patient cohorts that would benefit most from VR therapy.
- Defining the technology and the dose of intervention appropriate for each patient.
- Improving the methodology of future reviews.



# *CASE STUDIES*

## **Case Study #1**

**Location:** CLC – PT/OT

**Problem:** Veteran suffering physical limitations after a recent stroke.

**Solution:** VR introduced for use during treatment to work on physical limitations.

## **Case Study #2**

**Location:** Outpatient Spinal Cord Injury Clinic

**Problem:** Veteran with a C5 spinal cord injury decreased trunk control and right sided neglect.

**Solution:** VR introduced for use during treatment to work on trunk control and right sided neglect.



***THANK YOU!***



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