

## Integral or External Lateral Supports?

**The relationship between Axxis integral lateral supports and independent external lateral supports.**

### **What are “integral” lateral supports?**

Axxis backrests contain integral and adjustable lateral supports. These supports are incorporated into the backrest shells and are intended to give adjustable, progressive support at Thoracic and/or Pelvic level on each side without having to resort to external lateral supports.

In one-piece Axxis backrests, the supports act like two pairs of hands behind the occupants back, each “hand” being inwardly adjustable, independently, by about 50mm (2”). Single segments are the equivalent of half a backrest and contain one pair of “hands”.

### **Limitations:**

For many users, this integral support will meet their needs. However, the depth of integral lateral support is limited by the practicality of transfer and access. Too great a depth (wrap) will interfere with access and transfer so there is a limit to the degree of support which can be offered by integral supports.

### **External lateral supports:**

Where deeper and more extensive support is necessary, independent lateral supports, which can be removed or swung away, will be required. The V-Trak/Axxis system is designed as an open system so that in addition to V-Trak Thoracic Supports, it is compatible with other manufacturers’ lateral supports such as the STS system from Otto Bock or laterals from R82 using either the appropriate V-Trak interfaces or their respective cane mounting devices.

### **Integral or external?**

When trying to provide lateral support using the Axxis integral lateral supports, it is usual to begin with a backrest wide enough to provide sufficient “wrap” to provide the lateral support element. If, subsequently, the integral support proves to be insufficient in scope, rigidity or strength, then an external support will be required. In such cases, **in order to blend the curves of the backrest and the lateral support, it will be necessary to reduce the width of the specified Axxis backrest by at least one width size**, typically from Extra Large to Large or from Large to Medium. In some cases it might be necessary to reduce by two sizes.

This substitution will allow the edge of the backrest to align with the edge of the lateral support to provide a continuous, blended support surface and facilitate removal and replacement.



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**Safety notice:**

Please note that excessive side forces may overload and damage integral lateral supports and the backrest shell. Large corrective or supportive forces may be better applied using external lateral supports.

**Further guidance:**

For further extensive guidance on the use and deployment of the versatile V-Trak Lateral Supports, refer to the Help Manual available from our web site [www.v-trak.com/manuals](http://www.v-trak.com/manuals). Adapters for other makes of Lateral support are shown in the Product catalogue. Be sure to check [www.v-trak.com/safetyupdate](http://www.v-trak.com/safetyupdate) sections for the latest available information.

Performance Health Products Ltd  
September 2009