



## COULD ROBOTICS SPELL THE END OF THE WHEELCHAIR?

**Video transcript: Introduction with Saleyha Ahsan**

*SALEYHA AHSAN:*

Although we don't think about it – our ability to move underpins every moment of our lives. An action like walking seems so simple to most of us but it is impossible for some.

An estimated one in fifty people live with some form of paralysis. If you think of the body as a machine it's as if all the parts are intact but the signals can't get through to make them move. For those affected, the consequences are life-changing.

It's not just losing the ability to move. Being constrained by paralysis can be extremely isolating.

Although the concept of restoring function to the body seems simple, scientists are making slow progress in this field.

For now, those who are paralysed have to rely on wheelchairs to get around. The aim is to develop better technology – robotics that mimic our own bodies – so that we can help paralysed people take steps of their own.