

Transcript of ITV News video on use of VR to help stroke patients

Presenter: A South London hospital is trialing pioneering virtual reality treatment to help people recover from strokes. Croydon University Hospital is studying the benefits of VR on patient's rehabilitation work. Katie Barnfield went to meet one Londoner who hopes the technology will ultimately help him marry his childhood sweetheart.

Voice of reporter Katie: "Peter Critchley is 87 after a stroke he lost all the feeling on one side of his body."

Peter: "I was down low with dustpan and brush sweeping and suddenly found I could not get up and that was it."

Katie: "Now he's recovering thanks to something you might recognise. His rehab is playing fruit ninja. These sensors on his arms creates a kind of virtual reality where he can see his own limbs moving even if he can't feel them."

Dr Karen Kee, physician, Croydon University Hospital: "I think the main thing is being able to budge and visualize the hand. It can be a bit boring just reaching up for objects and get, you know, having the therapists move your arm, whereas if you see food flying around the screen and trying to chop them up it just adds the element of fun."

Katie: Croydon University Hospital is the first in London to get this technology. Twenty four patients have tried it so far and their doctors say they've seen big improvements.

Dr Kee: "People have we've noticed that our therapy times have increased actually so people are getting more occupational therapy a day and it just helps them, yeah think that it's not therapy. I think that's the thing, it feels like playing a computer game". With this new tech Peter is on track to finish his rehab within a month so he can head to Australia for a very important reason.

Peter: "That's why, she's my partner. We got engaged while she was over here and I'm quite sure where we're gonna have the wedding whether it'll be here or there."

Katie: "So this is important for for your wedding day?"

Peter: "Yes, yes, absolutely right there."

Katie: His goal is a fit to fly certificate no matter how many watermelons he's got to chop to get one."