

Part # and Functions	Potential Failure Mode	Potential Effect(s) of Failure
Link 1	3d printed link breaks under stress of the motor torque and the weight of the arm.	The 3d printed material could crack and splinter pieces but these would be low velocity. Arm could collapse therefore loss of support could injure clients arm.
Link 2	Fracture under impact	Loss of elbow support / robotitc arm/ ability.
Motor 1 (base)	Heat overload/ stall	Motor shutdown, motor may heat up could cause burning around 3d printed areas. Arm could freeze mid motion
Motor 2	Thermal overload	Motor shutdown, motor may heat up could cause burning around 3d printed areas. Arm could freeze mid motion
Waist belt	Buckle or strap tear or detachment	The robotic arm could drop and cause damage or injury to client
Hinge	Crack or deformation around bolt holes.	Arm position could shift to an painful position or the arm could collapse.
Motor mount 1 DET002	Crack or deformation around bolt holes.	Motor misalignment, large vibration screw/nut slipping out. Could cause the arm to fall and smash sudden movement may hurt client.
Battery pack	Battery pack overheating/ shorting	An short or overheating could cause an combustion causing an fire.

Wiring	Insulation damage	Electric short which could cause an stop or perhaps even fire.
Elbow cuff attachment SUB03-DET003	Pad detaches causing irritation to skin.	Causes discomfort and abrasion
Thermoform attachment	Crack around hinge mounting holes	Hinge loses support and arm path becomes unstable. could transfer sudden load to user arm.
Thermoform attachment	Warping or permanent deformation	Misalignment between belt and arm structure causing poor assistance and discomfort.
Motor controller	Output spike or software fault causes unintended motion	Unexpected arm movement could startle or injure user.
FSR sensor	Sensor drifts low and under-reads force	Too much force may be applied to arm before system reacts.
FSR sensor	False high reading due to noise	System may stop assisting or behave erratically.
elbow cuff strap	strap loosens or slips during use	loss of elbow alignment and reduced support.
Harness strap	Disconnection from belt	Device can detach from user torso and drop load suddenly.
Waist belt	Belt rotates around torso during use	Arm geometry shifts and assistance becomes inconsistent and potentially harmful
Battery connector	Connector disconnects during movement	Sudden power loss could drop the arm or reset controls.
Battery pack casing	Casing cracks and exposes batteries	Reduced protection for batteries and higher electrical/fire risk. If controller is damaged the entire arm could shut down.

Potential Causes and Mechanisms of Failure	RPN	Recommended Action
Failure in control of motor causing it to spin past the rotation we want. Wall thickness of printed geometry could be too thin.	140	Test different materials at different torque speeds and find what will not break. Also include FEA of material and geometry
Thin wall, large impact, poor printing material.	140	Thicken wall and try different materials.
Torque demand too high, no proper cooling method. Software malfunction	112	Improve ventilation, invest in an heat sink.
Continuous load, user leaning heavily on elbow cup.	112	Add torque limit and thermal cutoff. Improve ventilation.
Fatigue or overload of belt or other mechanical components	120	To use an industry standard belt, add secondary safety tether.
Screws/bolts too loose or too tight weak hinge condition. Undersized pin, poor alignment	105	Invest in a reliable hinge or prototype to find a better joint.
Over tightening of screws /bolts. Poor print orientation	140	Reprint piece checking print orientation using onyx with carbon infill.
Physical damage to the battery or an internal short.	120	In case in fire retardant material.

Wiring may be cut or twisted/broken by harsh edges or rapid movement.	162	Purchase heavy duty wires with extra insulation
Adhesive failure due sweat and shear forces	48	Ensure correct glue for this application is used
Stress concentration around mounting holes, repeated cyclic loading, holes printed/formed too close to edge.	140	Add larger fillets/washers, increase local thickness, and validate with repeated cycle tests.
Heat from environment/body and constant load causing plastic creep.	125	Using an material which will not be affected by low temp of body heat.
Software bug, EMI noise, or bad control signal.	168	Add current limits, hard stops, watchdog, and emergency stop.
Sensor aging, poor calibration, temperature effects.	240	Add calibration routine.
Electrical noise, loose wiring, sensor damage.	150	Filter signal in software and improve shielding/strain relief.
poor fit, low friction material, repeated motion.	150	Ensure validity of Velcro buy testing its grip multiple times.
Poor stitching quality, overload, wear from repeated donning.	105	Product has been well tested by an group member and likelihood of failure is very small
Insufficient friction, poor fit, asymmetric loading.	180	Add padding/grip material and improve belt adjustability.
Poor retention, cable tugging, vibration.	160	Use locking connectors and strain relief.
Impact from dropping, brittle printed housing, falling on an hard surface or squashing between an wall and the back of the belt	54	Increase wall thickness and add impact absorbing outer shell.

