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Correlation between posture and balance in 19-20-year-old albanian students

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ABSTRACT

Postural control (or balance) can be defined statically as the ability to maintain a base of support with minimal movement, and dynamically as the ability to perform a task while maintaining a stable position (C. J. Winstein, E. R). The development of equilibrium capacities is known to be critical for both the acquisition and the control of motor skills (Massion. J., 1992). Since balance control is an essential component for the optimal functioning of any locomotors system (Winter DA et al., 1990), gait and balance control together needs to be investigated in order to correct inappropriate performance and prevent injury. This study focus was to investigate the correlation between posture and balance changes in normal and healthy adolescent's (boys and girls). A total of 61 subjects (21 females and 40 males) aged 19-20-year-old students, participated on this study. We have conducted a postural screening, which included digital photography in 4 plans (anterior view, right lateral view, posterior view, left lateral view) and postural evaluation with Posture Screen Mobile program were done, was also performed a set of 4 balance tests BT (Balance Test) a) (*Rom EO*); b) (*Rom EC*); c) (*SemTanEO*); d) (*SemTanEC*); e) (*TanEO*); f) (*TanEC*), on Leonardo Mechanography Platform. Statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 2.0. Results shows that generally all subjects have a good balance and orientation level in all tests (with open and closed eyes). Also based on the results we can say that the correlation between posture and balance changes in ages 19-20 it's really relevant. The posture screening and the analysis of balance are of great importance in studies trying to understand the ageing process. Also differences between genders are of great interest especially if a proper exercise program focused in postural improvement can be implemented. **Key words:** POSTURE, BALANCE, POSTURAL BALANCE.

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INTRODUCTION

Postural control (or balance) can be defined statically as the ability to maintain a base of support with minimal movement, and dynamically as the ability to perform a task while maintaining a stable position (C. J. Winstein, E. R). The development of equilibrium capacities is known to be critical for both the acquisition and the control of motor skills (Massion. J., 1992). Since balance control is an essential component for the optimal functioning of any locomotors system (Winter DA et al., 1990), gait and balance control together needs to be investigated in order to correct inappropriate performance and prevent injury. This study focus was to investigate the correlation between posture and balance changes in normal and healthy adolescent's (boys and girls). Clinically, it is important to measure abnormalities of upright posture. There are several non-invasive methods used to evaluate upright posture, including observation, plumb lines, posture angles on photographs, and orthograms (Beck A, Killus J., 1973; During J et al., 1985; Itoi E., 1991; Raine S, Twomey L., 1994). Therefore, any dichotomous findings between the validity of posture as a cause of pain in published studies might be due to lack of uniform classification and measurement for normal and abnormal posture (Beck A, Killus J., 1973; During J et al., 1985; Itoi E., 1991; Raine S, Twomey L., 1994). Since 1970s, segmental spinal movements have been categorized and studied as rotations (Rx, Ry, Rz) and translation (Tx, Ty, Tz) (Panjabi MM et al., 1974). Very few have described posture as head, rib cage, and pelvic rotations and translations (Harrison DD., 1982–1997). Historically, it seems that the postural analysis, as used clinically, is restricted to lateral flexion (Rz), with a minimal evaluation of flexion–extension (Rx) and sagittal balance (Jackson RP, McManus AC., 1994). It has been observed that scoliotic subjects have straightened thoracic curvatures and anterior weight bearing of the thoracic cage (anterior translation=Tz) (Azegami H et al., 1998). Additionally, these subjects often have a low shoulder (thoracic lateral flexion=Rz) and thoracic side shift (lateral translation=Tx) (Azegami H et al., 1998; den Boer WA et al., 1999). We decided to conduct this study because we think that the relationship between posture and balance is of great interest.

Objectives

This study focus was to investigate the correlation between posture and balance changes in 19-20 years normal and healthy adolescent's (boys and girls).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 61 subjects (21 females and 40 males) aged 19-20 year's students at Sports University of Tirana, participated on this study. We have conducted a postural screening, which included digital photography in 4 plans (anterior view, right lateral view, posterior view, left lateral view) and postural evaluation with Posture Screen Mobile program were done, was also performed on Leonardo Mechanography Platform a set of 3 balance tests BT (Balance Test). The subject is trying to stand in a quiet normal standing position for a certain amount of time (exmpla 10 sec). For the test to be more difficult are used and we have used 2 other different foot positions, conducted with open eyes and closed eyes. Statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 2.0

BT (Balance Test 10 sec) protocol

1. Romberg standing position with Eyes Open; 1a Romberg standing position Eyes Closed; (Rom EO; RomEC).
2. Semi Tangent position with Eyes Open; 2a. Semi Tangent position with Eyes closed (SemTanEO); (SemTanEC).
3. Tangent position with Eyes Open; 3a. Tangent position with Eyes Closed (TanEO); (TanEC).

RESULTS

Posture results

Posture Data's reveal the following results that for a total of (n=61) participants the results show: Anterior Translations (1.52 ± 0.09), Anterior Angulations (4.57 ± 0.35), Lateral Translations (4.55 ± 0.23), Lateral Angulations (4.55 ± 0.23), Posterior Translations (3.19 ± 0.17), Posterior Angulations (17.33 ± 1.86), Lateral Translations 2 (4.23 ± 0.26), Lateral Angulations 2 (22.92 ± 1.19) variables data sets were summarized and described using descriptive statistics Analyses as presented in table 1.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics results for Anterior Translations, Anterior Angulations, Lateral Translations 1, Lateral Angulations 1, Posterior Translations, Posterior Angulations, Lateral Translations 2 variables.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic
Anterior Translations	61	0.35	3.14	1.52	0.09
Anterior Angulations	61	0	13.2	4.57	0.35
Lateral Translations Left Side	61	1.47	11.95	4.55	0.23
Lateral Angulations Left Side	61	5.36	38.4	21.46	0.91
Posterior Translations	61	0.13	5.97	3.19	0.17
Posterior Angulations	61	1.5	14.8	17.33	1.86
Lateral Translations Right Side	61	0	10.31	4.23	0.26
Lateral Angulations Right Side	61	0	47.8	22.92	1.19

Descriptive Statistics mean statistic graph is presented in figure 1. Mean values of Lateral Angulations 1, Posterior Angulations and Lateral Angulations 2 reported higher scores compared to the other measured variables.

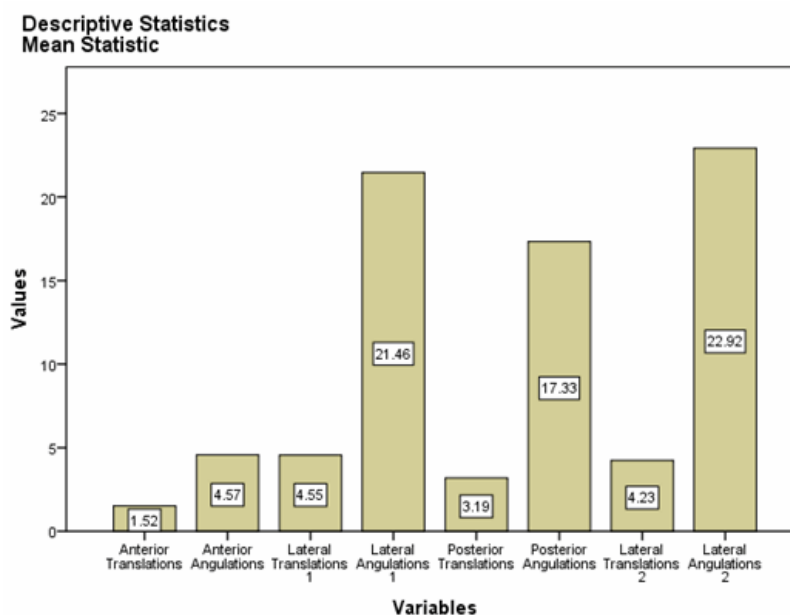


Figure 1. Descriptive Statistics mean statistic graph

Pearson Correlation. Results revealed a positive significant correlation between: Posterior and Anterior Translations ($n=60$, $p<0.05$), Lateral Translations and Lateral Angulations ($n=61$, $p<0.05$), Lateral Translations 1 and Lateral Translations 2 ($n=60$, $p<0.05$), Lateral Translations 1 and Lateral Angulations 2 ($n=60$, $p<0.05$), Lateral Angulations 1 and Posterior Angulations ($n=60$, $p<0.05$), Lateral Angulations and Lateral Angulations 2 ($n=61$, $p<0.05$). Detailed Pearson correlations analyses results are presented in table 2.

Table 2: Pearson Correlations Results for: Anterior Translations, Anterior Angulations, Lateral Translations 1, Lateral Angulations 1, Posterior Translations, Posterior Angulations, Lateral Translations 2 variables.

		Correlations						
		Anterior Angulations	Lateral Translations 1	Lateral Angulations 1	Posterior Translations	Posterior Angulations	Lateral Translations 2	Lateral Angulations 2
Anterior Translations	Pearson Correlation	0.131	0.142	0.085	.381**	0.001	0.17	0.033
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.314	0.275	0.516	0.003	0.997	0.193	0.805
	N	61	61	61	60	60	60	60
Anterior Angulations	Pearson Correlation		0.178	0.183	0.211	-0.07	0.115	0.106
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.171	0.158	0.106	0.597	0.383	0.421
	N		61	61	60	60	60	60
Lateral Translations 1	Pearson Correlation			.512**	0.211	0.05	.639**	.428**
	Sig. (2-tailed)			0	0.105	0.702	0	0.001
	N			61	60	60	60	60
Lateral Angulations 1	Pearson Correlation				.348**	0.225	0.231	.288*
	Sig. (2-tailed)				0.006	0.085	0.075	0.026
	N				60	60	60	60
Posterior Translations	Pearson Correlation					0.101	0.168	0.08
	Sig. (2-tailed)					0.441	0.196	0.541
	N					61	61	61
Posterior Angulations	Pearson Correlation						0.021	0.195
	Sig. (2-tailed)						0.875	0.132
	N						61	61
Lateral Translations 2	Pearson Correlation							.813**
	Sig. (2-tailed)							0
	N							61

Balance results

Table 3. Balance Test (BT) RomEO). Analysis Results, Balance Data

	Age	Body Mass	Std. Elipse Area cm ²	Std. Elipse Angle °	num. Eccentricity	dominat Freq. Hz	rel. Path length mm/s	abs. Path length mm	EQ (AP)	Total Duration s
Mean	20.32	66.33	1.73	5.01	0.8	0.5	18.9	93.99	94.58	5

Table 4. Balance Test (BT) RomEC). Analysis Results, Balance Data

	Age	Body Mass	Std. Elipse Area cm ²	Std. Elipse Angle °	num. Eccentricity	dominat Freq. Hz	rel. Path length mm/s	abs. Path length mm	EQ (AP)	Total Duration s
Mean	20.32	66.33	1.75	6.78	0.82	0.53	23.3	116.51	93.32	5

Table 5. Balance Test (BT) TanEO). Analysis Results, Balance Data

	Age	Body Mass	Std. Elipse Area cm ²	Std. Elipse Angle °	num. Eccentricity	dominat Freq. Hz	rel. Path length mm/s	abs. Path length mm	EQ (AP)	Total Duration s
Mean	20.32	66.33	3.24	2.19	0.84	0.69	48.49	242.49	87.45	5

Table 6. Balance Test (BT) TanEC). Analysis Results, Balance Data

	Age	Body Mass	Std. Elipse Area cm ²	Std. Elipse Angle °	num. Eccentricity	dominat Freq. Hz	rel. Path length mm/s	abs. Path length mm	EQ (AP)	Total Duration s
Mean	20.32	66.33	14.35	3.80	2.02	0.42	86.70	848.60	82.1	10

DISCUSSION

Postural analysis with the Posture Screen Mobile is a computerized method, and for this reason we might have small error calculations. Results shows that generally all subjects have a good balance and orientation level in all tests (with open and closed eyes). Also Dunk et al., 2004 performed a reliability study of a photographic technique and consequent digitization of reflective landmarks with 14 participants and reported poor to moderate ICCs for posture reliability. In another reliability study of posture, using an ultrasonic digitizer (Zebris) method of cervical range of motion measurements, Strimpakos et al., 2005 stated that their method employed for measuring cervical joint position sense was unreliable. It has been observed that all the subjects did not have any major postural problems. Subjects in general have normal thoracic curvatures and anterior weight bearing of the thoracic cage. Also based on the results we can say that the correlation between posture and balance changes in ages 19-20 it's really relevant.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the posture and balance results we can say that the subjects that have been engaged in physical activity have relatively a good posture with small problems in lateral plane regarding posture and generally a good balance in all the conducted tests. The balance and posture screening analysis are of great importance in studies trying to understand the ageing process. Also differences between genders are of great interest especially if a proper exercise program focused in postural improvement can be implemented.

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