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## CUVÂNTUL PREȘEDINTELUI FEDERAȚIEI ROMÂNE A ASOCIAȚIILOR DE FIZIOTERAPIE

Kt. Elena Căciulan

## Dragi colegi,

Federația Română a Asociațiilor de Fizioterapie (FRAF), membră cu drepturi depline a *Confederației Mondiale de Fizioterapie (WCPT)*, reprezintă Asociațiile profesionale ale kinetoterapeuților și fizio-kinetoterapeuților angajați în sistemul de sănătate public și privat și are ca misiune asigurarea calității serviciilor de kinetoterapie, în scopul protecției pacientului.

Federația reprezintă un model de deschidere, competență și susținere pentru profesioniși, iar prin demersurile sale speră să reușeasc să crească credibilitatea acestei profesii.

## **ObiectiveleFEDERAȚIEI**

- 1. Impementarea standardelor WCPT în instituțiile de învățământ superior responsabile pentru pregătirea inițială a fizioterapeuților cu scopul asigurării unui nivel înalt de educație și practică în domeniu ,
- 2. Asigurarea protecției pacientului și a calității serviciilor de fizioterapie prin organizarea de programe de educație continuă (formare profesională continuă) cu specialisti din România si din tările membr WCPT
- 3. Încurajarea comunicării și schimburilor de informații prin organizarea de manifestări științifice, conferințe, work-shopuri
- 4. Promovarea dezvoltării organizațiilor de fizioterapie la nivel național și reprezentarea fizioterapeuților români în relațiile cu instituțiile statului.
- 5. Reprezentarea fizioterapeuților romani la nivel internațional, prin promovarea și recunoașterea acestora în urma migratiei în spațiul european.
  - 6. Colaborarea cu instituțiile și Organizațiile naționale responsabile

Ea este chemată să ajute la și să aplice norme de evaluare și control ale practicii profesionale și menținerea competențelor.

## **Obiectivele**

Prin demersurile și dialogurile întreprinse încercăm să informăm opinia publică despre importanța fizioterapiei în menținerea stării de sănătate a populației.

Fizioterapeutul este chemat să acționeze în interesul clienților/pacienților printr-o abordare conform deontologiei profesionale, într-o echipă interdisciplinară în care specialiștii sunt angajați întro-o misiune comună, cu scopuri și obiective comune.

Profesionistul implicat are șansa unică de a se alătura persoanelor cu interese similare dar cu mijloace diferite de lucru, colaborând și schimbând idei, îmbunătăținduși metodele de lucru alături de ceilalți specialiști.

Inscrierea fizioterapeutilor in asociatiile profesionale, implicarea acestora in dezvoltarea profesiei ,este un semn de normalitate ,in misiunea noastra de a obtine reglementarea profesiei si implicit de a ocupa un loc important in sistemul de sanatate

ELENA CACIULAN
Presedinte FRAF

# INVESTIGATION OF EFFECTIVNESS OF CONTROLED DIPHRAGMATIC BREATHING ON PULMONARY FUNCTION & SIX MINUTE WALK DISTANCE IN STABLE COPD PATIENTS

## INVESTIGAREA EFICIENȚEI RESPIRAȚIEI DIAFRAGMATICE CONTROLATE ASUPRA FUNCȚIEI PULMONARE ȘI A MERSULUI PE DISTANȚĂ DE ȘASE METRI, LA PACIENȚII CU BPOC STABIL

Sudeep Kale 1, M.Vijayakumar <sup>2</sup>

**Key words:** breathing exercise, COPD, pulmonary rehabilitation, six minute walk test

**Cuvinte cheie:** exerciții de respirație, BPOC, recuperare pulmonară, testul de mers 6 minute

### Abstract.

**Introduction:** Pulmonary hyperinflation is critical factor in COPD patients which puts diaphragm at mechanical disadvantage. Shape and geometry of chest wall is altered in patients with COPD, consequently reduces opposing zone diaphragm. Low, flat diaphragm weakens diaphragm muscle & decreases the diaphragm function. This study was designed to investigate effect of Controlled Diaphragmatic Breathing on pulmonary function & 6Minute Walk Distance in stable mild to moderate severity COPD patients. Method: Subjects were evaluated at the start of treatment & reevaluated after 3 weeks. 6 MWD & PFT pre & post treatment was done as per Standardized guidelines of ATS. The subjects received breathing retraining six days a week for 20 minutes for 3 weeks.

**Result:** Subject showed significant improvement in 6 MWD<sub>1</sub> (t =2.301,P<0.05). No significant difference noted in the PFT parameters after 3 weeks training.

**Conclusion:** Controlled Diaphragmatic Breathing has a variable effect on improvement in functional status in COPD patients & hence can be incorporated in pulmonary rehabilitation.

#### Rezumat.

Introducere: Hiperinflamația pulmonară este un factor critic la pacienții cu bronhopmeumopatie cronică obstructivă (BPOC), ceea ce conferă diafragmului un dezavantaj mecanic. Forma și geometria peretelui toracic sunt alterate la pacienții cu BPOC, consecutiv ducând la reducerea zonei de opozabilitate a diafragmului. Un diafragm coborât și plat, duce la scăderea forței acestui mușchi și îi reduce funcția.

Acest studiu are ca scop investigarea efectului respitrației diafragmatice controlate asupra funcției pulmonare și asupra performanței pacientului la testul de 6 minute de mers, la pacienții cu BPOC moderat spre sever.

Metodă. Subiecții au fost evaluați la începutul tratamentului și după 3 săptămâni de tratament, cu ajutorul testului 6 minute de mers și a parametrilor pulmonari. Subiecții au urmat reeducare respiratory 6 zile pe săptămână, 20 minute pe zi, timp de 3 săptămâni.

**Rezultate.** Subiecții au prezentat îmbunătățiri semnificative la testul de mers de 6 minute, (t=2.301 ,P<0.05). NU s-au înregistrat diferențe semnificative a parametrilor pulmonary după 3 săptămâni de tratament.

Concluzii. Respirația diafragmatică controlată a avut un efect variabil asupra îmbunătățirii funcționale la pacienții cu PBOC, putând fi incluse în recuperarea pulmonară a acestor pacienți.

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## Introduction

COPD is major cause of death & disability all over the world. As per WHO & World Bank Global Burden of Disease Study Data, worldwide prevalence of COPD is estimated at 9.34 / 1000 in men & 7.33 in women. [1,2]. By 2020, WHO predicts that COPD will become 3rd leading cause of death & 5th leading cause of disability worldwide [2]. In India COPD is recognized as major health problem requiring management from primary health care level on words [1]. Indian prevalence of COPD is 4.4 & 3.4 per 1000 in men & women respectively. [1, 2] As per multicentre studies on epidemiology of COPD, prevalence figures 5 % in men & 3.2 % in women (above age of 35 yrs) across country [1]. Mortality & morbidity due to other diseases has shown to be steady decline for more than a decade now, but that due to COPD are increasing [2, 3]. Hence COPD is growing not only as universal but also as national health concern in India [1].

Pulmonary hyperinflation is critical factor in COPD patients which puts diaphragm at mechanical disadvantage. Shape and geometry of chest wall is altered in patients with COPD, consequently reduces opposing zone of diaphragm. Low, flat diaphragm weakens diaphragm muscle & decreases the diaphragm function

Controlled diaphragmatic breathing (CDB) is most commonly incorporated in rehabilitation program of COPD patients. The primary purpose of these exercises is to promote greater use of diaphragm & to decrease use of accessory muscles of inspiration [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. Although these exercises have been proved beneficial in improving ventilation, breathing patterns & reliving symptoms, these exercises are challenged by many authors [9, 10]. Along with its positive effects in COPD patients many negative effects are also noted by few researchers [9]. Research results also provide a mixed picture regarding effect of theses exercise on strength & endurance of diaphragm. Many studies show improvement in tidal volume.

Several investigators had examined effect of CDB on ventilatory patterns, arterial blood gases, chest wall kinematics, and breathlessness. All those studies enumerated had focused on acute effects of CDB. No study conducted on investigation of such effects on long-term basis. All the effects achieved by varied authors remained only during exercises & not after exercises. Hence this study was designed to investigate efficiency of CDB in improving pulmonary function & exercise performance in stable COPD patients.

## Methodology

30 stable COPD patients visiting to outpatient department (OPD) of Tuberculosis & Chest medicine of Dr.D.Y.Patil Medical College & hospital Pimpri, Pune 18 over a period of 1.5 years were recruited into study. The informed consent was taken from all patients. Diagnosis was confirmed by pulmonary physician after clinical assessment and PFT. After baseline assessment, PFT & 6 Minute Walk Test (6MWT), subjects were assigned in to study. Subjects were evaluated at the start of treatment & reevaluated after 3 weeks. Patient's age (in yrs), weight (kgs), height (cms) was registered prior to test. All the tests, calibrations of equipment & interpretations were done as per Standardized guidelines of American Thoracic Society (ATS).

## Intervention

The subjects received physiotherapy six days a week for 20 minutes for 3 weeks, followed on OPD basis. Controlled diaphragmatic breathing exercises were given to the patients in semi fowler's position with Knees bend. After the assessment of the breathing pattern of patient, the proper diaphragmatic breathing exercises were demonstrated to patient. Hand was placed on patient's abdomen in the epigastric region below xipoid process. Then patient instructed to take 2-3 breaths & patient's abdominal movement was followed without interrupting the breathing pattern. With this instructions & demonstration patient's awareness regarding his/her breathing pattern was facilitated.

Then patient was instructed to inhale through nose & raise abdomen against hand. After normal rate at the end of exhalation, a slow inward stretch was given & hand was scooped up under

anterior thorax. Same procedure was followed with each breath. This procedure was repeated for 10 min. 2 sessions were given with 5 mins. gap in between for 3 weeks.

Inclusion Criteria: Clinically diagnosed stable mild to moderate severity COPD patients. FEV1 / FVC < 80% & FEV1 between 40 % to 79 %. (Mild to moderate severity). The stable COPD was defined as per the GOLD

*Exclusion Criteria*: Patients with acute exacerbation of COPD, cardiac, metabolic & endocrine disorders, thoracic cage deformities, history of cardiac/pulmonary/abdominal surgeries, asthma, pulmonary tuberculosis, neuromuscular disorders current respiratory tract infections. Patients underwent breathing & respiratory muscle training & sever obstruction patients (FEV1 < 40 %).

## **Materials**

Computerized PFT machine (Schiller at-10 med. system), Height stands scale, weighing machine, standardized size chair, standardized size bed.

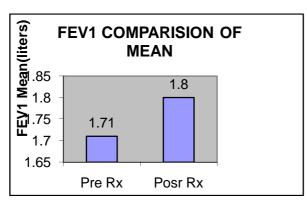
*Outcome Measures*: FEV1, FVC, PEF25-75%, PEFR, FEV1 / FVC, Six Minute Walk Distance (6MWD)

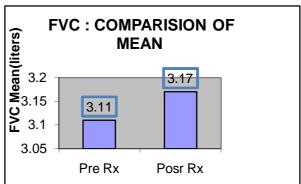
## **Data/Observations**

Pre & Post Rx significance was calculated by using *paired t test*. Graph pad software was used for statistical analysis.

Parameter	Pre- treatment		Post- treatment		Significance	2
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
FEV <sub>1</sub>	1.71	0.60	1.80	0.61	t=0.5299,	p>0.05
FVC	3.11	0.76	3.17	0.73	t=0.2954,	p>0.05
PEF25-75%	1.04	0.50	1.11	0.46	t=0.5180,	p>0.05
PEFR	3.35	0.23	3.44	0.23	t= 0.2569,	p>0.05
FEV <sub>1</sub> / FVC	54.63	12.1	55.53	12.3	t=0.2820,	p>0.05
6MWD	269.1	68.29	305.1	69.64	t=2.301,	p<0.05

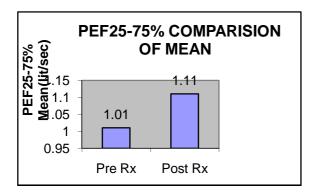
Table 1.1 Statistical Presentation

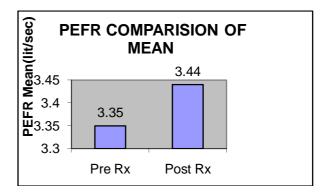




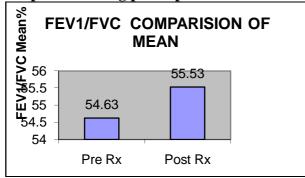
Graph 1: showing pre & post Rx FEV1

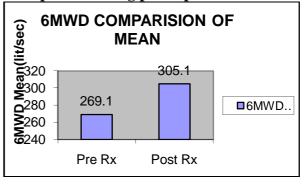
Graph 2: showing pre & post Rx FVC





Graph 3: showing pre & post Rx FEF 25 -75%. Graph 4: showing pre & post Rx PEFR





Graph 5: showing pre & post Rx FEV1 / FVC. Graph 6: showing pre & post Rx 6 MWD

## Result

Subject showed significant improvement in 6 MWD1 (t =2.301, p<0.05). No significant difference noted in all PFT parameters after 3 weeks training

## **Discussion**

This study was designed to investigate effect of Controlled Diaphragmatic Breathing on pulmonary function & 6Minute Walk Distance in stable mild to moderate severity COPD patients. The major finding of this study includes the improvement in six minute walk distance in these patients after 3 weeks of the treatment.

Pulmonary hyperinflation is one of the crucial factors which affect the diaphragm. In COPD patients the diaphragm is flatter & lower than normal. These changes reduces piston like axial displacement of diaphragm dome, oppositional action of expanding lower ribs & insertional action of expanding lower lobe. Shape & geometry of chest wall also reduces zone of opposition of diaphragm. Hyperinflation also changes mechanical arrangement of crural & costal parts of diaphragm from series to parallel, further reducing the force generating capacity.

Positions used for training improved Zone of Opposition area of diaphragm. Semi fowler's position with knees flexed & relative posterior tilting of pelvis induced relaxation of abdominal muscles and facilitated diaphragmatic excursion [11]. Also visceral contents are pushed under diaphragm improving oppositional component of diaphragmatic action [11]. Scoop up method facilitated the excursion of diaphragm. CDB improved the recruitment of diaphragm muscle. Also breathing retraining program has improved general condition of patients possibly mediated by improvement in PO2 & PCO2. This might be a contributory factor in obtaining improvement in 6MWD. Furthermore possibility is that breathing retraining acquired a better control over respiratory muscles & reduced the fatigue of accessory muscles and improved their performance [12]. These helped patient to cover more distance in six minute. Reduced dyspnea also helped in improving 6 MWD. The CDB training was given for 3 weeks. Probably this duration is less to bring changes in PFT parameters. Again the underlying pathology also resulted in no improvement in PFT.

## Conclusion

Controlled Diaphragmatic Breathing has a variable effect on improvement in functional status in COPD patients. Hence it can be used as one of the physiotherapy technique in order to improve efficacy of diaphragm & functional status in patients with COPD & should be incorporated in rehabilitation of COPD patients.

## Limitations

The measures used in this study were relatively simple. Only few parameters of PFT were taken into considerations. Effect of these breathing retraining techniques on tidal volume was not taken in account. Effect of on ABG , dyspnea, as well as effects on patient psychology on PFT performance was not studied.

## **Suggestions**

Further studies incorporating other outcome measures (eg. ABG, Dyspnea ) follow up data may help to confirm the observed effects and clarifies its mechanisms, asses its long term validity. A similar replication of this study with larger number of subjects can be carried out.

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## MODIFICĂRI PSIHO-COMPORTAMENTALE INDUSE DE BOALĂ LA PACIENȚII DE VÂRSTA A III-A

## PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGES DUE TO ILNESS, IN ELDERLY PATIENTS

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**Key words:** illness, patient, psychobehavioral manifestations

Cuvinte cheie: boală, pacient, manifestări psiho-comportamentale

#### Abstract.

Together with the perception of illness, individual anticipates several threats in the respect of his physical integrity and/or capacity, especialy if his informations regarding similar cases sugests this kind of possibilities. In case of an ilness, within his familial, social and professional life there are some fractures capable of making the patient to change his status and role, or at least his ideea of group insertion and his disponibility to cooperate. **Objectives.** This paperwork aims to assess changes in psychical and behavioral aspects in elderly patients.

**Subjecs.** Study group consisted of 165 patients, males and women, ages between 65 and 80 years old, with several illness. Study was conducted between October 2012 – February 2013.

**Methods.** For assessment was used a questionnaire, carried out by physical therapists from diverse medical care units. **Results.** Results analized even from the point of view of influences of age, gender and previous medical status on patients, shown several changes in the respect of the attitude regarding the accident/ illness, phycological status during the first stages of affection, at the beginning of the rehabilitation process, abd attitude regarding the evolution of illness.

**Conclusions.** Illness generates physchic stress, leading to some psychological and behavioral changes, which must be take into account during rehabilitation process of elderly persons.

#### Rezumat.

Odată cu perceperea apariției bolii/accidentului, individul anticipează și o serie de amenințări la adresa integrității și/sau capacității sale fizice, mai ales dacă informațiile sale despre cazuri similare îi sugerează astfel de posibilități. În câmpul vieții sale socio-profesionale și familiale apar, în caz de îmbolnăvire gravă, fisuri capabile să se adâncească și să-l facă pe bolnav să-și modifice, dacă nu statutul și rolul său, cel puțin ideea de inserție la nivel de grup și disponibilitatea spre colaborare. Objective. Cercetarea a urmărit modificărilor psiho-comportamentale induse de boală la pacienți de vârsta a III-a. Subiecți. Eșantionul a cuprins 165 de pacienți de ambele sexe, cu vârste cuprinse între 65 și 80 ani, cu diverse afecțiuni și s-a desfășurat în perioada octombrie 2012 - februarie 2013. Metode. S-a folosit interviul anamnestic, neformal, ghidat, realizat cu ajutorul kinetoterapeuților angajați în diverse sectoare de activitate medicală. Rezultate. Rezultatele, analizate și din punct de vedere al influențelor pe care vârsta, sexul și antecedentele medicale ale pacienților le poate avea asupra lor, au evidentiat o serie de modificări ale atitudinilor generale față de accident / îmbolnăvire, ale stărilor psihice în momentul accidentării / primelor semne ale afecțiunii, ale stărilor psihice la începerea recuperării, ale simptomelor somato - fiziologice psihice la începerea recuperării și ale atitudinilor față de evoluția afecțiunii. Concluzii. Boala generează stres psihic, care determină aparitia unor modificări psiho-comportamentale de care trebuie să se țină cont în abordarea kinetoterapeutică a pacienților de vârsta a III-a.

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## Introducere

Conceptele de boală și sănătate sunt concepte evaluative, ele fiind *circumscrise de dezvoltarea cunoașterii biomedicale, de orientările intelectuale ale culturii, de sistemul axiologic al societății.* [1]

Importanța factorilor psihologici în bolile psihice, psihosomatice și în cele considerate pur fizice a fost dovedită în mod prodigios de cercetările și experiențele ultimelor decenii.

Odată cu perceperea apariției bolii (în cazul în care aceasta este de durată sau se exprimă cu brutalitate la nivelul subiectivității individului), acesta anticipează și o serie de amenințări la adresa integrității și/sau capacității sale fizice, mergând până la pieirea sa, mai ales dacă informațiile sale despre cazuri similare îi sugerează astfel de posibilități. În câmpul vieții sale socio-profesionale și familiale apar, de asemenea în caz de îmbolnăvire grevă, fisuri capabile în anumite situații (greu previzibile, mai ales la începutul bolii) - să se adâncească și să-l facă pe bolnav să-și modifice, dacă nu statutul și rolul său, cel puțin o inserție la nivel de grup până atunci satisfăcătoare sau chiar ideală. Boala generează stres psihic prin două mari grupe de agenți stresanți: situație esențială de impas creată prin apariția, desfășurarea și consecințele bolii și disconfort psihic și somatic reprezentate de un cortegiu de suferințe fizice și psihice inerente.

Steinmuller (citat de Iamandescu, I.B., 1993) sintetizează limitarea câmpului de activitate a bolnavului prin *pierderea rolurilor obișnuite, a unor gratificații și a unor moduri de comportament adaptativ*. [2,4]

## Scopul și ipoteza cercetării

Scopul studiului de față a fost acela de a despista modificările psiho-comportamentale induse de boală la pacienții de vârsta a III-a, iar **ipoteza** de la care s-a pornit a fost aceea că identificarea modificărilor psiho-comportamentale induse de boală la pacienții de vârsta a III-a face posibilă adaptarea diferențiată, corespunzătoare fiecărei persoane și fiecărei patologii.

## Material și metode

Cercetarea desfășurată a fost de tip constatativ, aplicarea în practică a rezultatelor acesteia putând ameliora considerabil calitatea relației terapeut-pacient și a rezultatelor terapeutice.

*Subiecți*. Pentru a decela impactul psiho-comportamental al bolii / accidentului asupra unor pacienți de vârsta a III-a, am folosit interviul anamnestic, neformal, ghidat, realizat cu ajutorul kinetoterapeuților angajați în diverse sectoare de activitate medicală, asupra a 165 de pacienți. Eșantionul a cuprins pacienți de ambele sexe, cu vârste cuprinse între 65 și 80 ani, cu diverse afecțiuni (Tabel I).

Pe baza unui ghid de interviu [3], kinetoterapeuții au completat grile de evaluare a atitudinilor și comportamentelor pacienților față de boală și situația de bolnav. Astfel, am încercat să surprindem atitudinile și comportamentul pacienților în legătură cu boala/accidentul în 3 momente diferite: înainte de accidentare / îmbolnăvire; în momentul accidentării / primelor semne ale bolii; în momentul începerii activității de recuperare kinetoterapeutică.

## Rezultate

Pentru a avea o imagine de ansamblu, foarte clară, a atitudinilor și comportamentelor pacienților în legătură cu boala / accidentul, prezentarea rezultatelor a fost eșalonată urmărind măsura în care modificările psiho-comportamentale induse de boală sunt influențate de vârstă și sex (toți având antecedente medicale), din 5 puncte de vedere: a atitudinilor generale față de accident / îmbolnăvire; a stărilor psihice în momentul accidentării / primelor semne ale afecțiunii; a stărilor psihice la începerea recuperării; a simptomelor somato-fiziologice-psihice la începerea recuperării; a atitudinilor față de evoluția afecțiunii.

În prezentarea stărilor psihice s-a folosit următoarea ierarhizare: emoții primare (frică, furie, disperare, gândul că ar putea muri), emoții evaluativ-sociale (tendința de a învinui pe alții, teama de a nu-și pierde locul de muncă, teama de a nu fi afectată familia, teama de a nu-și pierde

prietenii) și stări psihice de apărare a Eu-lui (speranța că afecțiunea nu este prea gravă, resemnare, gândul că va avea o *pauză*).

În prezentarea simptomelor somato-fiziologice-psihice s-a folosit următoarea ierarhizare: reacții alergice (dureri de cap, tulburări de respirație, tulburări digestive, tulburări uro-genitale), reacții neuromusculare și vegetative (tensiuni musculare excesive, tremurături, amețeli, transpirații abundente), reacții fiziologice hipostenice (senzație de oboseală, senzație de slăbiciune, senzație de leșin), reacții cardio-vasculare și psiho-sugestive (puls accelerat, tensiune arterială mărită, gândire negativă) și reacții neuro-psihice (iritabilitate, predispoziție la plâns facil, dificultăți de comunicare, stări de agitație).

## □ Atitudini față de boală, în general

Situația atitudinilor generale față de boală este reprezentată în graficul nr. 1. 76,9% dintre pacienți declară că se gândesc cu frică la posibilitatea că s-ar putea îmbolnăvi, 72,3% își anticipează suferința, 86,2% sunt foarte impresionați de suferința altora și se transpun frecvent în situația celor care suferă și 38,5% nu au încredere în terapie, în general. Această situație se datorează faptului că, în general, persoanele de vârsta a III-a, marcate de diferite afecțiuni, sunt mai în vârstă și ideii general acceptate că *la bătrânețe nu ai cum să fii sănătos*.

Așa cum se observă din tabelul II, nu se pot stabili legături semnificative între sexul, vârsta și atitudinile pacienților, ceea ce înseamnă că acestea nu se influențează unele pe altele.

La vârsta a III-a, femeile prezintă în proporție mai mare decât bărbații atitudini de frică față de boală (92,5% comparativ cu 52%), anticipare a suferinței (87,5% comparativ cu 48%), impresionabilitate (97,5% comparativ cu 68%). 37,5% dintre femei și 40% dintre bărbați nu au încredere în terapie.

□ Stări psihice în momentul primelor semne ale afecțiunii

În momentul apariției primelor semne ale afecțiunii, pacienții de vârsta a III-a au reacționat trăind, în proporții diferite, o serie de stări psihice momentane care caracterizează impactul pe care conștiința afecțiunii l-a avut asupra acestora (Grafic nr. 1).

Trăirea acestor stări psihice a fost influențată doar de sex, femeile evocând un număr mult mai mare de trăiri legate de afecțiune. Acest rezultat este garantat cu o probabilitate de 99,9% (pentru un nivel de semnificație de 0,001). Intensitatea asocierii care se stabilește între sexul pacienților și stările psihice trăite în momentul primelor semne ale afecțiunii este mică spre medie, fapt dovedit de valoarea calculată pentru coeficientul lui Cramer (0,35). Vârsta nu influențează semnificativ trăirea stărilor psihice în momentul apariției primelor semne ale bolii (tabel III).

Așa cum reiese și din graficul nr. 2, la pacienții de vârsta a III-a, din cele 245 de stări psihice declarate, starea psihică dominantă este frica (76,9%), urmată de îngrijorarea în legătură cu impactul bolii asupra familiei (70,8%). Având în vedere faptul că toți pacienții intervievați au avut antecedente medicale, este oarecum de înțeles de ce la 29,2% dintre aceștia se manifestă deja resemnarea în fața bolii. Totuși, 27,7% dintre pacienți (în cea mai mare parte bărbați) reacționează cu furie la gândul că s-au îmbolnăvit și 26,2% se gândesc că vor putea lua o *pauză* cu ocazia îmbolnăvirii (în procent mai mare femeile decât bărbații). 21,5% sunt disperați gândindu-se la ce va urma, 18,5% temându-se chiar că ar putea să moară. 16,9% au tendința de a învinui pe alții pentru starea în care se află și tot atâția își exprimă speranța că boala, ale cărei semne tocmai le-au simțit, nu va fi prea gravă.

Femeile, în general, reacționează în cea mai mare măsură cu frică (97,5% comparativ cu 44% bărbații) și grijă față de situația familială (82,5% comparativ cu 52% bărbații). Își exprimă în extrem de mică măsură speranța (2,5% comparativ cu 40% bărbații) și se resemnează mult mai ușor decât bărbații (32,5% comparativ cu 24%).

Bărbații reacționează, în primele momente, prin furie datorită situației de boală (68% comparativ cu 2,5% în cazul femeilor); 28% sunt disperați (comparativ cu 17,5% în cazul femeilor); se gândesc însă mai puțin că ar putea muri (8% comparativ cu 25% femeile) și se resemnează mai greu (24% din pacienți).

## □ Stări psihice la începerea recuperării

La începerea recuperării, situația stărilor psihice trăite de pacienți se regăsește mult ameliorată față de primele momente în care au conștientizat semnele bolii (197 de stări psihice, comparativ cu 245 la apariția primelor semne ale bolii).

Din graficul nr. 3, se observă că, de data aceasta, rămâne pe primul loc grija față de modul în care afecțiunea diagnosticată afectează familia bolnavului (la 63,1% dintre pacienți), urmată de resimțirea în continuare a unei senzații de frică (la 58,5% dintre pacienți). 43,1% dintre pacienți se resemnează în fața situației. Toate celelalte stări psihice sunt resimțite la momentul începerii recuperării în proporție mai mică, înregistrându-se chiar o creștere a procentului în care a fost exprimată speranța că se vor însănătoși (20% comparativ cu 16,9% în momentul conștientizării primelor semne ale bolii).

Comparația între stările psihice trăite de femei și bărbați în momentul începerii recuperării, prezintă un tablou asemănător celui descris anterior.

La acest moment, trăirea stărilor psihice este influențată și de sexul și de vârsta pacienților, între acestea și natura și frecvența stărilor psihice întâlnite stabilindu-se legături semnificative (tabel IV). Astfel, se poate constata că, la începerea recuperării, femeile resimt o mai mare varietate de stări psihice, cu frecvență mai mare (rezultat garantat cu o probabilitate de 99,9%, pentru un nivel de semnificație de 0,001); fiecare categorie de vârstă se pare că este caracterizată prin trăirea preponderent a unor anumite stări psihice (influența vârstei asupra stărilor psihice la începerea recuperării fiind garantată cu o probabilitate de 99%, pentru un nivel de semnificație de 0,01).

## □ Simptome somato-fiziologice-psihice, la începerea recuperării

Stările psihice induse de apariția bolii au condus la producerea unor modificări în organismele pacienților, manifestate prin 424 simptome somato-fiziologice-psihice declarate, după cum reiese din graficul nr. 4.

Cu excepția stărilor de slăbiciune, raportate în procent foarte mare de persoanele de vârsta a III-a (la 86,2% dintre pacienți), celelalte simptome se regăsesc oarecum într-o mai mică proporție. De la peste 50% pacienți cu stări de iritabilitate se trece la peste 40% dintre pacienți cu stări de agitație (49,2%), tulburări digestive (41,5%) și senzație de oboseală nejustificată (40%). Peste 30% dintre pacienți raportează tensiuni musculare excesive (30,8%), puls accelerat (38,5%), creșterea tensiunii arteriale (35,4%), dureri de cap (36,9%), tulburări uro-genitale (32,3%), transpirații abundente (35,4%) și gândire negativă, obsesivă (36,9%). Între 20 și 30% dintre pacienți manifestă simptome ca plâns facil (24,6%), dificultăți de comunicare (20%), tulburări respiratorii (21,5%), amețeli (29,2%) și tremurături (29,3%). Doar senzațiile de leșin sunt înregistrate într-un procent foarte mic, de 6,2% la nivelul întregului eșantion de pacienți de vârsta a III-a.

Femeile sunt mai marcate decât bărbaţii, majoritatea simptomelor regăsindu-se la ele în proporţie mult mai mare decât la bărbaţi. Bărbaţii sunt marcaţi în proporţie mai mare decât femeile doar de iritabilitate (88% comparativ cu 40% în cazul femeilor) şi stări de agitaţie (84% comparativ cu 27,5% în cazul femeilor), care se pare că au ca urmări accelerarea pulsului (în 44% dintre bărbaţi, comparativ cu 35% în cazul femeilor), creşterea tensiunii arteriale (36% comparativ cu 35% la femei) şi apariţia tulburărilor respiratorii (în 24% dintre bărbaţi comparativ cu 20% în cazul femeilor).

Doar sexul influențează gradul și frecvența cu care sunt afectați de simptome somatofiziologice-psihice pacienții de vârsta a III-a, vârsta neprezentând nici o influență. Din tabelul V, reiese că această afirmație este garantată cu o probabilitate de 99,9% (pentru un nivel de semnificație de 0,001).

## ☐ Atitudini față de evoluția afecțiunii și față de recuperare

După cum se observă din graficul nr. 5, poate și datorită faptului că toți pacienții investigați mai suferiseră anterior accidente sau îmbolnăviri, procentajul celor care prezentau încredere în rezultate și în forțele proprii, fiind în același timp dispuși să colaboreze, a fost destul de mic (încredere în rezultate 55,4%; încredere în sine 53,8%; cooperare 64,6%). Un procent

destul de mare de pacienți (60%) au prezentat rețineri în participarea la programele de recuperare, datorită fricii de producere a recidivei, atitudinea caracterizând mai ales femeile (72,5% comparativ cu 40% în cazul bărbaților).

Cu toate că între sexul, vârsta și atitudinile pacienților față de evoluția afecțiunii și față de recuperare nu pot fi stabilite legături semnificative (tabel VI), diferențele între atitudinile adoptate de fiecare dintre subcategoriile luate în considerație se pot observa din diferențele între expresiile procentuale calculate. Astfel, se poate observa că bărbații sunt mai puțin predispuși la adoptarea unor atitudini de neîncredere și necooperare decât femeile.

## Rezultate pe categorii de afecțiuni

Majoritatea pacienților care au suferit accidente / afecțiuni ortopedico-traumatice, au trăit în primele clipe în care au conștientizat situația, adevărate *atacuri de panică*, caracterizate prin creșterea rapidă a anxietății, răspuns somatic sever și frica de un deznodământ sinistru; simptomele atacului de panică, în general, au fost: dispneea sau senzația de sufocare, senzația de strangulare, palpitații și tahicardie, disconfort sau durere toracică, transpirații, amețeli, senzații de nesiguranță sau de leșin, greață sau suferință abdominală, amorțeli sau furnicături (parestezii), tremor sau frison, teamă de moarte.

Pacienții cu afecțiuni neurologice prezintă adesea o atitudine pasivă și chiar depresivă față de existență, ușurință de exprimare corporală, teatralism, dramatizare, uneori mergând până la atitudini isterice, fiind și deosebit de sensibile la traume psihice; toate aceste manifestări pot fi puse, în general, pe seama unei slăbiciuni emoționale hiperestezice foarte bine exprimate. Instabilitatea emoțională, irascibilitatea, impulsivitatea, agitația le fac să devină impresionabile, susceptibile, nemulțumite, să prezinte îngustarea cercului de interese, nehotărâre și sociabilitate redusă.

În timp, pacienții cu afecțiuni reumatismale își modifică secundar personalitatea, conform statutului lor de bolnavi cronici, căpătând următoarele trăsături (în general, dobândite în cursul unei boli cronice): diminuarea activității psihomotorii; excitabilitatea (iritabilitatea) crescută; ipohondria; depresie. Pacienții cu afecțiuni reumatismale încep să fie dominati de căutarea unor beneficii secundare bolii, concomitent cu apariția tendinței de izolare socială și cu o complianță terapeutică scăzută. Cei cu mare vulnerabilitate la stres tolerează mai greu durerea (ca și bolnavii depresivi). În această categorie de afecțiuni, se întâlnesc celi mai mulți pacienți agresivi, încăpățânați, gata să apeleze la alt terapeut (într-o primă fază a bolii), pentru ca după câțiva ani să devină extrem de resemnați, chiar răbdători și cooperanți cu terapeutul.

## Concluzii

- Modificările psiho-comportamentale induse de boală / accident la persoanele de vârsta a IIIa, în general, sunt reprezentate în stadiul acut de tremor, anxietate, nelinişte psihomotorie (stări de agitație), importante dereglări vegetative, iritabilitate, fatigabilitate, lipsă de inițiativă, somnolență, labilitate afectivă.
- Psihologia bolnavilor cronici este dominată de anxietate. De asemenea, pot apare astenia, cefaleea, vertijul, nervozitatea și chiar stări subconfuzionale cu anestezie psihică la durere, stare de pasivitate, dispoziție tristă, idei ipochondrice.
- Este de la sine înțeles că, pentru a stabili o relație terapeut-pacient eficientă și pentru a obține rezultate bune în urma aplicării terapiei, este necesară cunoașterea acestor modificări și luarea lor în considerare în stabilirea strategiilor de abordare a pacienților de vârsta a III-a,

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## LUMBAR RIB: AN UNCOMMON CAUSATION OF A COMMON MANIFESTATION

## COASTA LOMBARĂ: O CAUZĂ NEOBIȘNUITĂ A UNOR SIMPTOME OBIȘNUITE

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**Key words:** Accessory Rib, Supera Numerary Rib, Lumbar Rib, Renal Pain, DASK Syndrome **Cuvinte cheie:** coastă suplimentară, coaste Supera Numerary, coastă lombară, dureri renale, sindrom DASK

### Abstract.

**Background.** Lumbar rib is a very rare anomaly of the ribs characterized by an extra rib arising from lumbar vertebrae. Extra rib/ supra rudimentary ribs when present usually arise from cervical vertebrae, although sacral, coccygeal and intrathoracic ribs have also been reported.

Lumbar ribs arising from vertebrae may be mistaken for kissing osteophytes, transverse process anomalies or abdominal vessel anomalies. Adequate knowledge of this condition is therefore important for further research.

## Rezumat.

Introducere. Coasta lombară este o anomalie foarte rară a coastelor, caracterizată prin existența unei coaste în plus, care pornește de la vertebrele lombare. Această coastă suplimentară sau suprarudinemtară, când este prezentă, de obicei pornește de la vertebrele cervical, deși s-a remarcat ș prezența vertebrelor ce porneau din zona sacrată, coccigeană sau intratoracică.

Coasta lombară care pornește de la vertebre, poate fi confundată cu osteofiți, anomaliile proceselor transverse sau anomalii ale vaselor de sânge. De aceea, cunoașterea aprofundată a acestei anomalii este important pentru cercetări viitoare.

## Introduction

Although rib anomalies are most uncommon, and are reported to occur in 1% of the normal population<sup>1</sup>; lumbar rib is rare anomaly with no reported incidence. This condition was first described by John Cumming, chief Police Surgeon in 1926, based on radiograph finding.<sup>2</sup>

A lumbar rib may unite with the ventral surface of the transverse process or the tip of a short transverse process. Although usually rudimentary, it may occasionally be elongated. But lumbar ribs are less important clinically than cervical ribs and are usually mere rudiments. An extra levator costae muscle is reported associated with a lumbar rib. In 559 skeletons of the Washington University collection, 8.8% had lumbar ribs.<sup>3</sup>

Untill date, it has not been mentioned that lumbar rib can result in pain in renal angle. Hence this interesting and informative case is being reported not only for its rarity but also for its novelty for being the first such case to be reported in India; to the best of our knowledge.

## Case report-

A 62 year male presented to Physiotherapy for treatment of pain in lower thoracic and lumbar region. Back pain was associated with radiating pain in the left groin as well as the thigh.

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There was no history of trauma, unaccustomed work or physical strain. There was no fever or recent weight loss. Physical examination of the spine revealed neither any postural deformity nor any abnormal bony prominence. Palpation revealed paraspinal muscle spasm in the lower thoracic and upper lumbar region and bony tenderness over L1 to L4 spinous processes. Neuro-muscular status checked by straight leg raising test and bilateral leg lowering test was found to be poor. The gait was however, normal.

Laboratory tests like complete blood cell count & ESR were all within normal limits. His personal, medical, surgical and family histories were unremarkable.

Clinically, the patient was diagnosed as a case of chronic lumbar spondylosis with radiculopathy and underwent physiotherapy for 5 days. During this period; the patient received shortwave diathermy, extension exercises and ergonomic advice; at the end of which there was still no relief.

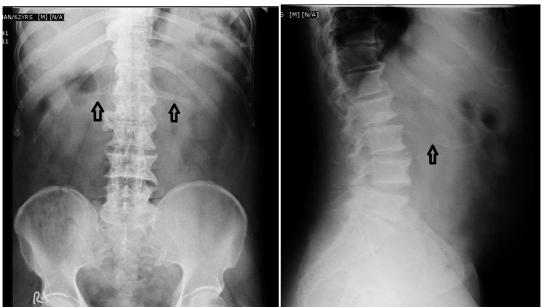


Fig.1 Fig.2

Anteroposterior and lateral plain radiographs of the spine were advised. Radiograph of thoraco-lumbar region (Fig.1, Fig.2) demonstrated linear radio-opaque out growths (upright black arrow) resembling ribs on either side of the L1 vertebra. Plain radiograph of the entire spine was done to confirm the location of L1 vertebra and to rule out the possibility of any transitional vertebra. Thus these additional rod like radio-opacities were conformed to be extra floating ribs at L1 vertebrae which is a very rare anomaly and has lack of sufficient evidence online. A lumbar rib can be differentiated from the thoracic rib by noting its length which is nearly half or less than half of the adjacent thoracic rib and its course that is more horizontal to begin with [as seen on PA view] and tapers upwards as it terminates distally [as seen on lateral view]. Contrary to this, thoracic ribs are slanting downwards to begin with and continue this downward slant untill their termination as well.

These radiographs in addition also demonstrate how this lumbar rib presses on the adjacent kidney and this persistent mechanical irritation manifests as pain along the renal region bilaterally. Degenerative changes in the spine in the form of osteophytes too would be a contributing factor for backache. But typical renal angle pain in this patient can be explained only by the presence of this lumbar ribs.

## **Discussion**

Cervical ribs are known to produce neurological and vascular symptoms but lumbar rib are not known to cause any such grave symptoms. They may form a differential diagnosis to fracture of a transverse process.

Lumbar ribs most commonly arise from first lumbar vertebra, although it has been reported to arise from the second<sup>4</sup> and third vertebrae<sup>1</sup> as well.

Bettenhauser reported a case of an aberrant rib in the lumbar area overlying the right ilium which was not connected to the vertebral column.<sup>5</sup> Rudimentary ribs have also been reported at the sacral site<sup>6</sup> and coccyx<sup>7</sup>.

John Cumming<sup>1</sup> in his report mentioned about a lumbar rib arising from the transverse process of the third lumbar vertebra which was fused with transverse process of the fourth lumbar vertebra of the same side.

In the case reported by us a lumbar rib was arising from the first lumbar vertebra on either side. It was, floating and had a similar appearance to other ribs, although a dissimilar course. As per the previous reports extra lumbar ribs produced no symptoms or structural deformity and were of no apparent clinical significance. In our case; symptoms of backache may be because of degenerative changes at various lumbar levels. But renal angle pain is only explainable by the presence of lumbar rib.

Extensive literature search on rib anomalies indicated that the association of bilateral lumbar ribs resulting in bilateral renal angle pain is unique. Therefore we propose that this syndrome in which abnormal lumbar rib impart mechanical pressure on the adjacent kidneys and cause persistent pain be labelled as the DASK Syndrome [Deepak Anap –Sushil Kachewar] syndrome after the researchers who first discovered and reported this entity. Such naming is permissible and is in the better tradition of scientific naming.<sup>8</sup>

Thus while renal stones and infections are the commonest causes of renal angle pain, one must also keep in mind the DASK syndrome and try to demonstrate it. Lumbar rib resection can give a permanent solution to this clinical presentation. In the case reported here, the patient has been counseled to undergo rib resection if the renal pain hampers his day to day activities. He is still undecided about the procedure, and we cannot force him to undergo this.

Lumbar ribs are a common finding in standard developmental toxicology bioassays that are performed globally. Apart from chemical and physical agents that can induce lumbar rib formation; maternal factors like stress alone can play such a role. Lumbar ribs are associated with longer ribs, increased numbers of vertebrosternal ribs, and the presence of extra presacral vertebrae. This rib has a cartilaginous segment at the distal end, and an ossification site that lacks cartilage and hence are permanent structures in contrast to ossification sites that disappear postnatally, probably becoming part of the lateral transverse vertebral processes. Although what causes extra ribs is not understood at this time, although the fact that the early sensitive periods for their initiation during embryogenesis is coupled with the associated changes in the axial skeleton argues for their induction being due to fundamental changes in gene expression.

Though it's very difficult for physical therapist to diagnose the condition only on clinical examination, patients with renal angle pain can be suspected for the lumbar rib, particularly when ultrasound scan of the abdomen in such patients demonstrate no explainable cause of renal angle pain. Plain radiography in such cases can be the problem solving diagnostic modality.

**Declaration of Interest:** The authors report no conflicts of interest'.

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## BENEFICIILE KINETOTERAPIEI ÎN PROGRAMUL DE RECUPERARE FUNCȚIONALĂ DUPĂ ARTROPLASTIA TOTALĂ DE GENUNCHI

# PERKS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DUE TO A COMPLEX REHABILITATION PROGRAM AFTER TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY

Mirela Dan<sup>1</sup>, Ioan-Cosmin Boca<sup>2</sup>

**Key words:** functional rehabilitation, total knee arthtoplasty, health related quality of life

**Cuvinte cheie:** recuperare funcțională, artroplastia totală de genunchi, calitatea vieții

## Abstract.

Concept of knee functional improvement by modifying joint surfaces is an area of interest for medical doctors from 19th century. In it's actual form, total knee arthroplasty enhance patient's quality of life by regaining joint function and reducing pain syndrome. Total knee arthroplasty is a highly used intervention. In our days, those who need it are mostly young people. aftel Functional rehabilitation total arthtoplasty aims to improve knee stability and range of motion. A complex rehabilitation program will also bring a significant improvement of patients quality of life, after total knee arthroplasty. Material and methods. Randomized study was made on 10 subjects, mean age 60, 7 women, 3 men, mean duration from intervention 7 month, 6 with total knee arthtoplasty on right knee and 4 on left knee. For assessment were used: goniometry for ROM, manual muscle testing for muscle strength, VAS for pain intensity, Lysholm scale for functional **Patients** followed performance. individual rehabilitation program for three weeks.

**Results.** There were significant improvement of knee ROM, both for extension and flexion, quadriceps and hamstrings muscle strength, and a significand decreasing in pain intensity. **Conclusions.** Rehabilitation program after total knee arthroplasty is very important for the improvement of patient quality of life.

### **Rezumat**

Conceptul ameliorării functionale genunchiului prin modificarea suprafetelor articulare a intrat în atentia medicilor încă din secolul al nouăsprezecelea. În forma sa actuală, artroplastia totală de genunchi permite ameliorarea calității vieții pacienților, favorizând redobândirea funcționalității articulare și abolind sindromul dureros. Intervenția de protezare a genunchiului constituie o soluție din ce în ce mai întâlnită iar persoanele care ajung să aibă nevoie de o asemenea intervenție sunt din ce în ce mai tinere. Recuperarea funcțională după artroplastia totală de genunchi creează premise favorabile pentru refacerea funcțiilor de stabilitate și mișcare ale genunchiului. Aplicarea unui program de recuperare complex poate îmbunătăți semnificativ calitatea vieții persoanelor cu artroplastie totală de genunchi. Material și metodă. Studiul randomizat s-a realizat pe un grup de 10 subiecți, media de vârstă 60 ani, 7 femei, 3 bărbati, media duratei de la interventie este de 7 luni, 6 subiecți au intervenție la genunchiul drept și 4 la cel stâng. Pentru evaluare s-au folosit: goniometria pentru amplitudine, testarea musculară manuală pentru forță, SAV pentru durere, scala Lysholm pentru funcționalitatea genunchiului. Pacientii au urmat un program kinetic individualizat timp de trei săptămâni.

Rezultate. S-au înregistrat imbunătățiri semnificative ale amplitudinii flexiei și extensiei, ale forței cvadricepsului și ischiogambierilor, precum și reducerea durerii. Concluzii. Programul de recuperare după artroplastie totală de genunchi joacă unrol important în îmbunătățirea funcționalității genunchiului și a calității vieții pacientului.

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## **Introducere**

Artroplastia totală de genunchi înregistrează în ultimii ani o dezvoltare accentuată și se bucură de o mare atenție datorită ameliorării tehnicii chirurgicale, a progreselor realizate în descoperirea de noi materiale bine tolerate de organism și în fabricarea implanturilor, aspecte care au condus la ameliorarea reală sau chiar eliminarea unor mari disfuncționalităti ale genunchiului.

În marile distrugeri ale genunchiului care interesează toate compartimentele articulare însoțite de deviații axiale importante, de contractură musculară sau de redoare, de instabilitate marcată, artroplastia totală de genunchi este intervenția prin care se urmărește să se redea articulației mobilitatea și stabilitatea, alături de abolirea durerii.

În forma sa actuală, artroplastia totală de genunchi permite ameliorarea calității vieții pacienților, favorizând redobândirea funcționalității articulare și diminuând sindromul dureros.

Intervenția de protezare a genunchiului constituie o soluție din ce în ce mai întâlnită și ceea ce este mai grav este faptul că persoanele care ajung să aibă nevoie de o asemenea intervenție sunt din ce în ce mai tinere.

Recuperarea funcțională după artroplastia totală de genunchi creează premise favorabile pentru refacerea funcțiilor de stabilitate și mișcare ale genunchiului, iar aplicarea unui program de recuperare complex poate îmbunătăți semnificativ funcționalitatea genunchiului ceea ce va determina o creștere a calității vieții persoanelor cu artroplastie totală de genunchi.

## Material și metodă

Cercetarea s-a desfășurat în perioada martie 2012 - martie 2013 și a vizat observarea efectelor tratamentului complex de recuperare prin monitorizarea evoluției indicilor funcționali pentru fiecare dintre subiecți.

În cadrul acestei cercetări au participat 10 subiecți cu proteză totală de genunchi (tabelul 1), care la momentul participării la acest studiu erau internați la Spitalul Clinic de Recuperare Medicală din Băile Felix pentru a urma un tratament de recuperare.

Programul de recuperare urmat de subiecți a constat în: hidrokinetoterapie la o temperatură a apei de 34-36° C (30 de minute); duş subacval la o presiune de 2,5 atmosfere (10 minute); masaj (10-15 minute); kinetoterapie individuală (40-50 de minute).

Dat fiind faptul că subiecții se aflau în diferite stadii ale recuperării funcționale, programul individual de kinetoterapie a fost adaptat stadiului în care se află fiecare subiect, în timp ce restul procedurilor au fost identice pentru toți subiecții fiind stabilite de către medicul balneolog.

Tabelul 1 - Prezentarea lotului de subiecți

Nr.Crt.	Subiecți	Vârstă	Sex	Genunchi afectat	Vechimea intervenției
1	B.A.	62	F	drept	4 luni
2	H.R.	60	F	stâng	6 luni
3	F.R.	65	M	drept	12 luni
4	B.R.	58	F	stâng	6 luni
5	G.M.	63	M	drept	4 luni
6	T.S.	61	F	drept	8 luni
7	P.R.	57	F	stâng	6 luni
8	L.M.	58	F	drept	7 luni
9	S.G.	60	M	drept	5luni
10	M.A.	57	F	stâng	4 luni

Evaluarea funcțională a subiecților

În cadrul acestei cercetări evaluarea funcțională a cuprins: evaluarea amplitudinii articulare, evaluarea manuală a forței musculare, evaluarea durerii și evaluarea nivelului funcțional.

Există mai multe metode de măsurare a unghiurilor de miscare, însă cea mai utilizată rămâne goniometria.

Goniometria este o metodă fiabilă, reproductibilă, bazată pe repere anatomice uşor de identificat.[1] Testarea manuală a fortei musculare, forma clasică de evaluare a fortei musculare, este o metodă subiectivă [2], fiind o procedură de apreciere a funcționalității și forței unui anumit muşchi (grup de muşchi) bazată pe performanța efectivă a acestuia în cadrul unei mişcări în relație cu gravitația și/sau rezistența manuală opusă de către examinator.

Există mai multe scale de evaluare a durerii, una dintre cele mai folosite fiind Scala Vizuală Analogică (SVA) a lui Huskisson.

SVA este un instrument simplu, usor reproductibil și precis care dă posibilitatea pacientului să exprime severitatea durerii pe care o percepe, dându-i acesteia o valoare numerică.[3]

Scala Lysholm este unul dintre instrumentele utilizate pentru evaluarea performantei funcționale a genunchiului în activitățile de zi cu zi [4] și cuprinde șapte itemi (instabilitate, inflamație, durere, blocarea articulației, mers șchiopătat, urcat și coborât trepte, încărcarea membrului inferior în timpul mersului pe teren plat).

## Analiza și interpretarea rezultatelor

Refacerea mobilității genunchiului a fost unul dintre obiectivele principale ale programului de recuperare, iar rezultatele obținute la finalul studiului au scos în evidență evoluția pozitivă a amplitudinii de mișcare atât pentru flexie cât și pentru extensie (tabelul 2).

1	Tabelul 2 - Rezultatele evaluării mobilității articulare						
Nr.Crt.	Chis ati	Evaluare inițială		Evaluare finală		Diferența	
MI.CIL	Subiecți	Flexie	Extensie	Flexie	Extensie	Flexie	Extensie
1	B.A.	70	-10	95	-5	25	5
2	H.R.	82	-5	100	0	18	5
3	F.R.	76	-5	98	0	22	5
4	B.R.	68	-15	92	-5	24	10
5	G.M.	70	-10	90	-5	20	5
6	T.S.	78	-5	98	0	20	5
7	P.R.	68	-15	90	-5	22	10
8	L.M.	80	-5	98	0	18	5
9	S.G.	73	-5	96	0	23	5
10	M.A.	68	-10	90	-5	22	5
Media		73.3°	- 8.5°	94.7°	- 2.5°	21.4°	6°

În ceea ce privește flexia genunchiului, amplitudinea de mișcare a avut o valoare medie inițială de 73.3°, iar la evaluarea finală această valoare a crescut până la 94.7°, progresul consemnat în cazul flexiei fiind în medie de 21.4° (figura 1).

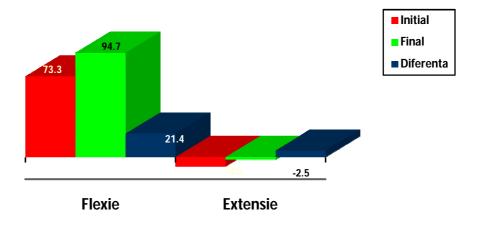


Figura 1 - Reprezentarea grafică a rezultatelor evaluării mobilității articulare

Ameliorarea extensiei a fost mai dificilă, astfel că pornind de la o valoare medie a amplitudinii extensiei de  $-8,5^{\circ}$ , s-a ajuns la finalul studiului la o medie de -2.5, media diferenței fiind de  $6^{\circ}$ .

Alături de refacerea mobilității genunchiului, al doilea obiectiv major a fost refacerea forței musculare în special cea a mușchiului cvadriceps.

T 1 1 1 1 D 1	, , 1 1 0 0	• 1	<i>C</i> , • 1
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Tabelul 3 - Rezuli	inicioi cruinuiii	munnanc u	jorici mascatare

Nr.	Subiecți	Evalua	re inițială	Evalua	re finală	Diferen	ıţa
Crt.	Sublecți	Flexie	Extensie	Flexie	Extensie	Flexie	Extensie
1	B.A.	3+	3+	4	4	0.66	0.66
2	H.R.	4-	3+	4+	4	0.66	0.66
3	F.R.	4-	4-	4+	4+	0.66	0.66
4	B.R.	4	4	5-	4+	0.66	0.33
5	G.M.	4-	4-	4+	4+	0.66	0.66
6	T.S.	3+	4-	4	4	0.66	0.33
7	P.R.	4	4-	4+	4	0.33	0.33
8	L.M.	4	4-	4+	4	0.33	0.33
9	S.G.	4	4-	4+	4+	0.33	0.66
10	M.A.	4-	4-	4+	4+	0.66	0.66
Medi	a					0.56	0.52

Pentru o apreciere mai exactă a modificărilor de forță musculară, având în vedere că am utilizat cotațiile "+" și "–", am considerat trecerea de la o forță cu "+" la una cu "–" de 0,33 puncte, apoi de la o forță cu "–" la următoarea valoare tot de 0,33 puncte, și așa mai departe (ex: diferența de la F2– la F2, este de 0,33 puncte; de la F2+ este tot de 0,33).

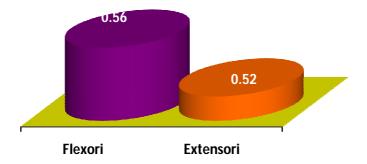


Figura 2 - Reprezentarea grafică a rezultatelor evaluării forței musculare

Rezultatele obținute în ceea ce privește forța musculară subliniază o creștere a acesteia în proporții relativ egale atât pentru mușchii flexori cât și pentru extensori (tabelul 3). Astfel flexorii au cunoscut o creștere medie a forței cu 0.56 puncte, iar pentru extensori creșterea forței a avut o medie de 0.52 puncte (figura 2). Intensitatea durerii percepute de către subiecți a fost apreciată cu ajutorul unei Scale Vizual Analogice (SVA).

Tabelul 4 - Rezultatele evaluării durerii conform SVA

Nr.Crt.	Subiecţi	Evaluare inițială	Evaluare finală	Diferența
1	B.A.	70	25	45
2	H.R.	68	28	40
3	F.R.	66	24	42
4	B.R.	72	30	42
5	G.M.	73	28	45
6	T.S.	63	25	38
7	P.R.	74	32	42
8	L.M.	80	35	45
9	S.G.	78	30	48
10	M.A.	65	25	40
Media		70.9	28.2	42.7

Durerea prezentă la toți pacienții cu intensitate ridicată, în medie de 70.9 puncte, a fost influențată atât de medicație cât și de programul kinetic, astfel că la finalul studiului s-a înregistrat o diminuare semnificativă a intensității durerii, ajunsă la o medie de 28.2 puncte, diferența medie a intensității durerii fiind de 42.7 puncte (tabelul 4, figura 3).

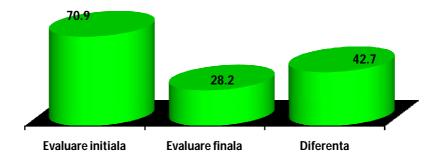


Figura 3 - Reprezentarea grafică a valorilor medii ale intensității durerii conform SVA Monitorizarea impactului artroplastiei totale de genunchi asupra echilibrului funcțional al pacienților a fost realizată cu ajutorul Scalei Lysholm.

Tabelul 5 - Rezultatele	evaluării niv	velului func	tional con	form Scalei	Lysholm
I ubtini 5 - Mtanimiti	Cruimuiti itt	rcinini junc	gioniai con	joini Scaici	Lysnoin

Nr.Crt.	Subiecți	Evaluare inițială	Evaluare finală	Diferența
1	B.A.	43	70	27
2	H.R.	48	74	26
3	F.R.	40	69	29
4	B.R.	45	72	27
5	G.M.	42	71	29
6	T.S.	44	74	30
7	P.R.	42	71	29
8	L.M.	40	68	28
9	S.G.	45	73	28
10	M.A.	43	72	29
Media		43.2	71.4	28.2

Evaluarea celor 7 funcții ale Scalei Lysholm a scos în evidență evoluția pozitivă a scorului funcțional, care plecând de la o valoare inițială medie de 43.2 puncte (nivel funcțional slab), a ajuns la finalul studiului la o medie de 71.4 puncte (nivel funcțional satisfăcător), diferența medie a scorului funcțional fiind de 28.2 puncte.

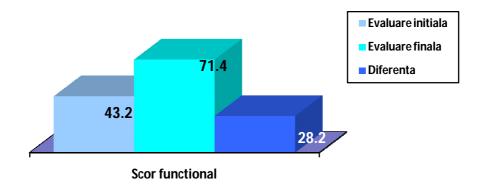


Figura 4 - Reprezentarea grafică a evoluției scorului funcțional apreciat conform Scalei Lysholm

## Concluzii

Recuperarea funcțională postoperatorie a genunchiului creează premise favorabile pentru refacerea echilibrului funcțional al genunchiului.

Procesul inflamator articular și periarticular postoperator este cel mai important impediment pentru activitatea kinetoterapeutului.

Mobilizarea pasivă precoce, alături de contracția izometrică și de antrenarea dinamică a cvadricepsului sunt obiectivele majore ale programului de recuperare.

Cea mai delicată problemă este asistența durerii, care este constantă și destul de intensă, prezența ei restricționând desfășurarea în condiții optime a programului recuperator, iar calmarea medicamentoasă prea accentuată lipsește kinetoterapeutul de un indicator de bază al intensității programului de exerciții.

Programul de recuperare după artroplastia totală de genunchi trebuie să includă o instruire amănunțită atât în ceea ce privește continuarea la domiciliu a recuperării, cât și referitor la conduita subiecților pe parcursul desfășurării activităților cotidiene, respectiv însușirea și respectarea regulilor de igienă ortopedică a genunchiului.

Regulile de igienă ortopedică a genunchiului:[5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]

- menținerea sau scăderea greutății corporale;
- ⇒ evitarea ortostatismului și a mersului prelungit;
- ⇒ evitarea poziției de flexie maximă a genunchiului;
- ⇒ evitatea mersului pe teren accidentat;
- ⇒ evitarea petrecerii timpului într-un climat umed și rece;
- ⇒ evitarea consumului exagerat de alcool, tutun, cafea;
- ⇒ este recomandată o reevaluare somato-funcțională măcar o dată pe an;
- ⇒ folosirea bastonului în timpul mersului, dacă este necesar;
- ⇒ adoptarea unei alimentații bogate în vitamine, proteine și săruri minerale.

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## EFFECT OF FOREARM, HAND AND WRIST EXERCISES ON WRITING SPEED IN HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENTS OF NAGPUR

## EFECTUL EXERCIȚIILOR ANTEBRAȚULUI, PUMNULUI ȘI MÂINII ASUPRA VITEZEI DE SCRIS, LA STUDENȚII SĂNĂTOȘI DIN NAGPUR

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**Key words:** Pinch grip, handwriting speed, co-ordination, hand and wrist exercises, words per minute (wpm)

Abstract.

Background. Human beings are the most advanced living beings, and hence perform skilful activities. Handwriting is one of the skills required in medical education. Aim. To assess the effectiveness of forearm, hand and wrist on handwriting speed. Materials and method. Interventional pre-test and post-test design was carried out on 100 health science students, and handwriting speed, pinch grip strength and coordination was assessed pre and post exercise intervention, initially and after 4 weeks of structured exercise programme. Result. There was 2.91 % improvement in handwriting speed (p=0.044), 5.08 % improvement in pinch grip strength (p=0.00), and 8.45 % improvement in co-ordination test (p=0.00). The co relational study post-test handwriting vs. co-ordination 2tailed was statistically significant (0.403). Conclusion 4 weeks of forearm, wrist and hand exercises improve handwriting speed.

Cuvinte cheie: pensa bidigitală, viteza de scris, exerciții pentru mână și pumn, cuvinte pe minut

Rezumat. Oamenii sunt cele mai avansate fiinte în viată, reusind să execute activităti complexe. Scrisul este una dintre abilitățile necesare în educaia medicală. Scop. Lucrarea ăși propune să evalueze eficiența antebrațului, pumnului și mâinii în creșterea vitezei scrisului. Material și metodă. Studiul pre test - post test s-a realizat pe un număr de 100 studeni sănătoși. Viteza scrisului, forța pensei bidigitale și coordonarea au fost evaluate înainte și după efectuarea programmului de exerciții de 4 Rezultate. săptămâni. S-a constatat îmbunătățire de 2.91% în viteza scrisului (p=0.044), 5.08 % creștere de fortă a pensei bidigitale (p=0.00), și 8.45 % îmbunătățirea coordonării (p=0.00). Studiul corelațional posttest pentru scris vs. coordinare 2-tailed a fost semnificativ statistic (0.403). Concluzii. Patru săptămâni de exerciții pentru muschii antebratului. ai pumnului și mâinii îmbunătățesc viteza scrisului.

## Introduction

Human beings are the most advanced of all the living beings and therefore they are designed to perform more skillful activities because of a developed hand and one such skill is writing. Writing, the most unique feature continues to be an essential skill in daily life and it is not only helpful in communication but also helps in improving the knowledge and also creativity and hence forms an essential tool in education. So even in medical education writing continues to be a part of learning as well as evaluation.

Handwriting is a complex activity and hence requires blending of various components such as cognitive, kinesthetic, perceptual and motor components and all this components have to be fully functional in order to write effectively [1]. If any of these components is missing then

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writing is affected. Handwriting is influenced by factors such as anatomy of extremity, general health, writing surface and instrument [2].

Therefore hand writing is a skill and this skill has an impact on academic performance and in course of time this would impact learning abilities which may further have an impact on the competencies of student perceiving health science education. Not all age group can write with same speed, hence it is an age variant factor.

It is observed that normal range of writing is between 10 -20 wpm in 15 year old individual. Average rate of writing for girls is 14.7 wpm and for boys is 13.8 wpm [3]. It is also noticed that if no. of words written are between 5-8 wpm then it is labeled as handicapped in writing. Study on group of Australian school children showed writing speed to be 33,34, 38, 46 and 52 wpm for students of grade 3,4,5,6 and 7 respectively[4].

### **Methods**

Interventional pre test- post test design was carried out at VSPM's college of physiotherapy during 23<sup>rd</sup> august 2012 – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

The independent variables were exercises for forearm, hand and wrist muscle the dependent variables were handwriting speed, pinch grip strength and co- ordination.

Health science students of NKP salve medical institute and VSPM's college of physiotherapy within age group 20-27 years formed the sample for the study. Random sampling was employed. The size of the sample was calculated by the handwriting speed from the previous study by the formula  $n=4(SD)^2/L^2$  and was found to be 100 therefore 100 subjects were studied.

*Inclusion criteria*: Age group: 20 - 27 years, both genders, willing to participate, subjects writing 15 words or > /min, medical & paramedical students, ability to complete all 3 tasks, medically fit.

*Exclusion criteria*: Congenital structural impairment of upper limb, congenital functional impairment of upper limb, acquired structural impairment of upper limb, acquired functional impairment of upper limb, absenteeism on initial and final day of assessment, irregularities in attending the exercise program.

## Materials for study:

The materials used for the study were Dumbbell, soft ball, finger table exerciser, hand grip resistance trainer, peg board, pinch grip dynamometer, head phones, laptop& stopwatch.

## Exercise intervention

The exercise intervention was carried out for 3 components namely strength, co ordination and endurance exercises which was structured exercise program and for strengthening

Type of intervention: exercise program

Nature of program: structured Type of exercise: strengthening

Muscles exercised were: Biceps brachii, Flexor carpi ulnaris, Brachioradialis, Flexor carpi radialis, Flexor pollicis brevis, Interossei, Extensor carpi ulnaris, Extensor radialis longus, Flexor digitorium superficialis, Flexor pollicis longus.

2. Coordination training:

Type of intervention: exercise program

Nature of program: structured Type of exercise: co-ordination

**Duration:** 

Number of sessions: 1 session per day Number of days: 5 days per week

Number of weeks: 4 weeks

Mode of exercise:

Clapping and reciprocal movements to finger Number of repetitions: 10 repetitions per exercise

## 3. Endurance training

Intervention:

Type of intervention: exercise program

Nature of program: structured Type of exercise: endurance

Duration:

Number of sessions: 1 session per day Number of days: 5 days per week Number of weeks: 4 weeks

Mode of exercise: Praying exercise and straight finger flexion

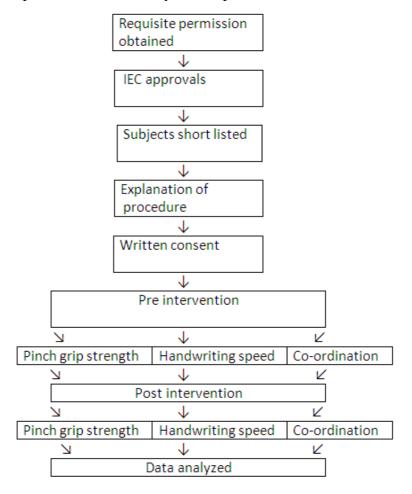
Number of repetitions: 10 repetitions per exercise.

## Measures

The measures werewriting speed (words/minute), Co-ordination (no. of pegs/15 seconds), grip strength (kg) and were calibrated initially on day 1 of pre test and post test after 4 weeks.

## **GENERAL PROCEDURE**

The procedure for the study is as depicted in the flow chart below:



## Results

The collected raw data was then spread in the Microsoft excel sheet 2007and the data was later analyzed by using means, standard deviation and percentages with SPSS package, version 20.0 with paired t test and Pearson's correlation test and the level of significance was fixed at p < 0.05. The components analyzed were handwriting speed, strength of pinch grip and co ordination.

In the present study in all 100 subjects was studied. The mean age was  $23.20 \pm 1.87$  years and male to female ratio was 1:2.85. 98% of the subjects were right handed dominant and 2% were left handed. The range of handwriting speed pre test was between 20-37 wpm with the mean of 29.18 and SD of  $\pm 4.27$  and in post test it was 20-38 wpm with mean of 30.03 and SD of  $\pm 4.62$ .

Table: 1 range, mean and standard deviation of parameters

Parameters	Range	Mean	SD	Mean diff	SD diff	t	Р	Significance
Handwriting Pre test	20-37	29.18	4.277	0.850	4.162	2.042	0.044	Significant
Handwriting Post test	20-38	30.03	4.629					
Grip strength Pre test	10-15	12.66	1.199	1.070	1.882	5.687	0.00	Significant
Grip strength Post test	11-25	13.73	1.979					
Co- ordination Pre test	3.5- 10.0	6.528	1.263	0.332	0.587	5.647	0.00	Significant
Co- ordination Post test	4.0- 10.0	6.860	1.374					

The following table shows correlation between pre and post test using Pearson's correlation test.

Table: 2

.\*

		Handwriting	Mean score of	Mean score of
		speed(words/mi	co-ordination	pinch grip
		n)	test(pegs/sec)	strength (kg)
	Pearson Correlation	1	0.174	0.079
Handwriting	P (2-tailed)		0.084	0.434
speed(words/min)	N	100	100	100
Mean score of co-	Pearson Correlation	0.174	1	0.028
ordination test(pegs/sec)	p. (2-tailed)	0.084		0.785
ordination(est(pegs/sec)	nnation test(pegs/sec) N 0100	100	100	
	Pearson Correlation	0.079	0.028	1
Mean score of pinch grip	p. (2-tailed)	0.434	0.785	
strength (kg)	N	0100	100	100

Table: 3

Correlations (post)

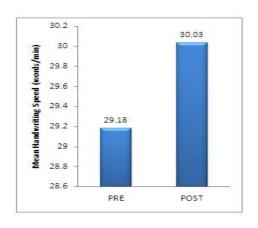
Correlations (post)				
		Handwriting	Mean score of	Mean score of
		speed(words/mi	coordination	pinch grip
		n)	test(pegs/sec)	strength(kg)
111	Pearson Correlation	1	.403"	.094
Handwriting speed(words/min)	p. (2-tailed)		0.000	00.355
speed(words/mm)	N	100	100	100
Mean score of	Pearson Correlation	0.403	1	0.118
coordination	p. (2-tailed)	0.000		0.243
test(pegs/sec)	N	100	100	100
	Pearson Correlation	0.094	0.118	1
Mean score of pinch grip	p. (2-tailed)	0.355	0.243	
strength(kg)	N	100	100	100

<sup>\*\*.</sup> Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

#			•	<b>0 1</b>	
	Sr. no	Parameters	Pre test	Posttest	%improvement
	1	Writing	29.18	30.03	2.91%
		speed			
	2	Pinch grip	6.528	6.860	5.08%
		strength			
	3 Co		12.66	13.73	8.45%
		ordination			

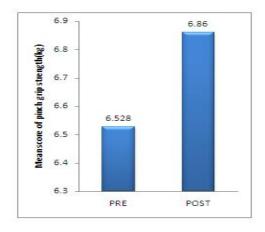
Table: 4 % improvement of parameters

Study group showed 2.91% improvement in handwriting speed, 5.08 % in pinch grip strength and 8.45 % in co- ordination test.



Graph 1 Hand writing speed

Graph 2 co-ordination



Graph 3 pinch grip

## **Discussion**

The speed of writing is the most important component even in health science institute.

Therefore this study was undertaken to estimate the writing speed for a period of 1 min and later these individuals were prescribed with exercises for a period of 4 weeks. 7 exercises were performed during the course of the study according to the protocol. The exercises were user friendly and it was a supervised program and hence no exercise related complications were found. The handwriting was legible and was contrary to the myth that health care professional have illegible handwriting. It was also observed that there were excessive use of abbreviations and incomplete sentences were prominent but these issues were not studied because it was beyond the scope of study.

From the results it was clear that there was improvement in all 3 parameters (handwriting speed by 2.91%, pinch grip strength by 5.08% and co- ordination by 8.45%) When the

improvements in parameters of current study were compared with shoemaker et al [6] study it was comparatively less in handwriting speed(11.8%) whereas Nilukshika KVK, Nanayakkarawasam PP, Wickramasinghe VP found 21.1% improvement, pinch grip strength comparison with Roger et al[5] had lower values (3.6% right, 2.9% left) whereas co-ordination improvement was higher in earlier studies [1](24.07%). The study confirms that exercises does impact the improvement in speed of writing and is also able to observe the lacunae of writing and can also provide motivation to individuals who tend to write slow. The exercise period was 4 week duration and the duration of writing was only for a minute. It would be interesting to find out the changes by increasing the duration of writing as well as exercise period and such exercises can be incorporated in individuals who write slow. So the competencies of writing could be improved. The limitation of the current study was that the length of the hand was not considered. Moreover gender analysis was not done for all 3 parameters and study was analyzed as a single group.

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that forearm, hand and wrist exercises for a period of 4 weeks can improve the speed of writing. These studies can be further carried out in different samples in order to generalize the statement. Further studies could also be carried out in individuals who have got writing capabilities less than 8 words per minute.

**Conflict of interest:** There is no conflict of interest.

**Finance:** It was self-finance study.

## **Acknowledgements:**

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## KINETOTERAPIA LA JUCĂTORII DE RUGBY CU DISJUNCȚIE ACROMIO-CLAVICULARE

## PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR RUGBY PLAYERS WITH ACROMIO-CLAVICULAR DISJUCTION

Emilian Tarcău<sup>1</sup>, Vasile Pâncotan<sup>2</sup>, Mihai Ille<sup>2</sup>, Claudiu Miheş, Anca Deac<sup>2</sup>

**Key words:** rugby, acromio-clavicular disjuction, flexibility

**Abstract.** In sportive activities, due to overwork, wearing out of hard trainings with improperly managed resting periods, to the training conducted in a wrong manner, to the type of practiced sport, etc., various injuries may occur leading to the interruption of sportive activity for a shorter or longer period of time. One of the sports with the highest incidence of traumatism is rugby, because of its dynamics, of permanent contact between players and of the tremendous effort which ultimately leads to overwork.

The purpose of this study is to present the importance of the kinetic exercise (besides training hours) in maintaining a good mobility of the scapular belt in rugby players with acromioclavicular disjuction. Material and method: The study was made over a period of 3 months (during competitional season), with the members of R.C. Rugby Spartan Oradea rugby team. We studied 10 sportives aged between 24 and 53, all having posttraumatic problems at scapular belt level acromio-clavicular disjunction). (especially Results: After implementing the rehabilitation programme during competitional season for rugby players, we obtained both a significant decrease of pain and positive results regarding scapularhumeral joint mobility and scapular beld flexibility. Conclusions. The obtained results show the fact that the rehabilitation programme attended during competitional period led to decrease of pain as well as to the increase of shoulder mobility and scapular belt flexibility.

Cuvinte cheie: disjuncție acromio-claviculară, flexibilitate

Rezumat. În activitățile sportive, datorită suprasolicitării, uzurii, a antrenamentelor intempestive cu perioade de odihnă greșit gestionate, antrenamentului condus greșit, a tipului de sport practicat, etc., pot apărea diverse accidentări care duc la întreruperea activității sportive pentru o perioadă mai scurtă sau mai lungă de timp. Unul dintre sporturile cu cele mai multe traumatisme îl reprezintă jocul de rugby, aceasta datorită dinamicii sale, a contactului permanent dintre jucători și a efortului deosebit care trebuie depus acesta din urmă ducând deseori la suprasolicitări.

Studiul de față își propune să arate importanța exercițiului kinetic (realizat înafara orelor de antrenament) în mentinerea unei mobilităti bune a centurii scapulare la jucătorii de rugby cu disjuncție acromio-claviculară. Material și metodă: Studiul a fost efectuat pe parcursul unei perioade de 3 luni (în timpul sezonului competițional), la componenții echipei de rugby R.C. Rugby Spartan Oradea. Am avut în studiu 10 sportivi, cu vârste cuprinse între 24 si 53 de ani, toti cu probleme posttraumatice la nivelul centurii scapulare (în special disjuncții acromio-claviculare). Results. În implementării programului de recuperare, în timpul perioadei competiționele la jucătorii de rugby, am obținut atât o reducere semnificativă a durerii, cât și rezultate pozitive privind mobilitatea articulatiei scapulo-humerale și a flexibilității centurii scapulare. Rezultate. Rezultatele obținute ne arată faptul că programul de recuperare urmat în timpul periadei competiționale a dus la reducerea durerii precum și creșterea mobilității umărului și flexibilității centurii scapulare.

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#### Introducere

"Disjuncțiile sunt leziuni ligamentare la nivelul articulațiilor plane, în urma cărora suprafețele articulare și oasele respective se îndepărtează unul de altul". "Se întâlnește cel mai frecvent la persoanele tinere active". [1]

Există o serie de cauze care duc la disjuncția acromionului de claviculă, acestea fiind:

- accidentele rutiere;
- accidentele sportive sporturile de contact (ragby, fotbal, handbal, judo) sau în care intervin căzături (gimnastică, volei, etc.) etc.";
- căderile de la înălțime (accidente de muncă sau casnice);
- zdrobirile de cauze diferite.

Simptomatologia este diferită în funcție de leziunile anatomo patologice:

- "mobilitatea anormală între oasele normal solidare;
- durerea; [3]
- "deformarea regiunii în treaptă de scară;
- Semnul clapei de pian (prin apăsare asupra extremității externe a claviculei disjuncția se reduce, dar se reface după ce apăsarea dispare)"; [1]
- inflamația părții superioare a umărului;
- "din punct de vedere funcțional, se constată diminuarea abducției active a braţului, iar elevaţia este mult diminuată şi dureroasă." [2]



Figura nr. 1. Disjuncție acromio-claviculară

Există diferite clasificări ale disjuncțiilor astel:

"Allman & Tossy clasifică disjuncțiile acromio-claviculare în trei grade:

## Gradul 1:

- întinderea ligamentului acromio-clavicular;
- articulația acromio-claviculară intactă;
- ligamentele coraco-claviculare intacte;
- muschii deltoid şi trapez intacţi.

## Gradul 2:

- ligamentul acromio-clavicular rupt;
- articulația acromio-claviculară deplasată verical, cu contact de 50% între cele două capete osoase care formează articulația;
- ligamentele coraco-claviculare întinse;
- muşchii deltoid şi trapez intacţi.

## Gradul 3:

- ligamentele acromio-claviculare şi coraco-claviculare rupte;
- articulaţia acromio-claviculară dislocată, complexul scapulo-humeral deplasat inferior;
- spaţiul coraco-clavicular mai mare ca la umărul normal cu 25-100%;
- deltoidul și trapezul detașați de clavicula distală." [4]

"Patte, clasifică disjuncțiile în:

- Stadiul I în care leziunea se rezumă la deşirarea capsulei articulare;
- Stadiul II în care capsula articulară este ruptă complet,
- Stadiul III stadiul II + ruptura ligamentului trapezoid și conoid;
- Stadiul IV stadiul III + dezinserția manșonului musculo-periostic de pe marginea postero-anterioară a claviculei." [1]

"Tratamentul de urgență vizează sedarea durerii prin administrarea de antialgice și infiltrație în focar cu xilină 1%, precum și realizarea unei imobilizări provizorii." [1]

"În disjuncția din stadiul I și II tratamentul este conservator și constă în repaus relativ cu mișcări pe amplitudine moderată din scapulo-humerală" (1), în toate direcțiile și planurile de mișcare la care se adaugă mijloace medicamentoase și fizicale necesare combaterii durerii.

Pentru stadiile III și IV, tratamentul poate fi ortopedic sau chirurgical, urmat de recuperarea funcțională a umărului.

#### Ipoteza studiului

Introducerea în perioada dintre antrenamente a unor exerciții kinetice specifice duc la refacerea mobilității articulare și a supleții centurii scapulare afectate în urma traumatismelor apărute în urma contactelor repetate cu umerii la jucătorii de rugby.

#### Material și metode

La realizarea studiului au participat 10 sportivi din cadrul echipei de rugby R.C. Rugby Spartan Oradea care au urmat un program de recuperare a umărului cu disjuncție acromio-claviculară pe parcursul a 3 luni, în timpul perioadei competiționale. S-au efectuat 3 ședințe săptămânale care au constat în:

- 15 minute masaj la nivelul umărului, braţului şi cervical;
- 10 minute expunere regională la raze infraroșii;
- 35-40 minute exerciții pentru promovarea mobilității și supleței centurii scapulare și zonei cervicale.

Tabel nr. 1. Lotul de subiecți

Nume	Vârstă	Postul în cadrul echipei	Diagnostic
C.Ş.	53	Uvertură, centru	Disjuncție acromio-claviculară, stg. și dr.
E. S.	34	Mijlocaş la grămadă	Fractură de claviculă, dr., disjuncție acromio-claviculară dr.
D.V.	31	Aripă	Disjuncție acromio-claviculară, dr.
Ş.I.	30	Flanker linia a III-a	Disjuncție acromio-claviculară, dr.
Ţ.M.	40	Flanker linia a II-a	Disjuncție acromio-claviculară, stg. și dr.
Ş.M.	33	Centru	Disjuncție acromio-claviculară, dr.
G.A.	34	Pilier dreapta	Disjuncție acromio-claviculară, stg. și dr.
D.A.	24	Fundaş	Umăr dureros
M.I.	29	Mijlocaş la grămadă	Disjuncție acromio-claviculară, stg. și dr.
M.C.	33	Flanker linia a III-a	Disjuncție acromio-claviculară, stg. și dr.

Am realizat evaluarea durerii, mobilității umărului și a flexibilității centurii scapulare.

Pentru *evaluarea durerii* am utilizat un chestionar, cu 3 întrebări și 6 variante de răspuns. Cele trei întrebări au fost:

- cum este durerea la nivelul umărului în majoritatea zilelor?
- cum este durerea la nivelul umărului când ai cea mai dezagreabilă zi?
- cum este durerea la nivelul umărului când ai cea mai bună zi?

Variantele de răspuns pentru cele trei întrabări au fost:

- 0 fără durere (0%)
- 1 durere uşoară (20%)
- 2 durere medie, senzație de disconfort (40%)
- 3 durere mare, senzație stresantă (60%)
- 4 durere foarte mare, senzație oribilă (80%)
- 5 durere extremă (100%).

Pentru *evaluarea mobilității umărului* am realizat măsurarea unghiurilor de mișcare pe toate direcțiile cu ajutorul goniometrului.

Testarea *flexibilității* am realizat-o utilizând testul Apple astfel:

Pacientul este poziționat în stând sau așezat

- > Bratul de deasupra indică partea (dreapta sau stânga)
- Se înregistrează distanța dintre indexurile celor două mâini, pe ambele părți

#### Înregistrare rezultate:

- ➤ Dacă degetele se ating = "0".
- Degetele nu se ating: se notează distanța dintre degete cu valori negative în cm
- Degetele se suprapun: se notează suprapunerea cu valori pozitive în cm.

#### Rezultate

Valorile obținute în urma evaluării durerii ne indică faptul că aceasta a scăzut ca intensitate, astfel, mediile obținute la evaluarea finală în comparație cu cea inițială au fost următoarele:

- Durerea resimţită în majoritatea zilelor a scăzut în medie cu 1,4, de la 2,2 (durere medie, senzaţie de discomfort, 40%), la 0,8 (durere uşoară, 20%);
- Durerea resimţită când ai cea mai dezagreabilă zi a scăzut în medie cu 1,6, de la 3,4 (durere mare, senzaţie stresantă, 60%), la 1,8 (durere uşoară spre medie, 30%);
- Durerea resimţită când ai cea mai bună zi a scăzut în medie cu 0,7, de la 0,7 (durere uşoară, 10%), la 0 (fără durere).

Nume	În ma	În majoritatea zilelor			Când ai cea mai dezagreabilă zi			Când ai cea mai bună zi		
	Ι	F	D	I	F	D	I	F	D	
C.Ş.	3	1	2	4	3	1	1	0	1	
E. S.	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	1	
D.V.	3	2	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	
Ş.I.	2	1	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	
Ţ.M.	3	1	2	4	3	1	1	0	1	
Ş.M.	2	0	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	
G.A.	2	0	2	3	1	2	1	0	1	
D.A.	2	1	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	
M.I.	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	0	1	
M.C.	1	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	
Media	2,2	0,8	1,4	3,4	1,8	1,6	0,7	0	0,7	

Tabel nr. 2. Rezultatele evaluării durerii

Mobilitatea umărului a fost testată cu ajutorul goniometrului luând în considerare 5 mișcări și anume flexia, extensia, abducția, rotația internă și cea externă, atât pentru membrul superior drept, cât și pentru cel stâng.

În urma celor două evaluări am constatat faptul că:

- mişcarea de flexie a umărului a crescut în urma programului kinetic cu 5° în medie la membrul superior drept și cu 8° la cel stâng;
- extensia a progresat cu 3° respectiv 4°;
- pentru mişcarea de abducție valorile obținute la testarea finală au fost mai mari cu 4° respectiv 5,5°;
- rotația internă a avut creșteri cu 10,5° respectiv 9,5°;
- rotația externă a progresat cu 2° respectiv 3,5°.

De remarcat faptul că 3 din cele 5 mişcări luate în considerare (flexia, extensia şi abducția) au avut valori apropiate de cele normale. Astfel, dacă flexia în mod normal are valori de 170°-180° (în cazul nostru luând cele 170° ca şi normale, deoarece este vorba de sportivi cu mase mari musculare), valorile la cele 2 evaluări sunt apropiate de normal fiind reduse cu maxim

<sup>\* 0 –</sup> fără durere (0%); 1 – durere ușoară (20%); 2 – durere medie, senzație de disconfort (40%); 3 – durere mare, senzație stresantă (60%); 4 – durere foarte mare, senzație oribilă (80%); 5 – durere extremă (100%).

10,5° (la membrul inferior stâng la goniometrizarea inițială). Același lucru se remarcă și la extensie, unde valoarea normală pentru testarea activă este 60°, iar la abducție de 170°.

În ceea ce privesc rotațiile internă și externă, unde valorile normale sunt de 85° - 90°, se constată reduceri de mobilitate mult mai drastice, cu până la 16,5° în medie pentru rotația internă la umărul drept (90° - 73,5°) și 25° la cel stâng, iar pentru rotația externă de 15,5° la umărul drept (85° - 69,5°), respectiv 15° la umărul stâng (85° - 70°).

Tabel nr. 3. Rezultatele mobilității umărului drept

Nume	F			E			ABD			RI			RE		
	I	F	D	I	F	D	I	F	D	I	F	D	I	F	D
C.Ş.	150	165	15	50	55	5	160	170	10	45	65	15	50	60	10
E. S.	170	170	0	60	60	0	170	175	5	60	70	10	55	65	10
D.V.	170	170	0	60	60	0	165	170	5	70	75	5	75	75	0
Ş.I.	170	170	0	55	60	5	170	170	0	80	80	0	85	85	0
Ţ.M.	155	165	10	55	55	0	165	170	5	50	70	20	55	70	15
Ş.M.	170	170	0	60	60	0	170	170	0	85	85	0	80	85	5
G.A.	160	165	5	50	60	10	165	165	0	60	70	10	65	75	10
D.A.	160	165	5	55	60	5	155	165	10	60	75	15	85	85	0
M.I.	155	165	10	60	60	0	165	170	5	55	70	15	55	65	10
M.C.	160	165	5	55	60	5	170	170	0	65	75	10	70	75	5
Media	162	167	5	56	59	3	165,5	169,5	4	63	73,5	10,5	67,5	69,5	2

Tabel nr. 4. Rezultatele mobilității umărului stâng

Nume	F			E			ABD			RI			RE		
	I	F	D	I	F	D	I	F	D	I	F	D	I	F	D
C.Ş.	155	170	15	45	50	5	160	165	5	45	60	15	50	65	15
E. S.	165	170	5	50	55	5	155	165	10	45	55	10	60	70	10
D.V.	165	170	5	50	55	5	165	170	5	50	55	5	55	65	10
Ş.I.	165	170	5	60	60	0	170	170	0	80	85	5	80	80	0
Ţ.M.	150	160	10	45	55	10	155	160	5	40	55	10	45	55	10
Ş.M.	165	170	5	60	60	0	160	165	5	75	80	5	70	80	10
G.A.	155	165	10	45	50	5	160	170	10	55	65	10	65	70	5
D.A.	170	170	0	55	55	0	170	170	0	70	75	5	75	80	5
M.I.	150	165	15	45	50	5	160	165	5	45	60	15	55	70	15
M.C.	155	165	10	50	55	5	155	165	10	50	60	10	60	70	10
Media	159,5	167,5	8	50,5	54,5	4	161	166,5	5,5	55,5	65	9,5	61,5	65	3,5

Reducerea mobilității centurii scapulare este demonstrată și prin rezultatele obținute la testul flexibilității, unde majoritatea valorilor sunt negative și mult sub 0, mai ales la membrul superior stâng.

Tabel nr. 5. Rezultatele flexibilității umărului

Nume	Dreapta	(cm)		Stânga (	(cm)	
	I	F	D	I	F	D
C.Ş.	-20	-16	-4	-20	-17	-3
E. S.	-3	-1	-2	-15	-13	-2
D.V.	0	0	0	-15	-12	-3
Ş.I.	+4	+5	+1	0	+2	+2
Ţ.M.	-20	-15	-5	-25	-21	-4
Ş.M.	0	+2	+2	-3	-1	-2
G.A.	-10	-7	-3	-20	-14	-6
D.A.	+2	+3	+1	-5	-1	-4
M.I.	-20	-14	-6	-20	-15	-5
M.C.	-12	-9	-3	-19	-15	-4
Media	-7,9	-5,2	-2,7	-14,2	-12,1	-2,1

#### Discuții

Programul de recuperare urmat de rugbyștii cu disjuncție acromio-claviculară pe parcursul celor 3 luni, a dus la rezultate destul de bune indicându-ne o reducere a durerii, precum

și creșteri de mobilitate a umărului și flexibilitate a centurii scapulare. Desigur, activitatea competițională, precum și specificul jocului (unde contactele fizice, mai ales la nivelul umerilor sunt inevitabile și cu violență crescută) nu ne-a permis reducerea durerii până la absența acesteia, și nici revenirea la valori normale a mobilității și flexibilității centurii scapulare.

Reducerile de mobilitate pe rotațiile interne şi externe se reflactă direct şi în imposibilitatea de realizare a testului flexibilității, unde mediile creșterilor de flexibilitate au fost de 2,7 cm la membrul superior drept și 2,1 cm la membrul superior stâng.

#### Concluzii

Programul de recuperare urmat în timpul periadei competiționale a dus la reducerea durerii precum și creșterea mobilității umărului și flexibilității centurii scapulare. Ca urmare, introducerea unor noi tehnici și metode kinetice și fizicale, ar putea determina îmbunătățirea mai pregnantă a parametrilor luați în considerare care au influență directă asupra performanței fizice și implicit sportive a rugbyștilor (de exemplu aplicarea kinesio-tapingului, cu rol atât pentru reducerea durerii, cât și pentru refacerea mobilității articulare).

De asemenea, considerăm că aplicarea kinetoterapiei trebuie continuată și în perioada de pauză competițională, când, datorită absenței contactelor fizice, recuperarea ar da rezultate superioare.

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# COMPARISON OF CYRIAX PHYSIOTHERAPY AND TAPING technique IN SUBJECTS WITH TENNIS ELBOW: A RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL

# STUDIU COMPARATIV PRIVIND TERAPIA CYRIAX ŞI TEHNICA TAPING LA SUBIECŢII CU COTUL TENISMENULUI: STUDIU CLINIC RANDOMIZAT

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**Key words:** tennis elbow, grip strength, cyriax physiotherapy, taping, DTFM, VAS

**Abstract.** Tennis elbow or lateral epicondylitis is a commonly encountered musculoskeletal complaint, which is characterized by lateral elbow pain often associated with gripping task. For management of this problem, elbow tape and Cyriax physiotherapy have been incorporated into the treatment. Objective. To study comparative effectiveness of Cyriax physiotherapy and Taping in cases of tennis elbow in terms of pain, grip strength and functional activities. Methods. 40 subjects with tennis elbow over the duration of 3 months, between the age 20 to 50 years were taken up for the study. Baseline pain, grip strength and functional evaluation were recorded pre treatment (1st day) and post treatment (7<sup>th</sup> day). Hand dynamometer was used to measure the grip strength, VAS to assess pain and patient rated forearm evaluation questionnaire for lateral epicondylitis was used for functional evaluation. Comparison of the pre and post values was done

following the treatment. Results. Within group analysis showed that there was statistically significant improvement in both the groups in the pain, grip strength and functional performance. (p<0.0001) whereas between group analysis revealed that Group A showed significant improvement compared to Group B in terms of pain and functional performance. Conclusion. This clinical trial provided evidence to support the use of cyriax physiotherapy and taping techniques in relieving pain, improving grip strength and improve functional performance in subjects with tennis elbow. Results supported that Cyriax physiotherapy was more effective than taping technique in reducing pain and functional performance.

**Cuvinte cheie:** cotul tenismenului, forţa prehensiunii, terapia Cyriax, taping, DTFM, scala analogă vizuală

Rezumat. Cotu1 tenismenului sau epicondilita lateral este 0 afectiune musculoscheletală des întâlnită, caracterizată prin durere în porțiunea laterală a cotului, asociată cu reducerea forței prehensiunii. În tratamentul adăugat terapia s-au Cryax kinesiotaping. Obiective. Scoul lucrarii este de a studia comparativ eficienta terapiei Cyriax si a tapingului, în cazul cotului tenismenului, referitor la durere, forța prehensiunii și a activităților funcționale. Metode. 40 subiecți cu cotul tenismenului de mai bine de 3 luni, cu vârste între 20 și 50 ani au participat la studio. Durerea inițială, forța prehensiunii și evaluarea funcțională s-au efectuat înainte (ziua1) și după tratament (ziua7). S-a folosit dinamometrul pentru evaluarea forței prehensiunii, SAV pentru durere și un chestionar de evaluare funcțională pentru funcția Compararea rezultatelor pre și post cotului. intervenție s-a realizat la sfârșitul studiului. Rezultate. Analiza intragrup demonstrează îmbunătățiri semnificative statistic la ambele grupe de subiecți, privind durerea, forta performanta prehensiunii functională si (p<0.0001), pe când analiza intergroup demonstrează că grupul A a prezentat îmbunătățiri semnificative față de grupul B în ceea ce privește durerea și performanța funcțională. Concluzii. Acest studiu oferă informații care sprijină idea folosirii terapiei Cryax şi a tapingului în reducerea prehensiunii durerii, cresterea fortei performantei functionale, la pacienții epicondilită laterală. Rezultatele demonstrează că terapia Cyriax a fost mai eficientă decât tapingul în reducerea durerii și a performanței funcționale.

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#### Introduction

Pain over the lateral epicondyle, which is exacerbation by work or recreational activities that involves gripping action of the hand, such as holding tools, shaking hands, and lifting a kettle, usually signals that the individuals has a condition termed lateral epicondylalgia, epicondylitis, or what is more commonly known as tennis elbow. [1] This condition was first named by morris (1882) who called it lawn tennis arm.[2]

Tennis elbow is a syndrome characterized by an insidious onset of elbow pain brought on by wrist extension with pronation or supination and aggravated by gripping. [3]

Tennis elbow affects 1-3% of the population, only 5% of all patients seen are recreational tennis players. [4] Although the syndrome has been identified in patients ranging from 20 to 60 years old, it predominantly occurs in the fourth and fifth decades. Male and female prevalence rates are reportedly equal. Seventy-five percent of patients are symptomatic in their dominant arms. [5,6,7]

The specific muscle most often implicated clinically and surgically is the extensor carpi radialis brevis with occasional involvement of the extensor digitorum communis, extensor carpi radialis longus, and extensor carpi ulnaris. The possible reason for this more frequent involvement of the extensor carpi radialis brevis is its location as one of the most laterally situated muscles on the lateral epicondyle with slips taking origin from the radial collateral ligament. The extensor carpi radialis brevis is intimately attached to the joint capsule, which is continuous with the radial collateral ligament and because of this proximity adhesions are more likely . [4] Cyriax advocated the use of deep transverse friction massage in combination with mill's manipulation in treating tennis elbow. [8,5]

Deep transverse friction (DTF) is also known as deep friction massage is a specific type of connective tissue massage applied precisely to the soft tissue structures such as tendons. It was developed in an empirical way by Cyriax and is currently used extensively in rehabilitation practice. [5]

Mill's manipulation is the most common manipulative technique used by physiotherapists. Cyriax state that it should be performed immediately after the DTF is provided that the patient has a full range of passive elbow extension. If passive elbow extension is limited, the manipulative thrust will affect the elbow joint, rather than the common extensor tendon, possibly causing traumatic arthritis. It is defined as a passive movement performed at the end of range—that is, once all the slack has been taken up—and is a minimal amplitude, high velocity thrust. The aim of this technique, again without properly designed controlled studies to prove this, is to elongate the scar tissue by rupturing adhesions within the teno-oseous junction, making the area mobile and pain free. [5]

The application of tape to injured soft tissue and joints provide support and protection for these structures and minimizing pain and swelling in acute stage. Tape should reinforce the normal supportive structures in their relaxed position and protect the injured tissue from further damage. McConnell has proposed the application of tape as a means of alleviating pain, improving muscle function, and restoring functional movement patterns. [1]

Cyriax physiotherapy is the technique where DTF and Mill's is used, this technique has been compared with Ultrasound, phonophrosis, Laser, but very few studies have compared between the technique I;e cyriax and taping. However, the present study has been undertaken in order to compare the effectiveness of Cyriax and taping to improve pain, grip strength and to see functional activities fallowing treatment in cases of tennis elbow.

#### Method

A randomized clinical trial was conducted at the physiotherapy OPD of KLE Dr Prabhakar Kore hospital & MRC, Belgaum Karnataka

Participants were referred by public and privet medical practitioners for treatment of chronic tennis elbow. 40 subjects were randomly allocated in to two groups i:e group A and Group B, where group A had 20 participants and group B with 20, group A received cyriax

physiotherapy, ultrasound and exercisers, group B received taping, ultrasound and exercises. The intervention was provided at 7 visits occurring over 1 week. Measurements was recorded once pre treatment i:e 1<sup>st</sup> day and once post treatment i:e 7<sup>th</sup> day.

#### **Participants**

People entering the trial had to meet the following inclusion criteria, both male and female between 20 to 50 years of age, pain on the lateral side of the elbow, tenderness over the forearm extensor origin, pain with 1 of the following tests: Mill's test, Cozens test, all subjects with symptoms for duration of more than 3 months. Exclusion criteria were if they had a previous operation on the elbow, elbow fractures, if full extension is not obtained at elbow, hypermobile joints, sensitive skin, allergies to adhesive tape and a recent steroid injection (3 months).

#### Intervention

The purpose of this study was explained and a written informed consent was obtained from all the participants. The subjects were screened based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Demographic data was collected along with initial assessment of VAS, grip strength, Patient rated forearm evaluation questionnaire for lateral epicondylitis. After initial assessment they were allocated into 2 groups i.e. Group A and Group B.

Both groups received the selected treatment for 7 sessions at 1 session per day.

Ultrasound: Subject in both the group received ultrasound and exercises before performing deep friction massage and manipulation and applying tape. Subject were seated on the chair with shoulder in neutral position, elbow in right angle and fully supported. The ultrasound was administered for 7 minutes in pulsed mode with ultrasound gel<sup>17</sup>, over the later epicondyle or area of tenderness.

Exercises: Each exercises were repeated 10 times in 3 series,

Clenching fist strongly, resisted wrist extension, resisted wrist flexion, wrist rotation with a stick, and end range stretching at least 30 sec to flexion and extension.

Following this, subjects in group A received Cyriax and subject in group B received Taping.

Cyriax , physiotherapy: Position of the patient – the patient sits with elbow bent to right angle and full supination. The physiotherapist places one hand at the patient's wrist and holds the forearm in supination.

The pad of the index finger, middle finger or thumb is placed directly over the involved site, the remaining fingers should be used to provide further stabilization of the therapists hand, no lubrication is used, the patient's skin must move along with the therapists fingers.

Beginning with light pressure, the therapist moves the skin over the site of the lesion back and forth in a direction perpendicular to the normal orientation of the fibers of the involved part.

The massage is given for 2 minutes then stopped for 1 to 2 minutes then repeated of 2 minutes, working up to 12 to 15 minutes, followed by the manipulation.

#### Manipulation

Position of patient- patient sits upright with the arm abducted to the horizontal and so far medially rotated that the olecranon faces upward. The physiotherapist stand behind the patient, the patients forearm must be fully pronated and the wrist flexed.

The physiotherapist now places his left hand on the olecranon, thus extending the elbow, while the tension is strongly maintained; he suddenly forces full extension at the elbow with his left hand with a smart jerk.

This is carried out once each visit, immediately after friction.

Taping- The patient is in supine lying with the elbow in a slightly flexed position.

The diamond Taping technique consisted of 4 pieces of non-elastic, adhesive tape.

These will be applied on the skin distally to proximally in a diamond shape, while simultaneously applying a tractional force on the soft tissues towards the lateral epicondyle and perpendicular to the line of the tape. The strips overlapped at their ends and were secured with an additional 4 tape strips.

#### **Outcome measures**

Pain intensity:

By Visual analogue scale – A scale of 10 cm to evaluate intensity of pain where 0 represents no pain and 10 represent unbearable pain.

Grip strength:

Grip strength will be measured by hand held dynamometer.

Physical Function outcome:

Patient rated forearm evaluation questionnaire for lateral epicondylitis.<sup>21</sup>

Table.1 Comparison of Groups in terms of Age, Gender, Height, Weight and BMI

Group	Age (years)	Gender		Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	BMI
	Mean±SD	male	female	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	Mean±SD
A	41.15±7.73	11	9	166.45±8.13	62.6±7.708	22.56±2.60
В	43.3±11.57	10	10	168.45±7.52	60.1±9.101	21.02±2.11
t value	0.691			0.808	0.937	2.050
P value	0.494			0.424	0.355	0.080

Table. 2 Comparison of VAS, Grip strength and PRFEQ within group A and group B

	GROUPS	PRE TRI	PRE TREATMENT		EATMENT	W VALUE	P VALUE
		MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
VAS	A	6.1	1.3	2.0	1.1	210	< 0.001
	В	6.0	1.3	2.8	1.2	210	< 0.001
	A	15.3	2.3	18.3	2.3	-210	< 0.001
Grip strength	В	14.6	3.1	17.4	3.3	-210	< 0.001
	A	55.4	14.0	21.0	6.2	210	< 0.001
PRFEQ	В	56.6	11.1	26.5	5.3	210	< 0.001

#### **Statistical analysis**

Statistical analysis for the present study was done using statistical package of social sciences (SPSS) version 14 so as to verify the results obtained. For this purpose data was entered into an excel spread sheet, tabulated and subjected to statistical analysis. Various statistical measures such as mean, standard deviation, and test of significance such as, paired and unpaired t—test were used. Nominal data from patient's demographic data i.e. age, sex, BMI, Ht, Wt distribution were analyzed using Unpaired t-test. Comparison of the pre and post intervention outcome measures within the group was done by using Wilcoxon paired test was applied, whereas Unpaired 't' test was utilized to measure the difference between two groups (Intergroup comparison) in terms of decrease in Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), Grip strength and PRFEQ score. Probability values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant and probability values less than 0.0001 were considered highly significant.

#### **Results**

There was no significant difference between the demographic and anthropometric measurement among all the subjects. VAS- in group A and group B, the mean VAS score pre session on  $1^{st}$  day and post session on  $7^{th}$  day was  $6.1 \pm 1.3$ ,  $6.0 \pm 1.3$  and  $2.0 \pm 1.1$ ,  $2.8 \pm 1.2$  respectively. On comparing these values there was significant difference between group A & group B.

Grip strength- in group A and group B, the mean grip strength score pre session on  $1^{st}$  day and post session on  $7^{th}$  day was  $15.3 \pm 2.3$ ,  $14.6 \pm 3.1$  which increased to  $18.3 \pm 2.3$ ,  $17.4 \pm 3.3$ 

respectively. On comparing these values there was no significant difference between group A & group B.

Finally on comparing the pre and post treatment values of PRTEEQ i:e pre 55.4±14.0, 56.6±11.1 which post treatment decreased to 21.0±6.2, 26.5±5.3 respectively in group A and group B, significant difference was noted in the pre and post values.

#### **Discussion**

The present clinical trial was conducted to compare the effectiveness of cyriax physiotherapy and taping technique with a common treatment of therapeutic ultrasound and supervised exercise in subjects with Tennis elbow. Results of this study were focused on pain relief where Pain assessment was done by visual analogue scale (VAS), [9] improvement of grip strength, grip strength was measured with the help of hand held dynamometer, [10] and reduction in function activity impairment scores based on Patient rated forearm evaluation questionnaire for lateral epicondylitis. It was noticed that there was improvement in all the above parameters in both groups.

In this study the age group of the participants was between 20 to 50 years, the mean difference between the age of both the groups is statistically not significant. According to a study by Halpren BC (1994) it was stated that, peak age at which tennis elbow occurs is 40 to 50 years. [11] There is a decrease in the occurrence of tennis elbow cases after 50 years of age, this may be due to diminished intensity of play or activity at these older ages as suggested in a study by. [12]

Subjects of present study consisted of 21 males and 19 females. According to a study by Alireza Shamsoddini et al [8] and few others, tennis elbow is equally distributed between men and women. But according to Gruchow H.W et al 1979, [12] there was a fourfold increase in prevalence among men and nearly two fold increase among women. In this study men had a marginally higher prevalence rate than women, but there was no statistically significant difference between men and women prevalence.

The mean values of data from present study indicates that group A and group B treated with cyriax physiotherapy and taping respectively with common treatment of ultrasound and supervised exercise showed reduction in pain score on VAS, improved grip strength on hand held dynamometer and functional improvement graded on PRFEQ.

When the intra group mean values of VAS were analyzed it was found statistically significant in both groups pre to post intervention, but when comparison was done inter group, statistically group A showed more significance as compared to group B in reveling pain. In the present study reduction in pain level, as quantified by the VAS with the application of both Cyriax and taping is consistent with the findings of previous studies including, Cyriax and taping reducing in patients with tennis elbow.

It is a common clinical observation that application of DTF leads to immediate pain relief. The patient experiences numbing effect during the session and reassessment immediately after the application of DTF shows reduction in pain and increase in strength and mobility. <sup>13</sup> several theories have been put forth to explain the pain relieving effect of DTF. According to Cyriax and Cyriax, DTF also leads to increased destruction of pain provoking metabolites such as Lewis's substances [5]. Another mechanism by which reduction in pain may be achieved is through diffused noxious inhibitory controls, a pain suppression mechanism that releases endogenous opiates. The latter are inhibitory neurotransmitters which diminish the intensity of pain transmitted by higher centre. [5]

Mill's manipulation is performed immediately after DTF, where it is done to elongate the scared tissue by rupturing adhesions within the teno-osseous junction making the area mobile and pain free. [8, 5]

Amit V Nagrale et al, in his study between cyriax and phonophorosis found cyriax physiotherapy to be superior treatment approach compared to phonophrosis in terms of pain, pain-free grip, and functional status. [14]

Mc Connell<sup>1</sup> proposed that application of tape helps to reduce pain, improve muscle function and restore function movement patterns. In this study, patients in the taping group reported reduction in pain level following the treatment. The pre and the post treatment mean of VAS showed statistical significance in the taping group (table 2).

The possible reasoning for action of taping in reducing pain could be related to neurophysiologic effects on the nervous system. In this taping may cause alteration in pain perception, either locally at the elbow by inhibiting nociceptors, facilitating large afferent fiber input into the spinal cord and by stimulating endogenous processes of pain inhibition. [1] In a study by Alireza Shamsoddini et al [8] where they checked initial effect of taping technique

on wrist extension and grip strength and pain of individuals with tennis elbow, and an impressive effect on wrist extension and grip strength and pain. Thus tapping was recommended in the management of tennis elbow.

It is important to note that all participants were given ultrasound and supervised exercises as a common conventional method. Ultrasound refers to mechanical vibrations which are essentially the same as sound waves but of a higher frequency. Such waves are beyond the range of human hearing and can therefore also be called ultrasonic. [15]

A study by A.P.D'Vaz et al [16] studied the effect of pulsed low-intensity ultrasound therapy for chronic tennis elbow. They concluded that low-intensity ultrasound (LIUS) was no more effective for a large treatment effect than placebo for recalcitrant LE. This is in keeping with other interventional studies for the condition

Ultrasound has been used over a period of time to control acute and chronic pain over a localized area. Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of ultrasound in reducing pain, In Study by A. Binder et al [17], where they checked for the effectiveness of Ultrasound in treating soft tissue lesions, where they conclude that Ultrasound enhances recovery in most patients with tennis elbow.

Tim Noteboom et al [18], in his study mentioned that chronic symptoms are commonly associated with inadequate muscle power and endurance. In this study Jamar Hand Dynamometer is used to measure grip strength. Reduction in grip strength was note in these subjects, for strengthening of these muscles supervised exercises were prescribed.

Strengthening and stretching exercises were given in both the groups. Strengthening the damaged attachment of wrist extensors resulted in better repetitive wrist movements performed by the subjects with tennis elbow. [19]

It was claimed that the eccentric training results in tendon strengthening by stimulating mechanoreceptors in tenocytes to produce collagen, which is the key cellular mechanism that determines recovery from tendon injuries. Strengthening may improve collagen alignment of the tendon and stimulate cross linkage formation both of which improve the tensile strength of tendon. [19]

Literatures suggest that strengthening and stretching both are main components of exercise program, because tendons must be flexible along with strong. Positive effects of exercise program for tendon injuries may be attributable to lengthening of muscle tendon unit by stretching and strengthening exercise which could achieve loading effect within muscle tendon unit along with hypertrophy and increased tensile strength of the tendon.[20]

The results of this study showed significant increase in grip strength within groups A and B. But on comparison between groups, there was no significant difference between group A and group B. therefore this showed that group A and Group B are equally effective.

PRTEE Formerly known as the Patient-Rated Forearm Evaluation Questionnaire (PRFEQ), seems to be a reliable tool for assessing pain and function in patients with chronic tennis elbow. The PRTEE has shown greater reliability and has sufficient width scale to reliably detect improvement or worsening in most subjects. For these reasons, the PRTEE appears to be the one of most commonly reported measure of health status in patients with Tennis elbow. <sup>21</sup>

the present study the means of PRTEE were analyzed, where intra group analyses showed significant improvement in both the groups. When inter group analyses were done

results have shown significant difference between Group A and group B, with group A showing better improvement in PRTEE scores. This showed that Cyriax physiotherapy is more effective in improving functional outcome in patients with tennis elbow.(Table 2)

From the present study it can be concluded both the groups showed significant improvement in terms of pain, grip strength and functional performance in patients with tennis elbow. But group A showed better results as compared to group B.

#### Limitations

Subjects could not be followed up for longer period of time, to see long term benefit, Occupation relevance was not compared.

#### **Future Scope of the Study**

Studies with longer duration are recommended with longer follow-up period to assess long term benefits, Conduct the study with larger sample size, Range of Motion could be taken in to consideration

#### Conclusion

The present randomized clinical trial provided evidence to support the use of Cyriax physiotherapy and taping techniques in relieving pain, improving grip strength and improve functional performance in subject with tennis elbow. In addition, results supported that Cyriax physiotherapy was more effective than taping technique in reducing pain and functional performance.

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## PROTOCOL KINETOTERAPEUTIC DE TIP FELIX, PRIVIND COMPLEXUL GLEZNĂ-PICIOR POSTTRAUMATIC

# FELIX PHYSICAL THERAPEUTIC PROTOCOL REGARDING THE POSTTRAUMATIC ANKLE-FOOT SYSTEM/COMPLEX

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**Keywords**: posttraumatic ankle, Felix physical therapeutic protocol, stretching PNF, the dynamic of spiral, cocontraction, Bernstein module, device of motor functional behavior, techniques of utilization (D-CFM)

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to present the protocol that comprises the specific exercises for recovery of young patients that practice sports or for the professional sportsmen who suffered different types of posttraumatic injures of the ankle-foot systhem as well as to validate our hypotheses.

The study was carried on în The Clinical Recovery Hospital from Băile Felix during 3 months; we selected 20 patients with different diagnoses. We revealed the following common aspects of the most severe lesions: practicing a high risk sport, the traumatized ankle in a forced rotation with the fixed leg, there are other clinical sings that go with the pain, functional impotence and precocious tumefaction of the malleoli.

*Methods: Hypotheses* We presuppose that by daily using this individualized protocol with a"D-CMF"device, an specific exercises of the posture and of Bernstein module we will obtain a more efficient and quick recovery of the young people who practice sports/sportsmen and we can prevent the recidivism.

**Results**: After statistical processing of the data according to FAOS, the test t score and p-value.were significants

*Conclusions*: when the injury is more severe the interventions need to be more complex; if the immobilization time span is longer, then the recovery time span is longer, and in some cases the ROM at the ankle-foot system cannot be regained / obtained completely for the time span the patient predicted.

Cuvinte cheie: gleznă posttraumatică, protocol kinetoterapeutic, dinamica spiralei, modulul Berstein, brevet în curs: dispozitiv de comportament motor funcțional și tehnici de utilizare (D-CFM)

#### Rezumat

Obiectivele acestei lucrări este prezentarea unui protocol care cuprinde (exerciții folosite ) pentru recuperarea pacientilor tineri care practica sportul sau sunt de performanță după accidente ale comlexului glezna picior precum și verificarea ipotezelor formulate.

Studiul s-a efectuat în Spitalul Clinic de Recuperare B-Felix pe o perioadă de 3 luni; au fost selecționate 20 de cazuri cu diferite diagnostice. S-au evidențiat următoarele aspecte comune leziunilor mai grave: practicarea unui sport cu risc crescut, glezna este traumatizată în rotație forțată cu piciorul fixat, apariția unor semne clinice ce acompaniază durerea, impotența funcțională și tumefacția precoce a zonei malolelor.

*Metode: Ipoteza*: Presupunem că utilizarea zilnică acestui protocol individualizat cu "D-CMF" și exerciții conform modelului postural și a modulului Bernstein, vom obține o recuperare mai efecientă si rapidă a tinerilor care practică sportul/sportivi și prevenirea unor recidive.

**Rezultate**: După prelucrarea statistică a datelor conform scorului FAOS, tesul t și valoarea p au fost semnificative.

Concluzii: când traumatismul este mai sever și intervențiile sunt complexe iar perioada imobilizării este mai lungă și perioada de recuperare este, mai lungă iar în unele cazuri amplitudinea mișcărilor segmentului gleznă-picior nu se obține / recâștigă complet în perioada scontată de pacient.

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#### **Introducere**

Studiind materialele de specialitate, pornind de la a metastudii renumite (2, 1, 3,15,17,12,), spre deosebire de părerile generale ale lui De Ross, E Pope, I Polietcov, Thomas, Steindler, P. Rabinschong, J. Avril, Vierrodt, Pol le Coeur am ajuns la concluzia că piciorul fiziologic se prezintă ca *o spirală răsucită* în toate planurile, la diferite grade – deci întreaga funcție statică și dinamică astfel este determinată de răsucirea și dezrăsucirea spiralei lanțurilor musculare! Iar pentru ca pensa tibioperonieră să nu cedeze, intervin forțe deosebit de importante a contracției flexorilor și peronierilor care acționează cu o forță de strângere, de aproximativ 200 kg (!), printr-o mișcare globală a întregului MI conform dinamicii spiralei. (2)

#### Scop

Scopul acestei lucrări este prezentarea unui protocol program tip Felix de kinetoterapie care cuprinde exercițiile folosite pentru recuperarea pacienților tineri care practică sportul sau sunt sportivi de performanță, după diferite accidente ale complexului gleznă- picior precum și verificarea ipotezelor formulate.

#### **Ipoteza**

Presupunem că dacă vom utiliza zilnic acest protocol-program kinetoterapeutic tip Felix propus cu "dispozitivul de comportament motor functional" (D-CMF) și exerciții specifice de compensare a modelului postural și a modulului Brernstein, cu dozare individualizată vom obține o recuperare mai efecientă și rapidă a tinerilor care practică sportul sau a sportivilor de performanță. Totodată se vor preveni și eventualele recidive.

#### Material și metodă

*Subiecți - Studiul* s-a efectuat în Spitalul Clinic de Recuperare Medicală- Băile Felix și cabinetul personal pe o perioadă de 3 luni (sept – dec 2012); au fost selecționate 20 de cazuri 15 entorse gr. II, 5 fracturi din care- 2 postoperator, cu diferite probleme diagnosticate pe baza examenului clinic, paraclinic. Din datele anamnestice am evidențiat următoarele aspecte comune leziunilor mai grave:

- S-a practicat un sport cu risc crescut (în timpul liber- fittnes, jogging, joc sportiv-handbal, fotbal, etc);
  - Glezna s-a traumatizat cu piciorul fixat și în rotație forțată;
- Existența unor semne clinice ce acompaniază durerea (cracmente, entorse cu laxitate articulară, senzația de instabilitate articulară), impotența funcțională și tumefacția precoce a zonei malolelor.

Inițierea și implementarea programului de recuperare protocolul Felix se va face în funcție de diagnostic, starea pacientului și etapa de recuperare în care se află. La majoritatea pacienților aflați în perioada imediat post-imobilizare sau postoperatorie se va instrui inițial modul de aplicare a protocolului la care va fi supus mai târziu și se va urmări respectarea indicațiilor kinetoterapeutului. Acest tip de protocol în general este utilizat în stadii mai tardive ale recuperării în care pacientul își îmbunătățește controlul neuro-motor, abilitatea globală complexă și forța lanțurilor musculare conform dinamicii spiralei cu încărcarea segmentului, folosiind modelul și modulul Bernstein și este capabil să-și gradeze din ce în ce mai bine procesul contractil a lantului complex muscular (flexor-abductor-rotator-eversor) (9,10,11)

Metode de evaluare - Elementele monitorizate au fost:

- abilitatea globală în execuția mișcărilor cerute de dispozitivul"D-CFM"(flexia MI din CF-cu abductie și rotatie externă finalizată cu eversie și ridicarea lădiței!),
- forța complexă a lanțului mușchilor psoas, fascia lata, peronieri (prin testare manuală și adăugând rezistența în"lădită" pănă la valori de 5), ale pacientilor aflați în difierite etape de recuperare și

Pentru a evalua abilitatea globală complexă am folosit, goniometrul tip Gutsch (valabil ptr. măsurarea simultană a amplitudinii de mișcare în trei direcții) și mobilitatea combinată cu D-CFM. Aceste rezultate s-au prelucrat statistic – (SPSS) (13,16),

S-a studiat evoluția unor parametri ai scorului FAOS și completat/modificat de autor:

- Abilitatea complexă globală prin flexia activă și eversie a gleznei cu ridicarea dispozitivului (**FAe D-CMF** *flexia activă-eversie ridicând dispozitivul*) mobilitatea combinată în (cm);
- Forţa lanţului complex muscular a dinamicii spiralei a membrului inferior (MI), (Fco MI forţa complexă MI);
  - Capacitatea de a efectua activități cotidiene (**ADL** activities of daily living);
- Capacitatea de a practica activități sportive și recreaționale (**SP** *sport and recreational activities*);

#### Rezultate

Datele cuantificabile ale întregului ansamblu de testări şi evaluări efectuate în decursul a 3 luni le-am analizat statistic şi le-am comparat calculându-se, indicele de corelație Pearson. Astfel s-au evidențiat parametri sensibili ale programelor de reabilitare care sunt, practic, expresia obiectivă a nivelului recuperării fiecărui pacient.

Parametrii urmăriți au fost:

- Abilitatea complexă globală exprimată prin flexia activă şi eversia gleznei cu ridicarea dispozitivului la diferite înălțimi şi cu rezistentă crescândă spre valori maxime posibile. (FAe D-CMF – flexia activă-eversie cu ridicarea dispozitivul);
- Forţa lanţului complex muscular al dinamicii spiralei a MI (Fco MI forţa complexa MI) -fesier mijlociu / fascia lata abductori / rotatori externi şi eversori lungul peronieri val 5;
  - Valorile parametrii ADL, SP, se calculează după formula din scorul FAOS
- Având în vedere faptul că valorile etapelor inițiale au fost asemănătoare, am considerat utilă, din punct de vedere statistic, aprecierea evoluției pacienților la 1 lună, la 2 luni și 3 luni .

#### Discuții

Rezultatele obținute din evaluările repetate au fost analizate statistic utilizând  $testul\ t$ , în final, indicele de  $corelație\ Pearson$ ;

Analiza statistică, ne-a permis următoarele aprecieri:

- În ceea ce privește evoluția **capacității de a efectua activitățile fizice cotidiene**, nu **există diferențe semnificative** (*p*>0,05) între cele două testări (1 luna și 3 luni-tabel I); cu alte cuvinte, recuperarea directă prin folosirea protocolului Felix asigură o reabilitare suficientă pentru astfel de activități, în limitele normale ale perioadei în care se află pacientul.
- Urmărirea evoluției **abilității complexe globale active** (tabel II) a arătat faptul că există **diferențe semnificative** (p<0,05) între rezultatele dintre luna 1 și 3, doar la 1 lună de la începerea recuperării și **diferențe nesemnificative** de la 2 la 3 luni de la inițierea acesteia (p>0,05); recuperarea determină, deci, o reabilitare suficientă pentru recuperarea abilității globale complexe, cu excepția perioadei inițiale de reabilitare în care D-CMP acționează ca un biofeedback și a determinat modificări semnificative.

În ceea ce privește evoluția **forței la** lanțul complex muscular a dinamicii spiralei a MI (**Fco** MI – forța complexă MI- tabel III)-fesier mijlociu și fascia lata abductori/ rotatori externi+eversori = val 5; există diferențe semnificative (p < 0.05) între rezultatele pacientilor atât la 1 lună, la 2 luni de la începerea recuperării cât și diferențe extrem de semnificative la 3 luni de la inițierea acesteia (p < 0.001); recuperarea cu D-CMF determină o reabilitare progresivă continuă/eficientă realizând o antrenare corectă prin enrgama de biofeedback a musculaturii staticii și dinamicii din cadrul dinamici spiralei prin noul protocol FELIX de recuperare.

Această diferență este semnificativ mai mare pe termen lung, având în vedere că un rol important în recuperarea forței musculare îl are recâstigarea engramelor motorii a controlului ablilității globale automate, cu conștientizarea și implicarea directă a pacientului în programul de

reabilitare și a incărcării aplicând modelul și modulul Bernstein în cadrul antrenării la acest nivel al complexului gleznă—picior.

Analiza statistică a evoluției SP, ne-a permis următoarele aprecieri: în ceea ce privește capacitatea de a efectua activități sportive sau alte activități fizice recreative, se evidențiază faptul că există diferențe semnificative (p<0,05) între rezulatele obținute pe intervalul lunilor 2 și 3 de la inițierea și implementarea progresivă a programului de reabilitare și diferențe nesemnificative (p>0,05) la 1 lună; Diferențele nesemnificative pot fi explicate prin aceea că starea complexulul glezna-picior posttraumatic nu permite efectuarea la o lună decât a unui număr extrem de redus de activități fizice propriu-zise (ci doar pe cele din programele de recuperare și ADL), în timp ce la 2 și la 3 luni, diferențele devin semnificative, prezentând valori mai mari în ceea ce privește punctajul pentru SP și curajul de a se reinsera în viața sportivă-recreativă.

Tabel I. - Analiza statistică a evoluției ADL

Testare /valori	La 1 lună	La 2 luni	La 3 luni
ADL	85,44±9,99	94,19±4,53	99,28±2,45
р	0,3366	0,05179	0,00466

Tabel II. -Analiza FAe D-CMF prin testrea mobilitatea combinata MI

Testare /valori	La 1 lună	La 3 luni	Abaterea standard
FAe - D-CMF mobilitatea combinată MI	32.00	46.00	4.70112
р	0,0437	0,6123	0,0258

Tabel III. - Analiza statistică a evoluție Fco MI - D-CMF

Testare/ valori	La 1 lună	La 2 luni	La 3 luni
Fco MI - D-CMF	3,25±0,53	4,25±0,38	5, 01±0,21
р	0,0317	0,0192	0,0021

Analiza statistică a datelor obținute prin testare evoluției bilanțului **FAe D-CMF**, și a forței musculare **Fco MI - D-CMF**, prin realizarea la diferite intervale în cadrul procesului de reabilitare a complexului gleznă-picior posttraumatic ne-a permis evidențierea faptului că există o corelație semnificativă între evoluția bilanțului muscular (realizat prin testarea manuală- val 0-5 și cea a diferenței în executie în funcția de abilitate globală); aceasta este puternică la 1 lună (confirmând ipoteza conform căreia refacerea pattern-urilor neuro-motorii, a coordonării musculare și a forței musculare propriu-zise sunt obiective esențiale în recuperarea complexului gleznă-picior posttraumatic; această corelație este și mai puternică la cazurile la care s-a intervenit chirurgical și la care, evident, tulburările posttraumatice au fost mai mari.

În tabelul IV, sunt prezentate valorile coeficienților Pearson de corelație liniară împreună cu valorile probabilității **p** ce atestă semnificația corelației liniare. S-au studiat corelațiile valorilor Diferențele de execuție cu FAe D-CMF, cu SP și ADL pentru toți pacienții la 1 lună, 2 luni, 3 luni și între valorile minim, maxim, medii, abatera standard, obținute pentru aceste intervale de timp.

Tabelul IV -Prezentarea valorile coeficienților Person de corelație liniară impreună cu valorile probabilității p ce atestă semnificația corelației liniare de progres

Coeficient Pearson	La 1 lună	La 2 luni	La 3luni	Media
Dif. în execuție în legătură cu FAe D-CMF	0,630	0,054	-0,218	0,437
Val. p	<0,001	<0,679	<0,0915	<0,0254
Dif. în execuție în legatură cu SP	0,110	0,514	0,523	0,102
Val. P	<0,398	<0,042	<0,0312	<0,274
Dif. în execuție în legatură cu <b>ADL</b>	0,050	0,183	-0,085	0,110
Val. P	<0,702	<0, 158	<0, 515	<0, 217

Corelația liniară moderată dintre diferența în execuție în legatură cu ADL confirmă, ideea că recuperarea prin D- CMF folosiind engrama biofeedback al dinamicii spiralei a lanțurilor musculare nu influențează semnificativ obținerea unei "glezne obișnuite"; iar corelația directă, semnificativă și medie dintre diferent de executie în legatură cu SP confirmă, în schimb, ipoteza că D- CFM contribuie la o mai rapidă reintegrare în activitatea sportivă premergătoare traumatismului.

#### Concluzii

- D-CFM modifică semnificativ recâstigarea forței musculare și, implicit, a diferenței de abilitate execuție între contracție și relaxare la nivelul dinamicii spiralei a lanțului muscular complex comparativ pe lunile 1,2,3 etapele perioadei de recuperare .
- Folosirea D-CFM și a conceptului modelului și modulului Bernstein pentru recuperarea și recâștigarea prin biofeedback neuromotor a abilităților globale și a forței complexului gleznăpicior, modifică semnificativ capacitatea realizării activităților sportive și recreative (la 2 și la 3 luni de la inițierea reabilitării), precum și viteza de recuperare a forței în prima perioadă posttraumatică.
- Recuperarea forței musculare **FAe D-CMF**, a abilității globale complexe adică reantrenarea coordonării neuro-motorii, stau la baza reintegrării în activitatea sportivă premergătoare accidentului respectiv.

Avantajele protocolului Felix prin aceste concepte (D-CMF și modului și modelul Bernstein ) față de alte tehnici de antreanare a fortei și abilitatii sunt:

- Aplicarea mișcării dinamicii spiralei prin brevetul în curs de evaluare (10) răspunsul la această investigație este instantaneu, clar și ușor de perceput, devenind răspunsul imediat al pacientului la programul de reabilitare;
- Posibilitatea aplicării ei în orice stadiu al reabilitării, începând cu faza imedit imobilizării și chiar în fazele imediat postoperatorii sau postlezionale (în cazul tratamentului conservator);
  - Accesibilitatea crescută:(10)
- Posibilitatea continuă de comparație cu membrul contralateral, considerată valoare de referință;
- Acest concept (D-CMF) asigură creșterea progresivă, deci, controlul asupra principiului progresivității din procesul de reabilitare;(4,5,6,)
  - Concept netraumatizant, poate fi aplicat ambulator, la domiciliul pacientului. (6,11)

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# METHODICS OF THE POSTTRAUMATIC BRACHIAL PLEXUS INJURIES REHABILITATION (CASE STUDY)

# METODICA RECUPERĂRII LEZIUNILOR POSTTRAUMATICE ALE PLEXULUI BRAHIAL (STUDIU DE CAZ)

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Key words: brachial plexus, traumatism, rehabilitation, methodics.

**Abstract.** The posttraumatic sequelae of brachial plexus nerve injuries require a complex approach from a medical (surgical, orthopaedic, and orthotic – if applicable) and physical therapeutic perspective, for the functional rehabilitation necessary to the professional and social reintegration of the patient.

Rehabilitation of this type of injury is highly difficult, considering the complexity of consecutive dysfunctions, which can cause major invalidity. The most important points in the therapeutic approach are the initial clinical and functional diagnosis, the objectives per phase, and the selection of the most effective means and methods.

It is necessary to instruct the patient and to persuade him to collaborate for the rehabilitation process *per se*, considering that making progresses is related both to the quality of the treatment and application monitored and guided by specialist, and to the outside setting, such as the patient's domicile. The observance of the generally valid principles in physical therapy, the use of proper means and methods, within a logical and methodical sequence, and of the possibilities and demands per phase (reflected in the results of assessments) are indeed necessary and they ensure the progress is well carried out, leading to an improvement or to the cure of this type of traumatism.

**Cuvinte cheie:** plex brahial, traumatism, recuperare, metodică

**Rezumat.** Sechelele posttraumatice ale leziunii nervoase a plexului brahial necesită o abordare complexă din punct de vedere medical (chirurgical, ortopedic și ortotic – dacă este cazul) și kinetoterapeutic, în vederea unei recuperări funcționale necesară pentru reintegrarea social și profesională a pacientului.

Recuperarea acestui tip de afecțiune este foarte dificilă, luînd în considerare complexitatea disfuncțiilor consecutive care pot produce invalidități majore. Punctele cheie ale abordării kinetoterapeutice sunt: diagnosticul inițial clinic și funcțional, stabilirea obiectivelor pe faze și selecția celor mai eficiente mijloace și metode.

Este necesar să instruim pacientul și să îl convingem să colaboreze în procesul de recuperare, având în vedere că obțierea rezultatelor este strâns legată atât de calitatea treatmentului oferit de o persoană specializată și de munca pacientului la domiciliu.

Observarea primncipiilor valide ale aplicării kinetoterapiei, folosirea unor mijloace și metode adecvateîn cadrul unor secvențe metodice logice, precum și respectarea cerințelor impuse de fiecare fază de recuperare (reflectate din rezultatele evaluării), sunt întradevăr necesare și asigură progresul pozitiv al pacientului cu acest tip de traumatism.

#### Introduction

For the posttraumatic sequelae of brachial plexus nerve injuries a complete recovery from a medical, surgical, orthopaedic, orthotic, physical therapy perspective is required, with professional and social integration purposes.

The rehabilitation of this type of injury is highly difficult, considering the complexity of consecutive dysfunctions related to nervous structure and functionality. The drawbacks for both patient and therapist include the uneven nerve rehabilitation of the damaged nerves (impossible

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to control individually), the manifestations of the disease, anaesthesias, trophic disorders, major invalidity, effects on the patient's psyche, and long-term treatment.

Brachial plexus is made up by the anastomosis of the anterior branches of the last four cervical nerves (C5–C8) and of the first dorsal rachidian nerve (T1). It is also irregularly supplied by the C4 and D2 anterior branches. The brachial plexus comprises the upper trunk made by the C5–C6 anterior branches, the middle trunk C7, and the lower trunk C8–D1. Each of the trunks subdivides into anterior and posterior branches. The superior anterior and middle branches of the trunks make up the lateral fascicle, the posterior ones – the posterior fascicle, while the anterior branch of the lower trunk makes up the medial fascicle. The brachial plexus has a supraclavicular side (the trunks) and an infraclavicular side (the fascicles). Fig. 1.

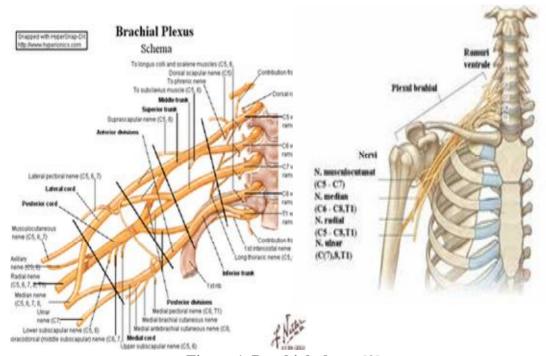


Figure 1. Brachial plexus [2]

The motor and sensitive roots of the brachial plexus for the muscles and teguments in the areas of the scapular belt and of the free extremity of the upper limb:

- C5 for the abductors, external rotators, and forearm extensors;
- C6 for the adductors, internal rotators, arm flexors, forearm extensors and pronators;
- C7 for the wrist extensors and the long extensors of the fingers;
- C8 for the wrist flexors the long flexor of the fingers;
- T1 for the hand intrinsic muscles [1]

The signal-generating spinal motor neuron, functions by the "all or nothing" law. The function of unidirectional transportation of the elaborated signal belongs to the axon and it occurs discontinuously, with ups and downs. The information is received on the presynaptic level, while the decoding is postsynaptic; the effect resulted for the functioning of the entire system, is the contraction of muscle fibre.

The brachial plexus can be affected on various levels, from the roots of spinal nerves to the terminal branches [3]

There are various causes for the brachial plexus injuries. The traumatic agents can be mechanic, toxic, thermal, ischaemic; compression is the most common physical–mechanic traumatic factor [4].

In case of traumatisms, nerve fibres may suffer various degrees of damage, which can be divided into three large categories:

- neurotmesis – complete cutting;

- axonotmesis important injury, but the basal lamina of the Schwann cell remains intact;
- neuropraxia short-term functional, sensory, and motor disorder.

Nerve injuries present a major interest considering that the functions of the damaged segments were altered; the recovery depends on the precision of the diagnostic, on the surgery performed, and on the rehabilitation treatment.

Nerve recovery depends on the level of the injury; the more proximal, the longer the recovery. Neurofibres generate differently: starting with the proximal segment, it occurs by 1.5 mm/day, in the injury area by 0.25 mm/day, and in the distal segment by 3–4 mm/day. [5]

Differential diagnosis of the posttraumatic injuries of the brachial plexus is apparent, taking into account the traumatic factor (compression, elongation, snatching) and the symptomatology: scapula–humeral luxation, head or neck of the humerus fracture.

The clinical examination, the X-rays, the electrodiagnosis methods – motor conduction velocity (MCV) and electromyography (EMG), CT-scan, can ensure the precision of the diagnosis. Peripheral nerve injuries determine three basic clinical syndromes: motor, sensory, and vasculotrophic.

Physical therapy is essential in ameliorating/treating them, and the intervention occurs on a long-term basis. [6,7,8]

#### Study objectives

The objectives set for the recovery of these complex injuries are as follows:

- preventing vicious attitudes, stiffness, and deformations;
- preventing muscle atrophies;
- re-educating reinnervated muscles;
- rehabilitating the kinaesthetic images of movement;
- rehabilitating sensitivity;
- preventing vasculotrophic disorders;
- re-educating movement and precision coordination;
- functional rehabilitation for professional activities [6]

#### **Hypothesis**

An early onset of the physical therapeutic treatment with the available means and methods: physical exercises, massage, electrotherapy, hydrothermal therapy, occupational therapy (OT) and ergotherapy (E) ensures the rehabilitation of the injured upper limb.

#### **Subjects and methods**

The study belongs to the following category: rehabilitation methodology – with practical applications – case study.

Research methods used – theoretical research, observation, anamnesis, exploration and assessment methods, kinesiotherapy-specific means and methods.

*Period of the study*: 19.10.2012–15.12.2012

The subject of this study – A.C. – is a female patient of the Clinical Recovery Hospital, Neurology and Neuromotor Recovery Clinic, aged 56. She had an accident at home (fall from height), which caused superior left-sided paralysis of the brachial plexus.

Functional clinical exam:

- kyphoscoliotic posture– functional (passive and voluntary recovery);
- motor deficit of the following muscles: deltoid, supraspinatus, infraspinatus, teres major, pectoralis major, and latissimus dorsi;
- functional deficit alteration of the flexion, abduction, arm adduction, internal and external rotation;
- reduced bicipital and tricipital reflex;
- muscular hypotonia of the scapula–humeral belt and of the arm;
- sensitivity disorders hypoesthesia on the external area of the arm and forearm.

#### Physical therapy programme

#### Phase I

#### Objectives:

- 1. Preventing joint stiffness and dysfunctional postures (preventing the humeral head subluxation).
- 2. Maintaining the trophicity of the paralyzed muscles.
- 3. Preventing vasculotrophic disorders.
- 4. Re-educating the paralyzed muscles.
- 5. Regaining functionality and ability.
- 6. Re-educating the sensitivity.
- 7. Obtaining a favourable physical and mental state.

Means used (in variable proportions) were adjusted to the momentary situation of the patient.

After a 14-day hospitalization period, the patient came in for the outpatient treatment and she performed at home the recommended programme and activities specific to occupational therapy.

#### Rehabilitation programme

- 1. Posturing the left upper limb with the help of an orthotics for shoulder and elbow in functional position: shoulder (60° abduction, 45° flexion), elbow (90° flexion), forearm in slight pronation.
- 2. Toning massage for the entire left upper limb and for the back, with a focus on the shoulder area.
- 3. The use of heat wrap treatments with paraffin for the left shoulder area.
- 4. Analytical passive mobilisations in all normal motion planes and axes.
- 5. Passive extension manoeuvres on the damaged muscles for the onset of the stretch reflex, followed by the execution of the voluntary movement *per se*.
- 6. Coordination exercises.
- 7. Electric stimulation of the muscles affected by paresis, with the active participation of the female patient, who voluntarily commands the movement.
- 8. Neuromuscular and proprioceptive facilitation techniques: "rhythmic initiation" (RI), "repeated contractions" (RC), "active movement with relaxation-opposition" (AMRO) for the damaged muscles.
- 9. Breathing exercises, associated with active mobilisations of the upper limbs and with gait exercises.
- 10. Correcting and maintaining the correct posture of the spine.
- 11. Active exercises comprising flexion, extension abduction, adduction, rotations, circumduction for: head, neck, trunk, lower limbs, executed in front of a mirror.
- 12. Exercises with objects: medicinal ball, skipping rope, circle, elastic bandage etc.
- 13. Exercises with apparatus: ergonomic device, stepper, treadmill.
- 14. Exercises for the re-educating sensitivity.
- 15. Longitudinal galvanisation left upper limb.

#### Phase II

#### Objectives:

- 1. Improving the muscular force of the scapular belt and of the entire limb.
- 2. Maintaining joint mobility.
- 3. Regaining coordination and movement ability.
- 4. Re-educating sensitivity.
- 5. Maintaining the correct posture of the spine.
- 6. Improving the breathing.
- 7. Maintaining a favourable physical and mental state.

In the second phase, the advice is to increase the loading (intensity and volume of the effort), increasing the complexity of exercises and focusing on individual work (active movements with objects and high endurance).

#### Rehabilitation programme

- 1. Toning massage for the entire left upper limb and for the back.
- 2. Breathing exercises accompanied by active movements of the upper limbs.
- 3. Exercises for posture correction in front of a mirror.
- 4. Various types of gait, while maintaining the correct position of the spine, hands to the back of the head (of while holding a cane).
- 5. Exercises with objects: medicinal ball, cudgels, skipping rope.
- 6. Pulley therapy.
- 7. Kabat diagonals executed unilaterally and bilaterally, symmetrically and asymmetrically.
- 8. General gymnastics exercises involving all segments
- 9. Exercises with apparatus: treadmill, ergonomic device, stepper, ramer
- 10. Free breathing and gait exercises
- 11. Hydrotherapy
- 12. Exercises for the re-education of sensitivity

#### **Results**

Individual assessment had been made in the initial and final phase in relation to the evolution dynamics.

Result assessment at the end of *phase I* of the rehabilitation:

- 1. The force of the muscles innervated by the branches of the upper brachial plexus increased from  $F_2$  to  $F_3$ , as illustrated in Table I.
- 2. An improvement in the tone of the damaged muscle.
- 3. An improvement of the motor control on the level of the damaged muscles.
- 4. Maintaining the correct posture of the entire body.
- 5. The patient uses the left upper limb for household activities.

#### Final assessment

- 1. An increase in the force of the damaged muscles from  $F_4$  to  $F_5$ .
- 2. Regaining coordination and movement ability.
- 3. Sensitivity testing underlines that things are back to normal.
- 4. An improvement of the incorrect posture of the spine.
- 5. An improvement in the patient's physical and mental state.

By improving the tone, fore, and mobility, and by reducing the hypoesthesia areas, the female patient is presently capable of training her left upper limb with complete exercises.

For the patient, occupational therapy (knitting and sewing) has represented an additional helping method in the recovery of the normal functions of the left upper limb. The global assessment of the upper limbs denotes that the patient can resume her household duties.

Table I. Muscular force assessment (of the left upper limb)

Muscle	Force		
	19.10.2012	12.11.2012	15.12.2012
Deltoid	2	3	4
Supraspinatus	2	3	4
Infraspinatus	2	3	4
Teres major	2	3	4
Pectoralis major	3	4	5
Latissimus dorsi	2	2+	3
Forearm flexors	4+	5	5
Forearm extensors	4+	5	5
Supinators	4+	5	5

Pronators	4+	5	5
Wrist flexors	4+	5	5
Wrist extensors	4	5	5
Flexors of the fingers	4+	5	5
Extensors of the fingers	4+	5	5
Adductors of the fingers	4	5	5
Abductors of the fingers	4+	5	5

Table II. Global motor assessment, for both upper limbs

Action		Left upper limb		
	upper	19.10	12.11	15.12
	limb	2012	2012	2012
1. Taking the hand to the mouth	5	2	3	4
2. Taking the hand to the clavicle on the same side	5	1	2	3
3. Taking the hand to the opposite knee	5	4	4	5
4. Arm abduction below the horizontal	5	1	3	4
5. Arm abduction above the horizontal	5	0	1	2
6. Taking the hand to the back	5	0	1	2
7. Forearm pronation and supination	5	5	5	5
8. Compete closing and opening of the hand	5	5	5	5
9. Grabbing and letting go of an object	5	5	5	5
10. Cylindrical prehension	5	5	5	5
11. Hand – opposite shoulder	5	1	2	3
12. Hand – back of the head	5	0	1	2
13. Distance between fingers and C <sub>7</sub> apophysis	5	0	0.5	1
Total score	65	29	32.5	46

Table III. Testing the tactile, thermal, and pain sensitivity in the cutaneous areas corresponding to the  $C_4$ - $D_1$  roots

Innervation	Right upper limb	Left upper limb		
		19.10.2012	12.11.2012	15.12.2012
$C_4$	2	2	2	2
$C_5$	2	1	1	2
$C_6$	2	1	1	2
C <sub>7</sub>	2	2	2	2
C <sub>8</sub>	2	2	2	2
$D_1$	2	2	2	2

(0= absent, 1= reduced, hypoesthesia, 2= normal)

#### **Discussions**

The main objective in the first rehabilitation phase was an increase in the muscular force (from  $F_2$  to  $F_3$ ) of the most damaged muscles – deltoid and supraspinatus, but also of the other damaged muscles, thus leading to regaining a good level of movement execution, in terms of range of motion and complexity.

Following phase II of the rehabilitation, the final assessment indicated a significant improvement in the muscular force, thus regaining coordination and the possibility of performing the ADL with no difficulty.

Sensitivity testing has shown that things got back to normal; moreover, the clinical exam showed an improvement of the general body posture, as well as of the physical and mental state.

#### **Conclusions**

- 1. The correct clinical and functional diagnosis represents the premise of a correct therapeutic behaviour.
- 2. The physical therapy treatment with an early onset has good results in the case of brachial plexus paralysis.

- 3. It is necessary to set objectives for each rehabilitation phase, correlated with the progresses obtained after the clinical–functional exam.
- 4. The programme elaborated for functional rehabilitation of the damaged upper limb proved to be effective, and the assessment results confirm it.
- 5. It is necessary to instruct the patient at the beginning of the program in order for him/her to be cooperative and aware of his/her own contribution to the recovery.
- 6. Applying a complex treatment, by suing kinesiotherapy-specific means combined with electrotherapy, thermal therapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy, the rehabilitation rhythm was accelerated, and it took the patient less time to resume her normal activity (statistics has shown that the posttraumatic recovery of the brachial plexus requires a longer period, depending on the gravity of the diagnosis).

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# PATTERN OF MCKENZIE SYNDROMES AND DIRECTIONAL PREFERENCE IN PATIENTS WITH LONG-TERM MECHANICAL LOW-BACK PAIN

# PATTERNUL SINDROMULUI MCKENZIE ȘI PREFERINȚELE DIRECȚIONALE LA PACIENȚII CU DURERI LOMBARE JOASE MECANICE CRONICE

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**Key words:** McKenzie syndromes, directional preference, mechanical low-back pain, physical therapy

Abstract. Objectives. Failure of the plenitude of

interventions in non-specific mechanical low-back pain (LBP) management is implicated on its heterogeneity. Identifying specific syndromes and subgroups of patients with mechanical LBP has been recognized as a recent development in LBP research. This study aimed to assess the pattern of McKenzie syndromes (MS) and directional preference (DP) of patients who were referred for physical therapy treatment of mechanical LBP. Methods. Eighty nine (48.3% consenting patients reporting males) mechanical LBP persisting for at least 3 months participated in the study. MS and DP were McKenzie-trained determined by faculty Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy. The participants' symptoms and mechanical responses to repeated endrange movement or sustained postures were classified as derangement, dysfunction, or postural syndromes. DP is defined as the movement or posture that decreases or centralizes pain that emanates from the spine and/or increases range of movement. Data were summarized using descriptive statistics. Results. The participants' ages ranged between 38 and 62 years. Prevalence of MS was 79.8%, 6.7% and 13.5% for derangement, dysfunction and postural syndromes. 94.4% of the participants had DP for extension, 3.4% for flexion while 2.2% had no direction preference at all. The participants' mean functional disability and

pain intensity score on a scale of 0-10 was 5.43 ±

1.44 and  $6.55 \pm 1.75$  respectively. **Conclusion.** 

Derangement was the most prevalent McKenzie

syndromes in patients with long-term mechanical

low-back pain. Therapeutic movement or posture in

extension seems to be the most appropriate

intervention for majority of these patients.

Cuvinte cheie: sindrom McKenzie, preferințe direcționale, durere mecanică lombară joasă, kinetoterapie

Rezumat. Objective. Eșecul multitudinii interventiilor în mangementul durerii nespecifice lombare joase (DLJ) este implicat heterogenitatea sa. Identificarea sindroamelor specifice și a subgrupelor de subiecți cu DLJ mecanică a fost recunoscut ca având o dezvoltare recentă în studiul DLJ. Studiul urmăreste evaluarea patternului sindromului McKenzie (SM) și preferințele direcționale (PD) la pacienții care fac kinetoterapie pentru această afecțiune.

Metode: 89 subiecți, 48.3% bărbați, cu dureri lombare persistente de cel puțin 3 luni, au participat în acest studiu. SM și PD au fost determinate la facultatea McKenzie, specializată în diagnoză mecanică și treapie. Simptomele participanților și răspunsurile mecanice la mișcări complete repetate sau la posture sustinute au fost clasificate ca și deranjamente, disfuncții sau sindroame posturale. PD este definit ca miscarea sau postura care reduce sau centralizează durerea de la nivelul coloanei și/sau crește amplitudinea de mişcare. Pentru prelucrarea datelor s-a folosit statistica descriptivă. Rezultate. Subiecții au vârste între 38 și 62 ani. Prevalența SM este de 79.8%, 6.7% şi 13.5% pentru deranjamente, disfuncții și sindrom postural. 94.4% dintre subjecți au avut PD pentru extensie, 3.4% pentru flexie, 2.2% fără PD. Scorurile pentru disabilitate funcțională și durere, pe o scală de la 0-10 a fost  $5.43\pm1.44$  $6.55\pm1.75$ . şi Concluzii. Deranjamentul a avut cea mai mare prevalență în sindromul McKenzie la pacienții cu dureri cornice lombare joase.cMiscările terapeutice sau postura în extensie pare să fie ce mai potrivită intervenție pentru majoritatea pacienților.

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#### Introduction

Low-Back Pain (LBP) is described as the constellation of symptoms of pain or discomfort originating from the lumbar spine with or without sciatica [1, 2]. It is a complicated condition which affects the physiological and psychosocial aspects of the patient [3] and it is characterized by exacerbated nociceptive sensations, impaired physical performance and work disability [4]. LBP is typically classified as being specific or non-specific [5]. Non-specific LBP refers to mechanical back pain of musculoskeletal origin in which symptoms vary with physical activity [6]. However, mechanical LBP has maintained a defiant stance against most therapeutic approaches and constitutes a challenge to clinicians and researchers.

Exercises of various types have been used in managing mechanical LBP with varying reported successes [7]. Still, there does not appear to be a consensus of opinion on the most effective exercise programme. Failure of the plenitude of interventions in non-specific mechanical low-back pain (LBP) management is implicated on its heterogeneity. Investigators posited that heterogeneity of patient samples in many trials on exercise in LBP could account for possible flaws and lack of support for the prescription of specific exercise programs observed in much of the previous research [8-10]. Sub-grouping of patients with LBP according to their signs and symptoms where treatment is then prescribed according to these subgroups is considered as an important advance in the management of LBP [8-10].

Different types of classification systems for low-back troubles have been developed varying degrees of clinical applicability [11-14]. However, there is no agreement among the clinicians on an acceptable classification system [15]. One of the more commonly used methods of sub-grouping amongst physical therapists in the Western countries is the McKenzie method [8, 10, 16-19]. Although, the McKenzie method is a popular classification-based treatment for LBP with documented effectiveness [19-22], there is an apparent scarcity of studies on its use among patients with long-term mechanical LBP from the Sub-Sahara Africa.

The McKenzie method entails the assessment and classification of patients into one of three mechanical syndromes (postural, dysfunction and derangement). This method is based on the patient's pain response to certain movements and postures during assessment. During assessment, the physical therapist identifies the patient's directional preference. Directional preference is defined as the movement or posture that decreases or centralizes pain that emanates from the spine and/or increases range of movement [23]. There is a growing body of literature on the McKenzie's Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy using the centralization and directional preference principles [19, 24-28]. However, studies reporting pattern of McKenzie mechanical syndromes and directional preference of patients with mechanical LBP are scant in the literature. However, identifying specific syndromes in mechanical LBP has been recognized as a recent development in LBP management and research. This study aimed to assess the pattern of McKenzie syndromes and directional preference of patients who were referred for physical therapy treatment of mechanical LBP.

#### **Materials and Methods**

Eighty nine (48.3% males) consecutive patients referred for physical therapy for non-specific long-term LBP were recruited from the physiotherapy department, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Teaching Hospital and the department of Medical Rehabilitation, OAU Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Eligibility to take part in the study was determined using the McKenzie Institute's Lumbar Spine Assessment Format (MILSAF). Long-term low-back pain was defined as a history of LBP persisting for more at least 3 months. Exclusion criteria were red flags indicative of serious spinal pathology with signs and symptoms of nerve root compromise (with at least two of these signs: dermatomal sensory loss, myotomal muscle weakness, reduced lower limb reflexes) [29]. Patients were also excluded if they were under age 18 or failed to give consent. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the joint University of Ibadan/University College Hospital Institutional Review Committee (Ref no.: UI/UC/10/0194) and the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex Ethical Review Committee (Reg no.: ERC/2010/01/02)

respectively. The researchers (CEM and OA) in this study were credentialed physical therapists in the McKenzie's Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy.

#### **Procedure**

The participants were assessed for directional preference. This involved 5-10 sets of repeated movements in extension, flexion and lateral flexion (right and left) while the participants' symptomatic and mechanical responses were assessed. All the movement assessment was done to end range i.e. the point at which the patient's range is limited for any reason. Assessment in extension or flexion was in two variants depending on the patients' preference [14, 30].

#### The extension assessment

- 1. Extension in Prone: The participant lay in prone position, placed his/her hands under his/her shoulders in the press—up position. The participant was then instructed to straighten his/her elbows and push the top half of his/her body up as far as pain could permit. He/she maintained the extended position for at least one second but not more than 2 seconds [14, 30].
- 2. Extension in standing: The participant stood upright with the feet slightly apart and placed his/her hands in the small of his/her back with the fingers pointing backwards. The participant was then instructed to stretch the trunk backwards at the waist level as far as he/she could, using the hands as a fulcrum while keeping the knees straight [14, 30].

#### The flexion assessment

- 1. Flexion in lying: The participant lay in supine position with his/her knees bent and feet flat on the plinth and brought both knees up towards the chest. The participant was then instructed to place both hands around the knees and gently but firmly pull the knees as close to the chest as pain could permit, while his/her head remained on the plinth. The knees were kept bent in retuning to the starting position.
- 2. Flexion in Sitting: The participant sat on the edge of a sturdy chair with his/her knees and feet well apart with the hands resting between the legs. The participant was then instructed to bend the trunk forward and to attempt to touch the floor with his/her hands and to return immediately to the starting position [14, 30].

#### The lateral flexion assessment

Lateral flexion movement of the trunk to the right and left sides were also performed. The participant stood upright with the feet slightly apart and placed his/her hands in the small of his/her back with the fingers pointing backwards. The participant was then instructed to bend the trunk sideways with the arm pointing to the floor as far as he/she could while the contralateral hip swayed to the opposite direction while keeping the knees straight.

Following the repeated-movement testing, the participants were asked whether pain was centralizing or peripheralizing during and after movements or there was no effect. The participants' mechanical response to repeated movements was used to establish their directional preference. Information such as age, gender, educational level, occupation, marital status, onset of back pain, recurrence, duration of complaint, were recorded for each participant accordingly [14, 30].

#### Results

The participants' ages ranged between 38 and 62 years. The participants' mean functional disability and pain intensity score on a scale of 0-10 was  $5.43 \pm 1.44$  and  $6.55 \pm 1.75$  respectively. 68.7% of the participants had been off work because of current episode of the LBP. The demographic and clinical characteristics of the participants are presented in Table 1. The result indicated that difficulty with sitting (48.3%) and cooking 24.7% were the most impaired functional and leisure activity. The profile of the participants based symptoms, aggravating factors; previous episodes and treatment sought are presented in Table 2. From the result, symptoms affected the back mostly (54.0%), was made worse by bending (54.0%), affected

sleep (37.1%) and was relieved by lying down (65.2%). All participants have had a previous history of LBP but mostly (42.7%) within 6 to 10 months.

Table 3 shows that pattern of posture, movements, McKenzie syndromes and directional preference. The prevalence of McKenzie syndromes was 79.8%, 6.7% and 13.5% for derangement, dysfunction and postural syndrome respectively. 68(95.8%) of the participants with derangement syndrome presented with posterior derangement and demonstrated directional preference for extension. 94.4% of all the participants had directional preference for extension, 3.4% for flexion while 2.3% had no direction preference at all. 2(16.7%) of the participants with postural syndrome demonstrated no directional preference at all.

#### **Discussion**

This study used the McKenzie algorithm in the classification of patients referred for physical therapy treatment of mechanical LBP. From the result, difficulty with sitting was the most reported functional disability among the patients. This finding is consistent with previous reports that showed that exacerbation of pain by movement or by prolonged sitting or standing were the most common complaints of patients with mechanical LBP [31-33]. Majority of the participants reported that the symptoms at onset mostly affected the back and that pain was made worse by bending forward but was often relieved when in the lying position even though it affected sleep. Furthermore, the finding of this study showed that cooking was the most affected leisure activity of the patients. This finding is in agreement with a study by De Souza and Frank [34] who reported difficulty with cooking as one of the physical disabilities of patients with chronic LBP.

All the participants in this study have had a previous history of LBP but most of them had positive history of recurrent LBP. Recurrent LBP is defined as a new episode after a symptom-free period of six months [35]. In line with literature, it is suggested that LBP often becomes a chronic problem, with recurrent episodes of minor or severe LBP symptoms interspersed with periods of being relatively pain-free [36]. The challenge of recurrence associated with chronic LBP underscores episodic nature of LBP, therefore clinicians are advised to seek appropriate interventions that would not only alleviate acute symptoms but also help to prevent recurrence [37]. The profile of the patients in this study also indicated that mechanical LBP was a major reason for work absenteeism. This concurs with previous reports that long-term LBP is a major cause of back-related work absenteeism [38, 39].

The pattern of McKenzie syndromes observed in this study showed that 79.8%, of the participants had derangement syndrome, 6.7% had dysfunction syndrome and 13.5% had postural syndrome. The prevalence of syndromes of mechanical LBP observed in this study is similar to the trends reported in the few available studies among patients with mechanical LBP. Kilby et al [40] in a study among 41 patients found the prevalence of 42.7%, 22% and 2.4% for derangement, dysfunction and postural syndromes respectively. Riddle and Rothstein [41] in a study among 363 patients found a prevalence of 52.9%, 34.7% and 9.6% for derangement, dysfunction and postural syndromes respectively. Razmjou et al [42] in a study among 45 patients found 86.7%, 4.4% and 2.2% for derangement, dysfunction and postural syndromes respectively, while Kilpikoski et al [43] in a study among 39 patients found 90% and 2% for derangement and dysfunction syndromes respectively. A common trend among all the cited studies is the preponderance of derangement syndrome in patients with mechanical LBP. Furthermore, the pattern of directional preference of the participants in this study showed that 94.4% had direction preference for extension, 3.4% had direction preference for flexion, while 2.3% had no direction preference at all. The pattern of direction preference found in this study is comparable to a study by Hefford [24] who found 70% and 6% direction preference for extension and flexion respectively among 140 patients with mechanical LBP. Similarly, another study by Glover and May [10] found extension as the most common directional preference (83%) among 28 patients who had mechanical assessment. A further analysis showed that 95.8% of the participants with derangement syndrome presented with posterior derangement and

demonstrated directional preference for extension. This finding corroborates a previous report that directional preference and centralization occur only in the substantial derangement group [23]. This result implies that LBP subgroup with derangement may present with a good prognosis with extension exercise.

The results of this study support previous research reports that non-specific or mechanical LBP is not a homogeneous entity but stressed the need for sub-grouping of patients based on directional preference [26, 28, 45, 46]. It is believed that the fact that much of the current research has investigated the management of LBP as a homogenous group could account for the lack of support for the prescription of specific exercise programs [10]. This study found different homogenous subgroup of syndromes in patients with LBP and determined specific treatments that may utilized. Furthermore, the result of study confirms the findings of other investigators about the pattern of McKenzie syndromes and directional preference in patients with long-term mechanical LBP. A potential limitation of this study was that the classification was based on the first assessment of each patient. Some researchers have suggested that in some cases, classification may be better judged over several visits [27]. However, McKenzie's directional preference determination is often times based on repeated movement or posture in order to confirm mechanical responses of patients.

#### **Conclusion**

Derangement was the most prevalent McKenzie syndromes in patients with long-term mechanical low-back pain. Therapeutic movement or posture in extension seems to be the most appropriate intervention for majority of these patients. Posterior derangement was the most preponderant type of derangement with exclusive directional preference for extension. The result of this study may guide decision making in the selection of interventions for patients with mechanical LBP and help improve physical therapy outcome. The profile of McKenzie syndromes and directional preference observed in this study is consistent with previous studies.

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# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISABILITY, PAIN INTENSITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC NECK PAIN

## RELAȚIA DINTRE DISABILITATE, INTENSITATEA DURERII ȘI CALITATEA VIEȚII LA PACIENȚII CU DURERE CERVICALĂ CRONICĂ

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**Key words:** Chronic Neck Pain, Neck Disability Index, Quality of Life.

**Abstract**. Objective: This study was conducted to determine the relationship between disability, pain intensity and quality of life in patients with chronic neck pain.

Methodology. One hundred patients suffering from chronic neck pain for at least six months (71 female-29 male) were evaluated in this study. A Visual Analog Scale was used to describe pain intensity. The Neck Disability Index (NDI) was used to evaluate disability level. To determine the quality of life of the subjects, the SF-36 survey was used.

Results. The mean age of the participants was 44.13±12.22 years. Mean of pain duration was 40.66±41.86 month. Mean pain intensity at rest 4.86±2.92, intensity of pain during activity 6.74±2.75, intensity of night pain 5.56±3.45. Mean NDI score was 42.20±18.29. The results of this study showed that the NDI scores were highly correlated with scores of the subscales of SF-36 (p<0.01). The NDI scores also showed a positive correlation with night pain, pain at rest, and pain during activity (p<0.01). However, NDI scores were not correlated with pain duration.

Conclusion. The results of this study indicate that increased disability level in patients with chronic neck pain leads to decreased quality of life. **Cuvinte cheie:** durere cervicală cronică, Neck Disability Index, calitatea vieții.

**Rezumat.** Obiective: Acest studio are ca scop determinarea relației dintre disabilitate, intensitatea durerii și calitatea vieții, la pacienții cu durere cronică lombară.

Metodologie. O sută de pacienți cu durre cronică lombară de cel puțin 6 luni (71 femei - 29 bărbați) au fost evaluați în acest studiu. Scala analogă vizuală s-a utilizat pentru a descrie intensitatea durerii. Neck Disability Index (NDI) s-a folosit pentru evaluarea nivelului disabilității iar pentru evaluarea calității vieții s-a folosit chestionarul SF-36.

Rezultate: Media de vârstă a participanților a fost 44.13±12.22 ani. DUrata medie a intensității durerii a fost de 40.66±41.86 luni. Intensitatea medie a durerii în repaus a fost de 4.86±2.92, intensitatea durerii în timpul activității 6.74±2.75 iar intensiattea durerii pe perioada nopții 5.56±3.45. Scorul mediu pentru NDI a fost 42.20±18.29. Rezultatele acestui studiu au arătat că scorurile NDI au prezentat o corelație semnificativă scorurile cu chestionarului SF-36 (p<0.01). Scorurile NDI au avut o corelație semnificativă cu durerea din perioada nopții, în repaus și în timpul activității (p<0.01). Oricum, scorurile NDI nu s-au corelat cu durata durerii.

Concluzii. Rezultatele acestui studio indică faptul că un nivel crescut de disabilitate la pacienții cu durere cronică cervicală determină reducerea calității vieții.

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#### Introduction

Chronic neck pain is a common condition experienced by up to 70% of people some time during their lives. Neck pain is also one of the most frequent health problems in adults. [1,2] It is affected not only by an increase pain intensity, but also a decrease in quality of life (QOL) and disability level. [2,3,4] Chronic neck pain leads to dysfunction in the daily activities of the subjects due to effects on upper extremity functions. The impact of neck problems on quality of life is two-fold; they affect not only physical health but also the mental health. [5,6]

It has been reported in some studies that quality of life decrease in patients with chronic neck pain.[7,8] Other studies have revealed that there is a negative correlation between the intensity of pain and quality of life. <sup>9</sup> Chronic pain also leads to anxiety, increased depressive symptoms and restraints in social activities. [9,10,11]

This study was conducted to determine the relationship between disability, pain intensity and quality of life in patients with chronic neck pain.

#### Methodology

A total of 100 patients with chronic neck pain sustained for at least six months (71 females/29 males) were evaluated at Pamukkale University, Medical Faculty and Neurosurgery Department between January-June 2011. They were aged between 20-60 years. Chronic neck pain (degenerative joint disease, disc herniation, tension, and nonspecific neck pain or strain), except for any disease diagnosed was not included in the study.

As well as demographic characteristics, patient education level, pain duration, alcohol consumption and smoking and exercise statuswere evaluated. In addition, Visual Pain Scale, Neck Disability Index and SF-36 Quality of Life Questionnaire were used, respectively.

**Visual Analog Scale (VAS):** Pain intensity was assessed using to the VAS. VAS consist of horizontal line 100 mm in length (0= No pain, 100= Most severe pain). The patient marks on the line the point that they feel represents their perception of their current state. [12] The severity of pain during rest, during activity pain and night pain was evaluated using the Visual Analog Scale (VAS).

**Neck Disability Index (NDI):** The Neck Disability Index was applied to detect disability status. The NDI consists of 10 items; pain intensity, personal care, lifting, sleeping, driving, recreation, headaches, concentration, reading and work. The 10 items, with six possible answers in each, are scored 0 (no activity limitations) to 5 (major activity limitations) and summed up to yield a total score. [13]

Quality of Life Scale (SF-36): Quality of life was assessed using to the SF-36. This generic rating scale has 36 items intended to reflect aspects of health from the perspective of the patient. The SF-36 assumes that 35 of its items can be grouped into eight scales: Physical functioning, Role limitation, Bodily Pain, social functioning, General mental health, Role limitation due to emotional problems, Energy level and General health perceptions. Total scores may range from 0 to 100. Each scales ranging from 0 (presence of all problems) to 100 (no problems at all) within a dimension. The SF-36 was adapted into Turkish by Koçyiyitet al with acceptable reliability and validity findings. [14]

#### Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using the Statistical package for the Social Sciences (SPSS version 16.0). Pearson's correlation analyses were used on the relationship between the Neck Disability Index, SF-36 and Pain. A level of p< 0.05 was considered significant.

#### **Results**

Themean age of patients was 44.13±12.22 years. The Demographic Characteristics of the patients are shown in table 1. Characteristics of studygroups,75 % had primary education and 25 % were university graduates. Of the patients, 75 % reported no smoking, 95 % reported no alcohol consumption, and 82 % stated that they did not take regular exercise. Of the patients, 50 % were housewives, 35% were civil servants, 10 % were self-employed, and 5 % were students.

Mean pain duration was  $40.89\pm41.67$  months (Table 2) and mean working time was  $10.44\pm1.98$  hours (Table 1). Mean pain intensity at rest was  $4.86\pm2.92$ , intensity of pain during activity was  $6.74\pm2.75$  and intensity of night pain was  $5.56\pm3.45$ . Mean NDI score was  $42.20\pm18.29$  (Table 2). The results of quality of life (SF-36) are given in table 2.

The results of this study showed that the NDI scores were negatively correlated with scores of subscales (overall health status, physical function, social function, physical role function, emotional role function, pain, energy and mental health) of SF-36 (p<0.01). (Table 3.) The NDI scores also showed a positive correlation with pain at rest, pain during activity and subscales (pain) of SF-36 (Table 3).

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Patients.

Variables	Min-Max	X±SD
Age (yr)	20.00-60.00	44.13±12.22
Height (cm)	150-195	$164.67 \pm 0.08$
Weight (kg)	47-100	71.92±13.87
$BMI (Kg/m^2)$	16.31-41.62	$26.67\pm5.32$
Work Duration	3-16	10.44±1.98
(Day/Hours)	3-10	10.44±1.96
Gender	n	%
Woman	71	71
Male	29	29
Profession		
Housewife	50	50
Officer	35	35
Self- Employed	10	10
Student	5	5
<b>Educational Level</b>		
Primary	75	75
University graduates	25	25

Table 2. The mean values of Pain, SF-36 and Neck Disability Index

Variables	X±SD
Pain İntensity	
Pain Duration (Month)	40.89±41.67
During at rest	$4.86 \pm 2.92$
During activity	$6.74\pm2.75$
At night	5.56±3.45
SF-36	
Overall Health Status	41.07±18.66
Physical Function	56.98±22.63
Social Function	$55.46\pm25.74$
Physical Role Function	24.61±36.10
<b>Emotional Role Function</b>	41.04±45.02
Pain	$40.39\pm21.73$
Energy	$43.95\pm20.03$
Mental Health	$49.40\pm20.20$
Neck Disability Index (NDI)	42.20±18.29

Table 3.Relationship	between the	e Neck Disability	Index,SF-36 and Pain
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Neck Disability Index(NDI)			
Variables	r	P	
SF- 36			
Overall Health Status	-0.399	0.000	
Physical Function	-0.471	0.000	
Social Function	-0.489	0.000	
Physical Role Function	-0.275	0.006	
<b>Emotional Role Function</b>	-0.277	0.005	
Pain	-0.204	0.042	
Energy	-0.330	0.001	
Mental Health	-0.288	0.004	
Pain			
At Rest Pain	0.228	0.022	
<b>During Activity</b>	0.302	0.002	
At Night Pain	0.435	0.000	
Pain Duration	0.090	0.372	

<sup>\*</sup>Pearson correlation analysis

#### Discussion

Neck pain is a frequent source of disability causing human suffering and affecting the well-being of individuals. Just as health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, neck pain is associated with many health problems. Chronic neck pain has been shown to be associated with a decrease in quality of life in several studies. [7,8,9]

This study showed that the NDI scores also showed a positive correlation with intensity ofnight pain, pain at rest, and pain during activity (p<0.01). NDI scores were negatively correlated with scores of subscales (overall health status, physical function, social function, physical role function, emotional role function, pain, energy and mental health) of SF-36 (p<0.01). Earlier cross-sectional studies revealed that neck pain is shown to be associated with a decrease in HRQoL. [15,16,17,18] Lin et al. evaluated pain intensity, quality of life and psychological status in 52 patients with chronic neck pain. It was reported that most patients had moderate pain intensity and they had a decrease in quality of life level to below that of the healthy subjects. <sup>17</sup>In our study, there was a negative correlation between the quality of life (Emotional Role Function) and NDI, the NDI also showed a positive correlation with pain characteristics. Lame et al. [10] investigated 1208 patients with chronic neck pain; they found that the quality of life level was decreased, particularly subscales of QOL (social function, mental health and overall health status). In our study, there were a positive correlation between the quality of life and pain intensity. Other studies reported that the intensity of pain was very higher in females. [1, 3, 10] We have found that 71% of their patients were female, and our results are similar to with literature.

Rezai et al. stated that the increased intensity of pain was associated with deterioration in overall health status in patients with neck pain. [18] According to Luo et al. level of quality of life decreased in 69% of patients and in addition to musculoskeletal pain was increased pain. [19] We found that the level of quality of life was lower in patients with chronic neck pain. Also there were a correlation between intensity of pain and quality of life (p<0.05).

Chronic pain and physical dysfunctions increased disability levels. Yıldız et al. found that the higher the pain intensity that was obtained the higher the Neck Disability Index scores. [13] Herman and Reese. found that there was a highly positive relationship between the increase in pain severity and Neck Disability Index scores. Similar findings were reported by Chiu et al. [20] a positive relationship was also found between the pain intensity and the Neck Disability Index. Our study supported that when pain intensity was increasing the disability level was raised.

# Conclusion

The conclusion of our study is that chronic neck pain negatively impacts on overall health status and the causes of dysfunctions due to an increase in intensity of pain and decreasing of level quality of life. We recommended that improving quality of life and preventing disability in chronic neck pain patients must be motivated for regular exercise.

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# INFLUENȚELE DETERMINATE DE MEDIUL DE PROVENIENȚĂ ȘI ACTIVITATEA PRFESIONALĂ ÎN RECUPERAREA HEMIPLEGIEI SPASTICE DUPĂ ACCIDENT VASCULAR CEREBRAL

# INFLUENCES DETERMINED BY THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE RECOVERY OF SPASTIC HEMIPLEGIA AFTER STROKE

Camelia Daniela Plăstoi<sup>1</sup>, Valentin Papuc<sup>2</sup>

**Key words:** professional activity, treatment, hemiparesis, stroke

**Cuvinte cheie:** activitate profesională, tratament, hemipareză, accident vascular cerebral

Abstract. In this research objectives we proposed was the recuperation of motor deficit and recuperated the autonomy of walking ability. As a result of the physical therapy programme applied, associated with the medicine treatment, better results have been obtained in all of the 23 cases studied these being but different depending on the environment of origin and professional activity of the patient. Results. As a result of the treatment applied, 87% of the patients recuperated the autonomy of walking and 71% recuperated the capacity of taking care of themselves. This issue and the results present prove the great importance of physical therapy in the recuperation of paralysis of a half of the body patients. Conclusions. Environment of origin has a major role in the installation of a unable to move putting on the imprint on recovering what must be done through a program physical therapy associated with medicinal treatment. The installation a unable to move at the body may be subject to recovery by methods physical therapy associated with a medication. Recovery patients with such a unable to move depends, among other things, and the professional activity of the one who has suffered such an accident. Environment of origin and professional activity are important landmarks in the event of a unable to move determines a recovery of the patients divided according to them.

În Rezumat. această obiectivele propuse au fost recuperarea după instalarea unui deficit motor și redobândirea abilității de a merge. În urma programului kinetoterapeutic aplicat, asociat cu tratamentul medicamentos, rezultatele favorabile s-au obtinut în toate cele 23 de cazuri studiate acestea fiind însă diferite în funcție de mediul de proveniență și activitatea profesională a pacientului. Rezultate. Ca rezultat al tratamentului aplicat, 87% dintre pacienți si-au recuperat autonomia de mers pe jos și 71% au recăpătat capacitatea de a avea grija de ei inșiși. Această problemă, precum și rezultatele prezentate evidențiază marea importantă a kinetoterapiei în recuperarea pacienților hemiplegici. Concluzii. Mediul de proveniență are un rol major în situația instalării unui deficit motor punându-și amprenta asupra recuperării ce trebuie făcută printr-un program kinetoterapeutic asociat cu tratamentul medicamentos. Instalarea unui deficit motor la nivelul organismului poate fi supus recuperării prin metode kinetoterapeutice asociate cu un tratament medicamentos. Recuperarea pacienților cu un astfel de deficit motor depinde, printre altele, și de activitatea profesională a celui care a suferit un astfel de accident. Mediul de provenientă si activitatea profesională sunt repere importante ce în situația apariției unui deficit motor determină o recuperare defalcată a pacienților în funcție de acestea.

# Introduction

The environmental origin and professional activity generate a series of skills which define the man in society.[1] Depending on the risk the professional activity implies injuries may

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occur [1, 2] In case of a stroke (A.V.C) the ischemic cerebral tissue quickly loses its function, but it can remain viable, with recovery potential, for several hours [3,4,5]

If the medical intervention is on time the chances of recovery are higher but only if medical treatment is given and it is associated with an appropriate physical therapy program. [6]

Very important is their reintegration into family, social and professional life if possible. Therefore, patients with stroke recovery is a science and an art and also a teamwork for each patient with stroke, which includes the participation of the neurologist doctor, in collaboration with colleagues from internal medicine, psychiatry, in collaboration with a psychologist, speech therapist and a physiotherapist specializing in specific recovery methods in association with a masseur is a prerequisite since the patient is hospitalized. [7,8]

Functional disorder of stroke is primarily characterized by paralysis of a half of the body, which means loss of voluntary motility on half of the body or paralysis of a half of the body - weakness or easy paralysis on one part of the body. Cerebral vascular paralysis of a half of the body has a sudden onset and it is slowly progressive and partly regressive. This development has two phases: an initial phase (limp) lasting hours or days later on status (spastic), which takes longer. [9]

The recovery of hemiplegia places a great emphasis on capacity of the movement rehabilitation, the patient's engrams during stroke being deleted, and the patient begins to act as a newborn with the affected side. He is learning to move his limbs to turn on one side to the other, to get up and walk.

It is necessary that the recovery program is developed and applied as early as the close cooperation between neurologist, physicians of different specialties and physical therapist which may later enable the development of an individualized and standardized chiropractic program. [6, 8]

The objectives that we pursue and we take into account are the influenced by the area of origin and professional activity which refer to the motor deficit recovery, reducing the spasticity and recovery of the patient's ability to walk.

The material was represented by a group of 23 patients with paralysis of a half of the body or hemiparesis of spastic cerebral ischemic infarction after middle cerebral artery. This diagnosis was established after the objective clinical examination and neurological examination, which also revealed the presence of central motor signs syndrome: motor deficit in varying degrees, reflexes (ROT), increased muscle tone, positive Babinsky sign.

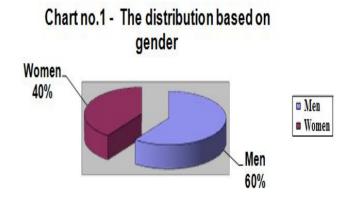
Patients were hospitalized and treated for 2 weeks in the Clinical Recovery Hospital. Their distribution was based on gender, age, profession and area of origin.

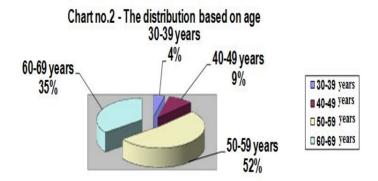
The distribution based on gender:

- 9 women -40%;
- 14 men 60%.

The distribution based on age: - 30-39 years: one case - 4%;

- 40-49 years: 2 cases 9%; - 50-59 years: 12 cases - 52%;
- 60 69 years: 8 cases 35%.





The most affected patients are the ones who are 50-59 years old and 60-69 years old.

The distribution based on their professional activity:

- intellectual work 8 35%:
- medium physical 9 39%;
- hard physical work 6 26%.

Chart no.3 - The distribution based on their professional activity

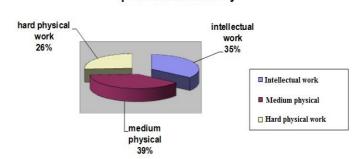
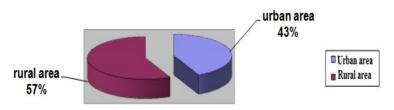


Chart no.4 - The distribution based on the area of origin



The distribution based on the area of origin:

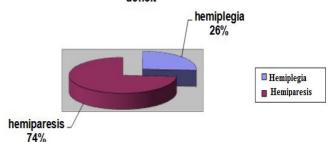
- urban area 10 43%;
- rural area 13 57%.

The information required for this study were gained from observing the patient's records and observing and analyzing each case during the 14 days of treatment.

The distribution based on their motor deficit:

- patients with paralysis of a half of the body 6 – 26%:
- patients with hemiparesis 17 74%.

Grafic nr. 5 - The distribution based on their motor deficit



# **Conclusions**

- > The capacity of movement rehabilitation process is commonly used with training methods, (explain, demonstrate and repeat actions) and plays an important role, but these methods cannot achieve the desired result without using the physical therapist's experience.
- Patient's professional activity has a great importance on his recovery after a spastic paralysis of a half of the body after stroke, because the activity they carry out (before the accident) muscle tone, reflexes and individual motility were at some level which can help the patient recover.
- Conducted study showed a higher percentage of people who come from rural areas and who have suffered injuries from a motor deficit were diagnosed with hemiparesis.

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# ROLE OF KEGEL'S EXERCISE ON POSTPARTUM PERINEAL FITNESS: RANDOMISED CONTROL TRIAL

# ROLUL EXERCIȚIILOR KEGEL ÎN FITNESUL PERINEAL POSTPARTUM: STUDIU RANDOMIZAT

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**Kev words:** Kegel's exercise, Modified Oxford grading scale, perineal strength endurance.

**Abstract. Objectives:** To assess the effect of Kegel's exercise on perineal muscle strength and endurance of postnatal mothers after vaginal delivery.

Study Design: Randomised Control Trial

**Study setting:** Department of Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy, Pravara Rural Hospital, Loni-District-Ahmednagar, Tal-Rahata. Maharashtra State. India. **Participants:** Participants between 20-40 age group who had vaginal delivery with < 2 grade for muscle strength on modified grading scale as measured by per pelviperineometru digital. vaginal digital examination.

groups. Both of the groups were given routine exercise in common and the Interventional group was given Kegel's exercise in addition. The perineal muscle strength and endurance was measured pre and post 12 weeks of intervention according to modified Oxford Grading Scale and objective assessment of Quality of life(QOL) was taken. Outcome measures: The outcome measure was perineal muscle strength and endurance and objective assessment on quality of life (QOL) was also done. Results: Comparison of these scores between the groups by unpaired t-test yielded pvalue of < 0.01 suggesting highly significant difference in the Interventional group.

Conclusion: The Kegel's exercise is effective to increase the perineal fitness and also improves the QOL.

Cuvinte cheie: exerciții Kegel, Scala Oxford & Modificată, forță perineală & anduranță.

Rezumat. Obiective. Lucrarea își propune să evalueze efectul exercițiilor Kegel asupra forței și anduranței musculaturii pelviperineale la lăuze, după naștere vaginală.

Designul cercetării. Studiu randomizat

Organizarea studiului: Departamentul Kinetoterapie Cardio-respiratorie, Spitalulul Municipal Pravara, Loni-413736, Districtul-Ahmednagar, Tal-Rahata, statul Maharashtra, India. Participanți: 100 lăuze cu vârste între 20-40 ani, după naștere vaginală, cu < 2 grade de forță a musculaturii perineale, măsurată cu

Intervenție. Lăuzele au fost împărțite în două Intervention. Participants were divided into two grupe. Ambele au urmat exerciții de rutină, iat grupul experimental a efectuat în plus exerciții Kegel. Forța și anduranța musculaturii perineale s-a măsurat pre și post intervenție (12 săptămâni de program) și la evaluare s-au folosit Scala Oxford Modificată și Scala de evaluare a calității vieții. Rezultate. S-a evaluat forța și anduranța musculaturii perineale, precum și calitatea vieții.

Compararea scorurilor inițiale și finale cu ajutorul testului t pentru eşantionane perechi a demonstrat existenta unei diferente senificative p-< 0.01, între cele două, în cadrul grupului experimental.

Concluzii. Exercițiile Kegel sunt eficiențe în creșterea fitness-ului perineal și îmbunătățirea calității vieții.

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# Introduction

The pelvic floor makes up a significant piece of your body's core, the essence of well being. It supports the bones in the spine, structures the abdominal cavity -muscles and organs included, controls the passage of urine and stool, facilitates the childbirth process and contributes to a woman's sexual pleasure and ability to reach orgasm.[1] There is good evidence that vaginal delivery can be associated with damage to the innervations of the pelvic floor as well as direct trauma to levator ani muscle and endo-pelvic fascia.[2] It has been reported that there is a decline in perineal muscle strength from the  $20^{th}$  gestational week to 6 weeks postpartum that may interfere with perineal muscle function.[3]

About a third of women have urine leakage and up to a tenth of women leak stool (faeces) after child birth. It has been studied that prevalence of urinary incontinence increase during pregnancy and decreases following delivery although postpartum prevalence still remain higher than before pregnancy.[4]Stress urinary incontinence is an important health issue affecting up to 24% of postpartum women.[5] Faecal incontinence is less common than urinary incontinence but is particularly distressing psychologically and physically.[4] Maintaining the tone of pelvic floor muscle (PFM) not only help to control the passage of urine from urethra but also help control the passage of stool from the rectum. Dr. Arnold Kegel in 1940 discovered, the squeeze and hold vaginal exercises known as Kegel's were specifically designed to target pelvic floor strengthening.[1] Kegel reported that 84% of his patients with urinary incontinence were cured after doing PFM exercises.[6] Essentially, Kegel's exercise may be prescribed to increase strength(the maximum force generated by a muscle in a single contraction), endurance(ability to contract repetitively, or to sustain a single contraction over time), coordinate muscle activity (such as the pre-contraction of pelvic floor muscles prior to a rise in intra-abdominal pressure, or to suppress urgency) address a combination of these.[4] Although some 60 years have passed this practiced was introduced, the effect of such exercise have until recently been only sparsely documented.[7]

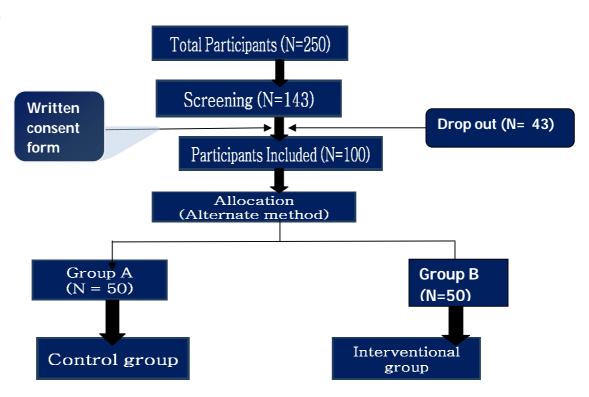
# Method

*Participants.* The study received approval from Ethical Committee of Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Loni. Total 200 postnatal primi gravidae mothers between 20 and 30 years who had vaginal delivery with < 2 grade for muscle strength on modified grading scale as measured by per vaginal digital examination who visited the outpatient Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Physiotherapy of Pravara Rural Hospital were included for this study. Participants with multiparous delivery, with any previous abdominal or urogenital surgeries, on any hormonal therapy were excluded from the study. Written informed consent was taken from all the participants. A brief explanation about the procedure was given to all the participants. Data collection for this study was 12 weeks conducted during October-December 2012

# **Outcome measures**

- 1.Perineal muscle strength
- 2.Perineal muscle endurance
- 3. Objective assessment of Quality of Life(QOL)

# **Procedure**



Hundred participants were randomly divided into control group (N=50) and interventional group (N=50) based upon the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Control group was given routine exercises with counseling. Routine exercise like upper abdominal strengthening exercises (like curl Ups) and lower abdominal strengthening exercises, pelvic tilting exercises were given. And for interventional group, Kegel's exercise along with routine exercises was given. Both group participants were instructed to perform the exercise at home once they were explained about it. The outcome variables measured before and after the study were strength and endurance and were assessed according to Modified Oxford Grading Scale for both the groups.[8] and the objective assessment of QOL was taken. Participants were positioned in supine with their head on two pillows. The hips were flexed and abducted, and the knees bent.

The strength was examined using the index finger placed approximately 4 cm to 6 cm inside the vagina and positioned at 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock to monitor muscle activity. Moderate pressure was applied over the muscle bulk to assist in the initiation of the appropriate muscle contraction. Endurance was assessed by counting the time upto which pelvic muscle can hold the finger.[8]

Kegel's exercises: Participants in interventional group were trained for Kegel's exercise (or PFM exercise). Participants were explained as if they are trying to stop themselves from passing urine from the bladder, gas or stool from the bowel squeeze and hold the contraction for 6 seconds and relax for 10 seconds before starting the next . Start with the 10 contractions for three times each morning, afternoon, night, this session will last for 5 minutes each time at 1<sup>st</sup> week. Gradually increase to 20 contractions with increase in duration upto 20 minutes at 6<sup>th</sup> week. On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> week exercises are performed for 45mins with 30-50 contractions in each time. Kegel's exercise was performed at home in lying, sitting, kneeling, and standing with legs apart to emphasis strength training of pelvic floor and relaxation of other muscles.[8]

Follow up assessment of strength and endurance was taken every 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks for twelve weeks of treatment for both the groups. Strength and endurance were measured on the day of assessment and on 12<sup>th</sup> week. Objective assessment of QOL was done before and after the intervention for both the groups. The baseline data and the data obtained on the final day of treatment were used for statistical analysis.

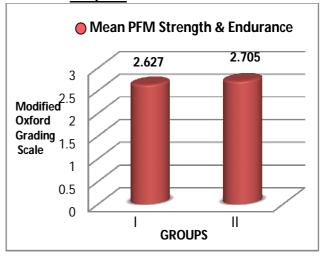
# **Results**

The data was analyzed by comparison of both the groups for mean, standard deviation, unpaired student "t" test by using scientific statistics Graph Pad software. The mean perineal muscle strength and endurance assessment scores noted before the intervention and post intervention assessments for both the groups (Table No. 1 and Table No. 2)

**Table No.1: Pre- Intervention Data** 

	Mean	Standard deviation	p Value	t Value	
Group- I	2.627	0.159	0.001	15.866	
Group- II	2.705	0.181	0.001	15.996	

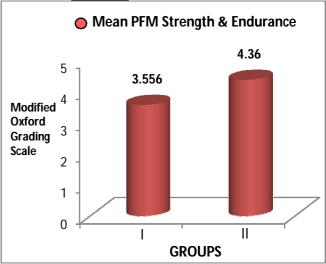
Graph 1:



**Table No.2: Post Intervention** 

	Mean	Standard Deviation	p Value	t Value	
Group-I	3.55	0.130	0.001	32.98	
Group-II	4.36	0.186	0.001	36.46	

Graph 2:



Comparison of these scores between the groups by unpaired t-test yielded p-value of < 0.001 suggesting highly significant difference in Group II (i.e. interventional group) than the control group post intervention (Graph 2). Objective assessment for QOL was also improved post intervention in Group II.

# **Discussion**

this study, the group receiving Kegel's exercise with abdominal exercise significantly improved muscle strength and endurance when compared to the control group with abdominal exercises and counseling.

The Kegel's exercise performed in this study emphasized performing fewer repetitions daily, gradually increasing the intensity and force of contraction time for the recruitment of more motor units. This conduct is important to gain muscle strength.[9]Thus, the training programs of

Pelvic Floor can cause muscle changes due to neural adaptation during the first six to eight weeks.[10]

This study linked the contraction of transverses abdominals in order to intensify the action of PFM. Another study showed that, with the relaxation of the transverse muscle of the abdomen, there is a decrease in electromyographic activity of the PFM and that with the contraction of this muscle, there is a co activation of PFM.[11] There are strong evidence to suggest that for women with stress, urge and mixed incontinence PFMT is better than no treatment.[12] Perineal trauma has been identified as a risk factor for developing UI, and it has been suggested that women affected by second-, third or fourth-degree tears should be targeted on the ward and motivated to commence and adhere to a Kegel's exercise. Unfortunately, in spite of the significance of restoring PFM function and strength following trauma, studies have reported that only between 20% and 50% of postnatal women perform daily PFM.[13] Several studies have proved the effectiveness of strengthening the pelvic floor muscles and others have shown that these exercises in association with biofeedback are safe and effective.[14] Being physically fit can have several advantages in speeding your recovery after giving birth. The Kegel's exercise training has no negative side effects and is inexpensive and it helps women to take care of their own health by themselves. [7]

There are studies which support the importance of PFM passive force or tone in the maintenance of continence as well as the rationale that PFM training improves PFM passive force and may facilitate more effective automatic motor-unit firing of the PFM, thus preventing PFM descent during increased intra-abdominal pressure, which in turn prevents urine leakage. Local muscular endurance has been shown to improve when the individual performs high repetition exercise sets (i.e. long-duration sets in which the muscle is subject to low-resistance tension and high time-under-tension) and/or minimizes the rest period between the sets. Neither of these techniques was used as part of the study's exercise programs; instead, the study used maximum-tension strengthening exercises with short duration sets followed by a good rest period between the sets. Although a relationship exists, to a certain extent, between increased strength and local muscular endurance, specificity in training has been shown to produce the greatest improvement. [5]

Previously trained muscle has a greater strength reserve. Continuing to do Kegel exercises regularly after giving birth not only helps to maintain bladder control, but also improves muscle tone of vagina, making postpartum sex more enjoyable.

# Conclusion

According to the result of the presented review Kegel's exercise postpartum is effective to increase perineal fitness and also improves the Quality of Life of the postnatal mothers hence, should be included as a part of routine postnatal care.

# Acknowledgement: NIL.

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# THE EFFECT OF THORACIC MUSCLE ENERGY TECHNIQUE ON PULMONARY FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH COPD

# EFECTUL TEHNICII ENERGIEI MUSCULATURII TORARCICE ASUPRA FUNCȚIEI PULONARE LA PACIENȚII CU BPOC

Kanjolia Neha<sup>1</sup>, Shinde Neesha<sup>2</sup>, Anerao Urja<sup>3</sup>, Khatri Subhash<sup>4</sup>

**Key words:** Thoracic muscle energy technique, FVC, FEV1, COPD.

**Abstract. Objective:** The objective of this study is to find out the effect of thoracic muscle energy technique on pulmonary function (FVC and FEV<sub>1</sub>) measures in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

**Study design:** Pretest- posttest experimental study design.

**Study setting:** Department of Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy, Pravara Rural Hospital, Loni-413736, District- Ahmednagar, Tal-Rahata, Maharashtra State, India.

**Participants.** Thirty participants with clinically diagnosed COPD between 30 to 60 years age group.

**Intervention.** Thoracic muscle energy technique given for two weeks of duration and the values for pulmonary function FVC and FEV1 measures were assessed pre and post intervention using clinical Spirometry.

**Outcome measures.** Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) and Forced Expiratory Volume in one second (FEV1).

**Results.** The data were analyzed using the statistical method of Student Paired't' test. The result of the present study showed significant increase in the pulmonary function measures after two weeks of treatment when compared to the baseline data.

**Conclusion.** The present study shows significant improvement in the FVC and  $FEV_1$  measures after two weeks when treated with thoracic muscle energy techniques.

**Cuvinte cheie:** tehnica energiei muscuturii toracice, FVC, FEV1, BPOC.

**Rezumat.** Obicetivul acestui studiu este de a studia efectul tehnicii energiei musculaturii toracicice asupra funcției pulmonare (FVC and FEV<sub>1</sub>), 1 pacienții cu bronhopneumopatie cronică obstructivă (BPOC).

**Design-ul studiului.** Studiu experimental pretest-posttes..

**Locație. D**epartmentul de Kinetoterapie cardiorespiratorie, Pravara Rural Hospital, Loni-413736, District- Ahmednagar, Tal-Rahata, Maharashtra State, India.

**Participanți.** Treizeci de particianți diagnosticați cu BPOC, cu vârste între 30 și 60 de ani.

**Intervenții.** Tehnica energiei musculaturii toracice efectuată timp de două săptămâni și valorile funcției pulmonare FVC și FEV1 au fost evaluate pre și posttest cu ajutorul spirometriei clinice.

**Teste de evaluare.** Capacitatea vitală de rezervă (FVC) și Volumul expirator de rezervă într-o secundă (FEV1).

**Results.** Datele au fost analizate cu ajutorul testului statiste Student Paired't' test. Rezultatele acestui studiu au demonstrat creșteri semnificative ale funcției pulmonare după două săptămâni de tratament, la compararea cu rezultatele finale.

**Conclusion.** Studiul de față demonstrează îmbunătățiri semnificative ale valorilor FVC și FEV<sub>1</sub> după două săptămâni de tratament prin tehnica energiei muscuulaturii toracice.

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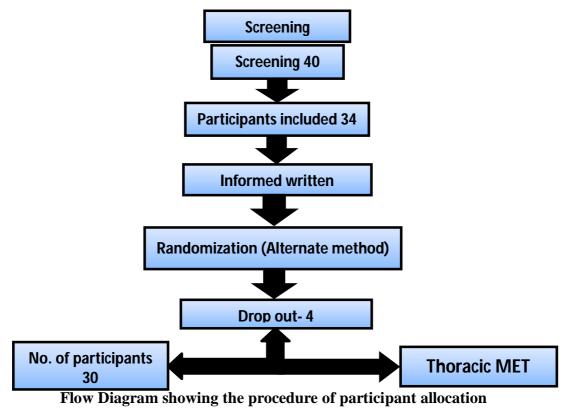
# Introduction

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) occurs worldwide, but it is a major health problem principally in societies where cigarette smoking is common. COPD has a prevalence of 4 to 10 percent in adults in populations in whom lung function has been measured.[1] COPD is the name of a group of slowly progressing respiratory disorders characterized by chronic obstruction of lung airflow that interferes with normal breathing and is not fully reversible. The more familiar terms 'chronic bronchitis' and 'emphysema' are no longer used, but are now included within the COPD diagnosis. COPD is a common medical problem in which males are more frequently affected than females.[2] A variety of factors (cigarette smoking, air pollution, infection, occupation, genetic) appear to increase the risk of COPD but cigarette smoking remains the most important factor.[3] In the year 1958, Fred Mitchell Sr., D.O., published the first details of MET. MET has been described as manual medicine treatment procedure that involves the voluntary contraction of patients muscle in a precisely controlled direction, at varying levels of intensity, against a distinctly executed counterforce applied by the operator. Previous studies have demonstrated that MET to the cervical, thoracic & lumber region can produce significant mechanical changes to spinal range of movement.[4] Serial spirometry is important in assessing the rate of decline of FEV1. The American thoracic society recommends staging COPD by FEV1. Stage 1.mild disease, is defined as FEV1,>-50% predicted, stage 2.moderate disease, 3. 49% predicted, & stage 3, severe disease, <35% predicted. [6-8]

#### Methods

# **Participants**

A total of 30 participants with clinically diagnosed cases of COPD referred from the Medicine Department of Pravara Rural Hospital, Loni-413736, Dist- Ahmednagar, Taluka Rahata were screened for the study and thirty participants fulfilling the inclusion criteria, were included in the study. Prior to the study written informed consent was taken from all the participants. Participants included were both males and females with age group 30 to 60 years with clinically diagnosed cases of COPD. Participants excluded were: 1) Diseases of cardiac origin.2) History of recent thoracic surgery or abdominal surgery. 3) Fibrotic lung disease. 4) Musculoskeletal injuries to the chest wall.



# **Outcome Measures**

- 1. Forced vital capacity (FVC)
- 2. Forced expiratory volume in one second ( $FEV_1$ ).

# **Procedures**

The study received approval from Ethical Committee of Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Loni. After the screening and as the written informed consent were obtained from all the participants, randomization was done as per the alternate method. Pulmonary function test measurements were performed pre and post intervention. A standard instruction protocol on how to use the spirometer was provided for each of the participants, along with a demonstration and familiarization trial.

Subjects were treated with general rotational thoracic MET in an attempt to increase thoracic rotation in both directions, while also increasing movements between individual ribs. A second technique, a general side-bending thoracic cage release was also applied. These techniques were chosen as both rotation and side-bending in the thoracic spine facilitates most movements between the individual rib and also the thoracic vertebrae. The intervention was given for two weeks for each participant and post intervention Spirometry measurements were recorded.

# **Results**

Statistic analysis was carried out using the GraphPad InStat software trial version. The data was analyzed using the student paired't' test.

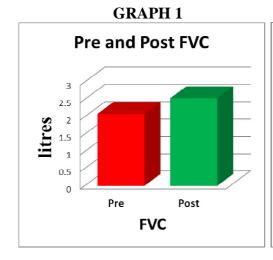
TABLE 1: Showing pre and post FVC

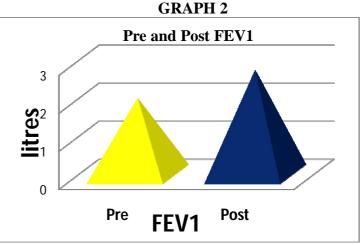
		0.	<u> </u>	
FVC	Pre	Post	T value	P value
Mean	$2.086 \pm 0.541$	$2.535 \pm 0.490$	7.613	<0.01 Significant

TABLE 2: Showing pre and post FEV<sub>1</sub>

$FEV_1$	Pre	Post	T value	P value
Mean	$2.001\pm0.574$	$2.747 \pm 0.307$	9.605	<0.01 Significant

Graphs 1 and 2 shows changes in pulmonary function measures FVC and FEV<sub>1</sub>





No adverse effect was noted during the study period. Thus, the result suggests clinical benefits over the period of two weeks.

# **Discussion**

Ventilator function in symptomatic patients is altered with the application of thoracic MET. This study provides evidence to suggest that ventilator function, measured by FVC & FEV1, is significantly altered in patients treated with thoracic MET [9]. The patients in this

study, treated using the same protocol, did have significant increases in lung function. Although the symptomatic individuals in this study showed significant changes in ventilator function, all participants felt as though they had benefited from the treatment [10]. This study indicated that despite there being no changes in respiratory function, there was a improvement in the biomechanics of the thoracic region. The use of proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation (PNF) as a treatment technique is similar to that of MET, with the aims of the therapy being to stretch and also facilitate specific muscles or joints with both active and passive components [11]. From these results it may be suggested that in the absence of any diagnosed pathology or symptoms relating to decrease respiratory function, manual therapy may improve the lung function in asymptomatic people. [12]

# Conclusion

The present study shows significant improvement in the pulmonary function measures after two weeks in patients with COPD when treated with thoracic muscle energy techniques.

# Acknowledgement: NIL.

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*Titlul lucrării* (în limbile română și engleză sau franceză): Din punct de vedere formal acesta trebuie să fie scurt și concis, fără paranteze, abrevieri, să nu fie explicat printr-un subtitlu, să anunțe conținutul și caracteristicile dominante ale articolului.

Titlul se scrie cu majuscule, bold, centrat, font 14.

Rezumatul lucrării (în limbile engleză sau franceză, precum și în limba română)

Acesta trebuie să informeze cititorul asupra esenței conținutului și asupra contribuției autorului; trebuie să fie fidel textului, să nu depășească 15-20 de rânduri sau 200 de cuvinte scrise cu font 11. El trebuie să fie cât mai informativ. Rezumatul va cuprinde obiectivele lucrării, metodele noi utilizate, una sau mai multe concluzii edificatoare.

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**Textul lucrării.** Textul trebuie să fie echilibrat ca volum al părților componente, să aibă o exprimare clară și elevată, frazele să fie scurte, evitându-se propozițiile negative, exagerările lingvistice.

Când tema studiată necesită o clarificare teoretică sau o discuție teoretică pentru justificarea formulării ipotezei, în planul lucrării se poate afecta un capitol destinat discuțiilor datelor din literatură, încadrarea temei cercetate în contextul domeniului, aportul cercetării la clarificarea, precizarea unor aspecte, etc. Prima parte a textului cuprinde noțiuni care evidențiază importanța teoretică și practică a temei, reflectarea acesteia în literatura de specialitate, scopul lucrării, obiectivele și sarcinile acesteia, pe scurt. Dacă este necesară amintirea datelor anatomofizio-patologice acestea trebuie să fie scurte și noi, prin conținut și prezentare.

Se recomandă pentru studii structurarea în următoarele secțiuni:

- *Introducere* se arată pe scurt scopul și rațiunea studiului. Se prezintă numai fundalul, cu un număr limitat de referințe necesare cititorului să înțeleagă de ce a fost condus studiul.
- *Material și metodă* se prezintă ipoteza sau ipotezele alternative, se descriu pe scurt, planul și organizarea cercetării, pacienții, materialele, metodele, criteriile de includere-exludere, explorările, procedura precum și metoda statistică folosită.

**Experimentele umane și non-umane:** Când sunt raportate experimente umane autorii trebuie sa precizeze dacă au fost respectate standardele etice pentru experimentele umane după cum este specificat în declarația de la Helsinki, revizuite în 2000 (World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: ethical principles for medicalresearch involving human subjects. JAMA. 2000 Dec 20; 284(23):3043-5)

- *Ilustrațiile și tabelele* vor fi inserate în text la locul potrivit, numerotate cu cifre arabe (Tabel 1,2 etc., scris deasupra tabelului sau Fig.1,2.etc. scris dedesuptul figurii, caractere de 11, boltit), cu un titlu și legendă însoțite de precizarea sursei exacte a citării (titlul lucrării\articolului și primul autor). Imaginile, tabelele și figurile trebuie să fie în format jpeg, de minimum 300 dpi. Figurile (desene, scheme) vor fi reprezentate grafic profesional. Fiecare fotografie va avea menționat în subsol numărul, iar partea superioară a figurii indicată cu o săgeată (dacă nu se poate deduce care este aceasta).
- *Legendele ilustrațiilor* se recomandă exprimarea rezultatelor în unități de măsură internaționale și în SI. Vor fi utilizate abrevierile acceptate internațional. Se vor scrie cu caractere Times New Roman, 10.

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Nivelul şi atestarea revistei: C – CNCSIS

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