OUTCOME PREDICTORS FOR RECOVERY OF PATELLAR TENDINOPATHY IN JUMPING ATHLETES: AN INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Abdulhamit Tayfur*, Dominik Zenner, Stuart Charles Miller, Hazel Screen, Dylan Morrissey, Sports and Exercise Medicine, William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, UK; Institute of Population Health Sciences, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London; School of Engineering and Materials Science, Queen Mary University of London

Introduction Patellar tendinopathy (PT) has poor outcomes, and we have no robust prognostic guides to understand who gets better, when and why. We aimed to identify which combination of self-reported factors best predicts PT recovery.

Materials and Methods A previously validated, reliable online questionnaire battery yielded data from an international sample of elite and non-elite jumping athletes with a one-year follow-up. Recovery was defined by availability status for training and competition. More than 100 bio-psychosocial, demographic and sports specific factors were collected and a multivariable Cox proportional-hazards model constructed.

Results 128 athletes with PT (30.9±8.9 years; 77 males; VISA-P=61.5±16.2) provided 25,284 days at risk (198±141 days) for analysis. Recovery rate was 45% occurring around 6-month. The final multivariable model partially predicted PT recovery with acceptable model performance and internal validation (optimism-corrected Harrell's C discrimination=0.77 and Calibration Slope=0.86). The model showed that PT recovery is associated with a higher KOOS-PF score (lower severity; HR=1.03, 95%CI=1.02–1.05), a shorter time-off from sport (HR=0.93, 95%CI=0.87–0.99), feeling more rested after sleep (HR=1.93, 95%CI=1.13–3.28), not having concurrent tendon problems (HR=0.23, 95%CI=0.07–0.69), higher training duration (HR=1.05, 95%CI=1.01–1.10) and symptoms that can be modified by movement (HR=2.71, 95%CI=1.21–6.09).

Conclusion This is the first study investigating outcome predictors for PT recovery. The developmental statistical causal model showed that sports specific and biobehavioral variables partially predicted PT recovery. Demographic or psychosocial variables did not contribute to the model. These findings could enhance professionals' understanding of PT prognosis and clinical decision making.

Weekly Adductor Squeeze Strength Monitoring in Male Academy Football Players: Is It Influenced by Groin Pain Onset?

Matthew DeLang*, James Craig Garrison, Joseph P Hannon, Lasse Ishii, Kristian Thorborg, Right to Dream, Right to Dream Academy, Ghana; Northwestern University, USA; St. Christopher’s Children’s Hospital: Youth Athlete Center, USA; Sports Orthopaedic Research Center – Copenhagen, Hvidovre Hospital, Køgegård Alle 30, Denmark

Introduction Groin monitoring systems are a secondary prevention tool in youth football. Symptom screenings can be supported by objective findings, such as hip adduction squeeze strength. This study examined how groin pain influenced weekly squeeze strength in youth academy football players over a 14-week period.

Material and Methods Weekly monitoring of youth football players consisted of groin symptom check-ins and long lever squeeze strength. Players who reported groin pain were stratified into the groin pain group while players who did not report pain remained in the no groin pain group. Baseline squeeze strength was retrospectively compared between the groups. Players with groin pain were examined via repeated measures ANOVA at four timepoints: baseline, one-week prior to pain onset, pain onset, and return to pain-free.

Results 53 players were included (age 14.4±1.6 years). Baseline squeeze strength was not different between players in the groin pain (n=29, 4.35±0.89 N/kg) versus no groin pain group (n=24, 4.33±0.90 N/kg, p=0.83). Players with no groin pain maintained similar squeeze strength throughout 14 weeks (p>0.05). Compared to baseline (4.33±0.90 N/kg), players with groin pain had decreased squeeze strength at one-week prior to pain onset (3.91±0.85 N/kg, p=0.003) and at pain onset (3.58±0.78 N/kg, p<0.001), but squeeze strength when pain subsided (4.06±0.95 N/kg) was not different than baseline (p=0.14).

Conclusion Decreases in groin squeeze strength exist in players with groin pain onset, and even manifest one-week prior to groin pain onset, compared to players without groin pain. Weekly squeeze strength may be an early marker for groin pain.

Usability Testing of a Musculoskeletal Digital Assessment Routing Tool: An Iterative Convergent Mixed Methods Study

Cabella Lowe*, Mitchell Browne, William Marsh, Dylan Morrissey, Sports and Exercise Medicine, William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Hospital, E1 4DG, UK; Risk and Information Systems Research Group, School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, Queen Mary University of London, 2 Newark Street, E1 2AT, UK

Introduction Digital technologies improving clinical outcomes and efficiency are prioritized for development. We have developed a musculoskeletal Digital Assessment Routing Tool (DART) directing users to right care, first time. DART requires usability testing prior to clinical trials.

Materials and Methods An iterative-convergent mixed-methods design was used to assess and mitigate DART usability issues. 22 participants used 50 musculoskeletal presentations across 4 DART iterations during 5 testing rounds. Recruitment quotas for age, habitual internet use and English language ability were used. Constructs of the ISO 9241-210-2019 standard defined quantitative data collection, with user satisfaction measured by the system usability scale. Study endpoints were mitigation of significant usability problems and a mean satisfaction score of 80+ across a minimum of 3 testing rounds.

Results All test assessments gave a recommendation with no system errors. Usability problems reduced from 12 to zero. Mean assessment time was 5 minutes (range 1–18), 6 minutes for non-native English speakers. Differences in satisfaction scores were present between groups, expert internet users having the highest mean score (86.5, SD 4.48, CI 90% 1.78), compared with non-native English speakers (78.1, SD 4.60, CI 90% 9.17) and less experienced internet users scoring the lowest (70.8, SD 5.44, CI 90% 3.79). The mean score across all groups was 84.3 (84.3, SD 12.73, CI 90% 4.67), with
qualitative data from all participants confirming DART was simple to use.

Conclusion With all significant usability problems addressed DART can proceed to a randomized controlled trial assessing safety and effectiveness against a usual care comparator.

Introduction Sports-related concussions (SRCs) are an increasingly recognized health problems and treatment options are scarce. We tested the hypothesis that immediate selective head-neck cooling shortens return-to-play (RTP) in concussed ice hockey players.

Material and Methods Over 5 seasons, 19 professional ice hockey teams were divided into 2 groups – intervention teams, where concussed players received selective head-neck cooling, and control teams using standard SRC management. Concussion was diagnosed by established criteria. A head-and-neck cooling cap- system, designed to reduce the brain temperature with a cold circulating coolant, was used. The cooling started acutely after SRC diagnosis and was used for ≥45 min. All players were subjected to a standardized graduated RTP protocol. Before RTP, SCAT baseline level and medical teams’ clearance should be reached. The main outcome measure was time until completing the graduated rehabilitation program and RTP.

Results In the teams using cooling, 62 concussions were recorded, and 75 in the control teams. Median time to initiate cooling was 11 (range 5–30) minutes. The median time to RTP was 9 days in the cooling group, in controls 12 days (p<0.00001; 95% CI: -7.0; -1.99). In players receiving selective head-neck cooling, 94% (58/62) had an RTP ≤ 3 weeks and 100% had an RTP ≤ 56 days. In controls, 71% (53/75) had an RTP ≤ 3 weeks and 87% ≤ 56 days (p<0.001).

Conclusions Acute selective head- and neck cooling shortens RTP and reduces the risk of long-term absence from play in concussed ice hockey players.

Introduction Patellofemoral pain (PFP) is common and impacts health-related quality of life. Despite numerous published guidelines, understanding of intervention efficacy is limited.

Materials and Methods We registered with PROSPERO (CRD42019152252) and searched multiple databases to April 2021 and included only high-quality randomised controlled trials (RCTs) scoring ≥7 on the PEDro scale. We pooled methodologically homogeneous pain (e.g., numerical rating scale) and function (e.g., kujala scale) data using random effects models at short-, medium- and long-term (<3, <3-<12, >12 months respectively). Interventions demonstrated primary efficacy if there was a significant comparison with sham, placebo, or wait-and-see control in an adequately powered RCT (n>23) or data pooling. Secondary efficacy or superiority was determined by a significant comparison to an intervention with primary efficacy. The GRADE criteria determined evidence certainty (very low to high).

Results We identified 61 high-quality RCTs involving 3,543 participants. Four interventions demonstrated primary efficacy for short-term pain and function: knee-targeted exercise (high/moderate), multi-modal physiotherapy (low/low), foot orthoses (low/absent), and lower-quadrant manual therapy (absent/moderate). Hip- and knee-targeted exercise demonstrated secondary efficacy for pain and function in the short (low/moderate), medium (moderate/moderate), and long-term (moderate/moderate). Knee-targeted exercise combined with peri-neural dextrose injection demonstrated secondary efficacy in the short-term (moderate/moderate). Multi-modal physiotherapy demonstrated superiority for pain and function in the short-term (very low/very low) compared to knee-targeted exercise alone.

Conclusions Wait-and-see, sham, or placebo should not be used for PFP, as several interventions have proven efficacy. Future effectiveness studies should include long-term follow-up. Our synthesis will inform a future updated best practice guide.