

An evaluation of musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessment measures

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Abstract

Background: A variety of individual clinical musculoskeletal measures are used within foot and ankle assessment. However, if it is unclear which of these are appropriate for clinical and research use and if a comprehensive protocol exists.

Methods: A systematic search and review of the literature was undertaken to provide a summary of what is known about clinical foot and ankle assessment measures, to determine if these are associated with clinical outcomes of pain and function and to identify a comprehensive protocol if it exists.

Results: Following a process of article exclusion 49 articles were included within the final review. All types of evidence were considered to capture the maximum number of foot and ankle assessment methods currently available. Critical appraisal was carried out by two reviewers. The review identified a number of musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessment measures; however there is an absence of a comprehensive assessment protocol.

Conclusion: There is limited investigation for the association of musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessments to outcomes of pain and function and there is considerable variability in clinical reliability. The review highlights a requirement for the identification of an agreed set of standardised musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessments and further investigation to justify their use against clinically relevant outcomes.

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Background

Clinical measures of the foot and ankle are an essential component of the assessment of foot function; facilitating treatment and providing a method for monitoring lower limb pathologies. Many individual physical techniques have been identified to measure characteristics of the foot [Buell et al., 1998; Nawoczenski et al., 1999; Hunt et al., 2000; Williams and McClay, 2000; Cornwall and McPoil, 2004; Cornwall et al., 2004; Redmond et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2008; McPoil et al., 2008; Hegedus et al., 2010], however it is unclear if a valid comprehensive clinical assessment protocol currently exists. Findings from a previous review of foot type classification methods have shown that despite the fact clinicians regularly perform static lower extremity measurements on their patients little research has been published to support their predictive ability to functional measures and injury [Razeghi and Bat,t 2002]. Whilst the review provided good insightful discussion into the concerns of using

many static lower limb examinations to assess function and injury, it did not discuss the relationship of these measurements to pain. Also, additional assessments have since been introduced and it is unknown whether these assessment techniques are associated with clinical outcomes.

The main purpose of this review was to examine the literature and provide a summary of what is known about the clinical validity of clinical foot and ankle assessment measures and to determine if a comprehensive protocol exists. In order to effectively evaluate clinical assessments it is necessary to determine if they are associated with clinical outcomes. Additionally, it is essential to consider the importance of the clinical reliability of assessments.

Methods

A systematic search was completed

Keywords: Foot, Ankle , Musculoskeletal, Assessment

during November and December 2012. CINAHL and MEDLINE electronic databases were searched using EBSCO host portal. The main concepts of the search, search terms and synonyms were determined by members of a foot and ankle expert steering committee (n=19); formed as part of an international consensus study to define a foot and ankle assessment protocol (Gates et al., 2015). The Boolean operator 'AND' was used to

combine key terms and the Boolean operator 'OR' was used to link synonyms. Limitations were applied to the searches in terms of language (English), age of and human participants.

Previous research has highlighted problems regarding the lack of National Health Medical Research Council level I – III-1 trials (systematic randomisation to pseudo-randomisation) [Bennell et al., 2007; NHMRC, 2009] in fields sim-

ilar to this, which is also problematic in this area. Therefore no restrictions were placed on the type of study included. The review aimed to highlight all current clinical musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessments; therefore only clinical assessment measures were included within the search. Technical or laboratory based assessments were excluded. Criteria used to determine the articles included within the review can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Study inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Articles investigating/evaluating musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessment methods/measures	Patient Reported Outcome Measures/ self-reported assessments *
	Gait analysis*
	Measures using sophisticated equipment/ instrumentation (other than a goniometer or ruler) not routinely available within a clinical setting*
	Radiographic measures*
	Assessments specific to a pathology or disease or surgery*
	Non-MSK assessment (including vascular and neurological assessment)
	Foot pressure systems *

*Studies using the above techniques are excluded unless the technique is used for validation of a particular clinical foot and ankle assessment

One reviewer (LG) initially screened all titles and abstracts for potentially eligible articles and full text articles were obtained and included for critical review. Duplicate searches were removed and the results assessed for eligibility. A manual search of selected articles' reference lists was also completed. This hand screening process continued until all potential articles were exhausted. Two reviewers (LG and LM) independently reviewed and evaluated the quality of included studies. Full consensus was achieved for each study by discussion between the two reviewers; if no consensus could be met, a third reviewer (CB) served as a moderator.

The aim of the review was to identify all potential assessments, therefore all articles were deemed eligible. Due to the

heterogeneity among studies with respect to procedures, design, and assessment type a critical narrative synthesis was most appropriate.

The following data were extracted from full-text articles: study reference, population and number of participants, type of measure, cross sectional validity against pain and function, longitudinal (predictive) validity, reliability where applicable. One reviewer (LG) extracted data from the included studies using a standardised proforma. Another reviewer (CB) independently cross checked extracted data.

Results

An initial search identified 2374 potential articles. Following the removal of articles based on title; those not specific to

foot and ankle or assessment measures, abstract and full text content, 15 articles were retrieved. 34 additional articles were identified from hand searching of references. 49 articles were selected for inclusion in the review. Ten individual categories of foot and ankle assessment measures were identified: arch measures, navicular measures, ankle dorsiflexion range of motion, foot posture index, first metatarsal phalangeal joint measurements, rear foot measures, first ray measures, subtalar joint measures, fore-foot measures, and manual supination test. Results including search processes were shared with an international foot and ankle expert steering committee via interactive web link (Gates et al., 2015). Findings relevant to the outcomes of pain and function are discussed accord-

ing to each individual assessment. The review did not identify evidence to support the existence of a comprehensive clinical musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessment protocol. The reliability of a measure is also an important consideration when identifying appropriate clinical assessments and it is essential for clinicians to be aware of the potential degree of measurement error for each. We have therefore provided a summary of evidence for the reliability of each assessment in appendix 1.

1. Arch measures

Clinical measures of arch height have shown significant associations to radiographic measures with correlations ranging from $r = 0.52 - 0.93$ [Saltzman et al., 1995; Williams and McClay, 2000; Menz and Munteanu, 2005; McPoil et al., 2008; Hegedus et al., 2010]. Studies have utilised a variety of populations including pathological [Hegedus et al., 2010], orthopaedic [Saltzman et al., 1995], older [Menz and Munteanu, 2005] and healthy [Williams and McClay, 2000; McPoil et al., 2008] and a range of examiners from orthopaedic surgeons to physical therapists with varying experience. Static longitudinal arch angle is reported to be positively correlated with dynamic longitudinal arch angle ($r = 0.97$) [McPoil and Cornwall, 2005], however no correlation was found between arch height and dynamic maximum eversion of the rear foot ($r^2 = 0.06$, $P < 0.197$) [Nigg et al., 1993]. Despite findings for the radiographic validity of clinical measures of arch height a study, limited to the older population, has shown no significant association ($P > 0.05$) between the arch index and disabling foot pain [Menz and Morris, 2005], balance and function [Menz et al., 2005] or falls [Menz et al., 2006].

2. Navicular measures

Clinical measurements of navicular height have shown to be strongly associated with radiographic navicular height ($r = 0.79$) [Menz and Munteanu, 2005] and associations have been reported to particular tests of balance and function, including maximum balance range ($P < 0.05$), alternate step test ($P < 0.01$), sit to stand test and walking speed ($P < 0.05$) [Menz et al., 2005]. Results are limited to the older population and comprehensive inference is restricted by an absence of confidence intervals, which prevents further information of the likely range of possible values for the true effect. No sig-

nificant association was found between navicular height and foot pain ($P > 0.05$) [Menz and Morris, 2005] or falls ($P > 0.05$) [Menz et al., 2006].

3. Ankle range of motion

Ankle flexibility has been shown to be associated with balance and functional tests in older people, including sway, maximum balance range, co-ordinated stability, alternate step test, sit-to-stand and walking speed ($P < 0.01$) [Menz et al., 2005]. It is also significantly different between fallers and non-fallers ($P < 0.05$) [Menz et al., 2006], with a reduction in flexibility in fallers. Ankle flexibility was not significantly associated with disabling foot pain ($P > 0.05$) [Menz and Morris, 2005].

4. First ray measures

No significant correlation was reported between manual assessment of first ray mobility and testing with a mechanical device ($r = -0.25$; $P = 0.37$) [Glasoe et al., 2002]. There was a significant difference between the clinical Eulji Medical Centre device and modified block test ($P < 0.05$) but not between the Eulji Medical Centre and Klaus device ($P = 0.12$) [Kim et al., 2008]. However the validity of the mechanical devices used in the evaluation of the clinical Eulji Medical Centre device is unclear. The review has identified no evidence to investigate the association of first ray measures to pain or function.

5. Subtalar joint measures

Subtalar joint range of movement is often represented by measures of the rear foot. Such measures often rely upon techniques which include the determination of subtalar joint neutral position. This is likely to have influenced the wide variation of reliability values across studies [Elveru et al., 1988; Smith-Oricchio and Harris, 1990; Picciano et al., 1993; Sell et al., 1994; McPoil and Cornwall, 1996; Menz and Keenan, 1997; Ogilvie et al., 1997] because, apart from difficulties ensuring isolation of the subtalar joint when measuring passive range of motion, measurements are largely based on subtalar joint neutral being a reference for zero; a method for measuring such has yet to be proven accurate or reliable between testers [Elveru et al., 1988; Picciano et al., 1993; Chen et al., 2008]. Additionally, determining subtalar joint neutral position is influenced by examiner experience; experienced examiners have been reported to positioned the

rear foot into +10° of subtalar joint neutral position 41.3% of the time, compared to only 25% for untrained physiotherapy students [Pierrynowski et al., 1996]. The review failed to identify any evidence of investigation for the association of subtalar joint assessment to pain or function.

6. Foot Posture Index (FPI)

The FPI was the only foot and ankle assessment identified that was developed specifically as a composite tool via a systematic approach [Redmond et al., 2006]. Following a comprehensive process of internal construct validity testing the original FPI-8 item tool was reduced to 6 items [Redmond et al., 2008]. The FPI now consists of six validated, criterion-based observations of the foot of a subject standing in a relaxed position. Whilst the FPI provides a simple method of scoring the various features of foot posture into a single quantifiable result, it is limited in its clinical capacity to providing information only on standing foot posture.

Poor radiographic associations have been reported for the medial longitudinal arch congruence and ab/adduction of the forefoot versus radiographic measures ($P = -0.28 - 0.42$, respectively). Weak to moderate correlation was found for the original FPI-8 against radiographic measures of navicular height ($r = 0.59$), calcaneal inclination angle ($r = 0.36$) and calcaneal first metatarsal angle ($r = 0.42$) [Menz and Munteanu, 2005]. However a significant association was reported between radiographic talonavicular angle and the talar head palpation component of the FPI ($P = 0.02$) [Scharfbillig et al., 2004]. During stance FPI-6 is reported to predict 64% of the variation of static ankle position, but only 41% of dynamic variation in foot position [Redmond et al., 2006]. Fair to moderate associations have been reported between FPI and certain parameters of dynamic foot function in individuals with and without patellofemoral pain (Barton et al., 2011).

No association has been found between FPI-6 and disabling foot pain ($P > 0.05$) [Menz and Morris, 2005], balance or functional tests in older people [Menz et al., 2005]. Neither was there any significant difference in FPI between groups of fallers and non-fallers ($P > 0.05$) [Menz et al., 2006].

7. Rear foot measures

A weak correlation has been reported between static calcaneal deviation and dy-

dynamic eversion during walking ($r = 0.46$, $P = 0.048$), although the estimate of true effect cannot be established due to the absence of reported confidence intervals [Hunt et al., 2000]. No statistically significant difference in rear foot motion was found between inverted and everted foot type groups ($P > 0.05$) [Cornwall and McPoil, 2004], suggesting changes in static rear foot measures are not associated with dynamic assessment. The review identified no evidence to show investigation for the association of rear foot measures and pain.

8. First metatarsal phalangeal joint measurements

Two active weight bearing measures of first metatarsal phalangeal joint range of movement were correlated with first metatarsal phalangeal joint motion during gait ($r = 0.87$ and 0.80). However correlation between passive weight bearing and non-weight bearing assessment of first metatarsal phalangeal joint range of movement and range of movement during gait was substantially lower ($r = 0.61$ and 0.67 , respectively) [Nawoczenski et al., 1999]. Similarly it has been reported that there is no significant difference in first metatarsal phalangeal joint dorsiflexion between participants with normal versus abnormal passive hallux dorsiflexion during gait ($P = 0.90$) [Halstead and Redmond, 2006].

No significant association ($P > 0.05$) has been reported between first metatarsal phalangeal joint range of movement and disabling foot pain [Menz and Morris, 2005] and no significant difference was reported in first metatarsal phalangeal joint range of movement between fallers and non-fallers ($P > 0.05$) [Menz et al., 2006]. First metatarsal phalangeal joint range of movement was significantly associated with measures of balance such as sway ($P < 0.05$), maximum balance range ($P < 0.01$), coordinated stability ($P < 0.05$) and walking speed ($P < 0.05$) in older people [Menz et al., 2005].

9. Forefoot measures

The present review identified evidence with highly varied results for the reliability of forefoot measurement when taken using a goniometer (from poor to almost perfect) [Sell et al., 1994; Thoms and Rome, 1997; Cornwall et al., 2004; Halstead and Redmond, 2006]. Conclusions were difficult to draw due to the differences in study design, measurement techniques and examiner experience.

There was however no evidence of investigation for the association of forefoot measures to pain or function.

10. Manual supination resistance test

The clinical manual supination test was poorly correlated to the value obtained from a mechanical supination device ($r = 0.57$, $P < 0.0001$) [Noakes and Payne, 2003]. The ability of the mechanical device to accurately measure the required force is unclear and there is no apparent evidence available to show its tested validity. The review identified no evidence to investigate the association of the clinical manual supination test to pain or function.

Discussion

This review has identified ten categories of clinical musculoskeletal foot and ankle measures, investigated over the last three decades. No evidence was identified of a comprehensive clinical musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessment protocol for use in either the clinical or research environment. Only independent foot and ankle assessment techniques have been identified and for many of these a lack of standardised measurement and study design has made comparison difficult. Many of the foot and ankle measures show considerable variability in clinical reliability and for many measures there is an absence of investigation for their association to clinically important outcomes such as pain and function.

The main objective of clinical foot and ankle assessment is to provide information to guide appropriate intervention. Interventions often aim to facilitate a reduction in pain and an increase in function, however this review has revealed limited investigation into the association between clinical musculoskeletal foot and ankle assessments and outcomes of pain and function [Menz et al., 2003; Menz and Morris, 2005; Menz and Munteanu, 2005; Menz et al., 2005; Menz et al., 2006]. Only ankle dorsiflexion, Foot Posture Index, arch, navicular and first metatarsal phalangeal joint measures have been investigated for an association with such outcomes.

Of these assessment measures, none have shown an association with foot pain. Navicular height, ankle dorsiflexion, first metatarsal phalangeal joint range of movement were associated with functional tests that include balance, stability, walking speed, sit to stand and stepping.

Only ankle dorsiflexion was shown to be significantly different between fallers and non-fallers, with a reduction in flexibility in fallers. This suggests ankle flexibility may be an important consideration in the management of patients at risk of falls. Inferences of these associations was however limited to the older population. Further investigation of the identified measures across age groups and disease cohorts is recommended for the clinical justification of their use. It would be useful to investigate the association of pain and function, including falls, against the remaining measures. If assessments are not associated to the outcomes that treatment aims to facilitate, for instance pain and function then the value of the assessment is questionable.

Findings suggest that, of those clinical measures tested against "gold standard measures" for validity (FPI, first ray and first metatarsal phalangeal joint assessment, manual supination resistance test, arch and navicular measures); only FPI, navicular height and arch height have shown any degree of concurrent validity. It appears the FPI is the most rigorously tested clinical foot and ankle assessment tool available. Validation of the tool has been hindered by a limitation in gold standard comparative techniques, a problem that has also restricted the validation of other foot and ankle assessment measures. FPI has been shown to predict 41% of variance in mid-stance of walking [Redmond et al., 2006], however the large amount of unexplained variance does mean that FPI values cannot infer those structures during gait. When interpreting the findings of this review, several limitations need to be considered. Only English language articles published were included due to the lack of translation services. Literature was not searched from inception as the aim of the review was to identify current assessment methods. The authors believed duration of three decades would be suitable to expose investigation into the assessments currently used. Whilst the agreement between reviewers for the inclusion of articles was established via consensus meetings, the level of agreement was not quantified.

All relevant articles were considered, despite the methodological quality. This was to ensure the inclusion of all available clinical foot and ankle assessment measures. Whilst narrative synthesis of lower quality evidence makes comparison of findings more difficult to interpret,

the authors believe it was important to identify all potential assessment methods and consider the limitations of all evidence rather than forfeit the inclusion of particular assessment methods.

Conclusion

It is clear that there is currently no comprehensive clinical protocol for the musculoskeletal assessment of the foot and ankle. A limited number of foot and ankle measures have shown an association with functional tests (navicular height, ankle flexibility, first metatarsal phalangeal joint range of movement); however no association has been shown between any of the foot and ankle measures identified and pain. For the majority of measures identified there is no evidence of investigation against outcomes of pain

and function. The review highlights a requirement for the identification of a standardised set of clinical foot and ankle assessment measures and has provided evidence which has facilitated an informed process of consensus to achieve this. Further investigation will also be required to justify the use of such a set of measures according to clinically relevant outcomes such as pain and function.

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Competing Interests

The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests

Authors' information

LG is undertaking a three year Arthritis Research UK training research fellowship at the University of Southampton

Authors Contributions

LG carried out the literature search, data extraction, appraisal of literature and drafted the manuscript. CB remained available for arbitration during appraisal process and contributed to the conception, design and critical revisions of the manuscript. LM carried out the appraisal of literature. NA contributed to the conception and design and critical revisions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Author & Year	Results	SEMs
Arch Measures		
Dahle et al (1991)	Inter-rater reliability between experienced clinicians (K=0.72)	Not reported
Saltzman et al (1995)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical anthropometric measures (ICC= 0.87-0.91) Footprint measures (ICC= 0.96-0.99) Radiographic (ICC ≥0.90) <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical anthropometric measures (ICC= 0.74-0.79) Footprint measures (ICC= 0.98-1.0) Radiographic (ICC ≥0.90) 	Not reported
Johnson & Gross (1997)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arch angle: ICC= 0.90 <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arch angle: ICC= 0.81 	Not reported
Weiner-Ogilvie & Rome (1998)	<p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant difference between examiners measurements of static arch height (P<0.05) <hr/> <p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant difference between each examiners measure of static arch height (P>0.05) 	Not reported
Williams & McClay (2000)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all measurements in 10% and 90% weight bearing (ICCs=0.804-0.982) Dorsum height in 10% WB: ICCs= 0.940 and 0.961 and in 90% WB: ICCs=0.979 and 0.979 <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All measurements (ICCs= 0.480-0.924) Dorsum height in 10% WB: ICC= 0.790 and in 90% WB: ICC=0.765 Highest ICC was Navicular height divided by foot length in 10% WB (ICC=0.924). However this measure was lower in 90% WB (ICC=0.565). Lowest ICC was first ray angle in 90% WB (ICC=0.480). Dorsum height divided by foot length and dorsum height divided by truncated foot length had high ICC values of 0.811-0.854 and maintained consistent levels of reliability across both 10% and 90% WB 	Not reported
McPoil & Cornwall (2005)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAA (ICCs= 0.95 and 0.96) <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAA: (ICC=0.67) 	1.3°
McPoil et al (2008)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all 3 measurements including total foot length, truncated foot length and dorsal arch height (ICCs=0.98-0.99) 	0.03-0.05cm

Appendix 1. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

	Inter- <i>examiner</i> reliability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all 3 measures (ICCs=0.98-0.99) 	0.04-0.07cm
Hegedus et al (2010)	Intra- <i>examiner</i> reliability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAA measures (ICC=0.978) mAR (ICC=0.961) 	Not reported
Navicular Measures		
Picciano et al (1993)	Intra-examiner reliability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navicular drop (ICC=0.61 and 0.79) 	2.57 and 1.92mm
	Inter-examiner reliability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navicular drop (ICC=0.57) 	2.72mm
Sell et al (1994)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navicular height in resting (ICC=0.95) Navicular height in neutral position (ICCs= 0.92) 	Resting= 1.5mm Neutral= 1.9mm
	<i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navicular height in resting (ICC= 0.96) Navicular height in neutral position (ICC=0.87) 	Resting= 1.4mm Neutral= 2.3mm
McPoil & Cornwall (1996)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NH in relaxed stance: ICC=0.984 NH in STJ neutral: ICC= 0.938 	Not reported
Vinicombe et al (2001)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navicular drop: ICCs=0.37-0.71 Navicular Drift: ICCs= 0.30-0.62 	Navicular Drop= 0.75-1.35mm Navicular Drift= 1.44-1.82mm
	<i>Inter- examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navicular Drop: ICCs= 0.72-0.75 Navicular Drift: ICCs= 0.50-0.57 	Navicular Drop= 1.17-1.27mm Navicular Drift= 2.05mm
Evans et al (2003)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navicular Height (NH) In children: ICCs=0.47-63 NH in adolescents: ICCs=0.75-0.81 NH in adults: ICCs=0.80-0.85 Navicular Drift (ND) in children: ICCs= 0.53-0.89 ND in adolescents: ICCs= 0.63-0.71 ND in adults: ICCs= 0.51-0.77 	NH in children=1.0-1.77mm

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

	<p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NH In children: ICCs=0.52 NH in adolescents: ICCs=0.72 NH in adults: ICCs=0.76 ND in children: ICCs=0.55 ND in adolescents: ICC=0.47 ND in adults: ICC=0.46 	<p>NH in adolescents= 1.2-2.7m</p> <p>NH in adults= 1.0-1.3mm</p> <p>ND in children= 1.8-3.4mm</p> <p>ND in adolescent= 2.0-2.7mm</p> <p>ND in adults= 2.3-3.5mm</p>
Menz et al (2003)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navicular Height: ICC=0.64 	Not reported
Brushøj et al (2007)	<p><i>The Foot Line Test</i></p> <p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICCs= 0.94-0.95 	0.8-0.9mm
	<p><i>Inter-rater reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICC=0.86 for left foot ICC= 0.83 for right foot 	1.3-1.4mm
Ankle Joint Dorsiflexion		
Youdas et al (1993)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability with goniometer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active ankle dorsiflexion (ICCs= 0.64-0.98) <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability with goniometer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active ankle dorsiflexion (ICC= 0.28) <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability with visual estimation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For active ankle dorsiflexion (ICC=0.34) 	Not reported
McPoil & Cornwall (1996)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability with goniometer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ankle dorsiflexion with knee extended: ICC=0.976 Ankle dorsiflexion with knee in 90o flexion: ICC=0.969 	Not reported
Johnson & Gross (1997)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability with goniometer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ankle dorsiflexion with knee extended: ICC= 0.74 <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability with goniometer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ankle dorsiflexion with knee extended: ICC= 0.65 	Not reported
Thoms & Rome (1997)	<p><i>Intra-tester reliability of goniometry for measurements of active ankle dorsiflexion using three subject position's:</i></p> <p>Significant differences in active ankle dorsiflexion measurements were found between prone and sitting positions (P<0.05), supine and sitting (P<0.05) but not between prone and supine positions (P>0.05)</p>	Not reported

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

Bennell et al (1998)	<p><i>Reliability of two methods of measuring weight bearing ankle dorsiflexion via lunge test:</i></p> <p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance from wall measurement: ICC=0.98 and 0.97 Angle between tibial shaft and vertical: ICC=0.98 and 0.98 <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance measurement: ICC= 0.99 Angle measurement: ICC=0.97 	<p>Distance from wall=0.5 and 0.6cm</p> <p>Angle between tibial shaft and vertical= 1.1 and 1.1°</p> <p>Distance: 0.4cm</p> <p>Angle= 1.4°</p>
Van Gheluwe et al (2002)	<p><i>Inter-examiner reliability (left and right foot) with goniometer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ankle dorsiflexion: 0.26 and 0.31 	<p>3.7 and 3.1 °</p>
Menz et al (2003)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ankle flexibility (modified lunge): ICC=0.87 	<p>Not reported</p>
Krause et al (2011)	<p>Reliability of ankle dorsiflexion ROM between five techniques:</p> <p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passive ROM (PROM) at 0 degrees knee flexion: ICC= 0.70 and 0.76 PROM at 90 degrees knee flexion: ICC= 0.83 and 0.78 Active ROM (AROM) at 0 degrees knee flexion: ICC=0.82 and 0.81 AROM at 90 degrees knee flexion:0.68 and 0.81 Modified lunge: 0.88 and 0.89 <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROM with 0 degrees knee flexion: ICC= 0.67 PROM with knee at 90 degrees flexion: ICC= 0.79 AROM with 0 degrees knee flexion: ICC= 0.62 AROM with knee at 90 degrees flexion: ICC= 0.55 Modified lunge: ICC=0.82 	<p>PROM at 0 degrees knee flexion=2.3 and 2.5°</p> <p>PROM at 90 degrees knee flexion= 2.3 and 2.9</p> <p>AROM at 0 degrees knee flexion=2.5 and 2.7°</p> <p>AROM at 90 degrees knee flexion= 2.4 and 2.1°</p> <p>Modified lunge= 2.3 and 2.2°</p> <p>PROM at 0 degrees knee flexion= 2.62°</p> <p>PROM at 90 degrees knee flexion= 2.58°</p> <p>AROM at 0 degrees knee flexion= 3.70°</p> <p>AROM at 90 degrees knee flexion= 2.83°</p> <p>Modified lunge= 2.82</p>

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

First Ray Measures		
McPoil & Cornwall (1996)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st ray position: K= 1.000 	Not reported
Glaseo et al (2002)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> manual first ray mobility examination: k=0.50 and 0.85 <hr/> <i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> manual first ray mobility examination: k=0.16 and 0.09 	Not reported
Cornwall et al (2004a)	<i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall agreement among three clinicians assessing first ray mobility was 30% 	Not reported
Glaseo et al (2005)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For mechanical device mobility (ICC= 0.98) For ruler mobility (ICCs ≤ 0.06) <hr/> <i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For ruler (ICC=0.05) 	Mechanical device= 0.15mm Ruler=1.1mm Ruler=1.2mm
Shirk et al (2006)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For position of first ray (K=0.27 0.21 For mobility of first ray (K=0.26 0.3 <hr/> <i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For position of first ray (K=0.12 0.3 For mobility of first ray (K=0.14 0.2 	Not reported
Kim et al (2008)	Reliability of a new tool (EMC) for measuring 1st ray mobility <i>Intra examiner reliability:</i> No statistically significant differences were found for each investigator (P values of 0.58, 0.93, 0.58 and 0.76, 0.79 0.80) <hr/> <i>Inter examiner reliability:</i> No significant differences for measurements among investigators wither (P=0.96)	Not reported
Subtalar Joint Measures		
Elveru et al (1988)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For measurements of the STJN position (ICC=0.77) For unreferenced measurements of STJ PROM: inversion (ICC=0.74) and eversion (ICC=0.75) For STJ PROM measurements referenced from STJN position: inversion (ICC=0.62) and eversion (ICC=0.59) Ankle PROM: dorsiflexion (ICC=0.90) and dorsiflexion (ICC=0.86) 	Not reported

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

	<p><i>Inter-tester reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For measurements of the STJN position (ICC=0.25) • For unreferenced measurements of STJ PROM for inversion (ICC=0.32) and eversion (ICC=0.17). • For STJ PROM measurements referenced from STJN position: inversion (ICC=0.15) and eversion (ICC=0.12) • Ankle PROM: dorsiflexion (ICC=0.50) and dorsiflexion (ICC=0.72). 	
Smith-Oricchio & Harris (1990)	<p>Rear foot frontal plane measures are used to represent STJ within article:</p> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcaneal inversion motion (ICC= 0.42) and eversion motion (0.25) • Palpated STJN (ICC= 0.60) • Calcaneal position in bilateral resting stance (ICC= 0.91) • Calcaneal position in unilateral resting stance (ICCs=0.75) 	Not reported
Picciano et al (1993)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open kinetic chain STJN (ICC=0.06-0.27) • Closed kinetic chain STJN (ICC= 0.14-0.18) <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability between inexperienced examiners:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open kinetic chain STJN (ICC= of 0.00) • Closed kinetic chain STJN (ICC= 0.15) 	<p>Open kinetic chain STJN= 1.81-2.29°</p> <p>Closed kinetic chain STJN= 2.40-2.46°</p> <p>Open kinetic chain STJN= 2.51°</p> <p>Closed kinetic chain STJN= 2.43°</p>
Sell et al (1994)	<p>STJ position represented by standing calcaneal and navicular height measurements</p> <p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For standing calcaneal measurements and navicular height in resting (ICC= 0.85 and 0.95) • For standing calcaneal measurements and navicular height in neutral position (ICCs= 0.85 and 0.92). <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For calcaneal measurement and navicular height in resting (ICC= 0.68 and 0.96) • For standing calcaneal measurements and navicular height in neutral position (ICCs= 0.79 and 0.87). 	<p>Resting calcaneal and navicular height= 1° and 1.5mm, respectively</p> <p>Neutral calcaneal and navicular height= 1.9mm</p> <p>Resting calcaneal and navicular height= 1.8° and 1.4mm, respectively</p> <p>Neutral calcaneal and navicular height= 1.3° and 2.3mm</p>

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

McPoil & Cornwall (1996)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STJ inversion: ICC=0.947 STJ eversion: ICC= 0.964 STJ neutral position: ICC= 0.97 	Not reported
Pierrynowski et al (1996)	Experienced foot care specialists positioned the rear foot into +1° of the represented STJN position 41.3% of the time, whereas untrained physiotherapy students positioned it the same 25.0% of the time.	Not reported
Ogilvie et al (1997)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All positions (ICCs=0.80-0.97) <hr/> <i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sagittal and transverse plane in maximum pronation, supination and neutral were fair-good (ICCs= 0.71-0.88). In the frontal plane, reliability was good for neutral and supinated position (ICCs= 0.86 and 0.84, respectively) and slightly lower for pronation (ICC= 0.79). Palpated neutral position was significantly different from the calculated STJN root method (P=0.001) 	For % of eversion from total ROM only= 1.53 and 2.23%
Menz & Keenan (1997)	<i>Intra-examiner correlation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neutral calcaneal stance position (NCSP) with an angle finder: r=0.811 NCSP with digital goniometer: r= 0.168 Resting calcaneal stance position (RCSP) with angle finder: r= 0.354 RCSP with digital goniometer: r= 0.197 <hr/> <i>Inter-examiner correlations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCSP with an angle finder: r=0.367-0.639 NCSP with digital goniometer: r=0.558-0.561 RCSP with angle finder: r=0.742 RCSP with digital goniometer: r=0.617 	NCSP with angle finder=3.77° NCSP with digital goniometer= 8.47° RCSP with angle finder= 6.27° RCSP with digital goniometer= 6.42° NCSP with angle finder= 6.52° NCSP with digital goniometer= 6.16° RCSP with angle finder= 4.32° RCSP with digital goniometer= 4.44°
Foot Posture Index		
Evans et al (2003)	<i>FP-8 Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In children: ICCs=0.78-0.83 Adolescents: ICCs=0.79-0.89 Adults: ICCs=0.72-86 	children: 1.1-1.7 adolescents= 1.0-1.3

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

	<p><i>FP-8 Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In children (ICCs=0.62) • adolescents (ICCs=0.74) • adults (ICCs=0.58) 	adults= 1.1-1.5
Cornwall et al (2008)	<p><i>FPI-6 Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICCs= 0.928, 0.928 and 0.937 <hr/> <p><i>FPI-6 Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICCs= 0.566 	Not reported
Rear foot Measures		
Johnson & Gross (1997)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rear foot angle (calcaneus to leg with goniometer): ICC= 0.88 <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rear foot angle (calcaneus to leg with goniometer): ICC= 0.86 	Not reported
Sobel et al (1999)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For relaxed calcaneal stance position with a goniometer (ICCs=0.61-0.90) <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant difference between three examiners in the measurement of relaxed calcaneal stance position with a goniometer (P>0.05) 	Non reported
Van Gheluwe et al (2002)	<p><i>Inter-examiner reliability (left and right foot):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relaxed calcaneal stance: 0.61 and 0.62 • neutral calcaneal stance: 0.31 and 0.21 	<p>Left and right foot:</p> <p>relaxed calcaneal stance= 2.6 and 2.4°</p> <p>neutral calcaneal stance= 2.3 and 3.4°</p>
Evans et al (2003)	<p><i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resting Calcaneal Stance Position (RCSP) in children: ICCs=0.52-0.79 • RCSP in adolescents: ICCs=0.51-0.85 • RCSP in adults: ICCs=0.17-0.70 • Neutral Calcaneal Stance Position (NCSP) in children: ICCs= 0.07-0.20 • NCSP in adolescents: ICCs= 0.10-0.91 • NCSP in adults: ICCs= 0.32-0.72 <hr/> <p><i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCSP In children: ICCs= 0.54 • RCSP in adolescents: ICCs= 0.55 • RCSP in adults: ICCs= 0.25 • NCSP in children: ICCs= 0.02 • NCSP in adolescents: ICC= 0.12 • NCSP in adults: ICC= 0.33 	<p>RCSP in children=1.4-1.6°</p> <p>RCSP in adolescents= 0.9-1.8°</p> <p>RCSP in adults= 1.2-6.2°</p> <p>NCSP in children= 0.5-2.1°</p> <p>NCSP in adolescents= 0.2-1.3°</p> <p>NCSP in adults= 1.1-1.6°</p>

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

Cornwall & McPoil (2004)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rear foot angle in resting stance position (ICC= 0.950) 	Non reported
Haight et al (2005)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For visual standing tibio-calcaneal angle (ICC=0.88-0.94) For goniometric standing tibio-calcaneal angle (ICC= 0.80-0.93) <hr/> <i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For visual standing tibio-calcaneal angle (ICC=0.56-0.65) For goniometric standing tibio-calcaneal angle (ICC= 0.50-0.75) 	Not reported
First Metatarsal Phalangeal Joint Measures		
Hopson et al (1995)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability (for static assessment of 1st MTPJ extension ROM with a goniometer):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non weight-bearing (1): 0.951 Non weight-bearing (2): 0.906 Partial weight-bearing: 0.948 Weight-bearing step length: 0.976 <p>Significant differences in mean values for each static method (P<0.05).</p>	Non weight-bearing (1)= 1.26° Non weight-bearing (2)= 1.38° Partial weight-bearing= 0.80° Weight-bearing step length= 1.44°
McPoil & Cornwall (1996)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability with goniometer:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st MTP extension: ICC= 0.986 	Non reported
Forefoot Measures		
McPoil & Cornwall (1996)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability using goniometer:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forefoot position: K= 0.760 	Not reported
Somers et al (1997)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability using goniometer:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forefoot position measured by experienced examiner (ICCs= 0.78 and 0.08*) Forefoot position measured by in-experienced examiners (ICCs= 0.65 and 0.16*) <hr/> <i>Intra-examiner reliability using visual estimation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forefoot position measured by experienced examiner (ICCs= 0.76 and 0.51) Forefoot position measured by in-experienced examiners (ICCs= 0.53 and 0.57) <hr/> <i>Inter-examiner reliability using goniometer:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forefoot position measured by experienced examiner (ICC= 0.38*) Forefoot position measured by in-experienced examiner (ICC= 0.42*) 	Experienced examiners using a goniometer= 0.86° and 1.04° Inexperienced examiners using a goniometer= 1.06° and 2.19° Experienced examiners using visual estimation=1.35° and 1.70° Inexperienced examiners using visual estimation= 1.28° and 1.05°

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments

	<i>Inter-examiner reliability using visual estimation:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forefoot position measured by experienced examiner (ICC= 0.81) • Forefoot position measured by in-experienced examiner (ICC= 0.72) <p>*Denotes potentially invalid ICC values</p>	
Van Gheluwe et al (2002)	<i>Inter-examiner reliability (left and right foot) with goniometer:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forefoot varus: 3.4 and 3.1 °
Cornwall et al (2004)	Out of three clinicians (one podiatrist, 2 physical therapists), with varying degrees of experience, only the experienced physiotherapists were found to have a statistically significant agreement with each other, with an agreement of 61.7% with a chance agreement of 41.7% (KAPPA=.342, p<.05).	Not reported
Manual Supination		
Noakes & Payne (2003)	<i>Intra-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For experienced clinicians (ICCs=0.82 and 0.78) • For less experience clinicians (ICCs=0.56 and 0.62) <hr/> <i>Inter-examiner reliability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICC=0.89 	Not reported

Appendix 1. Cont. Summary table of reliability findings for foot and ankle assessments