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# Delayed functional therapy after acute lateral ankle sprain increases subjective ankle instability – the later, the worse: a retrospective analysis

Christian Raeder<sup>1\*†</sup>, Janina Tennler<sup>2†</sup>, Arthur Praetorius<sup>1</sup>, Tobias Ohmann<sup>2</sup> and Christian Schoepp<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

**Background:** The lateral ankle sprain (LAS) is one of the most common injuries in everyday and sports activities. Approximately 20–40 % of patients with LAS develop a chronic ankle instability (CAI). The underlying mechanisms for CAI have not yet been clearly clarified. An inadequate rehabilitation after LAS can be speculated, since the LAS is often handled as a minor injury demanding less treatment. Therefore, the aims of this retrospective study were to determine the CAI rate depending on age and sex and to identify possible determinants for developing CAI.

**Methods:** Between 2015 and 2018 we applied the diagnostic code “sprain of ankle” (ICD S93.4) to identify relevant cases from the database of the BG Klinikum Duisburg, Germany. Patients received a questionnaire containing the Tegner-Score, the Cumberland Ankle Instability Tool (CAIT) and the Foot and Ankle Disability Index. Additionally, there were questions about the modality and beginning of therapy following LAS and the number of recurrent sprains. There was a total of 647 completed datasets. These were divided into a CAI and non-CAI group according to a CAIT cut-off-score with CAI  $\leq 24$  and non-CAI  $> 24$  points, representing one out of three criteria for having CAI based on international consensus.

**Results:** The overall CAI rate was 17.3 %. We identified a higher CAI rate in females and within the age segment of 41 to 55 years. A later start of therapy ( $> 4$  weeks) after acute LAS significantly increases ankle instability in CAIT ( $p < .05$ ). There was a significantly higher CAIT score in patients having no recurrent sprain compared to patients having 1–3 recurrent sprains or 4–5 recurrent sprains ( $p < .001$ ).

**Conclusions:** Females over 41 years show a higher CAI rate which implies to perform specific prevention programs improving ankle function following acute LAS. A delayed start of therapy seems to be an important determinant associated with the development of CAI. Another contributing factor may be a frequent number of recurrent sprains that are also linked to greater levels of subjective ankle instability. Therefore, we would recommend an early start of functional therapy after acute LAS in the future to minimize the development of CAI.

**Keywords:** Epidemiology, Functional rehabilitation, Ankle injury, Ankle instability, FADI

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## Background

The lateral ankle sprain (LAS) is one of the most common musculoskeletal injuries in everyday and sports-related activities [1]. In the general public, an incidence rate between 2.2 and 7 LAS per 1000 person-years has been reported [2]. Up to 70 % of the general population state having suffered from at least one LAS during their lifetime. In addition, there is a twofold increased risk of re-injury in the year following the initial injury [3]. In sports, an incidence rate ranging between 0.88 and 7 LAS per 1000 exposures has been reported, with indoor and court sports showing the greatest injury risk [4]. There is a high rate of recurrent ankle sprains ranging between 12 and 70 % [5, 6] with a five times increased risk of re-injury [7]. This has been shown in particular to be an important contributor for the development of chronic ankle instability (CAI) [1, 5]. Minimizing the recurrence rate should therefore be an important goal of functional therapy after acute LAS.

The medical treatment, work loss as well as a loss of productivity lead to high socioeconomic costs, especially with recurrent sprains and long-term problems [1]. Epidemiological studies have shown that the total costs of a LAS in the European Union range between 800 € and 1100 € [1]. In the Netherlands, productivity loss due to absence from work was responsible for up to 80 % of the total costs of a LAS [8]. In 2019, there were 60,000 LAS in Germany leading to a total of 550,000 lost workdays (on request at the DGUV from 13.08.2020; DGUV, German Statutory Accident Assurance). Approximately 20–40 % of patients with a LAS will develop a CAI which is defined as a continuum of mechanical and/or functional instability resulting in subjective instability, recurrent sprains and persistent pain lasting > 1 year after the initial LAS [6, 9, 10]. Consequently, the LAS is a serious injury of high social relevance that requires adequate treatment to prevent negative long-term effects and chronic symptoms.

One possible explanation for the high instability rate is an insufficient rehabilitation and/or a too early return to intense sports and workloads [3, 11]. Up to now the LAS is still handled as a minor injury that will resolve quickly with limited treatment although the primary LAS is often the start point for severe and long-lasting symptoms [12, 13]. Several risk factors for incurring a LAS have been proposed such as a younger age, a history of recurrent sprains, impaired postural control and decreased muscle strength of the hip and ankle joint [14]. Regarding the development of CAI, Doherty et al. [15] identified a couple of risk factors including an inability of drop landing or jumping within two weeks of the initial LAS injury as well as a poorer dynamic postural control and lower levels of self-reported function six months after the initial LAS injury. For treating patients

with CAI, Donovan and Hertel [10] developed an evidence-based rehabilitation paradigm that takes into account the major functional limitations typically associated with CAI. These impairments were divided into four different assessment domains including deficits in range of motion, strength, postural control or balance and functional tasks that enable targeted neuromuscular training therapy based on individual deficiencies. Miklovic et al. [16] suggested that the impairment domains could also be helpful for the treatment of acute LAS, since patients suffer from similar limitations that are mostly not adequately addressed in the acute or sub-acute phase. Consequently, the authors recommend considering these functional deficits already at an early stage during rehabilitation after an acute LAS to prevent persistent or even chronic symptoms. However, this concept has not yet been empirically proven within a comprehensive approach. In addition, a large proportion of patients do not receive supervised targeted rehabilitation after acute LAS [16, 17], although there are evidence-based recommendations for the effective treatment and prevention of acute and recurrent sprains, such as early mobilization and exercise therapy, and ankle bracing [18–20].

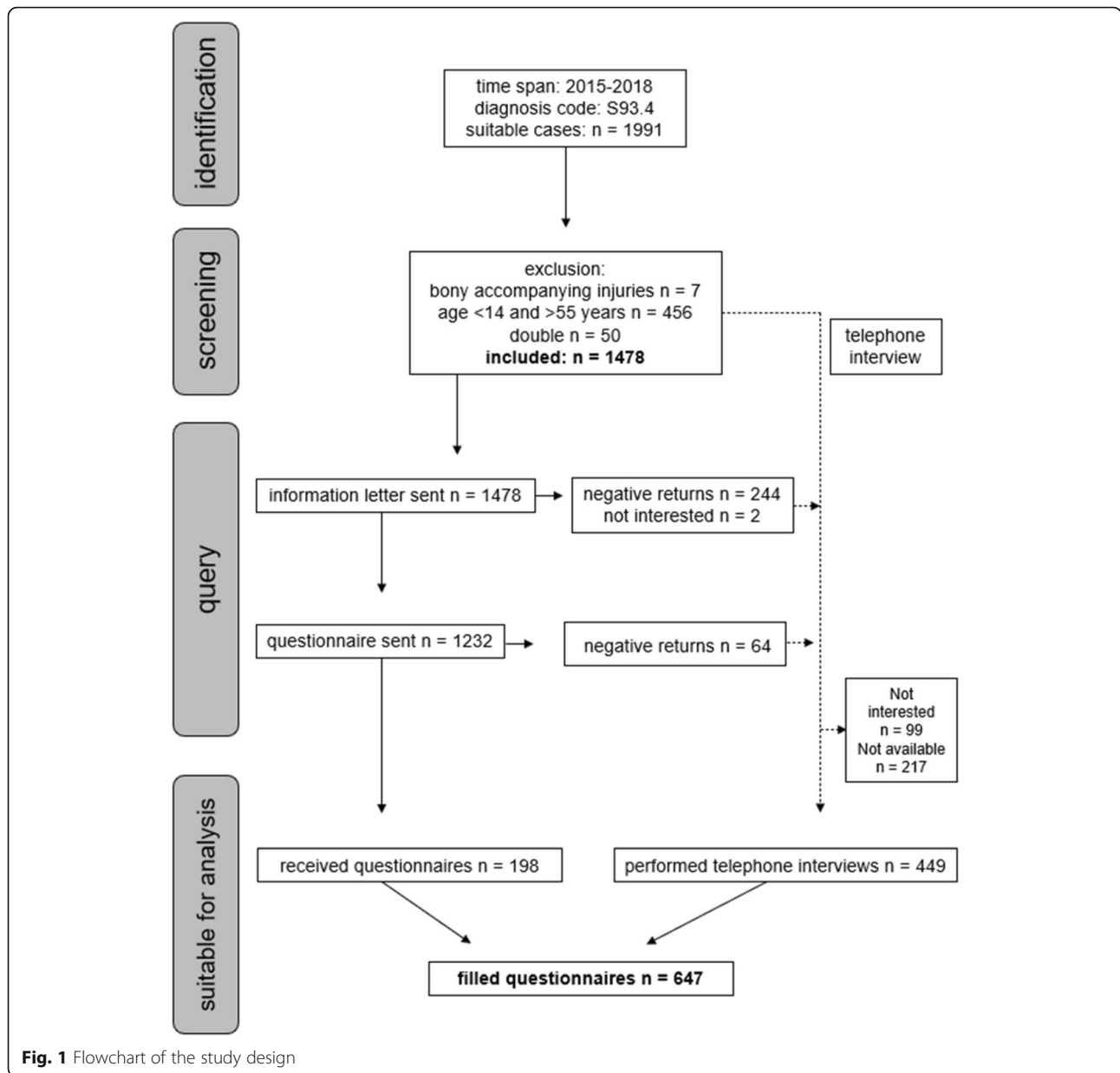
Therefore, the aims of this four-year retrospective study were firstly to determine the CAI rate depending on age and sex, and secondly to identify possible determinants or contributing factors (i.e., modality of therapy, beginning of therapy) for developing CAI and negative long-term consequences. Both are relevant goals to evaluate and possibly optimize current treatment strategies after incurring acute LAS.

## Methods

### Study design

A retrospective study design was used (Fig. 1). Between 2015 and 2018 we applied the diagnostic code “sprain of ankle” (ICD S93.4) to identify relevant cases from the database of the BG Klinikum Duisburg, Germany. Participants between the ages of 14 to 55 years were included. Valid ankle sprains were defined as acute ankle sprains with no accompanying bone injuries. Cases that did not meet these criteria were excluded. The used criteria were selected due to the recommendations of the International Ankle Consortium [14]. A total of 1478 cases were detected that matched the inclusion criteria.

All patients of the identified cases received a postal questionnaire containing the Tegner-Score and patient-related outcome measures (PROMs) including the Cumberland Ankle Instability Tool (CAIT) and the Foot and Ankle Disability Index (FADI). Additionally, there were questions about the received modality of therapy (i.e., orthosis, physiotherapy and exercise therapy), the beginning of therapy (i.e., immediate start, 1–4 weeks, > 4



**Fig. 1** Flowchart of the study design

weeks or no received therapy), as well as the number of recurrent sprains (i.e., no recurrent sprains, 1-3x, 4-5x). The appropriate answers were marked with a cross by the patients.

The Tegner-Score aims to determine the level of physical activity in patients using different grades on a numerical scale. Its values range from zero to ten, with zero representing being bedridden and ten representing doing competitive sport at a professional level [21]. CAIT and FADI are validated questionnaires to get a subjective insight into regional functional impairments following LAS. The CAIT consists of 9 items measuring the severity of functional ankle instability during the performance of different activities

or tasks. The total score ranges from 0 to 30 with 0 representing a painful and strongly unstable ankle during low-intense everyday activities and 30 representing a pain-free and subjectively stable ankle even during more intense physical activities. Furthermore, the CAIT is used as a tool to differentiate between individuals suffering from CAI or not by using a pre-defined cut-off score with  $CAIT \leq 24$  indicating CAI [22]. The FADI assesses functional limitations of the ankle, consisting of 26 items with the possibility to rate the grade of limitation. It is reported as a percentage of the highest possible score [23, 24]. Due to the low number of valid questionnaires received, an additional phone interview was performed. Because of

economic reasons, the phone interview included only the PROMs, CAIT and FADI.

**Participants**

The received questionnaires ( $n = 198$ ) and additionally performed phone interviews ( $n = 449$ ) led to a total of 647 completed datasets. The sample consisted of 381 male and 266 female participants. Participants were divided into three age groups (14 to 25, 26 to 40 and 41 to 55). Furthermore, they were divided into a CAI and non-CAI group according to the predefined cut-off-score of CAIT  $\leq 24$ , representing at least one out of three selection criteria for having CAI based on international consensus guidelines [22]. Subjects with a CAIT score  $\leq 24$  points were designated as having CAI, whereas subjects with a CAIT score  $> 24$  points were designated as having non-CAI. Sample characteristics with regard to their level of activity can be seen in Table 1. The study was approved by the local ethics committee (Ärztchamber Nordrhein, 2,018,363) and was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants provided written informed consent.

**Statistics**

Descriptive statistics using frequency analysis were performed to calculate the percentage CAI rate. Since the FADI was not normally distributed, according to the Kolmogorov-Smirnov-Test ( $p < .05$ ), the Mann Whitney U test was performed to assess differences between the CAI and non-CAI groups in the FADI. Independent t-tests were used to analyze the effects of the reported modality of therapy (yes: received vs. no: not received) on the CAIT score. Relative differences in the beginning of therapy between the CAI and non-CAI group were performed using frequency analysis. A one-way ANOVA was used to determine the effects of the beginning of therapy on the CAIT score and to assess the effects of the number of recurrent sprains on the CAIT score. The Tukey post-hoc test was used for pairwise comparisons between the different starting times of therapy. Homogeneity of variance was verified with the Levene’s test

( $p > .05$ ). In case homogeneity of variance was violated, a Welch ANOVA using Games-Howell post-hoc analysis was applied. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS Statistics (IBM, Armonk, New York, USA, Version 23.0). Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD unless otherwise stated.

**Results**

The Tegner score and the frequency of LAS were highest in the younger age group of 14–25 years (46 %) and gradually decreased with advancing age showing the lowest Tegner score and frequency in the older age group of 41–55 years (25 %) (Tables 1 and 2). The overall CAI rate was 17.3 %. Males were consistently less affected than females over all age groups. The highest CAI rate with 22.7 % was found in the 41–55 years age group (Table 2). The total FADI score significantly differed between the CAI and non-CAI group ( $80.2 \pm 16.5$  % vs.  $97.7 \pm 9.2$  %;  $U = 3674.00$ ,  $Z = -2.237$ ,  $p < .05$ ).

The CAIT significantly differed in the reported frequency categories (mean  $\pm$  SD; no recurrent sprains, 0x:  $28.4 \pm 4.7$ , 1-3x:  $18.6 \pm 6.9$  and 3-5x:  $16.0 \pm 5.5$ ;  $F(2,562) = 81.379$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Games-Howell post-hoc analysis revealed a significantly higher CAIT score in patients having no recurrent sprain compared to patients having 1–3 recurrent sprains ( $p < .001$ ) or 4–5 recurrent sprains ( $p < .001$ ) (Fig. 2).

There were no significant differences in the CAIT score between the received and non-received modalities of therapy (Fig. 3). Overall, the mean CAIT descriptively decreased with a later beginning of therapy: immediate start ( $23.4 \pm 6.9$ ), 1–4 weeks ( $20.0 \pm 8.5$ ),  $> 4$  weeks ( $16.4 \pm 9.0$ ), no received therapy ( $18.2 \pm 8.1$ ). ANOVA revealed a significant difference between the starting times of therapy ( $F(3,145) = 3.34$ ,  $p < .05$ ) showing a higher CAIT score with an immediate start compared to  $> 4$  weeks following acute LAS ( $p < .05$ ) (Fig. 4). At the group level, a higher percentage in non-CAI started their therapy immediately and after 1–4 weeks. By contrast, there was a higher percentage in CAI starting their

**Table 1** Levels of activity separated by age groups

Age group	Tegner-Score	Corresponding level of activity
All	6	Recreational sport: tennis, badminton handball
14–25 years	7	Competitive sport: Tennis, track and field, handball Recreational sport: soccer
26–40 years	5	Heavy physical work Competitive sport: cycling Jogging on uneven terrain
41–55 years	4	Medium heavy physical work Recreational sport: cycling Jogging on even terrain

**Table 2** Frequency of LAS, absolute CAI rate and its relative sex distribution in different age groups

	Frequency of LAS (%)	CAI rate (%)	Male (%) of CAI rate	Female (%) of CAI rate
all		17.3	41.4	58.6
14–25 years	45.6	11.7	38.7	61.3
26–40 years	29.4	12.4	47.6	52.4
41–55 years	25.0	22.7	40.0	60.0

therapy after more than 4 weeks or receiving no therapy (Fig. 5).

**Discussion**

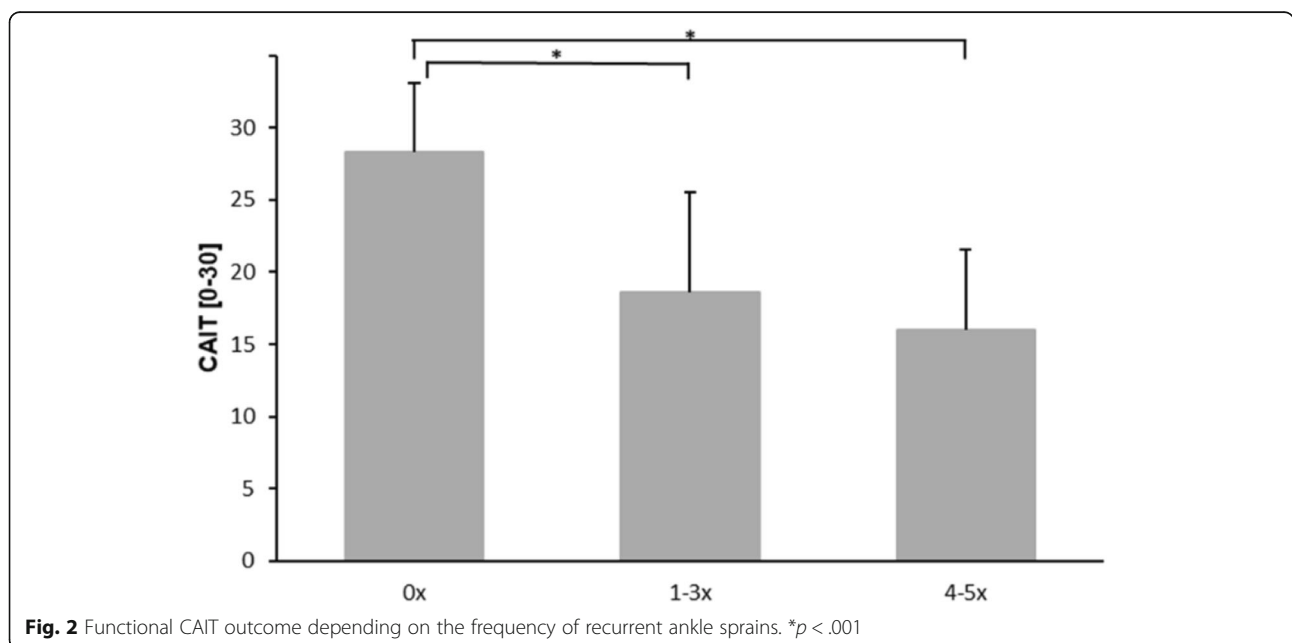
The present study retrospectively analyzed patients with acute LAS treated between 2015 and 2018 in the BG Klinikum Duisburg, Germany. Using PROMs (CAIT & FADI) we collected relevant epidemiological information on the distribution of the CAI rate. We identified a higher CAI rate in females and persons in the age group of 41 to 55 years. We could further show that a later beginning of therapy after acute LAS is associated with increased functional impairments of the ankle. Therefore, early treatment following acute LAS seems to be an effective means in preventing CAI.

The overall CAI rate was about 17 % and thus slightly lower than the CAI rates reported in literature ranging between 20 and 40 % [1, 6, 9, 10, 19]. This could be related to methodological differences in study design such as inclusion criteria and inconsistent terminology according to the definition of CAI. In this study, CAI was classified according to the CAIT score, which is a recommended criteria from the International Ankle Consortium [22]. Our classification is also supported by the FADI since there was a significant difference in the

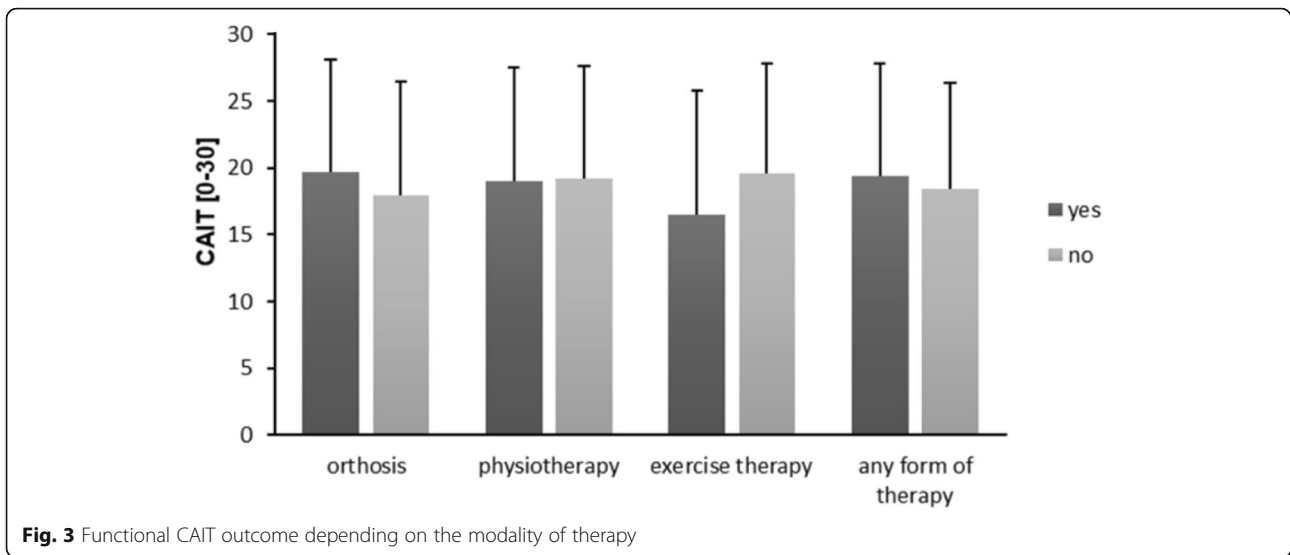
FADI score between the CAI (78.99 %) and non-CAI group (97.05 %).

According to our patients sex we found a higher CAI rate in females (21.2 %) than in males (10.3 %). The females also had higher CAI rates in each of the three age groups. Literature shows that there is in general a higher incidence of ankle sprains in females compared with males (13.6 vs. 6.94 per 1,000 exposures) [4]. This is supported by a higher CAI rate for females in sport (female athletes 32 % vs. male athletes 17 %) [25]. Yet there is no explanation for this prevalence, but there are several assumptions such as increased ankle laxity, increased range of motion, decreased dorsiflexion strength or decreased postural control in females which may contribute to these injuries [26, 27]. Additionally, we speculate that the reduced financial and sportsmedical support in female professional sport compared to their male counterparts might also be a contributing factor. Derived from this, females should focus more on specific prevention programs (e.g. focussing on balance, mobility, strength) to reduce the occurrence of LAS [28].

Doherty et al. [4] state that the incidence of LAS appear to decrease with age. Our data is in line with these findings since we detected a higher LAS frequency in younger compared to older age groups (14–25 years:

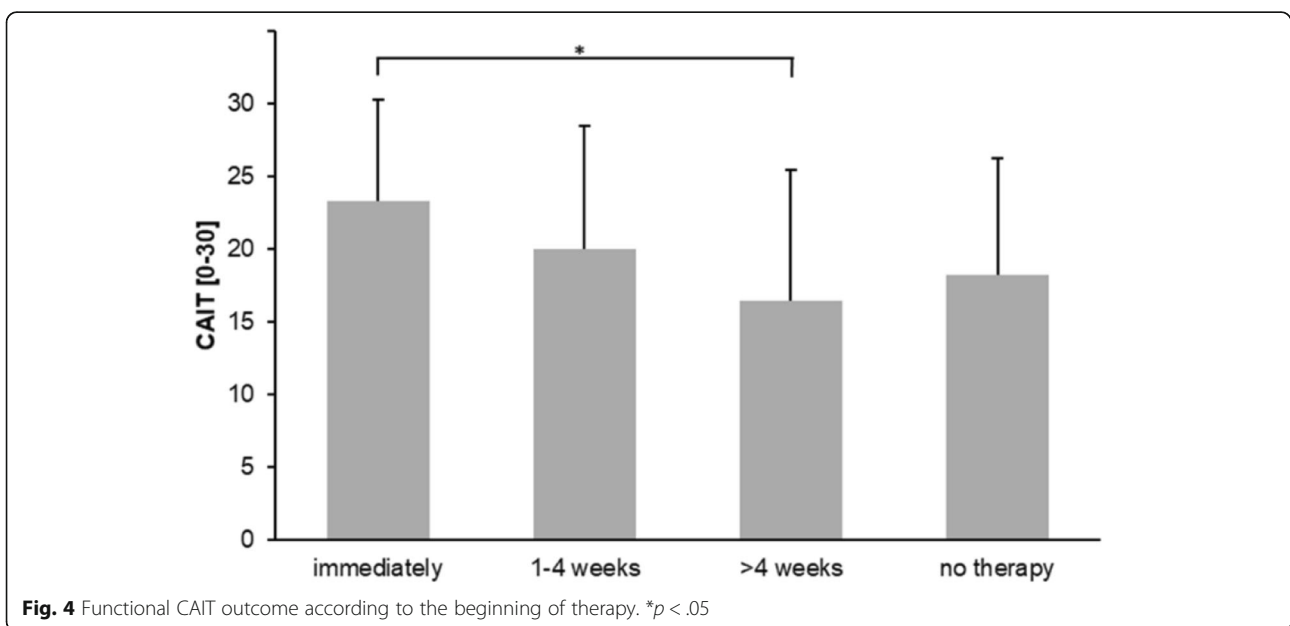


**Fig. 2** Functional CAIT outcome depending on the frequency of recurrent ankle sprains. \**p* < .001

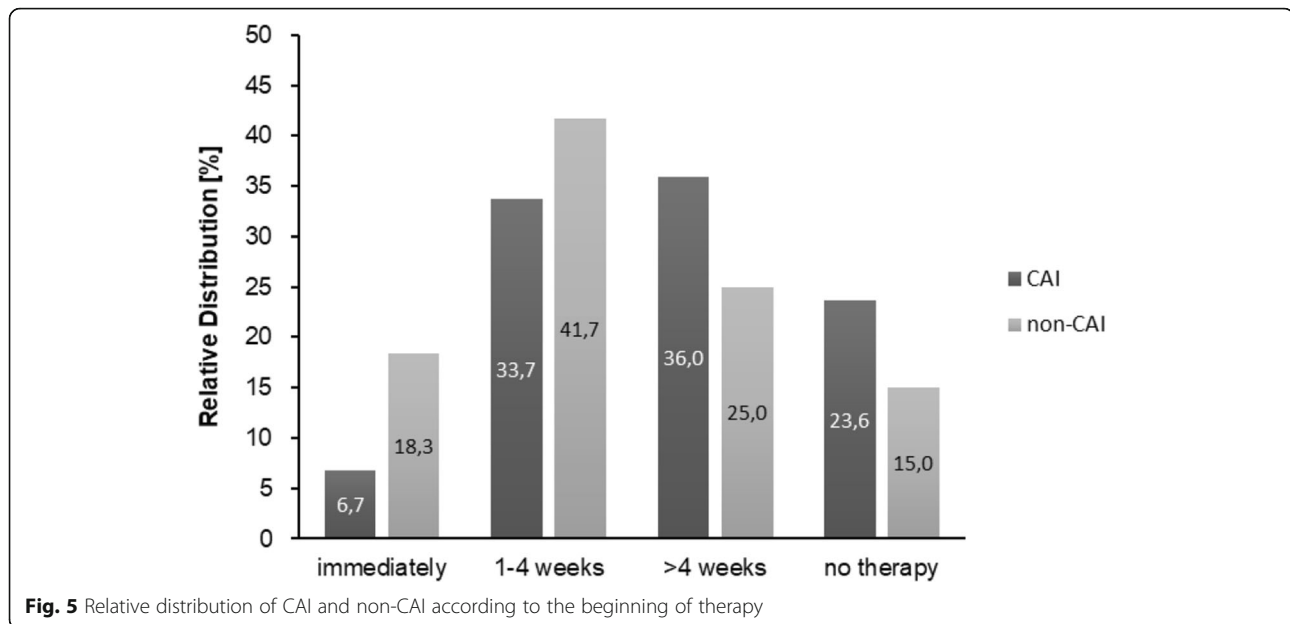


46 % vs. 26–40 years: 29 % vs. 41–55 years: 25 %). This may be explained by the corresponding level of activity with higher Tegner scores observed in younger (i.e., increased participation in risk sports with stop-and-go characteristics such as soccer) than older populations. Therefore, the implementation of specific prevention routines is recommended prior to sports activity. In contrast, we found a higher CAI rate in older compared to younger age groups (14–25 years: 12 % vs. 26–40 years: 12 % vs. 41–55 years: 23 %). Currently there is no literature investigating the age distribution of CAI. We assume that there is a higher CAI rate with increasing age because older individuals might have a longer history of

multiple ankle sprains in their life, which is a major contributing factor for developing CAI [5]. This may provoke adjustments in lifestyle and a reduction in activity levels that could additionally contribute to a greater development of sarcopenia with decreased muscle mass and connective tissue as well as increased impairments in postural or sensorimotor control, causing an increased ankle instability [29–32]. In addition, our data showed that the frequency of recurrent sprains seems to be associated with the degree of subjective ankle instability, since patients who experienced 1–3 and 4–5 recurrent sprains have significantly worse CAIT outcomes than patients having no recurrent sprains. Furthermore,







the CAIT score of the groups with 1–3 and 4–5 recurrent sprains is below the cut-off score of the CAIT (CAIT  $\leq 24$  indicating CAI), respectively. This implicates that LAS as an injury should be taken seriously and that the focus should be on regaining function as early as possible to prevent recurrent LAS.

With regard to the reported treatment modalities, there were no significant differences in the CAIT score between the received and non-received forms of therapy. Thus, based on the conditions of this study, the functional CAIT outcome does not seem to be generally determined by a specific modality of therapy. As this was a surprising result, we assumed that other factors might play a decisive role on subjective ankle joint function. In this respect, we found that the CAIT score significantly differed between patients receiving their therapy immediately and those who received therapy after more than four weeks. The latter had a worse outcome because of the delayed start of the therapy. This is supported by previous research showing superior treatment effects on subjective ankle function and prevention of CAI in patients with early functional bracing and exercise therapy compared to short-term immobilization [1, 11, 18, 19, 33]. Furthermore, there was a higher percentage of patients in the non-CAI group receiving immediate therapy after acute LAS and, in contrast, a higher percentage of patients in the CAI group receiving therapy after more than four weeks or no therapy at all following acute LAS. We assume that the beginning time of therapy can be seen as an important determinant or contributing factor, respectively, associated with the development of CAI. It seems the later the beginning of therapy after acute LAS the worse the functional outcome.

#### Limitations

To increase the number of valid PROMs we performed an additional telephone interview. The individual communication might have influenced the perception and response behavior of patients which could have affected the outcome variables. As this was a retrospective study, there is generally a susceptibility to errors since the data might be biased due to the patient's inaccurate recollection of events. That is why relevant information about the quality, intensity, duration and frequency of treatment after acute LAS is currently missing, since we decided to ask more simple questions to improve data quality. However, knowledge of the missing data could have affected the study results. The assignment into a CAI and a non-CAI group is based on only one selection criterion, the cut-off score of CAIT  $\leq 24$  for the definition of CAI. Future studies investigating CAI patients should therefore consider all three criteria recommended by the International Ankle Consortium [22]. Given diagnoses cannot be proved retrospectively on the basis of the etiology and completeness as well as the grading of the severity of the injury. However, this should be taken into account in future and especially prospective studies.

#### Conclusions

According to this study, females and older age groups (41–55 years) have a higher risk for developing CAI which implies to focus on specific prevention or therapy programs improving ankle function. Moreover, patients reporting a later start of therapy after acute LAS (>4 weeks) have a worse functional CAIT outcome, irrespective of the received treatment modality. Thus, a delayed beginning of therapy following acute LAS seems to

be an important determinant associated with the development of CAI. A further contributing factor for CAI, suggested by literature, is the number of recurrent sprains which could also be supported by our data. Therefore, we highly recommend an early start of functional therapy after acute LAS in the future to minimize the LAS recurrence rate and the development of CAI. The therapy should be guided by four impairment domains, identified in patients with CAI [16]. These domains consist of range of motion, strength, postural control, and functional tasks. Further research in this area is needed to empirically evaluate the effectiveness of this treatment concept aiming to reduce the CAI rate.

#### Abbreviations

CAI: Chronic ankle instability; CAIT: Cumberland ankle instability tool; FADI: Foot and ankle disability index; LAS: Lateral ankle sprain; PROMs: Patient related outcome measures

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#### Authors' contributions

CR, AP and TO contributed to the conception and design of the study. JT performed the data acquisition. JT and CR conducted the data analysis and data interpretation as well as the manuscript preparation and writing. TO, AP, and CS contributed to the revision. All authors read and approved the final manuscript. CR and JT contributed equally to this work.

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#### Availability of data and materials

The datasets generated during and analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due to maintaining control of further data usage or data inclusion in future research projects. In general, we are keen to share our datasets, which is why they are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

#### Declarations

##### Ethics approval and consent to participate

The study and the participation of underage subjects were approved by the local ethics committee (Ärztchamber Nordrhein, 2018363). All participants provided written informed consent before the start of this study.

##### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

##### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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## Original research

## Interventions preventing ankle sprains; previous injury and high-risk sport participation as predictors of compliance

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** To describe the association between participants' person-related potential predictor variables and cumulative compliance with interventions for preventing ankle sprains: neuromuscular training, wearing an ankle brace, and a combined training and bracing.**Design:** Secondary analysis of compliance data from a randomized controlled trial (RCT) comparing measures preventing ankle ligament injuries.**Methods:** Ordinal regression with a backward selection method was used to obtain a descriptive statistical model linking participants' person-related potential predictor variables with the monthly cumulative compliance measurements for three interventions preventing ankle ligament injuries.**Results:** Having had a previous ankle injury was significantly associated with a higher compliance with all of the preventive measures trialed. Overall compliance with bracing and the combined intervention was significantly lower than the compliance with NM training. Per group analysis found that participating in a high-risk sport, like soccer, basketball, and volleyball, was significantly associated with a higher compliance with bracing, or a combined bracing and NM training. In contrast, participating in a high-risk sport was significantly associated with a lower per group compliance with NM training.**Conclusions:** Future studies should include at least registration of previous ankle sprains, sport participation (high- or low-risk), experience in NM training, and hours of sport exposure as possible predictors of compliance with interventions preventing ankle sprains. Practitioners should take into account these variables when prescribing preventive neuromuscular training or bracing.

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## 1. Introduction

Preventive interventions are commonly used in various sports to reduce the number of sports injuries. When translating evidence-based preventive interventions into daily practice in sports, an important issue to address is compliance.<sup>1</sup> In sports injury prevention research, compliance is a term used to indicate the athlete's correct execution of the prescribed intervention.<sup>2</sup> In the preferred

research design setting for the evaluation of the efficacy of sports injury preventive interventions, i.e., a randomized controlled trial (RCT), compliance can be optimized by the use of a well-defined protocol that must be complied with. This compliance can be monitored by researchers, practitioners, coaches or athletic trainers, or self-monitored by the participants.

In recent years, there has been a trend toward more effectiveness studies, to determine how well efficacious interventions work when applied in a practical context.<sup>3</sup> In a previous ankle sprain prevention trial on home-based neuromuscular (NM) training by our group, only 23% of the participants fully complied with the protocol. A secondary per protocol analyses showed that the established intervention effect was over threefold higher for fully compliant participants when compared to the controls.<sup>2</sup> In line with these

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results, Steffen et al.<sup>4</sup> found a lower risk for lower extremity injuries in high-compliant athletes versus medium-compliant athletes with the FIFA11+ program in soccer. Furthermore, McGuine<sup>5</sup> et al. recently provided evidence for the use of sports braces, as preventive measures in male and female high school basketball athletes, both with and without a previous history of an ankle injury. In 59% of the training sessions and games, participants were compliant with the preventive brace advice, as monitored by athletic trainers. As this and an earlier study<sup>2</sup> showed, there can be degrees of usage of an intervention whether it is wearing protective equipment or performing a training program. What is lacking from the literature is a direct comparative assessment of the possible predictors of compliance with home-based interventions preventing ankle ligament injuries.

In a recent RCT, the cost-effectiveness of secondary ankle sprain prevention by the use of NM training or bracing was assessed against the combined use of both NM training and bracing.<sup>6</sup> Although bracing was found to be superior to NM training for the prevention of recurrent ankle sprains, as could be expected, the compliance with each intervention varied substantially. In the aforementioned studies, higher compliance resulted in a lower relative risk of a recurrent ankle sprain. To predict compliance with sport injury rehabilitation, Taylor and May<sup>7</sup> applied the protection motivation theory. They concluded that athletes with higher perceptions of susceptibility to reinjury were more likely to adhere to their rehabilitation program. Accordingly, at least in theory, we should be able to optimize preventive effects for the individual if we can tailor intervention advice, taking into account person-related predictor variables associated with higher compliance. Therefore, the aim of this study was to describe the association between person-related potential predictor variables and cumulative compliance with prescribed interventions in this RCT.<sup>6</sup>

## 2. Methods

This study is a secondary analysis of data from a previously published RCT on the cost-effectiveness of prevention of ankle sprain recurrences.<sup>6,8,9</sup> The main study design and interventions have been described in detail elsewhere.<sup>9</sup> The study design, procedures, and informed consent procedure were approved by the Medical Ethics Committee (number 31785.029.10) of the VU University Medical Centre, the Netherlands. Trial register number NTR 2157.

All participants provided written informed consent. Briefly, an RCT was conducted in athletes ( $n=384$ ) who had sprained their ankle. All participants received treatment, according to usual care, after which they were randomized to one of the three intervention groups. Participants allocated to the NM training-only group received an 8 week unsupervised NM training program. Participants in this group received a balance board (Avanco AB, Sweden), exercise sheets, and an instructional DVD of the exercises. Participants allocated to the brace-only group received a semirigid ankle brace (Aircast A60, DJO) to be worn during all sports activities for the duration of 1 year and an instruction sheet on brace use. A third combination group received both the NM training program and a sports brace to be worn during all sports activities for the duration of eight 8 weeks. The instruction sheet on brace use, exercise sheet on NM training, and videos of the exercises were also provided on a website that was accessible only to the relevant intervention group.

During a 1 year follow-up, participants self-reported compliance with the prescribed intervention through items in the monthly questionnaire. The item(s) on compliance are presented in Table 1. The term fully compliant was used for participants who reported “always (>75%)” on average for the respective items. The term partially compliant was used for participants who reported “most of

**Table 1**  
Compliance item(s) and answer options per intervention group.

Group	Compliance item	Answer options
NM training (one item)	Did you perform the exercises as prescribed in the last 4 weeks?	No, never Yes, sometimes (about 25% of the prescribed training sessions) Yes, most of the time (about 50% of the prescribed training sessions) Yes, always (more than 75% of the prescribed training sessions)
Brace (two items)	Did you wear the brace during training as prescribed in the last 4 weeks? Did you wear the brace during competition as prescribed in the last 4 weeks?	No, never Yes, sometimes (about 25% of the training/competition sessions) Yes, most of the time (about 50% of the training/competition sessions) Yes, always (more than 75% of the training/competition sessions)
Combination (three items)	Did you perform the exercises as prescribed in the last 4 weeks? Did you wear the brace during training as prescribed in the last four weeks? Did you wear the brace during competition as prescribed in the last four weeks?	No, never Yes, sometimes (about 25% of the prescribed/training/competition sessions) Yes, most of the time (about 50% of the prescribed/training/competition sessions) Yes, always (more than 75% of the prescribed/training/competition sessions)

the time (about 50%)” on average for the respective items. Participants who reported “never (0%)” or “sometimes (about 25%)” on average for the respective items were considered not to have complied with the prescribed program. Although these three categories were chosen arbitrarily, we believe that adding percentages to the description and combining the first two options “never (0%)” and “sometimes (25%)” into a single category of “not compliant” minimizes central tendency bias and differentiates between participants who did and did not comply with the prescribed program.

As no valid measurement or consensus on self-reported compliance with training programs, or brace use exists, the choice to measure compliance through these items was based on the experience in a previous trial.<sup>10</sup> The monthly compliance item scores were recoded into one overall score. As loss to follow-up was only six% we decided to impute the compliance data via “last observation carried forward” method. The scores were recoded into a numerical variable (i.e., 0% = 0; 25% = 1; 50% = 2, and >75% = 3). A mean compliance score across participants allocated to each intervention was calculated and used in the analyses.

In the current study, the association between person-related potential predictor variables and compliance was the primary outcome. Consistent with other studies,<sup>2</sup> we assumed that a higher compliance with these interventions would generate a larger decrease in injury risk. Person-related potential predictor variables were derived from the available baseline dataset and included: intervention group, age, previous ankle injury, experience with tape/brace use, experience with NM training, high-risk sport participation, education at inclusion, and monthly registered hours of exposure during follow-up. “Intervention group” was included because full compliance to the intervention groups differed substantially (NM training 45%, brace 23%, and combination 28%). Interactions between age and self-motivation for home exercise completion have also been documented.<sup>11</sup> A previous ankle sprain has been showed to be followed by a higher perception of susceptibility to reinjury, and therefore, a higher compliance with the intervention is likely.<sup>12</sup> If NM training has been performed previously, there will be participant insight into the features of the

intervention program, and possibly consumer satisfaction with the intervention, which makes a higher compliance likely.<sup>13</sup> For experience with tape/brace use, the previous argument also supports inclusion of this variable. When incidence of injury is high in a specific sport, this could be followed by a higher perception of susceptibility to injury, and therefore, a higher compliance is likely for high-risk sport participation.<sup>12</sup> In medication trials, low education level is shown to be a predictor of non-compliance and treatment discontinuation.<sup>14</sup> Low compliance versus high compliance athletes with an injury prevention program in football were linked to a three times lower exposure.<sup>15</sup>

Several variables were not included in the candidate statistical models because of insufficient evidence or clinical reasoning relating them to compliance. These included: gender, weight, height, sport experience (years), severity of inclusion sprain (minor/severe), and medical treatment (medical/nonmedical). Although, it is known from other research areas that in general, females are more compliant with instructions than males, we are not aware of studies that have shown specifically that females are more compliant to preventive NM training and bracing than men. Furthermore, we had to restrict the number of included person-related potential predictor variables due to the limited number of participants per group, and thus power.

Ordinal regression with a backward selection method was used to obtain a descriptive model of the association between participants' person-related potential predictor variables (Table 3) and the monthly compliance measurements to the three interventions. In the construction of the ordinal regression model, a backward elimination procedure with a  $p > 0.10$  criterion for variable elimination was applied. The interventions for the NM training group and combination group lasted only 2 months compared to 12 months for the brace group. Therefore, as a sensitivity analysis, we repeated the procedures of the model with the same variables to evaluate compliance for the brace group in the first 2 months only. The assumption that the relationships between independent variables and different adherence groups are the same for the three adherence groups was tested using a test of parallel lines ( $p > 0.05$ ). We modeled the association between person-related potential predictor variables and the "cumulative compliance," as in our model the outcome compliance was categorized into: no compliance (participants who executed 25% or less of the prescribed intervention), partial compliance (participants who executed about 50% of the intervention), and full compliance (participants who executed 75% or more of the prescribed intervention). For readability, we hereafter use the term "association with compliance," while technically we mean "association with cumulative compliance."

### 3. Results

Forty-four participants had neither received nor started their allocated intervention and were excluded. Data from 340 participants were included in the analyses. The intervention groups were comparable on all measured variables at baseline. A complete overview of baseline variables has been published elsewhere.<sup>6</sup> The drop-out rate during the trial was also similar between groups.

Forty-nine (45%) of the NM training group athletes, 27 (23%) of the sports brace group athletes, and 34 (28%) of the combination group athletes indicated that they had fully complied with their allocated intervention. The compliance percentages, number of injuries, hours of exposure, and incidence rates for all groups are presented in Table 2.

Overall, a significant positive association between compliance and the interventions was found for participants with a history of "previous ankle sprain." In other words, having had a previous ankle injury increased the likelihood of a higher compliance with any of the interventions (OR 1.72; 95% CI 1.09–2.70). Compliance in the brace and combination group was significantly lower compared to compliance in the NM training group (brace vs. NM training OR 0.28 (95% CI 0.17–0.47) and combination vs. NM training OR 0.58 (95% CI 0.36–0.95)). Furthermore, participants playing a high-risk sport had an increased probability of being more compliant with any of the interventions (OR 1.53; 95% CI 1.02–2.29).

Table 3 summarizes the results of the ordinal regression analyses of variables associated with compliance within the three intervention groups. Within the NM training group, a significant positive association with compliance was found for participants with a previous ankle injury and experience in NM training. A significant negative association with compliance was found for those who played a high-risk sport at inclusion. Furthermore, a higher number of hours of sports per month is associated with a higher compliance. Within the brace and combination groups, a significant positive association with compliance was found for high-risk sport participants.

At 2 months follow-up, 48% of the participants in the brace group fully complied with the intervention versus 45% in the NM training group. We performed a sensitivity analysis by analyzing compliance in athletes participating in a high-risk sport for each intervention group after 2 months of follow-up. This analysis showed that, of the athletes participating in a high-risk sport, 58% were fully compliant with bracing versus 38% who were fully compliant with NM training. This indicates that over a 2 month period, participants in a high-risk sport were more likely to comply with bracing than with NM training.

**Table 2**  
Participants, recurrent ankle sprains, exposure, and incidence rate for the three different intervention groups per compliance category.

Compliance sub-group	Participants		Recurrent ankle sprains <i>n</i>	Exposure to sports participation Total h	Incidence rate = recurrent ankle sprains/1000 h (95%CI)
	<i>n</i>	%			
<b>NM Training</b>					
Total	110	100	29	11,565	2.51 (1.59–3.42)
Full compliance	49	45	16	5907	2.71 (1.38–4.04)
Partial compliance	31	28	8	3276	2.44 (0.74–4.13)
No compliance	30	27	5	2382	2.10 (0.26–3.94)
<b>Sports Brace</b>					
Total	117	100	17	12,678	1.34 (0.70–1.98)
Full compliance	27	23	4	3309	1.21 (0.02–2.39)
Partial compliance	22	19	4	2018	1.98 (0.04–3.92)
No compliance	68	58	9	7351	1.22 (0.42–2.02)
<b>Combination</b>					
Total	122	100	23	12,931	1.78 (1.05–2.51)
Full compliance	34	28	3	3824	0.78 (0.00–1.67)
Partial compliance	44	36	9	4802	1.87 (0.65–3.10)
No compliance	44	36	11	4305	2.56 (1.05–4.07)

**Table 3**  
Association of person-related potential predictor variables with compliance within the 3 intervention groups—results from the ordinal regression analyses.

A. Significant association of person-related potential predictor variables with compliance for NM Training group				
	Variable coding	OR	95% CI	Interpretation
Previous ankle injury	No prior injury* Prior injury	2.23	1.07–5.29	Having had a previous ankle injury is associated with a <b>higher</b> compliance
Previous experience NMT	No prior experience* Prior experience	2.23	1.01–4.84	Having had previous experience with NMT is associated with a <b>higher</b> compliance
Exposition/Month	Hours/Month	1.07	1.00–1.14	Increased hours of sports participation is associated with a <b>higher</b> compliance
High-/Low-risk sport	Low-risk sport (e.g., running, tennis, . . .)* High-risk sport (e.g. soccer, basketball, volleyball, . . .)	0.43	0.19–0.96	Participating in a high-risk sport is associated with a <b>lower</b> compliance
B. Association of person-related potential predictor variables with compliance for brace group				
	Variable coding	OR	95% CI	Interpretation
High-/low-risk sport	Low-risk sport (e.g., running, tennis, . . .)* High-risk sport (e.g. soccer, basketball, volleyball, . . .)	3.39	1.49–7.44	Participating in a high-risk sport is associated with a <b>higher</b> compliance
C. Association of person-related potential predictor variables with compliance for combination group.				
	Variable coding	OR	95% CI	Interpretation
High-/Low-risk sport	Low-risk sport (e.g., running, tennis, . . .)* High-risk sport (e.g. soccer, basketball, volleyball, . . .)	2.49	1.27–4.92	Participating in a high-risk sport is associated with a <b>higher</b> compliance

A: NM Training group, B: Brace group, C: Combination group.

\* Reference group.

#### 4. Discussion

The purpose of this study was to describe the association between participants' person-related potential predictor variables and cumulative compliance with NM training, bracing, and the combined intervention. Our results show that having had a previous ankle injury was significantly associated with a higher compliance with all of the preventive measures trialed. Compliance with bracing and the combined intervention was significantly lower compared to compliance with NM training. Per group analysis found that participating in a high-risk sport was significantly associated with a higher compliance with bracing or a combined bracing and NM training, while participating in a high-risk sport was significantly associated with a lower compliance with NM training.

Research on compliance with interventions preventing ankle ligament injuries has mainly focused on interventions in the clinical setting, for example physical therapy. Basset et al.,<sup>16</sup> conducted one of the few trials that studied compliance with a clinic-based versus a home-based intervention to treat ankle sprains in a study population of mainly athletes ( $n=52$ ) and reported significant higher levels of compliance with the physical therapy intervention for the home-based intervention group. The home-based intervention group had comparable results in terms of recovery and treatment compliance when compared to the clinic-based intervention group. However, for several reasons, the results from this study cannot be compared to our results. Firstly, the home-based intervention included clinical appointments where patients received treatment information on the home-based program. Secondly, different measures of self-reported compliance were used. Thirdly, this study was concerned with treatment, not prevention, of ankle sprains.

A second study, from Hume et al.,<sup>17</sup> described injuries and the injury prevention behaviors of players requiring treatment during an Australian Netball Championship. Over the 3-day tournament, 131 female players (mean age of 18.4 years) were injured and sought treatment. Despite implementation of injury prevention programs, 49% of injured players had previously sustained the same injury, with a direct related recurrent injury in 36% of the cases. In addition to this high number of recurrent injuries, it was found that there was a low awareness of effective preventive measures such as NM training. To improve compliance with injury prevention initiatives, Hume et al.<sup>17</sup> suggested targeting school students instead of the netball associations. As these results were all obtained from a cross-sectional survey and details of the preventive interventions used were unknown, these results cannot be directly compared to our results. Because the suggestion of targeting specific subgroups of athletes to improve compliance is in line with the current focus on person-related potential predictor variables associated with compliance with the prescribed interventions, then subgroups of athletes with a "history of previous ankle sprain", a "history of experience with NM training", and "high or low-risk sport participation for sustaining an ankle sprain" are to be targeted.

One of the main theoretical approaches to predict compliance with sport injury rehabilitation is the "protection motivation theory".<sup>12</sup> This theory describes two cognitive processes involved in the decision to adopt protective health behaviors, or alternatively, to produce maladaptive responses: i.e., the threat appraisal process and the coping appraisal process. The threat appraisal process involves a perception of the severity of a potentially harmful situation (e.g., an athlete's perception of how likely it is that injury severity is a threat to their health). The coping appraisal process involves a perception of how likely a particular course of action reduces or prevents the threat (labeled response efficacy;



for example, how an athlete's response will be effective). Taylor and May<sup>7</sup> used this theory to predict compliance and reported that athletes with higher perceptions of susceptibility to reinjury were more likely to comply with their rehabilitation program.<sup>7</sup> This is in line with our finding that having had a previous ankle injury significantly increased overall compliance with the preventive measures. In contrast, a recent study found no influence of injury history on adherence to the FIFA 11+ in female soccer, but that study did not assess this in relation to specific injuries.<sup>18</sup> Taylor and May<sup>7</sup> found that stronger self-belief in the ability to complete the prescribed intervention also increased compliance as did greater expectancy in the benefits of rehabilitation. Therefore, it would be advisable for future studies to investigate the tailored prescription of NM training and different brace types based on individual preference of athletes from different sports to optimize the chance of the athlete successfully completing the prescribed intervention.

A main limitation for interpretation of the results of this study is the potential of recall bias, as self-reported compliance was measured via a monthly questionnaire. We assigned percentages to the description of the compliance categories to reduce the risk of misclassification. Furthermore, by using separate items for compliance scores on brace use in training and competition, we tried to lower misclassification of compliance categories in bracing. Although our method of compliance measurement has been used before,<sup>2</sup> there is no consensus on how to measure compliance, and so the internal validity of our study could have been hampered. Even when these limitations are taken into account, our results are of value because the straightforward preventive interventions were applied to a broad population of athletes across a wide age spectrum. Therefore, external validity with respect to athletic populations is high. A major strength of this study is that it was based on the first RCT to directly compare the three interventions: i.e., bracing, NM training and the combined intervention versus each other.<sup>6</sup>

## 5. Conclusion

In this study, we focused on describing the association of person-related potential predictor variables with compliance with different interventions used to prevent ankle sprains. Our results can give direction to future research conducted to decide which baseline characteristics are of interest as possible predictors of compliance. Future studies should include at least registration of previous injuries (e.g., previous ankle sprains), sport participation (high- or low-risk), experience in NM training and hours of sport exposure as possible predictors of compliance with interventions preventing ankle sprains.

## Practical implications

The first 2 months compliance to home-based NM training alone and bracing alone during sports is comparable, while combining the two interventions decreases compliance substantially.

Practitioners prescribing preventive NM training or bracing to athletes should take into account "history of previous ankle sprains", "history of experience with NM training," and "high- or low-risk sport participation for sustaining an ankle sprain", to optimize compliance with these interventions.

Athletes without a history of previous ankle sprains and athletes who did not previously perform home-based NM training are substantially less likely to comply with NM training.

In contrast, athletes who participate in a sport that is high-risk for sustaining an ankle sprain, like soccer, basketball, and volleyball, are substantially more likely to comply with wearing a brace during sports.

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## [ Physical Therapy ]



# Intrinsic Risk Factors of Lateral Ankle Sprain: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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**Context:** Lateral ankle ligamentous sprain (LAS) is one of the most common injuries in recreational activities and competitive sports. Many studies have attempted to determine whether there are certain intrinsic factors that can predict LAS. However, no consensus has been reached on the predictive intrinsic factors.

**Objective:** To identify the intrinsic risk factors of LAS by meta-analysis from data in randomized control trials and prospective cohort studies.

**Data Sources:** A systematic computerized literature search of MEDLINE, CINAHL, ScienceDirect, SPORTDiscus, and Cochrane Register of Clinical Trials was performed.

**Study Selection:** A computerized literature search from inception to January 2015 resulted in 1133 studies of the LAS intrinsic risk factors written in English.

**Study Design:** Systematic review.

**Level of Evidence:** Level 4.

**Data Extraction:** The modified quality index was used to assess the quality of the design of the papers and the standardized mean difference was used as an index to pool included study outcomes.

**Results:** Eight articles were included in this systematic review. Meta-analysis results showed that body mass index, slow eccentric inversion strength, fast concentric plantar flexion strength, passive inversion joint position sense, and peroneus brevis reaction time correlated with LAS.

**Conclusion:** Body mass index, slow eccentric inversion strength, fast concentric plantar flexion strength, passive inversion joint position sense, and the reaction time of the peroneus brevis were associated with significantly increased risk of LAS.

**Keywords:** lateral ankle sprain; risk factor; meta-analysis

Lateral ankle ligamentous sprain (LAS) is one of the most common injuries in competitive sports and recreational activities.<sup>7</sup> According to published statistics, 10% to 30% of all athletic injuries are ankle injuries, and in many sports, ankle sprains account for 70% or more of all reported ankle injuries.<sup>7</sup> Ankle sprains are often only partially treated. The rate of recurrent ankle sprain is more than 40%, and repeated ankle sprain in turn can lead to chronic ankle instability (CAI) and ankle osteoarthritis.<sup>17,20,28</sup>

The predictive intrinsic factors of LAS include anatomic characteristics,<sup>4,18</sup> functional deficits in isokinetic strength,<sup>3,16</sup>

flexibility,<sup>2,12</sup> joint position sense,<sup>23,25</sup> muscle reaction time,<sup>3</sup> postural stability,<sup>26</sup> gait mechanics,<sup>24</sup> limb dominance,<sup>3,8</sup> previous ankle sprains,<sup>2,16</sup> and body mass index (BMI).<sup>18,21</sup> However, no consensus has been reached on the predictive intrinsic factors for LAS. Although the results of meta-analyses of risk factors leading to ankle injuries have been reported,<sup>27</sup> there are no published systematic reviews that focused solely on LAS.

The objective of this systematic review was to identify the intrinsic risk factors of LAS by using a meta-analysis from data in randomized control trials and prospective cohort studies.

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## METHODS

### Literature Search

A computerized literature search through January 2015 of the MEDLINE, CINAHL, ScienceDirect, SPORTDiscus, and Cochrane Register of Clinical Trials databases was completed. The search term used was “Ankle AND Sprain AND (Lateral or Inversion) AND Prospective AND (Risk OR Prediction OR Incidence OR Prevention).” The references of the mined studies were screened to identify additional articles.

### Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion criteria consisted of randomized control trials or prospective cohort studies, LAS included in the outcome, intrinsic factors as risk factors, written in English, clear presentation of the number of subjects in the injury and the noninjury groups, and data with mean and SD or 95% CIs presented for both groups.

### Quality Assessment

The modified quality index (QI) was used to assess the quality of the design of the papers.<sup>5,14,19</sup> The modified QI contains 15 questions.

### Data Analysis

Standardized mean differences (SMD) were used as an index to pool study outcomes. Review Manager 5.3 (The Nordic Cochrane Center, The Cochrane Collaboration, 2014) was used to construct forest plots of multiple study outcomes for the same intrinsic factor and calculate 95% CIs. By using the  $I^2$ , which determines the heterogeneity of the pooled data, the fixed model was applied when heterogeneity was present and the random effects model was used when heterogeneity was determined to be absent.<sup>11</sup> In addition, funnel plots were created to assess the influence of publication bias in results where  $P < 0.05$ .

## RESULTS

### Study Selection and Quality

The search process is outlined in Figure 1. After the systematic review, 8 articles were included in the meta-analysis (Table 1 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>).<sup>2-4,8,9,15,25,26</sup> The mean QI score of the included studies was 13.75 (range, 11-15).

### Body Mass Index

There was a significant correlation between high BMI and LAS<sup>9</sup>; other studies did not show a significant correlation.<sup>4,15,25,26</sup> The results of the meta-analysis with the fixed effects model showed significantly greater BMI in the injury group than in the noninjury group (Figure 2 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>). A symmetric shape was observed in the funnel plot (Figure 3 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>).

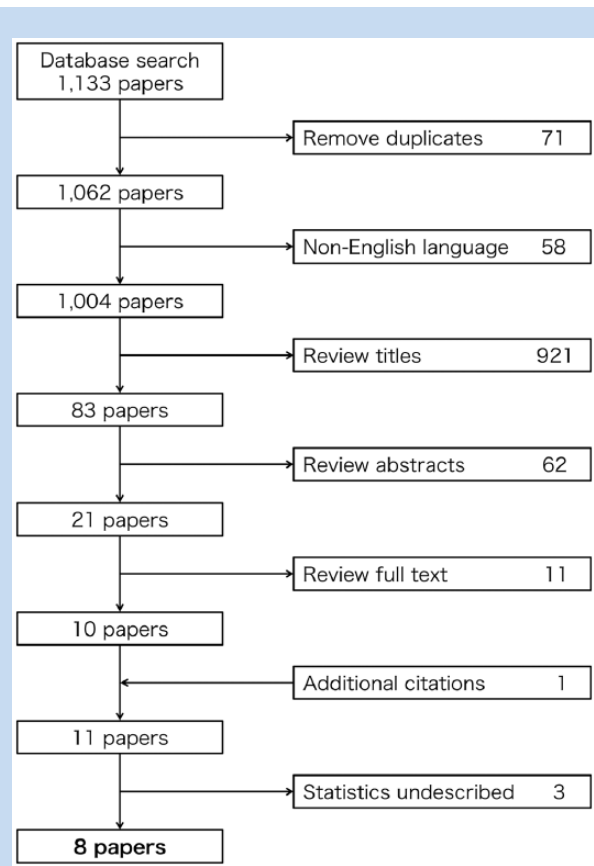


Figure 1. Literature search process.

### Range of Motion

There was a significant correlation between deficient ankle dorsiflexion range of motion (ROM) and LAS<sup>25</sup>; other studies did not show a significant correlation.<sup>2-4,9,15,26</sup> The meta-analysis showed no significant difference in the ankle joint ROM (dorsiflexion/plantar flexion/inversion/eversion) between the injury and noninjury groups (Figures 4-7 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>).

### Muscle Strength

The meta-analysis showed that decreased slow eccentric ankle inversion strength and increased fast concentric plantar flexion strength significantly correlated with LAS (Figures 8 and 9 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>). Other patterns of muscle strength did not show a significant correlation (Figures 10 and 11 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>).

### Postural Stability

There was a significant correlation between poor static postural control and LAS<sup>25</sup>; no other study showed a significant correlation. Meta-analysis results using the random effects

model showed that there was no significant difference in the static postural stability between the injury and noninjury groups (Figure 12 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>).

### Proprioception

There was a statistically significant difference in the passive inversion joint position sense between the injury and noninjury groups (Figure 13 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>). However, there was no significant difference in active inversion joint position sense (Figure 14 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>). The decreased kinesthesia was not significantly different between the injury and noninjury groups (Figure 15 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>).

### Muscle Reaction Time

The fixed-effects model revealed a significantly earlier reaction time of the peroneus brevis (Figure 16 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>). However, no significant differences in reaction time of the peroneus longus and the tibialis anterior were found between the injury and noninjury groups with the random effects model (Figures 17 and 18 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>). With regard to the reaction time of the peroneus brevis, a symmetric shape was observed in the funnel plot (Figure 19 in the Appendix, available at <http://sph.sagepub.com/content/by/supplemental-data>).

## DISCUSSION

The meta-analysis showed that BMI, slow eccentric inversion strength, fast concentric plantar flexion strength, passive inversion joint position sense, and the reaction time of the peroneus brevis have significant correlations with LAS.

The results of this study partially supported the results of the meta-analysis performed by Witchalls et al,<sup>27</sup> but the criteria for meta-analysis used in this study were different from those in the previous review.

Lateral ankle ligamentous sprain commonly occurs during plantar flexion and inversion with excessive ankle supination.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, LAS is associated with decreased ankle eversion strength or delayed ankle evertor muscle reaction time.<sup>10</sup> However, this review did not support these hypotheses. Decreased ankle eversion strength<sup>1</sup> or delayed ankle evertor muscle reaction time<sup>13</sup> were observed in chronic ankle instability. Therefore, these dysfunctions are possibly acquired after LAS and may not be risk factors for LAS itself.

This study has a number of limitations. Since the majority of study subjects included in this meta-analysis were young adults, these findings may not be applicable to children or elderly individuals. This study did not consider the injury mechanism (eg, initial or recurrent, contact or noncontact); this could

impact conclusions and its clinical application. Although this review investigated publication bias by funnel plot, the possibility of  $\beta$ -error may be greater because the number of papers included in this meta-analysis was less than 10.<sup>6</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Body mass index, slow eccentric inversion strength, fast concentric plantar flexion strength, passive inversion joint position sense, and reaction time of the peroneus brevis showed significant correlations with LAS.

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# Diagnosis, treatment and prevention of ankle sprains: update of an evidence-based clinical guideline

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## ABSTRACT

This guideline aimed to advance current understandings regarding the diagnosis, prevention and therapeutic interventions for ankle sprains by updating the existing guideline and incorporate new research. A secondary objective was to provide an update related to the cost-effectiveness of diagnostic procedures, therapeutic interventions and prevention strategies. It was posited that subsequent interaction of clinicians with this guideline could help reduce health impairments and patient burden associated with this prevalent musculoskeletal injury. The previous guideline provided evidence that the severity of ligament damage can be assessed most reliably by delayed physical examination (4–5 days post trauma). After correct diagnosis, it can be stated that even though a short time of immobilisation may be helpful in relieving pain and swelling, the patient with an acute lateral ankle ligament rupture benefits most from use of tape or a brace in combination with an exercise programme.

*New in this update:* Participation in certain sports is associated with a heightened risk of sustaining a lateral ankle sprain. Care should be taken with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) usage after an ankle sprain. They may be used to reduce pain and swelling, but usage is not without complications and NSAIDs may suppress the natural healing process. Concerning treatment, supervised exercise-based programmes preferred over passive modalities as it stimulates the recovery of functional joint stability. Surgery should be reserved for cases that do not respond to thorough and comprehensive exercise-based treatment. For the prevention of recurrent lateral ankle sprains, ankle braces should be considered as an efficacious option.

## INTRODUCTION

A lateral ankle sprain (LAS) is a frequently incurred musculoskeletal injury, with a high prevalence among the general population and individuals who participate in sports.<sup>1,2</sup> About 40% of all traumatic ankle injuries occur during sports. For indoor sports, an incidence of 7 LAS per 1000 exposures has been reported.<sup>3</sup> Despite the high prevalence and incidence of LAS injuries, it has been reported that only approximately 50% of individuals who incur a LAS seek medical attention.<sup>4</sup> A large proportion of individuals who sustain a LAS will develop chronic ankle instability (CAI).<sup>5–7</sup> CAI may be defined as persistent complaints of pain, swelling

and/or giving way in combination with recurrent sprains for at least 12 months after the initial ankle sprain,<sup>8–11</sup> which in turn may lead to (long-term) absenteeism from work and sports. Treatment costs in combination with sick leave lead to a high socioeconomic burden.<sup>4,7,12</sup> Additionally, associations with joint degeneration and osteochondral lesions have been reported over time.<sup>13</sup> Adequate diagnosis, treatment and prevention of injury recurrence could forestall the development of long-term injury-associated symptoms and hence substantially reduced the associated socioeconomic burden.

Despite the increasing number of published studies on this topic, heterogeneity in treatment strategies persists worldwide. This necessitated the development of an international evidence-based clinical guideline.<sup>14</sup> Since the publication of this guideline, additional studies have been undertaken and published on this topic.

In order to provide an update of the multidisciplinary clinical guideline, a multidisciplinary guideline committee was formed. The committee included health professionals who were directly involved in the care of patients with LAS in clinical practice or research environments and included general practitioners, emergency physicians, musculoskeletal radiologists, occupational physicians, orthopaedic surgeons, rehabilitation physicians, physical therapists, athletic trainers, sports massage therapists, sports physicians and trauma surgeons. This clinical guideline incorporates the most recently published peer-reviewed literature on the topic of LAS injury. The aim of this updated evidence-based clinical guideline is to facilitate uniformity of diagnosis and treatment of acute LAS injury, with the primary purpose of reducing the long-term injury-associated symptoms resulting from this prevalent injury.

The multidisciplinary guideline committee developed this update in order to assist all healthcare professionals, in both primary and secondary care settings, involved in the care of patients who have sustained an acute LAS injury. These include general practitioners, emergency physicians, musculoskeletal radiologists, occupational physicians, orthopaedic surgeons, rehabilitation physicians, physical therapists, athletic trainers, sports massage therapists, sports physicians, trauma surgeons and other professionals involved in lower extremity musculoskeletal injuries. This updated Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) will enable these healthcare

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professionals to benefit from and implement the most up-to-date evidence-based recommendations concerning LAS.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The initial guideline was constrained in its recommendations due to limitations in available published literature, limiting assessment by means of meta-analyses.<sup>14</sup> Due to the considerable number of new studies on LAS, it was decided by the guideline committee that an update of the original document was warranted.

### Search and data collection

To provide updated recommendations on the diagnosis and treatment of acute LAS injuries and the prevention of injury recurrence, a search was performed to identify all potential relevant articles published from January 2009—the search date of the initial guideline—up to September 2016 (online supplementary appendix 1). The search was performed in Embase, MEDLINE, Cochrane and PEDro using the database-specific search translation on the topics of predisposing and prognostic factors, diagnostics, treatment, prevention and return to work and sports. For each subtopic addressed in this guideline, an individual search was performed, which is available in the appendix. All searches consisted of the common terms ‘ankle sprain’, ‘ankle injury’ and their database-specific synonyms, combined with topic specific terms such as ‘prevention’ and all available synonyms. To ensure all relevant articles were identified, the current search results were combined with the articles identified by the initial guideline and references of all relevant articles were checked for possibly missed inclusions.

### Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Studies were deemed eligible for inclusion if they included individuals aged at least 16 years with acute LAS. Studies published in Dutch, English, German, French, Spanish, Danish or Swedish were all eligible for inclusion. Narrative reviews, case reports and cadaveric analyses were excluded. Additional exclusion criteria were reported medial ankle involvement, fractures or other concomitant injuries/pathology and CAI. In addition to the original search, a manual search of all reference lists of included studies was performed to identify relevant articles that may not have been identified by the search strategy. There were no inclusion or exclusion criteria formed regarding outcome measures. In addition to including all outcomes assessed in the previous guideline (see the individual searches in online supplementary appendix 1), all other outcomes concerning risk/prognostic factors, diagnostics, treatment, prevention and work/sports resumption were included. If multiple follow-up time points were included in the assessment, the latest postintervention assessment was included.

### Data selection

After duplicate removal all studies were screened by two researchers (GV and AH/BFWvdD) independently using the Rayyan<sup>15</sup> screening tool as advised by the Dutch Cochrane Society. Disagreements among the researchers who performed the initial screening were resolved in a consensus meeting. Subsequently, the same pair of researchers assessed full texts independently, followed by another consensus meeting to resolve disagreements. If disagreement persisted, the senior author (GMMJK) was consulted to reach consensus. To avoid loss of original data for systematic reviews, all the included studies were manually checked for eligibility and relevant data.

**Table 1** Classification of methodological quality of individual studies

Classification of studies	Intervention	Diagnostic accuracy of research	Damage or side effects, aetiology, prognosis*
A1	Systematic review of at least two independently conducted studies of A2 level		
A2	Randomised double-blind comparative clinical research of good quality and sufficient sample size	Research relative to a reference test (a ‘golden standard’) with predefined cut-off points and independent assessment of the results of a test, on a sufficiently large series of consecutive patients who all have had the index and reference test	Prospective cohort study of sufficient sample size and follow-up duration adequately controlled for ‘confounding’ and selective follow-up is sufficiently excluded
B	Comparative research, but not with all the features as mentioned under A2 (this includes patient control research, cohort study)	Research relative to a reference test, but not with all the attributes that are listed under A2	Prospective cohort study, but not with all the features as mentioned under A2 or retrospective cohort study or patient monitoring research
C	Not comparative research		
D	Opinion of experts		

\*This classification only applies to situations in which due to ethical or other reasons controlled trials are not possible to perform. If these are possible, then the classification applies to interventions.

### Evidence and guideline quality

Quality of evidence of included articles was classified in order of scientific value (tables 1 and 2). Recommendations were based on the best available evidence. Statements formed by evidence from multiple studies, and the summarised level of evidence of the full statement was provided. The same was done for the level of evidence of the recommendations.

As this guideline concerns an update, as recommended by the EQUATOR-network, the CheckUp list was used for this guideline to help emphasise new information and changes implemented in this updated CPG.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation (AGREE) II criteria were followed in order to ensure complete reporting of methods and results and improve transparency and quality.

### Data extraction

All outcomes that were described by at least two of the included studies were extracted for the meta-analyses (online

**Table 2** Level of evidence of conclusions

Evidence level	Conclusions based on
1	Research of level A1 or at least two examinations of level A2 performed independently of each other with consistent results
2	One examination of level A2 or at least two examinations of level B, performed independently of each other
3	One examination of level B or C
4	Opinion of experts



**Table 3** Results of treatment strategies for acute LAS\*

Treatment strategy	Effect	Studies	Patients (N)	(S) MD/RR (95% CI)	In favour of
RICE versus control	Swelling (in mL)	1 RCT	44	MD -47.00 (-65.07 to 28.93)	RICE
	Swelling (in mm)	1 RCT	32	MD -2.30 (-3.86 to 0.74)	RICE
	ROM	1 RCT	44	MD 3.00 (-1.35 to 7.35)	None
NSAIDs versus placebo	Pain	1 RCT	60	RR 0.51 (0.38 to 0.68)	NSAIDs
		5 RCTs	942	MD -5.42 (-6.91 to 3.93)	
	Swelling (in mm)	3 RCTs	455	MD -0.94 (-1.35 to 0.52)	NSAIDs
	ROM restriction	1 RCT	51	RR 0.85 (0.50 to 2.40)	None
	Complications	3 RCTs	641	RR 1.17 (0.79 to 1.74)	None
Immobilisation versus functional support	Pain	10 RCTs	571	RR 0.68 (0.54 to 0.85)	Immobilisation
	Swelling	7 RCTs	520	RR 0.68 (0.44 to 1.04)	None
	ROM restriction	3 RCTs	390	RR 1.42 (0.91 to 2.21)	None
	Satisfaction	5 RCTs	347	RR 1.83 (1.09 to 3.07)	Functional support
	PROMs	3 RCTs	336	MD -2.59 (-3.66 to 1.53)	Functional support
	No return to work	3 RCTs	214	RR 2.13 (0.90 to 5.05)	Functional support
	Days until return to work	8 RCTs	837	MD 7.80 (3.07 to 12.52)	Functional support
	No return to sports	8 RCTs	654	RR 1.34 (0.88 to 2.03)	None
	Days until return to sports	3 RCTs	195	MD 4.88 (1.50 to 8.25)	Functional support
Manual mobilisation versus control	Pain	3 RCTs	120	MD -1.20 (-1.68 to 0.72)	Mobilisation
	ROM increase	5 RCTs	161	MD 5.14 (5.01 to 5.26)	Mobilisation
Exercise therapy	Pain	2 RCTs	166	RR 0.92 (0.78 to 1.08)	None
		4 RCTs	287	MD -0.05 (-0.21 to 0.11)	None
	Objective instability	4 RCTs	251	RR 0.68 (0.49 to 0.95)	Exercise
	Subjective instability	3 RCTs	174	RR 0.80 (0.64 to 1.00)	Exercise
	Days until return to work	4 RCTs	231	MD 0.76 (-0.33 to 1.85)	None
	Days until return to sports	2 RCTs	156	MD -2.61 (-4.05 to 1.16)	Exercise
Surgery versus conservative	Pain	14 RCTs	1553	RR 0.75 (0.56 to 1.00)	Surgery
	Swelling	12 RCTs	1423	RR 0.88 (0.58 to 1.32)	None
	ROM restriction	7 RCTs	746	RR 1.95 (1.16 to 3.28)	Conservative
	Complications	14 RCTs	1614	RR 5.01 (2.33 to 10.77)	Conservative
	No return to sports	4 RCTs	409	RR 0.68 (0.35 to 1.35)	None

\*For details, analyses and figures, see online supplementary appendix 3.

Control, same therapy without intervention therapy; NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; RCT, randomised controlled trial; RICE, Rest Ice Compression Elevation; ROM, range of motion; RR, relative risk; (S) MD, (standardised) mean difference; PROM, Patient Reported Outcome Measure.

supplementary appendix 3). If outcomes concerned the same variable and were measured similarly (eg, pain on an 11-point Likert scale), they were pooled using Review Manager (RevMan; V.5.3, The Nordic Cochrane Centre, Copenhagen, The Cochrane Collaboration, 2014). Data that could not be pooled were assessed qualitatively.

### Formulation of recommendations

Individual topics were assigned to the appropriate coauthors depending on their field of expertise in order to formulate recommendations based on the collected evidence. They subsequently received the corresponding studies to enable them to write the corresponding paragraph according to the method section predefined content to ensure uniformity. Results of these diagnostic, treatment and preventive recommendations were provided with the corresponding levels of evidence of the included conclusions. Aspects such as potential harm of interventions, patients' perspective, costs and logistics were carefully considered when formulating the final recommendations. Recommendations were explicitly mentioned under 'Recommendations'; including the full recommendation based on all the available evidence and including a statement about whether this recommendation changed since this update.

In addition to recommendations on diagnostics, an overview of treatment and prevention strategies is provided in tables 3 and 4

by pooling the data of studies assessing the same treatment/preventive measure (number of patients (N); relative risk (RR) or mean difference (MD) and 95% CI).

New information was explicitly mentioned under 'What's new?'

### Implementation

To ensure implementation of a multidisciplinary view in this CPG in all phases of rehabilitation after sustaining a LAS, the guideline committee consisted of an emergency medicine physician, epidemiologists, general practitioner, musculoskeletal radiologist, orthopaedic surgeons, movement scientists, physiotherapists and rehabilitation specialist (see affiliations). All members, apart from the two senior supervisors (RADB and GMMJK), participated either in the search and selection of evidence or in reading, extracting and implementing data into this CGP. Apart from full review by all coauthors, the two senior authors additionally functioned as external reviewers by means of full detailed review to ensure this CPG was compliant with the AGREE II criteria and to optimise quality, assess applicability in clinical practise and feasibility of results.

### Terminology

- ▶ functional treatment: treatment during which the function of the joint (ie, freedom of movement) is retained;

**Table 4** Checklist: essential information for healthcare professionals during referral of patients with lateral ankle sprain

Medical discipline	Diagnostic phase	Acute treatment phase	Guidance phase
General for each healthcare professional	Time of accident Trauma mechanism Age, weight, profession, hobby Man, woman Ability to walk after trauma Therapy until visit Concomitant symptoms and damage	(Differential) diagnosis Time schedule and treatment plan Advise follow-up visit Duration of rest When normal weight bearing allowed What to do with deviant drift of symptoms	Diagnosis Result of treatment Advise on activities of daily living and sports participation Medication Recommendations to prevent recurrence
Emergency physician		Thrombosis prophylaxis yes/no?	Not involved in the guidance phase
Radiologist		Fracture yes/no Concomitant pathology Not involved in treatment plan	Not involved in the guidance phase
Orthopaedic and trauma surgeon		Fracture yes/no Treatment options Thrombosis prophylaxis yes/no?	Therapy/treatment
Sports physician, general practitioner		Thrombosis prophylaxis yes/no?	Advise follow-up visit
Sports masseur, physical therapist			Therapy Advise follow-up visit
Medical officer, insurance medical officer, rehabilitation physician			Time schedule and treatment plan/result Advise follow-up visit Prognosis Reintegration protocol

- ▶ functional support: support such as tape or brace, preserving joint motion, but limiting extreme joint positions such as maximum inversion;
- ▶ functional outcome: outcome of treatment that leads to improvement of function such as pain reduction or range of motion (ROM) increase enabling patients to return to their preinjury level of activity and participation.

## RESULTS

To systematically evaluate and summarise all available evidence concerning LAS, a broad literature search was undertaken specifically related to the following areas: (1) predisposing and prognostic factors; (2) diagnostics, (3) treatment, (4) prevention and (5) return to work/sport. This search resulted in the identification of a total of 10 067 studies. After title and abstract screening and reading full texts, a total of 194 articles were eligible for inclusion in this guideline (online supplementary appendix 2). All fields of evidence with regard to relevant diagnostic tools, reliability of diagnostics, different treatment modalities and their efficacy, as well as prevention interventions including their cost-effectiveness will in turn be discussed. Recommendations will be provided based on the available level of evidence (tables 1 and 2).

### Predisposing factors

Predisposing factors are defined as factors that increase the risk of sustaining a LAS. Risk factors for LAS can be classified as either intrinsic (patient-related factors, eg, proprioception) or extrinsic (eg, sports or environmental characteristics). An important aspect that should be considered by clinicians when addressing predisposing factors is whether they can be modified or not. Modifiable risk factors may be targeted by (preventive) treatment.

#### Intrinsic risk factors

There are a number of intrinsic risk factors, which substantially heighten the risk of sustaining a LAS. These include limited dorsiflexion ROM,<sup>17–19</sup> reduced proprioception<sup>18 20–23</sup> and (preseason)

deficiencies in postural control/balance (positive single-leg balance test (RR 2.54, 95% CI 1.02 to 6.03)<sup>20–22 24–28</sup> (level 1). In addition, other modifiable risk factors which heighten the risk of sustaining a LAS include body mass index (BMI) and high medial plantar pressures during running<sup>28–33</sup> (level 3). Concerning BMI, included results are conflicting as to whether a higher or lower BMI increases the risk of incurring a LAS. Our meta-analysis showed a greater risk of sprains in patients with a lower BMI (mean difference (MD)  $-0.08$ , 95% CI  $-0.14$  to  $-0.02$ )<sup>23 34</sup> (level 2). Additional factors that may contribute to an increased risk are reduced strength,<sup>18 20–23 35</sup> coordination,<sup>25</sup> cardiorespiratory endurance,<sup>25</sup> limited overall ankle joint ROM and decreased peroneal reaction time<sup>18 20–23</sup> (level 3).

Concerning non-modifiable risk factors, females have a higher risk of sustaining a LAS compared with males (RR 1.25, 95% CI 1.17 to 1.34)<sup>29 36</sup> (level 3). Despite a history of LAS being described as a strong predictor, pooling results lead to a non-significant risk ratio (RR 1.44, 95% CI 0.96 to 2.16)<sup>18 21 22 37–39</sup> (level 2). Additional factors correlated to an increased risk of sustaining a LAS are physical characteristics such as greater height, ankle joint configuration, foot posture index, anatomical abnormalities in ankle and knee alignment and multiple clinical defects<sup>28–33</sup> (level 3).

*What's new:* An increase in available data made it possible to identify female sex as well as potentially a lower BMI being risk factors for ankle sprains. Additionally, a recommendation is provided which was missing in the original guideline.

*Recommendation (new):* When treating patients with an acute LAS, modifiable risk factors such as deficiencies in proprioception and ROM should be identified and if possible included in a prevention and/or rehabilitation programme to mitigate the risk for recurrent sprains (level 3).

#### Extrinsic risk factors

Irrespective of patients' wish to switch sports, the main modifiable extrinsic risk factor for LAS appears to be the type of sport practised. The highest incidence of LAS was found for aeroball, basketball, indoor volleyball, field sports and climbing.<sup>29 40 41</sup>

The incidence of LAS was dependent on the level of participation.<sup>29 40 41</sup> In volleyball, landing after a jump is the most important risk factor<sup>41 42</sup> (level 2). Playing soccer on natural grass (vs artificial turf: RR 0.53, 95% CI 0.48 to 0.59)<sup>43–45</sup> as well as being a defender (42.3% of all sprains)<sup>46 47</sup> increased the incidence of LAS (level 2). Concerning shoe wear, high heels (9.5 vs 1.3 cm) heighten the risk of incurring a LAS<sup>48</sup> (level 3).

The only non-modifiable factor was sex. Despite girls having an increased risk of LAS compared with boys, in-competition risk for LAS is higher in boys (RR 3.42, 95% CI 3.20 to 3.66) compared with girls (RR 2.71, 95% CI 2.48 to 2.95)<sup>36</sup> (level 3).

*What's new:* The new search resulted in a significant increase in data. The subsequent performed meta-analyses made it possible to identify the size of the increased risk of playing soccer on natural grass, the risk associated with being a defender and the risk while playing sports at a competitive level. New recommendations are provided concerning the high impact of sport.

*Recommendation (new):* Extrinsic risk factors, although outside of the patient, may provide a significant increase in the risk at sustaining a LAS. Healthcare professionals involved in treating patients who sustain a LAS should take notice especially of the type of sport practised but also of other extrinsic risk factors, as modifications may lower the risk at future sprains and other ankle injuries (level 2).

### Prognostic factors

Following an acute LAS, pain decreases rapidly within the first two weeks after injury.<sup>49</sup> However, a substantial proportion of patients report long-term unresolved injury-associated symptoms. At a follow-up of 1–4 years, 5%–46% of patients still experience pain,<sup>49–51</sup> 3%–34% of patients experience recurrent sprains<sup>49–51</sup> and 33%–55% of patients report instability.<sup>49 51</sup> Additionally, a higher physical workload load may be associated with an increased risk of recurrent sprains (RR 1.09, 95% CI 0.52 to 1.19; RR 0.96, 95% CI 0.36 to 1.2) and ankle instability (RR 1.16, 95% CI 0.71 to 1.18; RR 1.10, 95% CI 0.57 to 1.19).<sup>51</sup> Even clinical signs of anterior impingement were found in 25% of patients, of which 82% were radiographically confirmed<sup>50</sup> (level 3).

Despite initial treatment consisting of taping/bracing and physical rehabilitation, up to 40% of individuals who have sustained a LAS develop CAI.<sup>52</sup> This may indicate that not all factors contributing to the success or failure of rehabilitation are known. Some of the known unfavourable prognostic factors identified for the development of CAI were an inability to complete jumping and landing within 2 weeks after a first-time LAS, deficiencies in dynamic postural control,<sup>53</sup> altered hip joint kinematics<sup>54</sup> and lack of mechanical stability/increased ligament laxity 8 weeks after an ankle sprain.<sup>55 56</sup> Other factors that may influence the prognosis are sports participation at a high level,<sup>57</sup> being a young male,<sup>52</sup> increased BMI<sup>52</sup> and greater body height<sup>52</sup> (level 3). Finally, acute postural balance impairments persisting after LAS may also contribute to the development of CAI.<sup>58</sup> Due to the neuromuscular origin of some of these prognostic factors, physical therapy might be helpful to improve physical impairments after a LAS and prevent progression to CAI.<sup>59 60</sup> Based on the limited evidence concerning the risk factors for developing CAI following an ankle sprain, further research on prognostic factors is required and may provide additional and more uniform insights.<sup>61 62</sup>

*What's new:* Over the past years more data have become available on negative prognostic factors that may indicate slow or incomplete rehabilitation. This enabled us to modify the

**Table 5** Clinical decision rules in acute lateral ankle sprain<sup>67 73 74 78 214–216</sup>

Ottawa ankle rules	Bernese ankle rules	
Pain on the dorsal side of one or both malleoli	Indirect fibular stress	
Palpation pain at the basis of the metatarsal bone V	Direct medial malleolar stress	
Palpation pain of the navicular bone	Compression stress of the midfoot and hindfoot	
Inability to walk at least four steps		
Sensitivity 86%–99%; specificity 25%–46%	Sensitivity 69%–86%; specificity 40%–45%	
PPV 24%–48%; NPV 97%–99%		
Reproducibility 45%	Reproducibility 48%	
Leiden ankle rules	Utrecht ankle rules	
Deformity/instability/crepitating	5 Deformity/instability/crepitating	4
Weight bearing*	3 Weight bearing/axial compression*	2
Pulseless/weak posterior tibial artery†	2 Pain on palpation/swelling	
Pain and palpation malleoli/metatarsal V‡	2 Pain on palpation/swelling	
Swelling malleoli/metatarsal V	2 Tibia	1
Swelling/pain in Achilles tendon	1 Fibula	1
Age divided by 10	Achilles tendon	1
Radiographs required if	>7 Base of fifth metatarsal	1
Sensitivity 88%; specificity 57%	Haematoma/haemarthrosis	1
	Age divided by 10	
	Radiographs required if	≥8
	Sensitivity 59%; specificity 84%	

\*Inability to bear weight was defined as the inability to walk four steps. Axial compression pain was defined as pain on application of axial compression.

†Positive in case of a marked difference with the contralateral side.

‡Of the posterior edge (6 cm) of both the lateral and the inability to walk four steps.

Axial and medial malleolus and the base of the fifth metatarsal bone.

NPV, negative predictive value; PPV, positive predictive value.

previous recommendation, which lacked a conclusion due to insufficient evidence.

*Recommendation (modified):* Following acute LAS, adequate attention should be directed towards the patient's current level of pain, their workload and level of sports participation. These may all negatively influence recovery and increase the risk of future injury recurrence. Hence, they should be addressed early in the treatment process (level 3).

### Diagnostics

In case of a severe ankle sprain, a fracture should be excluded by proper use of the Ottawa ankle rules (OAR), and if indicated, conventional radiographic imaging should be undertaken (table 5). Since only 15% of patients with LAS, who are examined using a radiograph, are diagnosed with an ankle fracture, the OAR have been developed to rule out a fracture.<sup>63</sup> The OAR are an accurate and valid tool, which can be used with patients who have a suspected ankle/foot fracture within 1 week after the initial trauma (level 1).<sup>63–67</sup> A high incidence of less serious traumas may lower the predictive value of the OAR in clinical practice.<sup>68 69</sup> To avoid unnecessary use of radiographs, the OAR are recommended as a primary physical examination tool to rule out the likelihood of foot/ankle fractures by emergency physicians, general practitioners or physiotherapists.<sup>63 70–73</sup> (level 1). The Bernese ankle rules (BAR) have been developed as response to the high rate of unnecessary radiographs based on

OAR findings. However, the sensitivity of the BAR is too low to promote clinical use<sup>74</sup> (level 2).

In general, ankle ligament injuries are classified into three grades representing increasing injury severity: grade I, mild ankle sprain; grade II, moderate sprain/microligament lesions; and grade III, severe sprain/full ligament lesion.<sup>75</sup> In cases where a haematoma is present, accompanied by pain on palpation around the distal fibula and/or a positive anterior drawer test, a rupture of the lateral ankle ligaments likely exists. The sensitivity (84%) and specificity (96%) of physical examination using the anterior drawer test are optimised if clinical assessment is delayed for between 4 and 5 days post injury<sup>68 69 76 77</sup> (level 2). Ultrasonography has similar sensitivity (92%) but lacks specificity (64%) compared with delayed examination, and additionally depends on the availability of an experienced technician and equipment.<sup>69 78</sup> In case of suspicion of high-grade ligament injuries, osteochondral defects, syndesmotic injuries and occult fractures, an MRI can be performed<sup>78</sup> because of its excellent sensitivity (93%–96%) and specificity (100%) for visualising these injuries.<sup>79–83</sup> Poor availability of MRI in combination with the high prevalence of ankle sprains limits the use of MRI in acute settings, but in case of persisting symptoms it may be used to diagnose underlying joint damage. In case of suspicion of complete uncomplicated rupture of the anterior talofibular ligament, an MRI is not needed as the sensitivity and specificity of delayed physical examination are sufficient.<sup>69</sup> Other diagnostic modalities are stress radiographs and arthrography. Due to the limited diagnostic value of stress views in combination with pain in the acute setting while stressing the ligaments, these are regarded as obsolete and should not be used. As arthrography is an invasive procedure and its sensitivity and specificity are equal to delayed physical examination, it is also not recommended as a diagnostic tool in the acute setting<sup>78</sup> (level 2).

*What's new:* To ensure readability, the OAR were included in this diagnostics section. To make sure this guideline provides a complete overview of the many decision rules which the OAR belong to, [table 5](#) was added including the parametric properties of the most popular clinical decision rules. The recommendation includes a short summary by providing an overview of the most important diagnostic steps, which was missing in the previous guideline.

*Recommendation (new):* Regarding the clinical assessment of damage to the anterior talofibular ligament, the sensitivity (84%) and specificity (96%) of assessment using the anterior drawer are optimised if clinical assessment is delayed for between 4 and 5 days post injury. In case of a suspected fracture, the OAR should be applied (level 2).

## Treatment

### Rest Ice Compression Elevation (RICE)

RICE is a conservative treatment method that has not been rigorously investigated, and the efficacy of this combination is questionable. The individual elements of ice and compression have been the subject of numerous scientific investigations; however, there is little scientific support for their efficacy in reducing injury-associated symptoms following acute LAS.

The limited available evidence showed that the efficacy of cryotherapy for reducing acute LAS injury-associated symptoms is unclear (33 randomised controlled trials (RCTs), n=2337)<sup>84 85</sup> (level 1). There are no indications that the isolated use of ice can increase function, as well as decrease swelling and pain at rest among individuals who have sustained an acute LAS (27 RCTs, n=1670)<sup>84 86–90</sup> (level 2). In combination with exercise therapy,

cryotherapy has a greater effect on reducing swelling compared with heat application (one RCT, n=30)<sup>86</sup> (level 2). The combination of cryotherapy and exercise additionally results in significant improvements in ankle function in the short term, allowing patients to increase loading during weight bearing compared with standard functional treatment (one RCT, n=101)<sup>91</sup> (level 3).

Evidence regarding the efficacy of compression therapy after acute LAS is also inconclusive (three RCTs, N=86)<sup>87–89</sup> (level 2).

As a combined therapeutic modality, the use of RICE plus multimodal physiotherapy compared with RICE alone provides no additional benefits. Both treatments provide pain reduction, increase patient function and reduce ankle swelling (one RCT, n=28)<sup>92</sup> (level 2).

Regarding the individual effects of rest and elevation after LAS, no evidence was available.

*What's new:* No new statements could be made based on the newly identified studies. The increased evidence indicates that the individual aspects of RICE are not effective, apart from cryotherapy, if provided in combination with exercise therapy.

*Recommendation (modified):* There is no evidence that RICE alone, or cryotherapy, or compression therapy alone has any positive influence on pain, swelling or patient function. Therefore, there is no role for RICE alone in the treatment of acute LAS (level 2).

### Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

NSAIDs are commonly prescribed for patients who have sustained an acute LAS, with the primary purpose of reducing pain. Pooling the results of current studies shows that the use of oral or topical NSAIDs results in less pain in the short term (<14 days) without significantly increasing the risk of adverse events compared with placebo (26 RCTs, n=4225)<sup>93–97</sup> (level 1) ([table 3](#)). However, studies that included other NSAIDs instead of a placebo were excluded from this review<sup>98–102</sup>; additionally, the included participants were relatively young and healthy and thus potentially less prone to side effects. A comparison between selective NSAIDs (celecoxib 200 mg two times daily) and non-selective NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen or diclofenac) (four RCTs, n=1490) concluded that celecoxib was non-inferior to non-selective NSAIDs for the primary outcome of pain following an acute LAS injury. Adverse events did not occur more frequently<sup>99 103–105</sup> (level 1). Diclofenac showed superior results at days 1 and 2 compared with piroxicam (two RCTs, n=201) and ibuprofen (one RCT, n=60) for reducing pain during motion in patients with mild-to-severe acute ankle sprains and equal adverse event rates<sup>98 101</sup> (levels 2 and 3). Contradicting results have been reported on the effect of diclofenac for pain during rest, swelling and inflammation.<sup>98 101</sup> No differences in effect were seen when comparing a fixed dosage (500 mg two times daily) to an as-needed naproxen dosage (one RCT, n=135, MD<sub>pain</sub> -0.13 (-0.38 to 0.12))<sup>106</sup> (level 3). Despite dose differences, paracetamol (cq. acetaminophen) seems to be equally effective as NSAID usage (three RCTs, n=450) for pain (one RCT, n=86, MD 1.80, 95% CI -1.42 to 5.02), swelling (two RCTs, n=186, MD -0.07, 95% CI -0.29 to 0.14) and ROM (one RCT, n=100, MD 0.70, 95% CI -0.62 to 2.02)<sup>107–109</sup> (level 1). Opioid analgesics are equally effective for pain relief, but lead to significantly more side effects (two RCTs, n=869)<sup>100 110</sup> (level 2). The use of NSAIDs may delay the natural healing process as the inflammation suppressed by NSAIDs is a necessary component of tissue recovery.<sup>111</sup>



Besides these commonly prescribed analgesics, other pharmaceutical treatment modalities were described: venotonic drugs did not result in enhanced outcomes for pain and swelling compared with paracetamol and RICE<sup>112</sup> (level 2); platelet-rich plasma injections were not superior for pain and functional outcomes compared with placebo injections (one RCT, n=37)<sup>113</sup> (level 3), and topically applied Traumeel (one RCT, n=449)<sup>114</sup> (level 2) was not superior compared with diclofenac topical gel for ankle oedema, pain and function. Periarticular hyaluronic acid injections compared with placebo (two RCTs; n=158) did show a positive effect on pain, nor did they result in a quicker time to return to sport or reduced prevalence of recurrent sprains<sup>115 116</sup> (level 2).

*What's new:* Based on the search results concerning treatment, the committee agreed on implementing a topic on NSAIDs. Over the past years much research has been undertaken on NSAIDs in relation to musculoskeletal injuries, and in many countries they are available without prescription. However, before recommending NSAIDs, their effect in the specific context of an ankle sprain had to be assessed.

*Recommendation (new):* NSAIDs may be used by patients who have incurred an acute LAS for the primary purpose of reducing pain and swelling. However, care should be taken in NSAID usage as it is associated with complications (level 2) and may suppress or delay the natural healing process.

### Immobilisation

A minimum of 4 weeks in a lower leg cast following an acute LAS results in less optimal outcomes compared with functional support and exercise strategies with a duration of 4–6 weeks<sup>117 118</sup> (22 RCTs, n=2304) (level 1). More recent evidence (three RCTs, n=694) showed that a short period (<10 days) of immobilisation with a plaster cast or rigid support can be of added value in the treatment of acute lateral ligament injury as it decreases pain and oedema and improves functional outcome<sup>119–122</sup> (level 2).

*What's new:* Despite the inclusion of new recent studies, there were no new findings.

*Recommendation (not changed):* Use of functional support and exercise therapy is preferred as it provides better outcomes compared with immobilisation. If immobilisation is applied to treat pain or oedema, it should be for a maximum of 10 days after which functional treatment should be commenced (level 2).

### Functional treatment

#### Functional support

Functional supports in the form of an ankle brace or tape are often used following acute LAS. These external supports differ from rigid immobilisation and allow the patient to load the damaged tissues in a protected manner. Treatment with any type of real ankle support was more effective compared with treatment with less adequate support such as a compression bandage or a tubigrip<sup>5 122</sup> (level 2). Wearing compression stockings beyond the acute phase is not helpful in the treatment of acute lateral ankle ligament injury<sup>123</sup> (level 3). The success of functional treatment is, however, dependent on the severity of the injury. For example, if a sprain is complicated by a ligament avulsion fracture results may be inferior to those in patients with isolated ligament injury.<sup>124</sup>

The superiority of one external support over another is debated rigorously in the literature.<sup>125–127</sup> A meta-analysis (n=892) showed a lace-up brace or a semi-rigid brace should be preferred to the use of an elastic bandage<sup>125</sup> (level 1). Use of an ankle brace results in better outcome compared with other

types of functional treatment such as sports tape (non-elastic) or kinesiotape (elastic), without showing any side effects.<sup>128</sup> Based on a small systematic review (n=276), it can be concluded that kinesiotape is unlikely to provide sufficient mechanical support in unstable ankles<sup>129</sup> (level 1).

*What's new:* New evidence emphasises that the use of external supports (ie, braces) is preferred over immobilisation. Additionally, the preferred time frame during which the use of external support is advised is outlined. Overall, the core message of this section remains unchanged.

*Recommendation (modified):* Use of functional support for 4–6 weeks is preferred over immobilisation. The use of an ankle brace shows the greatest effects compared with other types of functional support (level 2).

#### Exercise

Among patients who seek professional healthcare following an acute LAS, exercise therapy is often an integral component of the treatment administered. Exercise therapy programmes mainly consist of neuromuscular and proprioceptive exercises. Exercise therapy programmes that are initiated early following an acute LAS injury have established efficacy. They can reduce the prevalence of recurrent injuries<sup>130–132</sup> (10 RCTs, n=1284) (RR 0.62, 95% CI 0.51 to 0.76), as well as the prevalence of functional ankle instability<sup>131 133</sup> (3 RCTs, n=174) (RR 0.80, 95% CI 0.64 to 1.00). Furthermore, they are associated with a quicker time to recovery and enhanced outcomes<sup>130 133–136</sup> (level 1). Including supervised physiotherapy has shown to have some benefit in patients with a severe ankle sprain compared with a mild LAS as measured by PROMs,<sup>60</sup> and whence compared with a home exercise programme<sup>137 138</sup> (level 1). Additionally, supervised exercise therapy may lead to improvements in ankle strength<sup>138</sup> and proprioception,<sup>138</sup> faster return to work<sup>139</sup> and sport,<sup>134</sup> compared with performing the exercise programme without supervision or guidance (level 1). Many articles, however, contradict these findings, concluding that there is no effect from the addition of supervised exercise therapy to conventional treatment alone (two RCTs, n=130)<sup>140 141</sup> (level 2) nor an improvement of postural balance after exercise therapy<sup>131 142</sup> (level 1).

*What's new:* New evidence has become available on the specific effects of different types of exercise/rehabilitation programmes; especially the beneficial effect of exercise therapy on preventing recurrent sprains, reducing the risk of functional instability and expediting the recovery of ankle joint function.

*Recommendation (modified):* Exercise therapy should be commenced after LAS to optimise recovery of joint functionality. Whether exercise therapy should be supervised or not remains unclear due to contradictory evidence and requires further research (level 1).

#### Manual mobilisation

Manual joint mobilisation can provide a short-term increase in ankle joint dorsiflexion ROM following acute LAS<sup>131 143–147</sup> (12 RCTs, n=427) (level 1). Additionally, joint mobilisation has been reported to decrease pain<sup>143</sup> (level 1). Manual therapy combined with exercise therapy resulted in better outcomes compared with exercise therapy alone<sup>137</sup> (level 3).

*What's new:* Despite findings by the previous version of this guideline that manual mobilisation only results in short-term treatment effects, current evidence shows added value of manual mobilisation when used in combination with exercise therapy.

**Recommendation (modified):** A combination with other treatment modalities, such as exercise therapy, enhances the efficacy of manual joint mobilisation and is therefore advised (level 3).

### Surgical therapy

Surgical therapy for acute lateral ligament injuries has been performed abundantly until it was recognised that conservative treatment provides equal effects and that not all patients require surgery in order to resolve complaints<sup>148–151</sup> (level 1). Nowadays, surgery is mainly reserved for patients who have chronic instability after a LAS and who have not responded to a comprehensive exercise-based physiotherapy programme. Long-term effects of surgical treatment in cases of acute lateral ligament injury correspond with those of functional treatment. Surgery seems superior at decreasing the prevalence of recurrent LAS, which is important as recurrent LAS in turn may increase the risk for the subsequent development of osteoarthritis (one RCT, n=51)<sup>13</sup> (level 2). There is limited evidence for longer recovery times, higher incidences of ankle stiffness, impaired ankle mobility and complications in patients who received surgical treatment (20 RCTs, n=2562)<sup>150</sup> (level 1). More recent studies show that outcomes in terms of recovery of ankle activity and instability are significantly better for surgical treatment than for functional treatment (12 RCTs, n=1413)<sup>152</sup> (level 1). As a previous sprain is a predictor for recurrent ankle sprains, this may be related to increased ligament laxity. This laxity is resolved during surgery. Based on this indirect evidence, it may be suggested that surgical therapy helps prevent recurrent ankle sprains. However, a large percentage (60%–70%) of individuals who sustain a LAS respond well to non-surgical treatment programmes,<sup>149</sup> and therefore treating all patients with LAS would mean unnecessary exposure to an invasive intervention for many patients, not to mention costs (level 1).

**What's new:** New evidence supports the rationale for being reserved with the recommendation of surgery for all patients following LAS. This led to refinement of the recommendation regarding surgery.

**Recommendation (modified):** Despite good clinical outcomes of surgery after both chronic injuries and an acute complete lateral ligament rupture, functional treatment is still the preferred method as not all patients require surgical treatment. This also helps to avoid unnecessary exposure to invasive (over) treatment and unnecessary risk of complications<sup>149 152</sup> (level 1). However, treatment decisions have to be made on an individual basis. In professional athletes, surgical treatment may be preferred to ensure quicker return to play.<sup>151</sup>

### Other therapies

Other treatment modalities less frequently used do not always show a treatment effect. For example, no effect on pain, oedema, function and return to play has been shown for ultrasound<sup>153 154</sup> (level 1), laser therapy<sup>155</sup> (level 1), electrotherapy<sup>156–158</sup> (level 1) and shortwave therapy<sup>159–163</sup> (level 2) in the treatment of acute LAS. Evidence on acupuncture is inconclusive concerning the therapeutic effect due to large heterogeneity between studies<sup>164 165</sup> (level 1). A small cohort study indicated that local vibration therapy may be effective in patients with LAS by increasing dorsiflexion and eversion and decreasing perceived ankle stiffness,<sup>166</sup> while another study indicated the possible beneficial effect of Bioptron light therapy in addition to cryotherapy<sup>167</sup> (level 3).

**What's new:** Acupuncture, vibration therapy and Bioptron light therapy were added to the present update. Concerning the

other identified therapies, new evidence did not change previous statements.

**Recommendation (not changed):** As no strong evidence exists on the effectiveness of these treatment modalities, they are not advised in the treatment of acute LAS (level 2).

### Communication between professionals

Since there are various disciplines involved in the care for patients with LAS, it is preferable to make working arrangements at a regional level on indications for referral, division of tasks and what information is provided by healthcare professionals. The different disciplines involved in primary and secondary care are emergency physicians, sports masseurs and physical therapists, sports physicians and general practitioners, orthopaedic and trauma surgeons, radiologists, medical officers for occupational medicine and rehabilitation physicians. Within referral between healthcare professionals, optimal communication is preferred. What information should be communicated between healthcare professionals depends on the phase of LAS; the diagnostic phase, the treatment phase and the guidance phase.<sup>14 168–170</sup>

**What's new:** The checklist and statements from the previous version of this guideline were not subject to change. The most important factor remains communication.

**Recommendation (not changed):** To refine communication between healthcare professionals involved in the treatment of patients with LAS, a communication check list is recommended (table 4).<sup>14 168–170</sup>

### Prevention

#### Functional support

The use of brace or tape reduces the risk of both recurrent (RR 0.30, 95% CI 0.21 to 0.43) and first-time ankle sprains (RR 0.69, 95% CI 0.49 to 0.96), especially in those who participate in sports<sup>4 125 171 172</sup> (level 1). Kinesiotape may also have a preventive effect in patients who have already sustained a LAS due to its effects on postural control<sup>171</sup> (five RCTs, n=276) (level 1). The use of a brace or tape is a personal choice and based on practical usability and costs. Associated adverse events are rare.<sup>4 125 171 172</sup> Ankle brace or tape usage has not shown any beneficial effects on proprioceptive acuity in patients who sustained recurrent ankle sprains or those who have functional ankle instability (eight RCTs, n=152) (level 1). This conclusion was consistent when the two aspects of proprioception, sense of movement and joint position, were considered separately.<sup>129</sup> No differences in prevention of recurrent sprains were found between different types of tape and brace as support.<sup>117 172 173</sup>

**What's new:** In addition to updating the risk ratios by including new studies, a risk ratio is provided for the preventive effect of tape and brace for first-time ankle sprains. Additionally information on the effect on proprioception and adverse events was included. This new evidence did not change the previous recommendation.

**Recommendation (not changed):** Both tape and brace have a role in the prevention of recurrent LAS despite limited evidence on mechanisms that leads to these beneficial effects (level 1). The choice of usage should depend on personal preferences.

#### Exercise therapy

Coordination and balance training have been shown to prevent recurrent ankle sprains.<sup>4</sup> The assessment of the effect of exercise therapy as in neuromuscular training (mainly proprioception) has shown a positive effect towards prevention of LAS<sup>132 139 173–175</sup> and especially recurrent LAS. A meta-analysis (two RCTs, n=130)



**Table 6** Results of prevention therapy

Preventive measure	Effect	Studies	Patients (N)	(S)MD/RR (95% CI)	Results in favour of
Immobilisation versus functional support	Recurrent sprains	11 RCTs	844	RR 1.17 (0.86 to 1.59)	None
Functional support	Recurrent sprains	6 RCTs	2307	RR 0.30 (0.21 to 0.43)	Functional support
	First-time sprains	4 RCTs	2933	RR 0.69 (0.49 to 0.96)	Functional support
	Sprains in mixed injured –non-injured groups	6 RCTs	6108	RR 0.39 (0.25 to 0.95)	Functional support
	Muscle activity	1 RCT	60	MD 1.13 (–1.48 to 3.75)	None
	Stability	1 RCT	62	MD –0.44 (– 0.70 to –0.18)	Functional support
Exercise therapy	Recurrent sprains	10 RCTs	1284	RR 0.62 (0.51 to 0.76)	Exercise
	First-time sprains	1 RCT	173	RR 0.45 (0.15 to 1.37)	None
	Sprains in mixed injured –non-injured groups	13 RCTs	8021	RR 0.60 (0.51 to 0.70)	Exercise
Surgery	Recurrent sprains	12 RCTs	1437	RR 0.72 (0.55 to 0.94)	Surgery

Immobilisation: cast; exercise therapy: physical therapy, strength training, proprioceptive training; functional support: brace, tape; surgery, anatomic repair or reconstruction; walker boot.

RCTs, randomised controlled trials; RR, relative risk; (S) MD, standardised mean difference .

illustrated that exercise therapy had a protective effect compared with usual care on preventing recurrent LAS (RR 0.62, 95% CI 0.51 to 0.76). Usual care was defined as ‘any form of rehabilitative treatment used by the athlete, without any interference from the authors’ (cited from Hupperets *et al.*).<sup>176</sup> This effect is even larger in athletes (RR 0.38, 95% CI 0.23 to 0.62)<sup>38 177</sup> (level 1). When exposing athletes with recurrent sprains to proprioceptive training, to improve joint position sense, their risk of recurrence of LAS is reduced to the same level as healthy controls<sup>4 42 177–180</sup> (level 3). Exercise therapy such as coordination and balance training mainly seem to be effective for recurrent ankle sprains up to 12 months after the initial sprain,<sup>4 131 176 181</sup> but not on first-time ankle sprains<sup>21 38 175 182</sup> (level 1).

*What’s new:* More positive effects of different training programmes have become available, strengthening the recommendation of the previous guideline.

*Recommendation (not changed):* For this reason, it is advised to start exercise therapy, especially in athletes, as soon as possible after the initial sprain to prevent recurrent LAS. Exercise therapy should be included into regular training activities as much as possible as home-based exercise (level 1). The preventive effect of exercise therapy for first-time LAS lacks evidence (table 6).

### Footwear

No evident conclusions exist on the role of footwear in the prevention of ankle sprains (level 2). Wearing low-fitted or high-fitted shoes did not show any difference in preventive effect (three RCTs, n=3410)<sup>4 172 183</sup> (level 1). Despite the lack of evidence, some authors prefer high-fitted shoes,<sup>73 117</sup> whereas other authors describe a preference of low-fitted shoes<sup>120</sup> (level 1). Possibly shoes being new is of greater importance compared with the height of the shaft of the shoe in preventing ankle sprains.<sup>4</sup> Also, no difference in LAS incidence is seen when wearing sports shoes with or without a cushioned column.<sup>91</sup>

*What’s new:* New evidence corresponded with the evidence found in the previous guideline.

*Recommendation (not changed):* Due to the inconclusiveness of evidence, no recommendations can be made concerning shoe wear (level 1).

### Resuming work

To facilitate return to work, discrimination between different degrees of injury can support the initial treatment and

identification of the prognosis in relation to return to work<sup>184</sup> (level 4). Additionally, a schedule for work resumption (table 7), which takes into account all task requirements, may assist in optimisation of the reintegration process<sup>185 186</sup> (level 3). Two systematic reviews stated wearing a brace provided better functional outcome compared with no brace, without limiting return to work (two RCTs, n=157)<sup>125 128</sup> (level 2). Immediate post-traumatic mobilisation and functional treatment also seem to have a positive effect on the treatment of acute LAS and lead to shorter sick leave and faster return to work compared with immobilisation<sup>131 187–189</sup> (level 1).

*What’s new:* With the current focus on productivity and socio-economic burden, return to work is of substantial importance. Based on new available evidence, table 7 was expanded and the advice on return to work was further specified.

**Table 7** Return to work and sports<sup>185 186</sup>

Degree of inversion injury	Time from injury (weeks)	Restrictions	Overall tips and tricks
Distortion (depending on degree of pain/subjective limitation/severity)	2	Mostly sitting work Not exceeding 10 kg of lifting Limit standing and walking position on uneven surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Phased rehabilitation focusing on work/sport-specific tasks</li> <li>▶ Scheduled progression of work activities</li> <li>▶ Work-hardening and functional capacity evaluation</li> <li>▶ Recognition of the emotional aspect of the situation</li> <li>▶ Involvement of an occupational physician and therapist</li> </ul>
	3–4	Return to full work and sports depending on task requirements	
Partial or total rupture of ligaments	3–6	Mostly sitting work Not exceeding 10 kg of lifting Limit standing and walking position on uneven surfaces	
	6–8	Return to full work and sports depending on task requirements and result of physiotherapy	
In case of surgery	2	Non-weightbearing cast and crutches	
	3–6	Weight bearing as tolerated Sedentary work resumed in case of weight bearing	
	>6	Cast is replaced by a brace	
	12–16	Return to physically demanding job and sports	

*Recommendation (modified):* To speed up return to work, a brace and immediate functional treatment in combination with a return to work schedule are advised (level 3).

### Sport resumption

LAS may lead to multiple problems such as proprioception disturbances. These disturbances seem to originate from the central nervous system above the level of the spinal reflex (level 2) and may result in functional instability.<sup>190–192</sup> Additionally, delayed response time of the peroneal muscle has been detected, possibly due to traction injury of the peroneal nerve.<sup>193</sup> However, motor-unit insufficiencies seen after a LAS seem to last shorter than those after other lateral ankle injuries not based on an inversion trauma mechanism<sup>178 193–195</sup> (level 2). Strength deficits are present following LAS. For these reasons, early functional treatment is advised and should address proprioception, muscle response time and muscle strength,<sup>196–200</sup> enabling early return to sport participation<sup>187 188</sup> (level 2).

*What's new:* In addition to the many new and varying types of rehabilitation programmes, recent results showed that supervised exercise provides better outcomes compared with non-supervised training.

*Recommendation (modified):* Supervised exercises focusing on a variety of exercises such as proprioception, strength, coordination and function will lead to a faster return to sport in patients after a LAS<sup>134</sup> and are therefore recommended (level 1).

### Cost-effectiveness

#### Costs of injury

Estimated societal costs of ankle sprains, as reported in the literature, vary between €360<sup>201</sup> and €1100<sup>202</sup> per individual (level 2). This disparity in reported costs is due to, among others, variations in healthcare system, population, and type and severity of injury. Although most patients with ankle sprain do not receive supervised rehabilitation<sup>203</sup> (level 3), these values indicate that ankle sprains have a substantial financial impact on society. Additionally, added to these costs in the short term, patients with ankle sprain are at risk of developing chronic conditions, which in turn may lead to subsequent costs. Consequently, optimised treatment and prevention will provide economic benefits in addition to clinical effects for the individual.

#### Diagnostics

The OAR provide a valid and reliable cost-effective tool to diagnose fractures after an ankle sprain<sup>203</sup> (level 3). In 1995, it was shown that implementing the OAR as opposed to existing hospital protocols resulted in cost savings between €7.01 and €30.96 per patient<sup>204</sup> (level 3). More recently, implementation of the OAR through emergency department nurses has been shown to be a cost-effective method to diagnose and manage ankle sprains<sup>205</sup> (level 3). As an alternative to the OAR, the low-risk ankle rule provides a cost-effective tool to diagnose paediatric ankle fractures, with an estimated reduction in required radiographs of around 60%<sup>206</sup> (level 3).

#### Treatment

Functional treatment is clinically the treatment strategy of choice for ankle sprains. No full cost-effectiveness studies are known to compare functional treatment against immobilisation as treatment. In regards to indirect costs, a functional approach (3–5 days of rest, ice, compression and elevation with early weight bearing, after which active exercise is commenced) leads to the fastest resumption of work and daily life activities compared

with any other kind of treatment<sup>207</sup> (level 3). For protection, ankle support may be indicated to facilitate return to work. A semirigid brace is suggested to be the most cost-effective option compared with taping<sup>208</sup> (level 3).

#### Prevention

Preventive efforts against first-time and recurrent ankle sprains have shown high cost benefits<sup>208</sup> (level 3). Both neuromuscular training and ankle braces have been proven beneficial as a preventive investment due to lower societal costs, mainly achieved through reduced indirect costs<sup>209</sup> (level 2). Comparisons between measures have indicated bracing to be superior to taping<sup>210</sup> and neuromuscular training<sup>211</sup> as a preventive option (level 1). Of note is that the latter statement is only valid for the preventive value of bracing. Neuromuscular training has been associated with clinical benefits other than prevention alone, which should also be considered<sup>212</sup> (level 1) (table 8).

### DISCUSSION

After an acute LAS it is important to first exclude the presence of any fractures. To this end the OAR can be used, having a high sensitivity and specificity. Subsequently, functional treatment in the form of exercise and functional support (ie, brace or tape) is preferred over immobilisation. Still a short time of immobilisation may help diminish complaints of pain and swelling in case of a lateral ligament injury. In case of ROM restriction, mobilisation therapy may provide help, but combination with exercise therapy is advised. Surgery should be reserved for patients with lateral ligament ruptures to avoid unnecessary invasive treatment and risk of complications. In the prevention of ankle sprains, functional support is effective in patients with both first-time and recurrent LAS, but seems most effective in preventing recurrent sprains. Exercise therapy, however, has only shown a significant preventive effect for recurrent ankle sprains. For first-time LAS, there was mainly a lack of evidence as studies did not explicitly name whether their included population had previously suffered a LAS or not. Additionally, this may be explained by a lack of research on exercise in a population who has never suffered a LAS as exercise is mostly commenced after injury during rehabilitation.

Overall there is no clear evidence on the role of other forms of therapy such as (high-fitted and low-fitted and sports) shoe wear, vibration and electrostimulation therapy in the treatment and prevention of (recurrent) LAS. There are no conclusions on acupuncture since there were no studies that involved a sham acupuncture group. On the exact role of BMI, we cannot provide any conclusive recommendations. Whereas a lower BMI seems to increase the risk of sustaining an initial ankle sprain, a higher BMI seems to be a prognostic factor for persistent complaints and incomplete recovery.

Apart from the side effects reported for NSAIDs usage and complications resulting from surgery, no complications have been reported for functional support devices such as tape or brace.<sup>213</sup> This is despite some known adverse effects such as rashes, which may need more detailed reporting in articles studying such devices.

By development of this CPG on ankle sprains, all current evidence is considered to provide insight into the best evidence-based practice. To ensure readability, all information was categorised, summarised and recommendations provided separately explicating the effectiveness per treatment or preventive modality. Overall, this guideline provides strong evidence per treatment and preventive modality by combining multiple RCTs

**Table 8** Final recommendations per intervention modality

Modality	Recommendation	Level of evidence
Predisposing factors	In the treatment of patients with LAS, modifiable risk factors should be identified and, if possible, addressed.	2–3
Prognostic factors	Assessed of prognostic factors during the rehabilitation process in order to address negative modifiable factors.	3
Diagnostics	Late physical examination is advised to come to conclusions on the severity of the ligament damage.	2
RICE	RICE is not advised as treatment modality after a LAS.	2
NSAIDs	NSAIDs may be used to reduce pain and swelling.	2
Immobilisation	Immobilisation should not be used in the treatment of a LAS.	2
Functional support	Functional support is preferred over immobilisation, especially the use of a brace.	2
	For prevention, both tape and brace may be used. Choice of modality should always be based on patient preferences.	1
Exercise	Exercise therapy should be started as soon as possible to recover joint functionality.	1
	For recurrent ankle sprains, exercise should be included in regular training activities as much as possible.	1
Manual mobilisation	Manual mobilisation is only advised in combination with other treatment modalities to enhance the treatment effect.	3
Surgery	Surgery is only advised for patients that require quick recovery, such as professional athletes, or whose complaints are not resolved by conservative treatment to avoid unnecessary invasive treatment on patients that would just as well recover from conservative treatment.	1
Other therapies	Based on current evidence, other modalities than the once mentioned above are not advised.	2
Interprofessional communication	A communication checklist should be used to ensure communication errors.	1
Footwear	No recommendations can be made concerning footwear due to inconclusiveness of evidence.	1
Work resumption	Immediate functional treatment and a return to work schedule are advised to minimise work absenteeism.	3
Sport resumption	Supervised exercises are advised with the focus on proprioception, strength, coordination and function.	1

LAS, lateral ankle sprain; NSAIDs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; RICE, Rest Ice Compression Elevation.

showing consistent results. The AGREE II reporting guidelines have been used in an attempt to optimise the quality of this CPG.

Provided evidence may, however, be influenced by publication bias, indicated by the limited amount of evidence on negative effects or treatment without any clinical effect. Level of evidence and bias assessment using GRADEpro were not possible due to the large amount of included studies. As an alternative, each statement was provided with a level of evidence according to tables 1 and 2. There is also the effect of selection bias. Ankle sprains are very common, and many people sustaining LAS do not seek medical advice. Therefore, the effect of ‘no intervention’ on the outcome after LAS remains unknown. Most contradictory results were found in small studies showing both positive and negative effects, levelling out to a neutral MD or RR. Additionally,

most studies only included injured patients, whereas there is some conflict in the evidence of certain preventive measures in patients with first-time LAS. For this, more research is needed to enable adequate comparison between preventive effects based on a history of ankle sprains, preferably within the same study group. The best available evidence has been included in this guideline. However, the preferred approach by both patients and healthcare professionals in the diagnostic process, treatment and prevention of LAS has not. This is due to a lack of evidence on subjective data, apart from patient satisfaction after undergoing a certain treatment. More evidence on this topic may help identify the best treatment strategy per patient.

By including all steps that may be encountered by a patient from the moment of sustaining an ankle sprain up to full recovery, this guideline also includes all procedures considered and possibly performed by healthcare professionals. Thus, this guideline has a clinical focus and may provide support for all healthcare professionals encountering patients with ankle sprain irrespective of the phase of rehabilitation the patient is in. Many of the steps addressed in this guideline are steps in daily clinical practice, whether they are proven effective or not. There is a need for a clear policy that can be implemented worldwide. By updating the guideline on ankle sprains, the first step is taken towards such a policy. Further awareness regarding this guideline, to enable healthcare providers to follow the state-of-the-art recommendations, must be raised by means of scientific publication, scientific referral, congresses and raising awareness among the various professional associations.

### Future perspectives and research

This update provides the most recent evidence on diagnostics, treatment and prevention for acute LAS. As more evidence has become available, often of a higher evidence level, this enabled the use of meta-analyses where there was a lack of evidence in the initial guideline. However, not all recommendations were supported by meta-analysis. Also, some recommendations lack evidence from RCTs. A future update might be required if enough new studies become available. Thus this guideline may be updated after 5–10 years to ensure content and recommendations remain up to date using the same methodology and search strategy. If relevant new treatment methods, preventive techniques or other aspects are identified, these will receive appropriate attention depending on their importance for patients who sustained a LAS. In a future update, the methodological quality may be included to formulate conclusions based on the quality and reliability of results, as may be done using the GRADEpro tool.

Future research is required in the field of different functional treatment and prevention strategies, identifying superiority between different types of support and training and for which specific subpopulations these are effective (eg, recurrent or first-time LAS). Additional research may be performed on preferences of patients and healthcare professionals: what do patients prefer on forehand before undergoing treatment and what were their experiences? Which treatments do healthcare professionals prefer and is this dependent on injury severity, and so on, as this may contribute to formulating future recommendations.

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# CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

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## Ankle Stability and Movement Coordination Impairments: Lateral Ankle Ligament Sprains Revision 2021

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Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health  
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## Summary of Recommendations

### CLINICAL COURSE – ACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN

**B** Clinicians should include patient age, body mass index, pain coping strategies, report of instability, history of previous sprain, ability to bear weight, pain with weight bearing, ankle dorsiflexion range of motion (ROM), medial joint-line tenderness, balance, and ability to jump and land (as safely tolerated) in their initial assessment, because of their role in influencing the clinical course and estimation of time to accomplish the goals of an individual with an acute lateral ankle sprain (LAS).

### CLINICAL COURSE – CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY

**C** Clinicians may include previous treatment, number of sprains, pain level, and self-report of function in their evaluation, as well as an assessment of the sensorimotor movement systems of the foot, ankle, knee, and hip during dynamic postural control and functional movements, because of their role in influencing the clinical course and estimation of time to accomplish the goals of an individual with chronic ankle instability (CAI).

### DIAGNOSIS/CLASSIFICATION – ACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN

**B** Clinicians should use special tests, including the reverse anterolateral drawer test and anterolateral talar palpation in addition to the traditional anterior drawer test, and a thorough history and physical examination to aid in the diagnosis of a LAS.

### DIAGNOSIS/CLASSIFICATION – CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY

**B** When determining whether an individual has CAI, clinicians should use a reliable and valid discriminative instrument, such as the Cumberland Ankle Instability Tool or the Identification of Functional Ankle Instability, as well as a battery of functional performance tests that have established validity to differentiate between healthy controls and individuals with CAI.

### EXAMINATION – OUTCOME MEASURES

**A** Clinicians should use validated patient-reported outcome measures, such as the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System physical function and pain interference scales, the Foot and Ankle Ability Measure, and the Lower Extremity Functional Scale, as part of a standard clinical examination. Clinicians should utilize these before and 1 or more times after the application of interventions intended to alleviate the impairments of body function and structure, activity limitations, and participation restrictions associated with an acute LAS or CAI.

**C** Clinicians may use the Pain Self-Efficacy Questionnaire in the acute and postacute periods after a LAS to assess effective coping strategies for pain, and the 11-item Tampa Scale of Kinesiophobia and the Fear-Avoidance Beliefs Questionnaire to assess fear of movement and reinjury and fear-avoidance beliefs in those with CAI.

### EXAMINATION – PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT MEASURES

**A** Clinicians should assess and document ankle swelling, ROM, talar translation, talar inversion, and single-leg balance in patients with an acute LAS, postacute LAS, or CAI at baseline and 2 or more times over an episode of care. Clinicians should specifically include measures of dorsiflexion, using the weight-bearing lunge test, static single-limb balance on a firm surface with eyes closed, and dynamic balance with the Star Excursion Balance Test anterior, anteromedial, posteromedial, and posterolateral reach directions.

**C** In patients with CAI, clinicians may also assess and document hip abduction, extension, and external rotation strength 2 or more times over an episode of care.

### EXAMINATION – ACTIVITY LIMITATION/PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**B** Clinicians should assess and document objective and reliable measures of activity limitation, participation restriction, and symptom reproduction at baseline and 2 or more times over an episode of care when evaluating a patient with a LAS or CAI, and specifically include measures of single-limb hopping under timed conditions when appropriate.

### INTERVENTIONS – PRIMARY PREVENTION OF FIRST-TIME LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN

**A** Clinicians should recommend the use of prophylactic bracing to reduce the risk of a first-time LAS, particularly for those with risk factors for LAS.

**C** Clinicians may recommend the use of prophylactic balance training exercises to individuals who have not experienced a first-time LAS.

### INTERVENTIONS – SECONDARY PREVENTION OF RECURRENT LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS FOLLOWING AN INITIAL SPRAIN

**A** Clinicians should prescribe prophylactic bracing and use proprioceptive and balance-focused therapeutic exercise training programs to address impairments identified on physical examination to reduce the risk of a subsequent injury in patients with a first-time LAS.



**INTERVENTIONS – ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS: PROTECTION AND OPTIMAL LOADING**

**A** Clinicians should advise patients with an acute LAS to use external supports, such as braces or taping, and to progressively bear weight on the affected limb. The type of external support and gait assistive device recommended should be based on the severity of the injury, phase of tissue healing, level of protection indicated, extent of pain, and patient preference.

**A** In more severe injuries, immobilization ranging from semi-rigid bracing to below-knee casting may be indicated for up to 10 days post injury.

**INTERVENTIONS – ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS: THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE**

**A** Clinicians should implement rehabilitation programs with a structured therapeutic exercise component that can include protected active ROM, stretching exercises, neuromuscular training, postural re-education, and balance training, both in clinic and at home, as determined by injury severity, identified impairments, preferences, learning needs, and social barriers in those with a LAS.

**D** There is conflicting evidence as to the best way to augment the unsupervised components of a home program in those with a LAS, for example, by written instructions, exercise-based video games, or app-based instruction. Therefore, this can be determined by the individual's specific learning needs and access to relevant technology.

**INTERVENTIONS – ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS: OCCUPATIONAL AND SPORTS-RELATED TRAINING**

**B** Clinicians should implement a return-to-work schedule and use a brace early in rehabilitation, occupational or sport-related training, and/or a work-hardening program to mitigate activity limitation and participation restriction following a LAS.

**INTERVENTIONS – ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS: MANUAL THERAPY**

**A** Clinicians should use manual therapy procedures, such as lymphatic drainage, active and passive soft tissue and joint mobilization, and anterior-to-posterior talar mobilization procedures within pain-free movement, alongside therapeutic exercise to reduce swelling, improve pain-free ankle and foot mobility, and normalize gait parameters in individuals with a LAS.

**INTERVENTIONS – ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS: ACUPUNCTURE**

**D** There is conflicting evidence regarding the use of acupuncture to reduce symptoms associated with an acute LAS.

**INTERVENTIONS – ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS: PHYSICAL AGENTS**

**Cryotherapy**

**C** Clinicians may use repeated intermittent applications of ice in association with a therapeutic exercise program to address symptoms and functioning following an acute LAS.

**Diathermy**

**C** Clinicians can utilize pulsating shortwave diathermy for reducing edema and gait deviations associated with acute ankle sprains.

**Electrotherapy**

**D** There is moderate evidence both for and against the use of electrotherapy for the management of acute ankle sprains.

**Low-Level Laser Therapy**

**C** Clinicians may use low-level laser therapy to reduce pain in the initial phase of an acute LAS.

**Ultrasound**

**A** Clinicians should not use ultrasound for the management of acute ankle sprains.

**INTERVENTIONS – ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS: NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MEDICATION**

**C** Clinicians may prescribe nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications (as physical therapy practice acts allow) to reduce pain and swelling in those with an acute LAS.

**INTERVENTIONS – CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY: EXTERNAL SUPPORT**

**B** Clinicians should not use external support, including braces or taping, as a stand-alone intervention to improve balance and postural stability in individuals with CAI.

**INTERVENTIONS – CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY: THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY**

**A** Clinicians should prescribe proprioceptive and neuromuscular therapeutic exercise to improve dynamic postural stability and patient-perceived stability during function in individuals with CAI.

**INTERVENTIONS – CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY: MANUAL THERAPY**

**A** Clinicians should use manual therapy procedures, such as graded joint mobilizations, manipulations, and non-weight-bearing and weight-bearing mobilization with movement, to improve weight-bearing ankle dorsiflexion and dynamic balance in the short term for individuals with CAI.



**INTERVENTIONS – CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY: DRY NEEDLING**

**C** Clinicians may use dry needling of the fibularis muscle group, in conjunction with a proprioceptive training program, to reduce pain and improve function in individuals with CAI.

**INTERVENTIONS – CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY: COMBINED TREATMENTS**

**B** Clinicians may use multiple interventions to supplement balance training over an episode of care for individuals with CAI, to include a combination of exercise and manual therapy pro-

cedures as guided by the patient’s values and goals, the clinician’s judgment, and evidence-based clinical recommendations.

**INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS DURING THE COURSE OF REHABILITATION**

**E** Clinicians may use psychologically informed techniques, such as motivational interviewing, to maximize patients’ self-efficacy and to address uncomplicated psychological correlates and mediators of injury adjustment and recovery in order to maximize the effects of treatment in a positive manner for individuals with a LAS and CAI.

List of Abbreviations

**ACR:** American College of Radiology  
**ADL:** activities of daily living  
**ADT:** anterior drawer test  
**AII:** Ankle Instability Instrument  
**ALDT:** anterolateral drawer test  
**AOFAS:** American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society  
**APTA:** American Physical Therapy Association  
**ATFL:** anterior talofibular ligament  
**BAR:** Bernese ankle rules  
**BESS:** Balance Error Scoring System  
**BMI:** body mass index  
**CAI:** chronic ankle instability  
**CAIT:** Cumberland Ankle Instability Tool  
**CAT:** computer adaptive test  
**CI:** confidence interval  
**CPG:** clinical practice guideline  
**CT:** computed tomography  
**FAAM:** Foot and Ankle Ability Measure  
**FABQ:** Fear-Avoidance Beliefs Questionnaire  
**FADI:** Foot and Ankle Disability Index  
**FAOS:** Foot and Ankle Outcome Score  
**FFI:** Foot Function Index  
**FPI:** Foot Posture Index  
**HR:** hazard ratio  
**ICD:** International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems

**ICF:** International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health  
**IdFAI:** Identification of Functional Ankle Instability  
**JOSPT:** *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy*  
**LAS:** lateral ankle sprain  
**LE-FMS:** lower extremity Functional Movement Screen  
**LEFS:** Lower Extremity Functional Scale  
**LRAR:** low-risk ankle rules  
**MCID:** minimal clinically important difference  
**MRI:** magnetic resonance imaging  
**NSAID:** nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug  
**OAR:** Ottawa ankle rules  
**OR:** odds ratio  
**PF:** physical function  
**PI:** pain interference  
**PROMIS:** Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System  
**PSEQ:** Pain Self-Efficacy Questionnaire  
**RALDT:** reverse anterolateral drawer test  
**RCT:** randomized clinical trial  
**ROM:** range of motion  
**SAFAS:** Sports Athlete Foot and Ankle Score  
**SEBT:** Star Excursion Balance Test  
**TSK-11:** 11-item Tampa Scale of Kinesiophobia  
**USI:** ultrasound imaging

## Introduction

### AIM OF THE GUIDELINES

The Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has an ongoing effort to create evidence-based clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) for orthopaedic physical therapy management of patients with musculoskeletal impairments described in the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).<sup>476</sup> The purposes of these clinical guidelines are to:

- Describe evidence-based physical therapy practice, including diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and assessment of outcome, for musculoskeletal disorders commonly managed by orthopaedic physical therapists
- Classify and define common musculoskeletal conditions using the World Health Organization's terminology related to impairments of body function and body structure, activity limitations, and participation restrictions
- Identify interventions supported by current best evidence to address impairments of body function and structure, activity limitations, and participation restrictions associated with common musculoskeletal conditions
- Identify appropriate outcome measures to assess changes resulting from physical therapy interventions in body function and structure as well as in activity and participation of these individuals
- Provide a description to policy makers, using internationally accepted terminology, of the practice of orthopaedic physical therapists
- Provide information for payers and claims reviewers regarding the practice of orthopaedic physical therapy for common musculoskeletal conditions
- Create a reference publication for orthopaedic physical therapy clinicians, academic instructors, clinical instructors, students, interns, residents, and fellows regarding the best current practice of orthopaedic physical therapy

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

These guidelines are not intended to be construed or to serve as a standard of medical care. Standards of care are determined on the basis of all clinical data available for an individual patient and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and patterns of care evolve. These parameters of practice should be considered guidelines only. Adherence to them will not ensure a successful outcome in every patient, nor should they be construed as including all proper methods of care or excluding other acceptable methods of care aimed at the same results. The ultimate judgment regarding a particular clinical procedure or treatment plan must be made based on clinician experience and expertise in light of the clinical presentation of the patient, the available

evidence, available diagnostic and treatment options, and the patient's values, expectations, and preferences. However, we suggest that significant departures from accepted guidelines should be documented in the patient's medical records at the time the relevant clinical decision is made.

### SCOPE AND RATIONALE OF THE GUIDELINES

This guideline addresses the distinct but related lower extremity impairments of those with a first-time lateral ankle sprain (LAS) and those with chronic ankle instability (CAI). Studies generally categorize LAS based on chronicity, with the acute period occurring during the first 1 to 2 weeks following injury.<sup>348</sup> In the 2013 CPG,<sup>298</sup> the term "subacute" was used to characterize the time after the acute period and for up to 12 months post injury. In the current 2021 CPG, the term "subacute" was replaced with "postacute" to better characterize the time after the acute period to the 12-month point. Depending on many factors, impairments may continue following injury. While most individuals experience resolution of symptoms, complaints of instability may continue and are defined as CAI. The 2013 CPG<sup>298</sup> reported that the prevalence of CAI varied greatly, from 0% to 73%. A more recent longitudinal study<sup>109</sup> found that 60% of individuals achieve resolution of activity limitations and participation restrictions by the 12-month point, with 40% progressing to develop CAI. Those with CAI are characterized by perceived instability or episodic "giving way" of the ankle that persists for more than 12 months following the initial injury and results in activity limitation and participation restriction.<sup>179</sup> Individuals with CAI may have varying amounts of mechanical instability due to connective tissue impairment, functional instability resulting from sensorimotor impairment, or elements of both.<sup>179</sup> These impairments, which are mediated by intrinsic and extrinsic factors, contribute to activity limitation and restriction of participation. While the International Ankle Consortium has published criteria to identify patients with CAI,<sup>159</sup> these criteria were not consistently used in the literature. When summarizing the literature in this 2021 CPG, conditions described as "recurrent sprains," "ankle instability," "functional ankle instability," and "mechanical ankle instability" greater than 12 months following the first-time injury are categorized as CAI. Therefore, the term "LAS" when used in this CPG is meant to describe those with first-time ankle sprains less than 12 months after injury, and "CAI" is used to describe those with persistent symptoms for 12 months or more after injury. Additionally, the term "ankle sprain" is used in this CPG when specific studies applied that term to their participants. It was assumed that a vast majority of those with "ankle sprains" had a LAS, unless otherwise indicated in those studies. The criteria described above were applied as consistently as possible given the information provided by the studies summarized in this CPG.

## Methods

Content experts were appointed by the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc to conduct a review of the literature and develop an updated CPG for ankle stability and movement coordination impairments: lateral ankle ligament sprains. The aims of the revision were to provide a concise summary of the contemporary evidence since publication of the original guideline and to develop new recommendations or revise previously published recommendations to support evidence-based practice. The authors of this guideline revision worked with the CPG editors and medical librarians for methodological guidance. The research librarians were chosen for their expertise in systematic review and rehabilitation literature search and to perform systematic searches for concepts associated with classification, examination, and intervention strategies for ankle stability and movement coordination impairments: lateral ankle ligament sprains. Briefly, the following databases were searched from April 2012 to June 2020: MEDLINE, CINAHL, Cochrane Library, and PEDro (see **APPENDIX A** for full search strategies and **APPENDIX B** for search dates and results, available at [www.orthopt.org](http://www.orthopt.org)).

The authors declared relationships and developed a conflict management plan, which included submitting a conflict-of-interest form to the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc. Articles that were authored by a reviewer were assigned to an alternate reviewer. Funding was provided to the CPG development team for travel and expenses for CPG development training by the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc. The CPG development team maintained editorial independence.

Articles contributing to recommendations were reviewed based on specified inclusion and exclusion criteria, with the goal of identifying evidence relevant to physical therapist clinical decision making for adults with ankle stability and movement coordination impairments: lateral ankle ligament sprains. The title and abstract of each article were reviewed independently by 2 members of the CPG development team for inclusion (see **APPENDIX C** for inclusion and exclusion criteria, available at [www.orthopt.org](http://www.orthopt.org)). Full-text review was then similarly conducted to obtain the final set of articles for contribution to recommendations. The team leader (R.L.M.) provided the final decision on discrepancies that were not resolved by the review team (see **APPENDIX D** for the flow chart of articles, available at [www.orthopt.org](http://www.orthopt.org)). For selected relevant topics that were not appropriate for the development of recommendations, such as incidence and imaging, articles were not subject to the systematic review process and were

not included in the flow chart. Evidence tables for this CPG are available on the Clinical Practice Guidelines page of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy of the APTA website ([www.orthopt.org](http://www.orthopt.org)).

This guideline was issued in 2021 based on the published literature through June 2020, and will be considered for review in 2025, or sooner if new evidence becomes available. Any updates to the guideline in the interim period will be noted on the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy of the APTA website ([www.orthopt.org](http://www.orthopt.org)).

### LEVELS OF EVIDENCE

Individual clinical research articles were graded according to criteria adapted from the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (Oxford, UK) for diagnostic, prospective, and therapeutic studies. In teams of 2, each reviewer independently assigned a level of evidence and evaluated the quality of each article using a critical appraisal tool (see **APPENDICES E** and **F** for the level-of-evidence table and details on procedures used for assigning levels of evidence, available at [www.orthopt.org](http://www.orthopt.org)). The evidence update was organized from the highest level of evidence to the lowest level. An abbreviated version of the grading system is provided below.

I	Evidence obtained from high-quality diagnostic studies, prospective studies, randomized controlled trials, or systematic reviews
II	Evidence obtained from lesser-quality diagnostic studies, prospective studies, systematic reviews, or randomized controlled trials (eg, weaker diagnostic criteria and reference standards, improper randomization, no blinding, less than 80% follow-up)
III	Case-control studies or retrospective studies
IV	Case series
V	Expert opinion

### STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE AND GRADES OF RECOMMENDATION

The strength of the evidence supporting the recommendations was graded according to the previously established methods for the original guideline and those provided below. Each team developed recommendations based on the strength of evidence, including how directly the studies addressed the question of ankle stability and movement coordination impairments: lateral ankle ligament sprains. In developing their recommendations, the authors considered the strengths and limitations of the body of evidence and the health benefits, side effects, and risks of tests and interventions.

# LATERAL ANKLE LIGAMENT SPRAINS: CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

GRADES OF RECOMMENDATION		STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE	LEVEL OF OBLIGATION
<b>A</b>	Strong evidence	A preponderance of level I and/or level II studies support the recommendation. This must include at least 1 level I study	Must or should
<b>B</b>	Moderate evidence	A single high-quality randomized controlled trial or a preponderance of level II studies support the recommendation	Should
<b>C</b>	Weak evidence	A single level II study or a preponderance of level III and IV studies, including statements of consensus by content experts, support the recommendation	May
<b>D</b>	Conflicting evidence	Higher-quality studies conducted on this topic disagree with respect to their conclusions. The recommendation is based on these conflicting studies	
<b>E</b>	Theoretical/foundational evidence	A preponderance of evidence from animal or cadaver studies, from conceptual models/principles, or from basic sciences/bench research support this conclusion	May
<b>F</b>	Expert opinion	Best practice based on the clinical experience of the guideline development team	May

## GUIDELINE REVIEW PROCESS AND VALIDATION

Identified reviewers who are experts in ankle stability and movement coordination impairments and in the management and rehabilitation of ankle sprains reviewed the CPG draft for integrity, accuracy, and to ensure that it fully represented the current evidence for the condition. The guideline draft was also posted for public comment and review on [www.orthopt.org](http://www.orthopt.org), and a notification of this posting was sent to the members of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc. In addition, a panel of consumer/

patient representatives and external stakeholders, such as claims reviewers, medical coding experts, academic educators, clinical educators, physician specialists, and researchers, also reviewed the guideline. All comments, suggestions, and feedback from the expert reviewers, public, and consumer/patient representatives were provided to the authors and editors for consideration and revisions. Guideline development methods, policies, and implementation processes are reviewed at least yearly by the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy and by APTA's Clinical Practice Guideline Advisory Panel, including consumer/patient representatives, external stakeholders, and experts in physical therapy practice guideline methodology.

## DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

In addition to publishing these guidelines in the *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy (JOSPT)*, these guidelines will be posted on CPG areas of both the JOSPT and the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc websites, which are free-access website areas, and submitted to be made available (free access) on the ECRI Guidelines Trust ([guidelines.ecri.org](http://guidelines.ecri.org)) and the Physiotherapy Evidence Database (<https://pedro.org.au/>). The implementation tools planned to be made available for patients, clinicians, educators, payers, policy makers, and researchers, and the associated implementation strategies, are listed in **TABLE 1**.

## CLASSIFICATION

The primary International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD)-10 codes associated with ankle stability and movement coordination impairments are **S93.4 sprain and strain of ankle** and **M24.27 disorder of ligament, ankle and foot**.

The corresponding ICD-9-Clinical Modification codes include **845.00 sprain of ankle, unspecified site**, **845.02 sprain of**

**TABLE 1**

## PLANNED STRATEGIES AND TOOLS TO SUPPORT THE DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Tool	Strategy
JOSPT's "Perspectives for Patients" and/or "Perspectives for Practice" articles	Patient-oriented guideline summary available on <a href="http://www.jospt.org">www.jospt.org</a>
Mobile app of guideline-based exercises for patient/clients and health care practitioners	Marketing and distribution of app using <a href="http://www.orthopt.org">www.orthopt.org</a>
Clinician's Quick-Reference Guide	Summary of guideline recommendations available on <a href="http://www.orthopt.org">www.orthopt.org</a>
JOSPT's Read for Credit <sup>SM</sup> continuing education units	Continuing Education Units available for physical therapists and athletic trainers
Webinars and educational offerings for health care practitioners	Guideline-based instruction available for practitioners on <a href="http://www.orthopt.org">www.orthopt.org</a>
Mobile and web-based app of guideline for training of health care practitioners	Marketing and distribution of app using <a href="http://www.orthopt.org">www.orthopt.org</a>
Physical Therapy National Outcomes Data Registry	Support the ongoing usage of data registry for common musculoskeletal conditions ( <a href="http://www.ptoutcomes.com">www.ptoutcomes.com</a> )
Non-English versions of the guidelines and guideline implementation tools	Development and distribution of translated guidelines and tools to JOSPT's international partners and global audience
American Physical Therapy Association's CPG+	Dissemination and implementation aids

**calcaneofibular (ligament) of ankle, 845.03 sprain of tibiofibular (ligament), distal of ankle, and 718.87 other joint derangement, not elsewhere classified, ankle and foot.**

The primary ICF body function codes associated with ankle ligament sprain are **b7150 stability of a single joint** and **b7601 control of complex voluntary movements**.

The primary ICF body structures codes associated with ankle stability and movement coordination impairments are **s75023 ligaments and fasciae of ankle and foot, s75012 muscles of lower leg, s75002 muscles of thigh, and s7402 muscles of pelvic region**.

The primary ICF activities and participation codes associated with ankle stability and movement coordination impairments are **d450 walking, d4552 running, d4553 jumping,**

**d4558 exercise tolerance functions, other specified, and d9201 sports.**

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE GUIDELINE

A summary of the updated literature is provided for incidence/prevalence, pathoanatomical features, and differential diagnosis. As described in the Scope and Rationale of the Guideline, the term “LAS” is used to describe those with first-time ankle sprains less than 12 months after injury, and “CAI” is used to describe those with persistent symptoms for 12 months or more after injury. For risk factors, clinical course, diagnosis, examination, and intervention, the summary recommendation and grade of evidence from the 2013 guideline are presented, followed by a synthesis of the recent literature with the corresponding evidence levels. Each of those 5 topics concludes with the 2021 summary recommendation and its updated grade of evidence.



## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

# Impairment/Function-Based Diagnosis

## INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE UPDATE 2021

### Acute Lateral Ankle Sprain

It is estimated that approximately 50% of individuals who sustain a LAS seek medical attention, so reports of incidence and prevalence of LAS are suspected to be lower than actual rates of occurrence.<sup>451</sup> Despite this, ankle sprains are still the most common foot-ankle and sports-related injury for which individuals seek medical care,<sup>119,329</sup> including emergency room visits.<sup>213</sup> Level I evidence from a 2014 systematic review with meta-analysis shows a pooled prevalence of 11.88% of individuals with LAS in the general population.<sup>119</sup> Of the patients who do seek care, only 6.8% to 11.0% are referred to a rehabilitation specialist within 30 days of the injury.<sup>132,133</sup>

The same meta-analysis found that the incidence and prevalence of ankle sprains were greatest in children 12 years of age or younger (incidence, 2.85 per 1000 exposures; 95% confidence interval [CI]: 2.51, 3.19; prevalence, 12.62% of injuries).<sup>119</sup> Adolescents (age, 13-17 years) sustained sprains at a rate of 1.94 per 1000 exposures (95% CI: 1.73, 2.14), while adults (18 years of age or older) had a lower rate of ankle sprains, with an incidence of 0.72 per 1000 exposures (95% CI: 0.67, 0.77).<sup>119</sup> The prevalence of ankle sprains in adolescents was reported to be 10.55% of all injuries, which was lower than the prevalence of LAS in adults (11.41% of all injuries).<sup>119</sup> A 2016 study of more than 225 000 individuals who presented to an emergency room with an ankle sprain showed a slightly different distribution of injuries across age levels.<sup>387</sup> This study found that 27% of sprains occurred in individuals under 18 years of age, 40% occurred in individuals who were between 18 and 35 years of age, 18% occurred in individuals aged 36 to 49 years, and 15% occurred in individuals who were older than 49 years old.<sup>387</sup> One study reported the median age of individuals sustaining ankle sprains to be 27 years, with the highest rate of injury occurring in males between the ages of 14 and 37 years.<sup>9</sup>

Females had an estimated incidence rate of 13.6 ankle sprains per 1000 exposures (95% CI: 13.25, 13.94), which is nearly double that of males (6.94 per 1000 exposures; 95% CI: 6.8, 7.09).<sup>119</sup> Prevalence rates between the sexes were similar: prevalence in females was 10.99% and in males was 10.55%.<sup>119</sup> A 2016 study supported the evidence that ankle sprains occur more often in females, reporting that 57% of

recorded ankle sprains were sustained by females.<sup>387</sup> A second study with a much smaller sample size reported that the prevalence of LAS was similar between the sexes.<sup>9</sup>

Forty percent of LASs occur during sports.<sup>451</sup> A 2016 study by Halabchi et al<sup>170</sup> reported that 58.5% of professional basketball and football athletes had experienced an ankle sprain. In high school athletes in the United States, ankle sprains occur at a rate of 3.13 per 10 000 exposures.<sup>416</sup> Ankle sprains are the most common injury in amateur student-athletes in Brazil, making up 18.2% of all reported injuries during the 2013 sports seasons.<sup>17</sup> In the United States, ankle sprains accounted for 7.3% of all reported injuries in collegiate athletics between 2009 and 2015, occurring at a rate of 4.95 per 10 000 athlete exposures.<sup>372</sup> Although more than half (57.3%) of these injuries occurred during practice, there was a higher rate of ankle sprains per athletic exposure during competition.<sup>372</sup> Ankle sprains are most common in indoor/court sports such as volleyball and basketball, occurring at a rate of 7 ankle sprains per 1000 athlete exposures.<sup>119</sup> Field sports, such as soccer, football, and rugby, have a much lower pooled incidence, at only 1 ankle sprain per 1000 athlete exposures.<sup>119</sup> Sport-specific prevalence and incidence of LAS have been described for American football,<sup>29,326,337</sup> Australian rules football,<sup>466</sup> baseball,<sup>291,381</sup> basketball,<sup>157,180,288,306,346,368,372,439</sup> dancing,<sup>361,445</sup> fencing,<sup>172</sup> figure skating,<sup>254</sup> floorball,<sup>345,346</sup> futsal,<sup>289</sup> Gaelic football,<sup>370</sup> handball,<sup>4,15,321,322</sup> ice hockey,<sup>72</sup> in-line hockey,<sup>324</sup> lacrosse,<sup>457</sup> netball,<sup>400</sup> rugby,<sup>142,143,362</sup> soccer,<sup>9,17,52,129,135,164,261,408,453,466</sup> surfing,<sup>190</sup> ultimate Frisbee,<sup>181</sup> and volleyball.<sup>17,77,215,322,363</sup> The prevalence and incidence of LAS have also been reported for those in military service.<sup>40,119,344,389,480</sup>

### Recurrent Injury and Chronic Ankle Instability

Reports of the prevalence of CAI vary, ranging from 0.7% to 1.1%<sup>178</sup> in young adults, to 20% in adolescent athletes,<sup>123</sup> to 23.4% in high school and collegiate athletes,<sup>420</sup> to 29% in high school students.<sup>191</sup> Recurrent ankle sprains and instability are common among athletes. Female high school and collegiate athletes had significantly higher prevalence of CAI than their male counterparts.<sup>420</sup> A 2014 level IV study found that the prevalence of instability was significantly higher in high school athletes than in collegiate athletes.<sup>420</sup> In collegiate athletes, nearly 12% of reported ankle sprains

were recurrent.<sup>372</sup> These recurrent sprains were most often sustained in athletes participating in women's basketball, outdoor track, and field hockey and men's basketball.<sup>372</sup> At the elite and professional levels of competition, recurrent ankle sprains occur at a similar rate, with 14.2% of professional football and basketball players reporting a history of a recurrent sprain<sup>170</sup> and 13.7% of elite soccer players sustaining recurrent LAS.<sup>129</sup> In the only prospective study performed to date, Doherty et al<sup>109</sup> reported that the prevalence of CAI was 40% in individuals who sought care for a first-time LAS. The much higher estimate of CAI from this prospective study<sup>109</sup> compared to results from retrospective studies is likely related to care-seeking behaviors, with the true burden likely underrepresented in the studies that employed retrospective designs.

### PATHOANATOMICAL FEATURES UPDATE 2021

Concomitant injuries commonly occur with an acute LAS,<sup>84,310</sup> with bone bruising on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) being one of the most common findings.<sup>54,216</sup> The extent of ankle effusion present after injury may be associated with more severe associated injuries,<sup>70</sup> but does not necessarily indicate the presence or absence of a fracture.<sup>10</sup> Ankle impingement, which can cause pain and limited motion, was found in 25% of individuals after LAS<sup>212</sup> and potentially results from soft tissue injury and/or posttraumatic tibiotalar osteophytes.<sup>262,313,411</sup> There is also evidence that alterations in the mechanical stiffness of soft tissue around the ankle can lead to abnormal kinematics and symptoms after a LAS,<sup>236,253</sup> including increased talar inversion and rotation,<sup>271,342</sup> that may result from a lengthened anterior talofibular ligament (ATFL)<sup>2,74,217,327</sup> and/or increased ATFL-posterior talofibular ligament angle.<sup>270</sup> The abnormal kinematics that occur after a LAS may contribute to altered joint loading and explain findings of an increase in cartilage stress and degeneration in talocrural,<sup>151,196,238,443,472</sup> subtalar,<sup>222</sup> and talonavicular joints.<sup>293,443</sup> Signs of early arthritis have been related to painful end range of motion (ROM) in individuals with symptoms lasting 6 to 12 months after the initial injury.<sup>443</sup> Symptoms of pain and instability may continue after a LAS and result from coexisting pathologies, including os trigonum syndrome; osteochondral injury; syndesmotic, deltoid, or subtalar ligament injuries; talonavicular, calcaneonavicular, and calcaneocuboid joint injuries; fibularis muscle group injuries; and/or nerve pathologies.<sup>13,56,98,199,210,282,285,340,411,483</sup> In individuals with CAI, intra-articular pathologies may be associated with continued symptoms.<sup>282,411</sup> It should be noted that these coexisting pathologies are seen on diagnostic testing in those who sustain a LAS but do not have symptoms.<sup>147,444</sup> There may also be anatomical factors, such as distal tibiofibular joint variations,<sup>18,237</sup> a flatter subtalar joint,<sup>438</sup> and hindfoot

varus alignment,<sup>281</sup> associated with chronic complaints of instability.

Sensorimotor and ROM deficits can occur after a LAS and may lead to movement system abnormalities. While findings may be dependent on measurement technique and subject selection, investigators have found altered movement strategies with balance activities,<sup>28,103,108,112,113,118,154,225,228</sup> gait,<sup>107,136,359</sup> and jumping.<sup>11,110,114,117</sup> These changes may not be limited to the ankle, but can occur proximally at the knee and hip<sup>11,107,108,110,112-114,117,118</sup> as well as in the uninvolved lower extremity.<sup>108,118</sup> Changes in movement strategies on the involved lower extremity may be protective in nature, to prevent re-injury, and include a reliance on the hip and knee to reduce forces at the ankle.<sup>11,110,112,114,117</sup> Specific sensorimotor and ROM deficits at the foot-ankle complex include decreased strength of leg/ankle muscles,<sup>138,347</sup> decreased fibularis muscle reaction time,<sup>188</sup> decreased ankle dorsiflexion and plantar flexion ROM,<sup>1,138,432</sup> increased ankle frontal plane ROM,<sup>39,138</sup> and increased forefoot and midfoot mobility.<sup>138</sup> Due to the heterogeneity of pathomechanics and tissues injured during an inversion sprain, the role of these sensorimotor ROM deficits and movement system abnormalities is debated, as they are not always present or are present to varying degrees, with symptoms frequently lasting from a few weeks to 12 months or longer.<sup>11,24,78,80,85,94,99,204,224,255,320,334,354,413,427,434</sup>

Individuals who recover from a LAS, as defined by returning to at least a moderate level of activity and having a near normal self-reported functional level of activity within 12 months, are identified as "copers," while those who continue to have complaints of instability are identified as having CAI.<sup>468</sup> Attempts to identify the sensorimotor ROM deficits in those with CAI have received considerable attention. While findings may be dependent on measurement technique and subject selection, investigators have generally identified the following sensorimotor ROM deficits at the foot, ankle, knee, and hip: (1) abnormal timing of muscle activation at the ankle, knee, and hip,<sup>5,86,88,122,131,188,205,211,221,241,242,256,264,269,275,319,330,331,383,399,401,403,406,407,430,442,459,460</sup> (2) decreased force output/strength at the ankle<sup>3,59,60,138,235,249,333,343,352,473,481</sup> and hip,<sup>87,249,301,305,333</sup> (3) impaired force and proprioception at the ankle,<sup>22,59,169,219,296,379,404</sup> (4) decreased ankle dorsiflexion ROM,<sup>138,239,352</sup> and (5) increased subtalar and midfoot motion.<sup>138</sup> Research has also found impaired central mediated processes, including spinal-level sensorimotor control/reflex inhibition<sup>36,64,121,145,171,226,227,292,308,338,403,406,407,423,433</sup> and supraspinal corticomotor abnormalities.<sup>171,308,330,332,375,377,424,426,428,458</sup> These impaired sensorimotor and central mediated processes may be evident in both the injured and uninjured limbs and impact the movement system, as seen with static and dynamic balance, walking, stepping, running, jumping, cutting, and kicking.<sup>88,105,108,264,396,403-407</sup>

**RISK FACTORS****2013 Condensed Summary**

The 2013 CPG<sup>298</sup> examined intrinsic and extrinsic factors of acute LAS and ankle instability. Evidence showed that there was an increased risk of acute LAS in individuals who have a history of LAS and loss of ankle dorsiflexion ROM, do not warm up properly, do not use an external support (bracing and taping), and do not participate in neuromuscular re-training. The risk factors for CAI were less clear than those for LAS in 2013. The authors suggested that, in addition to not using an external support and not participating in a balance program, anatomical factors, such as increased talar curvature, may increase risk for ankle instability.

**EVIDENCE UPDATE****Acute Lateral Ankle Sprain: Nonmodifiable Intrinsic Risk Factors****Previous Injury**

**III** There is conflicting evidence that a previous LAS elevates risk for a subsequent LAS. A meta-analysis by Vuurberg et al<sup>451</sup> of studies between 2009 and 2016 found that previous injury was not a significant risk factor for LAS (relative risk = 1.44; 95% CI: 0.96, 2.16). Results from 2 studies not included in this review were consistent with this finding.<sup>20,174</sup> However, 2 other studies reported that individuals with a history of LAS are at increased risk for a subsequent sprain, with a hazard ratio (HR) of 2.21 (95% CI: 1.07, 4.57) when the index sprain occurred within the previous 6 months.<sup>92,355</sup>

**III** A study of professional basketball players found that players with a history of LAS were 1.41 (95% CI: 1.13, 1.74) times more likely to sustain a subsequent ankle sprain than players who did not have a history of sprain within the previous year.<sup>180</sup> A similar study of professional soccer players also showed that history of LAS increased the risk of future ankle sprain.<sup>57</sup>

**Sex**

**I** A 2014 meta-analysis found that female sex was a risk factor for LAS, with a cumulative incidence rate for females of 13.6 per 1000 exposures (95% CI: 13.25, 13.94) versus a cumulative incidence rate for males of 6.94 per 1000 exposures (95% CI: 6.8, 7.09).<sup>119</sup>

**III** A study of high school lacrosse players showed that females were more likely to sustain a LAS, at a rate of 2.4 per 1000 exposures versus 1.6 per 1000 exposures for males.<sup>457</sup>

**III** Female sex as a risk factor for LAS was also identified in a meta-analysis by Vuurberg et al.<sup>451</sup> Female athletes with a history of concussion had 1.88 to

2.54 higher odds of also reporting a LAS or knee injury.<sup>193</sup> Conflicting results regarding sex as a risk factor for LAS were found in a case-control study of professional soccer players.<sup>57</sup>

**Body Mass Index**

**III** A meta-analysis identified lower body mass index (BMI) as a potential intrinsic risk factor for a LAS.<sup>451</sup> When data from studies published between 2009 and 2016 were pooled, individuals with a lower BMI trended toward a slightly higher rate of sprain (mean difference, -0.08; 95% CI: -0.14, 0.02).<sup>451</sup> Articles not included in this analysis both agreed<sup>365,366</sup> and disagreed with this finding.<sup>92,174</sup>

**III** A case-control study found that BMI was not a risk factor for LAS in those presenting to emergency departments.<sup>484</sup>

**Age**

**III** In elite football and basketball players (age range, 15-40 years), it was noted that each 5-year increase of age was found to increase the odds of sustaining a LAS by 1.51 times (odds ratio [OR] = 1.51; 95% CI: 1.02, 2.25).<sup>353</sup> In contrast, younger age was associated with increased risk of LAS in military recruits undergoing training.<sup>365,366</sup>

**III** In professional soccer players, it was found that age was not related to LAS injury risk.<sup>57</sup>

**Other Nonmodifiable Intrinsic Risk Factors**

**III** Among collegiate athletes, those with a navicular-medial malleolar distance greater than 4.65 cm, measured with a digital caliper in maximal dorsiflexion to represent external rotation of the talus, were 4.14 times more likely to sustain a LAS than athletes with a smaller navicular-medial malleolar distance.<sup>240</sup> Leg-heel angle and foot internal rotation angle in plantar flexion were not found to be associated with risk of a LAS.<sup>240</sup>

**III** Among soldiers, a Beighton score of 4<sup>21</sup> or greater and narrower bimalleolar width were associated with increased risk of a LAS.<sup>366</sup> Foot Posture Index (FPI) score and all 6 component scores<sup>57</sup> and the Q-angle<sup>484</sup> were not found to be associated with risk of a LAS. Two studies have potentially identified a genetic predisposition to LAS.<sup>360,388</sup>

**Acute Lateral Ankle Sprain: Modifiable Intrinsic Risk Factors**  
**Range of Motion**

**III** Asymmetrical ankle dorsiflexion ROM greater than 2.5 cm between sides, as measured with the weight-bearing lunge test, was predictive of LAS in

firefighters.<sup>446</sup> Conflicting findings were found in collegiate male athletes.<sup>174</sup> Non-weight-bearing measures of ankle dorsiflexion ROM and inversion/eversion motion were not found to be risk factors for a LAS.<sup>20,92</sup>

### Strength

**I** Decreased hip abductor strength was found to increase the risk of LAS in male soccer players, with a reported OR of 1.10 (95% CI: 1.02, 1.18).<sup>357</sup> When hip abductor strength was less than 33.8% of body weight, the probability of LAS increased from 11.9% to 26.7%.<sup>357</sup>

**II** Decreased hip extensor strength was associated with a significant ( $P = .028$ ) increased risk of LAS in youth soccer players.<sup>95</sup>

### Functional Performance

**II** Risk of LAS is generally increased with worse performance on unilateral standing reach tests like the Star Excursion Balance Test (SEBT) and the Y Balance Test. Better performance on the SEBT (posterolateral direction) decreased the risk of LAS (HR = 0.96; 95% CI: 0.92, 0.99).<sup>92</sup> When netball players reached 77.5% or less of their leg length on the posteromedial direction of the SEBT, risk of LAS was increased by more than 4 times (OR = 4.04; 95% CI: 1.00, 16.35).<sup>20</sup> Worse performance on the anterior reach component of the Y Balance Test was associated with increased incidence of LAS in males (but not in females).<sup>174</sup> In adolescent soccer players, the inability to reach at least 76% and 70% of limb length in the posteromedial and posterolateral directions, respectively, during the SEBT represented significant cutoff points indicating increased risk of LAS in the subsequent 10 months.<sup>233</sup> Asymmetrical performance (greater than 2 cm in the anterior direction, greater than 3 cm in the posteromedial and posterolateral directions, right versus left lower extremity) on the Y Balance Test was predictive of LAS in firefighters.<sup>446</sup>

**II** Athletes who performed the multiple hop test with more than 12 “change-in-support errors” had a 4-fold increased risk of an index LAS.<sup>128</sup> These “change-in-support errors” include shuffling or jumping on the support foot, removing the hands from the iliac crests, and putting the nonsupport foot down.<sup>128</sup>

**II** A LAS was not associated with performance on the foot-lift test in active university students<sup>92</sup> or in netball players.<sup>20</sup> Single-leg stance quality graded using the Balance Error Scoring System (BESS)<sup>174</sup> and performance on the side recognition test<sup>92</sup> were also not found to be associated with increased risk of LAS. In netball players, vertical jump height and performance on the demi-

pointe balance test were not associated with incidence of LAS.<sup>20</sup>

**II** Adolescent athletes who took greater than 15.4 seconds to complete the single-leg hop test, with 10 repetitions over a 30-cm distance, were at higher risk of sustaining a LAS in the following 10 months.<sup>233</sup>

**II** In elite soccer players, poor performance (mediolateral force more than 0-0.4 seconds and/or resultant horizontal ground reaction forces more than 3-5 seconds) on a single-leg drop-jump landing was predictive of a LAS within 3 years.<sup>134</sup> Gait abnormalities with earlier peak pressure on the lateral forefoot, higher peak pressure under the first metatarsal, higher peak metatarsal impulse, and more medial pressure at heel-off were associated with higher risk of a LAS in military recruits.<sup>365,366</sup>

**II** There is a slight increase in the odds of LAS for semiprofessional soccer players with worse performance on the single-leg hop for distance (OR = 1.10; 95% CI: 1.00, 1.23).<sup>307</sup> Composite score on the Soccer Injury Movement Screen (components include anterior reach, single-leg deadlift, in-line lunge, single-leg hop for distance, and tuck jump) does not predict LAS in semiprofessional soccer players.<sup>307</sup>

### Acute Lateral Ankle Sprain: Extrinsic Risk Factors Activity

**I** A meta-analysis found that risk of LAS was associated with type of sport played: the highest risk was in individuals playing court sports (cumulative incidence of 7 per 1000 exposures; 95% CI: 6.8, 7.2).<sup>119</sup> Another meta-analysis showed that a LAS is more likely to occur in the second half of games during soccer, rugby, futsal, American football, and Gaelic football.<sup>93</sup>

**II** Elite Gaelic football players are more likely to sustain a LAS during match play versus during training, with the likelihood during match play of 62.2% and during training of 32.4%.<sup>370</sup> In high school lacrosse players, competition, compared to practice, was more likely to elicit a LAS in both males (3.0 per 1000 competition exposures versus 1.0 per 1000 practice exposures) and females (3.8 per 1000 competition exposures versus 1.8 per 1000 practice exposures).<sup>457</sup>

### Playing Surface

**II** There was no difference in LAS risk among Major League Soccer players playing on artificial turf versus natural grass.<sup>47</sup> There was no difference in the rate of ankle sprain in rugby players playing on artificial turf versus grass.<sup>362</sup>



**Chronic Ankle Instability: Risk Factors****Physical Characteristics**

**II** In a retrospective study of more than 800 000 young adults serving in the military, increased BMI was found to be associated with CAI in males (overweight: OR = 1.249,  $P < .001$ ; obese: OR = 1.418,  $P < .001$ ) and females (overweight: OR = 1.989,  $P < .001$ ; obese: OR = 2.754,  $P < .001$ ).<sup>178</sup>

**II** Among athletes returning to sport following a LAS, those whose height was more than 191 cm had 16 times greater odds of sustaining a recurrent sprain that same season. Athletes whose mass was more than 100 kg had 8 times greater odds of sustaining a recurrent sprain in the same season.<sup>304</sup>

**III** In a large study of 900 healthy individuals aged 8 to 101 years, Baldwin et al<sup>23</sup> found that, for every degree of decreased ankle dorsiflexion ROM, the odds of bilateral ankle instability (defined by a score on the Cumberland Ankle Instability Tool [CAIT] of 25 or less) increased by 3% (95% CI: 0%, 6%). Healthy females with a CAIT score of 25 or less were 2.6 times more likely to have bilateral ankle instability (95% CI: 1.7, 3.8), and the odds of having bilateral ankle instability (defined as a CAIT score of 25 or less) decreased by 2% (95% CI: 1%, 3%) for each year of increasing age. Additionally, the odds of having ankle instability (defined by a CAIT score of 25 or less) were increased by 4% for every centimeter of increased waist size (95% CI: 2%, 6%).<sup>23</sup>

**Functional Performance**

**II** Inability to complete jumping and landing tasks within 2 weeks of the initial injury, poorer dynamic postural control, and lower self-reported function at 6 months after the initial injury were predictors of CAI at 6 months.<sup>109</sup>

**Other Risk Factors**

**I** Not using prophylactic bracing and not participating in an exercise program that includes balance training are risk factors for a subsequent LAS following a first-time LAS.<sup>33,43,102,336,356,451</sup>

**II** Participating in sports increases the risk of recurrent ankle sprains, as the odds of sustaining a recurrent ankle sprain were 6.83 times higher (95% CI: 1.35, 34.56) in individuals who participated in sports than in those who did not participate in sports.<sup>293</sup>

**2021 Risk Factor Evidence Summary**

Female sex, hip abductor and extensor weakness, poor performance on balance and hopping tests, and participating in court sports are risk factors for an acute LAS. Not using

prophylactic bracing, not participating in an exercise-balance program, poor functional performance after a LAS, participating in sports, and higher BMI are risk factors for CAI.

**CLINICAL COURSE****2013 Condensed Summary Without Recommendation**

Following a LAS, there is a rapid decrease in pain and improvement in function in the first 2 weeks after injury. However, 5% to 33% of patients continue to experience pain 1 year or more after the LAS, with 5% to 25% still experiencing pain after 3 years. Fifty percent to 85% of individuals with a LAS report full recovery at approximately 3 years after the injury, independent of sprain severity. When symptoms of instability continue beyond 1 year after a LAS, patients are commonly diagnosed as having CAI. In high-quality studies, continued reports of instability were noted in 0% to 33% of patients in follow-up periods of 3 years or less. Prognosis may also be related to not receiving appropriate treatment after injury, including bracing and rehabilitation. There is higher risk of ankle instability and reinjury in high- compared to low-activity groups.

**ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN****Evidence Update**

The acute phase is operationally defined as 1 to 2 weeks or less after injury, while the postacute period may last up to 12 months following injury.

**I** For a faster return to sports, an evidence-based clinical guideline by Vuurberg et al<sup>451</sup> recommended a supervised exercise program to address the strength, coordination, proprioception, and functional deficits that occur after a LAS. This is consistent with a systematic review that found a shorter time to return to sports after an acute ankle sprain following functional treatment, the use of compression stockings, and anteroposterior talocrural joint mobilization.<sup>8</sup>

**I** An assessment of recovery time in high school athletes after a first-time ankle sprain found that there was a 75% chance of returning to sport within 3 days after the injury and a 95% chance of returning within 10 days, with no difference between new and recurrent ankle sprains.<sup>309</sup> Another study of high school athletes found that more severe injuries involving multiple ligaments resulted in a greater than 3-week loss of participation.<sup>417</sup> In college athletics, 44.4% of individuals returned to play in less than 24 hours after injury.<sup>372</sup> In soccer players, the average time lost after ankle sprain was 12 to 15 days,<sup>129,466</sup> while rugby players returned to participation on average 24 days after injury.<sup>422</sup>



**I** The Synthesizing a clinical Prognostic Rule for Ankle Injuries in the Emergency Department study, with 682 individuals evaluated within 7 days after an ankle sprain, found older age, higher BMI, higher pain level when resting, higher pain level when bearing weight, inability to bear weight, longer time (days) from injury to assessment, and prior recurrent sprain to be predictors of a poor outcome.<sup>384</sup>

**II** A systematic review and meta-analysis found that the addition of rehabilitation exercises to standard care significantly reduced reinjury in the 7 to 12 months following injury.<sup>33</sup> Another systematic review and meta-analysis found that bracing and neuromuscular training were not associated with reduced recurrence of ankle sprains at 12 months.<sup>43</sup>

**II** Despite significant improvements in self-reported function over a 6-week period after a LAS, ankle laxity did not significantly change as assessed with the anterior drawer test (ADT) ( $P > .05$ ).<sup>74</sup>

**II** Those with a medial joint bone marrow contusion, on the tibia and/or talus, identified on MRI within 2 weeks after a LAS had a significantly longer recovery time to return to normal walking (25 versus 16 days,  $P = .0002$ ) and sports (92 versus 56 days,  $P = .0001$ ).<sup>54</sup> Those with simple or complex LAS, as determined by radiological imaging, did not have different outcomes at 6 months ( $P > .05$ ).<sup>41</sup>

**II** At baseline, older age, more severe injury, and less than full weight-bearing status were correlated (adjusted  $R^2 = 0.341$ ,  $P < .01$ ), with worse functional status at week 4, while baseline older age, less than full weight-bearing status, and injury mechanism were correlated (adjusted  $R^2 = 0.20$ ,  $P < .01$ ) with worse functional status at 4 months.<sup>335</sup> Pain with weight-bearing dorsiflexion and medial joint-line tenderness at 4-week assessment were associated (adjusted  $R^2 = 0.49$ ,  $P < .01$ ) with lower function at 4 months.<sup>335</sup>

**II** Effective coping strategies for pain and lower age ( $P < .017$ ), but not severity of injury ( $P > .68$ ), were associated with fewer symptoms and limitations at 3-week follow-up after a LAS.<sup>37</sup> A recent LAS (OR = 8.23) and younger age (OR = 8.41) were independent predictors of a recurrent ankle sprain in a convenience sample ( $n = 100$ ).<sup>355</sup>

**II** In a prospective cohort of 70 individuals who sustained a LAS, 60% ( $n = 42$ ) were categorized as “copers” and recovered, while 40% ( $n = 28$ ) went on to suffer CAI.<sup>104,109</sup> Inability to complete jumping and landing tasks within 2 weeks after a first-time LAS was predictive of

CAI at 6 months (sensitivity, 83%; specificity, 55%;  $P = .004$ ).<sup>109</sup> Clinical tests of ROM, swelling, ligament laxity, and posterior glide within 2 weeks after injury had limited predictive value (accuracy, 68.8%) in determining those who went on to develop CAI versus becoming a “coper” at 1 year.<sup>104</sup>

**III** A cohort study in the National Basketball Association found that 56% of those who sustained an ankle sprain did not miss any games. The incidence of ankle sprain among players with a history of prior ankle sprain in the past year was 1.41 times higher than those without a history of ankle sprain in the past year ( $P = .002$ ).<sup>180</sup>

**III** Among 44 patients recruited from general practices and physical therapy clinics at 4-year follow-up from a LAS, 18% ( $n = 8$ ) experienced a subsequent injury, 29.5% ( $n = 13$ ) reported pain, 45.5% ( $n = 20$ ) had tenderness on clinical examination, and 25% ( $n = 11$ ) had limited ankle dorsiflexion ROM.<sup>212</sup> Almost 20% ( $n = 24$ ) of individuals in another study continued to have ankle complaints of some kind at 5-year follow-up.<sup>294</sup>

**III** Obesity may influence outcome, as full recovery at 6 months was 65%, 59%, and 52% for those with a BMI of less than 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, 25 to 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and greater than 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, respectively.<sup>32</sup> In a study of anthropometric and clinical assessments, the highest correlation with a new ankle sprain was the history of a previous sprain ( $r = 0.265$ ,  $P < .001$ ).<sup>484</sup>

**III** A significant decrease in dorsiflexion, plantar flexion, and eversion ROM (26%-27%,  $P < .002$ ) was found 4 weeks after LAS among 20 patients.<sup>432</sup> Fraser et al<sup>138</sup> found decreased ankle dorsiflexion ROM ( $P < .001$ ), increased ankle frontal plane ROM ( $P < .001$ ), and increased forefoot and midfoot mobility ( $P < .001$ ) in individuals with a history of LAS.

**III** An assessment of the movement system using static and dynamic balance activities,<sup>28,103,108,112,113,118,154,225,228,354</sup> gait,<sup>107,136,359</sup> and jumping<sup>11,110,114,115,117</sup> can identify abnormal movement strategies at the ankle, knee, and hip caused by sensorimotor ROM deficits.

**IV** At a 1-year telephone follow-up of those seen in the emergency department after an ankle sprain, those with more severe injuries had more persistent complications ( $\chi^2 = 3.636$ ,  $P < .05$ ).<sup>163</sup>

**IV** A case series found that greater severity of injury diagnosed using ultrasound imaging (USI) was predictive of 1-year self-reported outcome following LAS ( $P < .05$ ).<sup>63</sup>

IV

Another case series found that after a LAS, increasing height and weight were associated with a recurrent sprain within the same season.<sup>304</sup>

IV

Fair to moderate correlations ( $r = -0.40$  to  $-0.57$ ,  $P < .05$ ) were identified between pain levels and reported confidence with weight-bearing lunge and hopping tests.<sup>68</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

A full return to participation can be expected from 1 day to a little more than 3 weeks after LAS, depending on the demands of the desired activity or sport. However, full recovery with no symptoms or limitations may take months or years to obtain, and cannot be expected in all patients. There is conflicting evidence for the role of injury severity in the clinical course after a LAS. The update of evidence since 2013 continues to support that a supervised impairment-driven exercise program can allow for a faster recovery and help prevent reinjury, with patient factors being able to help predict the clinical course after LAS.

### 2021 Recommendation

B

Clinicians should include patient age, BMI, pain coping strategies, report of instability, history of previous sprain, ability to bear weight, pain with weight bearing, ankle dorsiflexion ROM, medial joint-line tenderness, balance, and ability to jump and land (as safely tolerated) in their initial assessment because of their role in influencing the clinical course and estimation of time to accomplish the goals of an individual with an acute LAS.

## CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY

### Evidence Update

II

A functional treatment program aimed to improve jumping and landing biomechanics increased self-reported functional status in the treatment group ( $n = 14$ ) compared to the control group ( $n = 14$ ). The estimate of effect size using the Foot and Ankle Ability Measure (FAAM) was 1.95 (95% CI: 1.03, 2.86).<sup>14</sup>

III

Baseline self-reported functional limitations, decreased single-limb balance, and number of previous ankle sprains were predictive of treatment success in individuals with CAI, with the single-limb balance test being the single best predictor.<sup>469,470</sup> A single-limb balance test greater than or equal to 5 errors was predictive of success with ankle joint mobilizations (positive likelihood ratio = 33.3; 95% CI: 4.1, 274.4), and a test greater than or equal to 2 errors was predictive of success with plantar massage (positive likelihood ratio = 62.5; 95% CI: 8.3, 472.4).<sup>470</sup>

III

A systematic review by Al Adal et al<sup>7</sup> reported the presence of pain in 50% to 79% of those with CAI. Pain was usually intermittent, mild, and occurred during vigorous activity.<sup>7</sup> A study not included in that review had similar findings, and also noted that those with more severe perceived ankle instability were more likely to have pain (OR = 5.38,  $P < .001$ ).<sup>6</sup>

III

Individuals with CAI have movement system abnormalities that have been identified during activity such as static and dynamic balance activities, walking,<sup>140</sup> stepping,<sup>49,396</sup> running, jumping, cutting,<sup>139,230,247,248,398</sup> and kicking.<sup>124,367</sup> A systematic review by Rosen et al<sup>376</sup> found deficits in static and dynamic postural control in those with CAI. Similar findings were noted by other studies not included in the review by Rosen et al.<sup>22,89,105,116,138,167,205,239,250,258,260,352,376,392,405,485</sup>

III

A systematic review that evaluated the literature on walking and running biomechanics reported that those with CAI had increased ankle and rearfoot inversion, ankle plantar flexion, vertical forces on the lateral part of the foot, and fibularis longus muscle activity.<sup>317</sup> Similar findings were noted by others whose studies were not included in this review.<sup>69,97,100,136,149,220,244,334,401,421,481</sup> There have also been abnormalities noted at the knee and hip with less knee adduction, decreased gluteus medius muscle activity, and altered hip-ankle coordination.<sup>88,89,276,318,401,481</sup> These abnormalities may alter the timing of movements and cause the center of mass to laterally deviate and fall outside the base of support to potentially cause instability.<sup>317</sup>

III

In the systematic review by Rosen et al,<sup>376</sup> it was identified that those with CAI had deficits with hopping and jumping activity. Another systematic review that evaluated the literature on landing biomechanics in those with CAI noted the following: (1) dynamic postural stability deficits with longer time to stabilization after landing, (2) altered ankle and knee kinematics while landing with greater knee extension and ankle dorsiflexion, (3) greater vertical and lateral loading rates, and (4) reduction in fibularis longus and brevis muscle activation prior to contact.<sup>397</sup> Similar findings were noted by studies not included in these reviews.<sup>38,127,176,177,192,206,207,221,275,279,319,399,429,430,460</sup> Studies investigating jumping have also found less hip flexion and hip adduction at initial contact, with decreased gluteus medius activity, in addition to a reduced jump height and flight distance.<sup>192,256,305,319</sup> A study by Liu et al<sup>283</sup> found that dynamic postural stability during multidirectional hopping could not accurately differentiate among healthy, copers, and unstable groups. Similar findings were noted by others.<sup>173,301</sup> However, in aggregate, findings suggest that those with CAI may use a landing strategy that relies on proximal joints to protect the ankle from reinjury.<sup>397</sup>

**III** Those that go on to develop CAI may be differentiated from copers based on their movement patterns, including dynamic balance,<sup>105,116,205,250,352</sup> walking,<sup>50,106,136,456</sup> stepping down,<sup>49,125</sup> running,<sup>259</sup> and landing from a jump,<sup>111</sup> with copers having biomechanics more similar to those of healthy individuals.<sup>49,50,105,116,125,136,205,259,352</sup> The neuromuscular ankle strategies adopted by copers may allow them to prevent recurrent symptoms.

**III** A decrease in activity and participation and overall health-related quality of life was found in those with CAI<sup>123,138,183,251,297,471</sup> compared to those without CAI and may result from the sensorimotor ROM deficits and altered movement control strategies.<sup>198,395</sup> However, this might not be true for younger individuals (age, 15-16 years), as their reported physical activity level did not seem to be affected by a history of ankle instability.<sup>191</sup>

**III** In individuals with CAI, significant ( $P < .001$ ) predictors of a successful improvement with a balance training program were impaired dynamic balance with an SEBT posteromedial reach distance of 85.18% or less and a FAAM activities of daily living (ADL) score or Foot and Ankle Disability Index (FADI) score of 92.55% or less at baseline. For patients who met both criteria, there was a 70% probability of a successful outcome.<sup>42</sup>

**III** A systematic review-based consensus recommended nonsurgical treatment for 3 to 6 months prior to considering surgery for CAI.<sup>402</sup> A cross-sectional study found that those with CAI who did not seek medical treatment for their LAS had worse subjective function.<sup>197</sup>

**III** Radiographic measures of a cavus foot type did not discriminate between those with CAI and controls ( $P > .05$ ).<sup>263</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Those who do not become “copers” after LAS and go on to develop CAI may have sensorimotor and ROM impairments at the trunk, hip, knee, ankle, and foot as well as impaired central mediated processes, as noted in the pathoanatomical section, that may put them at risk for further injury. The sensorimotor system may be assessed clinically with objective and reliable measures of impairments of body function and activity limitation and participation restriction, such as dynamic balance, hopping, running, and jumping. Because of the role of central mediated processes, evaluating the uninjured lower extremity for sensorimotor impairments may be appropriate. Patient factors can help to predict the clinical course in those with CAI.

### 2021 Recommendation

**C** Clinicians may include previous treatment, number of sprains, pain level, and self-report of function in their evaluation as well as an assessment of the sensorimotor movement systems of the foot, ankle, knee, and hip during dynamic postural control and functional movements, because of their role in influencing the clinical course and estimation of time to accomplish the goals of an individual with CAI.

### DIAGNOSIS/CLASSIFICATION LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN

#### 2013 Recommendation

**B** Clinicians should use the clinical findings of level of function, ligamentous laxity, hemorrhaging, point tenderness, total ankle motion, swelling, and pain to classify a patient with acute LAS into the ICD category of sprain and strain of ankle (S93.4), and the associated ICF impairment-based category of ankle stability (b7150 stability of a single joint) and movement coordination impairments (b7601 control of complex voluntary movements).

#### Evidence Update

**II** In a prospective, double-blind trial, Li and colleagues<sup>272</sup> compared the diagnostic properties of the ADT, anterolateral drawer test (ALDT), and the reverse anterolateral drawer test (RALDT) between 2 raters in a mixed group of healthy individuals ( $n = 34$ ) and those with confirmed ATFL injury ( $n = 38$ ). The results indicated that the RALDT was superior to both the ADT and ALDT in nearly all categories for both raters. Mean sensitivity (averages of raters 1 and 2) was 0.224 for the ADT, 0.473 for the ALDT, and 0.894 for the RALDT. Specificity was at or near 1 for the ADT and ALDT, though only slightly less for the RALDT (0.897). Mean accuracy was 0.590 for the ADT, 0.715 for the ALDT, and 0.896 for the RALDT. Kappa values were also higher for the RALDT (0.639) compared to the ADT (0.196) and ALDT (0.528). The authors concluded that the RALDT was more sensitive and accurate when compared to the ADT and ALDT for diagnosis of ATFL injuries.<sup>104,272</sup>

**II** Croy et al<sup>73</sup> prospectively evaluated the diagnostic accuracy of the ADT in 66 individuals with a history of a LAS and 20 control individuals against digital USI during mechanical testing. The ADT uses a 5-point ordinal scale to classify degree of laxity (0, hypomobile; 1, normal; 2, mild increased laxity; 3, moderate increased laxity; 4, severe increased laxity). The diagnostic accuracy of the ADT was assessed for 2 thresholds: 2 or greater and 3 or greater. Two thresholds were used for the imaging reference standard: based on the literature (2.3 mm) and twice the standard deviation of the control group

(3.7 mm). Sensitivity of the ADT was 0.74 for the 2.3-mm cutoff and 0.83 for the 3.7-mm cutoff. Specificity of the ADT was 0.38 and 0.40 for the 2.3-mm and 3.7-mm cutoffs, respectively. The authors concluded that the ADT provides a limited ability to detect excessive anterior talocrural laxity. The authors, however, conceded that because a side-to-side comparison was not performed, as is typical in clinical practice, the ADT might provide useful information when used in this manner.<sup>73</sup>

**III** Wiebking et al<sup>467</sup> compared the diagnostic accuracy of the ADT, arthrometer assessment, and stress ultrasonography in 30 patients with lateral ankle trauma under anesthesia. The investigators were blinded to the diagnosis, and both ankles of all participants were examined. The ADT exhibited a sensitivity of 0.93 and a specificity of 0.67. The arthrometer displayed a sensitivity of 0.80 and a specificity of 0.40, while the stress ultrasonography demonstrated a sensitivity of 0.27 and a specificity of 0.87. The authors concluded that clinical examination with adequate analgesia was superior to both arthrometry and stress ultrasonography for diagnosing acute LAS.<sup>467</sup>

**III** Gomes et al,<sup>153</sup> in a cross-sectional study, looked at the efficacy of the anterolateral talar palpation test, using palpation to assess for anterior translation of the talus during a traditional ADT, to diagnose ankle instability. Two blinded investigators examined 24 participants (14 patients with confirmed anterior-lateral ligamentous injury and 10 controls). The first examiner performed the traditional ADT and the second examiner performed the anterolateral talar palpation test on all participants. Tests were categorized as positive or negative. The traditional ADT had a sensitivity of 0.50, a specificity of 1.0, a positive predictive value of 100%, a negative predictive value of 56.3%, and an overall accuracy of 69.6%. The anterolateral talar palpation test had a sensitivity of 1.0, a specificity of 0.77, a positive predictive value of 87.5%, a negative predictive value of 100%, and an overall accuracy of 91.3%. The authors concluded that while the results for the anterolateral talar palpation test were encouraging, it should be used as a complement to the traditional ADT to improve diagnostic accuracy in this patient population.<sup>153</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

While the traditional ADT seems to have limited reliability and accuracy, it continues to be one of the most common tests used clinically. Adding palpation to assess for anterior translation of the talus during the traditional ADT improves the diagnostic accuracy of the ADT. Therefore, the anterolateral talar palpation test and the RALDT have stronger evidence than the traditional ADT to support their use in diagnosing ATFL injuries after LAS.

### 2021 Recommendation

**B** Clinicians should use special tests, including the RALDT and anterolateral talar palpation added to the traditional ADT, in addition to a thorough history and physical examination to aid in the diagnosis of a LAS.

### CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY

#### 2013 Recommendation

**B** Clinicians may incorporate a discriminative instrument, such as the CAIT, to assist in identifying the presence and severity of ankle instability associated with the ICD category of instability secondary to old ligament injury, ankle and foot (M24.27), and the associated ICF impairment-based category of ankle stability (b7150 stability of a single joint) and movement coordination impairments (b7601 control of complex voluntary movements).

#### Evidence Update

**I** Rosen and colleagues<sup>376</sup> completed a systematic review with meta-analysis of 29 studies to determine whether functional performance tests could identify individuals with CAI. The authors found level B (moderate to strong) evidence for several functional performance tests. Specifically, the side hop ( $P = .009$ ,  $n = 7$ ), timed hop ( $P = .002$ ,  $n = 9$ ), multiple hop test ( $P < .001$ ,  $n = 13$ ), and the foot-lift test ( $P = .020$ ,  $n = 3$ ) were able to discriminate between individuals with CAI and healthy controls. Additionally, components of the SEBT (medial:  $P = .006$ ,  $n = 7$ ; anteromedial:  $P = .022$ ,  $n = 7$ ; posteromedial:  $P < .001$ ,  $n = 13$ ) were also capable of discriminating between the two groups.<sup>376</sup>

**I** To diagnose mechanical ankle instability and provide objective measures of laxity, arthrometers have been employed to quantify either anterior talocrural displacement and/or inversion ROM. A recent systematic review by Wenning and colleagues<sup>465</sup> identified that while most devices have good to excellent reliability (0.65-0.99), there were only 2 studies reporting the sensitivity and specificity of testing in individuals with CAI.

**III** In 2013, Donahue and colleagues<sup>120</sup> introduced a new discriminative instrument, the Identification of Functional Ankle Instability (IdFAI). The IdFAI, which consists of 10 questions, combined elements of both the CAIT and the Ankle Instability Instrument (AII). Scores can range from 0 to 37. A score of 11 or greater suggests that the individual is likely to have CAI. Unique to the IdFAI, the instrument has an operational definition of “giving way” at the top of the form. The IdFAI demonstrated an overall test-retest reliability of 0.92 and was significantly related to responses on the Lower Extremity Functional



Scale (LEFS) (Spearman  $\rho = -0.38, P < .01$ ).<sup>120</sup> Subsequent investigation of 1127 college-aged individuals found that the IdFAI was able to predict 87.8% of cases in which a person met the minimum criteria for CAI, including a history of at least 1 ankle sprain and an episode of giving way.<sup>394</sup> This prediction percentage was greater than the combined use of the CAIT and AII.<sup>394</sup>

**III** In 2014, Wright and colleagues<sup>478</sup> revisited the cutoff score for the CAIT. This work was prompted by some investigators noting that individuals who indicated their ankle was relatively asymptomatic were classified as having CAI. Using 2 independent data sets, the authors identified a new cutoff score of 25 or less, down 2 points from what was previously established.<sup>478</sup> The recalibrated cutoff score exhibited a sensitivity of 96.6%, a specificity of 86.8%, a positive likelihood ratio of 7.31, and a negative likelihood ratio of 0.39. Additional work on the CAIT identified the minimal detectable change to be 3.08 and the minimal clinically important difference (MCID) to be 3 points or greater.<sup>479</sup>

**III** Given the usefulness of these questionnaires, several have been cross-culturally adapted and translated into other languages and formats. Evidence is available to support Arabic,<sup>246</sup> Dutch,<sup>452</sup> French,<sup>148</sup> Greek,<sup>435</sup> Japanese,<sup>257</sup> Persian,<sup>168</sup> Spanish,<sup>75,369</sup> and digital<sup>374</sup> versions of the CAIT. Similarly, evidence exists to support Chinese,<sup>454</sup> Korean,<sup>232</sup> Japanese,<sup>311</sup> Persian,<sup>312,315</sup> and Portuguese<sup>299</sup> versions of the IdFAI. Additionally, reliability of the IdFAI has been established across several adult age groups.<sup>166</sup> Likewise, the AII has been translated into Chinese,<sup>273</sup> French,<sup>286</sup> and Persian,<sup>316</sup> with evidence to support their use. One systematic review questioned the use of validated instruments translated and cross-culturally adapted for Brazilian Portuguese after critical analysis of their psychometric properties.<sup>358</sup>

**V** The International Ankle Consortium suggested the following criteria to identify individuals with CAI: history of at least 1 significant ankle sprain, subjective reports of the previously injured ankle “giving way,” episodes of a subsequent sprain and/or perceptions of ankle instability, and diminished function as measured with the FAAM. Additionally, the consortium recommended confirmation of ankle instability by using a validated ankle-specific questionnaire with an appropriate cutoff score.<sup>159</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

While discriminative self-report instruments continue to have the most evidence to support their use in diagnosing CAI, there is also evidence for use of functional performance tests, including hopping and dynamic balance tests. The cri-

teria outlined by the International Ankle Consortium will hopefully unify how individuals with CAI are identified. However, further evidence is needed to support these criteria. The ability of arthrometers to diagnose mechanical ankle instability and provide objective measures of laxity is unclear, and their utility is limited by their lack of practicality in the majority of clinical settings.

### 2021 Recommendation

**B** When determining whether an individual has CAI, clinicians should use a reliable and valid discriminative instrument, such as the CAIT or the IdFAI, as well as a battery of functional performance tests that have established validity to differentiate between healthy controls and individuals with CAI.

### DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS ACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN

#### 2013 Recommendation

Clinicians should use diagnostic classifications other than an acute LAS when the patient’s reported activity limitations or impairments of body function and structure are not consistent with those presented in the Diagnosis/Classification section of this guideline. Particularly, the Ottawa ankle rules (OAR) and Bernese ankle rules (BAR) should be used to determine whether a radiograph is required to rule out a fracture of the ankle and/or foot.

#### Evidence Update

The ankle has been cited as the most frequently misdiagnosed region for patients reporting to the emergency department.<sup>323</sup> An inadequate history and/or physical examination and failure to order or interpret radiographs have been identified as the most common reasons for misdiagnosis.<sup>323</sup> To decrease the likelihood of missing a fracture, application of the OAR has been deemed an integral part of the diagnostic process.<sup>414,451</sup>

A recent systematic review and meta-analysis concluded that the OAR are the gold standard of decision rules for excluding fractures after an acute ankle injury.<sup>25</sup> This includes fractures of the distal tibia, distal fibula, base of the fifth metatarsal, and navicular. Utilization of the OAR has been validated in different populations<sup>455</sup> across the lifespan.<sup>130,328</sup> Although some investigators are proponents of the low-risk ankle rules (LRAR) in the pediatric population,<sup>34,35</sup> others have shown that the sensitivity of the LRAR (85.7%) is inferior to that of the OAR (100%) in this demographic.<sup>130</sup> There is evidence that implementation of the OAR in the emergency department decreases costs,<sup>278</sup> patient wait time,<sup>182</sup> length of stay (median, 20 minutes),<sup>182</sup> and radiograph imaging,<sup>182,431</sup> without sacrificing outcomes.<sup>81</sup> Likewise, there is evidence that the OAR can be used during athletic events.<sup>83,158</sup> To improve dissemination and

adherence, the use of technology, including apps<sup>339</sup> and electronic clinical decision support tools, has been recommended.<sup>393,419</sup> Collectively, investigators routinely report the OAR to have a high sensitivity (92%-100%), though low to moderate specificity (7.8%-68%).<sup>30,81,209,351,431</sup> Specificity may be improved with other tests such as the BAR.<sup>209</sup> However, the BAR alone have not been advocated for clinical use because of the lower-than-desirable sensitivity.<sup>96</sup> To maintain the level of OAR sensitivity, the OAR should be applied in their entirety. Amiri and colleagues<sup>12</sup> reported that sole utilization of the ability of a patient to bear weight and complete 4 steps in the emergency department, while omitting tenderness at the malleoli, resulted in a lower sensitivity (88%) compared to sensitivity values associated with full application of the OAR. Despite the amount of evidence that supports clinical use of the OAR, not all studies are in agreement,<sup>71</sup> possibly because clinical biases and concern of litigation remain.<sup>16</sup>

In addition to a fracture of the distal tibia, distal fibula, base of the fifth metatarsal, and navicular, soft tissue pathology must be considered when differentially diagnosing a patient who has sustained an acute ankle sprain. To optimize the differential diagnosis of soft tissue injury, the physical exam is most accurate when performed 4 to 5 days after injury.<sup>451</sup> Using MRI, copathologies have been confirmed in 92% of cases following an acute sprain.<sup>84</sup> Differential diagnosis and assessment for copathologies may include:

- Syndesmotic injury<sup>45,162,371</sup>
- Osteochondral lesions<sup>84,371</sup>
- Talar bone contusion<sup>371</sup>
- Deltoid ligament sprain<sup>371</sup>
- Tendinous injuries,<sup>84</sup> including Achilles tendon rupture and fibularis longus/brevis tendon and retinacular injury
- Symptomatic accessory ossicles, including os trigonum syndrome<sup>210</sup>
- Midfoot sprains (eg, talonavicular, calcaneocuboid, and calcaneonavicular ligaments)<sup>10</sup>
- Epiphyseal plate injuries<sup>34,448</sup>

### 2021 Summary

Clinicians should conduct a thorough patient history and examine the multiple segments of the ankle-foot complex to rule in or out the pathologies that may be present when differentially diagnosing an acute sprain, and utilize the OAR when determining whether a radiograph is necessary after an acute LAS.

## CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY

### 2013 Recommendation

Clinicians should use diagnostic classifications other than ankle instability when the patient's reported activity limitations or impairments of body function and structure are not con-

sistent with those presented in the Diagnosis/Classification section of this guideline.

### Evidence Update

While the majority of patients recover after an acute ankle sprain, around 40% may continue to exhibit symptoms consistent with CAI. Concurrent pathologies may explain why symptoms remain problematic for months or longer in some cases. Frequently, these copathologies are documented at the time of surgery following unsuccessful nonsurgical management.<sup>13,282</sup> Coexisting pathology accompanying CAI may include:

- Fibularis muscle pathology<sup>13,199</sup>
- Ankle impingement<sup>13,262</sup>
- Osteochondral lesions<sup>13</sup>
- Synovitis<sup>282</sup>
- Chondral lesions (superficial or deep)<sup>196,265,282</sup>
- Bony or avulsion fragments<sup>282,364</sup>
- Loose bodies<sup>282</sup>
- Syndesmotic injury<sup>65,326</sup>
- Arthritis<sup>293</sup>
- Bifurcate ligament injury<sup>415</sup>
- Symptomatic accessory ossicles,<sup>364</sup> including os trigonum syndrome<sup>98</sup>

### 2021 Recommendation

Clinicians should consider the presence of pathologies that may coexist or exist in isolation and refer to other appropriate professionals when symptoms and/or function do not fully recover after a LAS.

## IMAGING

### 2013 Condensed Summary

Radiographs may be useful in acute cases when indicated by the OAR and BAR. Generally, patients with suspected ankle sprains are treated nonsurgically for 4 to 6 weeks. For patients with persistent symptoms, including symptoms consistent with ankle instability, radiographs, stress radiographs, MRI, arthrography, computed tomography (CT), USI, and/or bone scan/scintigraphy can be used to assess the integrity of the soft tissue and/or osseous anatomy.

### 2021 Evidence Update and Summary

The American College of Radiology (ACR) has produced the "ACR Appropriateness Criteria," an evidence-based guideline to assist providers in making the most appropriate imaging choices for specific clinical conditions, including those with acute and chronic ankle injuries (<https://www.acr.org/>). These ACR Appropriateness Criteria state that if the OAR are positive, an ankle radiograph is the first appropriate imaging study. If radiographs demonstrate potential osteochondral injury or there are persistent symptoms, an MRI or CT scan without contrast is usually appropriate. Leg radiographs, ankle stress

radiographs, an MRI scan without contrast, or a CT scan without contrast are usually appropriate for those who have an alignment abnormality suggesting syndesmotomoligamentous injury or dislocation. Ultrasound imaging is usually not the first imaging study after an acute trauma to the ankle, but may be an appropriate secondary evaluation modality to assess for underlying soft tissue injuries, chondral avulsion fractures in children, or abnormalities with dynamic imaging stress testing. Exclusion criteria from these recommendations include children younger than 5 years of age or those with altered leg sensation (ie, diabetic), altered mental capacity, and/or inability to communicate (<https://www.acr.org/>).

In those with symptoms that are present for more than 6 weeks, the Appropriateness Criteria note that ankle radiographs are usually appropriate. If ankle radiographs are negative but ankle instability, ankle impingement, osteochondral lesions, and/or tendon injuries are suspected, an MRI with-

out contrast is usually appropriate. Ultrasound imaging may also be appropriate when a tendon injury is suspected, and contrast can be added to MRI when ankle instability is suspected (<https://www.acr.org/>).

Ultrasound imaging is a growing area of interest in physical therapy. Systematic reviews have found USI to be reliable and accurate in the diagnosis of ATFL and calcaneofibular ligament injuries.<sup>48,266,385,386</sup> Specific studies have supported USI with stress testing<sup>150,314</sup> to be useful to further assess the ATFL to identify the type of injury,<sup>44</sup> grade severity of injury,<sup>63</sup> and assess its thickness.<sup>284</sup> Another systematic review found USI to be accurate in identifying foot fractures,<sup>53</sup> and specifically fifth metatarsal, lateral malleolus, and medial malleolus fractures, in those with a foot and/or ankle sprain.<sup>19</sup> Ultrasound imaging was also found to be accurate and sensitive in detecting tendinous injuries,<sup>380</sup> as well as useful for visual biofeedback to target activation of specific muscles during rehabilitation.<sup>243</sup>

## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

## Examination

## OUTCOME MEASURES

## 2013 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should incorporate validated functional outcome measures, such as the FAAM and the LEFS, as part of a standard clinical examination. These should be utilized before and after interventions intended to alleviate the impairments of body function and structure, activity limitations, and participation restrictions associated with ankle sprain and instability.

## Evidence Update

**I** The Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) physical function (PF) computer adaptive test (CAT) performed as well as the FAAM ADL subscale and the 5-point Foot Function Index (FFI) in an assessment of content validity, convergent validity, and item reliability, with less response burden, in 60 (19.4%) individuals scheduled for CAI surgery.<sup>200</sup> In a general orthopaedic population ( $n = 3069$ ), the MCID values varied depending on methods and were calculated for the PROMIS PF test (range, 3-30; median, 11.3), PROMIS pain interference (PI) test (range, 3-25; median, 8.9), and the FAAM sports subscale (range, 9-77; median, 32.5).<sup>203</sup>

**II** In a general orthopaedic foot population, the PROMIS PF test, PROMIS PI test, and FAAM sports subscale were sensitive and responsive to changes in patient-reported health, with effect sizes ranging from 0.95 to 1.31 across 4 time points (3, greater than 3, 6, and greater than 6 months).<sup>202</sup> In analyses that included Rasch modeling, the PROMIS PF, mobility, and PI scales were more normally distributed, with fewer floor and ceiling effects, than the Foot and Ankle Outcome Score (FAOS).<sup>245</sup> Additionally, the PROMIS CATs were more precise and had better test-retest reliability than both the FAOS and the Medical Outcomes Study 12-Item Short-Form Health Survey in 19 (6.2%) individuals scheduled for ankle instability surgery.<sup>245</sup>

**II** There was evidence of validity, reliability, and responsiveness for the Korean version of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons foot and ankle questionnaire in a study that included 11 (5.3%) individuals with ankle instability.<sup>223</sup>

**II** The score 5 to 7 days after a LAS on the Pain Self-Efficacy Questionnaire (PSEQ), which assesses a patient's confidence to accomplish activities despite pain, was significantly correlated with function ( $r = 0.26$ ,  $P = .017$ ) and pain level ( $r = 0.32$ ,  $P < .01$ ) 3 weeks after injury.<sup>37</sup>

**III** The PROMIS PF CAT was found to be efficient, reliable, valid, and precise, while adequately assessing function in 48 (15%) patients scheduled for ankle instability surgery.<sup>201</sup>

**III** A difference in FAAM sports subscale score (95 versus 84.8), but not in the ADL subscale score (99 versus 97.2), was noted between "copers" and those with chronic complaints of instability.<sup>152</sup> Slightly different results were noted by Wright et al,<sup>477</sup> as FAAM scores were different in those with chronic complaints of instability compared to "copers" and uninjured participants, with ADL subscale scores of 96.36, 99.54, and 99.79 and sports subscale scores of 89.76, 98.70, and 97.83, respectively.

**III** The Fear-Avoidance Beliefs Questionnaire (FABQ) correlated ( $R^2 = 0.18-0.35$ ,  $P < .028$ ) with measures of balance and joint laxity.<sup>194</sup>

**III** Evidence to support the use of the 11-item Tampa Scale of Kinesiophobia (TSK-11) to assess fear of movement and reinjury and the FABQ to assess fear-avoidance beliefs is available, as scores on these instruments differentiated those with CAI from healthy controls ( $P < .001$ ).<sup>195</sup> Other studies have found the TSK-11 scores of controls and "copers" to be different from the scores of those with CAI ( $P < .001$ ).<sup>198</sup> The TSK-11 scores were also correlated with ankle joint laxity in female athletes ( $r = 0.285$ ,  $P = .013$ ), but not in male athletes ( $r = -0.094$ ,  $P = .46$ ).<sup>141</sup>

**III** There is evidence to support the use of a 12-item shortened FAAM, with a combined ADL and sports subscale,<sup>184,185</sup> as well as evidence to support the use of Turkish,<sup>51,441</sup> German,<sup>287</sup> Japanese,<sup>440</sup> Chinese,<sup>155</sup> and Dutch<sup>461</sup> versions of the FAAM for those with a history of an ankle sprain and/or chronic complaints of instability. Evidence is also available to support the use of Chinese,<sup>156</sup> Brazilian Portuguese,<sup>300</sup> Thai,<sup>410</sup> and Italian<sup>447</sup> versions of the FFI in individuals with a history of an ankle sprain.



**IV** Preliminary research in 26 participants found evidence of validity of the Sports Athlete Foot and Ankle Score (SAFAS) for assessing sports-related ankle injuries in high-performing athletes.<sup>325</sup>

Evidence is available to support a Brazilian Portuguese version of the SAFAS.<sup>79</sup>

**IV** There is evidence to support a Persian version of the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AO-FAS) ankle-hindfoot scale, a reliable and valid instrument for those with ankle ligament injuries.<sup>450</sup>

**IV** Greater kinesiophobia measured with TSK-11 scores was associated with less confidence on the SEBT ( $r = -0.46$ ) and vertical jump ( $r = -0.45$ ).<sup>68</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

There continues to be strong evidence to support the use of patient-reported outcome measures over the course of treatment to assess for changes in impairments of body function and structure, activity limitations, and participation restrictions for those with an acute LAS or CAI. The PROMIS PF and PI scales, which can be delivered in a contemporary CAT format, have been supported since the 2013 recommendation. Additionally, there is recent evidence to support instruments to capture various aspects of the patient's psychological status, such as fear of reinjury, kinesiophobia, fear-avoidance beliefs, and reinjury anxiety.

### 2021 Recommendations

**A** Clinicians should use validated patient-reported outcome measures, such as the PROMIS PF and PI scales, the FAAM, and the LEFS, as part of a standard clinical examination. Clinicians should utilize these before and 1 or more times after the application of interventions intended to alleviate the impairments of body function and structure, activity limitations, and participation restrictions associated with an acute LAS or CAI.

**C** Clinicians may use the PSEQ in the acute and postacute periods after a LAS to assess effective coping strategies for pain and the TSK-11 and FABQ to assess fear of movement and reinjury and fear-avoidance beliefs in those with CAI.

## PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT MEASURES

### 2013 Recommendation

**A** When evaluating a patient with an acute or subacute LAS over an episode of care, assessment of impairment of body function should include objective and reproducible measures of ankle swelling, ankle

ROM, talar translation and inversion, and single-leg balance.

## LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN

### Evidence Update

**II** After an acute LAS, pain with dorsiflexion measured at 4 weeks using the weight-bearing lunge test was associated with a lower functional status at 4 months (unstandardized  $\beta = 6.8$ ,  $P < .005$ ).<sup>335</sup>

**III** In individuals with LAS symptoms lasting 6 to 12 months, multivariate analysis showed a significant ( $P < .05$ ) positive association with swelling (OR = 3.58) and a difference in passive plantar flexion ROM (OR = 1.09) to bone edema in the talocrural joint. Differences in passive plantar flexion ROM (OR = 1.07) and pain at the end range of dorsiflexion and/or plantar flexion (OR = 5.23) were associated with osteophytes in the talonavicular joint.<sup>443</sup>

**III** Bilateral reductions in SEBT reach distances were identified in individuals assessed within 2 weeks after a LAS, with large effect sizes ( $\eta^2 = 0.27$ - $0.29$ ) for the involved and uninvolved lower extremities in the posterolateral and posteromedial reach directions, a medium effect size ( $\eta^2 = 0.18$ ) for the involved lower extremity in the anterior direction, and a small effect size ( $\eta^2 = 0.06$ ) for the uninvolved limbs in the anterior direction.<sup>118</sup> In those after LAS, the SEBT was found to be reliable in all 8 directions (intraclass correlation coefficient range, 0.72-0.93), with minimal clinical difference values of 8.56%, 13.36%, and 13.33% for the anterior, posteromedial, and posterolateral directions, respectively.<sup>349</sup>

**III** A combination of balance, proprioception, and motor control assessment could differentiate individuals 3.5 months after a LAS from healthy controls.<sup>354</sup> This assessment included clinical measures of dorsiflexion ROM measured with the weight-bearing lunge test, the SEBT, the number of touches or foot lifts in 30 seconds during single-leg balance with eyes closed (foot-lift test), and time to descend stairs. The association between sprain status was best between the SEBT in the anterior direction and single-leg balance with eyes closed ( $\chi^2 = 15.2$ ,  $P < .001$ ).<sup>354</sup>

**III** Non-weight-bearing ROM (dorsiflexion,  $P = .452$ ; plantar flexion,  $P = .436$ ; inversion,  $P = .383$ ; and eversion,  $P = .657$ ), pain level ( $P = .822$ ), and foot volume measures ( $P = .654$ ) were not different between those with a first-time LAS and those with recurrent injuries when measured within 5 days after injury.<sup>464</sup>

**CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY**

Univariate comparison found that impairment measures of dorsiflexion ROM with the weight-bearing lunge test and number of errors with 20-second single-limb balance on a firm surface with eyes closed could be used to predict treatment success for patients with CAI ( $P < .10$ ).<sup>469,470</sup>

Dorsiflexion ROM measured in non-weight bearing with the knee flexed was associated with severity of CAI as assessed with the CAIT ( $r = 0.22$ ,  $P = .04$ ).<sup>373</sup>

Those with CAI have decreased weight-bearing dorsiflexion ROM compared to healthy controls (inclinometer,  $48.3^\circ$  versus  $43.3^\circ$ ;  $P < .05$ <sup>239</sup>; wall-toe distance, 8.3 versus 10.0 cm;  $P = .013$ <sup>250</sup>). Weight-bearing dorsiflexion ROM with the lunge test (measured with a digital inclinometer) was correlated ( $r = -0.39$ ,  $P = .002$ ) with lateral step-down performance, as those with poor movement quality had less ankle dorsiflexion ROM than those with good movement quality ( $36^\circ$  versus  $42^\circ$ ,  $P = .01$ ).<sup>161</sup> Weight-bearing dorsiflexion ROM was also correlated with movement at the knee during single-leg landing ( $r = 0.53$ ,  $P = .04$ ).<sup>186</sup> Different findings were noted by Vomacka et al,<sup>449</sup> as no difference was found in dorsiflexion ROM between those with CAI, copers, and healthy controls ( $P > .05$ ).

Rosen et al<sup>376</sup> performed a systematic review with meta-analysis to evaluate balance tests to differentiate healthy individuals from those with CAI, and found the foot-lift test to be a useful static balance test (mean effect size,  $-0.76$ ;  $P = .020$ ) and the SEBT to be a useful dynamic balance test in the posteromedial (mean effect size,  $0.37$ ;  $P < .001$ ), medial (mean effect size,  $0.37$ ;  $P = .006$ ), and anteromedial (mean effect size,  $0.33$ ;  $P = .022$ ) reach directions. Included in the review, Ko et al<sup>231</sup> found high intrarater reliability for the foot-lift test (standard error of measurement, 1.3 errors) and SEBT (standard error of measurement, 4.6 cm), while Linens et al<sup>280</sup> found the cutoff scores needed to identify those with CAI from healthy individuals to be 5 errors/touches on the foot-lift test and 91% reach distance on the SEBT in the posteromedial direction.

Studies not included in the review by Rosen et al<sup>376</sup> found that all 8 directions of the SEBT differentiated between healthy subjects and those with CAI, with the posteromedial and posterolateral directions being the best predictors of CAIT score ( $P < .001$  and  $P < .05$ , respectively).<sup>239,392</sup> Poor performance on the SEBT (less than 85.2% reach distance in the posteromedial direction) was found to be the best single predictor of a successful treatment (OR = 11.32).<sup>42</sup> Other studies support the anterior reach direction<sup>89,208,234,250</sup> as well as the posteromedial direction as being

able to differentiate those with CAI from healthy controls.<sup>234,250</sup>

The SEBT was found to be an accurate and valid measure of dynamic balance in those with CAI, as there was a large and significant correlation ( $R^2 = 0.98$ ,  $P < .001$ ) between visual estimation and motion analysis measures of maximum reach distance.<sup>27</sup> While variations in how the SEBT is administered can affect results, one method does not seem superior to another.<sup>76</sup>

Associations have been identified between dorsiflexion ROM with the weight-bearing lunge test and the anterior reach direction ( $r = 0.55$ ,  $P < .001$ ), posterolateral reach direction ( $r = 0.29$ ,  $P = .03$ ), and the composite SEBT scores ( $r = 0.30$ ,  $P = .02$ ), while there was no association with the posteromedial reach direction ( $r = 0.01$ ,  $R^2 = 0.001$ ,  $P = .47$ ).<sup>26</sup> Terada et al<sup>425</sup> also found a significant correlation between dorsiflexion ROM and SEBT anterior reach distance ( $r = 0.410$ ,  $P = .014$ ). Similar findings were found by Gabriner et al,<sup>146</sup> as dorsiflexion ROM measured with the weight-bearing lunge test and plantar cutaneous sensation explained a significant amount of the variance associated with SEBT anterior reach distance ( $R^2 = 0.16$ ,  $P = .041$ ), while eversion strength and time to medial-lateral boundary explained a significant amount of the variance associated with SEBT posteromedial reach distance ( $R^2 = 0.28$ ,  $P = .002$ ).<sup>146</sup> Weight-bearing dorsiflexion ROM was also correlated with sagittal knee ( $r = -0.53$ ,  $P = .04$ ) and frontal trunk ( $r = 0.62$ ,  $P = .01$ ) movements, as well as with SEBT anterior reach distance ( $r = 0.51$ ,  $P = .05$ ).<sup>187</sup>

Some studies have found that the SEBT was able to differentiate “copers” from those with CAI,<sup>138,205,250</sup> while another did not.<sup>152</sup>

A systematic review and meta-analysis found that individuals with CAI had decreased hip abduction, extension, and external rotation strength ( $P < .001$ ; effect size range, 0.52-0.93), but no difference in knee kinematics, with dynamic balance activities ( $P = .26$ ).<sup>87</sup> Studies included in this review also found that hip abduction and external rotation strength each explained a significant ( $R^2 = 0.25$ ,  $P = .01$ ) amount of the SEBT posteromedial and posterolateral reach directions.<sup>302</sup> Studies not in the review also support a decrease in hip strength in those with CAI.<sup>249</sup>

The BESS with the eyes closed was significantly different ( $P = .01$ ) and could distinguish copers (mean  $\pm$  SD BESS score,  $1.12 \pm 0.85$ ) from those with CAI ( $2.7 \pm 1.87$ ).<sup>258</sup>

**III** Foot posture, as measured with the FPI score, may affect static and dynamic postural control in individuals with CAI, as a neutral group had better dynamic postural control, while the pronator group had better static postural control ( $P \leq .05$ ).<sup>189</sup> However, no significant differences in foot posture, arch height index, or foot mobility magnitude have been found in individuals with or without LAS or CAI.<sup>138</sup>

**III** In those with CAI, measures of static and dynamic postural control (eg, SEBT), dorsiflexion ROM, plantar cutaneous sensation, strength, and ankle-subtalar joint motion contributed significantly ( $R^2 = 0.18-0.35$ ,  $P < .05$ ) to multiple patient-reported outcome measure score variances.<sup>194</sup>

**IV** Significant correlations between isokinetic inversion muscle strength and the single-leg balance test, single heel-raise test, and sidestep test ( $r = 0.23-0.51$ ,  $P < .009$ ) were identified in those with CAI.<sup>343</sup> Postural control evaluation using the modified Romberg test could substitute for dynamometer testing of joint position sense, as these measures were correlated ( $r = -0.81$ ,  $P < .001$ ) in those with chronic complaints of instability.<sup>59</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

A growing body of evidence supports assessing impairments of body function and structures before beginning treatment, and then 2 or more times over an episode of care, to identify limitations, predict treatment success, and define progress over the course of treatment for those with acute LAS or CAI. The role of bilateral lower extremity impairments that result from central mediated processes needs further investigation and may affect how test results comparing injured to uninjured sides are interpreted.

### 2021 Recommendations

**A** Clinicians should assess and document ankle swelling, ROM, talar translation, talar inversion, and single-leg balance in patients with an acute LAS, postacute LAS, or CAI at baseline and 2 or more times over an episode of care. Clinicians should specifically include measures of dorsiflexion as measured with the weight-bearing lunge test, static balance with a single limb on a firm surface with eyes closed, and dynamic balance with the SEBT anterior, anteromedial, posteromedial, and posterolateral reach directions.

**C** In those with CAI, clinicians may also assess and document hip abduction, extension, and external rotation strength 2 or more times over an episode of care.

## ACTIVITY LIMITATION – PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### 2013 Recommendation

**B** When evaluating a patient in the postacute period following a recent or recurring LAS, physical therapists/clinicians should assess and document activity limitation, participation restriction, and symptom reproduction using objective and reproducible measures that assess performance with lateral movements, diagonal movements, and directional changes, such as single-limb hop tests.

### Evidence Update

**III** The systematic review and meta-analysis by Rosen et al<sup>376</sup> assessed functional performance tests and found that the timed hop (mean effect size,  $-1.056$ ;  $P = .009$ ), side hop (mean effect size,  $-2.314$ ;  $P = .001$ ), and multiple hop tests (mean effect size,  $1.399$ ;  $P < .001$ ) were able to differentiate healthy individuals from those with CAI. Included in the review by Rosen et al,<sup>376</sup> Ko et al<sup>231</sup> found the single-leg hop test (standard error of measurement, 0.6 seconds) to have high intrarater reliability, with Linens et al<sup>280</sup> identifying a cutoff score of 12.88 seconds as being able to differentiate those with CAI from healthy individuals.

**III** The lower extremity Functional Movement Screen (LE-FMS) scores differentiated healthy individuals from those with CAI (8.2 versus 6.9,  $P < .05$ ). Both inline lunge (affected side and nonaffected side) and hurdle step (affected side and nonaffected side) were different ( $P < .05$ ), while there was no difference between the two groups in the deep squat ( $P > .05$ ). Also in those with CAI, the total LE-FMS score and inline lunge test correlated to the FADI ADL and sports scores ( $r = 0.807-0.896$ ,  $P < .01$ ).<sup>62</sup>

**III** The timed dynamic leap and balance test was able to differentiate those with CAI from controls (51.85 seconds versus 41.12 seconds,  $P < .001$ ).<sup>206</sup>

**IV** Those with ankle laxity, as assessed with the ADT, had lower hopping for distance (percent body height, 95.03% versus 105.26%;  $P < .05$ ) and performed poorer on a hexagon hopping course (count, 13.21 versus 14.52;  $P < .05$ ) when compared to those with stable ankles.<sup>474</sup>

**IV** One-leg hopping for distance demonstrated significant side-to-side differences compared with the unaffected ankle ( $P = .035$ ) and was correlated with joint position sense ( $r = -0.38$  to  $0.66$ ,  $P < .05$ ) in those with chronic complaints of instability.<sup>59</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

There continues to be strong evidence to support the use of single-limb hopping under timed conditions to assess activity

limitation and participation restrictions. Hopping should be performed under safe conditions, and only after a patient has appropriately been progressed along a continuum of activity. Further studies are needed to define the usefulness of more comprehensive movement screens.

### 2021 Recommendation

**B** Clinicians should assess and document objective and reliable measures of activity limitation, participation restriction, and symptom reproduction at baseline and 2 or more times during an episode of care when evaluating a patient with a LAS or CAI, and specifically include measures of single-limb hopping under timed conditions when appropriate.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTATION

### 2021 Evidence Summary

The use of technology (eg, computerized measurement devices) to assess physical impairment as well as activity and functional performance in those with a history of LAS and chronic complaints of ankle instability has been supported.<sup>1,5,58,61,144,252,260,277,392,413,475,482</sup> Research studies have also used motion analysis and a force plate to assess static and dynamic balance, gait, and jumping,<sup>49,50,55,69,85,90,101,103,107,108,110,112-114,116-118,126,136,139,140,167,173,175,176,192,205,218,225,228,256,259,274,276,279,318,350,379,396,398,399,401,409,421,429,430,481</sup> as well as an isokinetic dynamometer to assess strength, joint reposition, and movement detection.<sup>59,60,78,82,264,333,343,347,379,392,404,473</sup>



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

# Interventions

Interventions for acute and subacute LAS and CAI were presented in the 2013 CPG<sup>298</sup> using the context of acute and progressive loading/sensorimotor training phases of treatment. Since that time, study samples have become more consistent, using language that is different from that in the initial CPG. The major distinction between the two phases of treatment as described in the 2013 CPG was a time threshold of 72 hours post injury.<sup>1</sup> For the 2021 CPG update, intervention guidelines are presented using a consensus framework that reflects how research evidence has developed since the initial CPG (TABLE 2). It uses the terms “acute LAS” and “CAI.”<sup>159,160</sup> This evidence update identified specific neuromusculoskeletal impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, treatment response, and the mediating intrinsic factors that exist along a spectrum of acute LAS, postacute LAS, and CAI (FIGURE 1).

Clinicians should consider the updated evidence-based recommendations provided in this guideline in the appropriate context of clinical experience and patient preference when determining the nature and timing of interventions during the course of rehabilitation for an individual with LAS. Due to heterogeneity of impairment and activity limitation experienced by individuals with LAS and CAI, interventions should be tailored to the specific needs of the patient. Furthermore, intrinsic and environmental factors that mediate outcomes should also be addressed when prescribing interventions for individuals with LAS and CAI. Physical therapists and other rehabilitation specialists are members of larger, multidisciplinary teams while treating patients with LAS and CAI. Engaging other physical therapists, athletic trainers, physi-

cians, surgeons, mental and behavioral health care providers, nurses, strength and conditioning specialists, vocational specialists, and other health disciplines may be warranted for optimal transition to work or sport. Patient-reported and objective clinical and instrumented measures that can capture resolution of ankle-foot impairment, return to activity, and resumption of social participation are paramount to managing the intensity and dose of interventions.

**PREVENTION OF LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS  
PRIMARY PREVENTION OF A FIRST-TIME  
LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN  
2013 Recommendation**

None.

**Evidence Update**

**I** Leppänen and colleagues<sup>268</sup> conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to examine the effects of any primary prevention interventions in sports injuries. Ten trials addressing prevention of ankle injuries with external ankle joint supports were included. Pooled results showed a significant reduction in the frequency of ankle injuries compared to no ankle supports (pooled OR = 0.40; 95% CI: 0.30, 0.53). Subjects in these trials (n = 6662) were young male and female athletes in basketball, male athletes in soccer and American football, and military paratroopers. The external ankle supports used were different kinds of stabilizing devices, such as orthoses and braces. Ankle taping was not studied in these randomized clinical trials (RCTs).

**TABLE 2**

TREATMENT-BASED CLASSIFICATION OF LAS: OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS TO GUIDE INTERVENTION FOR LAS, BASED ON HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS

	<b>Classification 1</b>	<b>Classification 2</b>
2013 CPG	Acute/protected motion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 72 h following inversion mechanism injury</li> <li>• Individuals who demonstrated significant swelling, pain, limited weight bearing, and overt gait deviations (ie, limited stance time, abbreviated/omitted terminal stance phase)</li> </ul>	Sensorimotor training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postacute period</li> <li>• Primary concerns of instability, weakness, limited balance responses, and intermittent swelling</li> </ul>
2021 CPG	Acute LAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 72 h following inversion mechanism injury</li> <li>• Individuals who demonstrated significant swelling, pain, limited weight bearing, and overt gait deviations (ie, limited stance time, abbreviated/omitted terminal stance phase)</li> </ul>	Chronic ankle instability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of at least 1 significant ankle sprain within the past 12 mo</li> <li>• A history of the previously injured ankle joint “giving way” and/or recurrent sprain and/or “feelings of instability”</li> </ul>

Abbreviations: CPG, clinical practice guideline; LAS, lateral ankle sprain.

**I** Vuurberg and colleagues<sup>451</sup> reported that the use of an ankle brace or tape reduces the risk of first-time LAS (relative risk = 0.69; 95% CI: 0.49, 0.96), especially in those who participate in sports. When compared to bracing, taping has been suggested to be less advantageous from a cost-benefit perspective.<sup>336</sup> The choice between brace and tape should depend on patient/client preference, the clinician's judgment, and the cost-effectiveness of the interventions. The review of 3 RCTs (n = 3410) assessing the prophylactic effects of low-fitted or high-fitted footwear found that this intervention yielded no significant reduction in ankle sprain risk.

**I** Bellows and Wong<sup>31</sup> found 3 trials (n = 3581), in a systematic review and meta-analysis, that demonstrated a statistically significant 4.2% absolute risk reduction of ankle sprains with the use of a brace compared to no treatment, corresponding to a 64% reduction of relative risk.

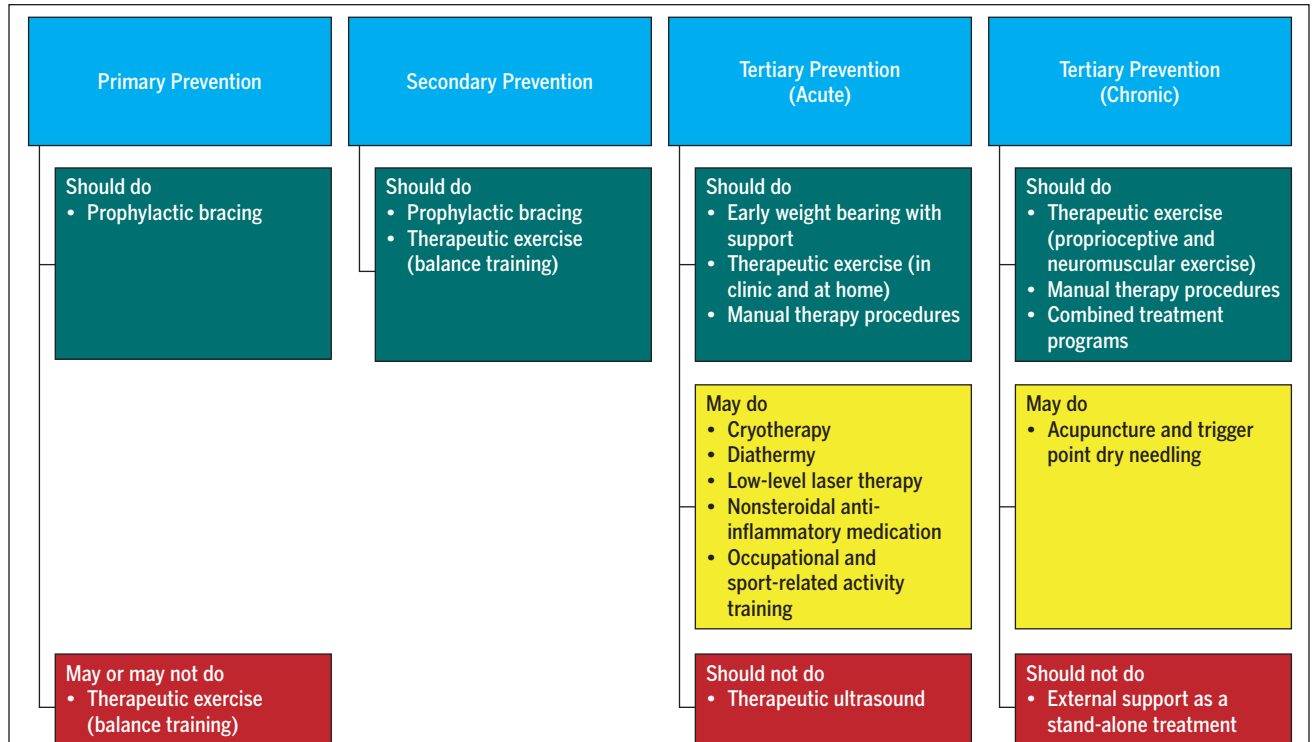
**I** The Bellows and Wong<sup>31</sup> review also identified 6 trials (n = 3577) that demonstrated a statistically significant 6.5% absolute risk reduction of ankle sprains with a balance training program compared to no treatment, corresponding to a 46% relative risk reduction. The specific nature and level of supervision for balance training exercises

demonstrated high variability among the included studies. This review and meta-analysis included studies of individuals with and without a history of prior LAS.

**I** Vuurberg and colleagues<sup>451</sup> reported that while there is evidence to support the use of exercise for prevention of recurrent sprains, there is a lack of evidence to support the use of prophylactic exercises for the prevention of first-time ankle sprains.

**Evidence Synthesis and Rationale**

There is strong evidence to support the use of prophylactic bracing and taping for the prevention of first-time ankle sprains. While bracing appears to be more cost-effective than taping, clinician experience and patient preference should be considered when deciding which intervention to employ. There is strong evidence for the use of balance exercise for the prevention of recurrent ankle sprains, yet there is a lack of evidence for the use of these interventions for the primary prevention of first-time ankle sprains at present. However, clinicians may recommend exercise as part of a comprehensive fitness program due to the potential prophylactic benefits and relatively low associated risks. More research is needed to clarify the specific mode and volume of exercise necessary to produce preventive effects. Based on the frequency of injury and morbidity associated with



**FIGURE 1.** Evidence-based interventions by level of prevention. Primary prevention refers to interventions to reduce the risk of a first-time LAS in people exposed to risk factors, secondary prevention refers to interventions to reduce the risk for recurrent LAS after a first-time LAS, and tertiary prevention refers to interventions to reduce the effects and progression of a LAS. Abbreviation: LAS, lateral ankle sprain.

LAS and CAI, prophylactic bracing and taping should be routinely employed in individuals with intrinsic risk factors or those who engage in high-risk activities such as court sports. Further investigation may be needed to define the necessary components of a brace, as well as specific taping techniques that best provide protection.

### 2021 Recommendations

**A** Clinicians should recommend the use of prophylactic bracing to reduce the risk of a first-time LAS, particularly for those with risk factors for LAS.

**C** Clinicians may recommend the use of prophylactic balance training exercises to individuals who have not experienced a first-time LAS.

### SECONDARY PREVENTION OF RECURRENT LATERAL ANKLE SPRAIN FOLLOWING AN INITIAL SPRAIN

#### 2013 Recommendation

**C** Clinicians can implement balance and sport-related activity training to reduce the risk of recurrent ankle sprains in athletes.

#### Evidence Update

**I** In a meta-analysis of 3 systematic reviews investigating the effectiveness of exercise interventions for secondary prevention of LAS, Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> found a significantly decreased risk of sustaining a recurrent ankle sprain in the intervention group compared to controls (OR = 0.59; 95% CI: 0.51, 0.68).

**I** Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> also found consistency among 5 included systematic reviews that bracing was effective at preventing a recurrence of an ankle sprain (OR = 0.40; 95% CI: 0.29, 0.56), especially if the individual engaged in high-risk activity such as indoor court- or field-based athletics.

**I** Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> concluded from data in 2 systematic reviews that bracing was superior to taping, though 3 systematic reviews advocated for the value of taping. There is limited evidence on mechanisms that lead to these beneficial effects. When compared to bracing, taping has been suggested to be less advantageous from a cost-benefit perspective.<sup>336</sup>

**I** There is inconclusive evidence from systematic reviews for footwear modification or foot orthoses to prevent a recurrent ankle sprain after an initial LAS among evaluated systematic reviews.<sup>102,356</sup> Furthermore, there is a lack of evidence pertaining to orthotic use in the treatment of CAI or the prevention of ankle sprain recurrence.<sup>102,356</sup>

**I** Therapeutic exercise involving proprioceptive and balance retraining is associated with reduced frequency of recurrent LAS, based on data from 10 trials (n = 1284), and reduced prevalence of functional ankle instability, based on data from 3 trials (n = 174).<sup>451</sup>

**I** Based on data from 7 trials (n = 1417), Bleakley and colleagues<sup>33</sup> found a significant reduction in recurrent injury following exercise-based intervention in people with an existing LAS, compared to usual care, at 7 to 12 months post injury (OR = 0.53; 95% CI: 0.38, 0.73). Usual care consisted of 1 or more of protection, rest, ice, and elevation. Although most programs in the included studies emphasized strength and balance training, the specific nature and volume of exercises demonstrated substantial variability.

**I** Burger and colleagues<sup>43</sup> found a statistically similar rate of recurrence in people with a prior LAS who received neuromuscular exercise compared to bracing, based on a systematic review and meta-analysis (3 trials, n = 144).

#### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

There is strong evidence to support the use of prophylactic bracing, taping, and balance training exercises for the prevention of subsequent ankle sprains. While bracing appears to be more cost-effective than taping, clinician experience and patient preference should be considered when deciding which intervention to employ. Footwear modification and orthotic prescription have been shown to be ineffective for general prophylaxis of subsequent ankle sprain; however, the utility of these interventions for addressing specific ankle-foot impairments that contribute to activity limitation following LAS and CAI has yet to be elucidated. The necessary components of a brace, taping technique, footwear, and orthosis that best provide protection may need further investigation.

#### 2021 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should prescribe prophylactic bracing and use proprioceptive and balance-focused therapeutic exercise training programs to address impairments identified on physical examination to reduce the risk of a subsequent injury in patients with a first-time LAS.

### INTERVENTIONS FOR ACUTE AND POSTACUTE LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS PROTECTION AND OPTIMAL LOADING

#### 2013 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should advise patients with an acute LAS to use external supports (taping and bracing) and to progressively bear weight on the affected limb. The type of external support and gait assistive device recom-

mended should be based on the severity of the injury, phase of tissue healing, level of protection indicated, extent of pain, and patient preference. In more severe injuries, immobilization, ranging from semi-rigid bracing to below-knee casting, may be indicated.

### Evidence Update

**I** Petersen and colleagues<sup>348</sup> performed a systematic review and meta-analysis of treatment of acute ankle ligament injuries. The authors included a review by Kerkhoffs and colleagues,<sup>214</sup> who compared studies (21 trials, n = 2184 participants) regarding functional treatment and immobilization. Functional treatment promoted significant improvements in return-to-sports rate, time to return to sports, return-to-work rate, time to return to work, swelling, and satisfaction with treatment compared to immobilization. Vuurberg and colleagues<sup>451</sup> also found that a functional approach involving early weight bearing with the ankle braced or taped and inclusion of neuromuscular and proprioceptive exercises led to the fastest resumption of work and ADL compared to immobilization.

**I** In the review conducted by Vuurberg and colleagues,<sup>451</sup> the authors concluded, based on 3 RCTs (n = 694), that a short period of immobilization of 10 days or less with a plaster cast or rigid support can be of added value in the treatment of grade III sprains, resulting in decreased pain and edema and improved functional outcomes.

**I** A period of 4 weeks in a lower-leg cast following an acute LAS results in a longer time required, and a lower proportion of patients able, to return to work and sport 4 to 6 weeks after injury compared to individuals treated with functional support and exercise strategies (22 RCTs, n = 2304).<sup>214</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Based on strong evidence, optimized loading should begin in the acute phase and continue into the postacute phase following a LAS. The duration and extent of loading should be dictated by the physical examination and should consider comorbidities, clinician experience, and patient preference when planning care. Treatment with early neuromuscular and proprioceptive exercises in the postacute period appears to be superior to immobilization in optimizing functional outcomes. A period of immobilization may be considered for severe sprains. If immobilization is employed post injury, a period of no more than 10 days is suggested.

### 2021 Recommendations

**A** Clinicians should advise patients with an acute LAS to use external supports, such as braces or taping, and to progressively bear weight on the affected

limb. The type of external support and gait assistive device recommended should be based on the severity of the injury, phase of tissue healing, level of protection indicated, extent of pain, and patient preference.

**A** In more severe injuries, immobilization, ranging from semi-rigid bracing to below-knee casting, may be indicated for up to 10 days post injury.

### THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE

Therapeutic exercise as described in the literature generally consists of a structured program, with varying components that can include protected active ROM, stretching exercises, neuromuscular training, postural re-education, and balance training.

### 2013 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should implement rehabilitation programs that include therapeutic exercises for patients with severe LAS.

### Evidence Update

**I** In a systematic review and meta-analysis, Vuurberg and colleagues<sup>451</sup> found that exercise therapy programs, initiated early following an acute LAS injury, promoted faster time to recovery with improved objective instability (relative risk = 0.68; 95% CI: 0.49, 0.95) and subjective instability (relative risk = 0.80; 95% CI: 0.64, 1.00). Exercise programs generally consisted of balance retraining, postural re-education, and neuromuscular training, with varying and diverse modes and volumes of exercises.

**I** Feger and colleagues<sup>133</sup> included 4 trials in a systematic review and meta-analysis. Compared to independent exercise, supervised exercise was associated with less pain and subjective instability at intermediate follow-up (8 weeks after injury), but there were no differences in self-reported outcomes at longer follow-up periods (3 and 12 months after injury); with greater gains in ankle strength and joint position sense but worse postural control at 4-month follow-up; and there were inconclusive results regarding prevention of recurrent ankle sprains at 12 months after injury. The authors concluded that supervised exercise may promote additional clinical benefit in patients with severe LAS compared to mild LAS and to a home exercise program.

**I** There is conflicting evidence for improved balance responses after virtual reality training in individuals with LAS. Gumaa and Rehan Youssef<sup>165</sup> identified 4 trials through a systematic review that assessed the clinical effectiveness of virtual reality for individuals with LAS (n = 273), which involved a variety of different virtual



environments and video games. In 2 of the included RCTs, significant improvements were noted in measures of dynamic balance and postural sway, and no significant differences were noted in the other 2 trials.

**Evidence Synthesis and Rationale**

Therapeutic exercise consisting of neuromuscular training, postural re-education, and balance training appears to improve subjective and objective talocrural stability, as well as reduce time to return to preinjury activity. Compositions of exercise programs in the literature are diverse, so specific recommendations regarding mode and volume are unfeasible. Clinicians should customize exercise programs to findings from the physical examination and analysis of the task to which the individual will return. There appears to be clinical benefit for exercise to be supervised in individuals with more severe LAS compared to mild LAS. Virtual environments and computerized game applications have mixed effects on measurements of body structures and functions in people with LAS, but may be useful in an adjunctive role for skilled exercise prescription.

**2021 Recommendations**

**A** Clinicians should implement rehabilitation programs with a structured therapeutic exercise program, which can include protected active ROM, stretching exercises, neuromuscular training, postural re-ed-

ucation, and balance training, both in clinic and at home, as determined by injury severity, identified impairments, preferences, learning needs, and social barriers in those with a LAS.

**D** There is conflicting evidence as to the best way to augment the unsupervised components of a home program in those with a LAS: by written instructions, exercise-based video games, or app-based instruction. Therefore, augmentation can be determined by the individual's specific learning needs and access to relevant technology.

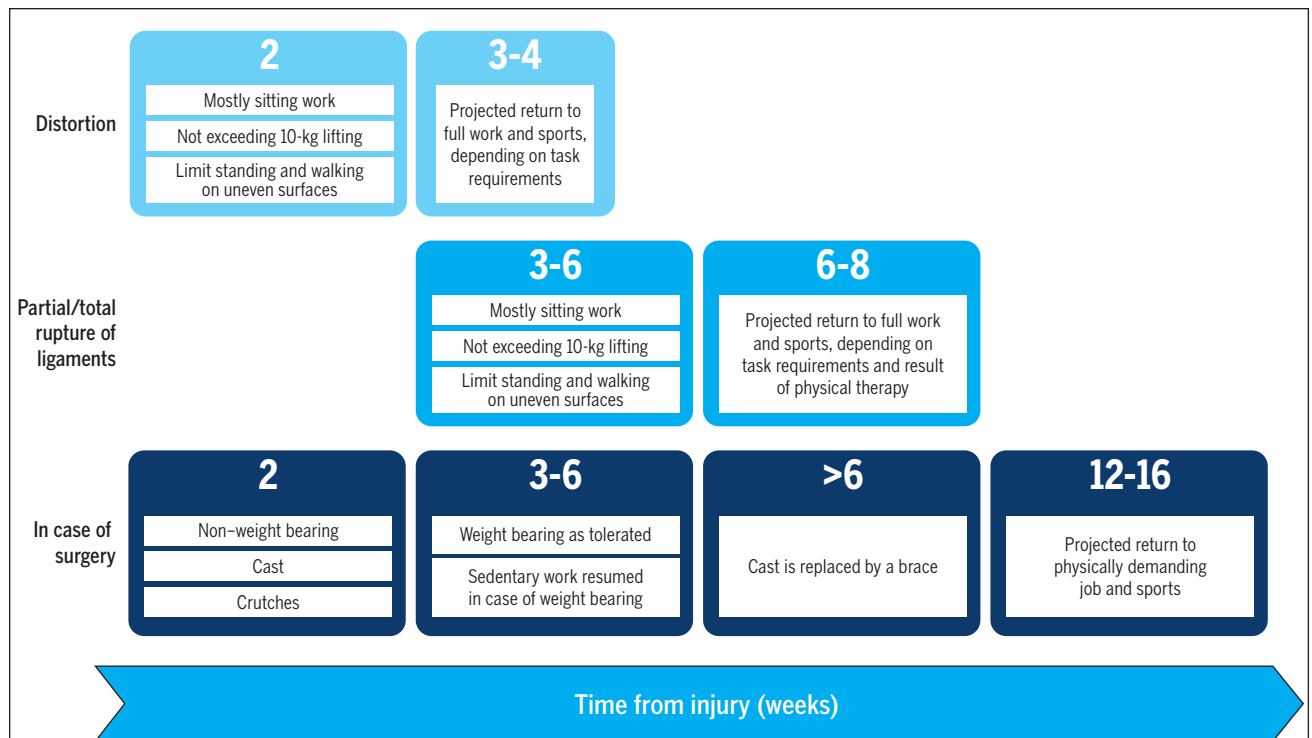
**OCCUPATIONAL AND SPORT-RELATED ACTIVITY TRAINING**

**2013 Recommendation**

**C** Clinicians may implement balance and sport-related activity training to reduce the risk of recurrent LAS in athletes.

**Evidence Update**

**I** In the systematic review and evidence-based multidisciplinary guidelines developed by Vuurberg and colleagues,<sup>451</sup> the authors recommended that return to sedentary work should occur 2 to 6 weeks following injury, and at 6 to 8 weeks for more physical occupations and sports activities, as outlined in **FIGURE 2**. These specific guidelines should be considered with the contextual factors of in-



**FIGURE 2.** Evidence-based guidelines for return to physical occupations and sports activities as outlined by Vuurberg et al.<sup>451</sup>

jury severity, access and response to rehabilitation care, and task requirements.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

While the previous literature focused on primary injury prevention, the bulk of the current literature focuses on prevention of recurrent injuries. While further research is needed for specific occupations and sports, return to work and sports can be facilitated with functional treatment earlier in the rehabilitation course, use of a brace, and by employing a return-to-work/sports schedule.

### 2021 Recommendation

**B** Clinicians should implement a return-to-work schedule and use a brace early in the rehabilitation, occupational or sport-related training, and/or work-hardening program to mitigate activity limitation and participation restriction following LAS.

### MANUAL THERAPY 2013 Recommendation

**B** Clinicians should use manual therapy procedures, such as lymphatic drainage, active and passive soft tissue and joint mobilization, and anterior-to-posterior talar mobilization procedures, within pain-free movement to reduce swelling, improve pain-free ankle and foot mobility, and normalize gait parameters in individuals with an acute LAS.

### Evidence Update

**I** Vuurberg and colleagues<sup>451</sup> concluded that manual joint mobilization can provide a short-term increase in ankle joint dorsiflexion ROM following acute LAS, based on data from 12 trials ( $n = 427$ ). Ankle joint mobilization has been reported to decrease pain,<sup>290</sup> and when combined with exercise has resulted in better outcomes compared to exercise therapy alone in 1 well-designed RCT.<sup>67</sup>

**I** Clar and colleagues<sup>66</sup> reviewed 1 high-, 10 moderate-, and 2 low-quality trials concerning manual therapy after LAS. The authors concluded that there was moderate evidence in favor of manual therapy (mobilization/manipulation) of the knee and/or full kinetic chain and of the ankle and/or foot, combined with multimodal or exercise therapy, for LAS. Data from 12 trials ( $n = 687$ ) in the review by Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> indicated that manual therapy resulted in equivocal outcomes for self-reported function and injury recurrence.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Additional evidence in favor of manual therapy has emerged that highlights the importance of hands-on treatments to re-

duce pain and increase short-term ankle dorsiflexion ROM in those with a LAS. Manual therapy combined with exercise appears to stimulate optimal effects on short-term treatment outcomes. Although the effects of manual therapy after LAS are most prominent in the short term, use of manual therapy appears to add value for pain control and movement in the acute period compared to exercise alone or no treatment. Selection of manual therapy techniques should be based on the clinical examination and analysis of the movement requirements of the function to which the individual will return. The clinician should favor slow-velocity techniques that do not provoke symptoms in the acute phase.

### 2021 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should use manual therapy procedures, such as lymphatic drainage, active and passive soft tissue and joint mobilization, and anterior-to-posterior talar mobilization procedures within pain-free movement, alongside therapeutic exercise to reduce swelling, improve pain-free ankle and foot mobility, and normalize gait parameters in individuals with a LAS.

### ACUPUNCTURE 2013 Recommendation

None.

### Evidence Update

**I** Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> evaluated 3 systematic reviews involving acupuncture for the treatment of acute LAS. Two of the reviews reported insufficient data to determine the relative effectiveness of complementary medicine in the treatment of acute LAS for self-reported function or injury recurrence. The third review concluded that acupuncture was likely to have a therapeutic effect on improving acute symptoms, yet it acknowledged that the magnitude of the effect was likely to be overestimated due to the low quality of the included studies. Included in the review by Doherty and colleagues,<sup>102</sup> a systematic review and meta-analysis by Park and colleagues<sup>341</sup> included 17 trials ( $n = 1820$ ). Trial quality was generally poor, with high heterogeneity and risk of bias. Three trials reported adequate methods of randomization and only 1 reported a method of allocation concealment. The benefit of acupuncture remained significant when the analysis was limited to studies with the lowest risk of bias. Specifically, acupuncture was more effective than conventional treatment in relieving pain, facilitating return to normal activity, and promoting quality of life.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

There is a paucity of high-quality studies that report complete data on the clinical application of acupuncture in in-

dividuals with acute LAS. On this basis, the evidence for the efficacy of acupuncture in the treatment of acute LAS for the primary outcomes of injury recurrence/self-reported function is inconclusive. Observations of clinical benefit were based on only a small number of well-designed studies and require additional replication before a recommendation can be made for this intervention.

### 2021 Recommendation

**D** There is conflicting evidence regarding the use of acupuncture to reduce symptoms associated with acute LAS.

### PHYSICAL AGENTS: CRYOTHERAPY

#### 2013 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should use repeated intermittent applications of ice to reduce pain, decrease the need for pain medication, and improve weight bearing following an acute ankle sprain.

#### Evidence Update

**I** Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> concluded that ice, compression, and elevation alone are not effective for improving the primary outcomes of self-reported function or recurrence following acute ankle sprain compared with no treatment. Three systematic reviews included by Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> concluded that treatment success was achieved with exercise therapy combined with rest, ice, compression, and elevation.

**I** Vuurberg and colleagues<sup>451</sup> reviewed 27 trials (n = 1670) and concluded that there was no evidence to support the isolated use of ice to increase function and decrease swelling and pain at rest in individuals with LAS. The combination of ice and exercise results in significant improvements in ankle function in the short term, allowing patients to increase loading during weight bearing compared with standard functional treatment (1 RCT, n = 101). In combination with exercise therapy, ice has a greater effect on reducing swelling compared with heat application in individuals with LAS (1 trial, n = 30).

#### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Since the initial CPG, strong evidence has emerged that rest, ice, compression, and elevation are insufficient to improve self-reported function and injury recurrence in people with an acute LAS. Use of ice in a combined approach to intervention that involves exercise may improve load tolerance during weight bearing, which can improve the ability of individuals to bear weight on the affected limb. Clinicians should consider individual effects of ice on weight bearing

and patient preference to decide whether the application of ice may be warranted.

### 2021 Recommendation

**C** Clinicians may use repeated intermittent applications of ice in association with a therapeutic exercise program to address symptoms and functioning following an acute LAS.

### PHYSICAL AGENTS: DIATHERMY

#### 2013 Recommendation

**C** Clinicians can utilize pulsating shortwave diathermy for reducing edema and gait deviations associated with acute ankle sprains.

#### Evidence Update

None.

### 2021 Recommendation

No change.

### PHYSICAL AGENTS: ELECTROTHERAPY

#### 2013 Recommendation

**D** There is moderate evidence both for and against the use of electrotherapy for the management of acute ankle sprains.

#### Evidence Update

None.

### 2021 Recommendation

No change.

### PHYSICAL AGENTS: LOW-LEVEL LASER THERAPY

#### 2013 Recommendation

**D** There is moderate evidence both for and against the use of low-level laser therapy for the management of acute ankle sprains.

#### Evidence Update

**I** In an RCT (n = 40), de Moraes Prianti and colleagues<sup>91</sup> observed significant reductions in pain and swelling in the first 6 days following acute LAS in response to treatment with light-emitting diodes ( $\lambda 627 \pm 10$  nm) with an energy density of 10 J/cm<sup>2</sup> combined with a standardized cryotherapy protocol.

**III** In another RCT (n = 19), Calin and colleagues<sup>46</sup> measured significant improvements in ankle pain and function at 10 days following the initiation of a frac-

tionated irradiation photobiomodulation therapy protocol (635 nm, 15 mW), consisting of 2 sessions (4.5 and 9 J/cm<sup>2</sup>) separated by a 30-minute time interval. No significant differences in ankle pain and function were observed at 6-week follow-up.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

There remains a paucity of high-quality trials to support the use of low-level laser therapy, including the range of intervention parameters available.

### 2021 Recommendation

**C** Clinicians may use low-level laser therapy to reduce pain in the initial phase of an acute LAS.

## PHYSICAL AGENTS: ULTRASOUND

### 2013 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should not use ultrasound for the management of acute ankle sprains.

### Evidence Update

**I** Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> concluded from their systematic review and meta-analysis that none of the included studies demonstrated any beneficial effect of ultrasound therapy in the treatment of acute LAS.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

There are very few trials evaluating the effectiveness of ultrasound therapy for acute LAS, and even fewer have considered the range of parameters available.

### 2021 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should not use ultrasound for the management of acute ankle sprains.

## NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MEDICATION

### 2013 Recommendation

None.

### Evidence Update

**I** Vuurberg and colleagues<sup>451</sup> concluded that the use of oral or topical nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) results in less pain fewer than 14 days after LAS, without significantly increasing the risk of adverse events, compared with placebo (26 trials, n = 4225). Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> established an equivocal effect of pharmacological agents, typically NSAIDs, on function and recurrent injury in individuals with LAS, based on data from 13 trials (n = 2423).

**I** Selective NSAIDs (celecoxib 200 mg, 2 times daily) are noninferior to nonselective NSAIDs (eg, ibuprofen, naproxen, or diclofenac) to reduce pain after an acute LAS (4 trials, n = 1490).<sup>451</sup> Diclofenac showed superior results at days 1 and 2 compared with piroxicam (2 trials, n = 201) and ibuprofen (1 trial, n = 60) for reducing pain during motion in patients with mild to severe acute ankle sprains and demonstrated equal adverse event rates.<sup>451</sup> Despite dose differences, the clinical benefit of acetaminophen (paracetamol) is equivalent to NSAIDs for pain, swelling, and ROM after LAS.<sup>451</sup>

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Based on available evidence, NSAIDs may be expected to reduce pain in individuals with acute LAS, but are not expected to improve ankle ROM and reduce the likelihood of recurrent injury. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications may confer benefit over risk within the first 14 days following injury. The observed short-term pain reduction may be important for early weight bearing. Selective NSAIDs, nonselective NSAIDs, and acetaminophen/paracetamol may be considered based on individual needs, given their similar clinical effects.

### 2021 Recommendation

**C** Clinicians may prescribe NSAIDs (as physical therapy practice acts allow) to reduce pain and swelling in those with an acute LAS.

## INTERVENTIONS FOR CHRONIC ANKLE INSTABILITY EXTERNAL SUPPORT

### 2013 Recommendation

None.

### Evidence

**I** In a systematic review and network meta-analysis (21 trials, n = 469), Tsikopoulos and colleagues<sup>437</sup> identified moderate evidence that external support of any type, including insoles plus bracing, bracing, insoles, and taping, was no more effective than controls in providing clinical benefit for postural stability and balance performance.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

While external supports are recommended for prevention of reinjury, the use of external support as a sole treatment intervention is insufficient to promote sustained improvements in balance and postural stability in people with CAI. The clinician may consider whether the use of external supports, such as taping and bracing, would assist the individual with CAI to achieve short-term goals of rehabilitation through the improved ability to engage in interventions that can promote long-term clinical benefit.



**2021 Recommendation**

**B** Clinicians should not use external support, including braces or taping, as a stand-alone intervention to improve balance and postural stability in individuals with CAI.

**THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE AND ACTIVITIES****2013 Recommendation**

**C** Clinicians may include therapeutic exercises and activities, such as weight-bearing functional exercises and single-limb balance activities using unstable surfaces, to improve mobility, strength, coordination, and postural control in the postacute period of rehabilitation for ankle sprains.

**Evidence Update**

**I** Doherty and colleagues<sup>102</sup> assessed 22 systematic reviews that evaluated exercise therapy for treatment of CAI or recurrent ankle sprain. Therapeutic exercises that have been studied include balance retraining, postural re-education, neuromuscular training, and strengthening of ankle and lower-quarter kinetic-chain muscles using isolated exercises and movement patterns. The authors concluded that exercise therapy is generally considered effective in the treatment of CAI for the outcomes of self-reported function and reinjury incidence.<sup>102</sup>

**I** In the meta-analysis of 8 RCTs conducted by Powden and colleagues,<sup>356</sup> rehabilitation protocols that focused on balance training effectively improved health-related quality of life, as measured by patient-oriented outcomes, in individuals with CAI.

**Evidence Synthesis and Rationale**

There is consensus across the literature that therapeutic exercises demonstrate a strong positive clinical benefit in those with CAI. Exercise protocols across studies are substantially heterogeneous and comparisons across studies are infeasible, so specific recommendations currently are not possible for the best mode and volume of exercise to promote clinical benefit.

**2021 Recommendation**

**A** Clinicians should prescribe proprioceptive and neuromuscular therapeutic exercise to improve dynamic postural stability and patient-perceived stability during function in individuals with CAI.

**MANUAL THERAPY****2013 Recommendation**

**A** Clinicians should include manual therapy procedures, such as graded joint mobilizations, manipulations, and non-weight-bearing and weight-bearing

mobilization with movement, to improve ankle dorsiflexion, proprioception, and weight-bearing tolerance in patients recovering from chronic LAS symptoms.

**Evidence Update**

**I** In the systematic review and multidisciplinary guideline conducted by Vuurberg and colleagues,<sup>451</sup> a combination of manual therapy interventions with other treatment modalities, such as exercise therapy, enhanced the effectiveness of manual joint mobilization and was recommended in the treatment of CAI.

**I** Five systematic reviews that investigated manual therapy for the treatment of CAI were included in the study conducted by Doherty and colleagues.<sup>102</sup> Each of these reviews identified that manual mobilization likely has a short-term positive effect on ankle dorsiflexion ROM.

**I** In the meta-analysis of studies that encompassed manual therapy-focused treatment programs, Powden and colleagues<sup>356</sup> found that interventions such as anterior-to-posterior Maitland grade III joint mobilizations, Mulligan talocrural mobilizations with movement, tibiofibular manipulations, and plantar massage had large, significant pre-to-post treatment effects in improving patient-oriented outcomes in individuals with CAI.

**I** In the systematic review and meta-analysis conducted by Weerasekara and colleagues,<sup>463</sup> joint mobilization demonstrated clinical benefit in individuals with CAI through immediate improvements in dynamic balance and weight-bearing dorsiflexion ROM in the short term. Joint mobilization did not have an immediate effect on static balance or pain intensity, nor did it affect weight-bearing ankle dorsiflexion ROM in the long term.

**I** Based on a systematic review and meta-analysis including 4 trials of people with CAI (n = 208), Shi and colleagues<sup>390</sup> found that 6 sessions of manual therapy promoted significant improvements in ankle strength, balance, and functional tests, while a single session of manual therapy did not promote significant improvements in these measurements.

**I** Stathopoulos and colleagues<sup>412</sup> identified 2 trials (n = 93) involving individuals with CAI who received Mulligan-based mobilization with movement. The trials were characterized by high statistical heterogeneity, and meta-analysis was not undertaken. Qualitative synthesis suggested significant improvement of ankle dorsiflexion ROM after intervention in the included trials. Weerasekara and colleagues<sup>462</sup> identified evidence from 4 trials (n = 201) suggesting significant improvement of weight-bearing ankle dorsiflexion ROM after mobilization with movement compared to sham

and no intervention in people with CAI. However, there was insufficient evidence to draw conclusions about long-term effects (6 months or greater) and other outcome measures.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Manual therapy procedures appear effective in improving outcomes in people with CAI, including increased short-term ankle dorsiflexion ROM, ankle strength, balance, and functional test performance. Although these effects are not observed in the long term, short-term effects of intervention may be important to help people with CAI to meet short-term activity participation and rehabilitation goals.

#### 2021 Recommendation

**A** Clinicians should use manual therapy procedures, such as graded joint mobilizations, manipulations, and non-weight-bearing and weight-bearing mobilization with movement, to improve weight-bearing ankle dorsiflexion and dynamic balance in the short term for individuals with CAI.

#### DRY NEEDLING

##### 2013 Recommendation

None.

##### Evidence Update

**I** The results of a single-blinded RCT (n = 20) assessing trigger point dry needling of the fibularis muscles in individuals with a history of ankle sprain suggest that the intervention may provide some short-term improvements in strength and unilateral balance.<sup>378</sup>

**II** In an RCT assessing the inclusion of fibularis muscle trigger point dry needling as part of a proprioceptive and strengthening exercise program for individuals with CAI, the treatment group demonstrated better outcomes in pain and function at 1 month following treatment.<sup>382</sup>

**III** Data from a small cohort study by Rossi and colleagues (n = 20),<sup>378</sup> included in the systematic review and meta-analysis by Mansfield et al,<sup>295</sup> indicated that the addition of lumbar multifidus dry needling in individuals with CAI resulted in no significant differences in ankle plantar flexor-evertor strength, balance, and hop test performance compared to people with CAI who received fibularis muscle trigger point dry needling alone.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Few studies currently exist to support the use of dry needling in people with CAI. Results reported by the included small RCTs and cohort studies were generally favorable for pain, function, strength, and balance.

#### 2021 Recommendation

**C** Clinicians may use dry needling of the fibularis muscle group in conjunction with a proprioceptive training program to reduce pain and improve function in individuals with CAI.

### COMBINED TREATMENTS

Combined treatments include intervention plans that use at least 2 or more types of interventions.

#### 2013 Recommendation

None.

##### Evidence Update

**I** In the systematic review and meta-analysis conducted by Powden and colleagues,<sup>356</sup> which synthesized 7 RCTs that employed 2 or more targeted interventions, including stretching, strength training, balance training, vestibular-ocular reflex training, soft tissue mobilization, dry needling, and strain/counterstrain techniques, it was found that combined treatment led to large, statistically significant improvements in patient-reported function in individuals with CAI (summary effect size, 1.14). Combined intervention resulted in slightly improved functional outcomes that were not statistically significant when compared to balance training alone.

**I** A systematic review and network meta-analysis by Tsikopoulos and colleagues<sup>436</sup> identified that a 4-week supervised rehabilitation program consisting of balance training, strengthening, functional tasks, and ROM exercises resulted in statistically and clinically significant benefit compared to control interventions in people with CAI.

### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Research evidence supports the clinical benefit of interventions that combine 2 or more treatments, selected based on patient-centered factors, to supplement a balance training program. While these approaches appear to only slightly improve functional outcomes when compared to balance training alone, the adverse events associated with combined approaches were infrequent, transient, and mild. This literature may indicate the potential presence of treatment interactions and caution against one-size-fits-all approaches to clinical management.

#### 2021 Recommendation

**B** Clinicians may use multiple interventions to supplement balance training over an episode of care for individuals with CAI, to include a combination of exercise and manual therapy procedures as guided by the pa-

tient's values and goals, the clinician's judgment, and evidence-based clinical recommendations.

## INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS DURING THE COURSE OF REHABILITATION

### 2013 Recommendation

None.

#### Evidence Update

**I** In the systematic review of studies assessing the effects of the therapeutic alliance on pain conducted by Taccolini Manzoni and colleagues,<sup>418</sup> a lack of evidence pertaining to the therapeutic alliance in rehabilitation of musculoskeletal conditions was found. The authors of this review, which encompassed studies of mixed methodology, concluded that there is a lack of evidence to support the effect of the therapeutic alliance on pain relief.

**I** In a systematic review studying the effects of the therapeutic alliance in the treatment of patients with persistent pain syndromes, 3 studies suggested that a strong therapeutic alliance between the patient and treating physical therapist may improve outcomes in individuals with chronic musculoskeletal conditions.<sup>137,229</sup> To facilitate a strong therapeutic alliance, physical therapists must understand factors that positively and negatively influence the relationship.<sup>137,229</sup> These may include trust, communication, shared goal setting, identification and mitigation of barriers to care seeking and compliance, individualized and flexible care, respect of persons, and other factors that influence the patient's knowledge, skills, beliefs, and attitudes toward treatment.<sup>137,229</sup>

**II** In a retrospective case-control study, athletes with a history of recurrent ankle sprains were found to have the highest levels of fear avoidance compared to patients with a first-time ankle sprain or healthy controls.<sup>195</sup> To improve the quality of patient care, Houston and colleagues<sup>195</sup> recommended that clinicians use global, regional, and psychological measures to better evaluate patient status and treatment response, while considering functional deficits and psychological barriers during the rehabilitation course.

**III** McCann and Gribble<sup>303</sup> detailed how self-efficacy and resiliency can influence outcomes in CAI and proposed a theoretical model of how both intrinsic and extrinsic psychological factors can influence functional outcomes following LAS. In the conceptual model, perceptions of LAS as a benign injury may limit care seeking and negatively influence outcomes.<sup>303</sup> A consequence of nonresolving impairment and activity limitation following injury may contribute to lower self-efficacy and resiliency, further contributing to functional decline.<sup>303</sup> The authors advocate that patients struggling to adhere to rehabilitation may benefit from a repeated evaluation of self-efficacy, or an assessment of other personal and environmental factors.<sup>303</sup>

**III** Patients who go on to develop chronic ankle-foot disability have been found to have higher levels of neuroticism,<sup>391</sup> anxiety,<sup>391</sup> depression,<sup>391</sup> and kinesiophobia.<sup>267</sup> Fraser and Hertel<sup>137</sup> outlined the importance for physical therapists to evaluate and employ mitigating strategies to address negative psychoemotional factors during rehabilitation of individuals with LAS and CAI.

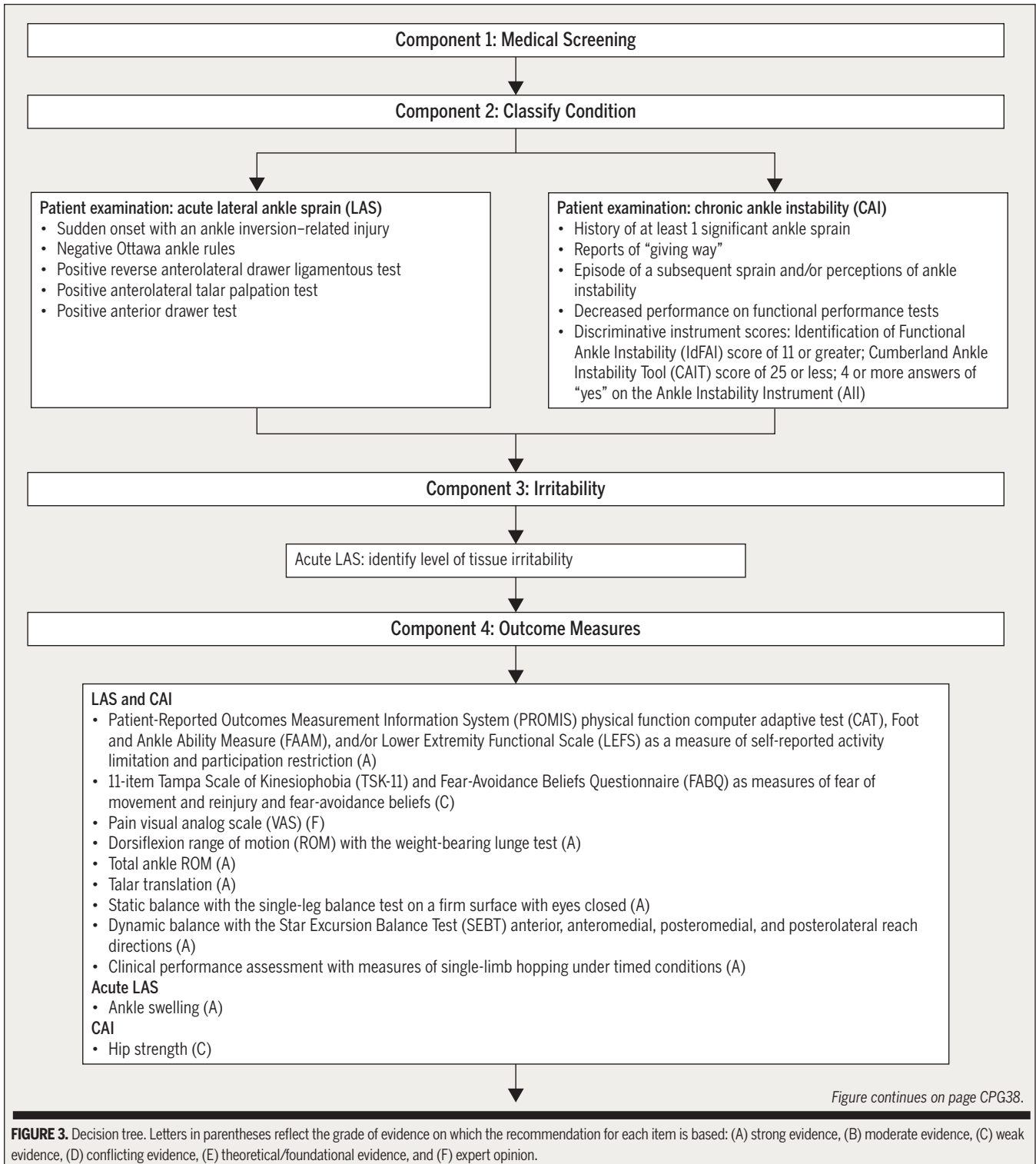
#### Evidence Synthesis and Rationale

Clinicians may take purposeful steps to build an effective therapeutic relationship with patients and use psychologically informed elements in the plan of care. These include mutual trust, communication, shared goal setting, identification and mitigation of barriers to care seeking and compliance, individualized and flexible care, respect of persons, and other factors that influence the patient's knowledge, skills, beliefs, and attitudes toward treatment. Global, regional, and psychological measures are recommended to comprehensively evaluate the patient status and treatment response. Targeted interventions, such as education, encouragement, goal setting, and fear mitigation, may help to improve these intrinsic factors and facilitate return to function in this patient population.

### 2021 Recommendation

**E** Clinicians may use psychologically informed techniques, such as motivational interviewing, to maximize patients' self-efficacy and address uncomplicated psychological correlates and mediators of injury adjustment and recovery, to maximize the effects of treatment in a positive manner for individuals with LAS and CAI.

# LATERAL ANKLE LIGAMENT SPRAINS: CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES





Component 5: Intervention Strategies

**LAS**

- Progressively bear weight with bracing external supports (A)
- Structured rehabilitation programs that include therapeutic exercises, both in clinic and at home, to include protected active ROM, stretching exercises, and neuromuscular training (A)
- Manual therapy procedures, such as lymphatic drainage, active and passive soft tissue and joint mobilization, and anterior-to-posterior talar mobilization procedures, within pain-free movement to reduce swelling, improve pain-free ankle and foot mobility, and normalize gait (A)
- Occupational and sport-related training and work hardening to mitigate activity limitation and participation restriction (B)
- Low-level laser therapy to reduce pain in those with acute symptoms (C)
- Pulsating shortwave diathermy for reducing edema and gait deviations (C)
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications to reduce pain and swelling in those with acute symptoms (C)
- Psychologically informed techniques, such as motivational interviewing, to maximize patients' self-efficacy, address uncomplicated psychological correlates, and identify mediators of injury adjustment (E)

**CAI**

- Proprioceptive and neuromuscular therapeutic exercise to improve dynamic postural stability and patient-perceived stability (A)
- Manual therapy procedures, such as graded joint mobilizations, manipulations, and non-weight-bearing and weight-bearing mobilization with movement, to improve ankle dorsiflexion, proprioception, and weight-bearing tolerance (A)
- Trigger point dry needling of the fibularis (peroneal) muscle group in conjunction with a proprioceptive training program to reduce pain and improve function (C)
- Psychologically informed techniques, such as motivational interviewing, to maximize patients' self-efficacy, address uncomplicated psychological correlates, and identify mediators of injury adjustment (E)

**FIGURE 3 (continued).** Decision tree. Letters in parentheses reflect the grade of evidence on which the recommendation for each item is based: (A) strong evidence, (B) moderate evidence, (C) weak evidence, (D) conflicting evidence, (E) theoretical/foundational evidence, and (F) expert opinion.

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## APPENDIX A

## SEARCH STRATEGIES FOR ALL DATABASES SEARCHED

Limits: 2013 to present (June 1, 2020), human, English, research articles, nonfracture/osteoarthritis studies  
Run on June 26, 2018 and updated on June 1, 2020

## PubMed

History: June 26, 2018

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#18	#13 AND #8	7264
#17	#9 AND #7 AND #6 AND #1	2230
#16	#13 AND #5	5081
#15	#13 AND #4	1858
#14	#13 AND #3	6093
#13	#1 AND #9 AND #12	12346
#12	#10 OR #11	2483065
#11	((#2 NOT (fracture[tw] NOT (sprains[tw] OR sprain[tw] OR sprained[tw] OR strains[tw] OR strain[tw] OR strained[tw] OR swelling[tw] OR swollen[tw] OR swell[tw] OR "Joint Instability"[Mesh] OR instability[tw] OR instabilities[tw] OR unstable[tw] OR joint effusion[tw] OR "Proprioception"[Mesh] OR proprioception deficit[tw] OR proprioception deficits[tw] OR proprioception deficiency[tw] OR proprioception deficiencies[tw] OR "Postural Balance"[Mesh] OR balance[tw] OR unbalanced[tw] OR musculoskeletal equilibrium[tw] OR postural equilibrium[tw] OR hypermobility[tw] OR hypermobilities[tw] OR laxity[tw] OR laxities[tw] OR tear[tw] OR torn[tw] OR external rotation[tw] OR eversion[tw] OR inversion[tw]))))	2424755
#10	((#2 NOT (osteoarthritis[tw] NOT (sprains[tw] OR sprain[tw] OR sprained[tw] OR strains[tw] OR strain[tw] OR strained[tw] OR swelling[tw] OR swollen[tw] OR swell[tw] OR "Joint Instability"[Mesh] OR instability[tw] OR instabilities[tw] OR unstable[tw] OR joint effusion[tw] OR "Proprioception"[Mesh] OR proprioception deficit[tw] OR proprioception deficits[tw] OR proprioception deficiency[tw] OR proprioception deficiencies[tw] OR "Postural Balance"[Mesh] OR balance[tw] OR unbalanced[tw] OR musculoskeletal equilibrium[tw] OR postural equilibrium[tw] OR hypermobility[tw] OR hypermobilities[tw] OR laxity[tw] OR laxities[tw] OR tear[tw] OR torn[tw] OR external rotation[tw] OR eversion[tw] OR inversion[tw]))))	2477326
#9	("2013"[Date - Publication]: "3000"[Date - Publication]) NOT (animals[mh] NOT humans[mh]) NOT ("Book Reviews" [Publication Type] OR "Comment" [Publication Type] OR "Editorial" [Publication Type] OR "Letter" [Publication Type] OR "Review" [Publication Type] OR "Meeting Abstracts" [Publication Type] OR "Public Service Announcements" [Publication Type] OR "News" [Publication Type] OR "Newspaper Article" [Publication Type] OR "Case Reports" [Publication Type] OR "Academic Dissertations" [Publication Type] OR "Retracted Publication" [Publication Type]) AND "English"[Language]	4076704
#8	("Diagnosis"[Mesh] OR "diagnosis" [Subheading] OR "Delayed Diagnosis"[Mesh] OR "Early Diagnosis"[Mesh] OR "Diagnosis, Differential"[Mesh] OR "Diagnosis, Computer-Assisted"[Mesh] OR "Diagnostic Techniques and Procedures"[Mesh] OR diagnosis[tw] OR diagnose[tw] OR diagnoses[tw] OR diagnostic[tw] OR "Clinical Decision-Making"[Mesh] OR clinical decision-making[tw] OR clinical decision making[tw] OR medical decision-making[tw] OR medical decision making[tw] OR "Decision Making"[Mesh:NoExp] OR "Diagnostic Imaging"[Mesh] OR diagnostic imaging[tw] OR medical imaging[tw] OR "Radiography"[Mesh] OR radiography[tw] OR diagnostic x-ray[tw] OR diagnostic x ray[tw] OR diagnostic x-rays[tw] OR "Magnetic Resonance Imaging"[Mesh] OR magnetic resonance imaging[tw] OR MRI[tw] OR fMRI[tw] OR NMR imaging[tw] OR MR tomography[tw] OR "Ultrasonography"[Mesh] OR ultrasonography[tw] OR ultrasound[tw] OR ultrasounds[tw] OR ultrasonic[tw] OR "Electromyography"[Mesh] OR electromyography[tw] OR electromyographies[tw] OR electromyogram[tw] OR electromyograms[tw] OR electrophysiologic test[tw] OR electrophysiologic tests[tw] OR electrophysiologic testing[tw] OR "Neural Conduction"[Mesh] OR neural conduction[tw] OR neural conduction[tw] OR nerve conduction[tw] OR nerve conduction[tw] OR "Actigraphy"[Mesh] OR actigraphy[tw])	9523683
#7	("Sensitivity and Specificity"[Mesh] OR sensitivity[tw] OR specificity[tw] OR "Evaluation Studies as Topic"[Mesh] OR evaluation indexes[tw] OR evaluation report[tw] OR evaluation reports[tw] OR evaluation research[tw] OR use-effectiveness[tw] OR use effectiveness[tw] OR prepost tests[tw] OR pre post tests[tw] OR prepost test[tw] OR qualitative evaluation[tw] OR qualitative evaluations[tw] OR quantitative evaluation[tw] OR quantitative evaluations[tw] OR theoretical effectiveness[tw] OR critique[tw] OR critiques[tw] OR evaluation methodology[tw] OR evaluation methodologies[tw] OR "Validation Studies as Topic"[Mesh] OR "Reproducibility of Results"[Mesh] OR reproducibility[tw] OR validity[tw] OR reliability[tw] OR "Data Accuracy"[Mesh] OR data accuracy[tw] OR data accuracies[tw] OR data quality[tw] OR data qualities[tw] OR precision[tw] OR responsiveness[tw] OR consistency[tw] OR consistencies[tw] OR consistent[tw] OR log-likelihood ratio[tw] OR likelihood-ratio[tw] OR likelihood ratio[tw] OR LR test[tiab] OR "Epidemiologic Research Design"[Mesh] OR "Research Design"[Mesh] OR research design[tw] OR research designs[tw] OR research strategy[tw] OR research strategies[tw] OR research techniques[tw] OR research technique[tw] OR research methodology[tw] OR research methodologies[tw] OR experimental design[tw] OR experimental designs[tw])	3694180

Table continues on page CPG55.

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#6	(Cumberland ankle instability tool[tw] OR Chronic Ankle Instability Scale[tw] OR Sports Ankle Rating System[tw] OR Ankle Joint Functional Assessment Tool[tw] OR Foot Function Index[tw] OR Foot and Ankle Outcome Score[tw] OR Karlsson Ankle Function Score[tw] OR OR Karlsson Score[tw] OR Kaikkonen scale[tw] OR Kaikkonen score[tw] OR Ottawa ankle rules[tw] OR Buffalo modification[tiab] OR foot and ankle ability measure[tw] OR foot ability measure[tw] OR ankle ability measure[tw] OR foot and ankle disability index[tw] OR lower extremity function scale[tw] OR lower extremity functional scale[tw] OR ankle instability scale[tw] OR sports ankle rating system[tw] OR ankle joint function assessment[tw] OR ankle instability index[tw] OR ankle instability instrument[tw] OR identification of functional ankle instability[tw] OR Tampa scale of kinesophobia[tw] OR sway index[tw] OR functional reach test[tw] OR Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System[tw] OR PROMIS[tiab] OR Health Utilities Index[tw] OR HUI[tiab] OR HUI-III[tiab] OR HUI-3[tiab] OR HUI3[tiab] OR HUI-II[tiab] OR HUI-2[tiab] OR HUI2[tiab] OR HUI-I[tiab] OR HUI-1[tiab] OR HUI1[tiab] OR Visual Analogue Scale[tw] OR European Quality of life 5 Dimensions[tw] OR EuroQol*[tiab] OR EQ-5D[tiab] OR EQ5D*[tiab] OR EQ 5D[tiab] OR EORTC[tiab] OR Rosser[tiab] OR short form health survey[tw] OR short-form health survey[tw] OR SF36[tiab] OR SF-36[tiab] OR SF 36[tiab] OR short form 36[tiab] OR shortform 36[tiab] OR shortform36[tiab] OR 36 item short form[tiab] OR 36-item short form[tiab] OR SF20[tiab] OR SF-20[tiab] OR SF 20[tiab] OR short form 20[tiab] OR shortform 20[tiab] OR shortform20[tiab] OR 20 item short form[tiab] OR 20-item short form[tiab] OR SF12[tiab] OR SF-12[tiab] OR SF 12[tiab] OR short form 12[tiab] OR shortform 12[tiab] OR shortform12[tiab] OR 12 item short form[tiab] OR 12-item short form[tiab] OR SF8[tiab] OR SF-8[tiab] OR SF 8[tiab] OR short form 8[tiab] OR shortform 8[tiab] OR shortform8[tiab] OR 8 item short form[tiab] OR 8-item short form[tiab] OR SF6[tiab] OR SF-6[tiab] OR SF 6[tiab] OR short form 6[tiab] OR shortform 6[tiab] OR shortform6[tiab] OR 6 item short form[tiab] OR 6-item short form[tiab] OR QoL Questionnaire[tw] OR QLQ[tiab] OR health questionnaire[tw] OR Godin leisure time[tw] OR Numeric Pain Scale[tw] OR lateral hopping for distance[tw] OR 6-m crossover hop[tw] OR side hop[tw] OR hopping course[tw] OR square hop[tw] OR cross hop[tw] OR hop test[tw] OR hopping test[tw] OR 40-m walk time[tw] OR 40-m run time[tw] OR figure-of-eight run[tw] OR single-limb forward hop[tw] OR single limb forward hop[tw] OR stair hop[tw] OR shuttle run[tw] OR up/down hop[tw] OR hop up[tw] OR hopping up[tw] OR hop down[tw] OR hopping down[tw] OR triple crossover hop[tw] OR single-limb hurdle[tw] OR single limb hurdle[tw] OR single-limb 6-m hop[tw] OR single-limb 30-m hop[tw] OR figure-eight hop[tw] OR figure of eight hop[tw] OR figure eight hop[tw] OR drop landing[tw] OR vertical jump[tw] OR "Walking Speed"[Mesh] OR "Gait"[Mesh] OR walking speed[tw] OR walking speeds[tw] OR walking gait[tw] OR gait speed[tw] OR gait speeds[tw] OR walking pace[tw] OR walking paces[tw] OR running gait[tw] OR running speed[tw] OR running speeds[tw] OR running pace[tw] OR running paces[tw] OR figure of 8 circumferential measure[tw] OR volumetric measure[tw] OR "Range of Motion, Articular"[Mesh] OR range of motion[tiab] OR joint flexibility[tw] OR "Arthrometry, Articular"[Mesh] OR articular arthrometry[tw] OR articular goniometry[tw] OR "Supination"[Mesh] OR supination[tiab] OR supinations[tw] OR "Pronation"[Mesh] OR pronation[tw] OR pronations[tw] OR tibopedal dorsiflexion[tw] OR weight-bearing lunge[tw] OR weight bearing lunge[tw] OR algometry[tw] OR "Pain Threshold"[Mesh] OR pain threshold[tw] OR pain thresholds[tw] OR pressurepain threshold[tw] OR pressurepain thresholds[tw] OR cutaneous sensation[tw] OR "Hypesthesia"[Mesh] OR hypesthesia[tw] OR "Hyperesthesia"[Mesh] OR hyperesthesia[tw] OR joint position sense[tw] OR "Kinesthesia"[Mesh] OR kinesthesia[tw] OR kinesthesias[tw] OR kinesthesias[tw] OR kinesthetic[tw] OR movement sensation[tw] OR movement sensations[tw] OR isokinetic muscle strength[tw] OR isokinetic test[tw] OR isokinetic tests[tw] OR single-limb balance[tw] OR single limb balance[tw] OR Romberg test[tw] OR balance test[tw] OR balancing test[tw] OR Y balance[tiab] OR Balance Error Scoring System[tw] OR step-down test[tw] OR step down test[tw] OR single leg squat test[tw] OR functional movement screen[tw] OR functional movement screening[tw] OR functional movement screens[tw] OR joint accessory mobility[tw] OR joint play mobility[tw] OR anterior drawer[tw] OR talar tilt inversion[tw] OR talar tilt eversion[tw] OR talar rotation[tw] OR talofibular interval[tw] OR tibiofibular interval[tw] OR distal fibula interval[tw] OR Foot posture Index[tw] OR squeeze test[tiab] OR Cotton test[tiab] OR dorsiflexion maneuver[tw] OR dorsiflexion maneuvers[tw] OR dorsiflexion compression test[tw] OR crossed leg test[tw] OR heel thump test[tw] OR Kleiger dorsiflexion external rotation test[tiab] OR external rotation test[tw] OR Thompson test[tiab] OR function and prognostic score[tw] OR function and prognostic scores[tw] OR ankle function score[tw] OR ankle scoring system[tw] OR de Bie[tiab] OR multisegmented foot[tw] OR ankle-foot complex[tw] OR foot morphology[tw] OR intrinsic foot muscles[tw] OR ankle assessment[tw] OR ankle assessments[tw] OR foot assessment[tw] OR foot assessments[tw] OR feet assessment[tw] OR feet assessments[tw] OR biomechanical assessment[tw] OR biomechanical assessments[tw] OR foot root model[tw] OR ankle root model[tiab])	208194
#5	("Risk"[Mesh] OR "Risk Assessment"[Mesh] OR "Risk Factors"[Mesh] OR "Health Risk Behaviors"[Mesh] OR risk[tw] OR risks[tw] OR risk-benefit[tw] OR "Probability"[Mesh] OR probability[tw] OR probabilities[tw] OR likelihood[tw] OR propensity[tw] OR "Logistic Models"[Mesh] OR logistic model[tiab] OR logistic models[tw] OR logistic modeling[tw] OR logistic regression[tw] OR logistic regressions[tw] OR "Protective Factors"[Mesh] OR protective factor[tw] OR protective factors[tw] OR "Bayes Theorem"[Mesh] OR Bayes theorem[tw] OR Bayesian[tw] OR "Causality"[Mesh] OR causality[tw] OR causalities[tw] OR causation[tw] OR causations[tw] OR cause[tw] OR causes[tw] OR enabling factor[tw] OR enabling factors[tw] OR reinforcing factor[tw] OR reinforcing factors[tw] OR predisposing factor[tw] OR predisposing factors[tw] OR predisposition[tw] OR "Precipitating Factors"[Mesh] OR precipitating factors[tw] OR precipitating factor[tw] OR predictor[tw] OR predictors[tw] OR odds ratio[tw] OR odds ratios[tw] OR predict[tw] OR prediction[tw] OR predictions[tw] OR predictabilities[tw] OR predictability[tw] OR predicted[tw] OR predictor[tw] OR predictors[tw] OR predictive[tw] OR etiology[tw] OR etiologies[tw] OR etiological[tiab] OR etiologic[tw] OR aetiology[tw] OR origin[tw] OR origination[tw] OR originating[tw] OR interact[tw] OR interaction[tw] OR interactions[tw] OR interacting[tw])	7760905
#4	("Incidence"[Mesh] OR incidence[tw] OR incidences[tw] OR "Morbidity"[Mesh] OR morbidity[tw] OR morbidities[tw] OR "Epidemiology"[Mesh] OR epidemiology[tw] OR "epidemiology" [Subheading] OR "Prevalence"[Mesh] OR prevalence[tw] OR prevalent[tw] OR prevalencies[tw])	2968951

Table continues on page CPG56.

# LATERAL ANKLE LIGAMENT SPRAINS: CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

## APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#3	("Physical Therapy Modalities"[Mesh] OR physical therapy[tw] OR physical therapies[tw] OR physiotherapy[tw] OR physiotherapies[tw] OR "Recovery of Function"[Mesh] OR recovery[tw] OR restoration[tw] OR reeducation[tw] OR "Rehabilitation"[Mesh] OR "rehabilitation" [Subheading] OR rehabilitation[tw] OR rehab[tw] OR "Early Ambulation"[Mesh] OR early ambulation[tw] OR accelerated ambulation[tw] OR early mobilization[tw] OR therapeutic modality[tw] OR therapeutic modalities[tw] OR "Exercise Therapy"[Mesh] OR exercise therapy[tw] OR therapeutic exercise[tw] OR therapeutic exercises[tw] OR stretching[tw] OR exercise movement[tw] OR strengthen[tw] OR strengthening[tw] OR "Resistance Training"[Mesh] OR resistance training[tw] OR strength training[tw] OR weight-bearing[tw] OR weight-lifting[tw] OR resistance methods[tw] OR training program[tw] OR "Biofeedback, Psychology"[Mesh] OR biofeedback[tw] OR psychophysiologic feedback[tw] OR neuromuscular electrical stimulation[tw] OR neuromuscular reeducation[tw] OR "Pain Management"[Mesh] OR "Pain Measurement"[Mesh] OR pain management[tw] OR pain measurement[tw] OR mobilization[tw] OR mobilizations[tw] OR "Musculoskeletal Manipulations"[Mesh] OR manipulation[tw] OR manipulations[tw] OR ultrasonography[tw] OR ultrasound[tw] OR acupuncture[tw] OR "Patient Education as Topic"[Mesh] OR patient education[tw] OR education of patients[tw] OR iontophoresis[tw] OR "Electric Stimulation"[Mesh] OR "Electric Stimulation Therapy"[Mesh] OR "Transcutaneous Electric Nerve Stimulation"[Mesh] OR electric stimulation[tw] OR nerve stimulation[tw] OR taping[tw] OR tape[tw] OR bracing[tw] OR brace[tw] OR OR braces[tw] OR OR orthoses[tw] OR immobilization[tw] OR immobilize[tw] OR orthotics[tw] OR thermal agent[tw] OR thermal agents[tw] OR diathermy[tw] OR "Range of Motion, Articular"[Mesh] OR range of motion[tw] OR joint flexibility[tw] OR joint movement[tw] OR manual therapy[tw] OR massage[tw] OR massages[tw] OR "Treatment Outcome"[Mesh] OR treatment outcome[tw] OR clinical effectiveness[tw] OR treatment effectiveness[tw] OR treatment efficacy[tw] OR patient outcome[tw] OR patient outcomes[tw])	2846636
#2	("Ankle Injuries"[Mesh] OR "Athletic Injuries"[Mesh] OR "Foot Injuries"[Mesh] OR injuries[tw] OR injury[tw] OR injured[tw] OR "Sprains and Strains"[Mesh] OR sprains[tw] OR sprain[tw] OR sprained[tw] OR strains[tw] OR strain[tw] OR strained[tw] OR swelling[tw] OR swollen[tw] OR swell[tw] OR "Joint Instability"[Mesh] OR instability[tw] OR instabilities[tw] OR unstable[tw] OR joint effusion[tw] OR "Proprioception"[Mesh] OR proprioception deficit[tw] OR proprioception deficits[tw] OR proprioception deficiency[tw] OR proprioception deficiencies[tw] OR "Postural Balance"[Mesh] OR balance[tw] OR unbalanced[tw] OR musculoskeletal equilibrium[tw] OR postural equilibrium[tw] OR hypermobility[tw] OR hypermobilities[tw] OR laxity[tw] OR laxities[tw] OR tear[tw] OR torn[tw] OR external rotation[tw] OR eversion[tw] OR inversion[tw] OR "Injury Severity Score"[Mesh] OR "Abbreviated Injury Scale"[Mesh])	2484080
#1	("Ankle"[Mesh] OR ankle[tw] OR ankles[tw] OR regio tarsalis[tw] OR talus[tw] OR tarsus[tw] OR "Metatarsus"[Mesh] OR metatarsus[tw] OR metatarsal[tw] OR "Ankle Joint"[Mesh] OR "Subtalar Joint"[Mesh] OR subtalar joint[tw] OR talocalcaneal joint[tw] OR talonavicular joint[tw] OR talocrural[tw] OR articulatio talocruralis[tw] OR "Tarsal Joints"[Mesh] OR tarsal joints[tw] OR tarsal joint[tw] OR midtarsal joint[tw] OR midtarsal joints[tw] OR intertarsal joint[tw] OR intertarsal joints[tw] OR intertarsal articulation[tw] OR articulationes intertarsae[tw] OR articulationes intertarsales[tw] OR "Lateral Ligament, Ankle"[Mesh] OR "Ligaments, Articular"[Mesh] OR "Collateral Ligaments"[Mesh] OR ankle lateral ligament[tw] OR ligamentum laterale articulationis talocruralis[tw] OR calcaneofibular[tw] OR tibiofibular[tw] OR tibiotalar[tw] OR tibionavicular[tw] OR tibiocalcaneal[tw] OR talofibular[tw] OR talonavicular[tw] OR calcaneocuboid[tw] OR bifurcate* ligament*[tw] OR inferior transverse ligament*[tw] OR deltoid ligament*[tw] OR medial ligament*[tw] OR interosseous ligament*[tw] OR dorsal interosseal[tw] OR plantar interosseal[tw] OR "Tibial Nerve"[Mesh] OR tibial nerve[tw] OR peroneal nerve[tw] OR peroneus nerve[tw] OR saphenous nerve[tw] OR medial plantar nerve[tw] OR lateral plantar nerve[tw] OR fibular nerve[tw] OR fibularis tertius[tw] OR "Achilles Tendon"[Mesh] OR achilles tendon[tw] OR calcaneal[tw] OR calcaneus[tw] OR interosseous membrane[tw] OR interosseous membranes[tw] OR syndesmosis[tw] OR syndesmoses[tw] OR syndesmotic[tw] OR tibialis anterior[tw] OR fibularis longus[tw] OR fibularis brevis[tw] OR peroneus tertius[tw] OR peroneus longus[tw] OR peroneus brevis[tw] OR flexor hallucis longus[tw] OR flexor digitorum longus[tw] OR extensor digitorum longus[tw] OR tibialis posterior[tw] OR soleus[tw] OR peroneal[tw] OR gastrocnemius[tw] OR abductor hallucis[tw] OR adductor hallucis[tw] OR flexor hallucis brevis[tw] OR abductor digiti minimi [tw] OR flexor digiti minimi[tw] OR lumbricals[tw] OR quadratus plantae[tw] OR flexor digitorum brevis[tw] OR gluteus medius[tw] OR gluteus maximus[tw] OR gluteal[tw] OR hip abductor[tw] OR hip rotator[tw] OR ("Foot"[Mesh] OR foot[tw] OR feet[tw] OR articulationes pedis[tw] OR "Foot Joints"[Mesh] OR "Metatarsophalangeal Joint"[Mesh] OR metatarsophalangeal[tw] OR "Heel"[Mesh] OR heel[tw] OR heels[tw] OR sinus tarsi[tw] OR sinus tarsus[tw] OR rearfoot[tw] OR midfoot[tw])	253599

### Embase

History: June 26, 2018

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#18	#13 AND #8	6182
#17	#9 AND #7 AND #6 AND #1	1931
#16	#13 AND #5	4759
#15	#13 AND #4	2211
#14	#13 AND #3	6959
#13	#1 AND #9 AND #12	10741
#12	#10 OR #11	2420321

Table continues on page CPG57

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#11	#2 NOT (fracture NOT ('sprain'/exp OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR 'strain'/exp OR strains OR strains OR strain OR strained OR 'swelling'/exp OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR 'instability'/exp OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR 'joint effusion'/exp OR 'joint effusion' OR 'proprioception deficit' OR 'proprioception deficits' OR 'proprioception deficiency' OR 'proprioception deficiencies' OR 'balance'/exp OR balance OR unbalanced OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium'/exp OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium' OR 'postural equilibrium'/exp OR 'postural equilibrium' OR 'hypermobility'/exp OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR 'tear'/exp OR tear OR torn OR 'external rotation'/exp OR 'external rotation' OR 'eversion'/exp OR 'inversion'/exp OR eversion OR inversion)) AND [embase]/lim	2350966
#10	#2 NOT (osteoarthritis NOT ('sprain'/exp OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR 'strain'/exp OR strains OR strains OR strain OR strained OR 'swelling'/exp OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR 'instability'/exp OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR 'joint effusion'/exp OR 'joint effusion' OR 'proprioception deficit' OR 'proprioception deficits' OR 'proprioception deficiency' OR 'proprioception deficiencies' OR 'balance'/exp OR balance OR unbalanced OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium'/exp OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium' OR 'postural equilibrium'/exp OR 'postural equilibrium' OR 'hypermobility'/exp OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR 'tear'/exp OR tear OR torn OR 'external rotation'/exp OR 'external rotation' OR 'eversion'/exp OR 'inversion'/exp OR eversion OR inversion)) AND [embase]/lim	2411921
#9	(2013:py OR 2014:py OR 2015:py OR 2016:py OR 2017:py OR 2018:py) NOT ([animals]/lim NOT [humans]/lim) NOT ('book'/it OR 'chapter'/it OR 'conference abstract'/it OR 'conference paper'/it OR 'editorial'/it OR 'letter'/it OR 'note'/it OR 'press release'/it OR 'short survey'/it) AND [embase]/lim AND [english]/lim	3288905
#8	('diagnosis'/exp OR diagnosis OR diagnose OR diagnoses OR 'diagnostic'/exp OR diagnostic OR 'clinical decision-making'/exp OR 'clinical decision-making' OR 'clinical decision making'/exp OR 'clinical decision making' OR 'medical decision-making'/exp OR 'medical decision-making' OR 'medical decision making'/exp OR 'medical decision making' OR 'diagnostic imaging'/exp OR 'diagnostic imaging' OR 'medical imaging'/exp OR 'medical imaging' OR 'radiography'/exp OR radiography OR 'diagnostic x-ray' OR 'diagnostic x ray' OR 'diagnostic x-rays' OR 'magnetic resonance imaging'/exp OR 'magnetic resonance imaging' OR 'mri'/exp OR mri:ti,ab OR 'fmri'/exp OR fmri:ti,ab OR 'nmr imaging'/exp OR 'nmr imaging' OR 'mr tomography' OR 'ultrasonography'/exp OR ultrasonography OR 'ultrasound'/exp OR ultrasound OR ultrasounds OR 'ultrasonic'/exp OR ultrasonic OR 'electromyography'/exp OR electromyography OR electromyographies OR 'electromyogram'/exp OR electromyogram OR electromyograms OR 'electrophysiologic test' OR 'electrophysiologic tests' OR 'electrophysiologic testing' OR 'neural conduction'/exp OR 'neural conduction' OR 'neural conduction' OR 'nerve conduction'/exp OR 'nerve conduction' OR 'nerve conduction' OR 'nerve conduction' OR 'actigraphy'/exp OR actigraphy) AND [embase]/lim	6600819
#7	('sensitivity'/exp OR sensitivity OR 'specificity'/exp OR specificity OR 'evaluation indexes'/exp OR 'evaluation indexes' OR 'evaluation report'/exp OR 'evaluation report' OR 'evaluation reports' OR 'evaluation research'/exp OR 'evaluation research' OR 'use effectiveness'/exp OR 'use effectiveness' OR 'prepost tests' OR 'pre post tests'/exp OR 'pre post tests' OR 'prepost test' OR 'qualitative evaluation'/exp OR 'qualitative evaluation' OR 'qualitative evaluations' OR 'quantitative evaluation'/exp OR 'quantitative evaluation' OR 'quantitative evaluations' OR 'theoretical effectiveness'/exp OR 'theoretical effectiveness' OR 'critique'/exp OR critique OR critiques OR 'evaluation methodology'/exp OR 'evaluation methodology' OR 'evaluation methodologies' OR 'reproducibility'/exp OR reproducibility OR 'validity'/exp OR validity OR 'reliability'/exp OR reliability OR 'data accuracy'/exp OR 'data accuracy' OR 'data accuracies' OR 'data quality'/exp OR 'data quality' OR 'data qualities' OR 'precision'/exp OR precision OR 'responsiveness'/exp OR responsiveness OR 'consistency'/exp OR consistency OR consistencies OR consistent OR 'log-likelihood ratio' OR 'likelihood-ratio' OR 'likelihood ratio'/exp OR 'likelihood ratio' OR 'research design'/exp OR 'research design' OR 'research designs' OR 'research strategy' OR 'research strategies' OR 'research techniques' OR 'research technique' OR 'research methodology'/exp OR 'research methodology' OR 'research methodologies' OR 'experimental design'/exp OR 'experimental design' OR 'experimental designs') AND [embase]/lim	5719204

Table continues on page CPG58.



APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#6	(‘cumberland ankle instability tool’/exp OR ‘cumberland ankle instability tool’ OR ‘chronic ankle instability scale’ OR ‘ankle joint functional assessment tool’ OR ‘foot function index’/exp OR ‘foot function index’ OR ‘foot and ankle outcome score’ OR ‘karlsson ankle function score’ OR ‘karlsson score’ OR ‘kaikkonen scale’ OR ‘kaikkonen score’ OR ‘ottawa ankle rules’/exp OR ‘ottawa ankle rules’ OR ‘buffalo modification’ OR ‘foot and ankle ability measure’/exp OR ‘foot and ankle ability measure’ OR ‘foot ability measure’ OR ‘ankle ability measure’ OR ‘foot and ankle disability index’/exp OR ‘foot and ankle disability index’ OR ‘lower extremity function scale’/exp OR ‘lower extremity function scale’ OR ‘lower extremity functional scale’ OR ‘ankle instability scale’ OR ‘sports ankle rating system’ OR ‘ankle joint function assessment’ OR ‘ankle instability index’ OR ‘ankle instability instrument’ OR ‘identification of functional ankle instability’ OR ‘tampa scale of kinesiophobia’/exp OR ‘tampa scale of kinesiophobia’ OR ‘sway index’ OR ‘functional reach test’/exp OR ‘functional reach test’ OR ‘patient reported outcome measurement information system’/exp OR ‘patient reported outcome measurement information system’ OR ‘short form health survey’ OR ‘short-form health survey’ OR ‘Short Form 36’/exp OR ‘Short Form 12’/exp OR ‘Short Form 20’/exp OR ‘Short Form 8’/exp OR ‘short form health survey’ OR ‘short-form health survey’ OR ‘Visual Analogue Scale’ OR ‘health utilities index’/exp OR ‘health utilities index’ OR HUI:ti,ab OR HUI-III:ti,ab OR HUI-3:ti,ab OR HUI3:ti,ab OR HUI-I:ti,ab OR HUI-2:ti,ab OR HUI2:ti,ab OR HUI-I:ti,ab OR HUI-1:ti,ab OR HUI-1:ti,ab OR HUI1:ti,ab OR ‘european quality of life 5 dimensions’/exp OR ‘European Quality of Life 5 Dimensions’ OR EuroQol*:ti,ab OR EQ-5D:ti,ab OR EQ5D*:ti,ab OR EQ 5D:ti,ab OR EORTC:ti,ab OR Rosser:ti,ab OR SF36:ti,ab OR SF-36:ti,ab OR ‘SF 36’:ti,ab OR ‘short form 36’:ti,ab OR ‘shortform 36’:ti,ab OR shortform36:ti,ab OR ‘36 item short form’:ti,ab OR ‘36-item short form’:ti,ab OR SF20:ti,ab OR SF-20:ti,ab OR ‘SF 20’:ti,ab OR ‘short form 20’:ti,ab OR ‘shortform 20’:ti,ab OR shortform20:ti,ab OR ‘20 item short form’:ti,ab OR ‘20-item short form’:ti,ab OR SF12:ti,ab OR SF-12:ti,ab OR ‘SF 12’:ti,ab OR ‘short form 12’:ti,ab OR ‘shortform 12’:ti,ab OR shortform12:ti,ab OR ‘12 item short form’:ti,ab OR ‘12-item short form’:ti,ab OR SF8:ti,ab OR SF-8:ti,ab OR ‘SF 8’:ti,ab OR ‘short form 8’:ti,ab OR ‘shortform 8’:ti,ab OR shortform8:ti,ab OR ‘8 item short form’:ti,ab OR ‘8-item short form’:ti,ab OR SF6:ti,ab OR SF-6:ti,ab OR ‘SF 6’:ti,ab OR ‘short form 6’:ti,ab OR ‘shortform 6’:ti,ab OR shortform6:ti,ab OR ‘6 item short form’:ti,ab OR ‘6-item short form’:ti,ab OR ‘QoL Questionnaire’ OR QLQ:ti,ab OR ‘health questionnaire’ OR ‘godin leisure time’ OR ‘numeric pain scale’/exp OR ‘numeric pain scale’ OR ‘lateral hopping for distance’ OR ‘6-m crossover hop’ OR ‘side hop’ OR ‘hopping course’ OR ‘square hop’ OR ‘cross hop’ OR ‘hop test’ OR ‘hopping test’ OR ‘40-m walk time’ OR ‘40-m run time’ OR ‘figureof-eight run’ OR ‘single-limb forward hop’ OR ‘single limb forward hop’ OR ‘stair hop’ OR ‘shuttle run’ OR ‘up/down hop’ OR ‘hop up’ OR ‘hopping up’ OR ‘hop down’ OR ‘hopping down’ OR ‘triple crossover hop’ OR ‘single-limb hurdle’ OR ‘single limb hurdle’ OR ‘single-limb 6-m hop’ OR ‘single-limb 30-m hop’ OR ‘figureof-eight hop’ OR ‘figure of eight hop’ OR ‘figure eight hop’ OR ‘drop landing’ OR ‘vertical jump’/exp OR ‘vertical jump’ OR ‘walking speed’/exp OR ‘walking speed’ OR ‘walking speeds’ OR ‘walking gait’ OR ‘gait speed’/exp OR ‘gait speed’ OR ‘gait speeds’ OR ‘walking pace’ OR ‘walking paces’ OR ‘running gait’ OR ‘running speed’/exp OR ‘running speed’ OR ‘running speeds’ OR ‘running pace’ OR ‘running paces’ OR ‘figure of 8 circumferential measure’ OR ‘volumetric measure’ OR ‘range of motion’/exp OR ‘range of motion’ OR ‘joint flexibility’/exp OR ‘joint flexibility’ OR ‘articular arthometry’ OR ‘articular goniometry’ OR ‘supination’/exp OR supination OR supinations OR ‘pronation’/exp OR pronation OR pronations OR ‘tibiopedal dorsiflexion’ OR ‘weight-bearing lunge’ OR ‘weight bearing lunge’ OR ‘algometry’/exp OR algometry OR ‘pain threshold’/exp OR ‘pain threshold’ OR ‘pain thresholds’ OR ‘pressurepain threshold’/exp OR ‘pressurepain threshold’ OR ‘pressurepain thresholds’ OR ‘cutaneous sensation’/exp OR ‘cutaneous sensation’ OR ‘hypesthesia’/exp OR hypesthesia OR hyperthesia OR ‘joint position sense’/exp OR ‘joint position sense’ OR ‘kinesthesia’/exp OR kinesthesia OR ‘kinesthesia’/exp OR kinesthesia OR kinesthesias OR kinesthetic OR ‘movement sensation’ OR ‘movement sensations’ OR ‘isokinetic muscle strength’ OR ‘isokinetic test’ OR ‘isokinetic tests’ OR ‘single-limb balance’ OR ‘single limb balance’ OR ‘romberg test’/exp OR ‘romberg test’ OR ‘balance test’/exp OR ‘balance test’ OR ‘balancing test’ OR ‘y balance’ OR ‘balance error scoring system’/exp OR ‘balance error scoring system’ OR ‘step-down test’ OR ‘step down test’/exp OR ‘step down test’ OR ‘single leg squat test’ OR ‘functional movement screen’/exp OR ‘functional movement screen’ OR ‘functional movement screening’ OR ‘functional movement screens’ OR ‘joint accessory mobility’ OR ‘joint play mobility’ OR ‘anterior drawer’ OR ‘talar tilt inversion’ OR ‘talar tilt eversion’ OR ‘talar rotation’ OR ‘talofibular interval’ OR ‘tibiofibular interval’ OR ‘distal fibula interval’ OR ‘foot posture index’/exp OR ‘foot posture index’ OR ‘squeeze test’/exp OR ‘squeeze test’ OR ‘cotton test’ OR ‘dorsiflexion maneuver’ OR ‘dorsiflexion maneuvers’ OR ‘dorsiflexion compression test’ OR ‘crossed leg test’ OR ‘heel thump test’ OR ‘kleiger dorsiflexion external rotation test’ OR ‘external rotation test’ OR ‘thompson test’ OR ‘function and prognostic score’ OR ‘function and prognostic scores’ OR ‘ankle function score’ OR ‘ankle scoring system’ OR ‘multisegmented foot’ OR ‘ankle-foot complex’ OR ‘foot morphology’ OR ‘intrinsic foot muscles’ OR ‘ankle assessment’ OR ‘ankle assessments’ OR ‘foot assessment’ OR ‘foot assessments’ OR ‘feet assessment’ OR ‘feet assessments’ OR ‘biomechanical assessment’ OR ‘biomechanical assessments’ OR ‘foot root model’ OR ‘ankle root model’) AND [embase]/lim	188148
#5	(‘risk’/exp OR risk OR risks OR ‘risk benefit’ OR ‘probability’/exp OR probability OR probabilities OR likelihood OR propensity OR ‘logistic model’/exp OR ‘logistic model’ OR ‘logistic models’ OR ‘logistic modeling’ OR ‘logistic regression’/exp OR ‘logistic regression’ OR ‘logistic regressions’ OR ‘protective factor’ OR ‘protective factors’/exp OR ‘protective factors’ OR ‘bayes theorem’/exp OR ‘bayes theorem’ OR bayesian OR ‘causality’/exp OR causality OR causalities OR causation OR causations OR cause OR causes OR ‘enabling factor’ OR ‘enabling factors’ OR ‘reinforcing factor’ OR ‘reinforcing factors’ OR ‘predisposing factor’/exp OR ‘predisposing factor’ OR ‘predisposing factors’ OR ‘predisposition’/exp OR predisposition OR ‘precipitating factors’/exp OR ‘precipitating factors’ OR ‘odds ratio’/exp OR ‘odds ratio’ OR ‘odds ratios’ OR ‘predict OR prediction’/exp OR prediction OR predictions OR predictabilities OR ‘predictability’/exp OR predictability OR predicted OR predictor OR ‘predictors’/exp OR predictors OR predictive OR ‘etiology’/de OR etiology OR etiologies OR etiological OR etiologic OR aetiology OR ‘origin’/exp OR origin OR origination OR originating OR interact OR interaction OR interactions OR interacting) AND [embase]/lim	9316738
#4	(‘incidence’/exp OR incidence OR incidences OR morbidity OR morbidities OR ‘epidemiology’/exp OR epidemiology OR ‘prevalence’/exp OR prevalence OR prevalent OR prevalencies) AND [embase]/lim	3694481

Table continues on page CPG59.

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#3	(physical therapy/exp OR physical therapy OR physical therapies OR physiotherapy/exp OR physiotherapy OR physiotherapies OR recovery/exp OR recovery OR restoration OR reeducation OR rehabilitation/exp OR rehabilitation OR rehab OR early ambulation/exp OR early ambulation OR accelerated ambulation OR early mobilization/exp OR early mobilization OR exercise therapy/exp OR exercise therapy OR therapeutic exercise/exp OR therapeutic exercise OR therapeutic exercises OR therapeutic modality OR therapeutic modalities OR stretching/exp OR stretching OR exercise movement OR strengthen OR strengthening OR resistance training/exp OR resistance training OR strength training/exp OR strength training OR weight bearing/exp OR weight-bearing OR weight lifting/exp OR weight-lifting OR resistance methods OR training program/exp OR training program OR biofeedback/exp OR biofeedback OR psychophysiologic feedback OR neuromuscular electrical stimulation/exp OR neuromuscular electrical stimulation OR neuromuscular reeducation OR pain management/exp OR pain management OR pain measurement/exp OR pain measurement OR mobilization/exp OR mobilization OR mobilizations OR manipulation/exp OR manipulation OR manipulations OR ultrasonography/exp OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR acupuncture/exp OR acupuncture OR patient education/exp OR patient education OR education of patients OR iontophoresis/exp OR iontophoresis OR electric stimulation/exp OR electric stimulation OR nerve stimulation/exp OR nerve stimulation OR tape/exp OR taping OR bracing/exp OR brace OR bracing OR braces OR orthoses OR immobilization/exp OR immobilization OR orthotics/exp OR orthotic OR orthotics OR thermal agent OR thermal agents OR diathermy/exp OR diathermy OR range of motion/exp OR range of motion OR joint flexibility/exp OR joint flexibility OR joint movement/exp OR joint movement OR manual therapy/exp OR manual therapy OR massage/exp OR massage OR massages OR treatment outcome/exp OR treatment outcome OR clinical effectiveness/exp OR clinical effectiveness OR treatment effectiveness OR treatment efficacy OR patient outcome/exp OR patient outcome OR patient outcomes) AND [embase]/lim	3750588
#2	(injury/de OR injuries OR injury OR injured OR sprain/exp OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR strain/exp OR strains OR strain OR strained OR swelling/exp OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR instability/exp OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR joint effusion/exp OR joint effusion OR proprioception deficit OR proprioception deficits OR proprioception deficiency OR proprioception deficiencies OR balance/exp OR balance OR unbalanced OR musculoskeletal equilibrium/exp OR musculoskeletal equilibrium OR postural equilibrium/exp OR postural equilibrium OR hypermobility/exp OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR tear/exp OR tear OR torn OR external rotation/exp OR external rotation OR eversion/exp OR inversion/exp OR eversion OR inversion) AND [embase]/lim	2422429
#1	(ankle/exp OR ankle OR ankles OR regio tarsalis OR tarsus/exp OR talus OR tarsus OR metatarsus/exp OR metatarsus OR metatarsal OR subtalar joint/exp OR subtalar joint OR talonavicular joint/exp OR talocalcaneal joint/exp OR talocalcaneal joint OR talocrural OR articulatio talocruralis OR tarsal joint/exp OR tarsal joints OR tarsal joint OR midtarsal joint/exp OR midtarsal joint OR midtarsal joints OR intertarsal joint/exp OR intertarsal joint OR intertarsal joints OR intertarsal articulation/exp OR intertarsal articulation OR articulationes intertarsae OR articulationes intertarsales OR ligamentum laterale articulationis talocruralis OR calcaneofibular OR tibiofibular OR tibiotalar OR tibionavicular OR tibioalcaneal OR talofibular OR talonavicular OR calcaneocuboid OR ankle lateral ligament/exp OR ankle lateral ligament OR bifurcate ligament OR inferior transverse ligament OR deltoid ligament OR medial ligament OR interosseous ligament OR peroneus nerve/exp OR tibial nerve/exp OR tibial nerve OR peroneal nerve OR peroneus nerve OR saphenous nerve/exp OR saphenous nerve OR medial plantar nerve/exp OR medial plantar nerve OR lateral plantar nerve/exp OR lateral plantar nerve OR fibular nerve/exp OR fibular nerve OR achilles tendon/exp OR achilles tendon OR calcaneal OR calcaneus OR interosseous membrane/exp OR interosseous membrane OR interosseous membranes OR dorsal interossei OR plantar interossei OR syndesmosis OR syndesmoses OR syndesmotica OR tibialis anterior OR fibularis longus OR fibularis brevis OR peroneus tertius OR peroneus longus/exp OR peroneus longus OR peroneus brevis/exp OR peroneus brevis OR flexor hallucis longus/exp OR flexor hallucis longus OR flexor digitorum longus/exp OR flexor digitorum longus OR extensor digitorum longus OR tibialis posterior OR soleus/exp OR soleus OR peroneal OR gastrocnemius/exp OR gastrocnemius OR abductor hallucis/exp OR abductor hallucis OR adductor hallucis OR flexor hallucis brevis/exp OR flexor hallucis brevis OR abductor digiti minimi/exp OR abductor digiti minimi OR flexor digiti minimi OR lumbricals OR quadratus plantae OR flexor digitorum brevis OR gluteus muscle/exp OR gluteus medius OR gluteus maximus OR gluteal OR hip abductor OR hip rotator) OR (foot/exp OR foot OR feet OR foot muscle/exp OR flexor digitorum brevis/exp OR flexor digitorum brevis muscle/exp OR plantaris muscle/exp OR plantaris muscle OR articulationes pedis OR metatarsophalangeal OR heel/exp OR heel OR heels OR sinus tarsi OR sinus tarsus OR rearfoot/exp OR rearfoot OR midfoot/exp OR midfoot) AND [embase]/lim	208854

CINAHL

History: June 26, 2018

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#14	#9 AND #8 AND [Published Date: 20130101-20181231, Source Types: Academic Journals, Language: English]	1991
#13	#7 AND #6 AND #1 AND [Published Date: 20130101-20181231, Source Types: Academic Journals, Language: English]	582
#12	#9 AND #5 AND [Published Date: 20130101-20181231, Source Types: Academic Journals, Language: English]	2066
#11	#9 AND #4 AND [Published Date: 20130101-20181231, Source Types: Academic Journals, Language: English]	179
#10	#9 AND #3 AND [Published Date: 20130101-20181231, Source Types: Academic Journals, Language: English]	2238
#9	#1 AND #2 AND [Published Date: 20130101-20181231, Source Types: Academic Journals, Language: English]	5128

Table continues on page CPG60.

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#8	(MH "Diagnosis" OR MH "Diagnosis, Computer Assisted" OR MH "Diagnosis, Delayed" OR MH "Diagnosis, Differential" OR MH "Early Diagnosis" OR MM "Diagnosis, Musculoskeletal" OR MH "Diagnostic Imaging" OR diagnosis OR diagnose OR diagnoses OR diagnostic OR "clinical decision-making" OR "clinical decision making" OR "medical decision-making" OR "medical decision making" OR "diagnostic imaging" OR "medical imaging" OR MH "Magnetic Resonance Imaging" OR MH "Ultrasonography" OR MH "Tomography, X-Ray" OR MH "Radiography" OR radiography OR "diagnostic x-ray" OR "diagnostic x ray" OR "diagnostic x-rays" OR "magnetic resonance imaging" OR MRI OR fMRI OR "NMR imaging" OR "MR tomography" OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR ultrasounds OR ultrasonic OR MH "Electromyography" OR electromyography OR electromyographies OR electromyogram OR electromyograms OR "electrophysiologic test" OR "electrophysiologic tests" OR "electrophysiologic testing" OR "neural conduction" OR "neural conductions" OR "nerve conduction" OR "nerve conductions" OR MH "Actigraphy" OR actigraphy OR MH "Physical Therapy Assessment")	934241
#7	(MH "Sensitivity and Specificity" OR sensitivity OR specificity OR MH "Evaluation Research" OR "evaluation indexes" OR "evaluation report" OR "evaluation reports" OR "evaluation research" OR use-effectiveness OR "use effectiveness" OR "prepost tests" OR "pre post tests" OR "prepost test" OR "qualitative evaluation" OR "qualitative evaluations" OR "quantitative evaluation" OR "quantitative evaluations" OR "theoretical effectiveness" OR critique OR critiques OR "evaluation methodology" OR "evaluation methodologies" OR MH "Reproducibility of Results" OR reproducibility OR MH "Validity+" OR validity OR MH "Reliability" OR reliability OR MH "Reliability and Validity" OR "data accuracy" OR "data accuracies" OR "data quality" OR "data qualities" OR MH "Precision" OR precision OR responsiveness OR consistency OR consistencies OR consistent OR "log-likelihood ratio" OR "likelihood-ratio" OR "likelihood ratio" OR MH "Study Design" OR "research design" OR "research designs" OR "research strategy" OR "research strategies" OR "research techniques" OR "research technique" OR MH "Research Methodology" OR "research methodology" OR "research methodologies" OR "experimental design" OR "experimental designs" )	524735
#6	(ZQ "cumberland ankle instability tool" OR ZQ "cumberland ankle instability tool (cait)" OR "Cumberland ankle instability tool" OR ZQ "chronic ankle instability scale (cais)" OR "Chronic Ankle Instability Scale" OR ZQ "sports ankle rating system" OR "Sports Ankle Rating System" OR ZQ "ankle joint functional assessment tool" OR "Ankle Joint Functional Assessment Tool" OR ZQ "foot function index" OR ZQ "foot function index (ffi)" OR "Foot Function Index" OR ZQ "foot and ankle outcome score" OR ZQ "foot and ankle outcome score (faos)" OR ZQ "foot and ankle outcome scores (faos)" OR "Foot and Ankle Outcome Score" OR ZQ "karlsson score" OR "Karlsson Ankle Function Score" OR "Karlsson Score" OR ZQ "kaikkonen scale" OR "Kaikkonen scale" OR "Kaikkonen score" OR ZQ "ottawa ankle rules" OR ZQ "ottawa ankle rules (oar)" OR "Ottawa ankle rules" OR "Buffalo modification" OR ZQ "foot and ankle ability measure (faam)" OR "foot and ankle ability measure" OR "foot ability measure" OR "ankle ability measure" OR ZQ "foot and ankle disability index (fadi)" OR "foot and ankle disability index" OR ZQ "lower extremity functional scale (lefs)" OR "lower extremity functional scale" OR "ankle instability scale" OR "sports ankle rating system" OR ZQ "ankle joint functional assessment tool (ajfat)" OR "ankle joint function assessment" OR ZQ "ankle instability index" OR ZQ "ankle instability instrument" OR "ankle instability instrument" OR "identification of functional ankle instability" OR ZQ "tampa scale for kinesiophobia (tsk)" OR "Tampa scale of kinesiophobia" OR "sway index" OR ZQ "functional reach test" OR ZQ "functional reach test (frit)" OR "functional reach test" OR ZQ "patient reported outcomes measurement information system (promis)" OR "Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System" OR MH "Short Form-36 Health Survey (SF-36)" OR ZQ "short form health survey (sf-36)" OR ZQ "short form health survey" OR "short form health survey" OR "short-form health survey" OR ZQ "visual analogue scale" OR ZQ "visual analogue scale (vas)" OR "Visual Analogue Scale" OR ZQ "health utilities index (hui)" OR "health utilities index" OR "European Quality of life 5 Dimensions" OR EuroQol OR "short form 36" OR "shortform 36" OR shortform36 OR "36 item short form" OR "36-item short form" OR "short form 20" OR "shortform 20" OR shortform20 OR "20 item short form" OR "20-item short form" OR "short form 12" OR "shortform 12" OR shortform12 OR "12 item short form" OR "12-item short form" OR "short form 8" OR "shortform 8" OR shortform8 OR "8 item short form" OR "8-item short form" OR "short form 6" OR "shortform 6" OR shortform6 OR "6 item short form" OR "6-item short form" OR "QoL Questionnaire" OR "health questionnaire" OR ZQ "godin leisure time exercise questionnaire" OR ZQ "godin leisure time exercise questionnaire (gteq)" OR "Godin leisure time" OR ZQ "numeric pain scale" OR "Numeric Pain Scale" OR ZQ "hop test" OR "lateral hopping for distance" OR "6-m crossover hop" OR "side hop" OR "hopping course" OR "square hop" OR "cross hop" OR "hop test" OR "hopping test" OR "40-m walk time" OR "40-m run time" OR "figure-of-eight run" OR "single-limb forward hop" OR "single limb forward hop" OR "stair hop" OR "shuttle run" OR "up/down hop" OR "hop up" OR "hopping up" OR "hop down" OR "hopping down" OR "triple crossover hop" OR "single-limb hurdle" OR "single limb hurdle" OR "single-limb 6-m hop" OR "single-limb 30-m hop" OR "figure-of-eight hop" OR "figure of eight hop" OR "figure eight hop" OR "drop landing" OR "vertical jump" OR "walking speed" OR "walking speeds" OR "walking gait" OR "gait speed" OR "gait speeds" OR "walking pace" OR "walking paces" OR "running gait" OR "running speed" OR "running speeds" OR "running pace" OR "running paces" OR "figure of 8 circumferential measure" OR "volumetric measure" OR MH "Range of Motion" OR "range of motion" OR "joint flexibility" OR "articular arthrometry" OR "articular goniometry" OR MH "Supination" OR supination OR supinations OR MH "Pronation" OR pronation OR pronations OR "tibiopedal dorsiflexion" OR "weight-bearing lunge" OR "weight bearing lunge" OR MH "Algometry" OR algometry OR MH "Pain Threshold" OR "pain threshold" OR "pain thresholds" OR "pressurepain threshold" OR "pressurepain thresholds" OR "cutaneous sensation" OR MH "Hypesthesia" OR hypesthesia OR hyperesthesia OR "joint position sense" OR MH "Kinesthesia" OR kinesthesia OR kinesthesia OR kinesthesias OR kinesthetic OR "movement sensation" OR "movement sensations" OR "isokinetic muscle strength" OR "isokinetic test" OR "isokinetic tests" OR "single-limb balance" OR "single limb balance" OR ZQ "romberg test" OR ZQ "romberg's test" OR "Romberg test" OR ZQ "balance test" OR "balance test" OR "balancing test" OR ZQ "y balance test" OR "Y balance" OR ZQ "balance error scoring system (bess)" OR "Balance Error Scoring System" OR ZQ "step-down test" OR "step-down test" OR "step down test" OR "single leg squat test" OR ZQ "functional movement screen" OR ZQ "functional movement screen (fms)" OR "functional movement screen" OR "functional movement screening" OR "functional movement screens" OR "joint accessory mobility" OR "joint play mobility" OR ZQ "anterior drawer test" OR "anterior drawer" OR "talar tilt inversion" OR "talar tilt eversion" OR "talar rotation" OR "talofibular interval" OR "tibiofibular interval" OR "distal fibula interval" OR ZQ "foot posture index" OR ZQ "foot posture index (fpi)" OR "foot posture index" OR "squeeze test" OR "Cotton test" OR "dorsiflexion maneuver" OR "dorsiflexion maneuvers" OR "dorsiflexion compression test" OR "crossed leg test" OR "heel thump test" OR "Kleiger dorsiflexion external rotation test" OR "external rotation test" OR ZQ "thompson test" OR "Thompson test" OR "function and prognostic score" OR "function and prognostic scores" OR ZQ "ankle function score" OR "ankle function score" OR "ankle scoring system" OR "multisegmented foot" OR "ankle-foot complex" OR "foot morphology" OR "intrinsic foot muscles" OR "ankle assessment" OR "ankle assessments" OR "foot assessment" OR "foot assessments" OR "feet assessment" OR "feet assessments" OR "biomechanical assessment" OR "biomechanical assessments" OR "foot root model" OR "ankle root model")	67776

Table continues on page CPG61.

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#5	(MH "Risk Assessment" OR MH "Risk Factors" OR risk OR risks OR risk-benefit OR MH "Probability" OR probability OR probabilities OR likelihood OR propensity OR MH "Multiple Logistic Regression" OR "logistic model" OR "logistic models" OR "logistic modeling" OR "logistic regression" OR "logistic regressions" OR "protective factor" OR "protective factors" OR "Bayes theorem" OR Bayesian OR MH "Causal Attribution" OR causality OR causalities OR causation OR causations OR cause OR causes OR "enabling factor" OR "enabling factors" OR "reinforcing factor" OR "reinforcing factors" OR "predisposing factor" OR "predisposing factors" OR predisposition OR "precipitating factors" OR "precipitating factor" OR predictor OR predictors OR MH "Odds Ratio" OR "odds ratio" OR "odds ratios" OR predict OR prediction OR predictions OR predictabilities OR predictability OR predicted OR predictor OR predictors OR predictive OR etiologies OR etiological OR aetiology OR origin OR origination OR originating OR MH "Interaction (Research)" OR interact OR interaction OR interactions OR interacting)	1409663
#4	(MH "Incidence" OR incidence OR incidences OR MH "Morbidity" OR morbidity OR morbidities OR MH "Epidemiology" OR epidemiology OR MH "Prevalence" OR prevalence OR prevalent OR prevalencies)	178273
#3	(MH "Physical Therapy" OR "physical therapy" OR "physical therapies" OR physiotherapy OR physiotherapies OR MH "Recovery" OR MH "Recovery, Exercise" OR recovery OR restoration OR reeducation OR MH "Rehabilitation" OR rehabilitation OR rehab OR MH "Early Ambulation" OR "early ambulation" OR "accelerated ambulation" OR "early mobilization" OR MH "Therapeutic Exercise" OR "exercise therapy" OR "therapeutic exercise" OR "therapeutic exercises" OR "therapeutic modality" OR "therapeutic modalities" OR stretching OR "exercise movement" OR MH "Gait Training" OR strengthen OR strengthening OR MH "Resistance Training" OR MH "Muscle Strengthening" OR "resistance training" OR "strength training" OR weight-bearing OR weight-lifting OR "resistance methods" OR "training program" OR MH "Biofeedback" OR biofeedback OR "psychophysiologic feedback" OR "neuromuscular electrical stimulation" OR "neuromuscular reeducation" OR MH "Pain Management" OR MH "Pain Measurement" OR "pain management" OR "pain measurement" OR MH "Joint Mobilization" OR mobilization OR mobilizations OR manipulation OR manipulations OR MH "Ultrasonography" OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR MH "Acupuncture" OR acupuncture OR MH "Patient Education" OR "patient education" OR "education of patients" OR MH "Iontophoresis" OR iontophoresis OR MH "Electrotherapy" OR "electric stimulation" OR "nerve stimulation" OR MH "Taping and Strapping" OR taping OR tape OR MH "Orthoses" OR orthoses OR bracing OR brace OR braces OR immobilization OR orthotic OR orthotics OR "thermal agent" OR "thermal agents" OR diathermy OR "range of motion" OR "joint flexibility" OR "joint movement" OR MH "Manual Therapy" OR "manual therapy" OR MH "Massage" OR massage OR massages OR MH "Treatment Outcomes" OR "treatment outcome" OR "clinical effectiveness" OR "treatment effectiveness" OR "treatment efficacy" OR MH "Outcomes (Health Care)" OR "patient outcome" OR "patient outcomes")	640059
#2	(MH "Wounds and Injuries" OR MH "Athletic Injuries+" OR MH "Leg Injuries" OR MH "Ligament Injuries" OR MH "Ankle Injuries+" OR MH "Foot Injuries+" OR MH "Tendon Injuries+" OR injuries OR injury OR injured OR MH "Ankle Sprain, Syndesmosis" OR MH "Sprains and Strains+" OR MH "Calf Strain" OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR strains OR strain OR strained OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR MH "Joint Instability+" OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR "joint effusion" OR "proprioception deficit" OR "proprioception deficits" OR "proprioception deficiency" OR "proprioception deficiencies" OR MH "Balance, Postural" OR balance OR unbalanced OR "musculoskeletal equilibrium" OR "postural equilibrium" OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR MH "Tears and Lacerations+" OR tear OR torn OR "external rotation" OR MH "Eversion" OR MH "Inversion" OR eversion OR inversion)	352935
#1	(MH "Ankle" OR ankle OR ankles OR regio tarsalis OR MH "Talus" OR talus OR tarsus OR metatarsus OR metatarsal OR MH "Ankle Joint" OR "subtalar joint" OR "talocalcaneal joint" OR talocrural OR "articulatio talocruralis" OR "tarsal joints" OR "tarsal joint" OR "midtarsal joint" OR "midtarsal joints" OR "intertarsal joint" OR "intertarsal joints" OR "intertarsal articulation" OR "articulationes intertarseae" OR "articulationes intertarsales" OR "ligamentum laterale articulationis talocruralis" OR calcaneofibular OR tibiofibular OR tibiotalar OR tibionavicular OR tibioalcaneal OR talofibular OR talonavicular OR calcaneocuboid OR MH "Lateral Ligament, Ankle" OR "ankle lateral ligament" OR "bifurcate* ligament*" OR "inferior transverse ligament*" OR "deltoid ligament*" OR "medial ligament*" OR "interosseous ligament*" OR MH "Tibial Nerve" OR "tibial nerve" OR MH "Peroneal Nerve" OR "peroneal nerve" OR "saphenous nerve" OR "medial plantar nerve" OR "lateral plantar nerve" OR "fibular nerve" OR "fibularis tertius" OR MH "Achilles Tendon" OR "achilles tendon" OR calcaneal OR calcaneus OR "interosseous membrane" OR "interosseous membranes" OR "dorsal interossei" OR "plantar interossei" OR syndesmosis OR syndesmoses OR syndesmotic OR "tibialis anterior" OR "fibularis longus" OR "fibularis brevis" OR "peroneus tertius" OR "peroneus longus" OR "peroneus brevis" OR "flexor hallucis longus" OR "flexor digitorum longus" OR "extensor digitorum longus" OR "tibialis posterior" OR MH "Soleus Muscles" OR soleus OR peroneal OR MH "Gastrocnemius Muscle" OR gastrocnemius OR "abductor hallucis" OR "adductor hallucis" OR "flexor hallucis brevis" OR "abductor digiti minimi" OR "flexor digiti minimi" OR "lumbricals" OR "quadratus plantae" OR "flexor digitorum brevis" OR MH "Gluteal Muscles" OR "gluteus medius" OR "gluteus maximus" OR "gluteal" OR "hip abductor" OR "hip rotator") OR (foot OR MH "Foot" OR feet OR "articulationes pedis" OR metatarsophalangeal OR MH "Heel" OR heel OR heels OR "sinus tarsi" OR "sinus tarsus" OR rearfoot OR midfoot)	68058

Cochrane Library

History: June 26, 2018

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#14	#9 AND #8 AND [Publication Year from 2013 to 2018]	538
#13	#7 AND #6 AND #1 AND [Publication Year from 2013 to 2018]	183
#12	#9 AND #5 AND [Publication Year from 2013 to 2018]	754
#11	#9 AND #4 AND [Publication Year from 2013 to 2018]	250
#10	#9 AND #3 AND [Publication Year from 2013 to 2018]	1299
#9	#1 AND #2 AND [Publication Year from 2013 to 2018]	1980

Table continues on page CPG62.



## APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#8	(diagnosis OR diagnose OR diagnoses OR diagnostic OR "clinical decision-making" OR "clinical decision making" OR "medical decision-making" OR "medical decision making" OR "diagnostic imaging" OR "medical imaging" OR radiography OR "diagnostic x-ray" OR "diagnostic x ray" OR "diagnostic x-rays" OR "magnetic resonance imaging" OR MRI OR fMRI OR "NMR imaging" OR "MR tomography" OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR ultrasounds OR ultrasonic OR electromyography OR electromyographies OR electromyogram OR electromyograms OR "electrophysiologic test" OR "electrophysiologic tests" OR "electrophysiologic testing" OR "neural conduction" OR "neural conductions" OR "nerve conduction" OR "nerve conductions" OR actigraphy)	158649
#7	(sensitivity OR specificity OR "evaluation indexes" OR "evaluation report" OR "evaluation reports" OR "evaluation research" OR use-effectiveness OR "use effectiveness" OR "prepost tests" OR "pre post tests" OR "prepost test" OR "qualitative evaluation" OR "qualitative evaluations" OR "quantitative evaluation" OR "quantitative evaluations" OR "theoretical effectiveness" OR critique OR critiques OR "evaluation methodology" OR "evaluation methodologies" OR reproducibility OR validity OR reliability OR "data accuracy" OR "data accuracies" OR "data quality" OR "data qualities" OR precision OR responsiveness OR consistency OR consistencies OR consistent OR "log-likelihood ratio" OR "likelihood-ratio" OR "likelihood ratio" OR "research design" OR "research designs" OR "research strategy" OR "research strategies" OR "research techniques" OR "research technique" OR "research methodology" OR "research methodologies" OR "experimental design" OR "experimental designs" )	127277
#6	("Cumberland ankle instability tool" OR "Chronic Ankle Instability Scale" OR "Sports Ankle Rating System" OR "Ankle Joint Functional Assessment Tool" OR "Foot Function Index" OR "Foot and Ankle Outcome Score" OR "Karlsson Ankle Function Score" OR "Karlsson Score" OR "Kaikkonen score" OR "Kaikkonen score" OR "Ottawa ankle rules" OR "Buffalo modification" OR "foot and ankle ability measure" OR "foot ability measure" OR "ankle ability measure" OR "foot and ankle disability index" OR "lower extremity functional scale" OR "ankle instability scale" OR "sports ankle rating system" OR "ankle joint function assessment" OR "ankle instability index" OR "ankle instability instrument" OR "identification of functional ankle instability" OR "Tampa scale of kinesiophobia" OR "sway index" OR "functional reach test" OR "Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System" OR "short form health survey" OR "short-form health survey" OR "Visual Analogue Scale" OR "health utilities index" OR "European Quality of life 5 Dimensions" OR EuroQol OR "short form 36" OR "shortform 36" OR "shortform 36" OR "36 item short form" OR "36-item short form" OR "short form 20" OR "shortform 20" OR shortform20 OR "20 item short form" OR "20-item short form" OR "short form 12" OR "shortform 12" OR shortform12 OR "12 item short form" OR "12-item short form" OR "short form 8" OR "shortform 8" OR shortform8 OR "8 item short form" OR "8-item short form" OR "short form 6" OR "shortform 6" OR shortform6 OR "6 item short form" OR "6-item short form" OR "QoL Questionnaire" OR "health questionnaire" OR "Godin leisure time" OR "Numeric Pain Scale" OR "lateral hopping for distance" OR "6-m crossover hop" OR "side hop" OR "hopping course" OR "square hop" OR "cross hop" OR "hop test" OR "hopping test" OR "40-m walk time" OR "40-m run time" OR "figure-of-eight run" OR "single-limb forward hop" OR "single limb forward hop" OR "stair hop" OR "shuttle run" OR "up/down hop" OR "hop up" OR "hopping up" OR "hop down" OR "hopping down" OR "triple crossover hop" OR "single-limb hurdle" OR "single limb hurdle" OR "single-limb 6-m hop" OR "single-limb 30-m hop" OR "figure-of-eight hop" OR "figure of eight hop" OR "figure eight hop" OR "drop landing" OR "vertical jump" OR "walking speed" OR "walking speeds" OR "walking gait" OR "gait speed" OR "gait speeds" OR "walking pace" OR "walking paces" OR "running gait" OR "running speed" OR "running speeds" OR "running pace" OR "running paces" OR "figure of 8 circumferential measure" OR "volumetric measure" OR "range of motion" OR "joint flexibility" OR "articular arthometry" OR "articular goniometry" OR supination OR supinations OR pronation OR pronations OR "tibioepal dorsiflexion" OR "weight-bearing lunge" OR "weight bearing lunge" OR algometry OR "pain threshold" OR "pain thresholds" OR "pressurepain threshold" OR "pressurepain thresholds" OR "cutaneous sensation" OR hypesthesia OR hyperesthesia OR "joint position sense" OR kinesthesia OR kinesthetics OR kinesthetic OR "movement sensation" OR "movement sensations" OR "isokinetic muscle strength" OR "isokinetic test" OR "isokinetic tests" OR "single-limb balance" OR "single limb balance" OR "Romberg test" OR "balance test" OR "balancing test" OR "Y balance" OR "Balance Error Scoring System" OR "step-down test" OR "step down test" OR "single leg squat test" OR "functional movement screen" OR "functional movement screening" OR "functional movement screens" OR "joint accessory mobility" OR "joint play mobility" OR "anterior drawer" OR "talar tilt inversion" OR "talar tilt eversion" OR "talar rotation" OR "talo-fibular interval" OR "tibiofibular interval" OR "distal fibula interval" OR "foot posture index" OR "squeeze test" OR "Cotton test" OR "dorsiflexion maneuver" OR "dorsiflexion maneuvers" OR "dorsiflexion compression test" OR "crossed leg test" OR "heel thump test" OR "Kleiger dorsiflexion external rotation test" OR "external rotation test" OR "Thompson test" OR "function and prognostic score" OR "function and prognostic scores" OR "ankle function score" OR "ankle scoring system" OR "multisegmented foot" OR "ankle-foot complex" OR "foot morphology" OR "intrinsic foot muscles" OR "ankle assessment" OR "ankle assessments" OR "foot assessment" OR "foot assessments" OR "feet assessment" OR "feet assessments" OR "biomechanical assessment" OR "biomechanical assessments" OR "foot root model" OR "ankle root model")	50924
#5	(risk OR risks OR risk-benefit OR probability OR probabilities OR likelihood OR propensity OR "logistic model" OR "logistic models" OR "logistic modeling" OR "logistic regression" OR "logistic regressions" OR "protective factor" OR "protective factors" OR "Bayes theorem" OR Bayesian OR causality OR causalities OR causation OR causations OR cause OR causes OR "enabling factor" OR "enabling factors" OR "reinforcing factor" OR "reinforcing factors" OR "predisposing factor" OR "predisposing factors" OR predisposition OR "precipitating factors" OR "precipitating factor" OR predictor OR predictors OR "odds ratio" OR "odds ratios" OR predict OR prediction OR predictions OR predictabilities OR predictability OR predicted OR predictor OR predictors OR predictive OR etiology OR etiologies OR etiological OR etiologic OR aetiology OR origin OR origination OR originating OR interact OR interaction OR interactions OR interacting)	355072
#4	(incidence OR incidences OR morbidity OR morbidities OR epidemiology OR prevalence OR prevalent OR prevalencies)	144274

Table continues on page CPG63.

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#3	("physical therapy" OR "physical therapies" OR physiotherapy OR physiotherapies OR recovery OR restoration OR reeducation OR rehabilitation OR rehab OR "early ambulation" OR "accelerated ambulation" OR "early mobilization" OR "exercise therapy" OR "therapeutic exercise" OR "therapeutic exercises" OR "therapeutic modality" OR "therapeutic modalities" OR stretching OR "exercise movement" OR strengthen OR strengthening OR "resistance training" OR "strength training" OR weight-bearing OR weight-lifting OR "resistance methods" OR "training program" OR biofeedback OR "psychophysiologic feedback" OR "neuromuscular electrical stimulation" OR "neuromuscular reeducation" OR "pain management" OR "pain measurement" OR mobilization OR mobilizations OR manipulation OR manipulations OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR acupuncture OR "patient education" OR "education of patients" OR iontophoresis OR "electric stimulation" OR "nerve stimulation" OR taping OR tape OR bracing OR brace OR braces OR immobilization OR immobilize OR orthotic OR orthotics OR "thermal agent" OR "thermal agents" OR diathermy OR "range of motion" OR "joint flexibility" OR "joint movement" OR "manual therapy" OR massage OR massages OR "treatment outcome" OR "clinical effectiveness" OR "treatment effectiveness" OR "treatment efficacy" OR "patient outcome" OR "patient outcomes")	312688
#2	(injuries OR injury OR injured OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR strains OR strain OR strained OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR "joint effusion" OR "proprioception deficit" OR "proprioception deficits" OR "proprioception deficiency" OR "proprioception deficiencies" OR balance OR unbalanced OR "musculoskeletal equilibrium" OR "postural equilibrium" OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR tear OR torn OR "external rotation" OR eversion OR inversion)	92252
#1	(ankle OR ankles OR regio tarsalis OR talar OR tarsus OR metatarsus OR metatarsal OR "subtalar joint" OR "talocalcaneal joint" OR talocrural OR "articulatio talocruralis" OR "tarsal joints" OR "tarsal joint" OR "midtarsal joint" OR "midtarsal joints" OR "intertarsal joint" OR "intertarsal joints" OR "intertarsal articulation" OR "articulationes intertarseae" OR "articulationes intertarsales" OR "ligamentum laterale articulationis talocruralis" OR calcaneofibular OR tibiofibular OR tibiotalar OR tibionavicular OR tibioalcaneal OR talofibular OR talonavicular OR calcaneocuboid OR "bifurcate* ligament*" OR "inferior transverse ligament*" OR "deltoid ligament*" OR "medial ligament*" OR "interosseous ligament*" OR "tibial nerve" OR "peroneal nerve" OR "saphenous nerve" OR "medial plantar nerve" OR "lateral plantar nerve" OR "fibular nerve" OR "fibularis tertius" OR "achilles tendon" OR calcaneal OR calcaneus OR "interosseous membrane" OR "interosseous membranes" OR "dorsal interossei" OR "plantar interossei" OR syndesmosis OR syndesmoses OR syndesmoti OR "tibialis anterior" OR "fibularis longus" OR "fibularis brevis" OR "peroneus tertius" OR "peroneus longus" OR "peroneus brevis" OR "flexor hallucis longus" OR "flexor digitorum longus" OR "extensor digitorum longus" OR "tibialis posterior" OR soleus OR peroneal OR gastrocnemius OR "abductor hallucis" OR "adductor hallucis" OR "flexor hallucis brevis" OR "abductor digiti minimi" OR "flexor digiti minimi" OR "lumbricals" OR "quadratus plantae" OR "flexor digitorum brevis" OR "gluteus medius" OR "gluteus maximus" OR "gluteal" OR "hip abductor" OR "hip rotator") OR (foot OR feet OR "articulationes pedis" OR metatarsophalangeal OR heel OR heels OR "sinus tarsi" OR "sinus tarsus" OR rearfoot OR midfoot)	18648

**PEDro Advanced Search**

History: June 26, 2018

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#14	Abstract & Title: diagnos* Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	41
#13	Abstract & Title: inversion Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	10
#12	Abstract & Title: eversion Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	8
#11	Abstract & Title: external rotation Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	1
#10	Abstract & Title: tear Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	2
#9	Abstract & Title: equilibrium Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	3
#8	Abstract & Title: balance Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	109
#7	Abstract & Title: proprioception Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	12

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Search	Query	Items Found, n
#6	Abstract & Title: swell* Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	11
#5	Abstract & Title: injury Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	70
#4	Abstract & Title: strain* Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	3
#3	Abstract & Title: sprain* Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	51
#2	Abstract & Title: unstable Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	6
#1	Abstract & Title: instability Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2013	50

PubMed Update

Updated Searches From June 26, 2018 to June 1, 2020

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#14	#1 AND #9 AND #12 AND #13	5070
#13	#3 OR #4 OR #5 OR (#6 AND #7) OR #8	16889026
#12	#10 OR #11	2724576
#11	(#2 NOT (fracture[tw] NOT (sprains[tw] OR sprain[tw] OR sprained[tw] OR strains[tw] OR strain[tw] OR strained[tw] OR swelling[tw] OR swollen[tw] OR swell[tw] OR "Joint Instability"[Mesh] OR instability[tw] OR instabilities[tw] OR unstable[tw] OR joint effusion[tw] OR "Proprioception"[Mesh] OR proprioception deficit[tw] OR proprioception deficits[tw] OR proprioception deficiency[tw] OR proprioception deficiencies[tw] OR "Postural Balance"[Mesh] OR balance[tw] OR unbalanced[tw] OR musculoskeletal equilibrium[tw] OR postural equilibrium[tw] OR hypermobility[tw] OR hypermobilities[tw] OR laxity[tw] OR laxities[tw] OR tear[tw] OR torn[tw] OR external rotation[tw] OR eversion[tw] OR inversion[tw]))))	2660096
#10	(#2 NOT (osteoarthritis[tw] NOT (sprains[tw] OR sprain[tw] OR sprained[tw] OR strains[tw] OR strain[tw] OR strained[tw] OR swelling[tw] OR swollen[tw] OR swell[tw] OR "Joint Instability"[Mesh] OR instability[tw] OR instabilities[tw] OR unstable[tw] OR joint effusion[tw] OR "Proprioception"[Mesh] OR proprioception deficit[tw] OR proprioception deficits[tw] OR proprioception deficiency[tw] OR proprioception deficiencies[tw] OR "Postural Balance"[Mesh] OR balance[tw] OR unbalanced[tw] OR musculoskeletal equilibrium[tw] OR postural equilibrium[tw] OR hypermobility[tw] OR hypermobilities[tw] OR laxity[tw] OR laxities[tw] OR tear[tw] OR torn[tw] OR external rotation[tw] OR eversion[tw] OR inversion[tw]))))	2717587
#9	("2018/06/01"[Date - Publication]: "3000"[Date - Publication]) NOT (animals[mh] NOT humans[mh]) NOT ("Book Reviews"[Publication Type] OR "Comment"[Publication Type] OR "Editorial"[Publication Type] OR "Letter"[Publication Type] OR "Review"[Publication Type] OR "Meeting Abstracts"[Publication Type] OR "Public Service Announcements"[Publication Type] OR "News"[Publication Type] OR "Newspaper Article"[Publication Type] OR "Case Reports"[Publication Type] OR "Academic Dissertations"[Publication Type] OR "Retracted Publication"[Publication Type]) AND "English"[Language]	1896226
#8	("Diagnosis"[Mesh] OR "diagnosis"[Subheading] OR "Delayed Diagnosis"[Mesh] OR "Early Diagnosis"[Mesh] OR "Diagnosis, Differential"[Mesh] OR "Diagnosis, Computer-Assisted"[Mesh] OR "Diagnostic Techniques and Procedures"[Mesh] OR diagnosis[tw] OR diagnose[tw] OR diagnoses[tw] OR diagnostic[tw] OR "Clinical Decision-Making"[Mesh] OR clinical decision-making[tw] OR clinical decision making[tw] OR medical decision-making[tw] OR medical decision making[tw] OR "Decision Making"[Mesh:NoExp] OR "Diagnostic Imaging"[Mesh] OR diagnostic imaging[tw] OR medical imaging[tw] OR "Radiography"[Mesh] OR radiography[tw] OR diagnostic x-ray[tw] OR diagnostic x ray[tw] OR diagnostic x-rays[tw] OR "Magnetic Resonance Imaging"[Mesh] OR magnetic resonance imaging[tw] OR MRI[tw] OR fMRI[tw] OR NMR imaging[tw] OR MR tomography[tw] OR "Ultrasonography"[Mesh] OR ultrasonography[tw] OR ultrasound[tw] OR ultrasounds[tw] OR ultrasonic[tw] OR "Electromyography"[Mesh] OR electromyography[tw] OR electromyographies[tw] OR electromyogram[tw] OR electromyograms[tw] OR electrophysiologic test[tw] OR electrophysiologic tests[tw] OR electrophysiologic testing[tw] OR "Neural Conduction"[Mesh] OR neural conduction[tw] OR neural conductions[tw] OR nerve conduction[tw] OR nerve conductions[tw] OR "Actigraphy"[Mesh] OR actigraphy[tw])	10339439

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APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#7	("Sensitivity and Specificity"[Mesh] OR sensitivity[tw] OR specificity[tw] OR "Evaluation Studies as Topic"[Mesh] OR evaluation indexes[tw] OR evaluation report[tw] OR evaluation reports[tw] OR evaluation research[tw] OR use-effectiveness[tw] OR use effectiveness[tw] OR prepost tests[tw] OR pre post tests[tw] OR prepost test[tw] OR qualitative evaluation[tw] OR qualitative evaluations[tw] OR quantitative evaluation[tw] OR quantitative evaluations[tw] OR theoretical effectiveness[tw] OR critique[tw] OR critiques[tw] OR evaluation methodology[tw] OR evaluation methodologies[tw] OR "Validation Studies as Topic"[Mesh] OR "Reproducibility of Results"[Mesh] OR reproducibility[tw] OR validity[tw] OR reliability[tw] OR "Data Accuracy"[Mesh] OR data accuracy[tw] OR data accuracies[tw] OR data quality[tw] OR data qualities[tw] OR precision[tw] OR responsiveness[tw] OR consistency[tw] OR consistencies[tw] OR consistent[tw] OR log-likelihood ratio[tw] OR likelihood-ratio[tw] OR likelihood ratio[tw] OR LR test[tiab] OR "Epidemiologic Research Design"[Mesh] OR "Research Design"[Mesh] OR research design[tw] OR research designs[tw] OR research strategy[tw] OR research strategies[tw] OR research techniques[tw] OR research technique[tw] OR research methodology[tw] OR research methodologies[tw] OR experimental design[tw] OR experimental designs[tw])	4082712
#6	(Cumberland ankle instability tool[tw] OR Chronic Ankle Instability Scale[tw] OR Sports Ankle Rating System[tw] OR Ankle Joint Functional Assessment Tool[tw] OR Foot Function Index[tw] OR Foot and Ankle Outcome Score[tw] OR Karlsson Ankle Function Score[tw] OR Karlsson Score[tw] OR Kaikkonen scale[tw] OR Kaikkonen score[tw] OR Ottawa ankle rules[tw] OR Buffalo modification[tiab] OR foot and ankle ability measure[tw] OR foot ability measure[tw] OR ankle ability measure[tw] OR ankle disability index[tw] OR lower extremity function scale[tw] OR lower extremity functional scale[tw] OR ankle instability scale[tw] OR sports ankle rating system[tw] OR ankle joint function assessment[tw] OR ankle instability index[tw] OR ankle instability instrument[tw] OR identification of functional ankle instability[tw] OR Tampa scale of kinesiophobia[tw] OR sway index[tw] OR functional reach test[tw] OR Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System[tw] OR PROMIS[tiab] OR Health Utilities Index[tw] OR HUI[tiab] OR HUI-III[tiab] OR HUI-3[tiab] OR HUI3[tiab] OR HUI-II[tiab] OR HUI-2[tiab] OR HUI2[tiab] OR HUI-I[tiab] OR HUI-1[tiab] OR HUII[tiab] OR Visual Analogue Scale[tw] OR European Quality of life 5 Dimensions[tw] OR EuroQol*[tiab] OR EQ-5D[tiab] OR EQ5D*[tiab] OR EQ 5D[tiab] OR EORTC[tiab] OR Rosser[tiab] OR short form health survey[tw] OR short-form health survey[tw] OR SF36[tiab] OR SF-36[tiab] OR SF 36[tiab] OR short form 36[tiab] OR shortform 36[tiab] OR shortform36[tiab] OR 36 item short form[tiab] OR 36-item short form[tiab] OR SF20[tiab] OR SF-20[tiab] OR SF 20[tiab] OR short form 20[tiab] OR shortform 20[tiab] OR shortform20[tiab] OR 20 item short form[tiab] OR 20-item short form[tiab] OR SF12[tiab] OR SF-12[tiab] OR SF 12[tiab] OR short form 12[tiab] OR shortform 12[tiab] OR shortform12[tiab] OR 12 item short form[tiab] OR 12-item short form[tiab] OR SF8[tiab] OR SF-8[tiab] OR SF 8[tiab] OR short form 8[tiab] OR shortform 8[tiab] OR 8 item short form[tiab] OR 8-item short form[tiab] OR SF6[tiab] OR SF-6[tiab] OR SF 6[tiab] OR short form 6[tiab] OR shortform 6[tiab] OR shortform6[tiab] OR 6 item short form[tiab] OR 6-item short form[tiab] OR QoL Questionnaire[tw] OR QLQ[tiab] OR health questionnaire[tw] OR Godin leisure time[tw] OR Numeric Pain Scale[tw] OR lateral hopping for distance[tw] OR 6-m crossover hop[tw] OR side hop[tw] OR hopping course[tw] OR square hop[tw] OR cross hop[tw] OR hop test[tw] OR hopping test[tw] OR 40-m walk time[tw] OR 40-m run time[tw] OR figure-of-eight run[tw] OR single-limb forward hop[tw] OR single limb forward hop[tw] OR stair hop[tw] OR shuttle run[tw] OR up/down hop[tw] OR hop up[tw] OR hopping up[tw] OR hop down[tw] OR hopping down[tw] OR triple crossover hop[tw] OR single-limb hurdle[tw] OR single limb hurdle[tw] OR single-limb 6-m hop[tw] OR single-limb 30-m hop[tw] OR figure-of-eight hop[tw] OR figure of eight hop[tw] OR figure eight hop[tw] OR drop landing[tw] OR vertical jump[tw] OR "Walking Speed"[Mesh] OR "Gait"[Mesh] OR walking speed[tw] OR walking speeds[tw] OR walking gait[tw] OR gait speed[tw] OR gait speeds[tw] OR walking pace[tw] OR walking paces[tw] OR running gait[tw] OR running speed[tw] OR running speeds[tw] OR running pace[tw] OR running paces[tw] OR figure of 8 circumferential measure[tw] OR volumetric measure[tw] OR "Range of Motion, Articular"[Mesh] OR range of motion[tw] OR joint flexibility[tw] OR "Arthrometry, Articular"[Mesh] OR articular arthrometry[tw] OR articular goniometry[tw] OR "Supination"[Mesh] OR supination[tw] OR supinations[tw] OR "Pronation"[Mesh] OR pronation[tw] OR pronations[tw] OR tibiopedal dorsiflexion[tw] OR weight-bearing lunge[tw] OR weight bearing lunge[tw] OR algometry[tw] OR "Pain Threshold"[Mesh] OR pain threshold[tw] OR pain thresholds[tw] OR pressurepain threshold[tw] OR pressurepain thresholds[tw] OR cutaneous sensation[tw] OR "Hypesthesia"[Mesh] OR hypesthesia[tw] OR "Hyperesthesia"[Mesh] OR hyperesthesia[tw] OR joint position sense[tw] OR "Kinesthesia"[Mesh] OR kinesthesia[tw] OR kinesthesis[tw] OR kinesthasias[tw] OR kinesthetic[tw] OR movement sensation[tw] OR movement sensations[tw] OR isokinetic muscle strength[tw] OR isokinetic test[tw] OR isokinetic tests[tw] OR single-limb balance[tw] OR single limb balance[tw] OR Romberg test[tw] OR balance test[tw] OR balancing test[tw] OR Y balance[tiab] OR Balance Error Scoring System[tw] OR step-down test[tw] OR step down test[tw] OR single leg squat test[tw] OR functional movement screen[tw] OR functional movement screening[tw] OR functional movement screens[tw] OR joint accessory mobility[tw] OR joint play mobility[tw] OR anterior drawer[tw] OR talar tilt inversion[tw] OR talar tilt eversion[tw] OR talar rotation[tw] OR talofibular interval[tw] OR tibiofibular interval[tw] OR distal fibula interval[tw] OR Foot posture Index[tw] OR squeeze test[tiab] OR Cotton test[tiab] OR dorsiflexion maneuver[tw] OR dorsiflexion maneuvers[tw] OR dorsiflexion compression test[tw] OR crossed leg test[tw] OR heel thump test[tw] OR Kleiger dorsiflexion external rotation test[tiab] OR external rotation test[tw] OR Thompson test[tiab] OR function and prognostic score[tw] OR function and prognostic scores[tw] OR ankle function score[tw] OR ankle scoring system[tw] OR de Bie[tiab] OR multisegmented foot[tw] OR ankle-foot complex[tw] OR foot morphology[tw] OR intrinsic foot muscles[tw] OR ankle assessment[tw] OR ankle assessments[tw] OR foot assessment[tw] OR foot assessments[tw] OR foot root model[tw] OR ankle root model[tw])	241652

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Search	Query	Items Found, n
#5	("Risk"[Mesh] OR "Risk Assessment"[Mesh] OR "Risk Factors"[Mesh] OR "Health Risk Behaviors"[Mesh] OR risk[tw] OR risks[tw] OR risk-benefit[tw] OR "Probability"[Mesh] OR probability[tw] OR probabilities[tw] OR likelihood[tw] OR propensity[tw] OR "Logistic Models"[Mesh] OR logistic model[tw] OR logistic models[tw] OR logistic modeling[tw] OR logistic regression[tw] OR logistic regressions[tw] OR "Protective Factors"[Mesh] OR protective factor[tw] OR protective factors[tw] OR "Bayes Theorem"[Mesh] OR Bayes theorem[tw] OR Bayesian[tw] OR "Causality"[Mesh] OR causality[tw] OR causalities[tw] OR causation[tw] OR causations[tw] OR cause[tw] OR causes[tw] OR enabling factor[tw] OR enabling factors[tw] OR reinforcing factor[tw] OR reinforcing factors[tw] OR predisposing factor[tw] OR predisposing factors[tw] OR predisposition[tw] OR "Precipitating Factors"[Mesh] OR precipitating factors[tw] OR precipitating factor[tw] OR predictor[tw] OR predictors[tw] OR odds ratio[tw] OR odds ratios[tw] OR predict[tw] OR prediction[tw] OR predictions[tw] OR predictabilities[tw] OR predictability[tw] OR predicted[tw] OR predictor[tw] OR predictors[tw] OR predictive[tw] OR etiology[tw] OR etiologies[tw] OR etiological[tw] OR etiologic[tw] OR aetiology[tw] OR origin[tw] OR origination[tw] OR originating[tw] OR interact[tw] OR interaction[tw] OR interactions[tw] OR interacting[tw])	8697169
#4	("Incidence"[Mesh] OR incidence[tw] OR incidences[tw] OR "Morbidity"[Mesh] OR morbidity[tw] OR morbidities[tw] OR "Epidemiology"[Mesh] OR epidemiology[tw] OR "epidemiology"[Subheading] OR "Prevalence"[Mesh] OR prevalence[tw] OR prevalent[tw] OR prevalences[tw])	3328630
#3	("Physical Therapy Modalities"[Mesh] OR physical therapy[tw] OR physical therapies[tw] OR physiotherapy[tw] OR physiotherapies[tw] OR "Recovery of Function"[Mesh] OR recovery[tw] OR restoration[tw] OR reeducation[tw] OR "Rehabilitation"[Mesh] OR "rehabilitation"[Subheading] OR rehabilitation[tw] OR rehab[tw] OR "Early Ambulation"[Mesh] OR early ambulation[tw] OR accelerated ambulation[tw] OR early mobilization[tw] OR therapeutic modality[tw] OR therapeutic modalities[tw] OR "Exercise Therapy"[Mesh] OR exercise therapy[tw] OR therapeutic exercise[tw] OR therapeutic exercises[tw] OR stretching[tw] OR exercise movement[tw] OR strengthen[tw] OR strengthening[tw] OR "Resistance Training"[Mesh] OR resistance training[tw] OR strength training[tw] OR weight-bearing[tw] OR weight-lifting[tw] OR resistance methods[tw] OR training program[tw] OR "Biofeedback, Psychology"[Mesh] OR biofeedback[tw] OR psychophysiologic feedback[tw] OR neuromuscular electrical stimulation[tw] OR neuromuscular reeducation[tw] OR "Pain Management"[Mesh] OR "Pain Measurement"[Mesh] OR pain management[tw] OR pain measurement[tw] OR mobilization[tw] OR mobilizations[tw] OR "Musculoskeletal Manipulations"[Mesh] OR manipulation[tw] OR manipulations[tw] OR ultrasonography[tw] OR ultrasound[tw] OR acupuncture[tw] OR "Patient Education as Topic"[Mesh] OR patient education[tw] OR education of patients[tw] OR iontophoresis[tw] OR "Electric Stimulation"[Mesh] OR "Electric Stimulation Therapy"[Mesh] OR "Transcutaneous Electric Nerve Stimulation"[Mesh] OR electric stimulation[tw] OR nerve stimulation[tw] OR taping[tw] OR tape[tw] OR bracing[tw] OR brace[tw] OR braces[tw] OR orthoses[tw] OR immobilization[tw] OR immobilize[tw] OR orthotic[tw] OR orthotics[tw] OR thermal agent[tw] OR thermal agents[tw] OR diathermy[tw] OR "Range of Motion, Articular"[Mesh] OR range of motion[tw] OR joint flexibility[tw] OR joint movement[tw] OR manual therapy[tw] OR massage[tw] OR massages[tw] OR "Treatment Outcome"[Mesh] OR treatment outcome[tw] OR clinical effectiveness[tw] OR treatment effectiveness[tw] OR treatment efficacy[tw] OR patient outcome[tw] OR patient outcomes[tw])	3226165
#2	("Ankle Injuries"[Mesh] OR "Athletic Injuries"[Mesh] OR "Foot Injuries"[Mesh] OR injuries[tw] OR injury[tw] OR injured[tw] OR "Sprains and Strains"[Mesh] OR sprains[tw] OR sprain[tw] OR sprained[tw] OR strains[tw] OR strain[tw] OR strained[tw] OR swelling[tw] OR swollen[tw] OR swell[tw] OR "Joint Instability"[Mesh] OR instability[tw] OR instabilities[tw] OR unstable[tw] OR joint effusion[tw] OR "Proprioception"[Mesh] OR proprioception deficit[tw] OR proprioception deficits[tw] OR proprioception deficiency[tw] OR proprioception deficiencies[tw] OR "Postural Balance"[Mesh] OR balance[tw] OR unbalanced[tw] OR musculoskeletal equilibrium[tw] OR postural equilibrium[tw] OR hypermobility[tw] OR laxity[tw] OR laxities[tw] OR tear[tw] OR torn[tw] OR external rotation[tw] OR eversion[tw] OR inversion[tw] OR "Injury Severity Score"[Mesh] OR "Abbreviated Injury Scale"[Mesh])	2725758
#1	("Ankle"[Mesh] OR ankle[tw] OR ankles[tw] OR regio tarsalis[tw] OR talus[tw] OR tarsus[tw] OR "Metatarsus"[Mesh] OR metatarsus[tw] OR metatarsal[tw] OR "Ankle Joint"[Mesh] OR "Subtalar Joint"[Mesh] OR subtalar joint[tw] OR talocalcaneal joint[tw] OR talonavicular joint[tw] OR talocrural[tw] OR articulatio talocruralis[tw] OR "Tarsal Joints"[Mesh] OR tarsal joints[tw] OR tarsal joint[tw] OR midtarsal joint[tw] OR midtarsal joints[tw] OR intertarsal joint[tw] OR intertarsal joints[tw] OR intertarsal articulation[tw] OR articulationes intertarsales[tw] OR articulationes intertarsales[tw] OR "Lateral Ligament, Ankle"[Mesh] OR "Ligaments, Articular"[Mesh] OR "Collateral Ligaments"[Mesh] OR ankle lateral ligament[tw] OR ligamentum laterale articulationis talocruralis[tw] OR calcaneofibular[tw] OR tibiofibular[tw] OR tibiotalar[tw] OR tibionavicular[tw] OR tibioalcaneal[tw] OR talofibular[tw] OR talonaviculara[tw] OR calcaneocuboid[tw] OR bifurcate ligament*[tw] OR inferior transverse ligament*[tw] OR deltoid ligament*[tw] OR medial ligament*[tw] OR interosseous ligament*[tw] OR dorsal interosse[tw] OR plantar interosse[tw] OR "Tibial Nerve"[Mesh] OR tibial nerve[tw] OR peroneal nerve[tw] OR peroneus nerve[tw] OR saphenous nerve[tw] OR medial plantar nerve[tw] OR lateral plantar nerve[tw] OR fibular nerve[tw] OR fibularis tertius[tw] OR "Achilles Tendon"[Mesh] OR achilles tendon[tw] OR calcaneus[tw] OR calcaneus[tw] OR interosseous membrane[tw] OR interosseous membranes[tw] OR syndesmosis[tw] OR syndesmoses[tw] OR syndesmotica[tw] OR tibialis anterior[tw] OR fibularis longus[tw] OR fibularis brevis[tw] OR peroneus tertius[tw] OR peroneus longus[tw] OR peroneus brevis[tw] OR flexor hallucis longus[tw] OR flexor digitorum longus[tw] OR extensor digitorum longus[tw] OR tibialis posterior[tw] OR soleus[tw] OR peroneal[tw] OR gastrocnemius[tw] OR abductor hallucis[tw] OR adductor hallucis[tw] OR flexor hallucis brevis[tw] OR abductor digiti minimi[tw] OR flexor digiti minimi[tw] OR lumbricals[tw] OR quadratus plantae[tw] OR flexor digitorum brevis[tw] OR gluteus medius[tw] OR gluteus maximus[tw] OR gluteal[tw] OR hip abductor[tw] OR hip rotator[tw] OR ("Foot"[Mesh] OR foot[tw] OR feet[tw] OR articulationes pedis[tw] OR "Foot Joints"[Mesh] OR "Metatarsophalangeal Joint"[Mesh] OR metatarsophalangeal[tw] OR "Heel"[Mesh] OR heel[tw] OR heels[tw] OR sinus tarsi[tw] OR sinus tarsus[tw] OR rearfoot[tw] OR midfoot[tw])	307276

APPENDIX A

Embase Update

Updated Searches From June 26, 2018 to June 1, 2020

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#14	#1 AND #9 AND #12 AND #13 AND [embase]/lim	2702
#13	#3 OR #4 OR #5 OR (#6 AND #7) OR #8	20591088
#12	#10 OR #11	3453379
#11	#2 NOT (fracture NOT ('sprain'/exp OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR 'strain'/exp OR strains OR strains OR strain OR strained OR 'swelling'/exp OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR 'instability'/exp OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR 'joint effusion'/exp OR 'joint effusion':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficit':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficits':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficiency':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficiencies':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'balance'/exp OR balance OR unbalanced OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium'/exp OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'postural equilibrium'/exp OR 'postural equilibrium':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'hypermobility'/exp OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR 'tear'/exp OR tear OR torn OR 'external rotation'/exp OR 'external rotation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'eversion'/exp OR 'inversion'/exp OR eversion OR inversion))	3338003
#10	#2 NOT (osteoarthritis NOT ('sprain'/exp OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR 'strain'/exp OR strains OR strains OR strain OR strained OR 'swelling'/exp OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR 'instability'/exp OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR 'joint effusion'/exp OR 'joint effusion':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficit':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficits':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficiency':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficiencies':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'balance'/exp OR balance OR unbalanced OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium'/exp OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'postural equilibrium'/exp OR 'postural equilibrium':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'hypermobility'/exp OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR 'tear'/exp OR tear OR torn OR 'external rotation'/exp OR 'external rotation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'eversion'/exp OR 'inversion'/exp OR eversion OR inversion))	3441143
#9	(2018:py OR 2019:py OR 2020:py) NOT ([animals]/lim NOT [humans]/lim) NOT ('book'/it OR 'chapter'/it OR 'conference abstract'/it OR 'conference paper'/it OR 'conference review'/it OR 'editorial'/it OR 'letter'/it OR 'note'/it OR 'press release'/it OR 'short survey'/it) AND [embase]/lim AND [english]/lim	1662347
#8	('diagnosis'/exp OR diagnosis OR diagnose OR diagnoses OR 'diagnostic'/exp OR diagnostic OR 'clinical decision-making'/exp OR 'clinical decision-making':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'clinical decision making'/exp OR 'clinical decision making':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'medical decision-making'/exp OR 'medical decision-making':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'medical decision making'/exp OR 'medical decision making':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'diagnostic imaging'/exp OR 'diagnostic imaging':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'medical imaging'/exp OR 'medical imaging':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'radiography'/exp OR radiography OR 'diagnostic x-ray':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'diagnostic x ray':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'diagnostic x-rays':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'magnetic resonance imaging'/exp OR 'magnetic resonance imaging':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'mri'/exp OR mri:ti,ab OR 'fmri'/exp OR fmri:ti,ab OR 'nmr imaging'/exp OR 'nmr imaging':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'mr tomography':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'ultrasonography'/exp OR ultrasonography OR 'ultrasound'/exp OR ultrasound OR ultrasounds OR 'ultrasonic'/exp OR ultrasonic OR 'electromyography'/exp OR electromyography OR electromyographies OR 'electromyogram'/exp OR electromyogram OR electromyograms OR 'electrophysiologic test':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'electrophysiologic tests':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'electrophysiologic testing':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'neural conduction'/exp OR 'neural conduction':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'neural conduction':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'nerve conduction'/exp OR 'nerve conduction':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'nerve conduction':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'actigraphy'/exp OR actigraphy)	9479270
#7	('sensitivity'/exp OR sensitivity OR 'specificity'/exp OR specificity OR 'evaluation indexes'/exp OR 'evaluation indexes':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'evaluation report'/exp OR 'evaluation report':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'evaluation reports':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'evaluation research'/exp OR 'evaluation research':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'use effectiveness'/exp OR 'use effectiveness':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'prepost tests':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'pre post tests'/exp OR 'pre post tests':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'prepost test':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'qualitative evaluation'/exp OR 'qualitative evaluation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'qualitative evaluations':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'quantitative evaluation'/exp OR 'quantitative evaluation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'quantitative evaluations':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'theoretical effectiveness'/exp OR 'theoretical effectiveness':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'critique'/exp OR critique OR critiques OR 'evaluation methodology'/exp OR 'evaluation methodology':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'evaluation methodologies':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'reproducibility'/exp OR reproducibility OR 'validity'/exp OR validity OR 'reliability'/exp OR reliability OR 'data accuracy'/exp OR 'data accuracy':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'data accuracies':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'data quality'/exp OR 'data quality':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'data qualities':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'precision'/exp OR precision OR 'responsiveness'/exp OR responsiveness OR 'consistency'/exp OR consistency OR consistencies OR consistent OR 'log-likelihood ratio':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'likelihood-ratio':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'likelihood ratio'/exp OR 'likelihood ratio':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'research design'/exp OR 'research design':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'research designs':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'research strategy'/exp OR 'research strategy':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'research strategies':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'research techniques':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'research technique':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'research methodology'/exp OR 'research methodology':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'research methodologies':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'experimental design'/exp OR 'experimental design':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'experimental designs')	8617240

Table continues on page CPG68.

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#6	(‘cumberland ankle instability tool’/exp OR ‘cumberland ankle instability tool’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘chronic ankle instability scale’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle joint functional assessment tool’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot function index’/exp OR ‘foot function index’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot and ankle outcome score’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘karlsson ankle function score’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘karlsson score’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘kaikkonen scale’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘kaikkonen score’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ottawa ankle rules’/exp OR ‘ottawa ankle rules’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘buffalo modification’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot and ankle ability measure’/exp OR ‘foot and ankle ability measure’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot ability measure’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle ability measure’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot and ankle disability index’/exp OR ‘foot and ankle disability index’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘lower extremity function scale’/exp OR ‘lower extremity function scale’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘lower extremity functional scale’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle instability scale’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘sports ankle rating system’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle joint function assessment’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle instability index’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle instability instrument’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘identification of functional ankle instability’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘tampa scale of kinesiophobia’/exp OR ‘tampa scale of kinesiophobia’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘sway index’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘functional reach test’/exp OR ‘functional reach test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘patient reported outcome measurement information system’/exp OR ‘patient reported outcome measurement information system’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘short form health survey’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘short-form health survey’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘Short Form 36’/exp OR ‘Short Form 12’/exp OR ‘Short Form 20’/exp OR ‘Short Form 8’/exp OR ‘short form health survey’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘short-form health survey’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘Visual Analogue Scale’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘health utilities index’/exp OR ‘health utilities index’.ti,ab,de,tn OR HUI-III.ti,ab OR HUI-3.ti,ab OR HUI3.ti,ab OR HUI-III.ti,ab OR HUI-2.ti,ab OR HUI2.ti,ab OR HUI-I.ti,ab OR HUI-1.ti,ab OR HUI1.ti,ab OR ‘european quality of life 5 dimensions’/exp OR ‘European Quality of life 5 Dimensions’.ti,ab,de,tn OR EuroQol*.ti,ab OR EQ-5D.ti,ab OR EQ5D*.ti,ab OR EQ 5D.ti,ab OR EORTC.ti,ab OR Rosser.ti,ab OR SF36.ti,ab OR SF-36.ti,ab OR ‘SF 36’.ti,ab OR ‘short form 36’.ti,ab OR ‘shortform 36’.ti,ab OR shortform36.ti,ab OR ‘36 item short form’.ti,ab OR ‘36-item short form’.ti,ab OR SF20.ti,ab OR SF-20.ti,ab OR ‘SF 20’.ti,ab OR ‘short form 20’.ti,ab OR ‘shortform 20’.ti,ab OR shortform20.ti,ab OR ‘20 item short form’.ti,ab OR ‘20-item short form’.ti,ab OR SF12.ti,ab OR SF-12.ti,ab OR ‘SF 12’.ti,ab OR ‘short form 12’.ti,ab OR ‘shortform 12’.ti,ab OR shortform12.ti,ab OR ‘12 item short form’.ti,ab OR ‘12-item short form’.ti,ab OR SF8.ti,ab OR SF-8.ti,ab OR ‘SF 8’.ti,ab OR ‘short form 8’.ti,ab OR ‘shortform 8’.ti,ab OR shortform8.ti,ab OR ‘8 item short form’.ti,ab OR ‘8-item short form’.ti,ab OR SF6.ti,ab OR SF-6.ti,ab OR ‘SF 6’.ti,ab OR ‘short form 6’.ti,ab OR ‘shortform 6’.ti,ab OR shortform6.ti,ab OR ‘6 item short form’.ti,ab OR ‘6-item short form’.ti,ab OR ‘QoL Questionnaire’.ti,ab,de,tn OR QLQ.ti,ab OR ‘health questionnaire’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘godin leisure time’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘numeric pain scale’/exp OR ‘numeric pain scale’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘lateral hopping for distance’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘6-m crossover hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘side hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘hopping course’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘square hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘cross hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘hop test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘hopping test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘40-m walk time’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘40-m run time’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘figureof-eight run’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single-limb forward hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single limb forward hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘stair hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘shuttle run’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘up/down hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘hop up’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘hopping up’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘hop down’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘hopping down’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘triple crossover hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single-limb hurdle’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single limb hurdle’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single-limb 6-m hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single-limb 30-m hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘figureof-eight hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘figure of eight hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘figure eight hop’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘drop landing’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘vertical jump’/exp OR ‘vertical jump’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘walking speed’/exp OR ‘walking speed’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘walking speeds’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘walking gait’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘gait speed’/exp OR ‘gait speed’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘gait speeds’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘walking pace’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘walking paces’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘running gait’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘running speed’/exp OR ‘running speed’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘running speeds’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘running pace’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘running paces’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘figure of 8 circumferential measure’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘volumetric measure’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘range of motion’/exp OR ‘range of motion’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘joint flexibility’/exp OR ‘joint flexibility’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘articular arthometry’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘articular goniometry’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘supination’/exp OR supination OR supinations OR ‘pronation’/exp OR pronation OR pronations OR ‘tibio pedal dorsiflexion’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘weight-bearing lunge’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘weight bearing lunge’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘algometry’/exp OR algometry OR ‘pain threshold’/exp OR ‘pain threshold’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘pain thresholds’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘pressurepain threshold’/exp OR ‘pressurepain threshold’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘pressurepain thresholds’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘cutaneous sensation’/exp OR ‘cutaneous sensation’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘hypesthesia’/exp OR hypesthesia OR hyperesthesia OR ‘joint position sense’/exp OR ‘joint position sense’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘kinesthesia’/exp OR kinesthesia OR ‘kinesthesia’/exp OR kinesthesia OR kinesthesias OR kinesthetic OR ‘movement sensation’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘movement sensations’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘isokinetic muscle strength’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘isokinetic test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘isokinetic tests’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single-limb balance’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single limb balance’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘romberg test’/exp OR ‘romberg test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘balance test’/exp OR ‘balance test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘balancing test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘y balance’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘balance error scoring system’/exp OR ‘balance error scoring system’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘step-down test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘step down test’/exp OR ‘step down test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘single leg squat test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘functional movement screen’/exp OR ‘functional movement screen’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘functional movement screening’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘functional movement screens’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘joint accessory mobility’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘joint play mobility’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘anterior drawer’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘talar tilt inversion’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘talar tilt eversion’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘talar rotation’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘talofibular interval’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘tibiofibular interval’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘distal fibula interval’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot posture index’/exp OR ‘foot posture index’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘squeeze test’/exp OR ‘squeeze test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘cotton test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘dorsiflexion maneuver’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘dorsiflexion maneuvers’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘dorsiflexion compression test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘crossed leg test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘heel thump test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘kleiger dorsiflexion external rotation test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘external rotation test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘thompson test’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘function and prognostic score’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘function and prognostic scores’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle function score’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle scoring system’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘multisegmented foot’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle-foot complex’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot morphology’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘intrinsic foot muscles’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle assessment’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle assessments’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot assessment’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot assessments’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘feet assessment’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘feet assessments’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘biomechanical assessment’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘biomechanical assessments’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘foot root model’.ti,ab,de,tn OR ‘ankle root model’)	258518

Table continues on page CPG69.

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## APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#5	('risk'/exp OR risk OR risks OR 'risk benefit':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'probability'/exp OR probability OR probabilities OR likelihood OR propensity OR 'logistic model'/exp OR 'logistic model':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'logistic models':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'logistic modeling':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'logistic regression'/exp OR 'logistic regression':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'logistic regressions':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'protective factor':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'protective factors'/exp OR 'protective factors':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'bayes theorem'/exp OR 'bayes theorem':ti,ab,de,tn OR bayesian OR 'causality'/exp OR causality OR causalities OR causation OR causations OR cause OR causes OR 'enabling factor':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'enabling factors':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'reinforcing factor':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'reinforcing factors':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'predisposing factor'/exp OR 'predisposing factor':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'predisposing factors':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'predisposition'/exp OR predisposition OR 'precipitating factors'/exp OR 'precipitating factors':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'precipitating factor':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'odds ratio'/exp OR 'odds ratio':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'odds ratios':ti,ab,de,tn OR predict OR 'prediction'/exp OR prediction OR predictions OR predictabilities OR 'predictability'/exp OR predictability OR predicted OR predictor OR 'predictors'/exp OR predictors OR predictive OR 'etiology'/de OR etiology OR etiologies OR etiological OR etiologic OR aetiology OR 'origin'/exp OR origin OR origination OR originating OR interact OR interaction OR interactions OR interacting)	13175574
#4	('incidence'/exp OR incidence OR incidences OR morbidity OR morbidities OR 'epidemiology'/exp OR epidemiology OR 'prevalence'/exp OR prevalence OR prevalent OR prevalences)	5330831
#3	('physical therapy'/exp OR 'physical therapy':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'physical therapies':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'physiotherapy'/exp OR physiotherapy OR physiotherapies OR 'recovery'/exp OR recovery OR restoration OR reeducation OR 'rehabilitation'/exp OR rehabilitation OR rehab OR 'early ambulation'/exp OR 'early ambulation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'accelerated ambulation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'early mobilization'/exp OR 'early mobilization':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'exercise therapy'/exp OR 'exercise therapy':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'therapeutic exercise'/exp OR 'therapeutic exercise':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'therapeutic exercises':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'therapeutic modality':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'therapeutic modalities':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'stretching'/exp OR stretching OR 'exercise movement':ti,ab,de,tn OR strengthen OR strengthening OR 'resistance training'/exp OR 'resistance training':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'strength training'/exp OR 'strength training':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'weight bearing'/exp OR weight-bearing OR 'weight lifting'/exp OR weight-lifting OR 'resistance methods':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'training program'/exp OR 'training program':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'biofeedback'/exp OR biofeedback OR 'psychophysiologic feedback':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'neuromuscular electrical stimulation'/exp OR 'neuromuscular electrical stimulation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'neuromuscular reeducation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'pain management'/exp OR 'pain management':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'pain measurement'/exp OR 'pain measurement':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'mobilization'/exp OR mobilization OR mobilizations OR 'manipulation'/exp OR manipulation OR manipulations OR 'ultrasonography'/exp OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR 'acupuncture'/exp OR acupuncture OR 'patient education'/exp OR 'patient education':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'education of patients':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'iontophoresis'/exp OR iontophoresis OR 'electric stimulation'/exp OR 'electric stimulation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'nerve stimulation'/exp OR 'nerve stimulation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'tape'/exp OR taping OR tape OR 'bracing'/exp OR 'brace'/exp OR bracing OR brace OR braces OR orthoses OR 'immobilization'/exp OR immobilization OR immobilize OR 'orthotics'/exp OR orthotic OR orthotics OR 'thermal agent':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'thermal agents':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'diathermy'/exp OR diathermy OR 'range of motion'/exp OR 'range of motion':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'joint flexibility'/exp OR 'joint flexibility':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'joint movement'/exp OR 'joint movement':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'manual therapy'/exp OR 'manual therapy':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'massage'/exp OR massage OR massages OR 'treatment outcome'/exp OR 'treatment outcome':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'clinical effectiveness'/exp OR 'clinical effectiveness':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'treatment effectiveness':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'treatment efficacy':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'patient outcome'/exp OR 'patient outcome':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'patient outcomes')	5266135
#2	('injury'/de OR injuries OR injury OR injured OR 'sprain'/exp OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR 'strain'/exp OR strains OR strains OR strain OR strained OR 'swelling'/exp OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR 'instability'/exp OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR 'joint effusion'/exp OR 'joint effusion':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficit':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficits':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficiency':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'proprioception deficiencies':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'balance'/exp OR balance OR unbalanced OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium'/exp OR 'musculoskeletal equilibrium':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'postural equilibrium'/exp OR 'postural equilibrium':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'hypermobility'/exp OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR 'tear'/exp OR tear OR torn OR 'external rotation'/exp OR 'external rotation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'eversion'/exp OR 'inversion'/exp OR eversion OR inversion)	3456282

Table continues on page CPG70.



APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#1	('ankle'/exp OR ankle OR ankles OR 'regio tarsalis':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'tarsus'/exp OR talus OR tarsus OR 'metatarsus'/exp OR metatarsus OR metatarsal OR 'subtalar joint'/exp OR 'subtalar joint':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'talonavicular joint'/exp OR 'talocalcaneal joint'/exp OR 'talocalcaneal joint':ti,ab,de,tn OR talocrural OR 'articulatio talocruralis':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'tarsal joint'/exp OR 'tarsal joints':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'tarsal joint':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'midtarsal joint'/exp OR 'midtarsal joint':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'midtarsal joints':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'intertarsal joint'/exp OR 'intertarsal joint':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'intertarsal joints':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'intertarsal articulation'/exp OR 'intertarsal articulation':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'articulationes intertarseae':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'articulationes intertarsales':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'ligamentum laterale articulationis talocruralis':ti,ab,de,tn OR calcaneofibular OR tibiofibular OR tibiotalar OR tibionavicular OR tibioalcaneal OR talofibular OR talonavicular OR calcaneocuboid OR 'ankle lateral ligament'/exp OR 'ankle lateral ligament':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'bifurcate ligament*':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'inferior transverse ligament*':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'deltoid ligament*':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'medial ligament*':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'interosseous ligament*':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'peroneus nerve'/exp OR 'tibial nerve'/exp OR 'tibial nerve':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'peroneal nerve':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'peroneus nerve':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'saphenous nerve'/exp OR 'saphenous nerve':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'medial plantar nerve'/exp OR 'medial plantar nerve':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'lateral plantar nerve'/exp OR 'lateral plantar nerve':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'fibular nerve'/exp OR 'fibular nerve':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'fibularis tertius':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'achilles tendon'/exp OR 'achilles tendon':ti,ab,de,tn OR calcaneal OR calcaneus OR 'interosseous membrane'/exp OR 'interosseous membrane':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'interosseous membranes':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'dorsal interosseal':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'plantar interosseal':ti,ab,de,tn OR syndesmosis OR syndesmoses OR syndesmotis OR 'tibialis anterior':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'fibularis longus':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'fibularis brevis':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'peroneus tertius':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'peroneus longus'/exp OR 'peroneus longus':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'peroneus brevis'/exp OR 'peroneus brevis':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'flexor hallucis longus'/exp OR 'flexor hallucis longus':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'flexor digitorum longus'/exp OR 'flexor digitorum longus':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'extensor digitorum longus':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'tibialis posterior':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'soleus'/exp OR soleus OR peroneal OR 'gastrocnemius'/exp OR gastrocnemius OR 'abductor hallucis'/exp OR 'abductor hallucis':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'adductor hallucis':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'flexor hallucis brevis'/exp OR 'flexor hallucis brevis':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'abductor digiti minimi'/exp OR 'abductor digiti minimi':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'flexor digiti minimi':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'lumbricals':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'quadratus plantae':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'flexor digitorum brevis':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'gluteus muscle'/exp OR 'gluteus medius':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'gluteus maximus':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'gluteal':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'hip abductor':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'hip rotator' OR 'foot'/exp OR foot OR feet OR 'foot muscle'/exp OR 'flexor digitorum brevis'/exp OR 'flexor digitorum brevis muscle'/exp OR 'plantaris muscle'/exp OR 'plantaris muscle':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'articulationes pedis':ti,ab,de,tn OR metatarsophalangeal OR 'heel'/exp OR heel OR heels OR 'sinus tarsi':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'sinus tarsus':ti,ab,de,tn OR 'rearfoot'/exp OR rearfoot OR 'midfoot'/exp OR midfoot)	133956

CINAHL Update

Updated Searches From June 26, 2018 to June 1, 2020

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#10	#1 AND #2 AND #9 AND [Published Date: 20180601-20201231, Publication Types: Case Study, Clinical Trial, Journal Article, Meta Analysis, Meta Synthesis, Nursing Diagnoses, Nursing Interventions, Practice Acts, Practice Guidelines, Protocol, Questionnaire/Scale, Randomized Controlled Trial, Research, Research Instrument, Review, Standards, Statistics, Systematic Review]	2855
#9	#3 OR #4 OR #5 OR (#6 AND #7) OR #8	3215476
#8	(MH "Diagnosis" OR MH "Diagnosis, Computer Assisted" OR MH "Diagnosis, Delayed" OR MH "Diagnosis, Differential" OR MH "Early Diagnosis" OR MM "Diagnosis, Musculoskeletal" OR MH "Diagnostic Imaging" OR diagnosis OR diagnose OR diagnoses OR diagnostic OR "clinical decision-making" OR "clinical decision making" OR "medical decision-making" OR "medical decision making" OR "diagnostic imaging" OR "medical imaging" OR MH "Magnetic Resonance Imaging" OR MH "Ultrasonography" OR MH "Tomography, X-Ray" OR MH "Radiography" OR radiography OR "diagnostic x-ray" OR "diagnostic x ray" OR "diagnostic x-rays" OR "magnetic resonance imaging" OR MRI OR fMRI OR "NMR imaging" OR "MR tomography" OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR ultrasounds OR ultrasonic OR MH "Electromyography" OR electromyography OR electromyographies OR electromyogram OR electromyograms OR "electrophysiologic test" OR "electrophysiologic tests" OR "electrophysiologic testing" OR "neural conduction" OR "neural conductions" OR "nerve conduction" OR "nerve conductions" OR MH "Actigraphy" OR actigraphy OR MH "Physical Therapy Assessment")	1317355
#7	(MH "Sensitivity and Specificity" OR sensitivity OR specificity OR MH "Evaluation Research" OR "evaluation indexes" OR "evaluation report" OR "evaluation reports" OR "evaluation research" OR use-effectiveness OR "use effectiveness" OR "prepost tests" OR "pre post tests" OR "prepost test" OR "qualitative evaluation" OR "qualitative evaluations" OR "quantitative evaluation" OR "quantitative evaluations" OR "theoretical effectiveness" OR critique OR critiques OR "evaluation methodology" OR "evaluation methodologies" OR MH "Reproducibility of Results" OR reproducibility OR MH "Validity+" OR validity OR MH "Reliability" OR reliability OR MH "Reliability and Validity" OR "data accuracy" OR "data accuracies" OR "data quality" OR "data qualities" OR MH "Precision" OR precision OR responsiveness OR consistency OR consistencies OR consistent OR "log-likelihood ratio" OR "likelihood-ratio" OR "likelihood ratio" OR MH "Study Design" OR "research design" OR "research designs" OR "research strategy" OR "research strategies" OR "research techniques" OR "research technique" OR MH "Research Methodology" OR "research methodology" OR "research methodologies" OR "experimental design" OR "experimental designs")	828261

Table continues on page CPG71.

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#6	(ZQ "cumberland ankle instability tool" OR ZQ "cumberland ankle instability tool (cait)" OR "Cumberland ankle instability tool" OR ZQ "chronic ankle instability scale (cais)" OR "Chronic Ankle Instability Scale" OR ZQ "sports ankle rating system" OR "Sports Ankle Rating System" OR ZQ "ankle joint functional assessment tool" OR "Ankle Joint Functional Assessment Tool" OR ZQ "foot function index" OR ZQ "foot function index (ffi)" OR "Foot Function Index" OR ZQ "foot and ankle outcome score" OR ZQ "foot and ankle outcome score (faos)" OR ZQ "foot and ankle outcome scores (faos)" OR "Foot and Ankle Outcome Score" OR ZQ "karlsson score" OR "Karlsson Ankle Function Score" OR "Karlsson Score" OR ZQ "kaikkonen scale" OR "Kaikkonen scale" OR "Kaikkonen score" OR ZQ "ottawa ankle rules" OR ZQ "ottawa ankle rules (oar)" OR "Ottawa ankle rules" OR "Buffalo modification" OR ZQ "foot and ankle ability measure (faam)" OR "foot and ankle ability measure" OR "foot ability measure" OR "ankle ability measure" OR ZQ "foot and ankle disability index (fadi)" OR "foot and ankle disability index" OR ZQ "lower extremity functional scale (lefs)" OR "lower extremity functional scale" OR "ankle instability scale" OR "sports ankle rating system" OR ZQ "ankle joint functional assessment tool (ajfat)" OR "ankle joint function assessment" OR ZQ "ankle instability index" OR "ankle instability index" OR ZQ "ankle instability instrument" OR "ankle instability instrument" OR "identification of functional ankle instability" OR ZQ "tampa scale for kinesiphobia (tsk)" OR "Tampa scale of kinesiphobia" OR "sway index" OR ZQ "functional reach test" OR ZQ "functional reach test (frrt)" OR "functional reach test" OR ZQ "patient reported outcomes measurement information system (promis)" OR "Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System" OR MH "Short Form-36 Health Survey (SF-36)" OR ZQ "short form health survey (sf-36)" OR ZQ "short form health survey" OR "short form health survey" OR "short-form health survey" OR ZQ "visual analogue scale" OR ZQ "visual analogue scale (vas)" OR "Visual Analogue Scale" OR ZQ "health utilities index (hui)" OR "health utilities index" OR "European Quality of life 5 Dimensions" OR EuroQol OR "short form 36" OR "shortform 36" OR shortform36 OR "36 item short form" OR "36-item short form" OR "short form 20" OR "shortform 20" OR shortform20 OR "20 item short form" OR "20-item short form" OR "short form 12" OR "shortform 12" OR shortform12 OR "12 item short form" OR "12-item short form" OR "short form 8" OR "shortform 8" OR shortform8 OR "8 item short form" OR "8-item short form" OR "short form 6" OR "shortform 6" OR shortform6 OR "6 item short form" OR "6-item short form" OR "QoL Questionnaire" OR "health questionnaire" OR ZQ "godin leisure time exercise questionnaire" OR ZQ "godin leisure time exercise questionnaire (gltex)" OR "Godin leisure time" OR ZQ "numeric pain scale" OR "Numeric Pain Scale" OR ZQ "hop test" OR "lateral hopping for distance" OR "6-m crossover hop" OR "side hop" OR "hopping course" OR "square hop" OR "cross hop" OR "hop test" OR "hopping test" OR "40-m walk time" OR "40-m run time" OR "figureof-eight run" OR "single-limb forward hop" OR "single limb forward hop" OR "stair hop" OR "shuttle run" OR "up/down hop" OR "hop up" OR "hopping up" OR "hop down" OR "hopping down" OR "triple crossover hop" OR "single-limb hurdle" OR "single limb hurdle" OR "single-limb 6-m hop" OR "single-limb 30-m hop" OR "figureof-eight hop" OR "figure of eight hop" OR "figure eight hop" OR "drop landing" OR "vertical jump" OR "walking speed" OR "walking speeds" OR "walking gait" OR "gait speed" OR "gait speeds" OR "walking pace" OR "walking paces" OR "running gait" OR "running speed" OR "running speeds" OR "running pace" OR "running paces" OR "figure of 8 circumferential measure" OR "volumetric measure" OR MH "Range of Motion" OR "range of motion" OR "joint flexibility" OR "articular arthometry" OR "articu- lar goniometry" OR MH "Supination" OR supination OR supinations OR MH "Pronation" OR pronation OR pronations OR "tibiopedal dorsiflexion" OR "weight-bearing lunge" OR "weight bearing lunge" OR MH "Algomerty" OR algometry OR MH "Pain Threshold" OR "pain threshold" OR "pain thresholds" OR "pressurepain threshold" OR "pressurepain thresholds" OR "cutaneous sensation" OR MH "Hypesthesia" OR hypesthesia OR hyperesthesia OR "joint position sense" OR MH "Kinesthesia" OR kinesthesia OR kinesthesia OR kinesthesias OR kinesthetic OR "movement sensation" OR "movement sensations" OR "isokinetic muscle strength" OR "isokinetic test" OR "isokinetic tests" OR "single-limb balance" OR "single limb balance" OR ZQ "romberg test" OR ZQ "romberg's test" OR "Romberg test" OR ZQ "balance test" OR "balance test" OR "balancing test" OR ZQ "y balance test" OR "Y balance" OR ZQ "balance error scoring system (bess)" OR "Balance Error Scoring System" OR ZQ "step-down test" OR "step-down test" OR "step down test" OR "single leg squat test" OR ZQ "functional movement screen" OR ZQ "functional movement screen (fms)" OR "functional movement screen" OR "functional movement screening" OR "functional movement screens" OR "joint accessory mobility" OR "joint play mobility" OR ZQ "anterior drawer test" OR "anterior drawer" OR "talar tilt inversion" OR "talar tilt eversion" OR "talar rotation" OR "talofibular interval" OR "tibiofibular interval" OR "distal fibula interval" OR ZQ "foot posture index" OR ZQ "foot posture index (fpi)" OR "foot posture index" OR "squeeze test" OR "Cotton test" OR "dorsiflexion maneuver" OR "dorsiflexion maneuvers" OR "dorsi- flexion compression test" OR "crossed leg test" OR "heel thump test" OR "Kleiger dorsiflexion external rotation test" OR "external rotation test" OR ZQ "thompson test" OR "Thompson test" OR "function and prognostic score" OR "function and prognostic scores" OR ZQ "ankle function score" OR "ankle function score" OR "ankle scoring system" OR "multisegmented foot" OR "ankle-foot complex" OR "foot morphology" OR "intrinsic foot muscles" OR "ankle assessment" OR "ankle assessments" OR "foot assessment" OR "foot assessments" OR "feet assessment" OR "feet assessments" OR "biomechanical assessment" OR "biomechanical assessments" OR "foot root model" OR "ankle root model")	103455
#5	(MH "Risk Assessment" OR MH "Risk Factors" OR risk OR risks OR risk-benefit OR MH "Probability" OR probability OR probabilities OR likelihood OR propensity OR MH "Multiple Logistic Regression" OR "logistic model" OR "logistic models" OR "logistic modeling" OR "logistic regression" OR "logistic regressions" OR "protective factor" OR "protective factors" OR "Bayes theorem" OR Bayesian OR MH "Causal Attribution" OR causality OR causality OR causation OR causations OR cause OR causes OR "enabling factor" OR "enabling factors" OR "reinforcing factor" OR "reinforcing factors" OR "predisposing factor" OR "predisposing factors" OR predisposition OR "precipitating factors" OR "precipitating factor" OR predictor OR predictors OR MH "Odds Ratio" OR "odds ratio" OR "odds ratios" OR predict OR prediction OR predictions OR predictabilities OR predictability OR predicted OR predictor OR predictors OR predictive OR etiologies OR etiologies OR etiological OR etiologic OR aetiology OR origin OR origination OR originating OR MH "Interaction (Research)" OR interact OR interaction OR interactions OR interacting)	2001260
#4	(MH "Incidence OR incidence OR incidences OR MH "Morbidity" OR morbidity OR morbidities OR MH "Epidemiology" OR epidemiology OR MH "Prevalence" OR prevalence OR prevalent OR prevalences)	258799

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APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#3	(MH "Physical Therapy" OR "physical therapy" OR "physical therapies" OR physiotherapy OR physiotherapies OR MH "Recovery" OR MH "Recovery, Exercise" OR recovery OR restoration OR reeducation OR MH "Rehabilitation" OR rehabilitation OR rehab OR MH "Early Ambulation" OR "early ambulation" OR "accelerated ambulation" OR "early mobilization" OR MH "Therapeutic Exercise" OR "exercise therapy" OR "therapeutic exercise" OR "therapeutic exercises" OR "therapeutic modality" OR "therapeutic modalities" OR stretching OR "exercise movement" OR MH "Gait Training" OR strengthen OR strengthening OR MH "Resistance Training" OR MH "Muscle Strengthening" OR "resistance training" OR "strength training" OR weight-bearing OR weight-lifting OR "resistance methods" OR "training program" OR MH "Biofeedback" OR biofeedback OR "psychophysiological feedback" OR "neuromuscular electrical stimulation" OR "neuromuscular reeducation" OR MH "Pain Management" OR MH "Pain Measurement" OR "pain management" OR "pain measurement" OR MH "Joint Mobilization" OR mobilization OR mobilizations OR manipulation OR manipulations OR MH "Ultrasonography" OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR MH "Acupuncture" OR acupuncture OR MH "Patient Education" OR "patient education" OR "education of patients" OR MH "Iontophoresis" OR iontophoresis OR MH "Electrotherapy" OR "electric stimulation" OR "nerve stimulation" OR MH "Taping and Strapping" OR taping OR tape OR MH "Orthoses" OR orthoses OR bracing OR brace OR braces OR immobilization OR immobilize OR orthotic OR orthotics OR "thermal agent" OR "thermal agents" OR diathermy OR "range of motion" OR "joint flexibility" OR "joint movement" OR MH "Manual Therapy" OR "manual therapy" OR MH "Massage" OR massage OR massages OR MH "Treatment Outcomes" OR "treatment outcome" OR "clinical effectiveness" OR "treatment effectiveness" OR "treatment efficacy" OR MH "Outcomes (Health Care)" OR "patient outcome" OR "patient outcomes")	889646
#2	(MH "Wounds and Injuries" OR MH "Athletic Injuries+" OR MH "Leg Injuries" OR MH "Ligament Injuries" OR MH "Ankle Injuries+" OR MH "Foot Injuries+" OR MH "Tendon Injuries+" OR injuries OR injury OR injured OR MH "Ankle Sprain, Syndesmosis" OR MH "Sprains and Strains+" OR MH "Calf Strain" OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR strains OR strain OR strained OR swelling OR swollen OR swell MH "Joint Instability+" OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR "joint effusion" OR "proprioception deficit" OR "proprioception deficits" OR "proprioception deficiency" OR "proprioception deficiencies" OR MH "Balance, Postural" OR balance OR unbalanced OR "musculoskeletal equilibrium" OR "postural equilibrium" OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR MH "Tears and Lacerations+" OR tear OR torn OR "external rotation" OR MH "Eversion" OR MH "Inversion" OR eversion OR inversion)	530619
#1	(MH "Ankle" OR ankle OR ankles OR regio tarsalis OR MH "Talus" OR talus OR tarsus OR metatarsus OR metatarsal OR MH "Ankle Joint" OR "subtalar joint" OR "talocalcaneal joint" OR talocrural OR "articulatio talocruralis" OR "tarsal joints" OR "tarsal joint" OR "midtarsal joint" OR "midtarsal joints" OR "intertarsal joint" OR "intertarsal joints" OR "intertarsal articulation" OR "articulationes intertarseae" OR "articulationes intertarsales" OR "ligamentum laterale articulationis talocruralis" OR calcaneofibular OR tibiofibular OR tibiotalar OR tibionavicular OR tibio-calcaneal OR talofibular OR talonavicular OR calcaneocuboid OR MH "Lateral Ligament, Ankle" OR "ankle lateral ligament" OR "bifurcate* ligament*" OR "inferior transverse ligament*" OR "deltoid ligament*" OR "medial ligament*" OR "interosseous ligament*" OR MH "Tibial Nerve" OR "tibial nerve" OR MH "Peroneal Nerve" OR "peroneal nerve" OR "saphenous nerve" OR "medial plantar nerve" OR "lateral plantar nerve" OR "fibular nerve" OR "fibularis tertius" OR MH "Achilles Tendon" OR "achilles tendon" OR calcaneal OR calcaneus OR "interosseous membrane" OR "interosseous membranes" OR "dorsal interossei" OR "plantar interossei" OR syndesmosis OR syndesmoses OR syndesmotic OR "tibialis anterior" OR "fibularis longus" OR "fibularis brevis" OR "peroneus tertius" OR "peroneus longus" OR "peroneus brevis" OR "flexor hallucis longus" OR "flexor digitorum longus" OR "extensor digitorum longus" OR "tibialis posterior" OR MH "Soleus Muscles" OR soleus OR peroneal OR MH "Gastrocnemius Muscle" OR gastrocnemius OR "abductor hallucis" OR "adductor hallucis" OR "flexor hallucis brevis" OR "abductor digiti minimi" OR "flexor digiti minimi" OR "lumbricals" OR "quadratus plantae" OR "flexor digitorum brevis" OR MH "Gluteal Muscles" OR "gluteus medius" OR "gluteus maximus" OR "gluteal" OR "hip abductor" OR "hip rotator") OR (foot OR MH "Foot" OR feet OR "articulationes pedis" OR metatarsophalangeal OR MH "Heel" OR heel OR heels OR "sinus tarsi" OR "sinus tarsus" OR rearfoot OR midfoot)	94360

Cochrane Library Update

Updated Searches From June 26, 2018 to June 1, 2020

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#10	#1 AND #2 AND #9 AND Cochrane Library publication date from Jun 2018 to Dec 2020	2318
#9	#3 OR #4 OR #5 OR (#6 AND #7) OR #8	869066
#8	(diagnosis OR diagnose OR diagnoses OR diagnostic OR "clinical decision-making" OR "clinical decision making" OR "medical decision-making" OR "medical decision making" OR "diagnostic imaging" OR "medical imaging" OR radiography OR "diagnostic x-ray" OR "diagnostic x ray" OR "diagnostic x-rays" OR "magnetic resonance imaging" OR MRI OR fMRI OR "NMR imaging" OR "MR tomography" OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR ultrasounds OR ultrasonic OR electromyography OR electromyographies OR electromyogram OR electromyograms OR "electrophysiologic test" OR "electrophysiologic tests" OR "electrophysiologic testing" OR "neural conduction" OR "neural conduction" OR "nerve conduction" OR "nerve conduction" OR actigraphy)	249235
#7	(sensitivity OR specificity OR "evaluation indexes" OR "evaluation report" OR "evaluation reports" OR "evaluation research" OR use-effectiveness OR "use effectiveness" OR "prepost tests" OR "pre post tests" OR "prepost test" OR "qualitative evaluation" OR "qualitative evaluations" OR "quantitative evaluation" OR "quantitative evaluations" OR "theoretical effectiveness" OR critique OR critiques OR "evaluation methodology" OR "evaluation methodologies" OR reproducibility OR validity OR reliability OR "data accuracy" OR "data accuracies" OR "data quality" OR "data qualities" OR precision OR responsiveness OR consistency OR consistencies OR consistent OR "log-likelihood ratio" OR "likelihood-ratio" OR "likelihood ratio" OR "research design" OR "research designs" OR "research strategy" OR "research strategies" OR "research techniques" OR "research technique" OR "research methodology" OR "research methodologies" OR "experimental design" OR "experimental designs")	152431

Table continues on page CPG73.

APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#6	(“Cumberland ankle instability tool” OR “Chronic Ankle Instability Scale” OR “Sports Ankle Rating System” OR “Ankle Joint Functional Assessment Tool” OR “Foot Function Index” OR “Foot and Ankle Outcome Score” OR “Karlsson Ankle Function Score” OR “Karlsson Score” OR “Kaikkonen scale” OR “Kaikkonen score” OR “Ottawa ankle rules” OR “Buffalo modification” OR “foot and ankle ability measure” OR “foot ability measure” OR “ankle ability measure” OR “foot and ankle disability index” OR “lower extremity functional scale” OR “ankle instability scale” OR “sports ankle rating system” OR “ankle joint function assessment” OR “ankle instability index” OR “ankle instability instrument” OR “identification of functional ankle instability” OR “Tampa scale of kinesiophobia” OR “sway index” OR “functional reach test” OR “Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information System” OR “short form health survey” OR “short-form health survey” OR “Visual Analogue Scale” OR “health utilities index” OR “European Quality of life 5 Dimensions” OR EuroQoL OR “short form 36” OR “shortform 36” OR shortform36 OR “36 item short form” OR “36-item short form” OR “short form 20” OR “shortform 20” OR shortform20 OR “20 item short form” OR “20-item short form” OR “short form 12” OR “shortform 12” OR shortform12 OR “12 item short form” OR “12-item short form” OR “short form 8” OR “shortform 8” OR shortform8 OR “8 item short form” OR “8-item short form” OR “short form 6” OR “shortform 6” OR shortform6 OR “6 item short form” OR “6-item short form” OR “QoL Questionnaire” OR “health questionnaire” OR “Godin leisure time” OR “Numeric Pain Scale” OR “lateral hopping for distance” OR “6-m crossover hop” OR “side hop” OR “hopping course” OR “square hop” OR “cross hop” OR “hop test” OR “hopping test” OR “40-m walk time” OR “40-m run time” OR “figureof-eight run” OR “single-limb forward hop” OR “single limb forward hop” OR “stair hop” OR “shuttle run” OR “up down hop” OR “hop up” OR “hopping up” OR “hop down” OR “hopping down” OR “triple crossover hop” OR “single-limb hurdle” OR “single limb hurdle” OR “single-limb 6-m hop” OR “single-limb 30-m hop” OR “figureof-eight hop” OR “figure of eight hop” OR “figure eight hop” OR “drop landing” OR “vertical jump” OR “walking speed” OR “walking speeds” OR “walking gait” OR “gait speed” OR “gait speeds” OR “walking pace” OR “walking paces” OR “running gait” OR “running speed” OR “running speeds” OR “running pace” OR “running paces” OR “figure of 8 circumferential measure” OR “volumetric measure” OR “range of motion” OR “joint flexibility” OR “articular arthrometry” OR “articular goniometry” OR supination OR supinations OR pronation OR pronations OR “tibiopedal dorsiflexion” OR “weight-bearing lunge” OR “weight bearing lunge” OR algometry OR “pain threshold” OR “pain thresholds” OR “pressurepain threshold” OR “pressurepain thresholds” OR “cutaneous sensation” OR hypesthesia OR hyperesthesia OR “joint position sense” OR kinesthesia OR kinesthetics OR kinesthetics OR kinesthetic OR “movement sensation” OR “movement sensations” OR “isokinetic muscle strength” OR “isokinetic test” OR “isokinetic tests” OR “single-limb balance” OR “single limb balance” OR “Romberg test” OR “balance test” OR “balancing test” OR “Y balance” OR “Balance Error Scoring System” OR “step-down test” OR “step down test” OR “single leg squat test” OR “functional movement screen” OR “functional movement screening” OR “functional movement screens” OR “joint accessory mobility” OR “joint play mobility” OR “anterior drawer” OR “talar tilt inversion” OR “talar tilt eversion” OR “talar rotation” OR “talofibular interval” OR “tibiofibular interval” OR “distal fibula interval” OR “foot posture index” OR “squeeze test” OR “Cotton test” OR “dorsiflexion maneuver” OR “dorsiflexion maneuvers” OR “dorsiflexion compression test” OR “crossed leg test” OR “heel thump test” OR “Kleiger dorsiflexion external rotation test” OR “external rotation test” OR “Thompson test” OR “function and prognostic score” OR “function and prognostic scores” OR “ankle function score” OR “ankle scoring system” OR “multisegmented foot” OR “ankle-foot complex” OR “foot morphology” OR “intrinsic foot muscles” OR “ankle assessment” OR “ankle assessments” OR “foot assessment” OR “foot assessments” OR “feet assessment” OR “feet assessments” OR “biomechanical assessment” OR “biomechanical assessments” OR “foot root model” OR “ankle root model”)	78741
#5	(risk OR risks OR risk-benefit OR probability OR probabilities OR likelihood OR propensity OR “logistic model” OR “logistic models” OR “logistic modeling” OR “logistic regression” OR “logistic regressions” OR “protective factor” OR “protective factors” OR “Bayes theorem” OR Bayesian OR causality OR causalities OR causation OR causations OR cause OR causes OR “enabling factor” OR “enabling factors” OR “reinforcing factor” OR “reinforcing factors” OR “predisposing factor” OR “predisposing factors” OR predisposition OR “precipitating factors” OR “precipitating factor” OR predictor OR predictors OR “odds ratio” OR “odds ratios” OR predict OR prediction OR predictions OR predictabilities OR predictability OR predicted OR predictor OR predictors OR predictive OR etiology OR etiologies OR etiological OR etiologic OR aetiology OR origin OR origination OR originating OR interact OR interaction OR interactions OR interacting)	462091
#4	(incidence OR incidences OR morbidity OR morbidities OR epidemiology OR prevalence OR prevalent OR prevalencies)	220299
#3	(“physical therapy” OR “physical therapies” OR physiotherapy OR physiotherapies OR recovery OR restoration OR reeducation OR rehabilitation OR rehab OR “early ambulation” OR “accelerated ambulation” OR “early mobilization” OR “exercise therapy” OR “therapeutic exercise” OR “therapeutic exercises” OR “therapeutic modality” OR “therapeutic modalities” OR stretching OR “exercise movement” OR strengthen OR strengthening OR “resistance training” OR “strength training” OR weight-bearing OR weight-lifting OR “resistance methods” OR “training program” OR biofeedback OR “psychophysiological feedback” OR “neuromuscular electrical stimulation” OR “neuromuscular reeducation” OR “pain management” OR “pain measurement” OR mobilization OR mobilizations OR manipulation OR manipulations OR ultrasonography OR ultrasound OR acupuncture OR “patient education” OR “education of patients” OR iontophoresis OR “electric stimulation” OR “nerve stimulation” OR taping OR tape OR bracing OR brace OR braces OR immobilization OR immobilize OR orthotic OR orthotics OR “thermal agent” OR “thermal agents” OR diathermy OR “range of motion” OR “joint flexibility” OR “joint movement” OR “manual therapy” OR massage OR massages OR “treatment outcome” OR “clinical effectiveness” OR “treatment effectiveness” OR “treatment efficacy” OR “patient outcome” OR “patient outcomes”)	402118
#2	(injuries OR injury OR injured OR sprains OR sprain OR sprained OR strains OR strain OR strained OR swelling OR swollen OR swell OR instability OR instabilities OR unstable OR “joint effusion” OR “proprioception deficit” OR “proprioception deficits” OR “proprioception deficiency” OR “proprioception deficiencies” OR balance OR unbalanced OR “musculoskeletal equilibrium” OR “postural equilibrium” OR hypermobility OR hypermobilities OR laxity OR laxities OR tear OR torn OR “external rotation” OR eversion OR inversion)	118796

Table continues on page CPG74.



## APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#1	(ankle OR ankles OR regio tarsalis OR talar OR tarsus OR metatarsus OR metatarsal OR "subtalar joint" OR "talocalcaneal joint" OR talocrural OR "articulatio talocruralis" OR "tarsal joints" OR "tarsal joint" OR "midtarsal joint" OR "midtarsal joints" OR "intertarsal joint" OR "intertarsal joints" OR "intertarsal articulation" OR "articulationes intertarseae" OR "articulationes intertarsales" OR "ligamentum laterale articulationis talocruralis" OR calcaneofibular OR tibiofibular OR tibiotalar OR tibionavicular OR tibioalcaneal OR talofibular OR talonavicular OR calcaneocuboid OR "bifurcate* ligament*" OR "inferior transverse ligament*" OR "deltoid ligament*" OR "medial ligament*" OR "interosseous ligament*" OR "tibial nerve" OR "peroneal nerve" OR "saphenous nerve" OR "medial plantar nerve" OR "lateral plantar nerve" OR "fibular nerve" OR "fibularis tertius" OR "achilles tendon" OR calcaneal OR calcaneus OR "interosseous membrane" OR "interosseous membranes" OR "dorsal interossei" OR "plantar interossei" OR syndesmosis OR syndesmoses OR syndesmotic OR "tibialis anterior" OR "fibularis longus" OR "fibularis brevis" OR "peroneus tertius" OR "peroneus longus" OR "peroneus brevis" OR "flexor hallucis longus" OR "flexor digitorum longus" OR "extensor digitorum longus" OR "tibialis posterior" OR soleus OR peroneal OR gastrocnemius OR "abductor hallucis" OR "adductor hallucis" OR "flexor hallucis brevis" OR "abductor digiti minimi" OR "flexor digiti minimi" OR "lumbricals" OR "quadratus plantae" OR "flexor digitorum brevis" OR "gluteus medius" OR "gluteus maximus" OR "gluteal" OR "hip abductor" OR "hip rotator") (foot OR feet OR "articulationes pedis" OR metatarsophalangeal OR heel OR heels OR "sinus tarsi" OR "sinus tarsus" OR rearfoot OR midfoot)	27650

## PEDro Advanced Search Update

Updated Searches From June 26, 2018 to June 1, 2020

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#15	#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14	...
#14	Abstract & Title: diagnos* Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	34
#13	Abstract & Title: inversion Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	15
#12	Abstract & Title: eversion Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	13
#11	Abstract & Title: external rotation Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	2
#10	Abstract & Title: tear Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	2
#9	Abstract & Title: equilibrium Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	3
#8	Abstract & Title: balance Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	129
#7	Abstract & Title: proprioception Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	10
#6	Abstract & Title: swell* Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	5
#5	Abstract & Title: injury Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	47
#4	Abstract & Title: strain* Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	1
#3	Abstract & Title: sprain* Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	29

Table continues on page CPG75.

# LATERAL ANKLE LIGAMENT SPRAINS: CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

## APPENDIX A

Search	Query	Items Found, n
#2	Abstract & Title: unstable Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	7
#1	Abstract & Title: instability Body Part: Foot OR Ankle Published Since: 2018	38

## APPENDIX B

## SEARCH RESULTS

Database/ Platform	Original Date	Original Results, n	2020 Update	2020 Update Results, n
PubMed National Library of Medicine	June 26, 2018	13753	June 1, 2020	4826
Embase Elsevier	June 26, 2018	7327	June 1, 2020	1204
CINAHL EBSCO	June 26, 2018	1616	June 1, 2020	987
Cochrane Library Wiley	June 26, 2018	808	June 1, 2020	1028
PEDro University of Sydney	June 26, 2018	182	June 1, 2020	131

## APPENDIX C

## ARTICLE INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Articles published in English from 2013 to June 1, 2020 in peer-reviewed journals that include studies of the following types: systematic reviews, meta-analyses, experimental and quasi-experimental, cohort, case series (10 or more participants), and cross-sectional studies were included.

Meeting abstracts, press releases, theses, nonsystematic review articles, case reports (fewer than 10 participants), and articles that could not be retrieved in English were excluded.

**Inclusion Criteria**

We included articles reporting on

- The functional anatomy of the ankle-foot complex (to include the distal tibiofibular, talocrural, subtalar, talonavicular, calcaneocuboid, and tarsometatarsal joints; extrinsic and intrinsic foot muscles) relevant to lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability

OR

- Tests and measures for differential diagnosis of lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability within the scope of physical therapist practice, including but not limited to symptoms, functions, activity and participation such as patient-reported outcome measures and examination techniques of joint structure and function, neurophysiologic and sensorimotor function, balance, gait, psychosocial contributors, and occupation and sports-specific activity

OR

- Measurement properties of instruments and tests specific to measuring lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability outcomes, including but not limited to symptoms, functions, and activity and participation such as the Identification of Functional Ankle Instability, Cumberland Ankle Instability Tool, and Ankle Instability Instrument

OR

- Measurement properties of instruments that are not specific to lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability but are specific to pain, general health, physical activity, psychosocial function, or lower extremity function, used in the assessment of individuals with lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability. This included but was not limited to the following: the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System, Tampa Scale of Kinesiophobia, Lower Extremity Functional Scale, Foot and Ankle Outcome Score, Foot and Ankle Ability Measure activities of daily living subscale, Foot and Ankle Ability Measure sports subscale, Ankle Joint Functional Assessment Tool, Star Excursion Balance Test/Y Balance Test, single-leg squat, step-down test, STAR, lateral hopping, balance,

weight-bearing dorsiflexion range of motion, Foot Function Index, and Foot Posture Index

OR

- Primarily adults (13 years old or older)
  - Studies reporting on persons younger than 13 years old when the proportion in the sample was small (less than 5%) or when separate data were available for adults

AND

Lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability, including the following topics:

- Risk of lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability, including but not limited to sex, body mass index, prior injury, and ability to step down following injury
- Diagnostic characteristics of lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability, including but not limited to pain location, duration, and quality, and related body system impairments and activity limitations
- Preventative and rehabilitation interventions within the scope of practice of physical therapists, to include therapeutic electro-physical agents (including but not limited to cryotherapy, diathermy, electrotherapy, low-level laser therapy, ultrasound, and dry needling), manual therapy, orthotic devices and bracing, taping, therapeutic exercise, neuromuscular re-education, and sport-specific training
- Engagement of the multidisciplinary team and referral

We included all outcomes.

**Exclusion Criteria**

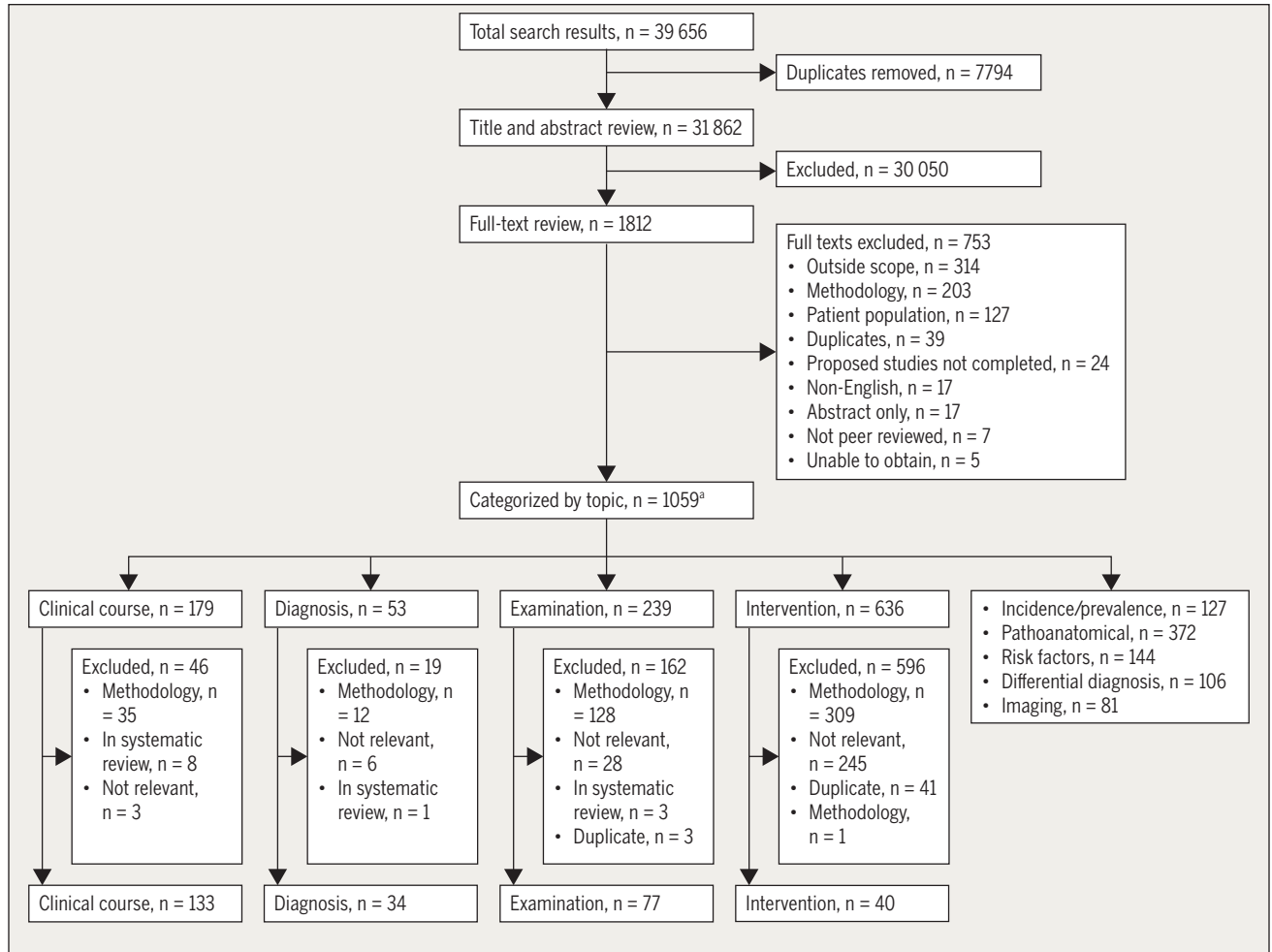
We excluded articles reporting on

- Animal studies
- Primarily infants and children (younger than 13 years old)
- Symptoms, body system impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions related primarily to conditions other than lateral ankle sprains and chronic ankle instability
  - Tumors
  - Metabolic or vascular diseases, such as
    - Gout
    - Diabetes
    - Lupus
    - Rheumatoid arthritis
    - Psoriatic arthritis
  - Posterior heel pain related to calcaneal tendinopathy
  - Medial ankle pain related to posterior tibial tendinopathy
- Topics outside the scope of physical therapist practice
  - Systemic processes (autoimmune, rheumatology)



APPENDIX D

PRISMA FLOW CHART OF ARTICLES (2013-2020)



<sup>a</sup>Articles could be placed into multiple categories.

## APPENDIX E

LEVELS OF EVIDENCE TABLE<sup>a</sup>

Level	Intervention/Prevention	Pathoanatomic/Risk/Clinical Course/Prognosis/Differential Diagnosis	Diagnosis/Diagnostic Accuracy	Prevalence of Condition/ Disorder	Exam/Outcomes
I	Systematic review of high-quality RCTs High-quality RCT <sup>b</sup>	Systematic review of prospective cohort studies High-quality prospective cohort study <sup>c</sup>	Systematic review of high-quality diagnostic studies High-quality diagnostic study <sup>d</sup> with validation	Systematic review, high-quality cross-sectional studies High-quality cross-sectional study <sup>e</sup>	Systematic review of prospective cohort studies High-quality prospective cohort study
II	Systematic review of high-quality cohort studies High-quality cohort study <sup>c</sup> Outcomes study or ecological study Lower-quality RCT <sup>f</sup>	Systematic review of retrospective cohort study Lower-quality prospective cohort study High-quality retrospective cohort study Consecutive cohort Outcomes study or ecological study	Systematic review of exploratory diagnostic studies or consecutive cohort studies High-quality exploratory diagnostic studies Consecutive retrospective cohort	Systematic review of studies that allows relevant estimate Lower-quality cross-sectional study	Systematic review of lower-quality prospective cohort studies Lower-quality prospective cohort study
III	Systematic reviews of case-control studies High-quality case-control study Lower-quality cohort study	Lower-quality retrospective cohort study High-quality cross-sectional study Case-control study	Lower-quality exploratory diagnostic studies Nonconsecutive retrospective cohort	Local nonrandom study	High-quality cross-sectional study
IV	Case series	Case series	Case-control study		Lower-quality cross-sectional study
V	Expert opinion	Expert opinion	Expert opinion	Expert opinion	Expert opinion

Abbreviation: RCT, randomized clinical trial.

<sup>a</sup>Adapted from the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine 2009 levels of evidence (<https://www.cebm.ox.ac.uk/resources/levels-of-evidence/oxford-centre-for-evidence-based-medicine-levels-of-evidence-march-2009>). See also APPENDIX F.

<sup>b</sup>High quality includes RCTs with greater than 80% follow-up, blinding, and appropriate randomization procedures.

<sup>c</sup>High-quality cohort study includes greater than 80% follow-up.

<sup>d</sup>High-quality diagnostic study includes consistently applied reference standard and blinding.

<sup>e</sup>High-quality prevalence study is a cross-sectional study that uses a local and current random sample or censuses.

<sup>f</sup>Weaker diagnostic criteria and reference standards, improper randomization, no blinding, and less than 80% follow-up may add bias and threats to validity.

## APPENDIX F

## PROCEDURES FOR ASSIGNING LEVELS OF EVIDENCE

- Level of evidence is assigned based on the study design using the Levels of Evidence table (**APPENDIX E**), assuming high quality (eg, for intervention, randomized clinical trial starts at level I)
- Study quality is assessed using the critical appraisal tool, and the study is assigned 1 of 4 overall quality ratings based on the critical appraisal results
- Level of evidence assignment is adjusted based on the overall quality rating:
  - High quality (high confidence in the estimate/results): study remains at assigned level of evidence (eg, if the randomized clinical trial is rated high quality, its final assignment is level I). High quality should include:
    - Randomized clinical trial with greater than 80% follow-up, blinding, and appropriate randomization procedures
    - Cohort study includes greater than 80% follow-up
  - Diagnostic study includes consistently applied reference standard and blinding
  - Prevalence study is a cross-sectional study that uses a local and current random sample or censuses
  - Acceptable quality (the study does not meet requirements for high quality and weaknesses limit the confidence in the accuracy of the estimate): downgrade 1 level
    - Based on critical appraisal results
  - Low quality: the study has significant limitations that substantially limit confidence in the estimate: downgrade 2 levels
    - Based on critical appraisal results
  - Unacceptable quality: serious limitations—exclude from consideration in the guideline
    - Based on critical appraisal results



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American Journal of  
Emergency Medicine

## Retrospective comparison of the Low Risk Ankle Rules and the Ottawa Ankle Rules in a pediatric population

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** A recent multicenter prospective Canadian study presented prospective evidence supporting the Low Risk Ankle Rules (LRAR) as a means of reducing the number of ankle radiographs ordered for children presenting with an ankle injury while maintaining nearly 100% sensitivity. This is in contrast to a previous prospective study which showed that this rule yielded only 87% sensitivity.

**Objective:** It is important to further investigate the LRAR and compare them with the already validated Ottawa Ankle Rules (OAR) to potentially curb healthcare costs and decrease unnecessary radiation exposure without compromising diagnostic accuracy.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective chart review of 980 qualifying patients ages 12 months to 18 years presenting with ankle injury to a commonly staffed 310 bed children's hospital and auxiliary site pediatric emergency department.

**Results:** There were 28 high-risk fractures identified. The Ottawa Ankle Rules had a sensitivity of 100% (95% CI 87.7–100), specificity of 33.1% (95% CI 30.1–36.2), and would have reduced the number of ankle radiographs ordered by 32.1%. The Low Risk Ankle Rules had a sensitivity of 85.7% (95% CI 85.7–96), specificity of 64.9% (95% CI 61.8–68), and would have reduced the number of ankle radiographs ordered by 63.1%. The latter rule missed 4 high-risk fractures.

**Conclusion:** The Low Risk Ankle Rules may not be sensitive enough for use in Pediatric Emergency Departments, while the Ottawa Ankle Rules again demonstrated 100% sensitivity. Further research on ways to implement the Ottawa Ankle Rules and maximize its ability to decrease wait times, healthcare costs, and improve patient satisfaction are needed.

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### 1. Introduction

With healthcare costs in the United States continuing to rise and emergency rooms becoming overcrowded [1,2] it becomes crucial to find ways to cut costs without compromising healthcare quality. Pediatric Emergency Departments (PEDs) are an important setting to cut costs while maintaining quality.

Roughly 85–100% of children presenting to United States PEDs with a history of ankle injury receive an ankle radiograph [3]. While the Ottawa Ankle Rule (OAR) has been validated for use in the pediatric population [4], a less well-studied rule, the Low Risk Ankle Rule (LRAR), has also shown promising results. A large multicenter prospective study conducted in Canada and published in 2013 suggested that the LRAR could reduce the number of ankle x-rays performed in PEDs by up to 60%, while maintaining nearly 100% sensitivity [5]. While such results

are promising, further validation is needed prior to implementation. This is particularly true given that a smaller 272 subject prospective study performed several years earlier showed only 87% sensitivity for the LRAR, missing 6 clinically significant fractures, versus 100% sensitivity for the OAR [6].

Thus, our aim was to further investigate the LRAR and to compare this clinical decision rule to the well-validated OAR in a pediatric population. To the best of our knowledge, there has never been a retrospective study comparing the two clinical decision rules, which could provide another perspective and eliminate possible expectation bias introduced by non-blinded clinicians in prior discordant prospective studies.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1. Definitions

The Low Risk Ankle Rules state that an ankle radiograph is not required if an ankle examination reveals tenderness and swelling isolated to the distal fibula and/or adjacent lateral ligaments distal to the tibial

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anterior joint line [7]. The Ottawa Ankle Rules state that an ankle radiograph is required if examination reveals pain in the malleolar zone and one of the following: 1) inability to bear weight immediately after the injury and in the Emergency Department for four steps or 2) bone tenderness along the distal 6 cm of the posterior edge of the tibia or tip of the medial malleolus 3) bone tenderness along the distal 6 cm of the posterior edge of the fibula or tip of the lateral malleolus [8]. A high-risk ankle injury is defined as any fracture of the foot, distal tibia, and fibula proximal to the distal physis; tibiofibular syndesmosis injury, or ankle dislocation, with increased risk of requiring surgical intervention [5].

## 2.2. Study design and data collection

We conducted an institutional review board (IRB) approved retrospective chart review at a 310 bed children's hospital and one auxiliary site. We used the radiology search engine Montage (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) to identify all ankle x-rays performed on patients between 12 months and 18 years of age at either PED between 1/1/2011 and 4/30/2014. Relevant data including patient gender, age, presence and type of fracture were accessed in January 2015 and manually entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Each ankle radiograph series had already been interpreted by an attending fellowship-trained pediatric radiologist. If the radiographic report impression was indeterminate for the presence of a fracture, the subject was excluded from the study. Otherwise, the radiologic interpretation as to whether a fracture was present and if so, what type of fracture was entered into the study data spreadsheet. The accession numbers obtained from Montage were entered into our picture archiving and communication system (PACS, Synapse, Fujifilm) in order to obtain the patient's medical record number (MRN).

The MRN was then used to obtain the patient's electronic medical record (Cerner, Kansas City) note in order to determine if the patient met criteria for ankle x-ray under each the OAR and the LRAR criteria. If there was inadequate documentation in the patient's EMR note to make this determination for either rule, the subject was excluded.

Additional exclusion criteria included inability to walk prior to ankle injury, physical deformity on exam, previous diagnosis of fracture, and underlying disease that could influence decision for x-ray (these conditions included history of bony neoplasm, sickle cell disease, osteogenesis imperfecta and osteopetrosis) (Table 1).

## 2.3. Statistical methods

The baseline characteristics of the study subjects were summarized in terms of counts and percentages, or means (standard deviation), and ranges. All data were analyzed using Stata IC/13.1 (College Station, TX).

The same set of analyses were performed for both of the clinical decision rules (Ottawa Ankle Rules and the Low Risk Ankle Rules) and three different age groups of patients: 1) all patients (1–18 y), 2) preschool-adolescents (3–16 y), and 3) toddlers (1–2 y). The age range for the second group was chosen because it is similar to what was used in other published studies [5,8].

**Table 1**  
Eligibility status of all subjects who received an ankle radiograph in the emergency department.

Total number of age-eligible exams ( $\geq 1$ and $\leq 18$ years) identified using Montage	N = 1378
Number of excluded cases	
X-ray report indeterminate for fracture	71
Exam data insufficient to determine if OAR criteria met	218
Already diagnosed with fracture, presenting for post-reduction	15
Underlying disease that could predispose to fracture (e.g. osteogenesis imperfecta)	18
Obvious physical deformity on exam	6
Exam data insufficient to determine if LRAR criteria met	70
Total number of eligible exams	N = 980

Sensitivity was calculated as the percentage of patients with a radiographically-confirmed high-risk fracture that would have been correctly identified by applying the clinical decision rule in the PED. Likewise, specificity was calculated as the percentage of patients without a radiographically confirmed high-risk fracture that would have been correctly identified by applying the clinical decision rule. MedCalc's online diagnostic test evaluation calculator was used to generate the estimates and 95% confidence intervals for sensitivity and specificity [9].

The potential reduction in ankle radiographs was expressed as a percent reduction and was calculated as follows: [Total number of radiographs actually performed – number of radiographs that would have been ordered solely based on the clinical decision rule] / total number of radiographs actually performed) \* 100.

The number of radiographically confirmed high-risk fractures that would have been missed by each of the clinical decision rules was recorded along with the total number of radiographically confirmed high-risk fractures that actually occurred in each group.

## 3. Results

A total of 980 subjects with an average age of 11.7 years (range 1–18) met the inclusion criteria (Table 2). A mere 21/980 (2%) reviewed charts mentioned the Ottawa Ankle Rules and 0/980 (0%) mentioned the Low Risk Ankle Rules as justification for obtaining an ankle x-ray. There were a total of 28 high-risk fractures within the study population.

Systematically applying the OAR in the ER to these 980 patients would have identified all 28 high-risk ankle fractures, with 100% sensitivity and 33.1% specificity and reduced the number of ankle x-rays ordered by 32.1%. Systematically applying the LRAR in the ER would have missed 4 high-risk ankle fractures, including a spiral fracture of the tibia and Salter Harris II, III, and IV fractures of the tibia. The LRAR had 85.7% sensitivity and 64.9% specificity. The LRAR would have decreased the number of ankle x-rays ordered by 63.1% (Table 3).

Additional analyses performed after excluding subjects <3 and >16 years of age (in line with the age criteria used in the recent multi-center Canadian study investigating the LRAR [5] and many of the studies on the OAR [6]) showed similar results as compared to the analysis that included all 980 subjects ages 1 through 18 years.

When the same analysis was performed on the very youngest group of children (1 to 2 years of age), both the OAR and LRAR had 100% sensitivity and 77.8% specificity. However, these are rather imprecise estimates (as evidenced by the wide confidence intervals) because they were based on a very small group of children (n = 29) with only 2 high-risk fractures.

## 4. Discussion

The sensitivity of the LRAR among children 1–18 years of age in our study was lower than that found in the 2013 study by Boutis et al. [5], but similar to those of the 2009 study by Gravel et al. [6]. As with the

**Table 2**  
Characteristics of the study population (N = 980).

Characteristic	
Age (y) <sup>a</sup>	11.7 (4.0)
Sex <sup>b</sup>	
Male	485 (49.5)
Female	495 (50.5)
Duration of symptoms <sup>b</sup>	
$\leq 24$ h	720 (73.5)
$>24$ – $\leq 72$ h	134 (13.6)
$>72$ h	81 (8.3)
Unknown	45 (4.6)
High risk fractures <sup>c</sup>	28

<sup>a</sup> Mean (SD).

<sup>b</sup> n(%).

<sup>c</sup> (n).

**Table 3**  
Performance of the Ottawa Ankle Rules compared to the Low Risk Ankle Rules.

Age group & rule	Sensitivity % (95% CI)	Specificity % (95% CI)	Potential reduction in radiographs	High-risk fractures (missed/total)
1–18 y (N = 980)				
Ottawa Ankle Rules	100 (87.6, 100)	33.1 (30.1, 36.2)	32.1%	0/28
Low Risk Ankle Rules	85.7 (67.3, 96.0)	64.9 (61.8, 68.0)	63.4%	4/28
3 y–16 y (N = 857)				
Ottawa Ankle Rules	100 (86.8, 100)	31.3 (28.2, 34.6)	30.3%	0/26
Low Risk Ankle Rules	84.6 (65.1, 95.6)	64.4 (61.0, 67.6)	62.9%	4/26
1–2 y (N = 29)				
Ottawa Ankle Rules	100 (15.8, 100)	77.8 (57.7, 91.4)	72.4%	0/2
Low Risk Ankle Rules	100 (15.8, 100)	77.8 (57.7, 91.4)	72.4%	0/2

latter study, the specificity of the LRAR was greater than that of the OAR. In agreement with prior meta-analyses [8], the sensitivity of the OAR was 100%. Despite its greater specificity, the lower sensitivity of the LRAR and the fact that four high-risk ankle fractures were missed using this rule argues against its use in the PED setting.

A disadvantage of the prospective study performed by Boutis et al. [5] was that patients who met criteria for the LRAR or the OAR did not receive x-rays. Only some of these patients were followed up by phone or physical examination and thus, there is a possibility that high-risk fractures were missed. In our study, imaging was available for all subjects. Additionally, only a portion of subjects in the study performed by Boutis et al. [5] had documented physical examinations, thus limiting reproducibility as compared to our study.

The study by Boutis et al. [5] found that the implementation of the ankle rules did not significantly change patient or physician satisfaction or length of stay. Further research is needed to determine if this would hold true in the United States, with a healthcare system distinct from that of Canada. For example, Canadians use the Emergency Department more often and 31% of Emergency Room patients waited >4 h versus a mere 13% of those in the United States [11]. Additionally, utilization of malpractice litigation differs in the two countries.

Another potential application of the OAR that was not investigated in the study by Boutis et al. [5] and could potential curb PED wait times and thus increase parent satisfaction is use of these rules by triage nurses. The accuracy and reproducibility with which nurses applied the OAR in one study performed in the United States including 185 five to nineteen year olds was 98% [12]. While the effect of triage nurse use of the OAR on length of stay and patient satisfaction has been studied in adult Emergency Departments with mixed results [13,14,15], there has been little research on such outcomes in PED. Thus, this is a promising area for future research.

Though effects on wait times and patient satisfaction as a result of OAR implementation have not been satisfactorily studied in the pediatric population, OAR implementation has been found to decrease healthcare costs [16]. One study found savings between \$614,226 and \$3,145,910 per 100,000 patients [16].

## 5. Limitations

One limitation of our study was that it was a retrospective chart review, which was dependent on EMR records to determine which criteria were met. A total of 288 (22.7%) subjects were excluded secondary to inadequate information included in the EMR. Changes or updates to the search engine Montage could also result in a slightly different patient sample, reducing reproducibility. Additionally, the experience of clinicians whose notes were reviewed varied and included residents, nurse practitioners, fellow, and attending physicians. This also makes our results more generalizable, as most PEDs have clinicians at a variety of skill levels.

At the time of our study, there was no standardized method to evaluate whether a child qualified for an ankle x-ray at our institution. At

times, the triage nurse would order a radiograph and in other instances, the resident, fellow, or attending physician would do so. Thus, the percentage of patients with ankle injuries receiving x-rays varied depending on the PED staff at any specific time. However, the majority of children (approximately 70–80% by the author's estimation) with ankle injuries had x-rays performed. Given the retrospective nature of our study, it remains possible that fractures were missed simply by not being imaged. Part of justification of the LRAR, though, is that missing low-risk fractures is acceptable since they are treated conservatively.

With a mere 2% of clinicians' notes mentioning these clinical decision rules according to our data, the OAR may not have been widely utilized. It is possible, though, that more clinicians took the OAR or LRAR into consideration without specifying as such in the EMR. A study conducted in Canada [10] showed 87.5% of PED clinicians using the OAR. However, this study was conducted via a mail survey. Another study [17] found that United States clinicians had much less positive attitudes towards and were much less likely to use the OAR as compared to clinicians from Canada and the United Kingdom. Thus, more research is needed to determine what percentage of PED clinicians utilizes the OAR, what barriers to usage of the rules exist, and how to motivate more clinicians to adopt these clinical decision rules.

## 6. Conclusions

Our retrospective study further supports the use of the OAR in the pediatric population and suggests that the LRAR are not sensitive enough for implementation. With only a small number of clinicians documenting use of the OAR, it remains important to continue to investigate methods of implementation of this clinical decision rule. Specifically, research into the use of this rule by triage nurses and the effect such application of this rule would have on PED wait times, healthcare costs, and patient and parent satisfaction should remain important future research considerations.

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