Cari Colleghi, Cari Lettori

Accolgo con molto piacere, l’invito dell’Editor di scrivere questa prefazione al numero 4 dell’Italian Journal of Sports Rehabilitation and Posturology.

Devo affermare come con la conclusione dei campionati di calcio arriva, come sempre, per noi Medici del calcio, il momento di fare un bilancio, Clinico, con particolare attenzione al quadro epidemiologico degli infortuni riscontrati in questa stagione sportiva 2014-2015, nel campionato Italiano. Osservando i dati statistici, non si può certo affermare che sia stata una stagione “vincente”, in quanto caratterizzata da troppi infortuni. Questi confermano, però, il trend degli ultimi anni. Tuttavia rimandando ad un altro momento e ad altra sede, l’analisi clinico/epidemiologica magari al prossimo Congresso L.A.M.I.C.A. quello che ha suscitato, in me, una riflessione è la diatriba tra l’allenatore del Bayer Monaco, Pep Guardiola e il medico della squadra, quel Prof. Muller-Wohlfahrt, oggi, considerato una Evidenza Scientifica in Germania. All’indomani della sconfitta contro il Porto, il Prof. Muller-Wohlfahrt è stato tacciato di essere il principale responsabile dei risultati negativi della Squadra Tedesca. La risposta a questa accusa, sono state, da grande professionista e uomo di scienza, le immediate dimissioni del Prof. Muller-Wohlfahrt e del suo Staff. Con stupore ho constatato come questa notizia sia scivolata via, silenziosamente, senza provocare quei simpatici di battiti e tavole rotonde che pur non mancano nel mondo del calcio. Così che la mente mi ha riportato agli anni 80/90 ad un articolo pubblicato su “Stampa Sera” dal giornalista Pier Carlo Alfonsetti che in sostanza definiva i medici: le ultime “ruote del calcio”. Sono trascorsi molti anni, il calcio è cambiato molto, evolvendosi sia dal punto di vista tecnico che di business, ma ahime’ per quanto riguarda la figura del medico sociale le problematiche sono rimaste identiche, assumendo forse solo una dimensione più … Europea. ? Chiedo questa mia riflessione riportando la notizia della promozione del Teramo Calcio nella serie B. Al di là dell’impresa sportiva della squadra, che pure merita di essere sottolineata essendo la prima volta che si affacciano al campionato cadetto, la mia soddisfazione sta nel fatto che lo stadio del Teramo è l’unico stadio, nel calcio professionistico, intitolato alla memoria del suo Medico Sociale “Dott. Gaetano Bonolis” che per tanti anni è stato Segretario e figura di riferimento per tutti noi della L.A.M.I.C.A. Quindi complimenti ed un augurio al Teramo Calcio.

Nel salutarvi vi auguro Buone Vacanze

Dr. Pasquale Tamburrino
Segretario L.A.M.I.C.A.
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### Brief Communications

**Pasquale Tamburrino, Rosario D’Onofrio, Agostino Tucciarone**  
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**Joseph A. Giandonato, Victor M. Tringali, Christopher D. Policastro**  
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Ita J Sports Reh Po 2015; 2; 4; 429 - 441; doi: 10.17385/ItaJSRP.015.3014  
ISSN 2385-1988 [online] - IBSN 007-111-19-55
Abstract


Il calcio è considerato lo sport più popolare del mondo essendo praticato da almeno 200 milioni di atleti e da 21 milioni di calciatrici, registrate alla Fèdèration l’Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Gli eventi lesivi sono un evento avverso, importante, spesso estremamente invalidante, per la carriera di un giocatore di calcio. Le lesioni muscolari sono molto comuni nel calcio, che rappresentano fino al 37% di tutte le lesioni per assenza dall’attività agonistica. I risultati delle ricerche sulle evidenze scientifiche evidenziate nella letteratura dipendono dal concetto di definizione della lesione, dalle caratteristiche dei giocatori e dall’obbiettivo della ricerca. I problemi metodologici associati alla ricerca delle lesioni sportive sono stati descritti ed evidenziati da Finch, Dvorak e da Noyes. Studi epidemiologici, internazionali, sui giocatori di calcio, hanno identificato un livello di incidenza delle lesioni pari al 10–35 per 1000 ore di gioco. La maggior parte delle lesioni si verifica all’arto inferiore, in particolare il 61.2% a carico del ginocchio e della caviglia. Oltre 1/4 degli infortuni nel calcio sono rappresentati da lesioni muscolo scheletriche, principalmente localizzate nel quadricipite (14%), nei muscoli ischio-crurali (28%) e negli adduttori (8%). Asymmetries/dysbalances” nel rapporto funzionale quadricipite/ischio crurali dimostrano un significativo impatto sull’incidenza delle lesioni. La prevenzione e riabilitazione delle lesioni degli ischio crurali dovrebbe essere parte di un approccio, interdisciplinare, sistematico basato sulle evidenze proposte e validate dalla letteratura scientifica.

Abstract


Background: The aim of the study was to examine the effects of an intense stretch on selected serum-based muscle inflammation biomarkers. Methods: A randomised within-subject crossover trial was conducted with 12 healthy recreationally active males (age: 29±4.33yrs, mass: 79.3±8.78kg, height: 1.76±0.06m) participating in both an intense stretching and control intervention. During the stretch intervention the hamstrings, gluteals and quadriceps were exposed to an intense stretch by the same the therapist, in order to standardise the stretch intensity for all participants. The stretch was maintained at a level rated as discomfort and/or mild pain with use of a numerical rating scale (NRS). Each muscle group was stretched for 3 x 60 seconds for both sides of the body equating to a total of 18 minutes. During the control intervention, participants rested for an equivalent amount of time. A 5ml blood sample was collected pre-, immediately post, and at 24h post for both conditions to assess the levels of interleukin (IL)-6, interleukin (IL)-1β, tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-a, and high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP). Participants provided information about their level of muscle soreness 24, 48, and 72h post treatment, using a numeric rating scale. Results: hsCRP increased significantly at 24h compared to control and immediate post stretch intervention, for time (p=0.005), and time x condition (p=0.006). No significance was observed for IL-6, IL-1β or TNF-a (p>0.05). Conclusion: It is observed that intense stretching may lead to an acute inflammatory response supported by the significant increase in hsCRP.
Abstract


Analysis and study of the posture of athlete is one of the most important aspects of evaluation during pre-season. In overhead athletes, assessing the functionality of the scapula is one of the most important and interesting observations in postural manner. Postural asymmetries frequently remains as dysfunctional abnormalities that correlate with increase in risk factors for disease in the shoulder of athletes who involve in overhead sports. These asymmetries scapular posture are more pronounced in the upper limbs dominant for their repetitiveness gestural in game play. Test of static and dynamic evaluation have been presented in the literature to classify the presence of dyskinesia’s scapular between the Kibler’s test (lateral scapular slide test, LSST) that evaluates the postural modulation of the scapula in static positions clinically. Through this test, asymmetries side to side above the measurement of 1.5 cm may be classifiable as scapular dyskinesia after fifteen minutes of assessment on the field. We therefore recommend LSST to overhead game (volleyball) athletes’ technical teams as a functional assessment field test for scapula. It is simple within 15 seconds, repeatable and capable of detecting any scapular dysfunction in asymptomatic volleyball athletes.

Abstract


Introduction: This Case-Report analyses the potential efficacy of the Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) combined with caloric balance in an amateur cyclist, both in relation to pain onset and perception, and performance enhancement. Following an accurate analysis of the literature through the main biomedical data banks, the authors did not find previous studies focusing on these specific parameters in the case of amateur cyclists. Case description: This case is about Mr. M. M., an amateur cyclist with chronic Neck-Pain, severe anxiety, overweight, low energy and poor performance. The authors carried out an osteopathic evaluation together with a multi-compartmental body composition analysis and caloric balance, and administered specific measuring scales. The primary composite outcome was identified by the Rate of Perceived Exertion (BORG/RPE) and the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS). The Hamilton Anxiety Rating (HAMg-A) and Post-Race Heart Rate reduction identified the secondary outcomes. Results: After 4 test-based OMT sessions and the adjustment of the daily calorie intake, at 60 day follow-up, the subject did not show any cervical pain; anxiety was significantly reduced, the body composition analysis showed a significant decrease of fat mass and performance improved significantly. Conclusions: This Case-Report shows that continuous benefits can be obtained with a multifactorial approach, both in amateur and professional athletes. The authors hope that the originality of this study might stimulate other researchers to focus on these issues with a larger cohort.
Abstract

P. Tamburrino, R. D’Onofrio, A. Tucciarone - Ankle Sprains in Professional Soccer Players. Isokinetic Strength of Evertors and Invertors Muscles after Ankle Sprains Treated With Two Different Dynamic Protection. Ita J Sports Reh Po 2015; 2; 4; 406 - 412; doi: 10.17385/ItaJSRP.015.3011; ISSN 2385-1988 (online); iBSN 007-111-19-55

Purpose: The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of two forms of immobilization in ankle sprains on the strength of evertor and invertor muscles, in order to draw up a rational training plan, designed to speed up the athlete’s return to competitive sport. Methods: A total of 18 soccer players (average height 1.76 ± 0.05 - average age 24.5 ± 3.5 - average weight 66.3 ± 8.1), with a second degree ankle sprain, were treated with two different therapeutic strategies: 1) group A, with Aircast Air-Stirrup Ankle Brace functional support (9 male soccer players - average height 1.80 ± 0.05 - average age 24.7 ± 3.3 years - weight 75.6 ± 5.7) and 2) group B, with taping (9 soccer players, 7 men and 2 women - average height 1.73 ± 0.04 - average age 24.2 ± 3.9 years - weight 66 ± 7.7). All athletes were tested 30 days after injury; Lido Active isokinetic system was used to monitor peak torque, total work, average power of ankle evertors and invertors. Results: The findings of our study contribute to state that the strength of ankle invertors and evertors, tested at angular speeds of 30°, 60°, 90° and 120° sec., is significantly higher in group A than in group B, in all reference parameters, with a higher index in the peak torque and in the movement of inversion, at all angular velocities tested. Conclusions: Adopting a “dynamic and functional project” allowed us not only to safeguard the biological tissue healing process, but also to keep very good levels of evertor/invertor muscle strength. All this will allow us to develop a rational program of training, drawn up on the basis of individual characteristics and in relation to injury time in the season.

Abstract

P. M. N. Perera - Assessment of Osgood Disease among Teenager Footballers in Negombo, Srilanka
Ita J Sports Reh Po 2015; 2; 4; 413 - 419; doi: 10.17385/ItaJSRP.015.3012 ISSN 2385-1988 (online); iBSN 007-111-19-55

Football is an upcoming game in Negombo, Srilanka among teenage sportsmen. A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out and data were gathered from 224 number of randomly selected football players (male) interviews were conducted among 224 football players and 45 (20.8%) of them have been sufferings from Osgood disease. They have been following Ayurvedic treatments, Western medicine and Conservative management (Self-care). Its percentages were respectively 28.8%, 55.5% and 13.3%. Among players who have followed Western medicine, 76% of them have consulted doctors and balances 24% have consulted physiotherapists. Among injurers, 8.8% were between 12yrs to 13yrs. 71.8% were between 14yrs to 15yrs. 17.7% were between 16yrs and 17yrs. 2.2% were between 18yrs and 19yrs. It was understood that the most injured age group was 14yrs to 15yrs. Also, it was noted that they were not aware of the importance of physiotherapy at all (Only 13.3% of the sample have consulted physiotherapists solely.
Abstract

R. Flowers
Sacral Stress Fracture in an Adolescent Dancer  Ita J Sports Reh Po 2015 ; 2; 4 ; 420 - 428;
Sacral stress fractures are a fairly uncommon injury that if gone undiagnosed can cause significant morbidity. The incidence is not well known and is thought to be underreported, due to vague symptoms that can mimic other more common injuries, such as muscle strains and sciatica. The following case outlines an adolescent female with a less common presentation of a sacral stress fracture and a slow progressive return to activity. This article will also present a brief review of the literature focusing on the pathophysiology, presenting symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and expected length of recovery for sacral stress fractures. Although this injury is uncommon, it often presents with common symptoms, and the clinician should not overlook it as a possible diagnosis.

Abstract

J. A. Giandonato, V. M. Tringali, C. D. Policastro
Evaluative Analysis of Interventive and Preventative Physical Activity Initiatives within Occupational Environments  Ita J Sports Reh Po 2015 ; 2; 4 ; 429 - 441;  doi : 10.17385/ItaJSRP.015.3014
ISSN 2385-1988 [online] - IBSN 007-111-19-55
This summative literature review examines the establishment and efficacy of multiple strategies aimed to improve an assortment of metrics associated with occupational performance, musculoskeletal and metabolic health, psychosocial domain, and longevity. The role of physical activity based interventions and prevention programs will be emphasized, as will outcomes and suggested actionable strategies emanating from a theoretical amalgamation of public health, exercise science, and human resource management.
Official Journal of the:

- Italian Scientific Society of Rehabilitation and Posturology of the Sports
- Italian Football Medical Association
- Italian kinesiological Taping Association
- Italian Group for Evidence Based Sport Osteopathy
Making the Case for Exercise and Fitness Professionals Leading Wellness Programs

Authors: Joseph A. Giandonato, and Victor M. Tringali

Technological advances in conjunction with a reduction in laborious occupational demands have significantly contributed to escalating obesity rates in the United States throughout the past half century. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates, the percentage of obese Americans has ballooned from 13% in 1962 to 35.7% in 2008. Sedentary behaviors and physical inactivity are correlative with increased rates of cardiovascular disease diagnosis and stroke, which mark the two of the most prevalent causes of death within the US. In response to the resounding, yet largely preventable public health crises, legislators and organizations scramble to enact strategic measures to mitigate economic impact.

Spearheading the effort to engender healthy behaviors among working Americans, organizations have begun implementing wellness programs. The creation and implementation of wellness programs, which are defined as employer directed initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of employees, and in some instances, their dependents, and communities in which they reside, are rationalized through widely documented benefits, including: increased productivity, improved morale, reduced absenteeism, and curtailing organizational healthcare premiums, compensation and disability claims, and direct medical costs. Wellness programs have also been purported to augment employee retention and recruitment efforts.

Professionals hailing from medical, allied health, and public health and policy realms are often
commissioned by firms to lead wellness programs. While professionals arising from each sect encompass distinct attributes and in certain scenarios, the capacity to practice with professional licensure, individuals possessing a background in exercise science are best suited to handle the dual role of administrator and practitioner of health education and disease prevention. Academic programs in exercise science at the undergraduate and graduate levels cover an immense breadth of subject matter, often including electives in education, management, and statistics in conjunction with traditional coursework in physiology, biomechanics, and nutrition. When coupled with a background in fitness training or coaching, those in possession of sound theoretical exercise science acumen will prove adroit in their provision of actionable strategies, thus enhancing constituency engagement, a key determinant in the success of wellness programs.

Literature has suggested that wellness programs consisting of physical activity demonstrated improvements in health related quality of life, reduced absenteeism, and attendant improvements in multiple biomarkers, including streamlined insulin control, decreased body fat percentage and serum cholesterol concentrations. The establishment of physical activity as a vital tenet within a wellness program may prove efficacious among employees, as many workers remain sedentary for a disproportionate amount of their work hours.

Based on the aforementioned inferences in conjunction with a combined four decades of experience in the wellness and fitness industries, it is our communal assertion that degreed exercise and fitness professionals are worthy of consideration in leading wellness programs.

In good health and happiness,

Joseph A. Giandonato, MBA, MSc, CSCS
Drexel University - International Associate Board Member, Ita J Sports Reh Po

Victor M. Tringali, MSc, CSCS
Drexel University - International Associate Board Member, Ita J Sports Reh Po
References


Ankle Sprains in Professional Soccer Players. Isokinetic Strength of Evertors and Invertors Muscles after Ankle Sprains Treated with Two Different Dynamic Protection

Authors: Pasquale Tamburrino¹, Rosario D’Onofrio,¹ Agostino Tucciarone ²

¹ Medical Staff Olympic Training Centre, Formia (Latina) Italy
² Orthopaedic Surgeon and Sports Medicine Physician ICOT, Head of Medical Staff, Latina FC

Abstract

Purpose: The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of two forms of immobilization in ankle sprains on the strength of evertor and invertor muscles, in order to draw up a rational training plan, designed to speed up the athlete’s return to competitive sport.

Methods: A total of 18 soccer players (average height 1.76 ± 0.05 - average age 24.5 ± 3.5 - average weight 66.3 ± 8.1), with a second degree ankle sprain, were treated with two different therapeutic strategies: 1) group A, with Aircast Air-Stirrup Ankle Brace functional support (9 male soccer players - average height 1.80 ± 0.05 - average age 24.7 ± 3.3 years - weight 75.6 ± 5.7) and 2) group B, with taping (9 soccer players, 7 men and 2 women - average height 1.73 ± 0.04 - average age 24.2 ± 3.9 years - weight 66 ± 7.7). All athletes were tested 30 days after injury; Lido Active isokinetic system was used to monitor peak torque, total work, average power of ankle evertors and invertors.

Results: The findings of our study contribute to state that the strength of ankle invertors and evertors, tested at angular speeds of 30°, 60°, 90° and 120° sec., is significantly higher in group A than in group B, in all reference parameters, with a higher index in the peak torque and in the movement of inversion, at all angular velocities tested.

Conclusions: Adopting a “dynamic and functional project” allowed us not only to safeguard the biological tissue healing process, but also to keep very good levels of evertor/invertor muscle strength. All this will allow us to develop a rational program of training, drawn up on the basis of individual characteristics and in relation to injury time in the season.

Key word: Ankle sprains, Ankle brace, Ankle taping, Isokinetic, Soccer injury
**Introduction**

Ankle sprains are one of the most common injuries\textsuperscript{1,2,8} in sports in general and soccer in particular. Researchers have estimated that ankle injuries account for 11 to 33\% of all sports related injuries in athletes.\textsuperscript{4,5,6} Sixteen percent of all injuries at the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany were to the ankle.\textsuperscript{10} The rate of ankle injury in Germany was 11.6 injuries per 1000 match hours, which works out to about one ankle injury about every 2.5 matches. Ankle injuries can be defined as either acute or chronic, with ligamentous injury the most common acute diagnosis. About 85\% of all ankle injuries are ankle sprains involving the lateral ankle ligaments. Following an acute ankle sprain, pain, swelling and ecchymosis are common, which may contribute to reduced mobility and function, as well as occupational absence. The rehabilitation of ankle injuries include controlling the acute inflammatory process, regaining full ankle range of motion, increasing muscle strength and power, and improving proprioceptive abilities.

Strengthening exercises such as toe raises, calf press and the use of rubber tubing or a towel to resist side-to-side ankle movements should be performed. An ankle sprain may leave an athlete out of play for several weeks, and in many cases full recovery takes much longer. The decision to RTP following an ankle injury is a multifactorial process. Functional testing provides objective measures for gauging an athlete's progression through the rehabilitation and reconditioning Training. Many athletes from different sports think that taping and bracing is important in acute and chronic phases of an ankle injury. Functional performance effects of ankle taping and bracing have been assessed in both injured and uninjured subjects.\textsuperscript{9}

The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of two forms of immobilization in ankle sprains\textsuperscript{3} on the strength of evertor and invertor muscles, in order to draw up a rational training plan, designed to speed up the athlete's return to competitive sport.

**Methods**

Eigtheen soccer players (mean±SD age 24.5±3.5 yrs; height 1.76±0.05 m; weight 66.3±8.1 kg), with a second degree ankle sprain, were treated with two different therapeutic strategies:

1) **Group A**, with Aircast Air-Stirrup Ankle Brace (DJO Italia srl, Italy) functional support (9 male soccer players (24.7±3.3 yrs; 1.80±0.05 m; 75.6±5.7 kg);

   **Group A**: consisted of 9 athletes, all of them followed a therapeutic / rehabilitative strategy of unloaded weight for the first 10 days and, as protection, Air-Stirrup Ankle Brace functional support, which allowed a partial movement of ankle plantar flexion and dorsiflexion, and limited pronation and supination movements. This functional brace has the distinction of having anatomic valves, two small pre-inflated air cushions Duplex, providing protection and compression.
2) **Group B**, with taping (9 soccer players, 7 men and 2 women; 24.2±3.9 yrs; 1.73±0.04 m; 71.0±7.7 kg);

**Group B**: consisted of 9 athletes as the other group, and was treated with a therapeutic / rehabilitative strategy which included “stiff” inelastic taping for the first 10 days and unloaded weight. Taping was made with inelastic material according to current guidelines of the literature. This taping allowed a partial movement of ankle plantar flexion and dorsiflexion, and limited pronation and supination movements. Materials used: spray adhesive (Tensospray Sixtus), band of protection skinsaver (Tensoban Sixtus), vaseline, inelastic tape (Strappal Sixtus h 5 cm). The skin was carefully prepared through cleaning, hair removal and disinfection.

All players were tested 30 days after injury. Lido Active isokinetic system (Loredan Biomedical, West Sacramento, CA, USA) was used to monitor peak torque, total work, average power of ankle evertors and invertors at angular velocity of 30, 60, 90 and 120°/s.

**Isokinetic Screening**

Follow-up was performed on the 30th day after injury, upon checking clinical status for absence of conditions that would contraindicate the testing, including for example: pain, edema and range of motion limitations. We monitored mean values of peak torque, total work and average power of ankle evertors and invertors. Both groups of athletes performed a warm-up consisting of 10 minutes exercise bike at 21 km/h, followed by 10 min. traditional stretching, Anderson method, for all muscle groups of lower kinetic chain and in particular the ankle joint for pronation and supination movements with elastic tubing as test preparation. (Figure 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Isokinetic test protocol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 repetitions as warm-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 repetitions eversion/inversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed investigated: 30 °, 60 °, 90 ° and 120 ° / sec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 seconds recovery between one set of repetitions and the next</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1**. Isokinetic test protocol.

**Results**

Strengths of ankle invertors and evertors are significantly higher in group A than in group B, in all reference parameters (P<0.05), with higher peak torques in the movement of inversion, at all angular velocities tested. (P<0.05) (Tables 1,2,3)
**Ankle Sprains in Professional Soccer Players. Isokinetic Strength of Evertors and Invertors Muscles after Ankle Sprains Treated With Two Different Dynamic Protection**

**Table 1.** Mean±SD values of peak torque (Nm) in both groups of players

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>30°/s</th>
<th>60°/s</th>
<th>90°/s</th>
<th>120°/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>Inversion</td>
<td>54.2±0.2</td>
<td>50.0±9.3</td>
<td>42.2±1.1</td>
<td>37.2±6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>Inversion</td>
<td>30.0±5.6</td>
<td>24.0±3.2</td>
<td>24.2±2.9</td>
<td>20.4±0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>Eversion</td>
<td>36.2±7.3</td>
<td>38.4±6.7</td>
<td>31.0±0.6</td>
<td>27.2±5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>Eversion</td>
<td>27.1±5.3</td>
<td>21.1±2.5</td>
<td>20.3±1.3</td>
<td>17.2±0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** Mean±SD values of total work (J) in both groups of players

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>30°/s</th>
<th>60°/s</th>
<th>90°/s</th>
<th>120°/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>Inversion</td>
<td>14.4±9.1</td>
<td>26.2±3.5</td>
<td>35.2±3.1</td>
<td>39.0±5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>Inversion</td>
<td>8.2±8.3</td>
<td>15.4±5.1</td>
<td>24.1±2.1</td>
<td>25.1±8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>Eversion</td>
<td>8.3±5.4</td>
<td>19.0±4.8</td>
<td>23.3±5.4</td>
<td>28.6±1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>Eversion</td>
<td>8.0±5.2</td>
<td>15.3±7.8</td>
<td>20.1±1.1</td>
<td>22.2±1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3.** Mean±SD values of average power (W) in both groups of players
Photo 1 – Return to Training

Return to training (Photo 1) (or return to competitions) was 4.7±4 week in group A and 5.7±0.6 weeks in group B respectively (P < 0.05).

Conclusions

Final results show in group A a clear constant and very good keeping of strength in all reference parameters, that is: peak torque, total work and average power, compared to group B. Isokinetic monitoring of all athletes, 30 days after injury, showed an evident difference in group A (brace) in ankle inversion at all test angular velocities (compared to eversion). (tables 1, 2, 3) This especially in peak torque inversion at 30°/sec. where difference is more than 44.6%, and at 60°/sec. where difference is even higher than 52%, in athletes treated with functional brace. Data analysis shows that the major difference relates to peak torque, rather than to total work and average power.

The average total work is significantly constant and contained in the two groups. As for total work in eversion, at 30°/sec. there are no evident differences, whereas at angular velocity of 60°/sec., the monitoring carried out shows a substantial difference.

Final Report Conclusion. Using a functional brace is a therapeutic strategy for a quick return to sporting activity. It is the best compromise for both physiological and sporting recovery, for a fast return to competitions.
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