

J/cm²), twice a week for four weeks, while the PG received treatment with the device turned off. After 15 days, the groups were crossed over. Independent t-tests and paired t-tests were performed for statistical analysis.

Results: The PHQ of the EG significantly decreased after the intervention [$t(21) = 2.79$, $p = 0.01$], while in the PG it remained unchanged [$t(24) = 1.24$, $p = 0.20$]. The comparison between groups after the intervention showed no significant difference [$t(47) = 2.00$, $p = 0.05$].

Conclusion: Auriculotherapy with laser biophotomodulation showed positive effects on the general health of participants in the EG, but it was not significantly superior to the placebo treatment. Implications: These results suggest that the technique may have benefits for individuals with TMD, but further studies are needed to validate its clinical efficacy.

Keywords: Auriculotherapy, Temporomandibular Disorder, Patient Health, Rehabilitation

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Funding: Not applicable.

Ethics committee approval: CAAE: 78798524.4.0000.5152.

Registration: Not applicable.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjpt.2025.101492>

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CAN IMPROVEMENT IN POSTURAL CONTROL BE OBSERVED AFTER FOUR MONTHS OF ANTERIOR CRUCIATE LIGAMENT RECONSTRUCTION? PILOT STUDY

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Background: Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) rupture accounts for 50% of all knee ligament injuries and is related to sports practice in young and active patients. ACL reconstruction (ACLR) contributes to improving knee function, reducing joint instability, and assisting the patient in returning to their activities. However, even after reconstruction surgery and well-structured rehabilitation programs, residual rotational instability may remain in up to 30% of patients, which highlights the importance of assessing stability, balance, and postural control. However, although there are studies showing the impact on joint stability, there is still no knowledge about postural control in different periods of the postoperative period.

Objectives: To establish the differences in bipedal and unipedal postural control before and after 15, 30, 60 and 120 days after ACL reconstruction surgery.

Methods: This is a pilot study evaluating 13 participants with ACL injury and surgical reconstruction who underwent analysis of bipedal and unipedal postural control before and after 15, 30, 60 and 120 days using a force platform. The variables analyzed were the center of pressure area (COP), anteroposterior amplitude (AAP), mediolateral amplitude (AML), anteroposterior velocity (VAP) and mediolateral velocity (VML). Three repetitions in bipedal support and three in unipedal support on the lower limb subjected to ACLR were evaluated. The mean of the attempts was considered as the result. The results were established by Repeated Measures Analysis of Variance. The assumptions were verified using Mauchly's sphericity test and when they were not assumed, an analysis was performed using the Greenhouse-Geisser correction. The F test, if a significant difference was identified, the Bonferroni multiple

correction test was used. Significance was set at 5%. Analyses were performed using IBM-SPSS 29.

Results: The participants were 10 men and 03 women, aged 25.09 (6.44) years, weighed 79.27 (16.67) kilos and measured 170.45 (8.64) centimeters in height. Postural control in the bipedal position showed no differences between the moments evaluated for COP ($P = 0.107$), AAP ($P = 0.217$), AML ($P = 0.269$), VAP ($P = 0.432$) and VML ($P = 0.477$). When the participants were in unipedal support, COP showed significant improvement ($P = 0.025$) with a difference between the preoperative moments (7.76 (2.17)) and after 120 days of surgery (5.93 (1.30)). The variables AAP ($P = 0.085$), AML ($P = 0.089$), VAP ($P = 0.669$) and VML ($P = 0.248$) did not show any changes.

Conclusion: ACLR improves postural control in single-leg stance by reducing the area of the center of pressure 120 days after surgery. These results establish the improvement in lower limb stability after ACLR.

Implications: Residual rotational instability may remain in up to 30% of patients. However, it is noted that ACLR has a beneficial impact on joint stability in different periods of the postoperative period, especially after 120 days of surgery.

Keywords: Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury, Postural Control, Postural Balance, Physiotherapy

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Funding: CNPq.

Ethics committee approval: No. 1.503.496.

Registration: Not applicable.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjpt.2025.101493>

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COMPARISON OF THE SCIATIC AND MEDIAN NERVES NEURODYNAMIC IN ASYMPTOMATIC OLDER ADULTS AND YOUNGER ADULTS: OBSERVATIONAL CASE-CONTROL STUDY

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Background: Healthy peripheral nerves have the ability to adapt to increased neurodynamic tension generated by body movements. However, this adaptive capacity is reduced in pathological conditions. Although peripheral neuropathies are common in older adults, there is an absence of knowledge about the behavior of peripheral nerves in asymptomatic older adults.

Objectives: To compare the behavior of the sciatic and median nerves to neurodynamic tension in older adults and asymptomatic adults.

Methods: Sixty-eight asymptomatic participants (34 older adults and 34 sex-matched adults) were evaluated by ultrasound imaging of the sciatic and median nerves, in two positions with different degrees of neurodynamic tension for each nerve. For the median nerve, the first position kept the participant's right upper limb at 90 degrees of shoulder abduction and external rotation, elbow flexion at 90 degrees, forearm supination with the palm facing the participant, and the wrist and metacarpophalangeal joint in a neutral position. In position 2, the second examiner passively extended the elbow, wrist, and metacarpophalangeal joint until the perception of resistance limits the range of motion. For the sciatic nerve, the hip flexion was maintained at 60° in both positions. In Position 1, the knee was flexed at 90 degrees, and the tibiofibular joint remained neutral. In position 2, the knee was passively extended, and the