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Comparison of Postural Variable in Division II Athletes and Non-Athlete College Students

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COMPARISON OF POSTURAL VARIABLE IN DIVISION 2 ATHLETES AND NON-ATHLETE COLLEGE STUDENTS



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Abstract

Research has indicated a possible difference in the development of posture deformities in athletes and non-athletes. **PURPOSE:** This study was to identify posture differences in division 2 collegiate athletes and non-collegiate athletes and provide a two-week intervention to reduce discrepancies found. **METHODS:** 16 male athletes, 10 male non-athletes, 12 female athletes, and 13 female non-athletes participated. During the assessment, participants were evaluated from posterior and sagittal views with an adjusted REEDCO Posture Assessment. They were scored on a scale of 3 to 1 with 3 being good and 1 being poor in 10 categories with 30 being the max score. The volunteers were provided 4 stretches: neck extension, doorframe stretch, shoulder tuck, sitting up straight in a chair. They completed an anonymous survey indicating how often they did the intervention. **RESULTS:** The initial plumb line test average score for male athletes was 28.37, 27.10 for male non-athletes, 27.16 for female athletes, and 26.92 for female non-athletes. The final scores for male athletes were 28.93, 28.10 for male non-athletes, 29.16 for female athletes, and 28.69 for female non-athletes. 6% of the population said they did the intervention for 2 weeks, 23% did it for a week and a half, 51% did it for 1 week, and 20% didn't do it at all. After conducting a one-way ANOVA test with the average scores of the final plumb line test a p-value of 0.1723 was found. Most group's scores on average increased by 1.33 points after participating in the intervention. **CONCLUSION:** A difference in posture scores for the populations being tested was observed. Athletes had better initial and post posture scores than non-athletes. The intervention improved scores for most participants. A Limitation of the study includes not monitoring volunteers' adherence to the intervention. When conducting future research keeping track of the exact sport or activities the athletes and non-athletes participate in would be beneficial.

Results

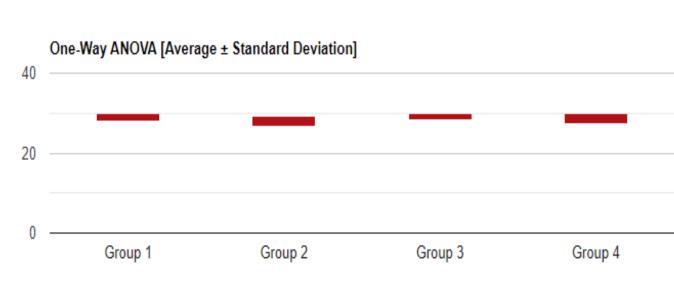
- Initial and post plumb line test individual and average group scores:
- Average increased by a mean of 1.33 points after two-week intervention.

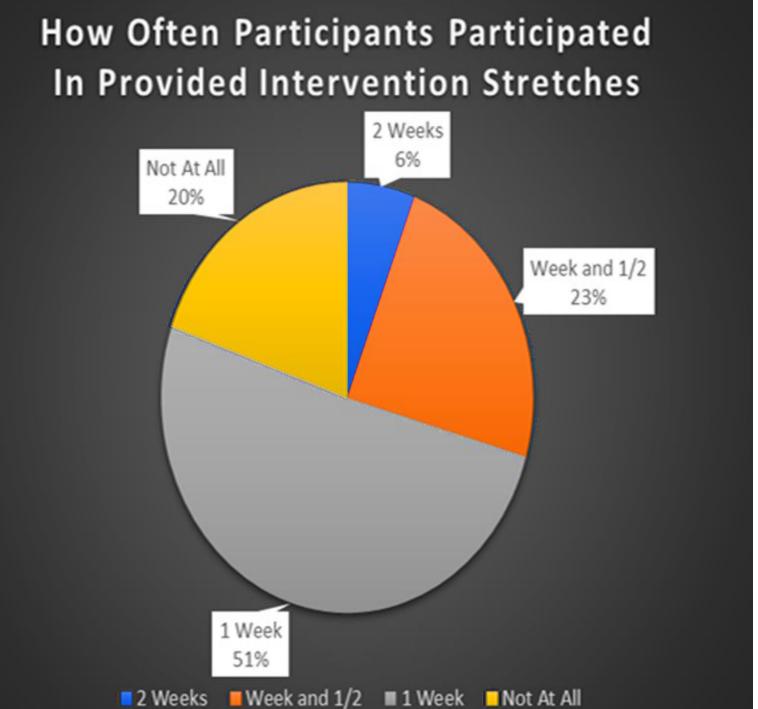
Male Ath	Pretest	Posttest	Male Non-Ath	Pretest	Posttest	Female Ath	Pretest	Posttest	Female Non-Ath	Pretest	Posttest
1	30	28				1	27	29	1	28	29
2	25	28	1	20	28	2	25	30	2	28	30
3	27	27	2	28	26	2			2		
4	29	27	-			3	28	29	3	29	28
5	30	29	3	28	30	4	24	28	4	28	29
6	27	30	4	26	27	5	27	28	5	26	26
7	27	29	_						6	30	26
8	30	30	5	28	27	6	28	30	7	24	30
9	30	30	6	29	28	7	27	29			
10	30	29		25	20	8	28	30	8	26	29
11	27	28	7	27	29	0			9	18	28
12	30	30	8	29	30	9	25	29	10	30	29
13	29	29	0	25	30	10	29	30			
14	26	30	9	27	28				11	26	30
15	27	30				11	28	28	12	29	30
16	30	29	10	29	28	12	30	30	13	28	29
Average M-A:	28.375	28.9375	Average M-NA:	27.1	28.1	Average F-A:	27.16667	29.166667	Average F-NA:	26.92307692	28.692308

 One-way ANOVA test using the average scores of the post plumb line test P-Value = 0.1723.

Data Summary							
Groups	Ν	Mean	Std. Dev.	Std. Error			
Group 1	16	28.9375	1.0626	0.2657			
Group 2	10	28.1	1.2867	0.4069			
Group 3	12	29.1667	0.8348	0.241			
Group 4	13	28.6923	1.3775	0.382			

ANOVA Summary									
Source	Degrees of Freedom DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square MS	F-Stat	P-Value				
Between Groups	3	6.9034	2.3011	1.7368	0.1723				
Within Groups	47	62.273	1.325						
Total:	50	69.1764							





Group 1 represents Male Athletes, Group 2 represent Male Non-athletes,
Group 3 represents Female Athletes, and Group 4 represents Female Non-athletes.

Methodology

- 16 male athletes, 10 male non-athletes, 12 female athletes, and 13 female nonathletes participated.
- The participants were initially briefed by the researchers about the study.
- Next, they were asked to remove any hoodies or baggy tops that could skew or hinder the evaluator's view of their posture.
- Then, the researchers demonstrated how to stand beside the plumb line so that participants were centered when being evaluated from both frames of reference.
- During the initial and post assessments, participants were evaluated from a posterior and sagittal view with an adjusted REEDCO Posture Assessment.
- They were scored on a scale of 3 to 1 with 3 being good and 1 being poor in 10 categories with 30 being the max score. The 10 categories included head, shoulder, spine, hips, ankles, neck, upper back, trunk, abdomen, and lower back alignment.
- After their initial test the volunteers were provided 4 stretches: neck extension, doorframe stretch, shoulder tuck, sitting up straight in a chair to perform for 2 weeks straight as their intervention.
- Lastly, After the two-week intervention was completed, participants completed an anonymous survey indicating how often they did the provided intervention.

Conclusion

Based upon the following data collected during this study a difference in posture scores for the populations being tested was observed. It was found that on average athletes had better initial and post posture scores than their non-athlete counter parts. However, based upon our p-value the following results were not statistically significant. This means our data is more likely to occur randomly or by chance instead of being attributable to a specific cause. The data also showed that the intervention improved scores for most participants. A few limitations of the study include not monitoring volunteers' adherence to the intervention, not making proper attire a requirement to participate in the study and providing a more detailed and muscle specific intervention for participants. When conducting future research keeping track of the exact sport or activities the athletes and non-athletes participate in, collecting a larger sample size of the population being tested, and increasing the duration of intervention would all be beneficial to see the effectiveness of the intervention.

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