

Hamstring muscle function in high-speed running and in hamstring exercises

PhD thesis and all publications are free to download using the following link:

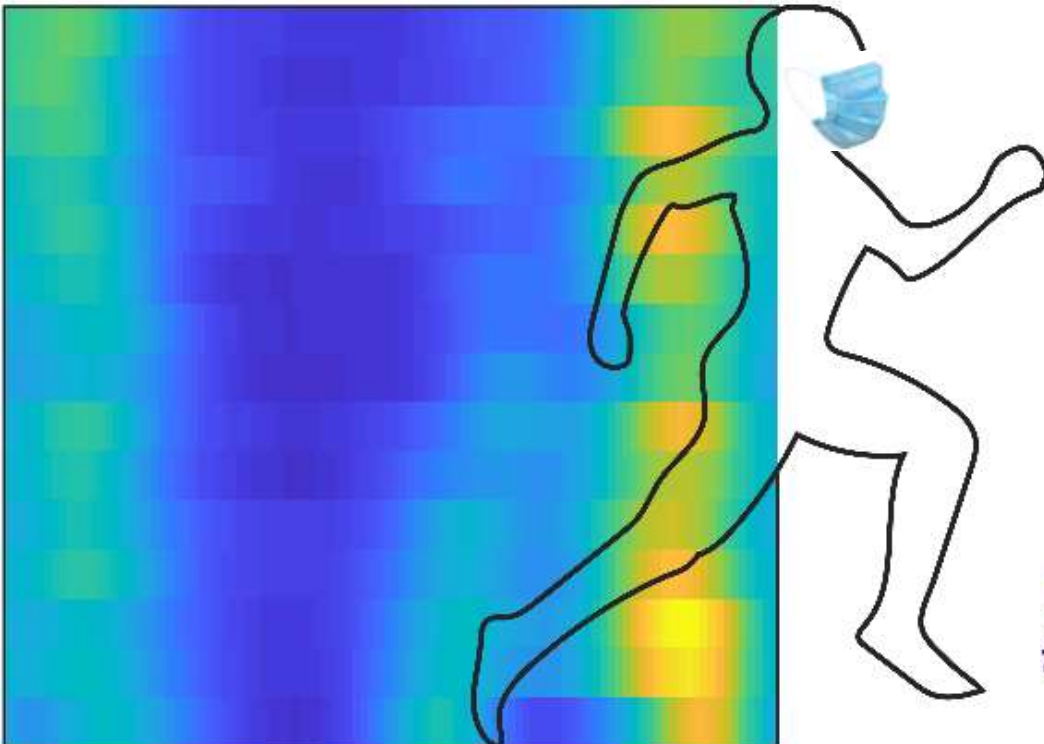
<http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-39-8035-1>

András Hegyi

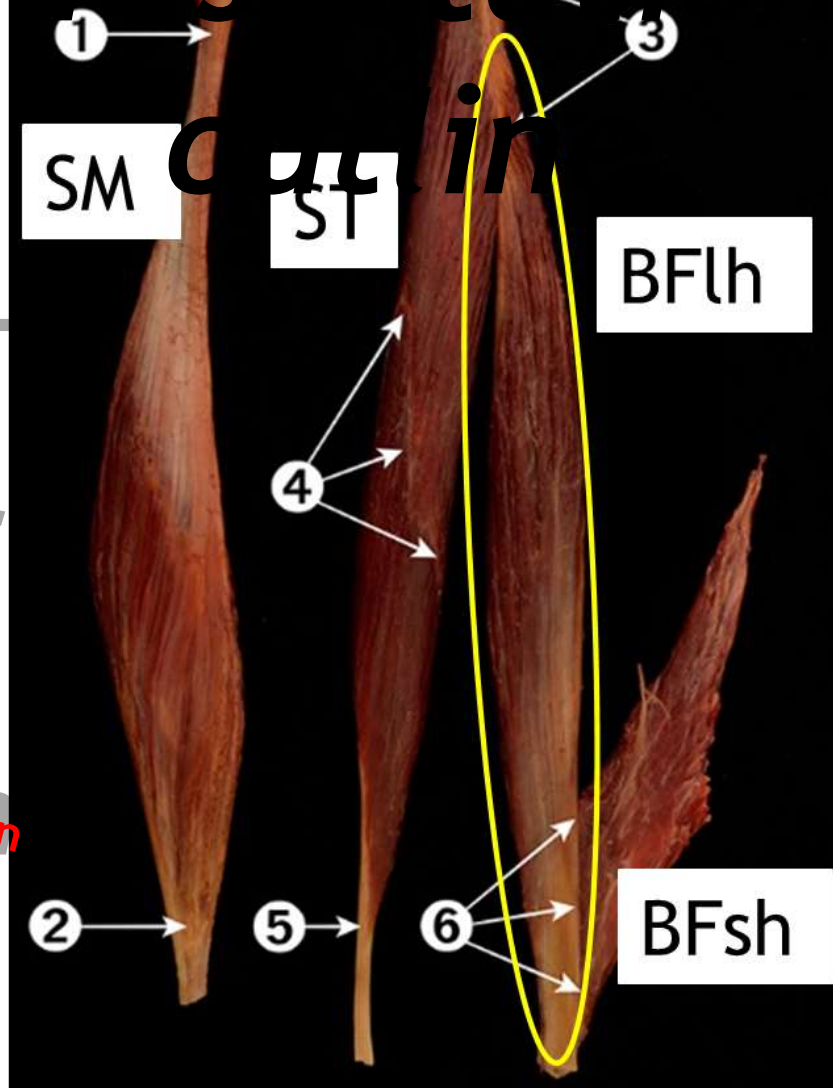
Postdoctoral Researcher
University of Nantes, France
FULGUR project

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Email: Andras.Hegy@univ-nantes.fr



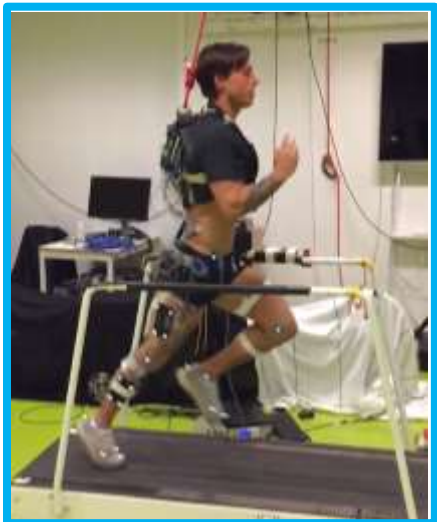
Aspects of Curc



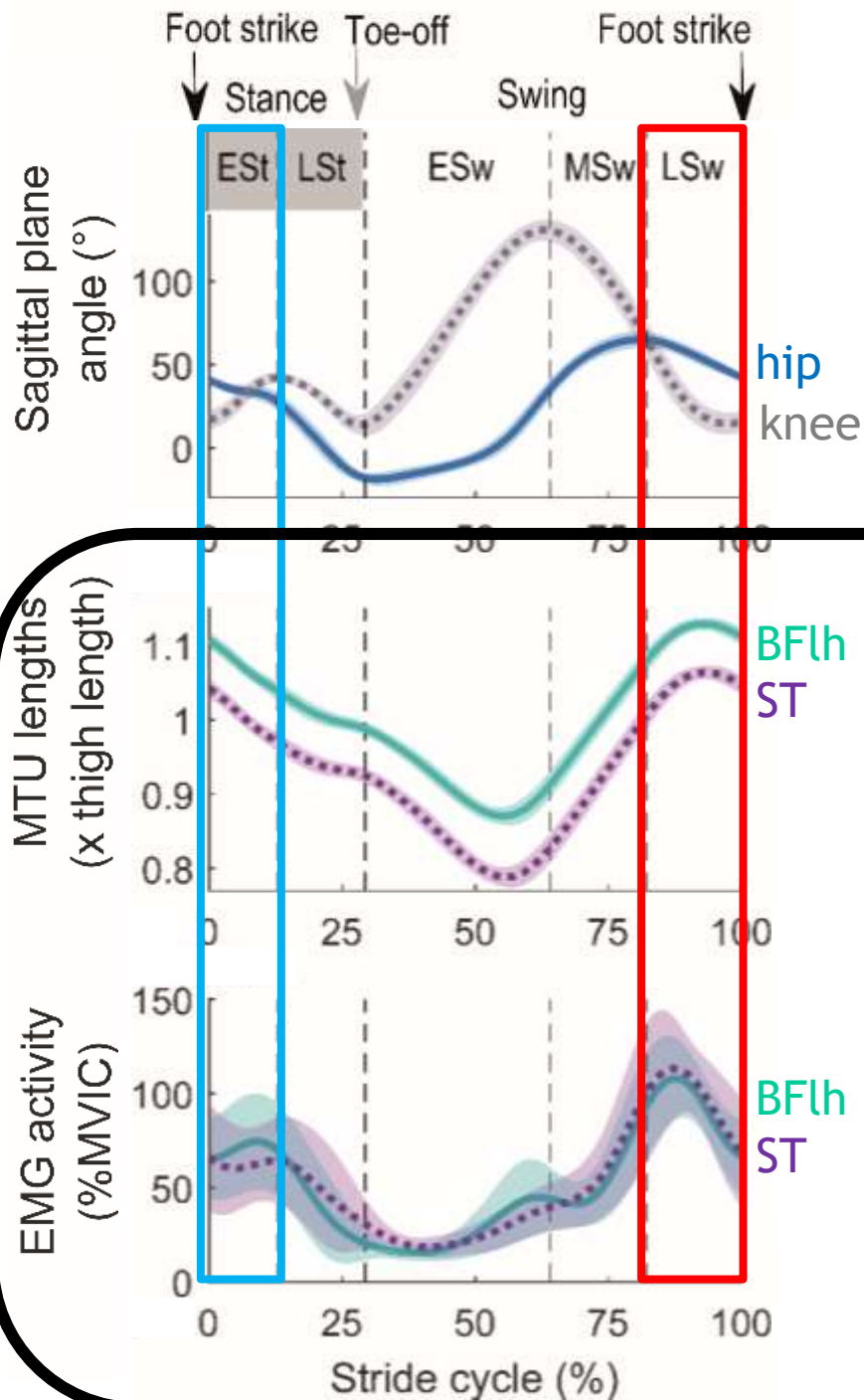
Long length

High activation

Early stance



Late swing



Presentation outline

Part 1

Running

Part 2

Hamstring Exercises

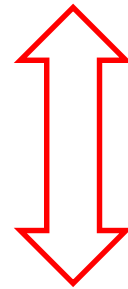
Back in 1993...

Muscle damage is not a function of muscle force
but active muscle strain

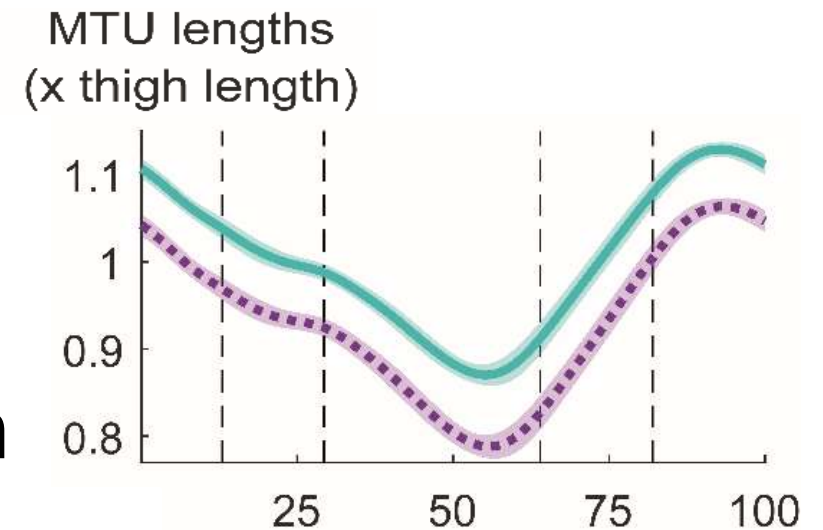


RICHARD L. LIEBER AND JAN FRIDÉN
*Department of Orthopedics and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Group, University of California
and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, San Diego, California 92161; and Departments of Anatomy and
Hand Surgery, University of Umeå, S901 87 Umeå, Sweden*

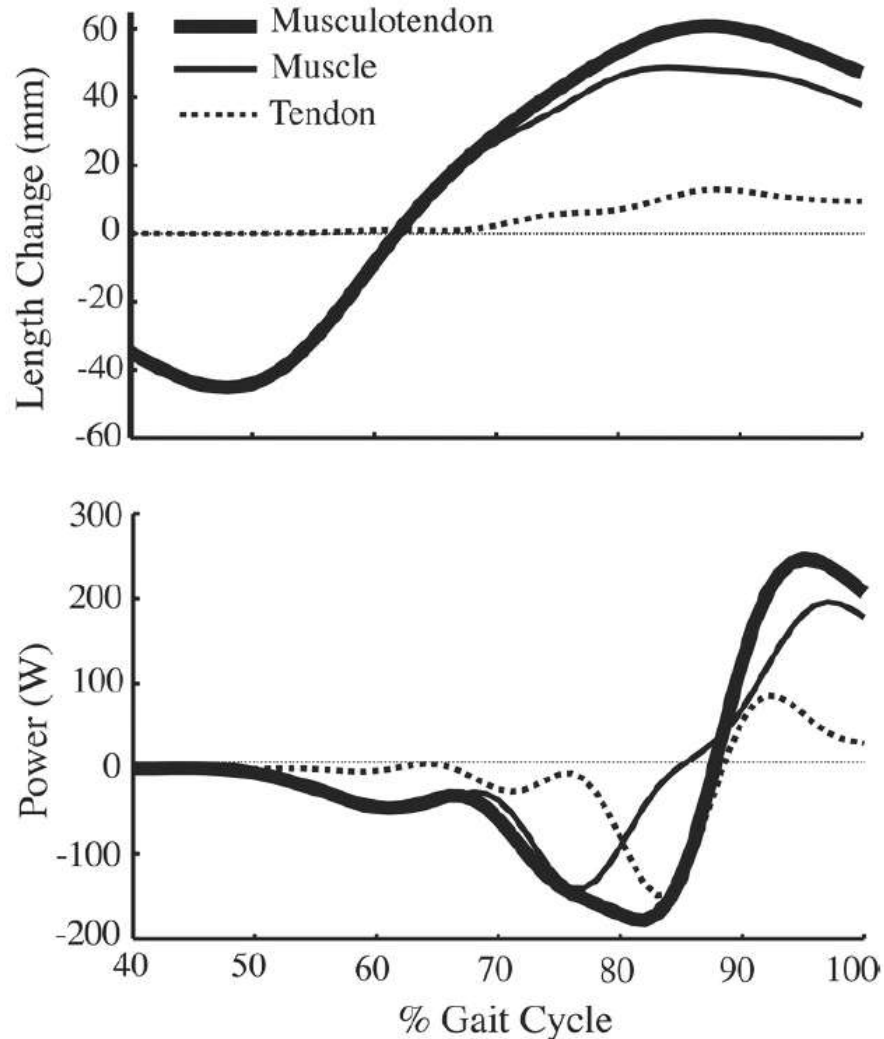
Magnitude of **muscle fibre** strain is a
good predictor of strain injury



Hamstrings in sprinting: only entire
muscle-tendon unit function is known

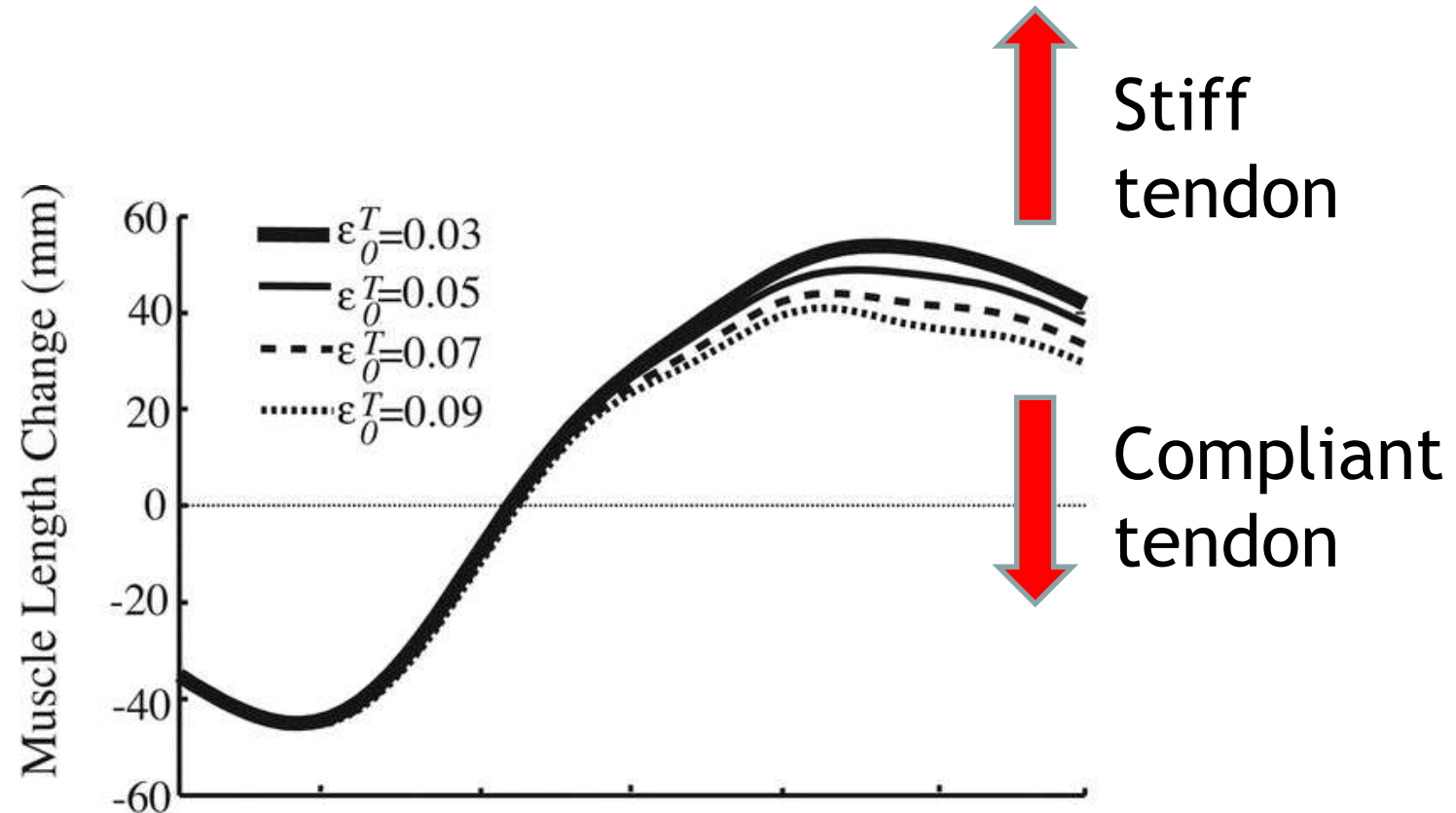


BFIh muscle-tendon decoupling in the swing



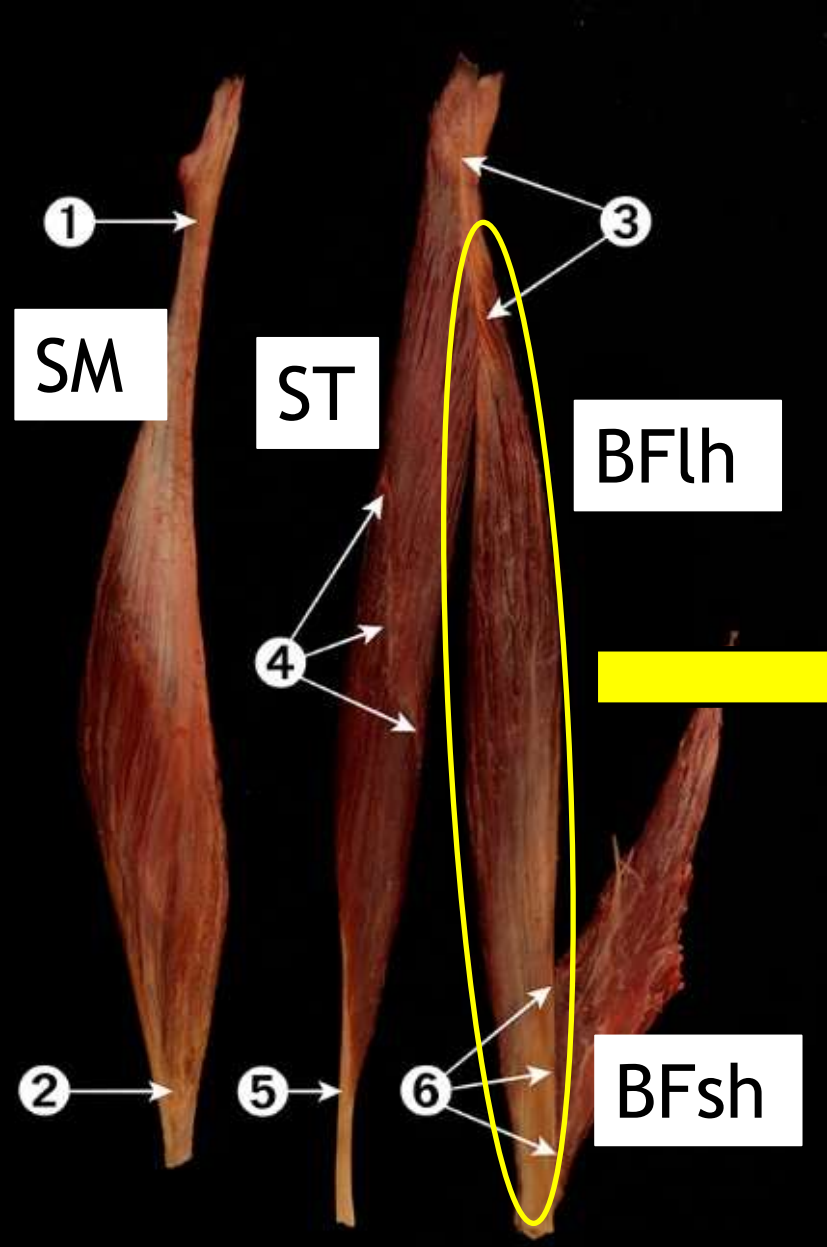
Thelen et al., 2005

Tendon stiffness affects muscle behavior

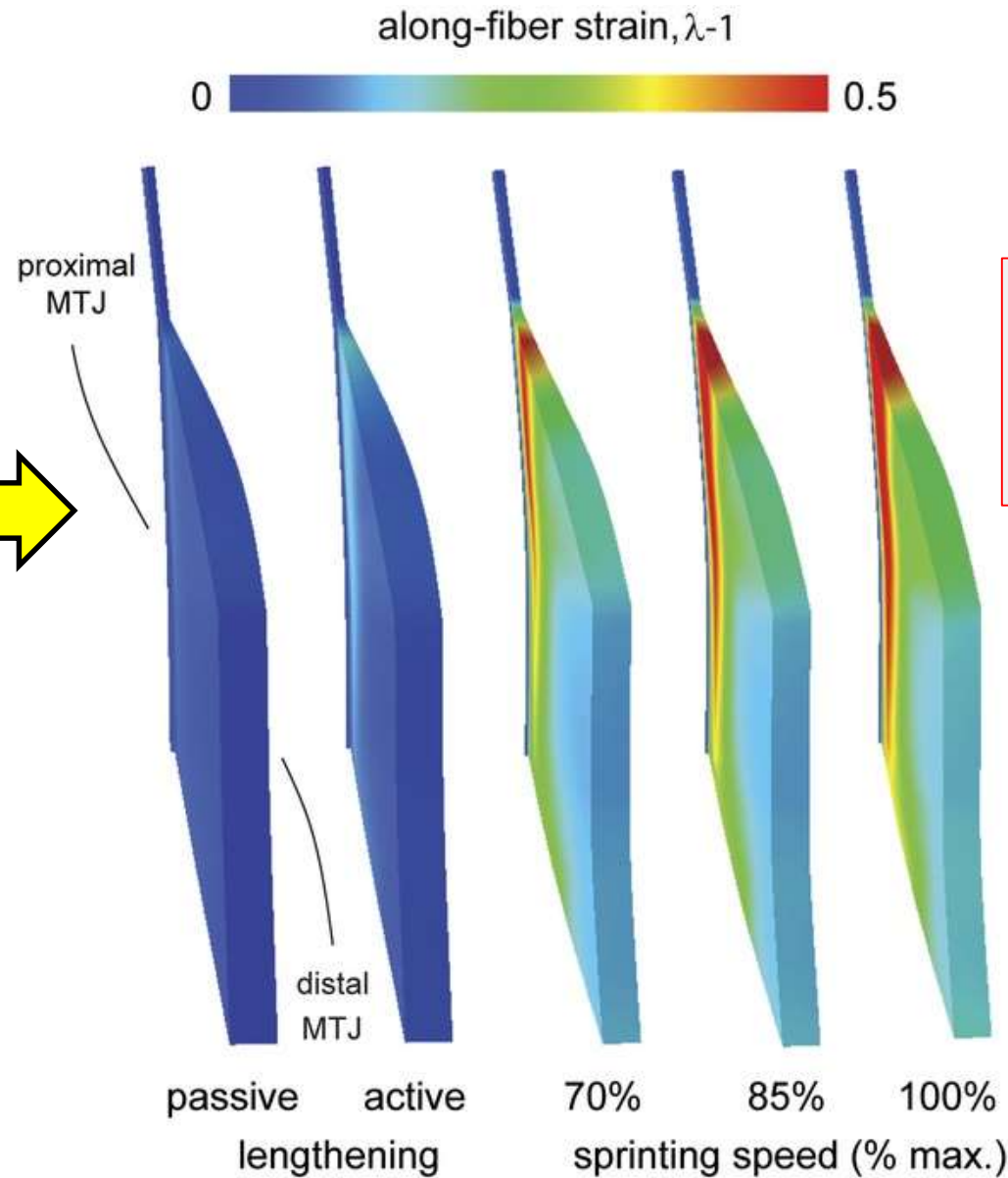


Stiff tendon → Higher strain injury risk

Heterogeneous strain distribution along BFlh



Stępień et al. 2019



This study assumed that muscle activation is homogeneous within BFlh, which may not be valid.

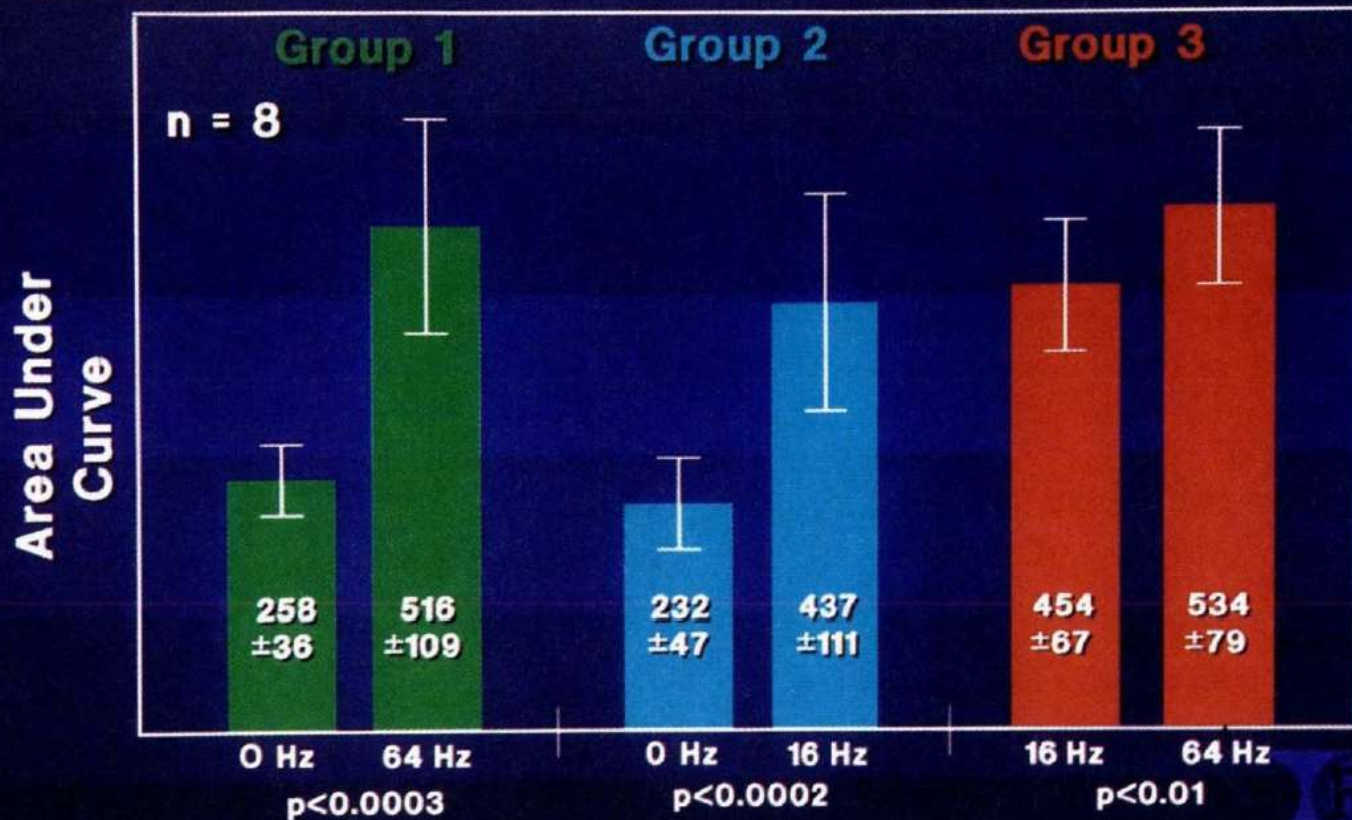
Fiorentino et al. 2014

Biomechanical comparison of stimulated and nonstimulated skeletal muscle pulled to failure*

WILLIAM E. GARRETT, JR., MD, PhD, MARC R. SAFRAN, ANTHONY V. SEABER,†
RICHARD R. GLISSON, AND BETH M. RIBBECK, MS

Increased muscle activation →
decreased strain injury risk

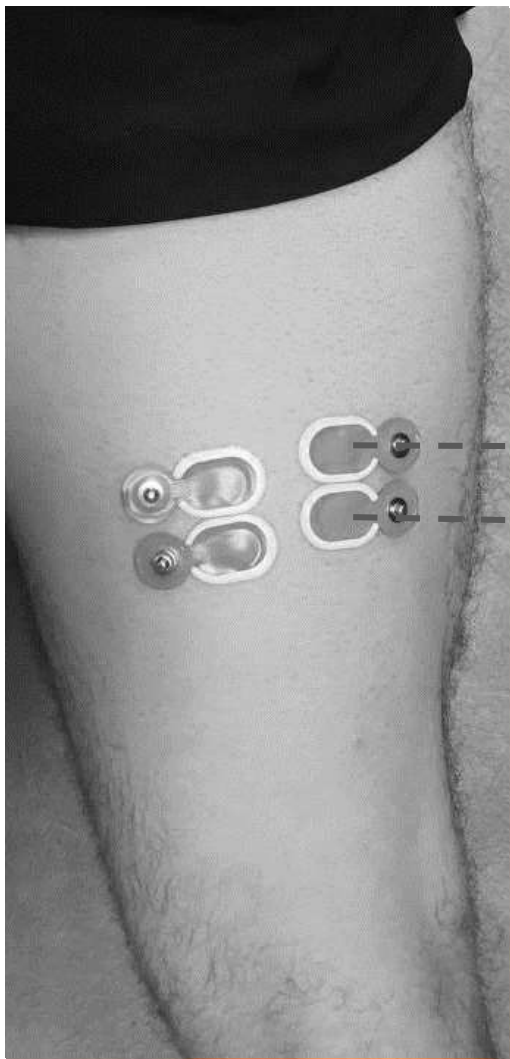
Energy Absorbed to Failure



Bipolar EMG

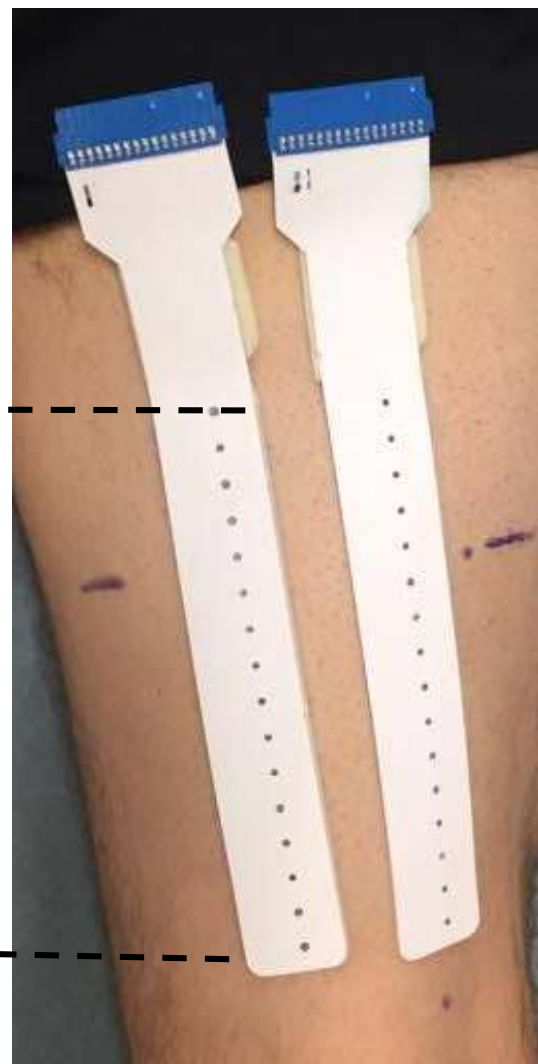
Electromyography (EMG)

High-density EMG



20 mm

150 mm



Semitendinosus

Biceps femoris
long head

Semitendinosus

Biceps femoris
long head

Participants:

13 male football/Gaelic football players
No previous hamstring injury

High-density EMG



Warm-up

Speeds:

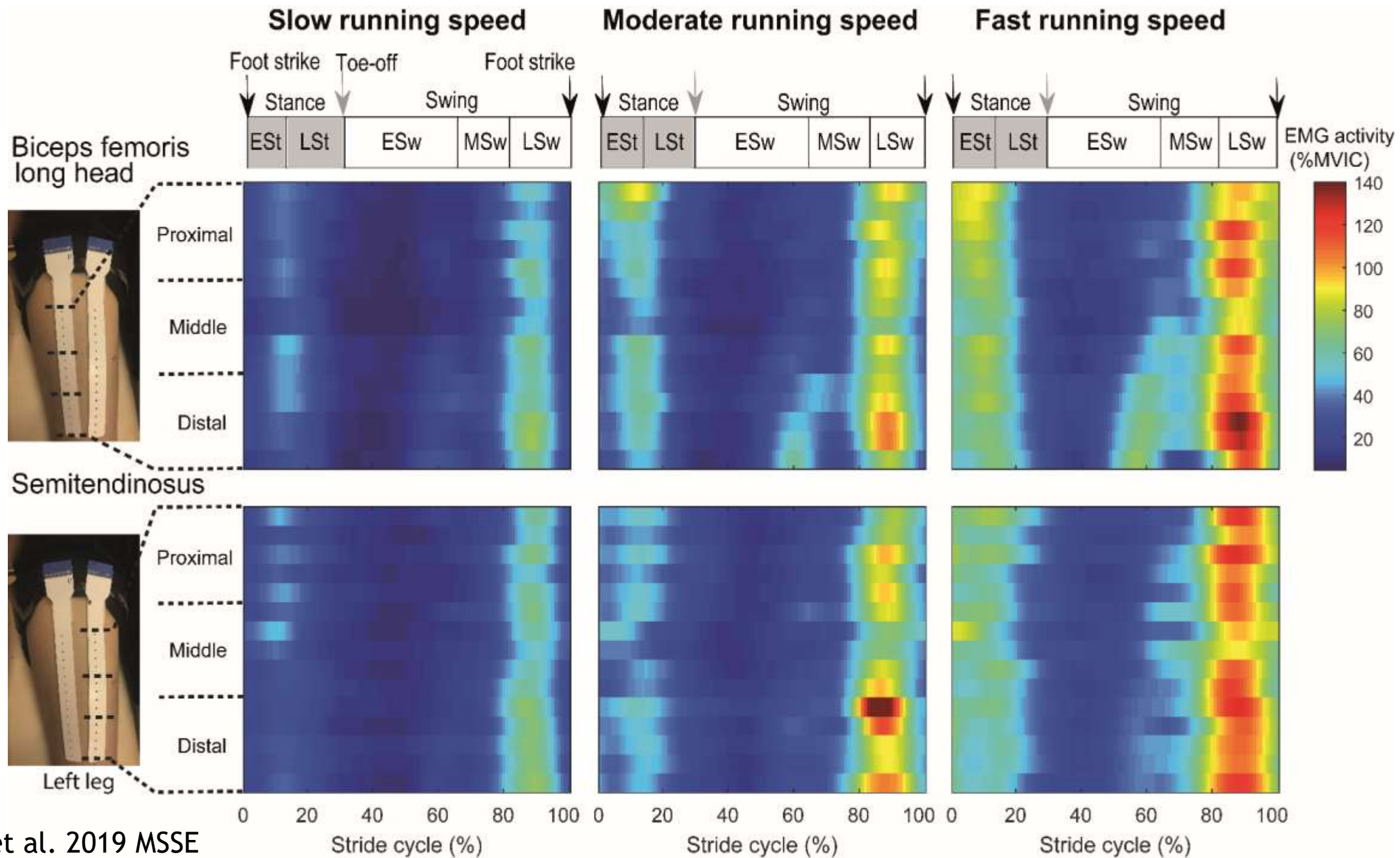
- I. $4.1 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ($14.8 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$) SLOW
- II. $5.4 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ($19.4 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$) MODERATE
- III. $6.8 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ($24.5 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$) FAST

MVIC (normalisation)



Running

3-D motion analysis &
force-sensitive resistors



Running, individual region-specific patterns

Large inter-individual variability
in regional EMG activity

--- BFlh proximal — BFlh middle BFlh distal

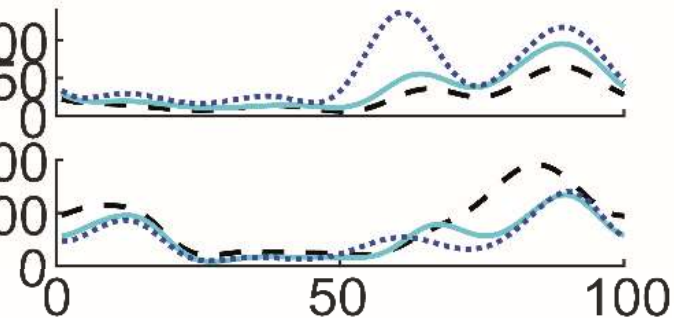
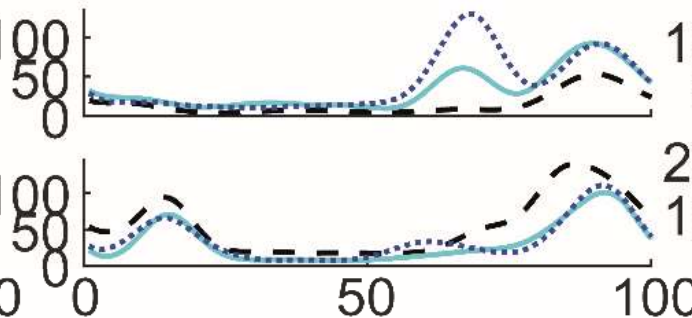
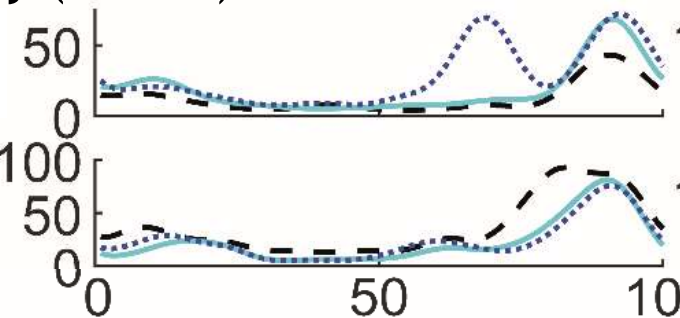
Slow speed

Moderate speed

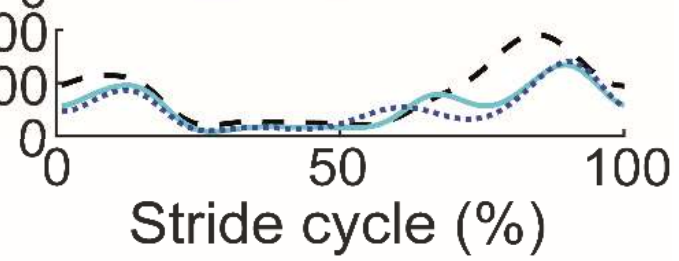
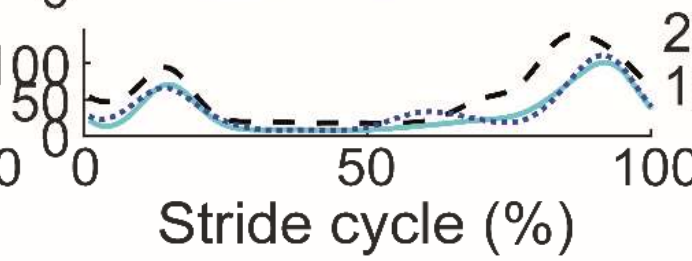
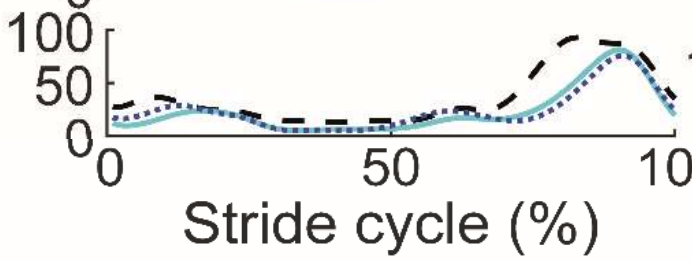
Fast speed

EMG activity (%MVIC)

SUBJECT #1

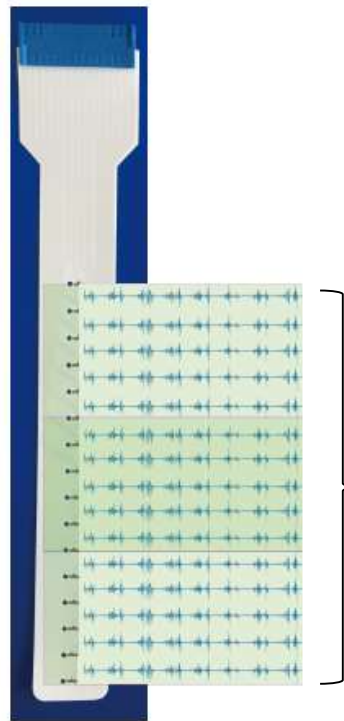


SUBJECT #2

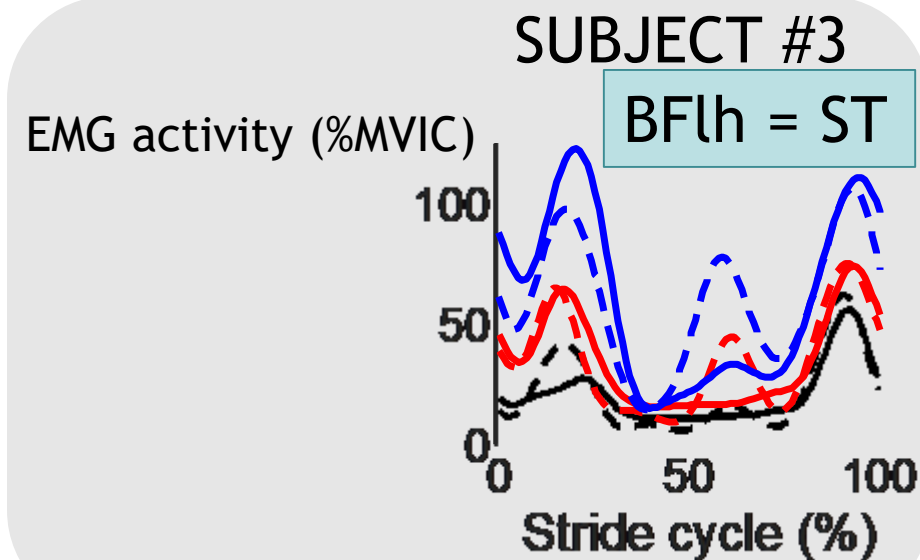
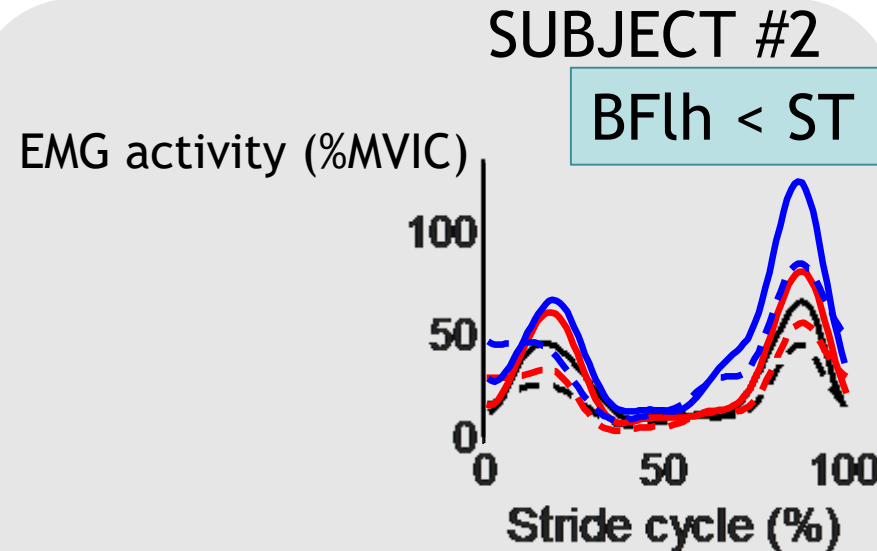
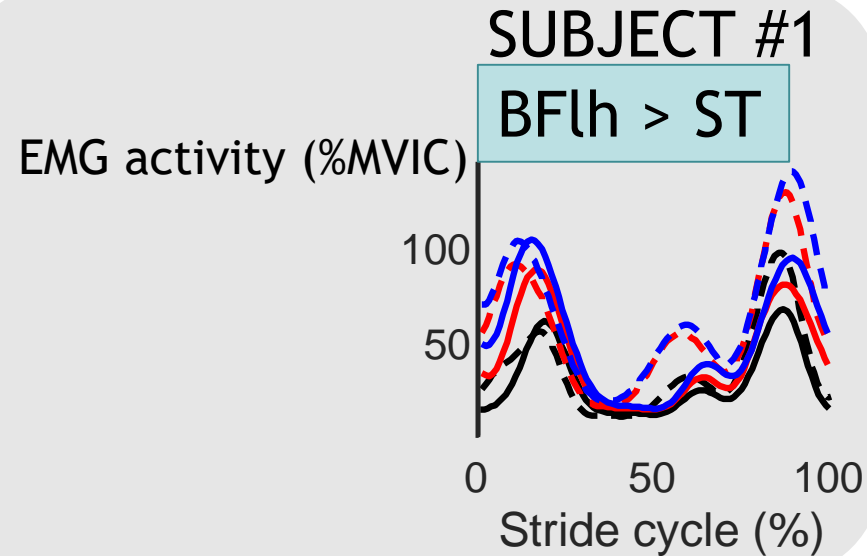


Running, muscle-specific EMG activity

Large inter-individual variability in muscle-specific EMG activity



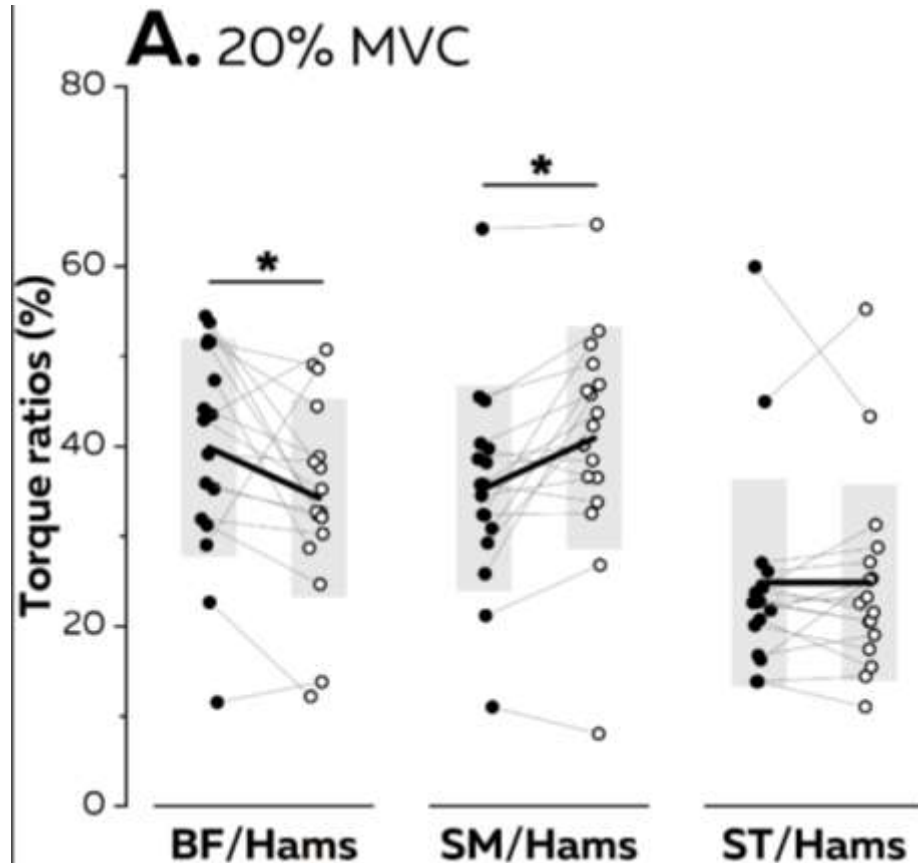
Muscle-specific EMG activity



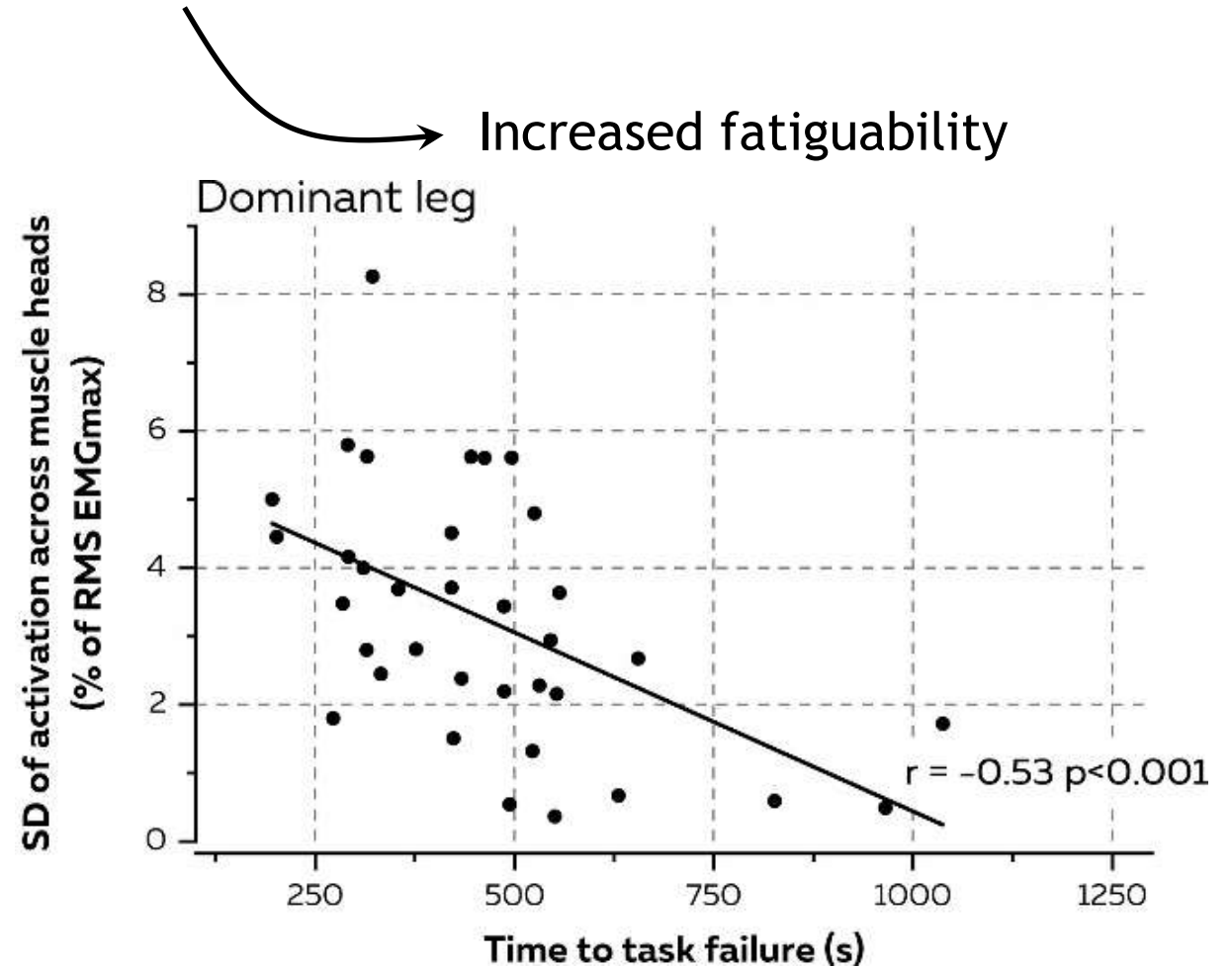
Importance of intermuscular EMG distribution

Lower torque of BF/Ham after a hamstring injury, which is compensated by higher SM torque

Higher EMG imbalance between hamstring muscles

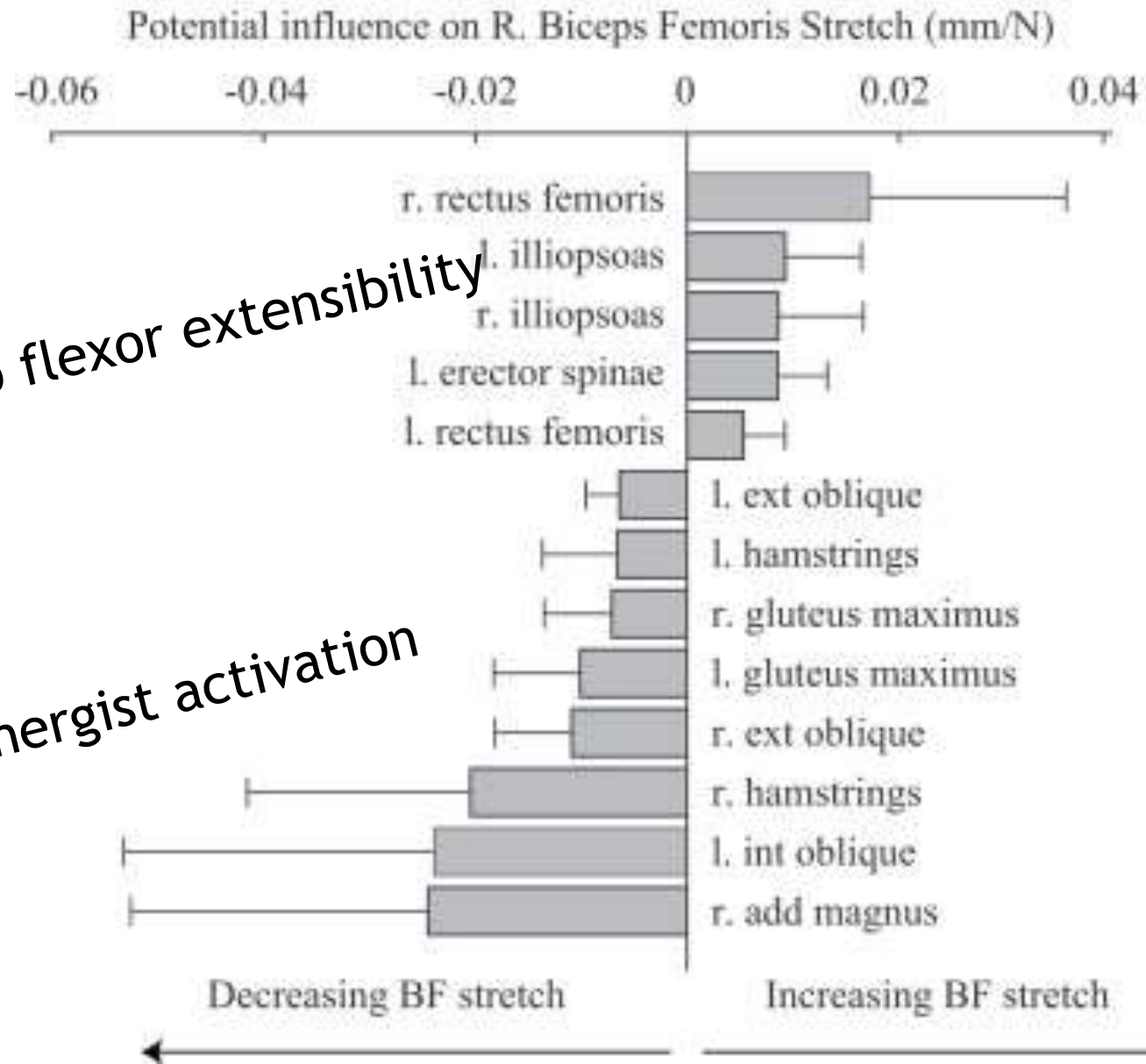


Avrillon et al. 2020



Avrillon et al. 2018

Muscles work in complex system



Hip flexor extensibility

Synergist activation

”Muscles in the lumbo-pelvic region have the largest potential to influence biceps femoris stretch during double float phase.”

Chumanov et al. 2007

Proximal Neuromuscular Control Protects Against Hamstring Injuries in Male Soccer Players

A Prospective Study With Electromyography Time-Series Analysis During Maximal Sprinting

Joke Schuermans,^{*†} PT, PhD, Lieven Danneels,[†] PT, PhD, Damien Van Tiggelen,[†] PT, PhD, Tanneke Palmans,[†] Dipl-Ing, and Erik Witvrouw,[†] PT, PhD
Investigation performed at the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium



Journal of Biomechanics

Volume 92, 19 July 2019, Pages 112-119



Late swing running mechanics influence hamstring injury susceptibility in elite rugby athletes: A prospective exploratory analysis

Claire Kenneally-Dabrowski^{a, b, g, h, i}, Nicholas A.T. Brown^{b, d}, John Warmenhoven^{b, i}, Benjamin G. Serpell^{c, d}, Diana Perriman^{a, g, h}, Adrian K.M. Lai^f, Wayne Spratford^{d, e}

Gait & Posture 57 (2017) 270-277

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



Gait & Posture

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/gaitpost



Full length article

Deviating running kinematics and hamstring injury susceptibility in male soccer players: Cause or consequence?

Joke Schuermans^{*}, Damien Van Tiggelen, Tanneke Palmans, Lieven Danneels, Erik Witvrouw

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy Ghent, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium



Intermuscular
coordination



Sprint kinematics
(technique)

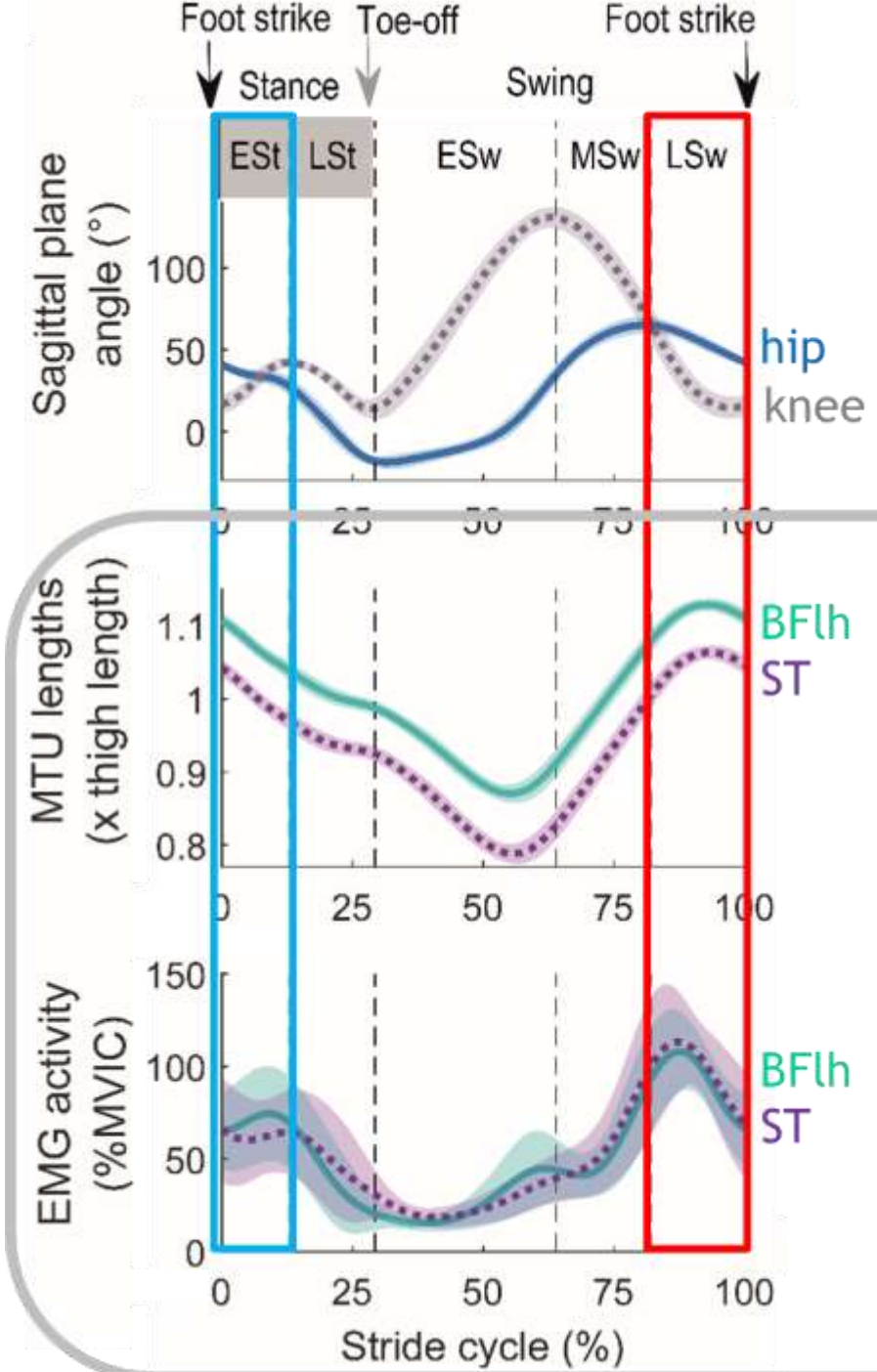
- You may want to avoid:
- Anterior pelvic tilt
 - Lateral trunk flexion to the ipsilateral side
 - Forward leaning posture
 - Kick-back

Part 1 - key points

- I. EMG activity in running
 - a) > 100% MVIC at long hamstring muscle lengths
 - b) highly individual patterns
 - c) qualitatively consistent across a range of running speeds
 - running early after hamstring injury to restore normal neuromuscular function

- II. The sources and consequences of heterogeneous and highly individual activation patterns should be related to injury and sprint performance

Presentation outline



Part 1

Running

Part 2

Hamstring Exercises

Study I.

SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE & SCIENCE IN SPORTS

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Region-dependent hamstrings activity in Nordic hamstring exercise and stiff-leg deadlift defined with high-density electromyography

A. Hegyi ✉, A. Péter, T. Finni, N. J. Cronin,

Study II.

SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE & SCIENCE IN SPORTS

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

High-density electromyography activity in various hamstring exercises

András Hegyi ✉, Dániel Csala, Annamária Péter, Tajja Finni, Neil J Cronin,

Research Report

Impact of Hip Flexion Angle on Unilateral and Bilateral Nordic Hamstring Exercise Torque and High-Density Electromyography Activity

AUTHORS ▾

AFFILIATIONS ▾

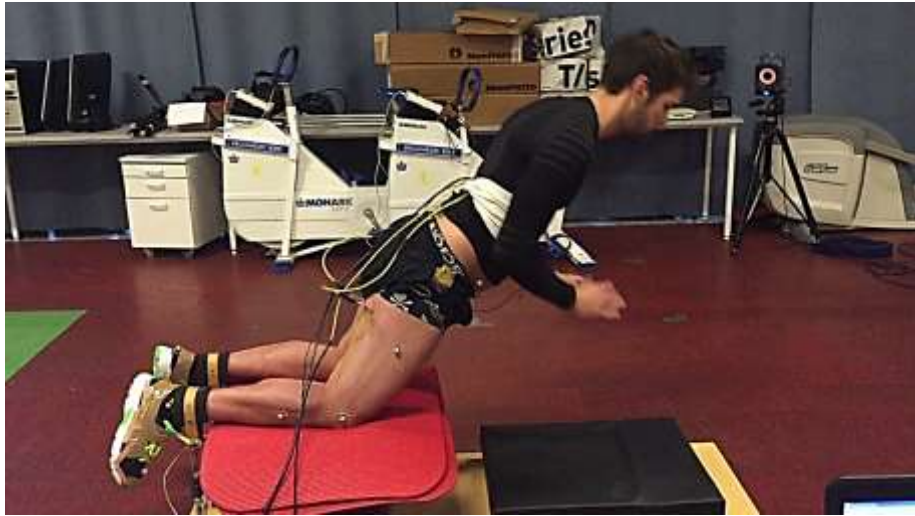
Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy
Published Online: July 31, 2019 | Volume 49 Issue 8 | Pages 584-592
<https://www.jospt.org/doi/10.2519/jospt.2019.8801>

Study III.

Part 2

*Hamstring
Exercises*

Hamstring exercises for injury risk reduction



Review

Including the Nordic hamstring exercise in injury prevention programmes halves the rate of hamstring injuries: a systematic review and meta-analysis of 8459 athletes **FREE**

Nicol van Dyk¹, Fearghal P Behan², Rod Whiteley³

Original article

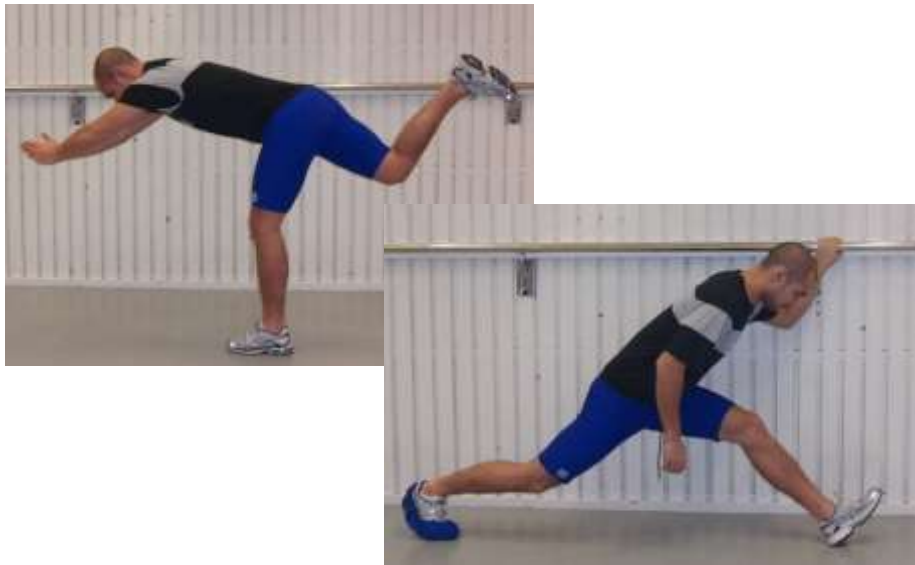
Acute hamstring injuries in Swedish elite football: a prospective randomised controlled clinical trial comparing two rehabilitation protocols **FREE**

Carl M Askling^{1, 2}, Magnus Tengvar³, Alf Thorstensson¹

Original article

Acute hamstring injuries in Swedish elite sprinters and jumpers: a prospective randomised controlled clinical trial comparing two rehabilitation protocols

Carl M Askling^{1, 2}, Magnus Tengvar³, Olga Tarassova¹, Alf Thorstensson¹



Regional differences in muscle activation

Non-uniform changes in magnetic resonance measurements of the semitendinosus muscle following intensive eccentric exercise

[Jun Kubota](#) , [Takashi Ono](#), [Megumi Araki](#), [Suguru Torii](#), [Toru Okuwaki](#) & [Toru Fukubayashi](#)

European Journal of Applied Physiology **101**, 713–720 (2007) | [Cite this article](#)

Muscle functional MRI

Electromyography

Nonuniform Changes in MRI Measurements of the Thigh Muscles After Two Hamstring Strengthening Exercises

[Mendiguchia, Jurdan](#)¹; [Garrues, Mirian A.](#)²; [Cronin, John B.](#)^{3,4}; [Contreras, Bret](#)³; [Los Arcos, Asier](#)⁵; [Malliaropoulos, Nikos](#)⁶; [Maffulli, Nicola](#)⁷; [Idoate, Fernando](#)⁸

[Author Information](#) 

Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research: March 2013 - Volume 27 - Issue 3 - p 574-581
doi: [10.1519/JSC.0b013e31825c2f38](https://doi.org/10.1519/JSC.0b013e31825c2f38)

PLoS One. 2016; 11(9): e0161356.

Published online 2016 Sep 1. doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0161356](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0161356)

PMCID: [PMC5008723](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PMC5008723/)

PMID: [27583444](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27583444/)

MRI-Based Regional Muscle Use during Hamstring Strengthening Exercises in Elite Soccer Players

[Alberto Mendez-Villanueva](#),^{1,*} [Luis Suarez-Arrones](#),^{1,2} [Gil Rodas](#),³
[Rodrigo Fernandez-Gonzalo](#),⁴ [Per Tesch](#),⁴ [Richard Linnehan](#),⁵ [Richard Kreider](#),⁶ and
[Valter Di Salvo](#)^{1,7}

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Regional Differences in Muscle Activation During Hamstrings Exercise

[Schoenfeld, Brad J.](#); [Contreras, Bret](#); [Tiryaki-Sonmez, Gul](#); [Wilson, Jacob M.](#); [Kolber, Morey J.](#); [Peterson, Mark D.](#)

[Author Information](#) 

Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research: January 2015 - Volume 29 - Issue 1 - p 159-164
doi: [10.1519/JSC.0000000000000598](https://doi.org/10.1519/JSC.0000000000000598)

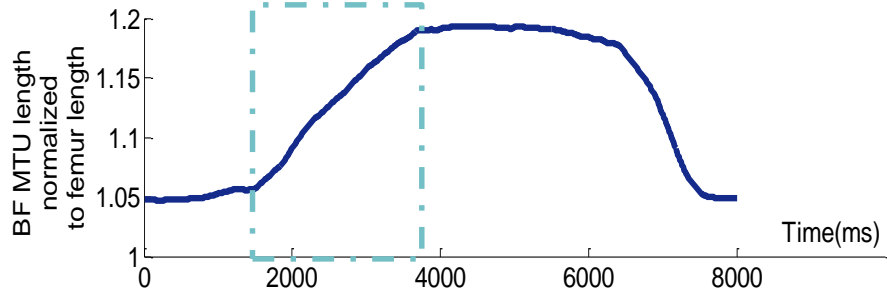
Study I.

Stiff-leg deadlift – 80% 1RM



Hip
dominant

Long
muscle
length

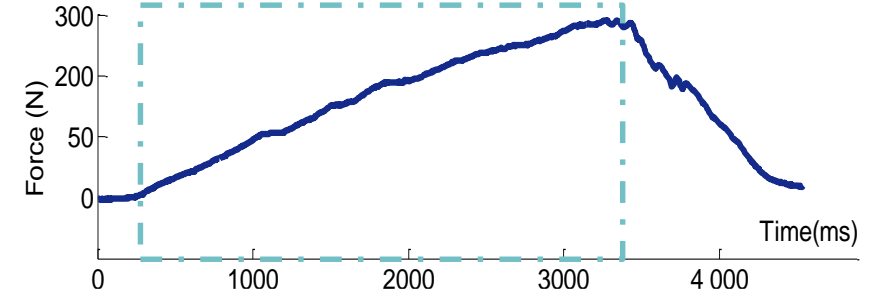


Nordic hamstring exercise



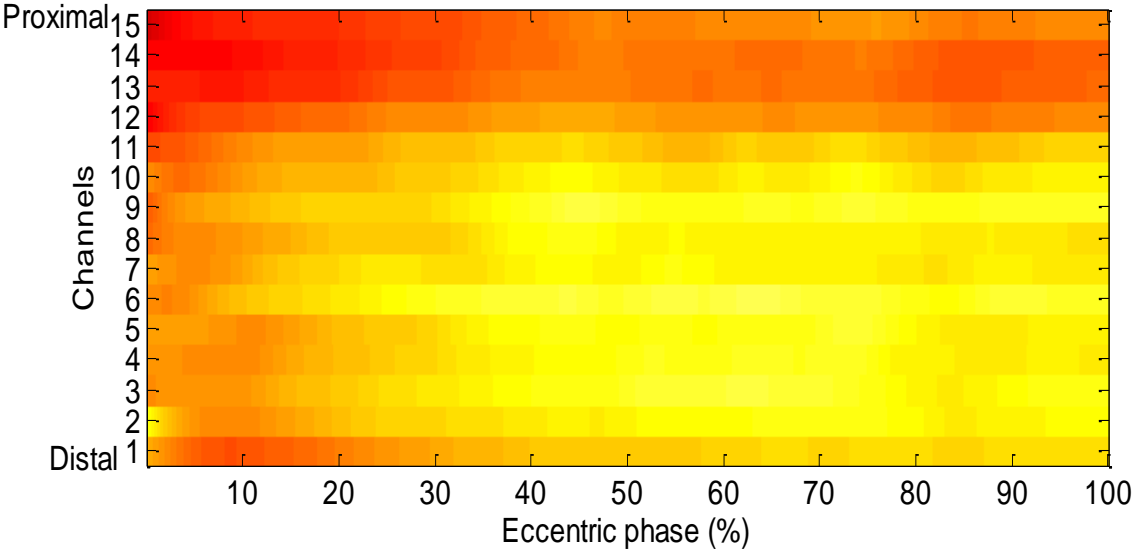
Knee
dominant

Short
muscle
length

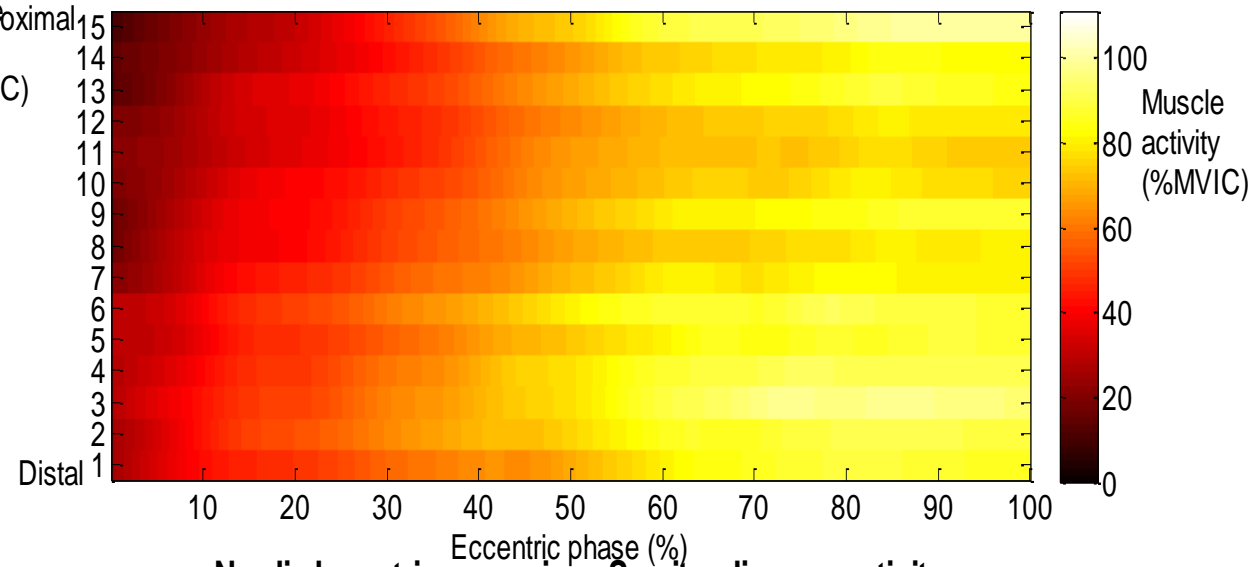


Study I.

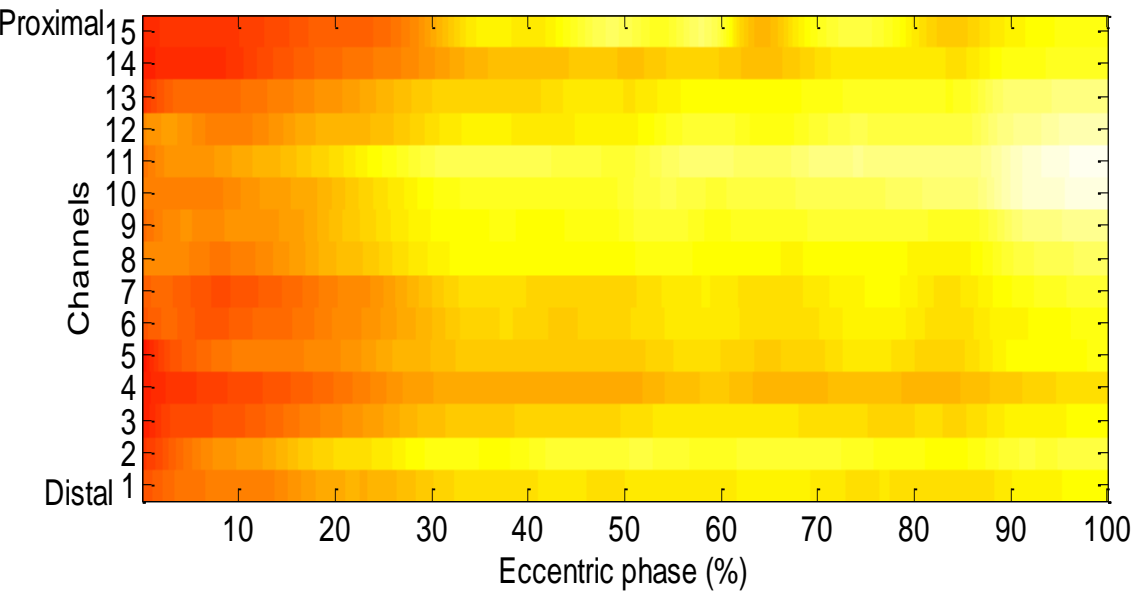
Stiff-leg deadlift - Biceps femoris long head activity



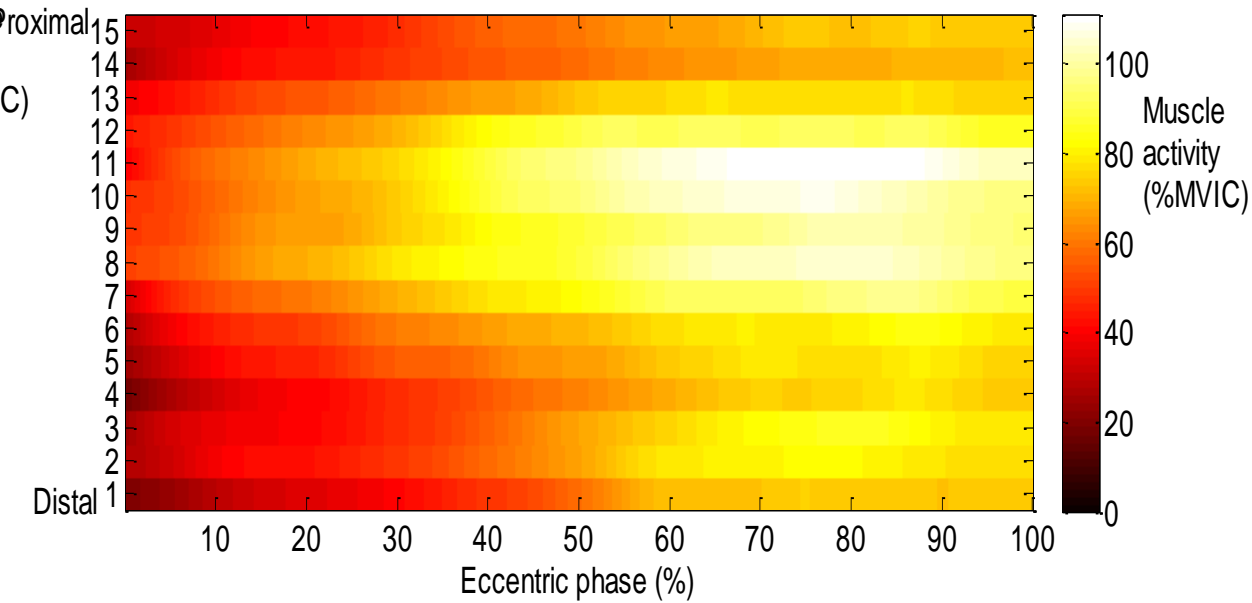
Nordic hamstring exercise - Biceps femoris long head activity



Stiff-leg deadlift - Semitendinosus activity



Nordic hamstring exercise - Semitendinosus activity



Study II.



Prone leg curl (PLC)



45° hip extension (HE)



Upright hip-extension conic-pulley (UHC)



Unilateral Romanian deadlift (RDL)



Straight-knee bridge (SB)



Bent-knee bridge (BB)



Good morning (GM)

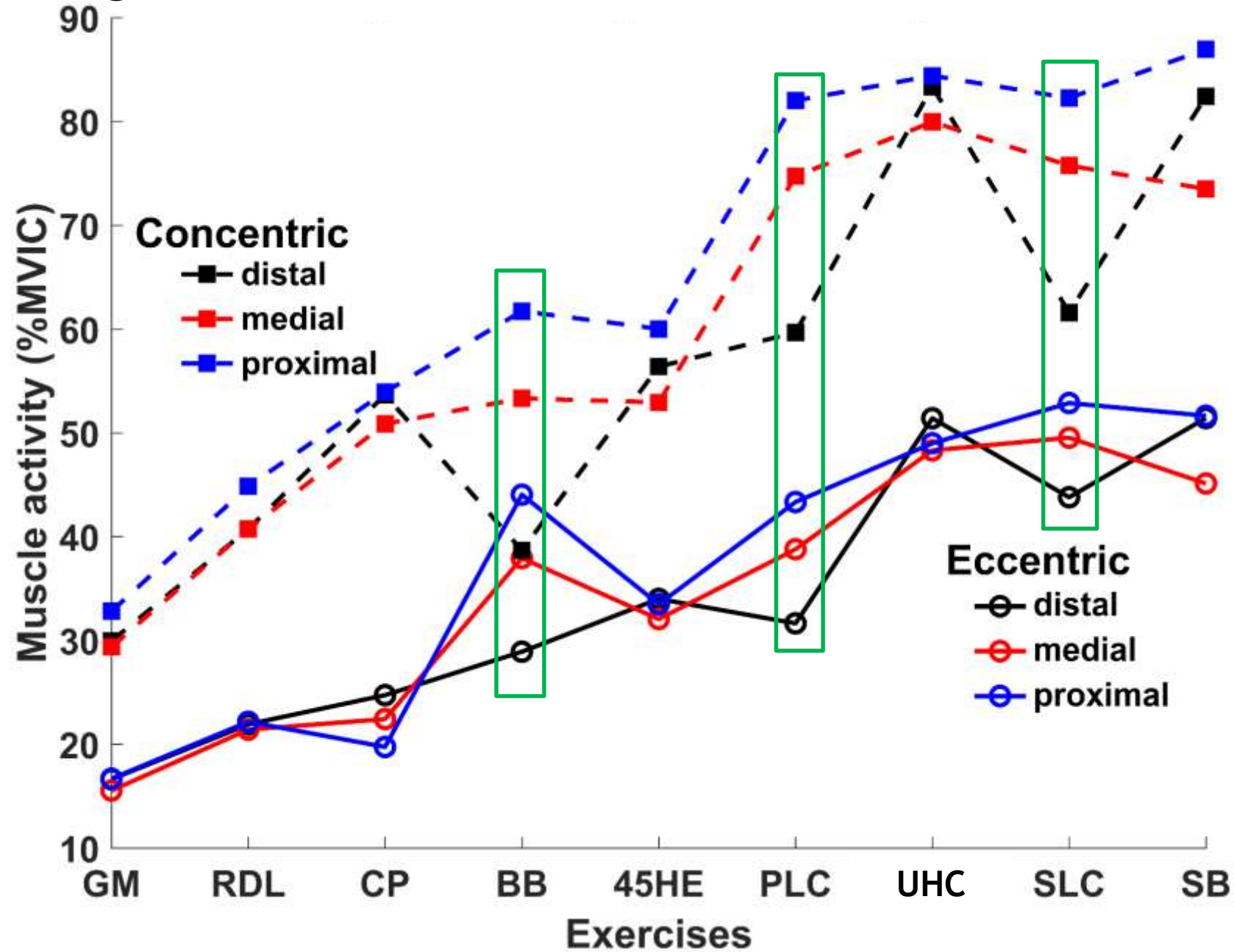


Cable pendulum (CP)



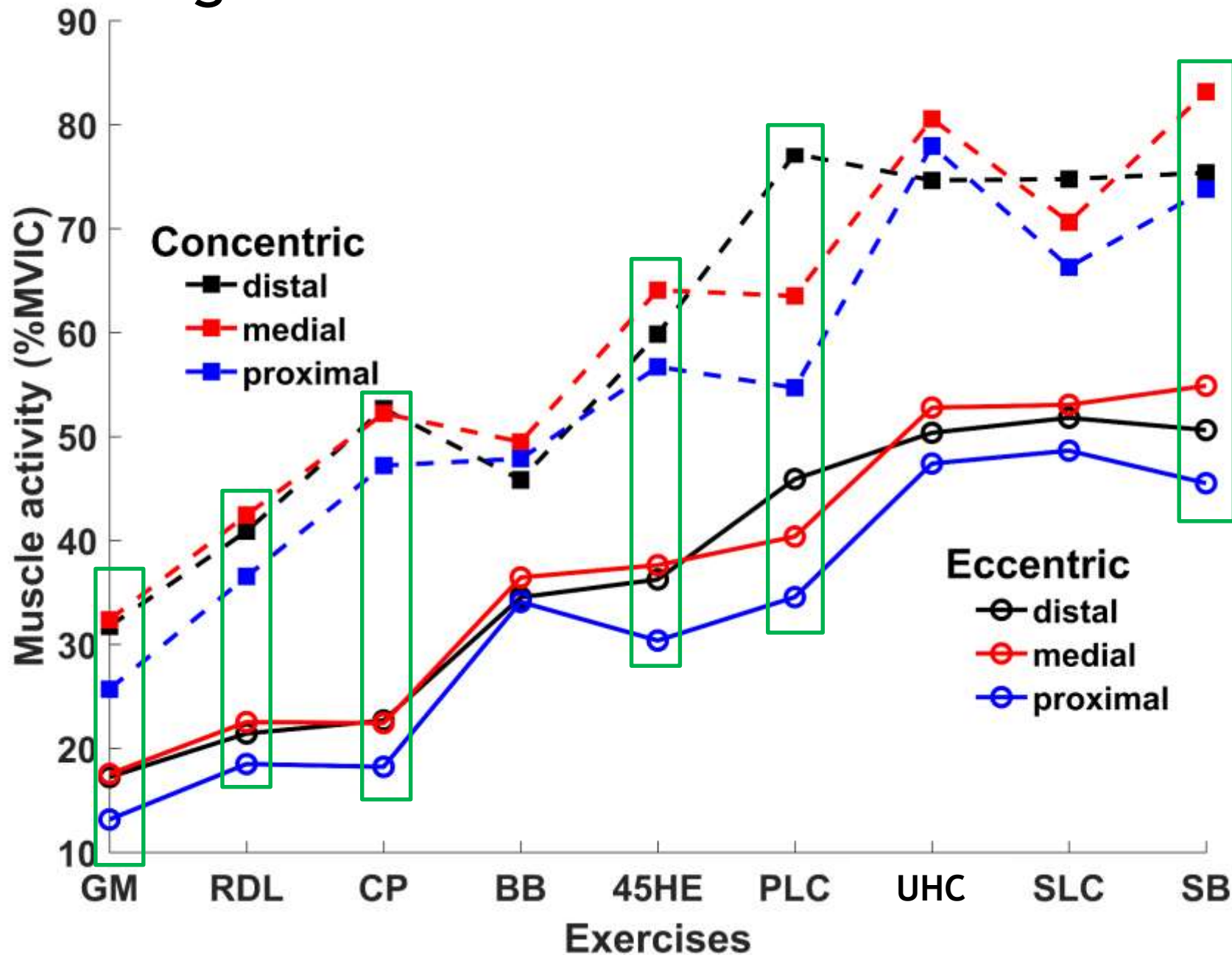
Slide-leg curl (SLC)

Study II. Regional distribution of EMG within semitendinosus



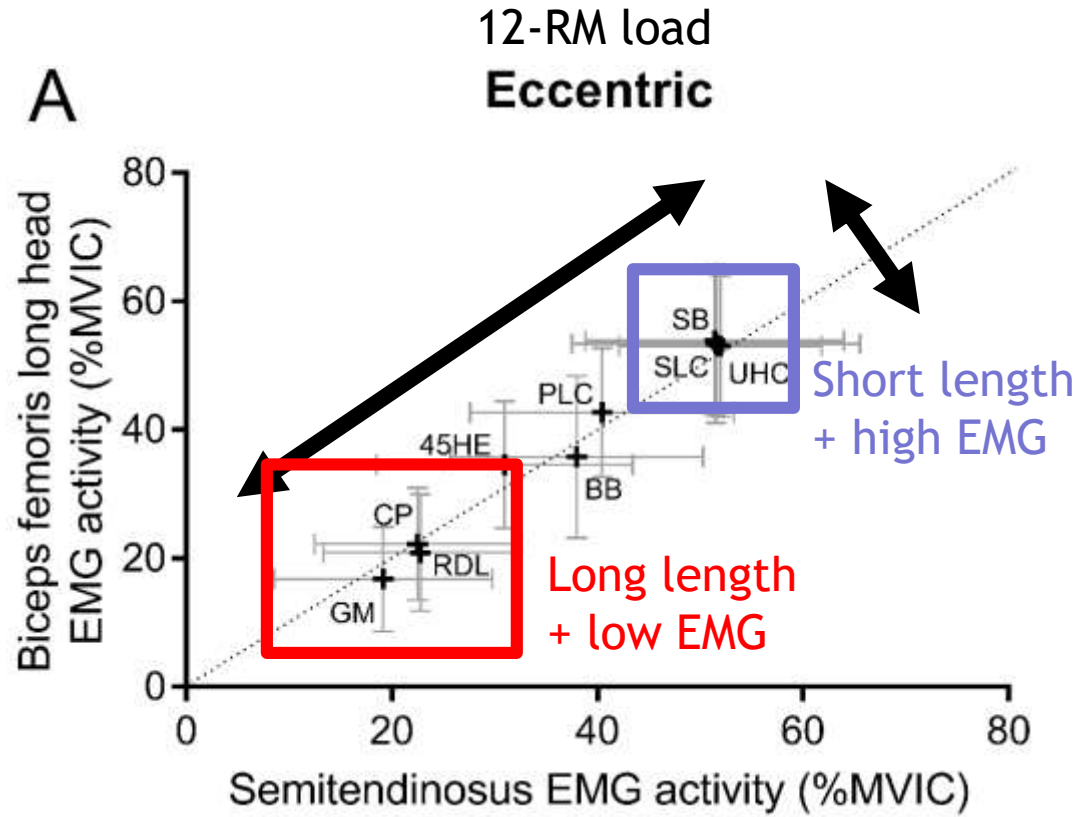
Study II.

Regional distribution of EMG within BFLh



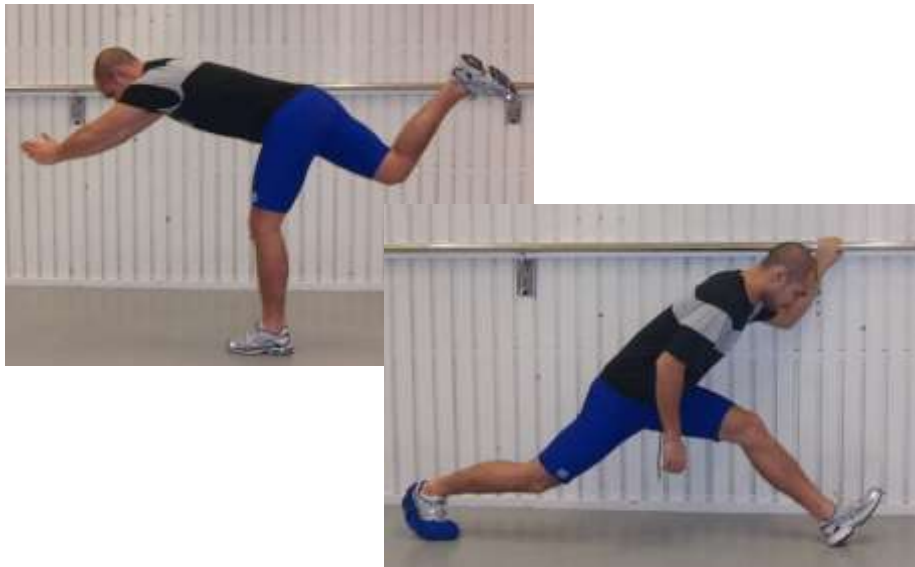
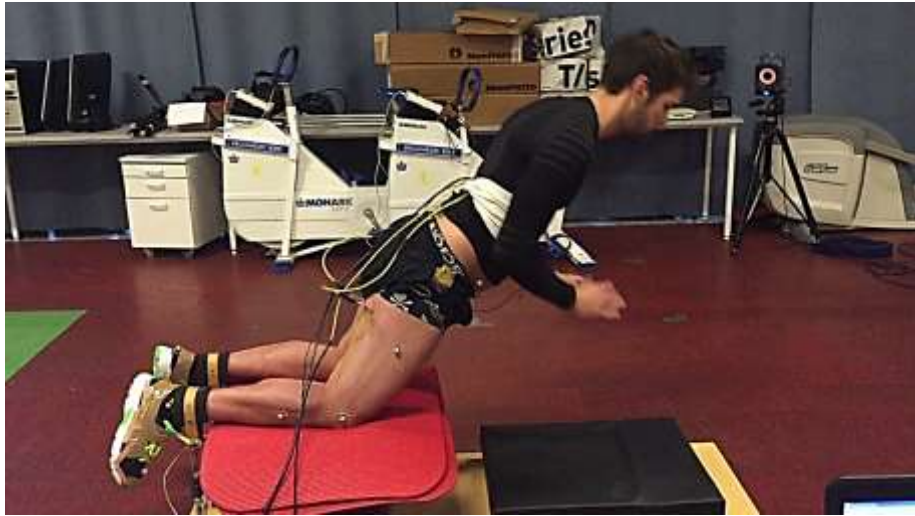
Study II.

Hamstring exercises - EMG vs length



Overall EMG activity – large effect
Muscle-specific activity – small effect

Hamstring exercises for injury risk reduction



Review

Including the Nordic programmes halved the risk of hamstring injury: a meta-analysis of 8459 athletes

Nicol van Dyk¹, Fearghal P Behan², Rod Whiteley³

High muscle activation
+
Short muscle length

Original article

Acute hamstring injury in Swedish elite football: a prospective randomised controlled trial comparing two rehabilitation protocols **FREE**

Carl M Askling^{1, 2}, Magnus Tengvar³

Original article

Acute hamstring injuries in Swedish elite football: a prospective randomised controlled clinical trial comparing two rehabilitation protocols

Carl M Askling^{1, 2}, Magnus Tengvar³, Olga Tarassova¹, Alf Thorstenson¹

Low muscle activation
+
Long muscle length

Study III.

BILATERAL UNILATERAL

NHE0 vs NHE90
(Hegyí et al. 2019)

NHE0

SHORT MUSCLE LENGTH

NHE90

LONG MUSCLE LENGTH

- 13 football/rugby players without prior hamstring injury
- 5-sec pace
- Eccentric 1-RM load

Study III.

BILATERAL UNILATERAL

NHE0 vs NHE90
(Hegyí et al. 2019)

NHE0
SHORT MUSCLE LENGTH



NHE90
LONG MUSCLE LENGTH

- 13 football/rugby players without prior hamstring injury
- 5-sec pace
- Eccentric 1-RM load



Study III.


BILATERAL

UNILATERAL

NHE0 vs NHE90
(Hegyí et al. 2019)

NHE0
SHORT MUSCLE LENGTH

NHE90
LONG MUSCLE LENGTH

- 13 football/rugby players without prior hamstring injury
- 5-sec pace
- Eccentric 1-RM load



Study III.

BILATERAL UNILATERAL

NHE0 vs NHE90
(Hegyi et al. 2019)

NHE0
SHORT MUSCLE LENGTH

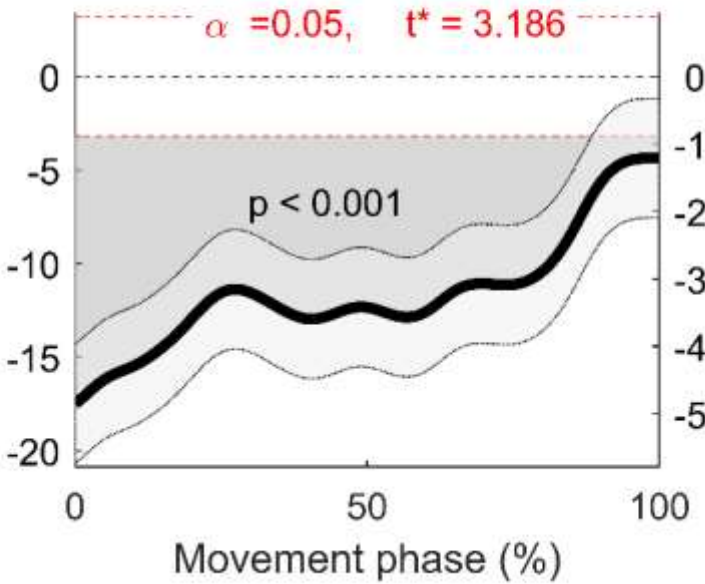
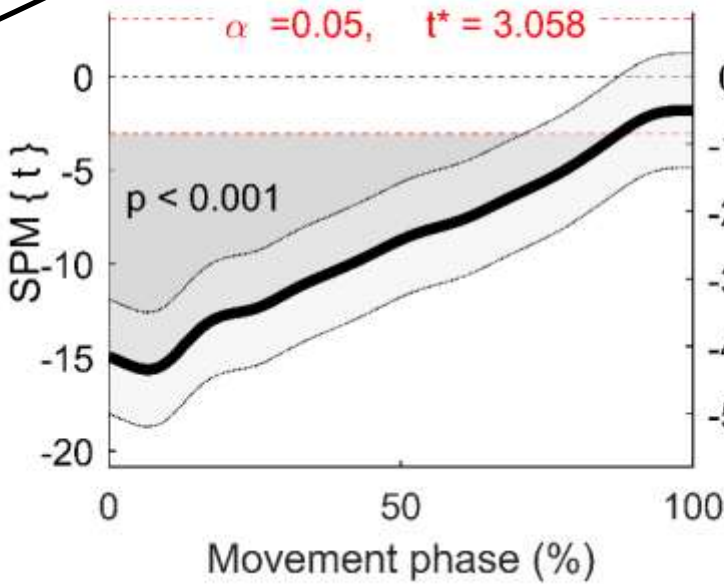
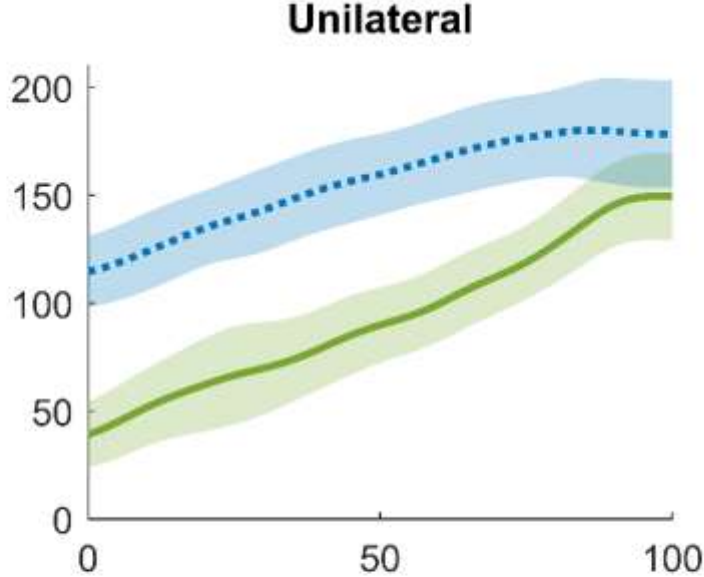
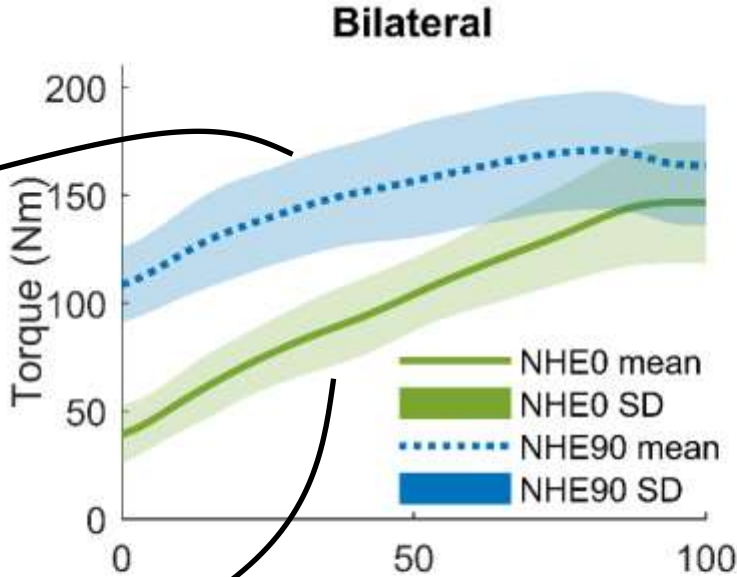
NHE90
LONG MUSCLE LENGTH

	✓

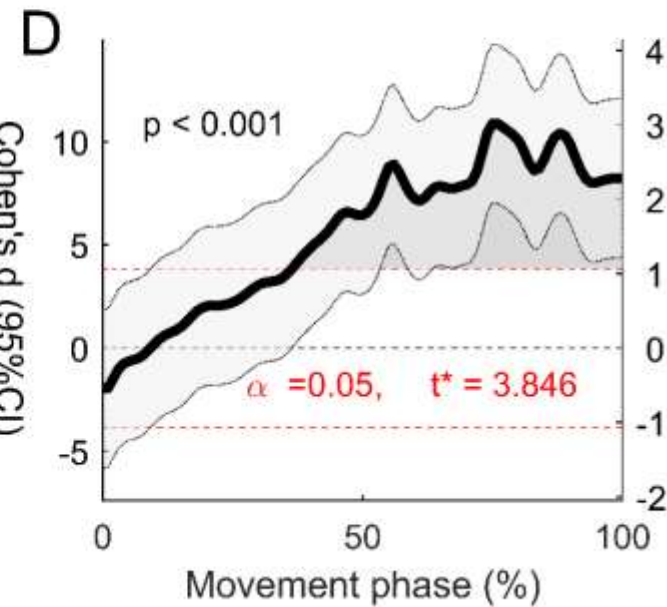
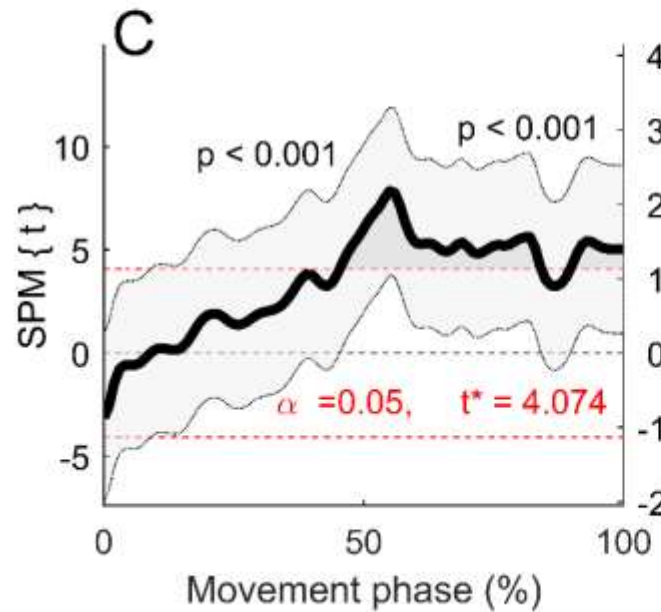
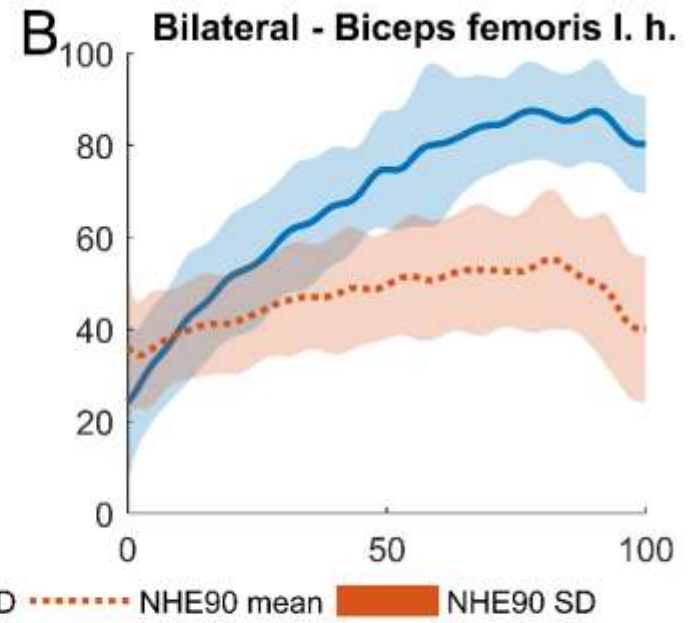
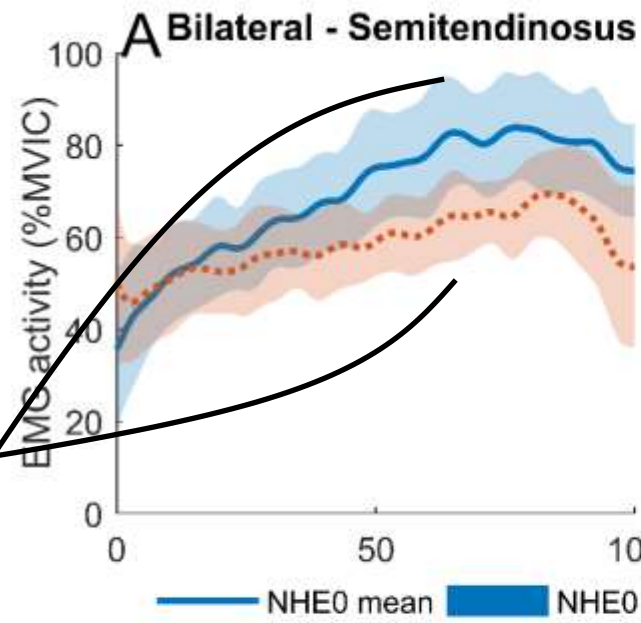
- 13 football/rugby players without prior hamstring injury
- 5-sec pace
- Eccentric 1-RM load



Study III - Torque

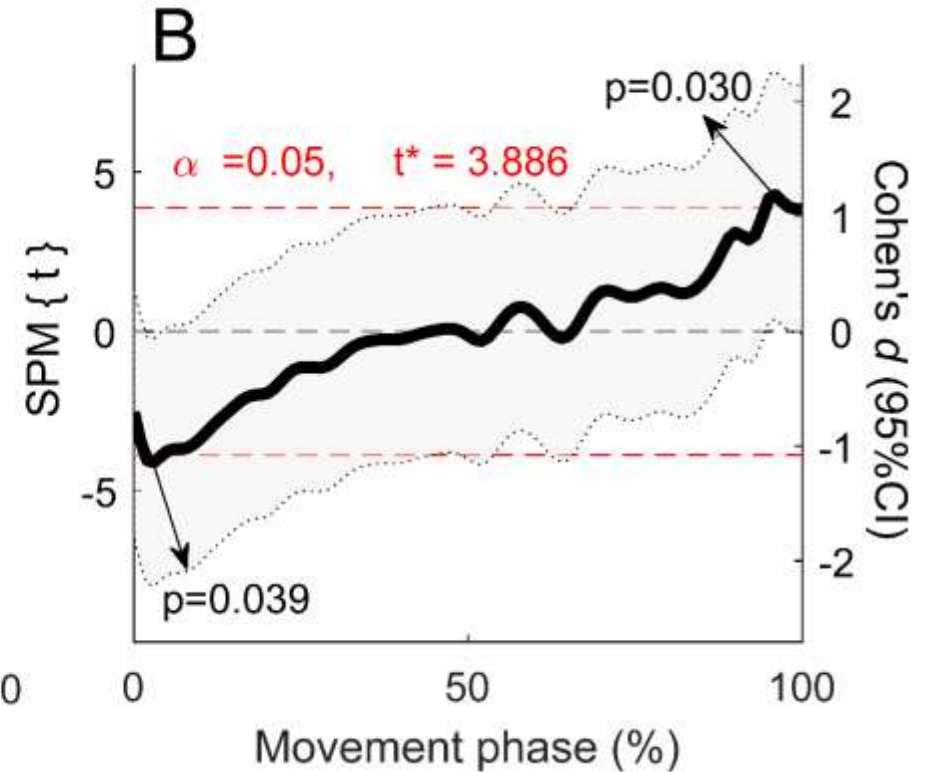
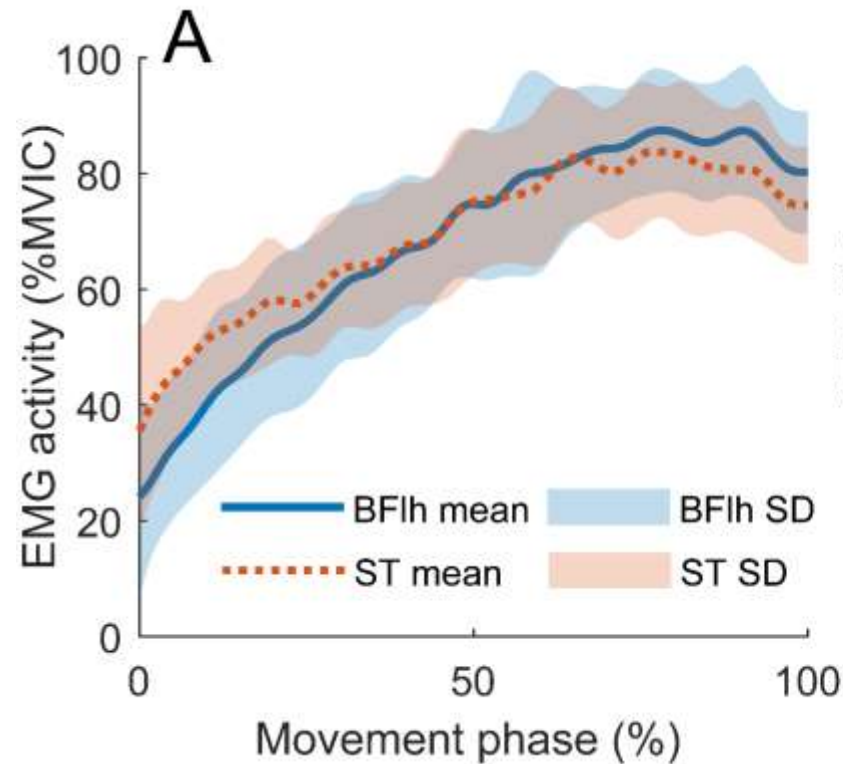


Study III - EMG



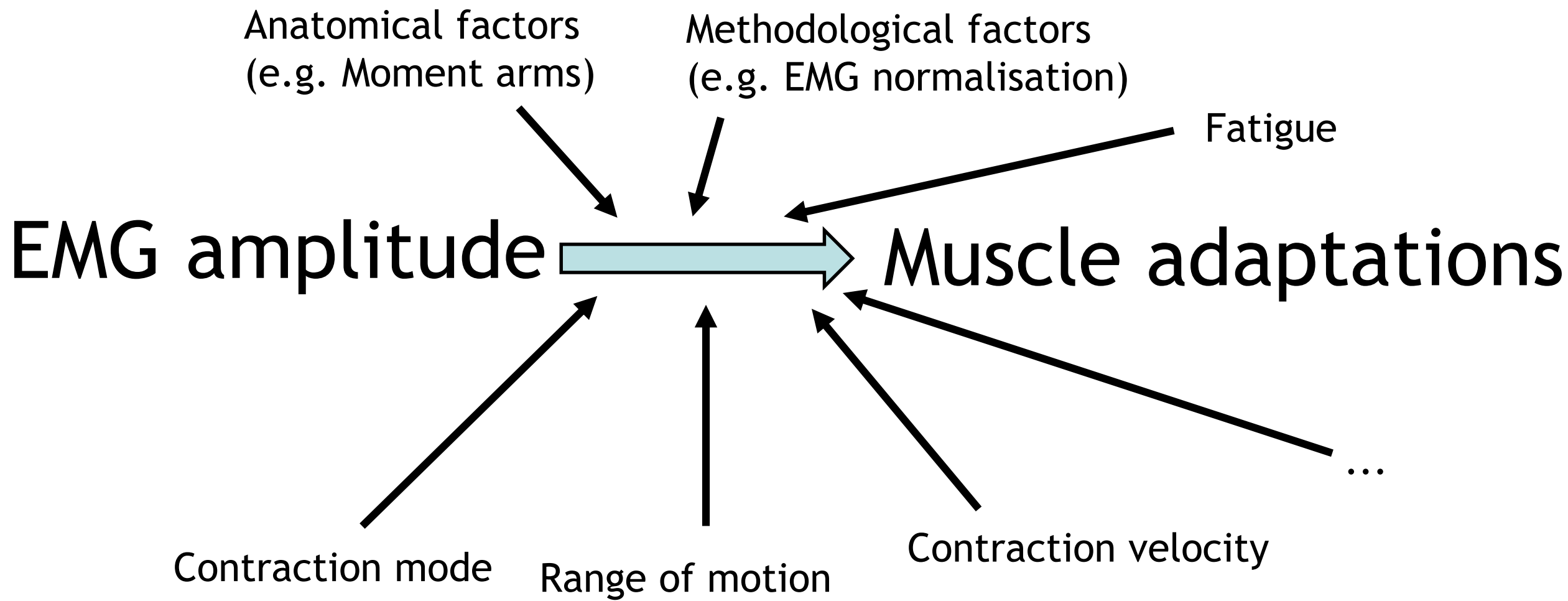
Study III - EMG

Bilateral NHEO - effect of knee ROM on intermuscular coordination



Part 2 - key points

- I. At long muscle length, it is challenging to achieve high muscle activation during typical hamstring exercises
- II. NHE0: Mainly ST activation at flexed knee, and mainly BFlh activation at near-extended knee
- III. NHE90:
 - long muscle length
 - Higher passive force than in NHE0
 - Higher ST/BFlh ratio than in NHE0
 - Lower overall EMG activity
- IV. Regional differences are substantial (typically lowest EMG in the proximal region of BFlh)



Thank you for your attention!

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