

Lack of systematic approach to assessing adult lower limb spasticity: a systematic review

Ettie Ben-Shabat, Stella Kravtsov, Corey Joseph, Maria Thommyppillai, Alex Conte-Briggar, Anna Murphy

Aim: To examine the clinical of adults' lower leg spasticity in studies of instrumental gait analysis (GA).

Method: Data bases searched- Medline, EMBASE, CINAHL, AMED, Cochrane and PEDro.

Inclusion criteria- Empirical studies, adult participants, reported clinical measurements of lower limb spasticity and instrumental GA.

Exclusion criteria- Interventions or history of orthopaedic surgery, GA studies published before 1991 and non-English manuscripts.

Results: 46 studies of 973 participants with spasticity were included (639 Stroke, 95 HSP/SSP, 86 ABI, 66 TBI, 31 SCI, 25 CP, 31 other).

Nil comparison b/w fast and slow passive movements

MAS - Modified Ashworth Scale	n=37
MTS - Modified Tardieu Scale	n=5
Other	n=10
Duncan Ely n=7	Unspecified n=3
Spasticity index n=5	Levin & Hui-Chan scale n=2
More than one scale	n=10

Number of studies reporting on each muscle / category



The MAS is commonly used for assessing spasticity, despite its lack of differentiation between resistance to rapid and slow muscle lengthening. Muscles of the posterior compartment were most frequently tested, often with no attempts to differentiate between individual muscles.

Contact: Dr. Ettie Ben-Shabat – ebenshabat@gmail.com