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Journal Pre-proof

Does gait retraining have the potential to reduce medial compartmental loading in individuals with knee osteoarthritis whilst not adversely affecting the other lower limb joints? A systematic review

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Running head: Effects of reducing knee joint loading

Title: Does gait retraining have the potential to reduce medial compartmental loading in individuals with knee osteoarthritis whilst not adversely affecting the other lower limb joints? A systematic review

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Journal Pre-proof

1 **Title:** Does gait retraining have the potential to reduce medial compartmental loading in
2 individuals with knee osteoarthritis whilst not adversely affecting the other lower limb
3 joints? A systematic review

4 **Abstract:**

5 **Objectives:** To review the literature regarding gait retraining to reduce knee adduction
6 moments and its effects on hip and ankle biomechanics.

7 **Data sources:** Twelve academic databases were searched from inception to January 2019.

8 Key words “walk*” OR “gait”, “knee” OR “adduction moment”, “osteoarthriti*” OR
9 “arthriti*” OR “osteo arthriti*” OR “OA”, and “hip” OR “ankle” were combined with
10 conjunction “and” in all fields.

11 **Study selection:** Abstracts and full-text articles were assessed by two individuals against a
12 pre-defined criterion.

13 **Data synthesis:** Out of the 11 studies, sample sizes varied from 8-40 participants. Eight
14 different gait retraining styles were evaluated: hip internal rotation, lateral trunk lean, toe-
15 in, toe-out, increased step width, medial thrust, contralateral pelvic drop, and medial foot
16 weight transfer. Using the Black and Downs tool, the methodological quality of the included
17 studies was fair to moderate ranging between 12/25 to 18/28. Trunk lean and medial thrust
18 produced the biggest reductions in first peak knee adduction moment. Studies lacked
19 collective sagittal and frontal plane hip and ankle joint biomechanics. Generally, studies had
20 a low sample size of healthy participants and assessed gait retraining during one laboratory
21 visit, whilst not documenting the difficulty of the gait retraining style.

22 **Conclusions:** Gait retraining techniques may reduce knee joint loading, however the
23 biomechanical effects to the pelvis, hip and ankle is unknown, as well as a lack of
24 understanding for the ease of application of the gait retraining styles.

25 **Systematic review registration number:** CRD42018085738

26 **Keywords:** Gait; Gait retraining; Knee osteoarthritis; Knee adduction moment; Systematic
27 review; Biomechanics

28 **Abbreviations:** osteoarthritis (OA); external knee adduction moment (EKAM); International
29 Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO); preferred reporting items for
30 systematic reviews and meta-analysis (PRISMA); patient, intervention, comparison, and
31 outcome (PICO); patient-reported outcome measures (PROMS); external hip adduction
32 moment (EHAM).

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42 Rationale

43 Overloading of the medial knee compartment has been strongly associated with
44 osteoarthritis (OA) progression [1] and radiographic disease severity [2]. The parameter of
45 most relevance to medial knee OA is the external knee adduction moment (EKAM) [3]. This
46 moment, which acts to force the tibia into varus, has been validated as a reliable indicator
47 of medial knee load [4]. The EKAM reflects medial-to-lateral knee joint load distribution
48 during gait [5]. In the presence of increased EKAM, the medial compartment of the tibial-
49 femoral joint will typically experience increased load [3].

50 Numerous potential gait modifications have been proposed to reduce EKAM [3]. These
51 alterations include: wide stance gait [6], toe-out gait [7], [8], toe-in gait [3], medial thrust
52 gait [9], [10], trunk lean gait [11], and medial foot weight transfer of the foot [12].

53 Consequently, gait modifying strategies have been proposed as a conservative strategy to
54 reduce knee joint loading [3].

55 Simic et al.'s systematic review [3] analysed gait modification strategies for altering medial
56 knee joint load. Simic and colleagues [3] concluded that different gait modifications exert
57 different effects on dynamic knee load at varying points throughout the gait cycle. Of the 14
58 gait modifications identified, medial thrust and trunk lean most consistently reduced first
59 peak EKAM. However, some of the reported results were conflicting and/or based on very
60 few/single studies. In addition, sufficient data was not available to address whether there
61 are any changes at other lower extremity joints with the implementation of gait
62 modifications to reduce EKAM [3]. It has been suggested that an increased loading rate in
63 the lower extremity joints may lead to a faster progression of existing OA and to the onset
64 of OA at joints adjacent to the knee [3]. Therefore, any interventions for knee OA should be

65 assessed for their effects on the mechanics of all joints of the lower extremity. This warrants
66 the current review to establish the body of evidence on how changes to EKAM effects
67 adjacent joints to the knee as a result of modifying an individual's gait. Richards et al. [13]
68 outlined the potential of direct feedback on modifying gait. In this study the authors
69 considered the effects of reducing EKAM on the hip and ankle joints. Richards et al. [13]
70 concluded that external hip moments were not significantly increased with a modified gait,
71 but small increases in external ankle adduction moment and external knee flexion moment
72 (KFM) were observed. The interaction between hip, knee and ankle biomechanics is not well
73 understood when modifying gait in medial knee OA patients and needs to be reviewed to
74 make clinical decisions on the role of gait retraining in reducing knee joint pain and
75 discomfort [13]; justifying the necessity of a systematic review of the current literature.

76 Previous research has indicated that patients with knee OA experience abnormal loads of
77 their major weight bearing joints bilaterally, and abnormalities persist despite treatment of
78 the affected limb [13]. Further treatment may be required if we are to protect the other
79 major joints following joint arthroplasty. No systematic review has established what effects
80 changing knee joint loading via gait style modification has on the other ipsilateral and
81 contralateral joints in the lower limbs as well as trunk biomechanics. To lower knee joint
82 loading, altered gait styles will undoubtedly change the kinematics and/or kinetics at the
83 neighbouring joints; e.g. for toe-in gait the foot is at a more inverted position throughout
84 the gait cycle. The clinical benefit of reducing the EKAM variables is questionable if there are
85 detrimental consequences to other joints of the lower body. If the goal of gait retraining is
86 to alleviate pain and to slow down the deterioration of medial joint loading at the knee itself
87 whilst not adversely affecting hip and ankle joint function, then an appreciation of what
88 biomechanical changes are occurring at the hip and ankle joints is fundamental.

89 **Objectives**

90 The objectives of this systematic review were to: (1) to identify the consequences of gait
91 modifications on the biomechanics of the ankle and hip as well as trunk and pelvis
92 biomechanics, and (2) to establish whether gait styles and gait retraining can reduce medial
93 knee loading as assessed by first and second peak EKAMs. Additionally, a third objective was
94 to outline patient/participant reported outcomes on how easy the gait retraining style was
95 to implement. This would aid the clinical translation of aforementioned gait retraining
96 techniques.

97 **Methods**

98 **Protocol and registration**

99 In accordance with the PRISMA guidelines [14] the protocol for this systematic review was
100 registered with the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) on
101 the 23rd January 2018 (registration ID: CRD42018085738) (available at
102 https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?RecordID=85738).

103 **Eligibility criteria**

104 No study design, date or language limits were applied. After search one, only peer-reviewed
105 quantitative academic articles published in English were considered.

106 Any study design that evaluated the effect of any gait retraining technique on EKAM, whilst
107 also evaluating at least one biomechanical variable at the ankle and/or hip were eligible for
108 inclusion. There was no restriction on whether the participants of a study had to be clinically
109 diagnosed as having medial knee OA. The reason for including studies involving gait
110 retraining on healthy participants was due to the anticipated lack of studies using

111 participants with symptomatic knee OA, as evidenced in previous systematic reviews on
112 similar topics [3], [15]. In the interpretation of results, healthy and OA cohorts are presented
113 separately to establish any biomechanical differences between them when adopting a gait
114 style.

115 **Intervention**

116 Gait retraining was defined as any researcher-initiated alteration of natural gait without the
117 use of any devices or walking aids. Studies were included if they used 3-dimensional motion
118 analysis and force-plate derived data during both natural and modified gait conditions as
119 well as providing EKAM data. The altered gait style (intervention variable) was compared to
120 the individual's natural level gait (control variable).

121 Studies evaluating post knee operations such as total knee replacements as well as studies
122 that included participants with specific diseases and conditions which can affect the
123 participant's gait were excluded.

124 **Information sources**

125 Database searches were undertaken by one reviewer (JBB) with the assistance of two
126 experienced librarians up to the January 2019 on the following databases: Cumulative index
127 to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL, 1982-2019), EBSCO MEDLINE (MEDL) (1966-2019),
128 Ovid Allied and Complementary Medicine Database (AMED) (1995-2019), Ovid EMCare
129 (1995-2019), Ovid Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) (1991-2019), Web of Science (1900-2019),
130 BIOSIS Citation Index (Web of Science) (1926-2019), Scopus (1960-2019), Cochrane Library
131 (Cochrane Library, DARE and Central), ProQuest British Nursing Index (BNI) (1994-2019),
132 Turning Research Into Practice Pro (TRIP PRO) (1997-2019), British Library e-theses online

133 service (EThOS) (all years until 2019) and ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (1986-2019).
134 Additionally, PROSPERO was searched for ongoing or recently completed systematic
135 reviews.

136 Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analysis guidelines [14] were
137 used as guidelines of how to undertake this systematic review.

138 **Search**

139 To ensure maximum saturation of articles, the search strategy was purposely designed to be
140 broad in its approach. The search strategy was designed by following the PICO model
141 (patient, intervention, comparison, and outcome) [16].

142 The electronic databases were searched through using the combination of key search terms
143 organised into sets and combined with the operators 'AND' and 'OR (Appendix 1).

144 **Study selection**

145 Titles were assessed by one author (JBB). The Principle investigators for each
146 ClinicalTrials.gov identifier number (NCT number) were contacted to ascertain what peer-
147 reviewed papers had been published from these clinical trials. Two authors assessed the
148 abstracts of the remaining articles (PRB and JBB) independently. To ensure consistency and
149 for expert advice, articles that were included in the systematic review were collectively
150 reviewed by JBB, PRB and CAH. During a meeting, the key data that was to be extracted
151 from each study was determined.

152 **Data collection process**

153 JBB extracted the data for the following items: study design, sample size, participant
154 characteristics, gait modification/technique used, EKAM parameters evaluated, study

155 duration, ankle and/or hip biomechanical analysis that was undertaken, and the main study
156 findings.

157 **Risk of bias in individual studies**

158 Risk of bias was assessed using the Downs and Black quality index [17]. This is a validated
159 index for non-randomised trials [15] consisting of 27 items used to assess reporting quality
160 (items 1-10), external validity (items 11-13), internal validity (14-26) and study power (item
161 27). The tool has been used in various modified forms for gait focusing on interventions
162 aimed at individuals with knee OA [3], [18]–[21]. Piloting of the tool and agreeing on
163 interpretation of the questions was undertaken by 2 reviewers (JBB and PRB). Risk of bias
164 scores for individual studies were rated in line with previous systematic reviews on similar
165 topics [3], [15]. Neither review ([3], [15]) explicitly defined their boundaries in their papers
166 and so the authors of the current review have inferred that 10-14 and 15-20 correspond
167 with fair and moderate scores respectively.

168 **Summary measures**

169 The principal summary measure from each article was the within-group mean differences in
170 hip and/or ankle data between natural level gait and the gait retraining intervention
171 presented as a percentage difference from natural level gait. Summarised mean difference
172 effect sizes were also calculated for these metrics.

173 EKAM has been used widely in the gait retraining literature as a surrogate measurement of
174 medial knee joint loading [3]. For the purpose of this review, 'natural level gait' is defined as
175 an individual assessment of an individual walking without any instruction as to alter their
176 ordinary walking pattern when being assessed in a motion capture laboratory. Finally, any

177 data presented regarding participant perceptions on task difficulty was extracted to
178 consider the practicality of translation to a clinical setting.

179 **Changes from the original protocol**

180 After analysing the data from the 11 studies that met the inclusion criteria, there was
181 enough evidence for trunk and pelvic biomechanical data to be included in the analysis.
182 Therefore, this review has also documented trunk and pelvic biomechanical data.
183 Additionally, the decision was made after the databases were searched to include any
184 information on how easy the gait retraining was to implement.

185 **Synthesis of results**

186 A synthesis of results is provided with information presented in the text and tables to
187 summarise and explain the main characteristics and findings of the included studies. The
188 narrative synthesis explores the relationship of the findings between the included studies by
189 way of gait style comparisons and methodological quality. The standardised mean
190 difference (SMD) using the hedges' g effect size was calculated for the change in EKAM and
191 hip/ankle kinetic metrics. The SMDs were standardised according to small (0.2–0.5),
192 medium (.51–0.8), and large (>0.8).

193 **Statistical analysis**

194 Downs and Black scoring agreement between two reviewers (JBB and PRB) was assessed
195 using a Cohen's kappa coefficient (κ) statistic, with reference to Landis and Koch's criteria
196 where κ values >0.81 represent 'almost perfect' agreement [22]. To estimate the SMD, the
197 mean and standard deviation values were used. If mean and standard error mean (SEM)
198 data were provided in the studies, standard deviation was calculated as SEM multiplied by

199 the square root of the sample size. Standardised mean differences were calculated using the
200 Hedges' g effect size. All results are presented as Forest Plots. The 95% confidence interval
201 (CI) was calculated and presented for each effect size.

202 **Results**

203 **Study selection**

204 The search strategy resulted in a possible 184 studies to be included into the review, as
205 shown in the PRISMA flow diagram (Figure 1). The reviewers showed substantial agreement
206 in assessing the quality of each included study, $k = 0.89$. The 11 included articles focused on
207 assessing the effects of gait modifications on reducing EKAM as well as documenting
208 biomechanical variables for the pelvis, hip and ankle joints. All data presented in this
209 systematic review is from the medial knee OA ipsilateral limb for the patients. For healthy
210 participants, the data presented is for the side reported in the respective article.

211 **Study characteristics**

212 Table 1 outlines the group demographics. All studies, except [9], utilised a within-subject
213 design and most studies evaluated the immediate within-session effect and potential
214 benefits of gait retraining. Sample sizes varied from 8-40 participants. Six of the 11 studies
215 assessed healthy participants, five included knee OA participants. In Simic et al.'s systematic
216 review [3], there was only study of interest to be included in the current systematic review
217 [23]. Table 2 presents the Kellgren and Lawrence (K/L) grade and patient-reported outcome
218 measures (PROMS) on knee OA disease severity for the articles that included knee OA
219 patients in their research.

220 **Risk of bias within studies**

221 The methodological quality of the included studies was fair to moderate. The quality indices
222 of included articles ranged from 12/25 to 18/28 with a mean of 15.0 (Table 3). Studies
223 assessing OA participants ranged between 14-17, whilst the healthy cohort studies had a
224 wider range of methodological quality ranging 12-18. All studies that involved OA
225 participants had high reporting scores, low external validity scores, 4/6 for internal validity
226 (bias), low scoring 0-2 out of 6 for internal validity (confounding) and scored for power
227 reporting. Studies that used a healthy cohort varied in their reporting (6-10 out of 10), 0 out
228 of 3 for external validity, mixed scores for internal validity (confounding) (1-3 out of 6) and
229 varied in reporting the sample power of the respective study. Average inter-rater reliability
230 between the two independent reviewers (JBB and PRB) across all questions was very strong
231 ($k = 0.89$) (Appendix 2). Table 3 outlines JBB's scoring for the risk of bias for each study.

232 **Results of individual studies**

233 **Overall gait retraining style strategies**

234 Standardised mean differences were calculated using the Hedges' g effect size. All results
235 are presented as Forest Plots in figures 2-6 for EKAM1&2, hip kinetics, hip kinematics, ankle
236 kinetics and ankle kinematics respectively. Eight different gait retraining styles were
237 evaluated (Table 1): hip internal rotation [9], [24], trunk lean [23]–[25], toe-in gait [26]–[28],
238 contralateral pelvic drop [29], medial thrust gait [24], medial weight transfer at the foot [12], toe-
239 out gait 237 [26], [28], and self-selected combination of toe-in, wide stance and medial thrust [18].
240 Individual studies assessing these various gait style interventions also varied in terms of
241 study quality. Two studies assessing toe-in gait had scores of 12 and 14 out of 25 for study
242 quality [27], [28] respectively. One hip internal rotation study [30] scored 14/25 whilst

243 another scored 18/28 [9]. The SMD effect size varied across studies for a given measured
244 variable, as well as varying 95% CI for the effect size.

245 **Biomechanical variables reported**

246 **Primary analysis: Ankle/hip biomechanics**

247 **Hip kinetic biomechanics**

248 Peak external abduction moment was addressed in two studies, one study showed a null to
249 small effect due to a trunk lean intervention for all three trunk lean angles assessed [25],
250 with the small effect resulting from the largest of the three trunk leans assessed ($\sim 12^\circ$)
251 (SMD 0.23 CI -0.69 to 1.16). This is compared to a large increase due to a trunk lean ($\sim 10^\circ$)
252 intervention in another study [23] (SMD 0.89 CI 0.23 to 1.56). These findings indicate that
253 there may be a dose-response effect on trunk lean angle and an increase in peak external
254 hip abduction moment. Both studies assessed healthy participants and lacked external
255 validity which severely hinders any inferences to gait alterations on peak external hip
256 abduction moments in a medial knee OA population.

257 Peak external hip adduction moment (EHAM) was assessed by one study [18] which
258 indicated a null effect (SMD <0.2) when utilising various feedback mechanisms to reduce
259 EKAM. Richards et al. paper [18] evaluated the effect of real-time feedback on an OA
260 population. First/early peak EHAM was assessed in three trunk lean studies showing
261 conflicting effects [23]–[25]. The conflicting findings may be due to one study using an OA
262 cohort group [24] (indicating a small effect increase (SMD 0.36 CI -0.15 to 0.87) and the
263 other two assessing a healthy cohort [23], [25] (indicating a small and a large effect size
264 decrease in late stance EHAM).

265 Late stance peak EHAM changes due to a trunk lean intervention indicates that the greater
266 the trunk lean implemented, the lower the reduction in late stance peak EHAM with
267 increasingly higher effect size associated with the change accordingly to the increase in
268 trunk lean angle. However caution must be had due to one study assessing a patient
269 population [24] whilst the other assessed a healthy group of participants [25]. This change in
270 late stance peak EHAM for a trunk lean intervention appears to be different to the use of a
271 medial thrust gait style, which indicates a small effect size increase (SMD 0.25 CI -0.26 to
272 0.75).

273 In terms of sagittal plane hip kinetics, only one study [18] assessed peak external hip flexion
274 moment, indicating a null effect for all four different feedback mechanisms (SMD <0.2).

275 Maximum hip axial loading rates was assessed by one study [9], which indicated a null effect
276 (SMD -0.08 CI -0.72 to 0.55).

277 Overall, reporting of hip kinetic data is lacking across the studies. Caution must be had when
278 interpreting these results due to the lack of external validity and due to the different
279 population groups assessed in each study. Additionally, the 95% CI was large for all variables
280 assessed, with most metrics 95% CI measured crossing the line of null effect.

281 **Ankle kinetic biomechanics**

282 Early and late stance peak external inversion moment were assessed in one study [24]. In
283 the early stance, a null effect for trunk lean was calculated (SMD 0 CI -0.51, 0.51) but
284 potentially increasing when adopting a medial thrust gait (SMD 0.49 CI -0.02, 1.01). In late
285 stance, [24] indicated null effect for trunk lean (SMD 0.15 CI -0.66, 0.36) and small effect
286 medial thrust (SMD 0.33 CI -0.84, 0.18) reductions in peak external inversion moment. This
287 study was rated as moderate (15/25) and assessed an OA population.

288 Peak frontal and sagittal plane external moments were assessed by one study [18]. In the
289 frontal plane, the effect sizes should be interpreted with caution due to the very high
290 standard deviation. Sagittal plane moment indicated a null effect for the various
291 intervention types utilised in [18]. This study was rated as moderate (15/25) and assessed
292 an OA population.

293 Peak external ankle eversion/inversion and plantarflexion/dorsiflexion moments were
294 assessed in one study [26]; all of which had a 95% CI crossing the line of null effect. This
295 indicates that caution should be taken when interpreting the SMD effect size in isolation.
296 This was also true for peak external ankle plantarflexion/dorsiflexion moment impulses [26].
297 Again, limiting the interpretation of the SMD value. However, for toe-out gait peak external
298 ankle eversion moment impulse appears to reduce whilst having a null effect for toe-in gait.
299 Whilst for the peak external ankle inversion moment impulse, there appears to be a large
300 effect size indicating an increased load when adopting a toe-in gait compared to natural gait
301 (SMD of 1.43 [0.6, 2.26]). This study was rated as moderate (15/25) and assessed an OA
302 population.

303 Centre of pressure at EKAM1 and EKAM2 was only assessed for toe-in gait [27]; both of
304 which indicating no effect size (SMD < 0.2) when adopting a toe-in gait style. First and
305 second half of stance centre of pressure were assessed in one study [12] which reported a
306 large effect size increase in the first half of stance CoP due to the intervention and small size
307 increase in the second half of stance CoP (SMD of 0.85 and 0.28 respectively). However, the
308 95% CI for these two variables cross the line of null effect, and so caution must be taken in
309 the interpretation of these findings. Maximum ankle axial loading rates was assessed by one
310 study [9], which indicated a null effect (SMD -0.15 CI -0.79, 0.49).

311 All ankle kinetic data presented above utilised an OA population within their studies, with
312 varying methodological scores (14-17 out of 25); having scored low on external validity.
313 Caution should be had when assessing the effect sizes alone as the 95% CI tend to cross the
314 line of null effect. Therefore, interpretation should always consider the 95% CI values when
315 making conclusions for a gait style.

316 **Trunk & pelvis biomechanics**

317 Six studies reported various pelvic/trunk biomechanics data [23]–[25], [27], [29], [30] (Table 5). Shull
318 et al. [27] did not find any significant changes in lateral trunk sway at first or second peak EKAM
319 between natural gait and a toe-in gait modification. Gerbrands et al. [24] reported a significant
320 increase in peak trunk angle between natural gait to both trunk lean and medial thrust gait
321 modifications. The trunk biomechanics presented [25] and [23] describes the mean (\pm SD) trunk lean
322 angles for the gait styles performed. Van den Noort et al. [30] outlines a number of trunk and hip
323 changes with and without hip internal rotation feedback on hip internal rotation. Dunphy et al. [29]
324 studied the influence of contralateral pelvic drop and noted the differences in pelvic drop angle
325 between natural gait and contralateral pelvic drop gait style.

326 **External knee adduction moment**

327 Trunk lean ($\sim 10^\circ$) [23] had the biggest reduction in EKAM1 compared to natural walking
328 (SMD -1.99 CI -2.72, -1.18). In addition, other studies assessing trunk lean indicated large
329 reductions in EKAM1 [24] (SMD -1.18 CI -2.24, -0.11), [25] (SMD -0.45 CI -1.12, 0.24). Trunk
330 lean also appears to be dose dependent, the larger the degree of trunk lean, the larger the
331 reduction in EKAM1. Hip internal rotation [9] (SMD -1.24 CI -2.31, -0.17), medial thrust [24]
332 (SMD -0.66 CI -1.17, -0.13), toe-in gait (SMD -0.57 CI -1.29, 0.17) [26], and a self-selection of
333 a combination of toe-in, wider stance and medialisation of the knee position whilst receiving

334 visual direct feedback on EKAM (SMD -0.54 CI -0.98, -0.09) also had medium to large effect
335 size on reducing EKAM1.

336 The effects of gait styles on EKAM2 were less pronounced, with only two studies showing a
337 medium effect size reduction. Firstly, using polar visual feedback on hip internal rotation
338 (SMD -0.60 CI -1.28, 0.09) [26] and toe-out gait ($\sim 20^\circ$) [26] (SMD -0.50 CI -1.23, 0.22). All
339 studies that assessed a gait style compared to natural gait for EKAM2 had a CI that crossed
340 the line of null effect.

341 **Ease of adapting gait style**

342 After the review protocol was made available, the authors of the review decided that it
343 would enrich the study by extracting additional information to establish the ease of
344 adopting a given gait style. Five studies included subjective commentary on how easy the
345 gait retraining was to implement [9], [25]–[27], [30]; with [9], [26], [30] asking the
346 participants for their feedback. Barrios et al. [9] found that effort and how natural the
347 retraining was to implement improved from sessions 1 to 8. In van den Noort et al. (2015)
348 [30], the intuitiveness of the type of feedback was verbally tested after each trial by a
349 subjective score on the question: “how well were you able to modify your gait pattern?”.
350 There were no significant differences between subjective scoring of the intuitiveness for all
351 visual feedback trials. Therefore, the type of visual feedback is not of primary concern when
352 aiming to modify gait [30]. In Charlton et al. [26] discomfort levels were low across the toe-
353 in, natural and toe-out walks for the ankle/foot, knee and for the hip. All participants in
354 Hunt et al. (2011) [25] reported at least some difficulty in performing the increased trunk
355 lean walking trials. Shull et al. (2013) [27] commented on the ease of learning toe-in gait

356 only within the paper's discussion section. Subjectively, participants in the aforementioned
357 study appeared to walk naturally with toe-in gait.

358 **Study quality assessment**

359 The methodologic quality of included studies could be considered fair to moderate. Overall,
360 2 studies were rated fair, and 9 studies were moderately rated (Table 3). Studies lacked
361 external validity and internal validity (confounding). In addition to the methodological issues
362 highlighted by the Downs and Black tool, other methodologic issues included the failure to
363 thoroughly control extraneous variables such as speed and step length, inadequate
364 standardisation of gait modification magnitudes, and small sample sizes. Also, to assess the
365 efficacy of gait modifications it is necessary to capture the immediate and long-term effects
366 on patient-reported pain, function and discomfort.

367 **DISCUSSION**

368 **Summary of evidence**

369 This systematic review evaluated whether gait retraining can reduce EKAM whilst not
370 affecting adjacent joints. This is the first systematic review that has evidenced a lack of
371 reporting of hip and/or ankle joint biomechanics when altered knee joint loading is targeted
372 during gait retraining protocols. On the evidence currently available in the gait retraining
373 literature we cannot not confirm whether there is an adverse effect on adjacent joints to
374 the knee when adopting a gait style due to the lack of, as well as conflicting, evidence
375 presented.

376 This systematic review suggests that different gait retraining strategies may have different
377 knee joint loading alterations. Strategies that reduced first peak EKAM the most were an
378 increased trunk lean, hip internal rotation, and medial thrust gait (Table 4). Conclusions are

379 based on a very limited number of studies included within this review; emphasising the
380 need for further exploratory studies to be undertaken. In addition to the small number of
381 included studies, the quality of the trunk lean gait style and medial thrust gait style studies
382 was 15/25, indicating moderate methodological quality. These findings agree with the
383 systematic review by Simic et al. (2011) [3] with medial thrust and trunk lean showing the
384 highest reductions in early stance EKAM (Table 4). All studies lacked external validity and so
385 the conclusions of these individual studies cannot be generalised to other populations. This
386 systematic review has highlighted the need for further studies to assess the effect of gait
387 retraining styles on an OA population group.

388 The feasibility of applying these strategies in daily life might depend greatly on changes in
389 the loading of joints, ligaments and muscles throughout the kinematic chain, a potential
390 increase of energy expenditure and the aesthetics of the resulting gait [24]. Other studies
391 outside of this review have indicated that trunk lean can increase energy expenditure, which
392 may lead to fatigue and discomfort for the individual [31], [32]. So, whilst trunk lean may
393 aim have the biggest change in effect size to reduce knee joint loading, there may be
394 changes in terms of energy expenditure that may be counterproductive.

395 In this systematic review, many studies reported very little evidence of the biomechanical
396 effect of gait retraining on the hip and/or ankle joints. Accordingly, the adverse effects of
397 the proposed gait retraining strategies cannot be thoroughly evaluated and should be
398 addressed in future studies. This is an area of research that needs to be reviewed for future
399 research before gait retraining can be recommended as a clinical intervention.

400 Despite the limited research available that has highlighted the consequences of reducing
401 first peak EKAM from gait retraining interventions and its effects on the hip and ankle joints,

402 the reduction in knee joint loading may be clinically important. However, any
403 recommendations made must be made with caution due to the lack of available hip and
404 ankle data as well as the lack of external validity within the studies. Hunt et al. (2011) [25]
405 outlined a pathway towards clinical translation of their findings, such as examining the
406 biomechanical effects at other joints and overcoming potential barriers to using this
407 intervention in individuals with knee OA. Van den Noort et al. (2015) [30] suggested future
408 research should focus on modification of gait patterns to the extent that a clinically
409 significant reduction in the EKAM (and not a maximum) is achieved, and a sustainable gait
410 pattern is developed that can be maintained by knee OA patients in daily life. Erhart-Hledik
411 et al. (2017) [12] states that the sustainability of the gait retraining and tolerability for
412 longer-term clinical implementation requires future consideration. While the results are
413 promising, and the gait modification was readily achieved, a longitudinal study would be
414 required to determine the feasibility of the gait modification to improve joint loading in the
415 long term as well as evaluate potential improvements in clinical outcomes such as pain and
416 function.

417 **Limitations**

418 Only 11 studies were identified in this review, of which varied in the consistency of
419 biomechanics reported for the hip and ankle joints and so conclusive interpretation is
420 limited. It is imperative to understand the consequences an altered gait has on the hip and
421 ankle joints when considering a gait alteration for a clinical purpose and so future studies
422 should aim to incorporate this into their study design. This lack in consistent reporting
423 across the 11 studies also prevented the current systematic review in undertaking a meta-
424 analysis on the current literature.

425 Of the 11 included studies, the majority had a low number of participants and involved one
426 visit. Additionally, most studies used healthy participants and so the translation of the
427 findings to medial OA patients is limited. Future studies should aim to evaluate gait
428 retraining potential on individuals with medial knee OA and to analyse the effects of such
429 retraining longitudinally over multiple visits. Finally, the participant's perspective on how
430 difficult the gait retraining style is to perform should be assessed in future studies along
431 with studies indicating the clinical translation of the retraining.

432 **Conclusions**

433 In conclusion, to our knowledge, this is the first systematic review that has focused on
434 assessing gait retraining and its effects on first and second peak EKAMs as well as evaluating
435 the biomechanical consequences to the hip and/or ankle biomechanics. This systematic
436 review highlights the lack of studies that have included hip and/or ankle biomechanical
437 consequences when altering an individual's gait with the objective of lowering knee joint
438 loading. In addition, studies lacked external validity and were scored fair to moderate in
439 their study quality. The findings from this systematic review should direct future research to
440 undertake gait retraining research using knee OA patients, over multiple visits as well as
441 analysing the potential changes of the gait retraining strategy to the other lower limb joints.
442 Without a thorough understanding of the biomechanical consequences of a gait retraining
443 style at the hip and/or ankle joints, the clinical value of such gait styles cannot be
444 determined.

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576 **Figure Legends**

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578 **Figure 1.** Flow diagram of search strategy.

579

580 **Figure 2.** Forest plot of EKAM1 and EKAM2 comparing the given study intervention to normal gait.
581 Articles bold, in red, with an * indicate studies that assessed knee OA participants. EKAM1; first peak

582 external knee adduction moment. EKAM2; second peak external knee adduction moment. SMD;
583 standardised mean difference. CI; confidence interval.

584

585 **Figure 3.** Forest plot of hip kinetic metrics comparing the given study intervention to normal gait.
586 Articles bold, in red, with an * indicate studies that assessed knee OA participants. EHAM; external
587 hip adduction moment. HFM; hip flexion moment. SMD; standardised mean difference. CI;
588 confidence interval.

589

590 **Figure 4.** Forest plot of hip kinematic metrics comparing the given study intervention to normal gait.
591 Articles bold, in red, with an * indicate studies that assessed knee OA participants. ROM; range of
592 motion. HIR; hip internal rotation. MT; medial thrust. TL; trunk lean. Van den Noort et al. (2015) a;
593 bar visual feedback on HIR. Van den Noort et al. (2015) b; polar visual feedback on HIR. Van den
594 Noort et al. (2015) c; colour visual feedback on HIR. Van den Noort et al. (2015) d; graph visual
595 feedback on HIR. SMD; standardised mean difference. CI; confidence interval.

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597 **Figure 5.** Forest plot of ankle kinetic metrics comparing the given study intervention to normal gait.
598 Articles bold, in red, with an * indicate studies that assessed knee OA participants. MT; medial
599 thrust. TL; trunk lean. T-O; toe out; T-I; toe in. CoP; centre of pressure. EKAM1; first peak external
600 knee adduction moment. EKAM2; second peak external knee adduction moment. SMD; standardised
601 mean difference. CI; confidence interval.

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603 **Figure 6.** Forest plot of ankle kinematic metrics comparing the given study intervention to normal
604 gait. EKAM1; first peak external knee adduction moment. EKAM2; second peak external knee
605 adduction moment. FPA; foot progression angle. IC; initial contact. T-O; toe out; T-I; toe in. SMD;
606 standardised mean difference. CI; confidence interval.

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Table 4.
Biomechanical consequences of gait retraining at the trunk, hip and ankle, foot and CoP

	Trunk and pelvis	Hip	Ankle, foot and CoP
Shull et al. (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-S LT sway between T-I gait (0.2 (2.0)) and normal gait (0.5 (2.3)) at first peak EKAM, $p = 0.44$; N-S LT sway between T-I gait (0.4 (1.3)) and normal gait (0.6 (1.2)) at second peak EKAM, $p = 0.48$; N-S peak lateral trunk sway angle between normal gait (1.5° (1.6)) and T-I gait (1.3° (0.5)), $p = 0.49$. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-S findings for peak HIR angle between normal gait (3.2° (3.8)) and T-I gait (4.1° (4.1)), $p = 0.18$; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant difference between normal gait FPA at first (3.3° (4.5)) and second (3.9° (4.6)) peak EKAM compared to FPA for T-I gait at first (-2.6° (6.3)) and second (-1.4° (6.4)) peak EKAM; Early stance, the CoP shifted laterally from normal gait (27 (77) mm) compared to 33 (79) mm, $p = 0.04$; Late stance CoP did not significantly change between normal gait (30 (83) mm) and TI gait (30 (83)), $p = 0.96$.
Richards et al. (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-S changes in the peak EHAM, $p = 0.083$; N-S changes in peak HFM between normal gait and gait modifications, $p = 0.182$. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peak EAAM was significantly increased compared to baseline during the second peak EKAM visual feedback trial and the final retention trial, $p < 0.001$; N-S in peak EAFM for any condition, $p > 0.058$; FPA significantly more internally rotated during second EKAM visual feedback and retention trials, $p < 0.001$; Patients significantly increased their step widths during all trials. Significant reductions were found for late stance peak ankle inversion moment of 3% during MT gait compared to normal walking ($p < 0.05$). Peaks did not increase significantly for plantar and dorsal ankle moments between the two different walking styles.
Gerbrands et al. (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the MT the peak trunk angle significantly increased to 5.5° (3.7) and during the TL the peak trunk angle significantly increased to 16.1° (5.5) compared to normal walking trunk angle of 3.4° (1.8), $p < 0.05$. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early stance peak hip flexion angle significantly increased from normal walking (15.3° (37.7)) to 18.2 (37.2) during TL, $p < 0.05$. N-S in early stance peak hip flexion angle between normal walking (15.3 (37.7)) and MT (10.2 (21.1)), $p > 0.05$; N-S findings in EHAM between baseline walking trials and neither the TL, or MT gait retraining trials at both the first and second peak EKAM, $p > 0.05$. 	
Erhart-Hledik et al. (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-S changes in peak ankle eversion angle in stance between control (13.9° (5.4)) and active feedback (14.7° (5.3)), $p = 0.193$ for normal walking speed. Average foot CoP in the first half of stance phase in the medial/lateral direction was significantly different between control (43.1 mm (5.6)) and active feedback (49.0 mm (7.6)), $p = 0.011$ for normal walking speed. Average foot CoP in the second half of stance phase was significantly different between control (28.3 mm (9.5)) and active feedback (31.8 mm (13.7)), $p = 0.079$; Average foot CoP in the first half of stance phase was significantly different between control (43.9 mm (6.0)) and active feedback (47.5 mm (6.7)), $p = 0.006$, for fast walking speed. NS CoP findings in the second half of stance phase for fast walking speed.

Table 5. (Cont'd)

Charlton et al. (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N-R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N-R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-I 10° significantly increased rearfoot inversion angles by 68%, 139%, and 289% for ZR, T-O 10° and T-O 20°, respectively. T-O 20° resulted in significantly decreased rearfoot inversion angles by -57% compared to natural gait. • Significant peak frontal plane rearfoot angles during stance. T-I 10° significantly decreased rearfoot eversion by -48%, -57%, and -61% compared to all the other conditions. Significant differences in frontal plane ankle rearfoot excursion was observed. T-I 10° significantly increased frontal plane rearfoot excursion by 20%, 32%, and 50% compared to all the other conditions. Also, ZR resulted in significantly increased frontal plane rearfoot angle excursion by 25% compared to T-O 20°. • Significant differences for sagittal plane ankle angles at IC was observed. Angles at IC during T-I 10° were significantly more dorsiflexed by 129% compared to T-O 10°. Additionally, T-O 20° was significantly more dorsiflexed by 138% and 136% compared to ZR and T-O 10°. No main effects could be detected for peak sagittal plane ankle angles during stance or for sagittal plane ankle angle excursion. • The foot rotation conditions resulted in different EKAM magnitudes, evidenced by the significant main effect for early and late stance peak EKAM. • N-S findings for ankle eversion moment impulse after post-hoc correction. No main effect for ankle inversion moment impulse could be detected. • A main effect for step width was found across conditions ($P=.001$). Pairwise comparisons revealed that T-I 10° increased step width compared to all the other conditions.
Barrios et al. (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N-R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant increase between baseline natural gait peak HIR: 5.3° (7.4); post-training modified peak HIR: 13.5° (8.5); 1-month post modified peak HIR: 12.8° (9.2); • N-S change in peak hip adduction angle ($p = 0.073$); baseline natural gait hip adduction angle: 9.2° (2.4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N-R
Hunt et al. (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal gait TL 2.61° (1.64); • Small TL 5° (0.87); • Medium TL 8.34° (1.61); • Large TL 12.88° (1.91). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant early stance peak EHAM differences were observed between all TL conditions (5.22 (0.99), 4.61 (0.65), 4.09 (0.61) for small, medium and large TL respectively) compared to normal walking (5.72 (0.90), with greater early stance peak EHAM reductions associated with increasing amounts of TL, $p < 0.001$; • N-S differences in late stance peak EHAM for any TL gait modification compared to normal gait (4.16 (1.13), $p > 0.05$; • N-S differences observed in peak hip abduction moment for any TL gait modifications compared to normal gait (1.38 (1.10)). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N-R

Mundermaan et al. (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased medio-lateral trunk sway (10° (5)). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-S differences were observed for the maximum axial loading rates at the hip joint for normal gait (1286 (488) %Bw/s) and trunk sway (1250 (371) %Bw/s), $p = 0.763$; Significant increase in maximum hip abduction moment of 55.3% between normal gait (2.0 (1.1)) and increased trunk sway (3.1 (1.3)), $p < 0.001$; First peak EHAM was significantly reduced by 57.1% for the increased medio-lateral trunk sway trial (1.8 (1.5)) compared to normal gait (4.2 (1.4)), $p < 0.001$. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-S differences were observed for the maximum axial loading rates at the ankle joint for normal gait (1280 (490) %Bw/s) and trunk sway (1214 (356) %Bw/s), $p = 0.568$.
van den Noort et al. (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pelvis lift decreased by more than 5° in six participants (N-S at group level), pelvis protraction increased ($4-6^\circ$, only significant for graph $p = 0.03$), and ipsilateral trunk sway decreased ($2-3^\circ$, $p < 0.01$ except for colour); With HIR feedback, maximal hip extension decreased ($5-6^\circ$, $p < 0.05$ for bar and polar), and pelvis protraction increased by more than 5° in six participants (but N-S at group level). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hip angle feedback, HIR in the early stance phase increased significantly compared with baseline levels (bar 8°, $p < 0.01$; polar 10°, $p < 0.01$; colour 8°, $p < 0.01$, graph 7°, $p < 0.01$). The bar, polar and colour showed the largest change in late stance [9° ($p = 0.01$), 11° ($p < 0.01$) and 8° ($p = 0.03$), respectively]; The kinematic changes that occurred while visual feedback on EKAM was provided included a decreased hip adduction (5°, polar $p = 0.01$, graph $p = 0.02$) and a maximal hip extension decrease ($4-5^\circ$, $p < 0.03$ except for colour). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinematic changes that occurred while visual feedback on EKAM was provided included an increased T-I angle of more than 5° in eight participants (on average: $2-7^\circ$ at group level but N-S), an increased step width ($6-7$ cm, $p < 0.03$ for all feedback conditions); While HIR feedback was provided, apart from significant changes in the HIR, participants also showed a significant increase in WS ($7-10$ cm). Furthermore, six participants showed an increased T-I angle of more than 5°, and five participants showed an increased T-O angle (on average $3-7^\circ$ increase in T-I angle in group level, but N-S).
Dunphy et al. (2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant differences were observed in maximum pelvic drop angle between normal gait (3° (1)) and contralateral pelvic gait (7° (1)), $p < 0.001$; The correlation between change in pelvic drop and change in EKAM peak was $r = 0.88$ ($p < 0.001$). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant differences were observed in maximum hip adduction angle between normal gait (0° (2)) and contralateral pelvic gait (4° (2)), $p < 0.001$; The correlation between change in peak hip adduction angle and change in EKAM peak was $r = 0.83$ ($p < 0.001$); N-S differences in hip flexion/extension between normal gait and contralateral pelvic drop gait trials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-R
Khan et al. (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N-R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the entire range from T-I to T-O, the hip joint's contribution to the total limb work decreased significantly at slow speed from 35.00% to 22.00%; The hip joint increased its contribution at normal gait speed (26%–37%) through T-I to T-O. At T-O, significant increase of hip joint's contribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mean (SD) of self-selected FPAs for ST, TO and TI were 12.91 cm (4.78), 31.56 cm (7.51) and 13.43 cm (3.39) respectively; N-S findings in ankle joint contribution by the speed transitions, except at T-I in slow to fast gait speeds. The ankle joint's contribution remained consistent except at slow speeds (decreased from 43.00% to 37.00%) from T-I to T-O gait.

EKAM: external knee adduction moment; T-I: toe-in gait; HIR: hip internal rotation; EHAM: external hip adduction moment; EAAM: external ankle adduction moment;

EAFM: ankle flexion moment; CoP: centre of pressure; MT: medial thrust; T-O: toe-out gait; T-L: trunk lean; ZR: N-R: not reported; N-S: non-significant.

Table 5.
Percentage (%) change in EKAM parameter measured between normal gait and gait retraining intervention

	1 st peak EKAM values (presented as %BW*H unless otherwise stated)	2 nd peak EKAM values (%BW*H)	% Change in 1 st peak EKAM	% Change in 2 st peak EKAM
Shull et al. (2013)	Baseline: 3.28 (1.37); T-I: 2.90 (1.38) **	Baseline: 1.98 (1.14); T-I: 1.94 (1.09)	T-I: -13%	N-S
Richards et al. (2018)	Combination of WS, T-I and MT gait modifications with real-time feedback. Baseline: 3.29 (1.00); visual feedback with self-selected combination of WS, T-I and MT gait: 2.82 (0.71) **; retention: 3.00 (0.77) **	N-R	Visual feedback: -14% Retention: -9%	N-R
Gerbrands et al. (2017)	Baseline: 0.24 (0.12); TL: 0.15 (0.10) **; MT: 0.17 (0.09) **	Baseline: 0.19 (0.12); TL: 0.15 (0.10) **; MT: 0.17 (0.10)	TL: -38% MT: -29%	TL: -21% MT: N-S
Erhart-Hledik et al. (2017)	Baseline: 2.41 (1.10); medial weight transfer at the foot: 2.26 (1.04) ** Baseline, fast walking: 2.90 (1.28); medial weight transfer at the foot, fast walking: 2.63 (1.35) **	Baseline: 1.71 (1.01); medial weight transfer at the foot, normal gait: 1.47 (0.96) ** Medial weight transfer at the foot, fast gait: 1.50 (1.13)	Medial weight transfer at the foot: -6% Medial weight transfer at the foot, fast gait: -9%	Medial weight transfer at the foot, normal gait: -14% Medial weight transfer at the foot, fast gait: N-S
Charlton et al. (2018)	Baseline: 0.48 (0.14) (N m/kg); T-I: 0.4 (0.14) (N m/kg); zero rotation: 0.44 (0.13) (N m/kg); T-O (10°) 0.48 (0.14) (N m/kg); T-O (20°) 0.51 (0.14) (N m/kg)	Baseline: 0.39 (0.14) (N m/kg); T-I: 0.47 (0.13) (N m/kg); zero rotation: 0.42 (0.12) (N m/kg); T-O (10°) 0.37 (0.13) (N m/kg); T-O (20°) 0.32 (0.14) (N m/kg)	T-I: -20% zero rotation: -9% T-O (10°): 0% T-O (20°): +6%	T-I: +17% zero rotation: +7% T-O (10°): -5% T-O (20°): +22%
Barrios et al. (2010)	Baseline visit: 0.426 (0.065) (N m/kg); post-training: 0.34 (0.66) * (N m/kg); 1-month post: 0.34 (0.073) * (N m/kg)	N-R	Post-training: -20% 1-month post: -20%	N-R
Hunt et al. (2011)	Baseline: 4.07 (1.64); small lean: 3.82 (1.77); medium lean: 3.37 (1.72) *; large lean: 3.26 (1.64) *	Baseline: 1.89 (0.77); small lean: 1.64 (0.96); medium lean: 1.64 (1.02); large lean: 1.60 (0.90)	Small lean: N-S Medium lean: -21% Large lean: -25%	N-S
Mundermann et al. (2008)	Baseline: 2.0 (0.7); increased trunk sway: 0.7 (0.6) **	N-R	Increased trunk sway: -65%	N-R
van den Noort et al. (2015)	Baseline: 2.14 (0.20); HIR colour feedback: 1.92 (0.25); HIR polar feedback: 1.73 (0.24)	Baseline: 1.91 (0.29); HIR colour: 1.60 (0.34); HIR polar: 1.14 (0.32) **	HIR colour: N-S HIR polar: N-S	HIR colour: N-S HIR polar: -40.32 %
Dunphy et al. (2016)	Baseline: 0.41 (0.03); contralateral pelvic drop: 0.56 (0.04) *	N-R	Contralateral pelvic drop: +37%	N-R
Khan et al. (2017)	Slow, ST: 1.81 (N-R); slow, T-I: 1.82 (N-R); slow, T-O: 2.28 (N-R) *; Normal, ST: 1.96 (N-R); normal, T-I: 1.80 (N-R) *; normal, T-O: 2.81 (N-R) * fast, ST: 2.70 (N-R); fast, T-I: 2.23 (N-R) *; fast, T-O: 3.08 (N-R) *	Slow, ST: 1.28 (N-R); slow, T-I: 1.64 (N-R) *; slow, T-O: 1.13 (N-R) *; Normal, ST: 1.42 (N-R); normal, T-I: 1.70 (N-R) *; normal, T-O: 1.06 (N-R) *; Fast, ST: 1.56 (N-R); fast, T-I: 1.60 (N-R); fast, T-O: 1.22 (N-R) *	Slow, T-I: N-S; Normal, T-I: -9%; Fast, T-I: -21% Slow, T-O: +26%; Normal, T-O: +43%; Fast, T-O: +14%	Slow, T-I: +22%; Normal, T-I: + 20%; Fast, T-I: N-S Slow, T-O: -12%; Normal, T-O: -25%; Fast, T-O: -22%

EKAM: external knee adduction moment; baseline: normal gait; Hunt et al. (2001): small lean (4 °), medium lean (8 °), large lean (12 °); S-T: straight-toe gait; T-I: toe-in gait; HIR: hip internal rotation; WS: wide stance gait; MT: medial thrust; T-O: toe-out gait; T-L: trunk lean; N-R: not reported; N-S: non-significant, $p > 0.05$; %BW*H: % body weight multiplied by height*; $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$.

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Table 1. Group demographics

Authors and year	Population	Gait retraining modification	Gait speeds (m/s) (mean \pm SD)	Over ground/treadmill walking	n (M: F)	Age (years) (mean \pm (SD))	Height (m) (mean \pm (SD))	Mass (kg) (mean \pm (SD))	BMI (mean \pm (SD))
Shull et al. (2013)	Symptomatic knee OA (K/L grade \geq 1)	• T-I	1.23 \pm 0.21	Instrumented treadmill	12 (7: 5)	59.8 (12.0)	1.71 (0.8)	77.7 (18.0)	26.5 (4.2)
Richards et al. (2018)	Symptomatic knee OA	• Self-selection combination of T-I, WS and MT	N-R	Instrumented treadmill	40 (15: 25)	61.7 (6.0)	1.73 (0.10)	77.2 (11.0)	25.6 (2.5)
Erhart-Hledik et al. (2017)	Symptomatic knee OA and physician-diagnosed radiographic medial compartment knee OA (K/L grade \geq 1)	• Medial weight transfer at the foot	Control [natural speed (1.28 \pm 0.14); fast speed (1.53 \pm 0.18)]; active feedback [natural speed (1.31 \pm 0.12); fast group (1.50 \pm 0.15)	Overground	10 (9:1)	65.3 (9.8)	NR	NR	27.8 (3.0)
Gerbrands et al. (2017)	Symptomatic knee OA; physician-diagnosed with radiographic and fulfilment of the criteria by the American College of Rheumatology	• LT; • MT	Comfortable walking (1.21 \pm 0.10); MT walking (1.02 \pm 0.19); TL walking (1.08 \pm 0.15)	Overground	30 (10: 20)	61.0 (6.2)	1.71 (0.1)	75.7 (13.1)	NR
Charlton et al. (2018)	Radiographic medial compartment knee OA (K/L grade \geq 2)	• T-I • T-O	1.22 (0.15)	Overground and a treadmill	15 (6:9)	67.9 (9.4)	1.67 (0.11)	75.6 (15.0)	NR
Barrios et al. (2010)	Healthy	• HIR strategy	1.46 (\pm 2.5%)	Overground	8 (7:1)	21.4 (1.6)	1.75 (0.07)	71.7 (8.8)	NR
Hunt et al. (2011)	Healthy	• LT	Natural TL (1.42 \pm 0.18); small TL (1.36 \pm 0.19); medium TL (1.36 \pm 0.19); large TL (1.40 \pm 0.19)	Overground	9 (3:6)	18.6 (0.7)	1.71 (0.11)	65.2 (13.8)	NR
Mündermann et al. (2008)	Healthy	• Increased medio-lateral trunk sway	Natural gait (1.48 \pm 0.17); medio-lateral trunk sway (1.44 \pm 0.15)	Overground	19 (12: 7)	22.8 (3.1)	1.75 (0.97)	70.5 (16.3)	NR
Van den Noort et al. (2015)	Healthy	• HIR feedback	1.0 \pm 0.09	Instrumented treadmill	17 (8: 7)	28.2 (7.6)	1.78 (0.07)	71.6 (12.5)	NR
Dunphy et al. (2016)	Healthy	• Contralateral pelvic drop	1.31 \pm 0.12	Instrumented treadmill	15 (7: 8)	25 (2.65)	1.73 (0.08)	76.7 (16.5)	25.7 (5.06)
Khan et al. (2017)	Healthy	• T-O; • T-I	Slow (0.85); natural (1.18); fast (1.43)	Overground	20 (8: 12)	29.0 (4.10)	1.65 (0.11)	59.3 (10.4)	NR

HIR = hip internal rotation; LT = lateral trunk lean; T-I = toe-in gait; KAM = knee adduction moment; WS = wide stance gait; MT = medial thrust gait; T-O = toe-out gait; BMI = body mass index; K/L grade = Kellgren and Lawrence system; m: metre; NR = not reported; M: male; F: female; SD: standard deviation.

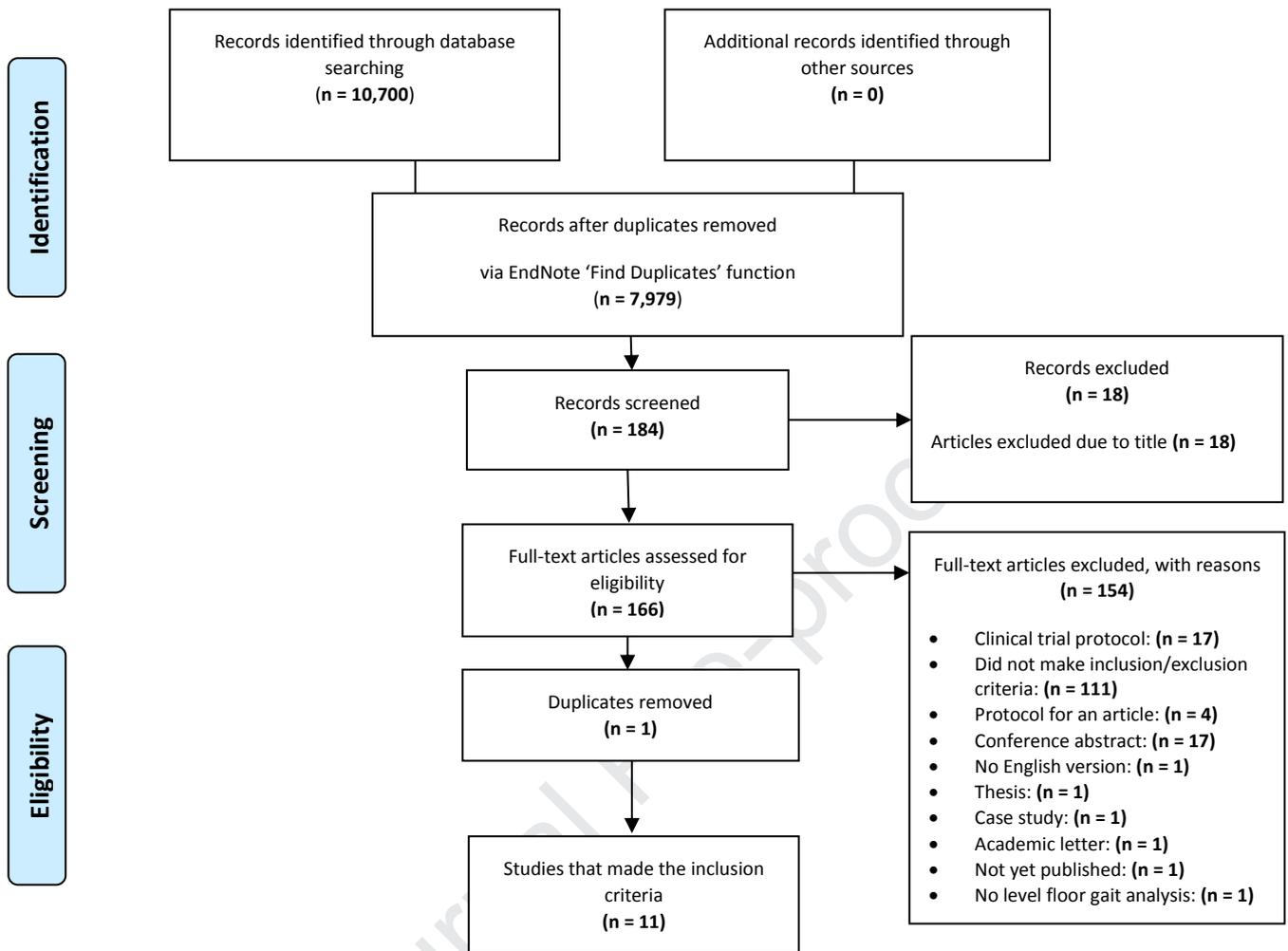
Table 2.
Disease severity

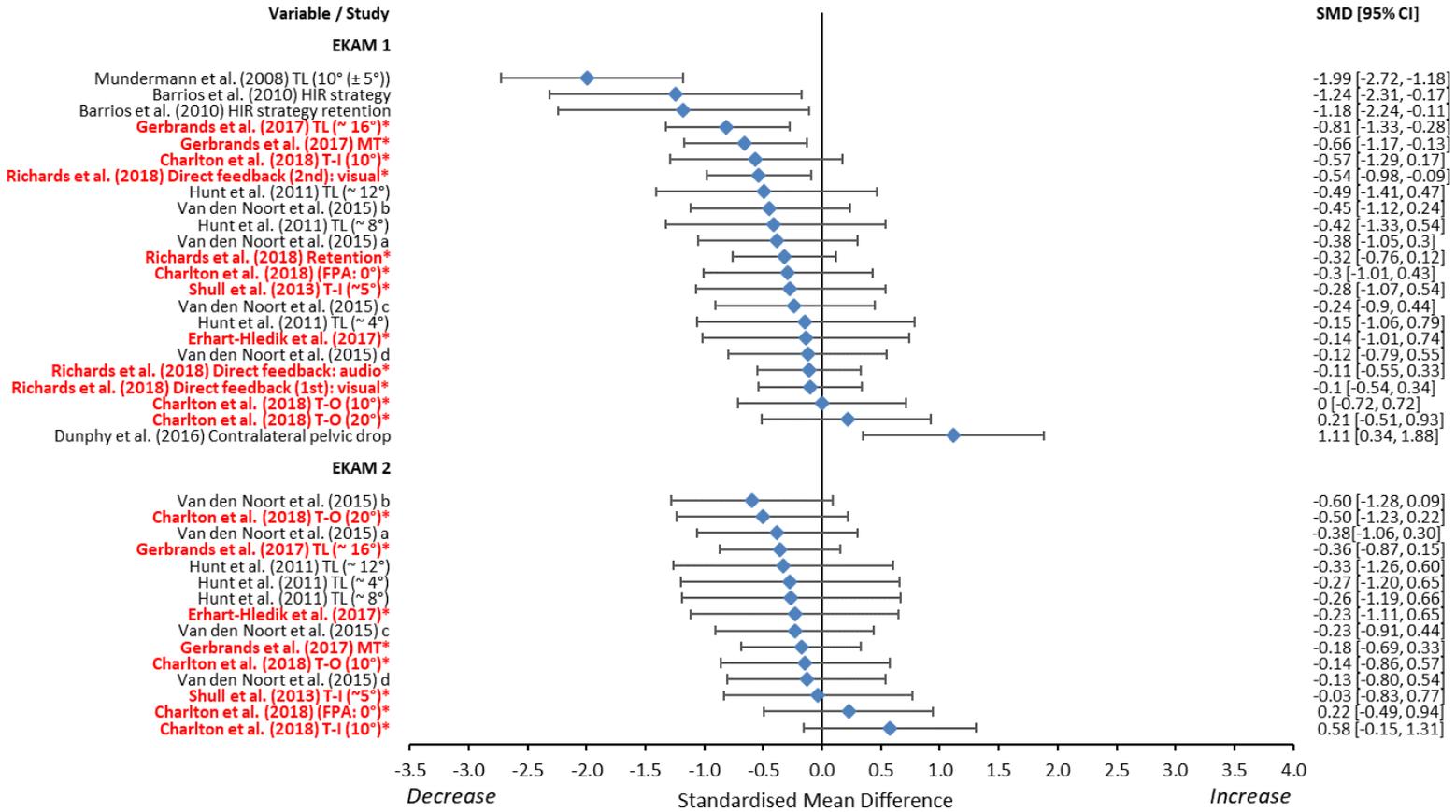
Authors and year	Population	K/L grade	PROMS
Shull et al. (2013)	Symptomatic knee OA	II: 4, III: 7, IV: 1	WOMAC pain (mean \pm SD): 74.2 (19.0) [max. 100], WOMAC Function (mean \pm SD): 81.7 (21.6) [max. 100]
Richards et al. (2018)	Symptomatic knee OA	I: 19, II: 8, III: 9, IV: 4	WOMAC pain (mean \pm SD): 5.35 (3.13) [max. 20], WOMAC Function (mean \pm SD): 19.10 (12.08) [max. 68], WOMAC stiffness: 3.25 (1.96) [max. 8], Baseline pain: 3.05 (2.16) [max. 10]
Gerbrands et al. (2017)	Symptomatic knee OA	NR	KOOS Pain (%): 57.5 (13.4), KOOS Function (%): 62.3 (14.1)
Erhart-Hledik et al. (2017)	Symptomatic knee OA	All above I.	Daily pain score: 3.2 (3.6)
Charlton et al. (2018)	Radiographic knee OA	II: 7; III: 8	WOMAC pain (mean \pm SD): 4 (2.2) [max. 20] WOMAC stiffness (mean \pm SD): 3.0 (1.3) [max. 8] WOMAC Function (mean \pm SD): 15.4 (8.0) [max. 68]
Hunt et al. (2011)	Healthy	NR	NR
Barrios et al. (2010)	Healthy	NR	KOOS-SR score (mean \pm SD): 0.7 (0.9) [max. 20]
Mundermann et al. (2008)	Healthy	NR	NR
Van den Noort et al. (2015)	Healthy	NR	NR
Dunphy et al. (2016)	Healthy	NR	NR
Khan et al. (2017)	Healthy	NR	NR

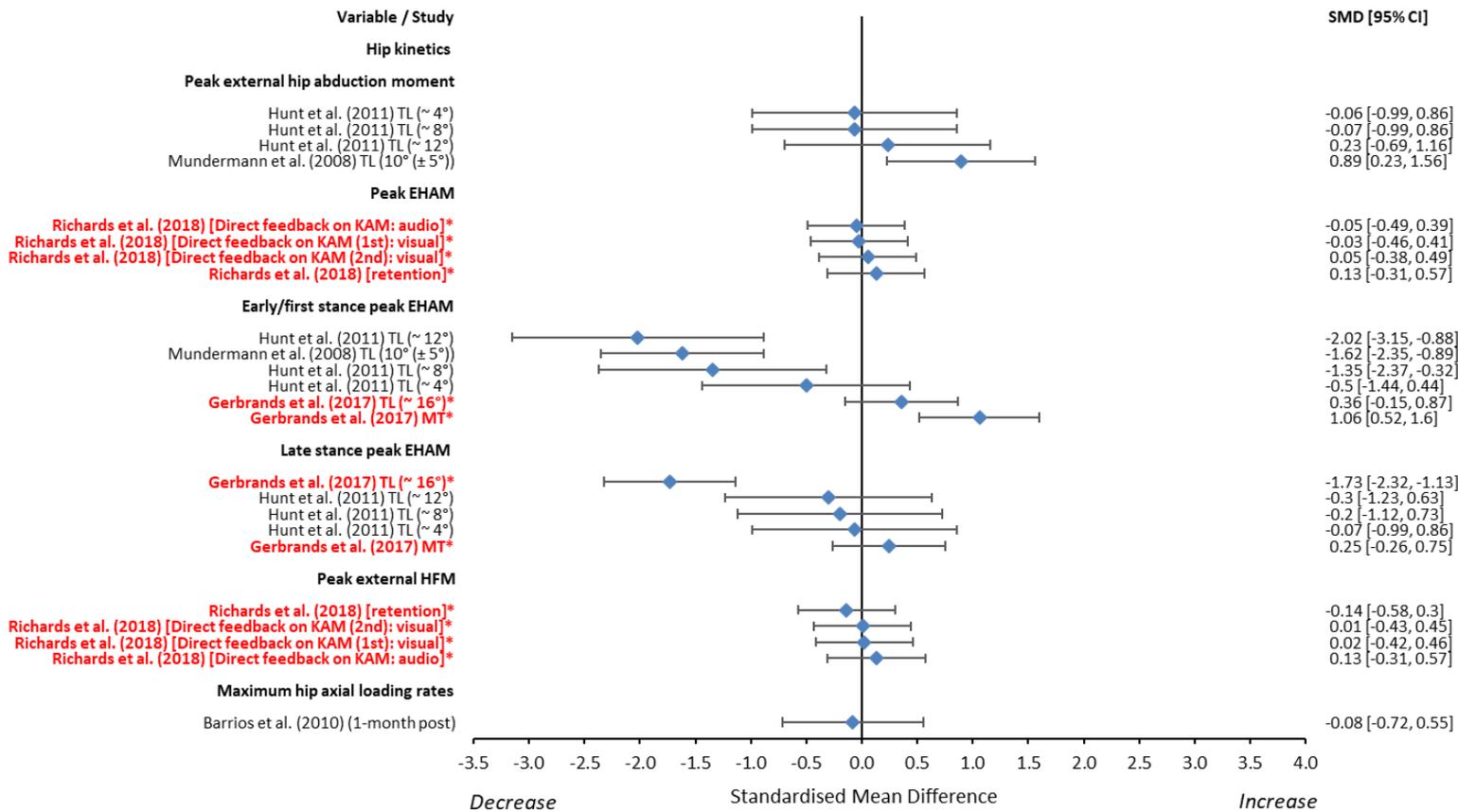
PROMS = Patient-reported outcome measures; K/L grade = Kellgren and Lawrence system; WOMAC = The Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index; KOOS = Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score; NR = not reported; OA = osteoarthritis; SD: standard deviation. Barrios et al. (2010) used the KOOS-SR score (Function in Sport and Recreation) which ranged from 0-20, a score of 0 indicating no difficulty. Shull et al. (2013) measured WOMAC levels on the day of assessment, with the scale ranging from 0-100 with 100 indicating no pain and perfect function (Bellamy et al., 1988). Richards et al. (2018) measured WOMAC levels on the day of assessment, evaluating the pain and function of the participant in the past week, with the lower the scoring of pain out of 20 equating to the lower the pain, and the lower the score out of a maximum of 68 being the better the function of the participant. Gerbrands et al. (2017) assessed pain and function using the Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS), scores are presented as a percentage, where 0% represents extreme problems and 100% represents no problems. Daily pain score ranged from 0-10, with 0 indicating no pain and 10 indicating worst pain.

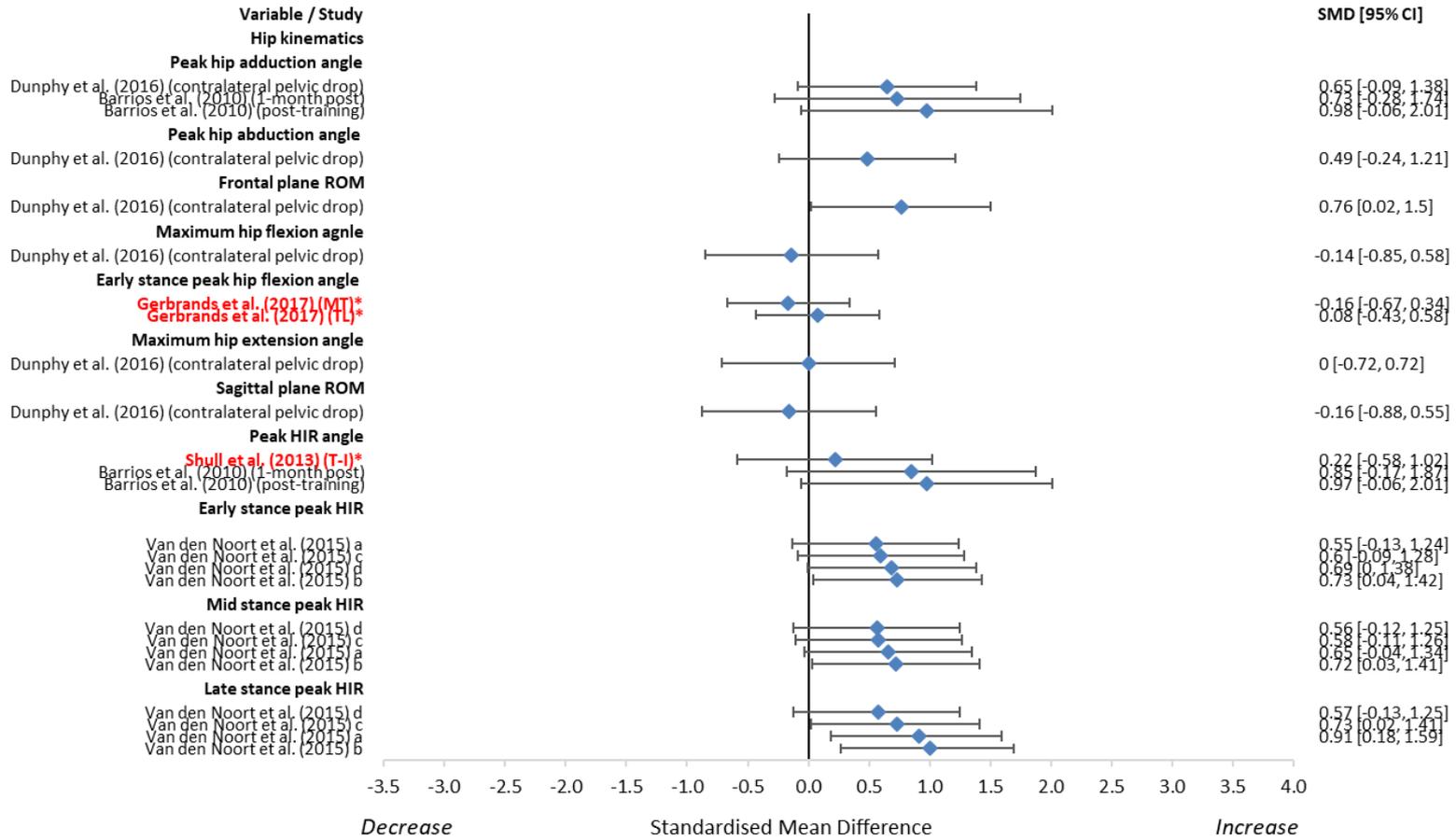
Table 3.
Risk of bias within studies

Authors and year	Population	Reporting (n = 1-10)	External validity (n = 11-13)	Internal validity: bias (n = 14-20)	Internal validity: confounding (n = 21-26)	Power (n = 27)	Methodological score (/25 or /28)
Shull et al. (2013)	Symptomatic knee OA	9	0	4	0	1	14/25
Richards et al. (2018)	Symptomatic knee OA	8	0	4	2	1	15/25
Gerbrands et al. (2017)	Symptomatic knee OA	9	0	4	1	1	15/25
Erhart-Hledik et al. (2017)	Symptomatic knee OA	9	1	4	2	1	17/25
Charlton et al. (2018)	Radiographic knee OA	9	0	4	1	1	15/25
Barrios et al. (2010)	Healthy	10	0	4	3	1	18/28
Hunt et al. (2011)	Healthy	9	0	4	2	0	15/25
Mundermann et al. (2008)	Healthy	8	0	4	2	1	15/25
Van den Noort et al. (2015)	Healthy	7	0	4	3	0	14/25
Dunphy et al. (2016)	Healthy	9	0	4	2	0	15/25
Khan et al. (2017)	Healthy	6	0	4	1	1	12/25

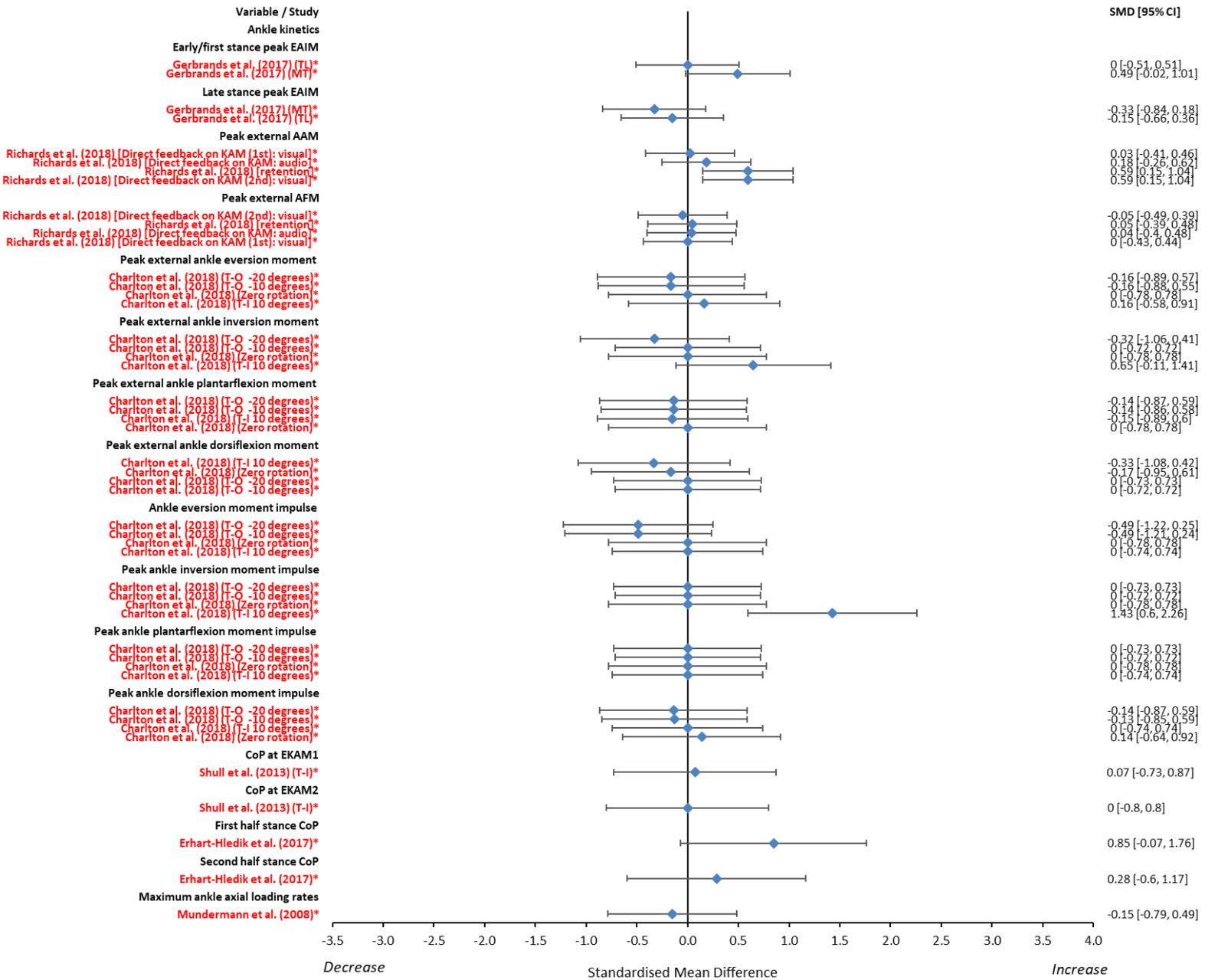


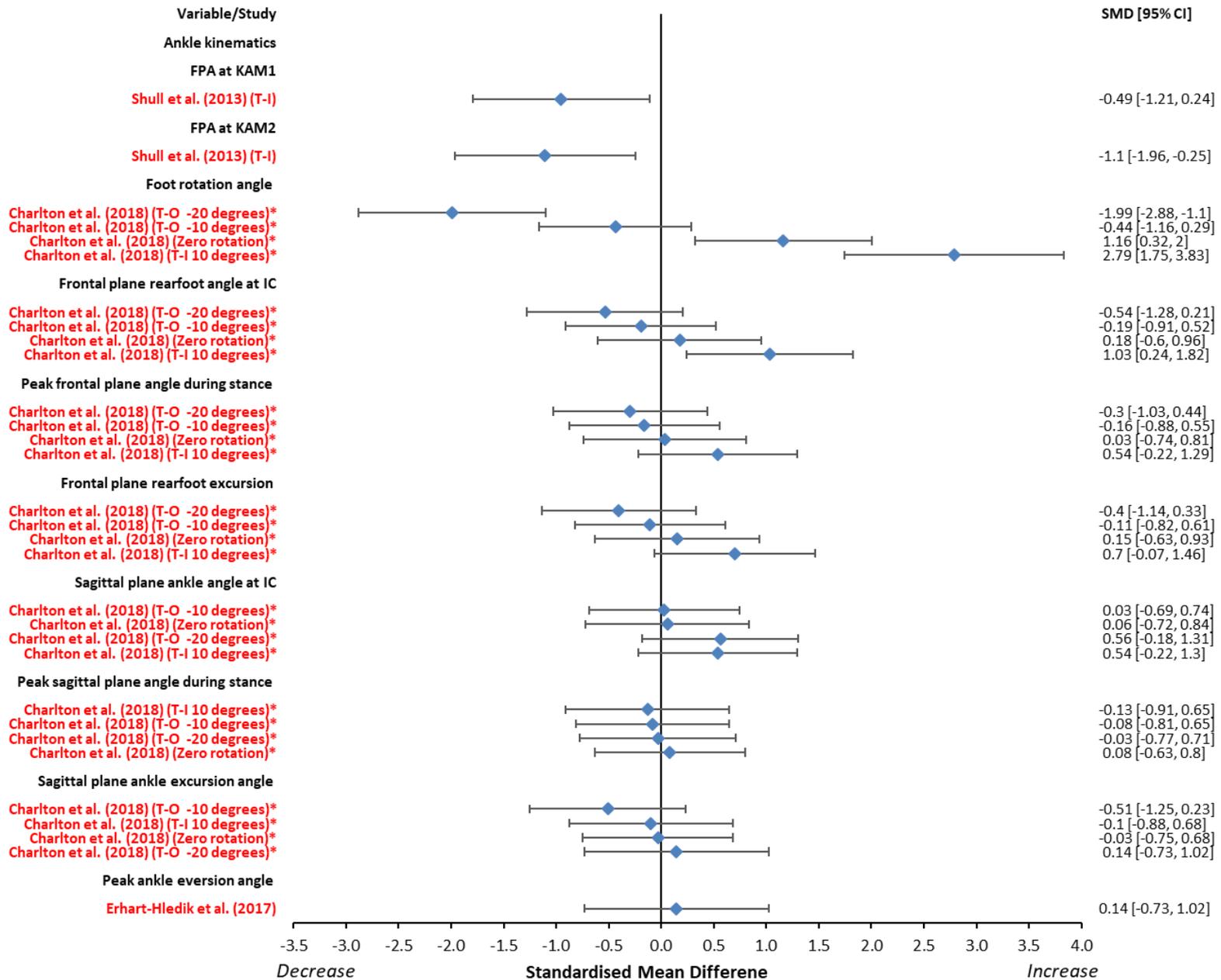






Journal





Online Supplement Material

Bowd JB, Biggs PR, Holt CA, Whatling GA. Does gait retraining have the potential to reduce medial compartmental loading in individuals with knee osteoarthritis whilst not adversely affecting the other lower limb joints? A systematic review

Appendix 1: Example database search keywords

Appendix 2: Appendix 2: Methodological agreement between JBB and PRB Kappa statistic

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Appendix 1. Example database search keywords

Syntax was adjusted appropriately for use in multiple databases. Keywords were identical for all searches.

The following keywords were grouped and searched in all fields with conjunction “OR” in each group to ensure that all relevant articles were obtained. Group one consisted of keywords “walk*” OR “gait”. Keywords “knee” OR “adduction moment” built up the second group. Group three consisted “osteoarthriti*” OR “arthriti*” OR “osteo arthriti*”, OR “OA”. Group four included “hip” OR “ankle”.

In the second stage, the searched results of each group were combined with conjunction “AND” in all fields. CINAHL subject headings were “walking” for the first group, “knee” and “adduction” for the second group, “osteoarthritis” and “knee” for the third group, and, “ankle” and “hip” for the fourth group. All searches were initially carried out in any language in their titles, abstracts and full-length articles and later assessed for English language only versions.

	Search ID#	Search Terms
<input type="checkbox"/>	S21	 S4 AND S9 AND S15 AND S20
<input type="checkbox"/>	S20	 S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19
<input type="checkbox"/>	S19	 ankle
<input type="checkbox"/>	S18	 hip
<input type="checkbox"/>	S17	 (MH "Ankle")
<input type="checkbox"/>	S16	 (MH "Hip")
<input type="checkbox"/>	S15	 S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14
<input type="checkbox"/>	S14	 oa
<input type="checkbox"/>	S13	 (MH "Osteoarthritis, Knee")
<input type="checkbox"/>	S12	 arthriti*
<input type="checkbox"/>	S11	 "osteo arthriti**"
<input type="checkbox"/>	S10	 osteoarthritis*
<input type="checkbox"/>	S9	 S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8
<input type="checkbox"/>	S8	 "adduction moment"
<input type="checkbox"/>	S7	 (MH "Adduction")
<input type="checkbox"/>	S6	 (MH "Knee")
<input type="checkbox"/>	S5	 knee
<input type="checkbox"/>	S4	 S1 OR S2 OR S3
<input type="checkbox"/>	S3	 gait
<input type="checkbox"/>	S2	 (MH "Walking+")
<input type="checkbox"/>	S1	 walk*

Appendix 2: Methodological agreement between JBB and PRB Kappa statistic

Reporting by JBB.

Study	REPORTING										External Validity			Internal Validity - bias					Internal validity - confounding (selection bias)						Power	Total:		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27
Barrios, J; Crossley, K; Davis, I (2010) Gait retraining to reduce the knee adduction moment through real-time visual feedback of dynamic knee alignment	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1		18
Hunt, M; Simic, M; Hinman, R; Bennell, K; Wrigley, T (2011) Feasibility of a gait retraining strategy for reducing knee joint loading: Increased trunk lean guided by real-time biofeedback	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	NA	1	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	NA	0		15
Mundermanna ET AL. (2008) Implications of increased medio-lateral trunk sway for ambulatory mechanics	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	NA	1	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	NA	1		15
Shull, P; Shultz, R; Slider, A; Dragoo, J; Besier, T; Cutkosky, M; Delp, S (2013) Toe-in gait reduces the first peak knee adduction moment in patients with medial compartment knee osteoarthritis	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	NA	1	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	NA	1		14
Van Den Noort, J; Steenbrink, F; Roelofs, S; Harlaar, J (2015) Real-time visual feedback for gait retraining: toward application in knee osteoarthritis	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	NA	1	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	0		14
Dunphy, C; Casey, S; Lomond, A; Rutherford, D (2016) Contralateral pelvic drop during gait increases knee adduction moments of asymptomatic individuals	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	NA	1	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	NA	0		15
Ota, S; Ogawa, Y; Ota, H; Fujiwara, T; Sugiyama, T; Ochi, A (2017) Beneficial effects of a gait used while wearing a kimono to decrease the knee adduction moment in healthy adults	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	NA	1	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	NA	0		13
Richards, R; Van Den Noort, J; Van Der Esch, M; Booiij, M; Harlaar, J (2017) Effect of real-time biofeedback on peak knee adduction moment in patients with medial knee osteoarthritis: Is direct feedback effective?	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	NA	1	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	NA	1		15
Erhart-Hledik, J; Asay, J; Clancy, C; Chu, C, Andriacch (2017) Effects of Active Feedback Gait Retraining to Produce a Medial Weight Transfer at the Foot in Subjects with Symptomatic Medial Knee Osteoarthritis	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	NA	1	1	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	NA	1		17
Khan, S; Khan, S; Usman, J (2017) Effects of toe-out and toe-in gait with varying walking speeds on knee joint mechanics and lower limb energetics	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	NA	0	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	NA	1		12
Gerbrands, T; Pisters, M; Theeven, P; Verschueren, S; Vanwanseele, B (2017) Lateral trunk lean and medializing the knee as gait strategies for knee osteoarthritis	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	NA	1	0	0	0	0	0	NA	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	0		15

Reporting by PRB.

Study	REPORTING										External Validity			Internal Validity - bias						Internal validity - confounding (selection bias)						Power	Total:		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		27	
Barrios, J; Crossley, K; Davis, I (2010) Gait retraining to reduce the knee adduction moment through real-time visual feedback of dynamic knee alignment	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	Unable to determine	1	18
Hunt, M; Simic, M; Hinman, R; Bennell, K; Wrigley, T (2011) Feasibility of a gait retraining	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	NA	1	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	0	16
Mundermann ET AL. (2008) Implications of increased medio-lateral trunk sway for ambulatory	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	NA	1	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	1	16
Shull, P; Shultz, R; Slider, A; Dragoo, J; Besier, T; Cutkosky, M; Delp, S (2013) Toe-in gait reduces the first peak knee adduction moment in patients with medial compartment	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	NA	0	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	1	16
van den Noort, J; Steenbrink, F; Roeles, S; Harlaar, J (2015) Real-time visual feedback for gait retraining:	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	NA	0	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	0	12
Dunphy, C; Casey, S; Lomond, A; Rutherford, D (2016) Contralateral pelvic drop during gait increases	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	NA	1	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	0	15
Ota, S; Ogawa, Y; Ota, H; Fujiwara, T; Sugiyama, T; Ochi, A (2017) Beneficial effects of a gait used	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	NA	1	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	0	13
Richards, R; Van Den Noort, J; Van Der Esch, M; Booi, M; Harlaar, J (2017) Effect of real-time biofeedback on peak knee adduction moment in patients with medial	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	NA	1	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	1	16
Erhart-Hledik, J; Asay, J; Clancy, C; Chu, C; Andriacch (2017) Effects of Active Feedback Gait Retraining to Produce a Medial Weight Transfer at the Foot in Subjects with	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	NA	1	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	1	17
Khan, S; Khan, S; Usman, J (2017) Effects of toe-out and toe-in gait with varying walking speeds on knee joint mechanics and lower limb	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	NA	0	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	1	14
Gerbrants, T; Pisters, W; Triefver, P; Verschuere, S; Vanwasele, B (2017) Lateral trunk lean and	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	NA	1	0/unable to determine.	unable to determine.	0	0	0	1	NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	NA	0	16

SPSS Output: Kappa measure of agreement between JBB and PRB.

		Symmetric Measures			
		Value	Asymptotic Standard Error ^a	Approximate T ^b	Approximate Significance
Measure of Agreement	Kappa	.891	.024	20.050	.000
N of Valid Cases		297			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Kappa measure of agreement between two authors (JBB and PRB) on assessing the risk of bias in the 11 included studies in the systematic review was 0.89.