

Results: Mean differences calculated for all 6 trials ranged between -0.03 m and 0.03 m. The calculated standard deviations for all 6 trials ranged between 0.03 m and 0.14 m. The 95% confidence intervals for all trials ranged between 0.01 and 0.05 with small upper and lower limits that always included zero. Slow, comfortable, and fast walking speeds for both the 4MWT and 10MWT had very small mean differences and standard deviations, demonstrating consistency in step lengths in all 6 trials performed by all 30 participants.

Conclusion(s): Both the 4-Meter and 10-Meter Walk Tests are reliable for measurement of step lengths regardless of acceleration zone or walking speed.

Implications: This study confirms that an acceleration zone does not affect step length and supports use of the 4MWT to measure gait speed and step lengths.

Keywords: Gait measurement; Neurology; Four Meter Walk test

Funding acknowledgements: None.

Ethics approval: Study was approved by the University of South Alabama Institutional Review Board.

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BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF THE JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGIC PHYSICAL THERAPY: 1993–2013

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Background: Analysis of publications in the *Journal of Neurologic Physical Therapy (JNPT)*, formerly *Neurology Report*, could demonstrate temporal trends and enhance understanding of the published body of knowledge in neurologic physical therapy, and no one has analyzed changes in these publications over time.

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to analyze articles published in *JNPT* in the decades before and after the name change primarily to determine any change in proportion of higher-level evidence published.

Methods: All 1,828 citations, published in *JNPT* from 1993 Volume 17(1) to 2013 Volume 37(4), were downloaded from the OVID electronic database. Editorials, conference abstracts, letters, and obituaries were excluded leaving 357 scholarly articles that were included for analysis. In this bibliometric observational study, all scholarly articles were reviewed and individually coded by the research team for study type and other factors includ-

ing major content. All non-scholarly publications were excluded prior to analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to make comparisons between samples of citations grouped as either 1993;17(1)–2003;27(2) (*Neurology Report*) or 2003;27(3)–2013;37(4) (*JNPT*).

Results: Scholarly articles ($n = 357$) were included for analysis. Increasing proportions of case studies, clinical trials, case reports/series, correlational research, methodological research, predictive research, case controlled studies, systematic reviews, cohort studies and randomized controlled trials indicate a shift toward publication of higher-level evidence, while the proportion of literature reviews and guidelines decreased. The percentage of studies using a sample with a specific neurologic pathology (versus healthy subjects) significantly increased, particularly in Parkinson's disease, stroke, spinal cord injury and Multiple Sclerosis. The results also reveal increased author collaboration, a sustained emphasis on ICF body structure/body function impairments, and an increased emphasis on ICF functional activity domain.

Conclusion(s): In conclusion, the notable increases in publication of higher-level evidence and studies using samples with neurologic pathology could indicate a maturing of the field of neurologic physical therapy and the academic community, with greater knowledge to translate into clinical practice.

Implications: The increase in publication of higher-level evidence in *JNPT* confirms a significant expansion of the published, peer-reviewed, body of knowledge with studies that can be directly applied to clinical practice decisions by physical therapists in neurologic settings.

Keywords: Neurology; Bibliometric analysis; Evidence-based practice

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Ethics approval: This study was exempted from approval by the University of South Alabama Institutional Review Board.

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