#### **Foot and Ankle Seminar**

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# **Foot Anatomy Review**

- Bony Anatomy
  - Talus
  - Calcaneus
  - Tarsals
    - 5 bones
  - Metatarsals
    - 5 bones
  - Phalanges
    - 14 bones





# **Foot Anatomy**



# **Foot Biomechanics**

- Transverse Arch (A)
- Medial Longitudinal Arch (B)
- Lateral Longitudinal Arch (C)



# Lower Leg Anatomy

- Bony
  - Tibia
  - Fibula



# **Lower Leg Anatomy**

- Musculature
  - Anterior
    - Tibialis Anterior
  - Medial
    - Tom, Dick and Harry
      - Tibialis Posterior
      - Extensor Digitorum Longus
      - Extensor Hallicus Longus
  - Lateral
    - Peroneals
  - Posterior
    - Gastrocnemius
    - Soleous



## **Lower Leg Anatomy**

- Other Structures
  - Joints
  - Ligament
  - Cartilage





# **Foot / Ankle Anatomy**



# **Foot Biomechanics – Normal Gait**

- Two phases:
  - Stance or support phase which starts at initial heel strike and ends at toe-off
  - Swing or recovery which represents time from toe-off to heel strike
- Foot serves as shock absorber at heel strike and adapts to uneven surface during stance
- At push-off foot serves as rigid lever to provide propulsive force
- Initial heel strike while running involves contact on lateral aspect of foot with subtalar joint in supination



# **Foot Biomechanics – Normal Gait**

- 80% of distance runners follow heel strike pattern
- Sprinters tend to be forefoot strikers
- With initial contact there is obligatory external rotation of the tibia with subtalar supination
- As loading occurs, foot and subtalar joint pronates and tibia internally rotates (transverse plane rotation at the knee)
- Pronation allows for unlocking of midfoot and shock absorption
- Also provides for even distribution of forces throughout the foot
- Subtalar joint will remain in pronation for 55-85% of stance phase
  - occurring maximally as center of gravity passes over base of support
- As foot moves to toe-off, foot supinates, causing midtarsal lock and lever formation in order to produce greater force

# Foot Biomechanics – Pronation & Supination

- Excessive or prolonged pronation or supination can contribute to overuse injuries
- Subtalar joint allows foot to make stable contact with ground and get into weight bearing position
- Excessive motion, compensates for structural deformity
- Structural Deformities
  - Forefoot and rearfoot varus are usually associated with overpronation
  - Forefoot valgus causes excess supination
  - May interfere with shock absorption

# Foot Biomechanics – Pronation & Supination



# Foot Biomechanics – Excessive Pronation

- Excessive Prontation
  - Major cause of stress injuries due to overload of structures during extensive stance phase or into propulsive phase
  - Results in loose foot, allowing for more midfoot motion, compromising first ray and attachment of peroneus longus
    - Negative effect on pulley mechanism of cuboid relative to peroneal, decreasing stability of first ray
    - Causes more pressure on metatarsals and increases tibial rotation at knee
  - Will not allow foot to resupinate to provide rigid lever = less powerful and less efficient force produced
  - May also result in 2nd metatarsal stress fracture, plantar fascitis posterior tibialis tendinitis, Achilles tendinitis, tibial stress syndrome and media knee pain

# Foot Biomechanics – Excessive Supination

#### Excessive Supination

- Causes foot to remain rigid decreasing mobility of the calcaneocuboid joint and cuboid
- Results in increased tension of peroneus longus and decreased mobility in first ray causing weight absorption on 1st and 5th metatarsals and inefficient ground reaction force absorption
- Limits internal rotation and can lead to inversion sprains, tibial stress syndrome, peroneal tendinitis, IT-Band friction syndrome and trochanteric bursitis

## Foot Evaluation (History)

- Generic history questions
  - Past history
  - Mechanism of injury
  - When does it hurt?
  - Type of, quality of, duration of pain?
  - Sounds or feelings?
  - How long were you disabled?
  - Swelling?
  - Previous treatments?
- Questions specific to the foot
  - Location of pain heel, foot, toes, arches?
  - Training surfaces or changes in footwear?
  - Changes in training, volume or type?
  - Does footwear increase discomfort?

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### Foot Evaluation (Observation)

- Observations
  - Does athlete favor a foot, limp, or is unable to bear weight?
  - Does foot color change w/ weight bearing?
  - Is there pes planus/cavus?
  - How is foot alignment?
  - Structural deformities?
- To assess structural deformities, subtalar neutral must be established
- Subtalar neutral
  - Palpate the talus, inverting and everting foot so talus produces even pressure under index finger and thumb
  - Once subtalar joint is neutral, mild dorsiflexion is applied to observe metatarsal head position relative to plantar surface of calcaneus
  - Degrees of forefoot and rearfoot valgus and varus can then be assessed
  - An equinus foot serves as a poor shock absorber
    - Forefoot is pronated relative to rearfoot when ankle is at 90 degrees of flexion
    - Similar to a plantar flexed first ray relative to the rearfoot
- Shoe Wear Patterns
  - Over pronators tend to wear out shoe under 2nd metatarsal
  - Athletes often mistakenly perceive wear on the outside edge of the heel as being the result of overpronation
    - Generally the result of the tibialis anterior causing foot inversion (while dorsiflexing) prior to heel strike to prevent foot from slapping ground
  - Wear on the lateral border of the shoe is a sign of excessive supination
    - Heel counter and forefoot should also be examined

## Foot Evaluation (Palpation)

- Bony Palpation
  - Medial calcaneus
  - Calcaneal dome
  - Medial malleolus
  - Sustentaculum tali
  - Talar head
  - Navicular tubercle
  - First cuneiform
  - First metatarsal and metatarsophalangeal joint
  - First phalanx
  - Lateral calcaneus
  - Lateral malleolus
  - Sinus tarsi
  - Peroneal tubercle

- Cuboid bone
- Styloid process
- Fifth metatarsal
- Fifth metatarsalphalangeal joint
- Fifth phalanx
- Second, third and fourth metatarsals, metarsophalangeal joints, phalanges
- Third and fourth cuneiform
- Metatarsal heads
- Medial calcaneal tubercle
- Sesamoid bones
- Tibialis posterior

## Foot Evaluation (Palpation)

- Soft Tissue
  - Flexor hallucis longus
  - Flexor digitorum longus
  - Deltoid ligament
  - Calcaneonavicular ligament
  - Medial longitudinal arch
  - Plantar fascia
  - Transverse arch
  - Anterior talofibular ligament

- Calcaneofibular ligament
- Posterior talofibular ligament
- Peroneus longus tendon
- Peroneus brevis tendon
- Peroneus tertius
- Extensor hallucis longus
- Extensor digitorum longus tendon
- Extensor digitorum brevis tendon
- Tibialis anterior tendon

- Manual Muscle Testing
  - Five Point grading system
    - 5 = Complete ROM against gravity, with full resistance
    - 4 = Complete ROM against gravity, with some resistance
    - 3 = Complete ROM against gravity, with no resistance
    - 2 = Complete ROM, with gravity omitted
    - 1 = Some muscle contractility with no joint motion
    - 0 = No muscle contractility
  - Toe Flexion
  - Toe Extension

#### • End Feel Categories

- Normal End Feels
  - Soft-tissue approximation Soft, spongy and gradual painless stop (elbow flexion)
  - Capsular An abrupt hard, firm end-point with only little give (shoulder rotation)
  - Bone-to-bone A distinct and abrupt end point where two hard surfaces come in contact with one another (elbow extension
- Abnormal End Feels
  - Empty Movement defined beyond the anatomical limit, or pain prevents the body part from moving through the available ROM (ligament rupture)
  - Spasm Involuntary muscle contraction that prevents normal ROM due to pain (guarding)
  - Loose Extreme hypermobility (chronic ankle sprains)
  - Springy Block A rebound at the end point of motion (meniscal tear)

- Tinel's Sign
  - Tapping over posterior tibial nerve producing tingling distal to area
  - Numbness & paresthesia may indicate presence of tarsal tunnel syndrome
- Morton's Test
  - Transverse pressure applied to heads of metatarsals causing pain in forefoot
  - Positive sign may indicate neuroma or metatarsalgia
- Neurological Assessment
  - Reflexes and cutaneous distribution of nerves must be tested
  - Skin sensation and alteration should be noted
  - Tendon reflexes (such as Achilles) should elicit a response when gently tapped
  - Sensation can be tested by running hands over all surfaces of foot and ankle



# **Foot Common Injuries**

- Tarsal Region
  - Fractures (Calcaneus, Talus, Etc.)
  - Stress Fractures
  - Sever's Disease
  - Bursitis / Contusions
  - Subluxations
  - Tarsal Tunnel Syndrome
  - LisFranc Injury

# **Foot Common Injuries**

- Metatarsal Region
  - Pes Plantus / Cavus
  - Strains
  - Fascitis /Sesmoiditis
  - Fractures (Jones') / Stress Fractures
  - Bunion / Bunionette
  - Metatarsalgia / Neuroma

## Ankle Evaluation (History)

- Generic history questions
  - Past history
  - Mechanism of injury
  - When does it hurt?
  - Type of, quality of, duration of pain?
  - Sounds or feelings?
  - How long were you disabled?
  - Swelling?
  - Previous treatments?



#### Ankle Evaluation (Observation)

- Observations
  - Postural deviations?
  - Genu valgum or varum?
  - Is there difficulty with walking?
  - Deformities, asymmetries or swelling?
  - Color and texture of skin, heat, redness?
  - Patient in obvious pain?
  - Is range of motion normal?

## Ankle Evaluation (Palpation)

- Bony Anatomy
  - Fibular head and shaft
  - Lateral malleolus
  - Tibial plateau
  - Tibial shaft
  - Medial malleolus
  - Dome of talus
  - Calcaneus
- Soft Tissue Anatomy
  - Peroneus longus
  - Peroneus brevis
  - Peroneus tertius
  - Flexor digitorum longus
  - Flexor hallucis
  - Posterior tibialis

- Soft Tissue Anatomy (Cont.)
  - Anterior tibialis
  - Extensor hallucis longus
  - Extensor digitorum longus
  - Gastrocnemius
  - Soleus
  - Achilles tendon
- Other Structures
  - Anterior/posterior talofibular ligament
  - Calcaneofibular ligament
  - Deltoid ligament
  - Anterior tibiofibular ligament
  - Posterior tibiofibular ligament

- Fracture Tests
  - Tap / Percussion / Bump
- Active / Passive Range of Motion (R.O.M.)
  - Dorsiflexion 0° to 20°
  - Plantar Flexion 0° to 45°
  - Inversion 0° to 35°
  - Eversion 0° to 35°
- Manual Muscle Testing
  - Check all motions of the Foot and Ankle as well as in PNF Diagonals
- Joint Stability Tests
  - Anterior Drawer / Calcaneal Rock / Talar Tilt / Kleiger's test
- Special Pathology Tests
  - Thompson Test / Syndesmoic Sprain

#### **Fracture Test**

#### **Compression Test**



#### **Percussion Test**



#### **Range of Motion**

- Manual Muscle Testing
  - Five Point grading system
    - 5 = Complete ROM against gravity, with full resistance
    - 4 = Complete ROM against gravity, with some resistance
    - 3 = Complete ROM against gravity, with no resistance
    - 2 = Complete ROM, with gravity omitted
    - 1 = Some muscle contractility with no joint motion
    - 0 = No muscle contractility
- Dorsiflexion / Plantar Flexion / Inversion / Eversion / PNF Diagonal Patterns

- Ankle Stability Tests
  - Anterior drawer test
    - Used to determine damage to anterior talofibular ligament primarily and other lateral ligament secondarily
    - A positive test occurs when foot slides forward and/or makes a clunking sound as it reaches the end point



Anterior Drawer Test B

- Talar tilt test (ATF,CF,PTF)
  - Performed to determine extent of inversion or eversion injuries
  - With foot at 90 degrees calcaneus is inverted and excessive motion indicates injury to calcaneofibular ligament and possibly the anterior and posterior talofibular ligaments
  - If the calcaneus is everted, the deltoid ligament is tested





- Kleiger's test
  - Used primarily to determine extent of damage to the deltoid ligament and may be used to evaluate distal ankle syndesmosis, anterior/posterior tibiofibular ligaments and the interosseus membrane
  - With lower leg stabilized, foot is rotated laterally to stress the deltoid





- Calcaneal Rock
  - Performed to determine presence of excessive medial translation of the calcaneus on the talus
  - Talus is stabilized in subtalar neutral, while other hand glides the calcaneus, medially
  - A positive test presents with excessive movement, indicating injury to the lateral ligaments

#### **Calcaneal Rock Test**



- Other Special Tests
  - Thompson's Test
    - Squeeze calf muscle, while foot is extended off table to test the integrity of the Achilles tendon
    - Positive tests results in no movement in the foot



- Homan's test
  - Test for deep vein thrombophlebitis
  - With knee extended and foot off table, ankle is moved into dorsiflexion
  - Pain in calf is a positive sign and should be referred



- Syndesmotic Sprain
  - Commonly referred to as a "high ankle sprain"
  - This sprain effects the interosseous membrane between the fibula and tibia.
  - Mechanism is the spreading of the two lower leg bones

- Bag of Tricks
  - Postural Stability
    - Core Stability training
  - Neuromuscular Control
    - Proprioceptive
      Neuromuscular Facilitation
  - Rang of Motion
    - Joint Mobilization, Soft-Tissue Mobilization
  - Muscular Strength, Endurance, and Power
    - Plyometrics, Open KC, Closed KC, Isokinetics, Aquatics
  - Cardiovascular Endurance

- Three simple keys
  - Range of Motion
    - Needed to increase motion and return to function as quickly as prudent and possible
  - Strength
    - Needed to deter further problems or protect the area of injury from further injury
  - Functionality
    - Needed to return the student-athlete or patient to normal daily activities within reason.

- Flexibility
  - Must maintain or re-establish normal flexibility of the foot
  - Full range of motion is critical
  - Stretching of the plantar fascia and Achilles is very important for a number of conditions





- Range of Motion
  - Joints
    - Joint Mobilization
    - BAPS Board / Disc
  - Functionality of foot
    - Plantar Fascia
      - Towel pulls
      - Cotton ball movement
    - Gastroc / Soleus Stretching

#### **Joint Mobilizations**

#### Can help normalize joint motion



- Strengthening
  - Towel Pulls
  - Cotton Ball Pick-up
  - Thera-band Exercises
    - Dorsiflexion, Plantar Flexion, Inversion, Eversion
  - Isometric Exercises
    - Dorsiflexion, Plantar Flexion, Inversion, Eversion
    - PNF Diagonals / D1 and D2 Patterns
  - Proprioception
    - Dyna-Disc / Wobble Boards / Couch Cushions / Etc.

#### **Towel Exercises**





- Neuromuscular Control (NC)
  - Critical to re-establish as it is the single most important element dictating movement strategies w/in the kinetic chain
  - Muscular weakness, proprioceptive deficits and ROM deficits challenge the athlete's ability to maintain center of gravity w/in the base of support w/out losing balance
  - Must be able to adapt to changing surfaces
  - Involves highly integrative, dynamic process involving multiple neurological pathways.
  - NC relative to joint position sense, proprioception and kinesthesia is essential

- Rehab plans are focusing more on closed kinetic chain activities
- Exercises should incorporate walking, running, jumping in multiple planes and on multiple surfaces



- Weight Bearing
  - If unable to walk without a limp, crutch or can walking may be introduced
  - Poor gait mechanics will impact other joints within the kinetic chain
  - Progressing to full weight bearing as soon as tolerable is suggested

- General Body
  Conditioning
  - Because a period of non-weight bearing is common, substitute means of conditioning must be introduced
  - Pool running & upper body ergometer
  - General strengthening and flexibility as allowed by injury



- General Body Conditioning
  - Must be maintained with non-weight bearing activities
- Weight Bearing
  - Non-weight bearing vs. partial weight bearing
  - Protection and faster healing
  - Partial weight bearing helps to limit muscle atrophy, proprioceptive loss, circulatory stasis and tendinitis
  - Protected motion facilitates collagen alignment and stronger healing

- Joint Mobilizations
  - Movement of an injured joint can be improved with manual mobilization techniques
- Flexibility
  - During early stages inversion and eversion should be limited
  - Plantar flexion and dorsiflexion should be encouraged
  - With decreased discomfort inversion and eversion exercises should be initiated
  - BAPS board progression

#### Strengthening

- Isometrics (4 directions) early during rehab phase
- With increased healing, aggressive nature of strengthening should increase (isotonic exercises
- Pain should serve as the guideline for progression
- Tubing exercises allows for concentric and eccentric exercises
- PNF allows for isolation of specific motions
- Proprioception Neuromuscular Control
  - Deficits can predispose individuals to injury
  - Athletes should engage in proprioception progression including double and single leg stances, eye open and closed, single leg kicks and alternating apparatuses and surfaces







- Taping and Bracing
  - Ideal to have athlete return w/out taping and bracing
  - Common practice to use tape and brace initially to enhance stabilization
  - Must be sure it does not interfere with overall motor performance
- Functional Progressions
  - Severe injuries require more detailed plan
  - Typical progression initiated w/ partial weight bearing until full weight bearing occurs w/out a limp
  - Running can begin when ambulation is pain free (transition from pool - even surface - changes of speed and direction)



#### • Return to Activity

- Must have complete range of motion and at least 80-90% of pre-injury strength before return to sport
- If full practice is tolerated w/out insult, athlete can return to competition
- Must involve gradual progression of functional activities, slowly increasing stress on injured structure
- Specific sports dictate specific drills