

Influence of Taping and Exercise on Lower Leg Joint Function in Individuals with Functional Instability (FI) During Drop Landings

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

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participants in the taping group demonstrated enhanced joint stability, with a notable reduction in joint displacement during drop landings. Additionally, impact forces were significantly decreased, with a mean reduction. Balance measures, assessed through specific balance test improved, indicating better proprioceptive control. The exercise intervention group also exhibited significant gains in joint function. Strength tests showed increase in lower leg muscle strength, and balance performance improved by as measured. Landing mechanics improved, with a reduction in joint stress and impact forces comparable to those observed in the taping group. The exercise group had a reduction in joint displacement during drop landings, similar to the taping group. Both taping and exercise led to significant improvements in lower leg joint function, but the exercise group demonstrated superior overall gains. The exercise intervention yielded greater improvements in strength and balance, which are crucial for managing functional instability over the long term [7]. The taping group provided effective immediate support and reduced joint displacement, but did not show the same level of improvement in strength and balance as the exercise group.

Taping effectively stabilizes the lower leg joint during high-impact activities, providing immediate benefits in terms of reduced joint

displacement and impact forces. This intervention is particularly useful for managing acute symptoms and providing external support [8]. However, while taping improves joint stability in the short term, it does not address underlying muscle weakness or proprioceptive deficits that contribute to functional instability. Exercise interventions not only improve joint stability and balance but also enhance muscle strength and proprioception. The observed improvements in strength and balance suggest that exercise addresses the root causes of functional instability, offering long-term benefits beyond the immediate impact reduction provided by taping. Strengthening the muscles around the joint and improving proprioceptive feedback can lead to more sustained improvements in joint function and a reduced risk of future injuries. The findings highlight the importance of incorporating both taping and exercise into rehabilitation programs for individuals with functional instability [9]. Taping can provide immediate support and alleviate symptoms, while exercise should be emphasized for long-term management and prevention. Combining these approaches may offer a comprehensive strategy for enhancing lower leg joint function and reducing injury risk. This study's limitations include the short duration of the intervention and the specific population studied. Future research should explore long-term effects of taping and exercise, evaluate different exercise protocols, and include a broader range of participants. Additionally, studying the combined effects of taping and exercise over extended periods could provide further insights into optimal treatment strategies for functional instability. Both taping and exercise are effective interventions for improving lower leg joint function in individuals with functional instability during drop landings. While taping provides immediate stabilization, exercise offers substantial long-term benefits by addressing underlying issues such as muscle weakness and balance deficits [10]. A combined approach may be the most effective strategy for managing functional instability and enhancing overall joint performance.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that both taping and exercise interventions significantly improve lower leg joint function in individuals with functional instability (FI) during drop landings. Taping effectively enhances joint stability and reduces impact forces in the short term, making it a valuable option for immediate symptom relief and support. However, exercise interventions provide more comprehensive benefits by addressing underlying issues such as muscle weakness and proprioceptive deficits. Participants in the exercise group showed substantial improvements in strength, balance, and overall joint mechanics. Combining taping with exercise may offer a synergistic

approach, providing both immediate stabilization and long-term functional improvements. For optimal management of functional instability, incorporating exercise into rehabilitation programs is crucial for addressing the root causes of instability and enhancing joint performance. Future research should focus on evaluating the long-term effects of these interventions, exploring different exercise regimens, and assessing the combined effects of taping and exercise over extended periods. Such studies will help refine treatment strategies and improve outcomes for individuals with lower leg joint instability.

Acknowledgement

None

Conflict of Interest

None

References