



**MIDR504**

**Masteroppgave**

# **Inter og intrareliabilitet av isometrisk benkpress & isometrisk mid-thigh pull hos styrketrente unge voksne**

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**15.05.2022**

Jeg bekrefter at arbeidet er selvstendig utarbeidet, og at referanser/kildehenvisninger til alle kilder som er brukt i arbeidet er oppgitt, jf. Forskrift om studium og eksamen ved Høgskulen på Vestlandet, § 12-1

## **Forord**

Mange takk til veiledere Atle Hole Sæterbakken og Vidar Andersen som har bistått med praktisk og teoretisk veiledning til denne masteroppgaven, og til alle deltakere som deltok i studien.

## **Sammendrag**

*Formålet* med denne masteroppgaven var å undersøke inter- og intrareliabiliteten til to ulike isometriske tester for maksimal kraftutvikling hos styrketrente unge voksne. Testene som ble evaluert var isometrisk benkpress og isometrisk mid-thigh pull.

*Introduksjon.* Sammenlignet med dynamiske 1RM-tester er det antatt at isometriske tester har en rekke fordeler. Det antas at isometriske tester er mindre tidkrevende, samt mindre utmattende og medfører lavere skaderisiko. Isometrisk mid-thigh pull har tidligere vist høy reliabilitet i studier med atleter i ulike idretter. Da resultatene av disse studiene ikke kan generaliseres til andre populasjoner, vil det være hensiktsmessig å undersøke reliabiliteten hos andre populasjoner. Isometrisk testing av overkroppsstyrke har i mindre grad fått oppmerksomhet sammenlignet med underkroppsstyrke. Noen få studier har undersøkt reliabiliteten til ulike tester for overkroppsstyrke, men det er ennå ikke utviklet en metode som adresserer problemet like godt som isometrisk mid-thigh pull i sine respektive omstendigheter.

*Metode.* Totalt 19 kvinner (n = 3) og menn (n = 16) i alderen  $24.8 \pm 3.8$  år gjennomførte tre økter med testing i øvelsene isometrisk benkpress (IBP) og isometrisk mid-thigh pull (IMTP). Den første økten var ansett som en tilvenningsøkt. Det var minimum 48 timers mellomrom mellom hver av øktene. Kraftutvikling ble målt med en MuscleLab kraftplattform. Absolutt kraftutvikling over en fem-sekunder lang kontraksjon ble benyttet i analyser av data. Intraklasse korrelasjons koeffisient (ICC) og variasjonskoeffisient (CV) ble benyttet for evaluering av reliabilitet.

*Resultater.* ICC for intrareliabilitet i IBP varierte fra 0.92 til 0.99. Interreliabiliteten for IBP var demonstrert som høy med ICC 0.92. Intrareliabiliteten i IMTP var demonstrert som ICC 0.98 for alle økter. Interreliabiliteten i IMTP var demonstrert som ICC 0.97. CV demonstrerte akseptabel variasjon i analyse av både intra- og interreliabilitet i både IBP og IMTP. CV for IBP var 3.6% - 9.4% (intrareliabilitet) og 6.3% (interreliabilitet). CV for IMTP var 4.7% - 5.1% (intrareliabilitet) og 7.5% (interreliabilitet)

*Konklusjon.* Begge testene demonstrerte høy reliabilitet og akseptabel variasjon. De er derfor anvendbare til måling av absolutt kraftutvikling hos styrketrente unge voksne. Videre undersøkelser av reliabiliteten til IBP er anbefalt da utvalget som er inkludert i analyse er lite. Det er også anbefalt å gjennomføre flere studier med høyere antall kvinnelige deltakere, ettersom antallet kvinner i studiet var lavt.

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## 1.0 Introduksjon

Prestasjon i idrett består ofte av en kompleks sammensetning av en rekke ferdigheter som evne til å hoppe, sprinte, og hurtig retningsforandring (Suchomel, T., et.al., 2016). Høyere krav til nøyaktighet i treningsplanleggingen fører til økt fokus på måling og kvantifisering av fremgang i faktorer som har dokumentert innvirkning på prestasjonen (Asci, A. & Açıkada, C. 2007; Stone, M. H., et.al., 2002; Suchomel, T., et.al., 2016). Testing av styrke som mål på fremgang og prediktor for idrettslig prestasjon har derfor lenge vært en viktig del av profesjonelle trenere og utøveres hverdag, og med utviklingen i prestasjonsnivå sammen med utvikling av teknologi og metodiske verktøy stilles det stadig høyere krav til presisjon og nøyaktighet i arbeidet med måling aktuelle faktorer (Asci, A. & Açıkada, C. 2007; Stone, M. H., et.al., 2002; Suchomel, T., et.al., 2016; Winter, E. M., et.al., 2007). Dynamiske tester som 1RM benkpress, 1RM markløft, og 1RM knebøy har lenge vært populære verktøy for adressering av styrke relatert til prestasjon (Dos'Santos, T., et.al., 2017; Guppy, S. N., et.al., 2018). Som følge av flere fordeler sammenlignet med dynamiske målinger av styrke har populariteten av isometrisk verktøy økt, særlig etter introduseringen av flerleddstesten isometric mid-thigh pull (Grgic, J., et.al., 2021).

Isometrisk testing har vist seg å ha en rekke fordeler som kan være svært aktuelle for profesjonelle utøvere og trenere (Comfort, P., Dos' Santos, et.al., 2019; Grgic, J., et.al., 2021; Stone, M. H., et.al., 2019; Winter, E. M., et.al., 2007). Noen av disse antatte fordelene er lave krav til tid og ressurser, samt lavere belastning på utøver i form av lavere risiko for utmattelse og skade. Kompetansen nødvendig ved gjennomføring av dynamiske testing er også foreslått å være høyere enn ved isometrisk testing (Dos'Santos, et.al., 2017; Lum, et.al., 2020). Studier på isometriske styrketester har vist høy korrelasjon til karakteristikk knytt mot kraftutvikling som rate of force development (RFD) og peak force (PF) (Dos'Santos, et.al., 2017; Lum, et.al., 2020). Ved etablering av en standardisert metodikk for isometrisk testing av styrke kan det potensielt vise seg å være et mer hensiktsmessig verktøy enn dynamiske 1RM tester (Asci, A. & Açıkada, C. 2007; Stone, M. H., et.al., 2002; Suchomel, T., et.al., 2016; Winter, E. M., et.al., 2007). Studier på isometrisk testing har i stor grad fokusert på underkroppsstyrke (Bellar, D., et.al., 2015; Young, K. P., et.al., 2014), og det er derfor nødvendig med ytterligere undersøkelser av reliabilitet og validitet ved isometrisk styrketester for overkroppsstyrke.

Ettersom majoriteten av studier har blitt gjennomført på reliabilitet hos atleter i ulike idretter, kan det være fornuftig å undersøke reliabiliteten hos andre populasjoner. Dersom den samme høye reliabiliteten demonstreres i andre populasjoner kan det bidra til at metoden kan benyttes også i andre sammenhenger. Denne masteroppgaven har som hensikt å videre undersøke inter- og intra-reliabiliteten til isometrisk mid-thigh pull og isometrisk benk press hos styrketrente unge voksne.

## **1.2 Problemstillinger**

Problemstilling for studien var følgende:

*Hva er inter- og intrareliabiliteten for isometrisk mid-thigh pull og isometrisk benkpress hos styrketrente unge voksne?*

## **1.3 Hypoteser**

Følgende hypoteser ble lagt frem i forkant av studien.

1. Isometrisk mid-thigh pull viser høy interreliabilitet.
2. Isometrisk mid-thigh pull viser høy intrareliabilitet.
3. Isometrisk benkpress viser høy interreliabilitet.
4. Isometrisk benkpress viser høy intrareliabilitet.

## 2.0 Teori

### 2.1 Styrketrening

Styrketrening handler om å systematisk planlegge og gjennomføre rutiner som har som mål å øke den muskulære styrken (Zatsiorsky et al., 2020). Planleggingen av treningsrutiner er mye preget av Hans Selyes teori om adaptasjoner (Zatsiorsky et al., 2020; Selye, 1950). Teorien kalles General Adaption Syndrom (GAS) og omhandler hvordan biologiske organismer tilpasser stress de blir utsatt for under ulike omstendigheter (Selye, 1950). Teorien deler adaptasjon i tre faser; reaksjon, motstand, og utmattelse (Selye H., 1950). Reaksjonsfasen er organismens reaksjon på ukjent stress den bli utsatt for og medfører for eksempel en økning hjerterytme og åndedrett. Motstandsfasen beskrives som den fasen hvor organismen forsøker å tilpasse seg det påførte stresset. Dette medfører en reversering av reaksjonsfasen, som nedgang i hjerterytme og åndedrett. Den siste fasen, utmattelsesfasen, beskriver hva som skjer med organismen dersom stresset den påføres er vedvarende og ikke lenger mulig for organismen å håndtere. I denne fasen vil negative endringer hos organismen forverres sammenlignet med reaksjonsfasen (Selye, 1950).

Teorien til Selye har hatt stor innvirkning i hvordan vi planlegger og gjennomfører trening (Bompa & Buzzichelli, 2019). Vi forventer at kroppen gjennom motstandsfasen tilpasser seg stresset som påføres. Teorien til Selye påpeker nemlig også at hvilke adaptasjoner en biologisk organisme opplever er avhengig av hvilken type stress den blir utsatt for (Selye, 1950). Dersom det er mulig å utsette kroppen for en riktig mengde spesifikt stress, uten at kroppen går over i utmattelsesfasen, er det mulig å oppnå spesifikke ønskede adaptasjoner (Bompa & Buzzichelli, 2019).

Styrketrening handler om adaptasjoner i forhold til vår muskulære styrke og kan defineres som «all trening som er ment å utvikle eller vedlikeholde vår evne til å skape størst mulig kraft (eller dreiemoment) ved en spesifikk eller forutbestemt hastighet» (Raastad, et al., 2010). Hvilke adaptasjoner treningen er fører til og i hvilken grad disse adaptasjonene oppstår er påvirket av en rekke variabler som volum, intensitet og frekvens (Bompa & Buzzichelli, 2019). Volum omhandler kvantitet av treningen og innebærer i styrketrening varighet, antall sett, antall repetisjoner, og motstand (Bompa & Buzzichelli, 2019). Intensiteten kan defineres som mengden arbeid som utføres per tidsenhet (Komi, 2002). Intensitet omhandler neuromuskulær aktivering, som vil si at høyere kraftutviklinger eller høyere motstand krever høyere neuromuskulær aktivering. Gjennom nøye planlagt manipulering av disse variablene



kan ønskede adaptasjoner oppnås samtidig som det unngås å påføre stress som fører til utmattelse (Bompa & Buzzichelli, 2019).

## **2.2 Muskelarbeid**

Dynamisk (isotonisk) muskelarbeid involverer kontraksjoner som fører til bevegelse i ledd samt forlengelse eller forkortelse av muskelen (McComas, 1996), mens isometrisk muskelarbeid innebærer konstant lengde på muskelen som utfører arbeidet. Endringer i lengde kalles for kontraksjoner, hvor forkortelse av muskelen kalles en konsentriske kontraksjon, forlengelse kalles en eksentriske kontraksjon, og ingen endring kaller isometrisk kontraksjon (Kenney et al., 2020).

## **2.3 Måling av maksimal styrke**

Maksimal styrke kan defineres som den absolutte kraften en muskel er i stand til å produsere mot et eksternt objekt (Zatsiorsky & Kraemer, 2006). Det finnes flere ulike årsaker til praktisering av måling av styrke er hensiktsmessig. Styrke er ofte en viktig del av et bredt ferdighetsspekter i ulike idretter (Tanner & Gore, 2012; Suchomel, et al., 2016). I tillegg vil også testing av styrke gi nyttig informasjon om treningsstatus. Denne informasjonen kan benyttes til estimering av belastninger som skal benyttes i trening av styrke (Tanner & Gore, 2012; Bompa & Buzzichelli, 2019). Maksimal styrke kan måles på flere ulike måter, blant annet; isokinetisk, dynamisk, og isometrisk (Grgic et al., 2020). Isokinetisk testing innebærer å produsere kraft mot et objekt for å flytte det i en konstant hastighet som er høyere enn null (Winter et al., 2007). Denne typen testen av maksimal styrke er ofte kostbart da det krever dynamometer, i tillegg til at de ofte blir gjennomført med bevegelser over bare et ledd (Grgic et al., 2020). Isokinetisk dynamometer har likevel vært en av de mest praktiserte metodene for måling av styrke, og har tidligere demonstrert god til høy reliabilitet (Nitschke, 1992; Perrin, 1986; McMaster et al., 2014). Maksimal styrke kan også måles ved 1RM-tester (Thompson et al., 2020). Ofte brukes 1RM tester for å senere bruke resultatet av testen til å estimere treningsbelastninger (Thompson et al., 2020). Dynamiske 1RM-tester gjennomføres ved å påføre et objekt kraft for å påvirke objektets posisjon og hastighet, og har som mål å finne den høyeste belastningen som kan løftes en gang. I motsetning til isokinetisk testing, er 1RM-tester brukt til å gjennomføre tester av øvelser som går over flere ledd (Grgic et al.,

2020). I motsetning til isokinetisk testing krever ikke dynamiske 1RM-tester dyrt utstyr, og det samme utstyret kan ofte brukes til å teste for styrke i flere ulike bevegelsesmønstre. Selv om testing av styrke ved 1RM har vist seg å være en reliabel metode (Grgic et al., 2020), følger det også med en rekke ulemper og svakheter. Gjennomføring av 1RM tester kan blant annet føre til utmattelse da repeterte forsøk med nær maksimal innsats fører til neuromuskulær tretthet (Walker et al., 2012; Stone et al., 2019). Det medfører også en risiko for å underestimere gjennom for høye økninger i belastning mellom hvert. Da kan et potensielt suksessfullt forsøk ved en lavere belastning bli oversett (Stone et al., 2019). I motsetning til isokinetiske og dynamiske metoder for testing av styrke, innebærer isometrisk styrke at det utvikles kraft mot et objekt som ikke endrer posisjon (Winter et al. 2007). Ettersom objektet det produseres kraft mot ikke beveger seg, er både den aktuelle muskelen og det aktuelle leddet konstant gjennom hele kontraksjonen. Isometriske målinger kan gjennomføres med blant annet kraftplattform (Winter et al. 2007). Sammenlignet med dynamisk testing av styrke, er isometrisk mindre tid- og utstyrskrevenende i tillegg til at det antas å være mindre utmattende og med lavere skaderisiko (Comfort et al., 2019; Grgic et al., 2021). Isometrisk testing medbringer også ulemper, og en av de mest fremtredende er at hver enkelt isometrisk måling bare tar for seg kraftutvikling i et enkelt leddutslag (Winter et al., 2007).

## **2.4 Forhold mellom isometriske målinger og dynamisk prestasjon**

### **2.4.1 Isometrisk måling av underkroppsstyrke og dynamisk prestasjon**

Når styrke i underkropp måles isometrisk, har isometrisk mid-thigh pull lenge vært en av de mest brukte testene (Comfort et al., 2019). Målinger av kraftutvikling i isometrisk mid-thigh pull har demonstrert sterke korrelasjoner til ulike typer dynamiske prestasjoner (Comfort et al., 2019). Særlig i vektløftingssammenheng har isometrisk mid-thigh pull demonstrert potensiale til å være et nyttig verktøy for evaluering av prestasjonsrelaterte ferdigheter, men også i et antall idrettsspesifikke ferdigheter (Comfort et al., 2019). En studie av Dos'Santos et al. (2017) undersøkte forholdet mellom isometrisk mid-thigh pull og dynamisk prestasjon. Studien inkluderte 43 deltakere fra en rekke forskjellige idretter (36 menn, 7 kvinner). Resultatet av studien demonstrerte et statistisk signifikant forhold mellom isometrisk mid-thigh pull og 1RM power samt et moderat forhold til øvelsen counter movement jump (Dos'Santos et al., 2017). En annen studie, av De Witt et al. (2018), undersøkte forholdet

mellom isometrisk mid-thigh pull og 1RM i markløft. Totalt ni deltakere deltok i studien, hvorav fem var menn og fire var kvinner. Studien demonstrerte en korrelasjon mellom isometrisk mid-thigh pull og 1RM markløft på  $r = 0.88$  ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) ved bruk av absolutt kraftutvikling (peak force) i analyser.

#### **2.4.2 Isometrisk måling av overkroppsstyrke og dynamisk prestasjon**

Det er per i dag lite litteratur på en eventuell sammenheng mellom isometriske målinger og dynamisk prestasjon i overkropp. En studie av Murphy et al. (1995) undersøkte forholdet mellom isometrisk måling av overkroppsstyrke og dynamisk prestasjon. Isometrisk benkpress ved to forskjellige vinkler i albueleddet ble sammenlignet mot 1RM i benkpress og benkpress kast ved tre ulike nivåer av belastning (Murphy et al., 1995). Tretten mannlige deltakere i en alder av  $23 \pm 4$  med minst et års erfaring med styrketrening deltok i studien. Resultatene av studien demonstrerte en signifikant korrelasjon mellom 1RM benkpress og isometrisk benkpress med  $90^\circ$  vinkel i albueledd ( $r = 0.77$ ). Korrelasjoner ble også funnet mellom isometrisk benkpress ved  $90^\circ$  og de tre benkpresskastene ( $r = 0.61$  til  $0.69$ ). I tillegg til korrelasjonene mellom isometrisk benkpress ved  $90^\circ$  vinkel i albueledd og de andre testene ble det demonstrert en tydelig fordel av å endre vinkel i albueledd til  $120^\circ$ . Deltakerne i studien presterte bedre ved  $120^\circ$  vinkel i albueleddet, men det korrelerte dårligere med de andre testene. (Murphy et al., 1995). En studie av Bellar et al. (2015) undersøkte validiteten og reliabiliteten til en isometrisk test av overkroppsstyrke opp mot 1RM benkpress. Testen i studiet var en modifisert pushup som viste sterk korrelasjon til 1RM i benkpress

#### **2.5 Reliabilitet**

Begrepet reliabilitet kan forstås som enighet eller evne til å repetere (Atkinson & Neville, 1998). Evaluering av et måleverktøys reliabilitet er en nødvendig praksis før det kan benyttes i aktuelle omstendigheter (Koo, T.K. & Li, M.Y., 2015). Reliabilitet handler om i hvilken grad det kan forventes at gjentatte målinger gir like resultater gitt at forholdene er identiske (Carmines & Zeller, 1979; Thomas et al., 2015). En av de vanligste måtene å estimere reliabilitet til en måling på er test-retest, hvor en test blir gjennomført først en gang så deretter igjen under helt like forhold ved en senere anledning (Carmines & Zeller, 1979). Reliabiliteten ved test-retest metoden er lik korrelasjonen mellom verdier fra måling 1 og

måling 2. Sterke korrelasjoner mellom verdiene antyder at målingene er presise og kan være hensiktsmessige å benytte i forskning og annen praksis Hopkins (2000). Reliabilitet kan også sees på som i hvilken grad målefeil er akseptable i praktisk bruk at målingene, da det urealistisk at en målemetode er feilfri (Atkinson & Nevill, 1998). Om en test produserer de samme resultatene på tvers at to uavhengige målinger ved to forskjellige anledninger kalles test-retest reliabilitet (Thomas et al., 2015).

### **2.5.1 Intraklasse korrelasjons koeffisient (ICC)**

I denne studien er intraklasse korrelasjons koeffisient benyttet for evaluering av reliabilitet. Intraklasse korrelasjons koeffisient har sin fordel med at den reflektere både grad av korrelasjon (ICC) samt enighet mellom målinger (Koo & Li, 2015). Det finnes per i dag flere ulike måter å estimere ICC på, og valg av riktig er avhengig av hvilke modell og type måledata som er relevant (Koo & Li, 2015). Vurdering av grad av reliabilitet ved bruk av intraklasse korrelasjons koeffisient er ikke standardisert. Koo & Li (2015) foreslår derfor at verdier tolkes på følgende måte: mindre enn 0.5 = dårlig reliabilitet, mellom 0.5 og 0.75 = moderat reliabilitet, mellom 0.75 og 0.9 = god reliabilitet, og verdier over 0.9 = høy reliabilitet.

### **2.5.2 Variasjonskoeffisient (CV)**

Variasjonskoeffisienten (CV) måler relativ variasjon i et datasett og sier noe om forholdet mellom standardavviket og gjennomsnittet (Hopkins, 2000). Da variasjonskoeffisienten reflekterer stabiliteten av en repetert måling fungerer den godt som mål på reliabilitet. Hvordan variasjonskoeffisienten tolkes er avhengig av hvilke verdier som er hensiktsmessige å definere som akseptable (Shechtman, 2013).

## **2.5 Tidligere forskning på reliabiliteten til IMTP og IBP**

### **2.5.1 Isometrisk mid-thigh pull**

En rekke studier har blitt gjennomført for å evaluere reliabiliteten til isometrisk mid-thigh pull. Grgic et al., (2021). En systematisk oversikt av Grgic et al. (2021) tar for seg reliabiliteten til isometrisk mid-thigh pull ved å undersøke og sammenligne totalt 16 studier.

Majoriteten av studier inkludert i oversikten har blitt gjennomført med mannlige deltakere som er atleter i en rekke forskjellige idretter (Grgic et al., 2021). Hovedfunnet i den systematiske oversikten er at ved bruk av absolutt kraftutvikling demonstrerer isometrisk mid-thigh pull god til høy reliabilitet ved bruk av absolutt kraftutvikling (ICC fra 0.84 til 0.99, ICC median = 0.97). Rapporterte verdier for variasjonskoeffisient varierte fra 3.4% til 10.1% (median 5.7%) (Grgic et al., 2021). En studie av Comfort et al. (2015) undersøkte test-retest reliabiliteten til isometrisk mid-thigh pull med et utvalg av 24 mannlige atleter i en alder av  $21.7 \pm 2.1$  år. Studiet undersøkte test-retest reliabiliteten ved fire forskjellige vinkler i kne ( $120^\circ$ ,  $130^\circ$ ,  $140^\circ$ , and  $150^\circ$ ) og to forskjellige vinkler i hofta ( $125^\circ$  and  $145^\circ$ ) (Comfort et al., 2015). Resultatet av studien demonstrerte høy reliabilitet i alle utslag ved bruk av absolutt kraftutvikling (ICC 0.97 – 0.96). En annen studie av Moeskops et al. (2018) undersøker både test-retest og intrareliabiliteten til isometrisk mid-thigh pull hos unge kvinnelige atleter. En studie av Moeskops et al. (2018) undersøkte test-retest reliabiliteten og intrareliabiliteten til isometrisk mid-thigh pull hos unge kvinnelige atleter ( $n = 38$ ). Studien rapporterte ICC på 0.95 til 0.97 og CV på 4.9% til 7.5% for intrareliabilitet (Moeskops et al., 2018). For test-retest reliabilitet ble det rapportert ICC på 0.92 til 0.95 og CV på 5.8% til 10.2% (Moeskops et al. 2018). Dos'Santos et al. (2018) gjennomførte en studie hvor test-retest og intra reliabiliteten til isometrisk mid-thigh pull hos mannlige unge fotballspillere ble undersøkt. Totalt 13 deltakere var med i studien ( $16.7 \pm 0.5$  år). Det ble rapportert en test-retest reliabilitet på ICC 0.86 til 0.96 og CV på 3.7% til 7.9%. Intrareliabiliteten ble rapportert som ICC på 0.86 til 0.76 og CV på 4.3% til 9.7% (Dos'Santos et al., 2018). Studien konkluderte med høy reliabilitet av testen ved tidsspesifikke kraft verdier hos unge mannlige fotballspillere. Tidligere forskning demonstrerer høy test-retest reliabilitet og intrareliabilitet hos både mannlige og kvinnelige utøvere i ulike idretter. Det er derimot i liten grad dokumentert om isometrisk mid-thigh pull kan være en reliabel test hos et utvalg som ikke representerer en populasjon bestående av atleter.

### **2.5.2 Reliabilitet ved isometrisk testing av overkroppsstyrke**

Isometrisk testing av overkroppsstyrke har ikke fått den samme oppmerksomheten som isometrisk testing av underkroppsstyrke (Bellar et.al., 2015; Young et al., 2014). En studie av Bellar et al. (2015) undersøker validiteten og reliabiliteten til en isometrisk test av overkroppsstyrke opp mot 1RM benkpress. Studiet ble gjennomført med 40 unge voksne,

hvorav 20 var kvinner og 20 var menn i en alder av  $22 \pm 2.8$  år. Testen var en modifisert push-up. Resultatet av studien demonstrerte en ICC på 0.98 for testen og en sterk korrelasjon til 1RM i benkpress (kvinner:  $r^2 = 0.422$ ,  $p = 0.0019$ , menn:  $r^2 = 0.691$ ,  $p \leq 0.001$ ). Konklusjonen av studien var testen kan være nyttig for måling av overkroppsstyrke da den demonstrerte høy reliabilitet. Young et al. (2019) gjennomførte en studie på isometrisk benkpress hvor de testet ulike vinkler i albueleddet for å sammenligne reliabiliteten. Studiet inkluderte 24 mannlige atleter i alderen  $19 \pm 2.8$  år. Deltakerne tilhørte en rekke ulike idretter. Måling av isometrisk kraftutvikling ble gjennomført over fire ulike vinkler i albueleddet;  $60^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ$ ,  $120^\circ$ , og  $150^\circ$  (Young et al., 2014). Ved bruk av absolutt kraftutvikling (peak force) demonstrerte resultatene av studien test-retest reliabilitet på ICC 0.93 ( $60^\circ$ ), 0.89 ( $90^\circ$ ), 0.94 ( $120^\circ$ ) og 0.97 ( $150^\circ$ ). Konklusjonen av studien var IBP var en reliabel metode å evaluere overkroppsstyrke på, særlig ved vinkel i albueledd på  $120^\circ$  og  $150^\circ$  (Young et al. 2014).

## 3.0 Metode

### 3.1 Studiedesign

Det ble benyttet et eksperimentelt design med gjentatte målinger av de to testene IMTP og IBP for evaluering av reliabilitet. Dette er et høyt benyttet studiedesign i studier som undersøker reliabilitet (Dos' Santos, T., et.al., 2017; Moeskops, S., et.al., 2018; Comfort, P., et.al., 2015; James, L. P., et.al., 2017). Hensikten med dette studiedesignet er å oppnå målinger som kan analyseres på tvers av hverandre for å kunne vurdere reliabiliteten til målingene. Studiet bestod av totalt tre økter. Den første økten ble benyttet som en tilvenningsøkt for å utelukke en eventuell læringseffekt av testene (Comfort, P., et.al., 2019), i tillegg til måling av antropometriske variabler. Relevante antropometriske variabler var kroppsvekt og høyde. Tilvenningsøkten ble også benyttet til definering av testposisjon for reproduisering de to neste øktene. Alle testmålinger ble gjennomført med en kraftplattform fra MuscleLab i tillegg til medfølgende programvare. Figur 1 viser flytskjema for studien.



Figur 1. Flytskjema for studien.

### 3.2 Deltakere

Rekruttering av deltakere skjedde gjennom muntlige forespørsler og sosiale medier. Deltakere ble gitt detaljert informasjon om prosjekt i forkant av oppstart. Lokasjon for rekruttering var høgskulen på Vestlandet, avdeling Sogndal. Detaljert informasjon i tillegg til deltakers rettigheter ble også gitt i form av et samtykkeskjema som deltaker deretter skrev under på med navn og dato. Inklusjons- og eksklusjonskriterier ble forhåndsbestemt for å

sikre at potensielle deltakere kunne representere den ønskede populasjonen. Inklusjons og eksklusjonskriterier for studien var følgende:

Inklusjonskriterier:

Kvinner – 18 år eller eldre

Menn – 18 år eller eldre

Treningserfaring – 1 år eller mer

Eksklusjonskriterier:

Sykdom som hindrer gjennomføring

Skade som hindrer gjennomføring

Gjennomføring – 100% av alle økter

Totalt 28 kvinnelige og mannlige deltakere meldte seg frivillig til studien, hvor av 9 var kvinner og 21 var menn. 19 kvinnelige (n = 3) og mannlige (n = 16) fullførte alle de tre testøktene. Tilfeller av covid 19 infeksjoner var årsaken til fem av frafallene, mens de fire andre tilfellene kan forklares med mangel på oppmøte til en eller flere testøkter. Alle inkluderte deltakere oppga å ha mer enn 1 års erfaring med styrketrening. Tabell 1 beskriver karakteristikkene til deltakerne. Alle verdier i tabellen er presenter som gjennomsnitt ± standardavvik.

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**Tabell 1. Deltakeres karakteristikker**

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Alder (år)	Høyde (cm)	Kroppsvekt (kg)	Treningserfaring (år)
24.8 ± 3.8	179.632 ± 7.6	176.3 ± 8.6 cm	5.0 ± 2.8

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Presentert som gjennomsnitt ± standardavvik

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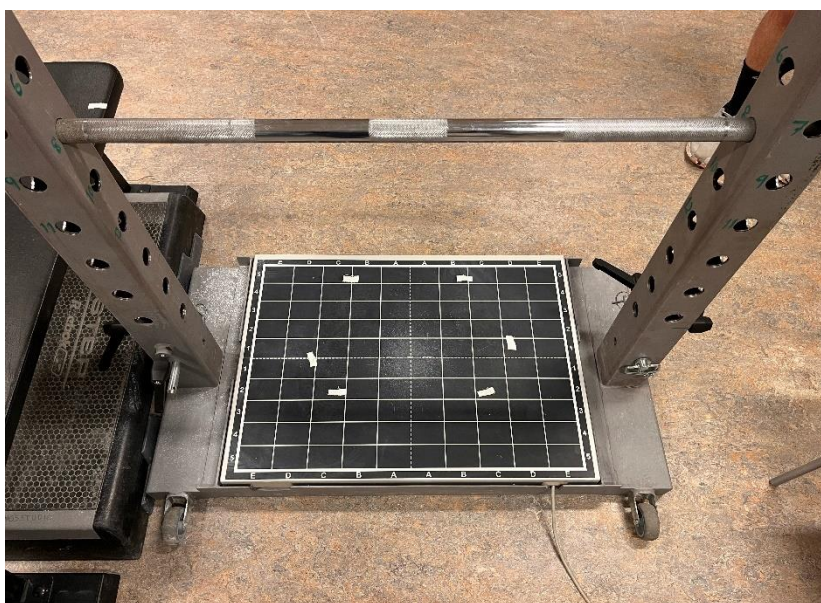
### 3.3 Ethiske aspekter

Alle deltakere meldte seg frivillig til studien og bekreftet dette ved å signere et samtykkeskjema i starten av den første testøkten (se vedlegg 1). Deltaker ble først informert om prosedyrer i forkant av studien som en del av rekrutteringsprosessen, og deretter igjen skriftlig i samtykkeskjemaet. NSD (Norsk Senter for Forskningsdata) godkjente studien i forkant av oppstart (referanse nr. 389938). Alle identifiserbare data ble under studien lagret på en pc med begrenset tilgang (kun autorisert personale). Under analysing av rådata ble deltakere tildelt tilfeldige deltakernumre for å ikke være gjenkjennbare i det ferdige datasettet.



### 3.3 Målinger og måleapparater

Antropometriske målinger ble adressert under tilvenningsøkten for beskrivelse av utvalg. Disse målene var høyde og kroppsvekt. Høyde ble målt uten sko med et veggmontert målebånd og er oppgitt i centimeter (cm). Måling av kroppsvekt er gjennomført med en mekanisk vekt av typen seca (seca Deutschland, Hamburg, Germany), og oppgitt i kilogram (kg). Vinkler i kne og hofte under isometrisk mid-thigh pull ble kontrollert med vinkelmåler i tilvenningsøkten. Målinger av kraft ble gjennomført med en kraftplattform av typen MuscleLab (Ergo test Technology AS, Langesund, Norway), sammen med den tilhørende programvaren MuscleLab v8.27 (Ergo test Technology AS, Langesund, Norway). Kraftplattformen ble plassert i et spesiallaget stativ for isometrisk testing av styrke (figur 2). Kraft er målt og oppgitt i newton (N).



Figur 2. Kraftplattens plassering i spesiallaget stativ for isometrisk testing.

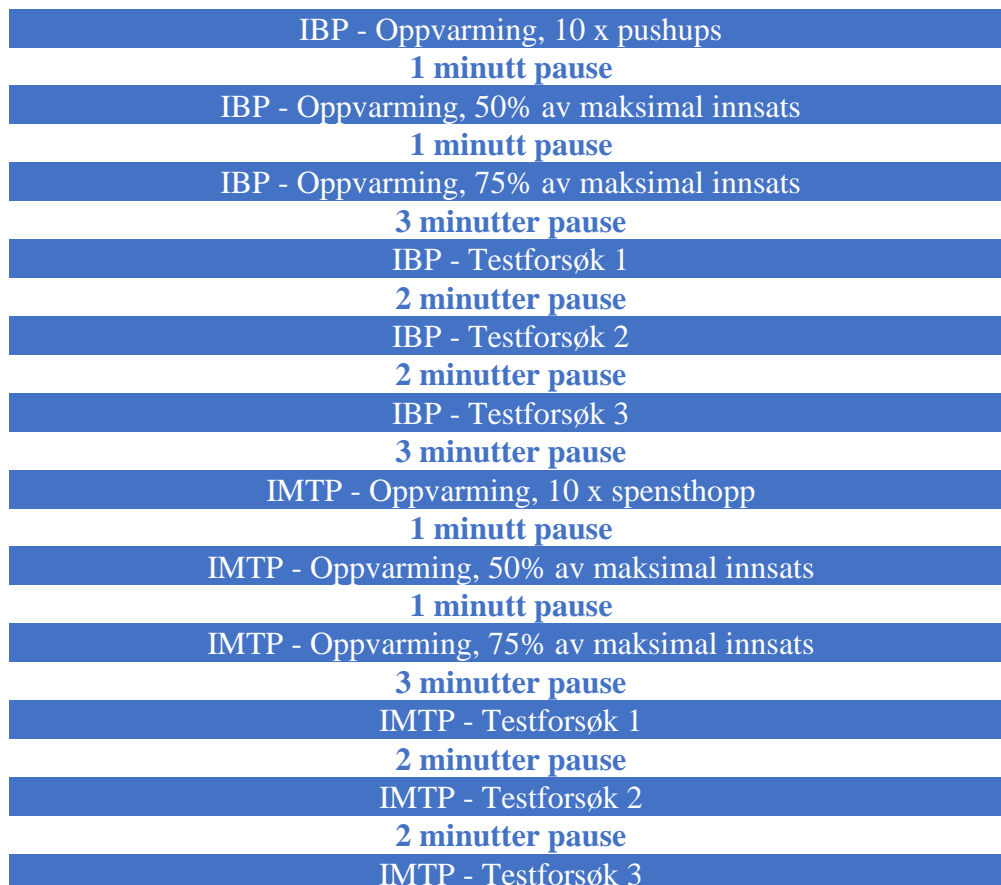
### 3.4 Tilvenningsøkt

Deltakere gikk gjennom en tilvenningsøkt i starten av studien for å kontrollere for en eventuell læringseffekt (Comfort, P., et al., 2019). I begynnelsen av økten ble deltakere gitt informasjon om protokoller og standardiseringer. Økten ble benyttet til etablering av testposisjon. I tillegg til enkelte standardiseringer på tvers av alle deltakere, ble relevante

holdepunkter for kroppslig posisjon i testtrigg notert for å kunne reproduseres de to kommende øktene. Tilvenningsøkten ble også inkludert i statistiske analyser for å kunne vurdere den eventuelle læringseffekten.

### 3.5 Protokoller

Hver enkelt testøkt bestod av tre forsøk med isometrisk mid-thigh pull og tre forsøk med isometrisk benkpress samt spesifikk oppvarming i forkant av testing. Rekkefølgen på testingen var den samme alle de tre øktene; oppvarming til isometrisk benkpress, testing i isometrisk benkpress, oppvarming til isometrisk mid-thigh pull, og til slutt testing i isometrisk mid-thigh pull. Noterte holdepunkter for kroppsposisjon i testtrigg ble markert med teip så deltaker enkelt kunne stille seg i identisk posisjon. Selve testforsøkene bestod av en maksimal kontraksjon på fem sekunder, og deltakere fikk to minutters pause mellom hvert forsøk. Deltakere ble instruert å legge seg/stille seg i testposisjon for deretter å avvente til videre instruks om å kontrahere ble gitt. Deltakere holdt så maksimal kontraksjon til en nedtelling fra null til fem var fullført. Figur 3 beskriver rekkefølgen for oppvarmings- og testprotokoller.



Figur 3. Flytskjema for testprotokoll

### **3.5.1 Oppvarmingsprotokoll**

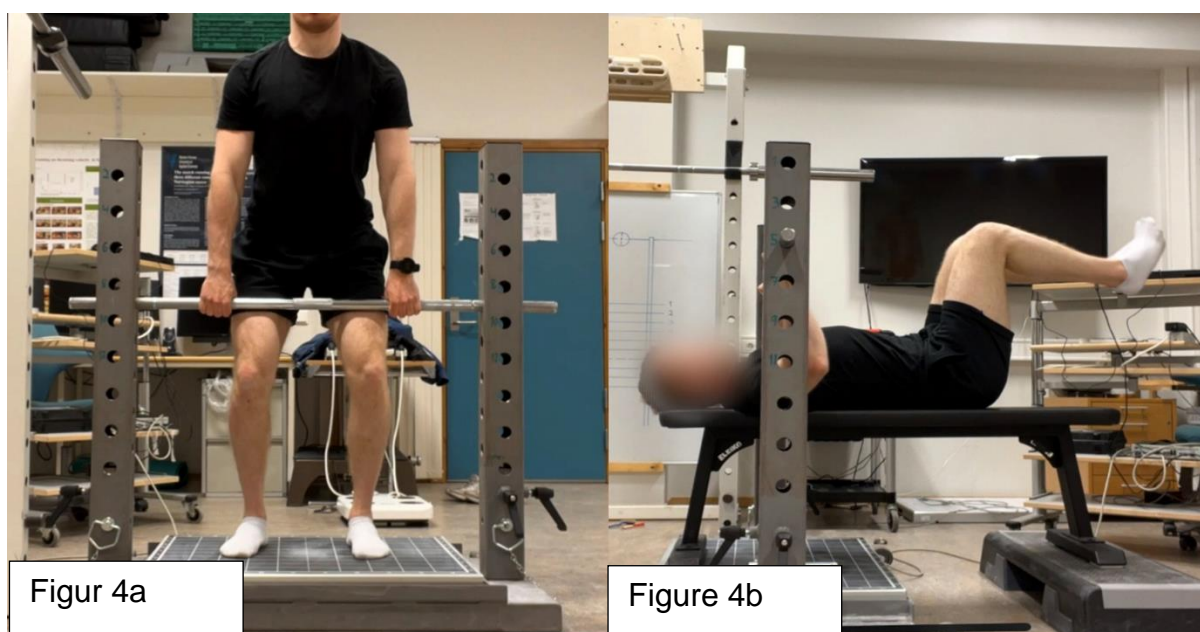
Deltakere gikk gjennom tre oppvarmingssett for de ulike øvelsene. Oppvarmingen var tilpasset hver av de to isometriske testene og bestod av en dynamisk øvelse og to forsøk i testtriggen med lavere enn maksimal innsats. Deltakere gjennomførte først den dynamiske øvelsen og deretter, med ett minutt pause mellom hvert oppvarmingssett, to forsøk i testtriggen på henholdsvis 50% og 75% av maksimal innsats. Deltakere estimerte selv hva de mente var 50% og 75% av maksimal innsats. Etter oppvarming fikk deltakere tre minutters pause før selve testingen startet.

### **3.5.2 Testprotokoll for isometrisk benkpress**

En benk ble plassert på kraftplattformen og deltaker ble instruert å legge seg i testposisjon. Plassering av benken på plattform ble standardisert i forkant av studien og var identisk hver økt for alle deltakere. En vinkel på 90° i albueledd ble benyttet for alle deltakere (eller så nærme som teststativet tillot) (Bellar, D., et.al., 2015; Young, K. P., et.al., 2014). Deltakere ble også gitt instruksjoner om å holde hode, skuldre, rompe i kontakt med benken gjennom hele forsøket. Det ble gitt instruksjoner om å holde begge bein oppe i luften med 90° vinkel i hoftledd og 90° vinkel i kneledd. Plassering av skuldre på benk og grep på bar ble notert for å kunne reprodusere testposisjonen til deltaker. Figur 4b viser testposisjon for isometrisk benkpress

### **3.5.3 Testprotokoll for isometrisk mid-thigh pull**

Stangen ble plassert i testtriggen så vinkler i kneledd og hoftledd kom så nærme 145° og 135° som mulig (Stone, M. H., et.al., 2019). Deltakere ble også instruert å sette bein omtrent under skuldre. Plassering av føtter og grep ble notert og benyttet for å kunne reprodusere utgangsposisjon mellom øktene. Deltakere ble instruert å trekke i retning oppover og samtidig unngå å lene seg bakover under kontraksjonen. Alle deltakere benyttet løftestropper til hvert av forsøkene, dette for å unngå at grepsstyrke skulle bli en begrensende faktor for kraftutvikling (Coswig et al., 2015; Jukic et al., 2020; Jukic et.al., 2021) Figur 4a viser testposisjon for isometrisk mid-thigh pull.



Figur 4a og b. Figur a viser testposisjon i isometrisk mid-thigh pull. Figur 4b viser testposisjon i isometrisk benkpress.

### 3.7 Statistiske analyser

Totalt 19 kvinnelige (n = 3) og mannlige (n = 16) deltakere er inkludert i statistisk analyse av inter- og intrareliabilitet ved isometrisk mid-thigh pull. Totalt 8 deltakere (1 kvinnelig, 7 mannlige) er inkludert i statistisk analyse av inter- og intrareliabilitet ved isometrisk benk press. Årsaken til differansen i antall inkluderte deltakere er bortkomne data etter innsamling. Årsaken til at isometrisk benk press data for totalt 11 deltakere forsvant fra benyttet pc er ukjent.

Alle statistiske analyser er gjennomført i programvaren SPSS v.28.0.1.0 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA, 1989-2021). Normalfordeling av data ble testet og bekreftet normalfordelt med Shapiro-wilk's test (p = 0.114). Analyse av reliabilitet er gjennomført med to-veis randomisert-effekt intraklasse korrelasjons koeffisient (ICC) med 95% konfidensintervall (CI) og variasjons koeffisient oppgitt i prosent (CV%, 95% konfidensintervaller. Variasjonskoeffisienten er kalkulert med følgende formel:

$$CV (\%) = 100 \times \frac{\sum CVi}{n}$$

For klassifisering av reliabilitet med ICC er verdier under 0.5 ansett som dårlig reliabilitet, verdier mellom 0.5 og 0.75 er ansett som moderat reliabilitet, verdier mellom 0.75 og 0.9 er ansett som god reliabilitet, og verdier over 0.9 er ansett som høy reliabilitet (James et al., 2018). Akseptabel variasjonskoeffisient ble bestemt som under 10% (Schetman, 2013)

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## Vedlegg 1, Samtykkeskjema

### **Vil du delta i forskningsprosjekt ved Høgskulen på Vestlandet, campus Sogndal: «Reliabilitet i isometrisk markløft og isometrisk benkpress»**

Dette er et spørsmål til deg om å delta i en masteroppgave og forskningsprosjekt hvor formålet er å undersøke reliabiliteten i isometrisk markløft og isometrisk benkpress. I studien vil man sammenligne kraftutviklingen mellom ulike forsøk i samme økt og fra økt til økt.

#### **Formål**

Kraftutvikling er ett mye brukt mål på både muskelfunksjon, fysisk funksjon og idrettslig prestasjonsevne. Kraften en muskel/muskelgruppe klarer å utvikle kan enten måles akutt for å si noe om tilstanden her og nå, evt før og etter en treningsperiode for å si noe om endring i prestasjon/funksjon. Uavhengig av bakgrunnen for testingen så vil nytteverdien av resultatene være avhengig av presisjonen og påliteligheten (reliabiliteten) av resultatet. Med andre ord, om det er stor variasjon fra test til test (uten at man forventer at det skal ha skjedd en endring), er resultatene lite verdt. Flere studier har undersøkt reliabiliteten på isometrisk styrketester. Funnene fra disse studiene indikerer at reliabiliteten avhenger av hvilken test som gjennomføres, hvilken populasjon som er valgt samt protokollen som er blitt brukt. Det vil derfor være fornuftig å undersøke reliabiliteten av hvert enkelt spesifikke utstyr samt den protokollen man ønsker å benytte. I denne akutte studien ønsker vi derfor å undersøke reliabiliteten til isometriske styrketester med det utstyret og protokollen som er vanlig å benytte i vår lab. Forsøkspersonene vil utføre den samme testøkten tre ganger på tre ulike dager. Den første gangen vil man få en innføring i, samt få prøve de ulike testene. Man vil også notere alle bakgrunnsvariablene for den enkelte forsøksperson. De to neste gangene vil være identiske og her vil man gjennomføre tre maksimale kontraksjoner i hver av de to øvelsen. Hver kontraksjon vil vare i fem sekund og ha 2 minutt pause imellom. Totaltiden for hver enkelt økt anslås til å være ca. 30 minutt.

#### **Hvem er ansvarlig for forskningsprosjektet?**

Høgskulen på Vestlandet (HVL) er ansvarlig for prosjektet.

#### **Hvorfor får du spørsmål om å delta?**

Voksne mennesker i aldersgruppa 18-50 år inviteres til å delta. Du må være uten sykdom eller skader som kan hindre deltakelse i prosjektet.

#### **Hva innebærer det for deg å delta?**

Som deltaker i prosjektet må du gjennom en tilvenningstest og to eksperimentelle testdager hvor vi gjennomfører øvelsene som skal testes. I tillegg vil din vekt, høyde, alder og treningserfaring bli notert. Det vil være minimum 48 timer mellom de to øktene.

Som deltaker i prosjektet vil du få en unik mulighet til å lære mer om styrketrening og testing, og bidra til at kunnskapen på feltet øker. Hvis du velger å delta kan du ikke trene styrketrening de to siste dagene før testøktene.

#### **Det er frivillig å delta**

Det er frivillig å delta i prosjektet. Hvis du velger å delta, kan du når som helst trekke samtykke tilbake uten å oppgi noen grunn. Alle opplysninger om deg vil da bli anonymisert. Det vil ikke ha noen negative konsekvenser for deg hvis du ikke vil delta eller senere velger å trekke deg.

#### **Ditt personvern – hvordan vi oppbevarer og bruker dine opplysninger**

Vi vil bare bruke opplysningene om deg til formålene vi har fortalt om i dette skrevet. Vi behandler opplysningene konfidensielt og i samsvar med personvernregelverket. Navnet og

kontaktopplysningene dine vil erstattes med en kode som lagres på egen navneliste adskilt fra øvrige data. Siden det er en masteroppgave, vil masterstudenter være med under datainnsamlingen. Studentene vil få tilgang til dataene, men disse vil da være tilknyttet ett nummer og ikke ditt navn. Bare prosjektansvarlig vil ha tilgang til opplysningene som kan knytte ditt navn til dine data. Det vil ikke være mulig å identifisere deg i dataene som publiseres.

#### **Hva skjer med opplysningene dine når vi avslutter forskningsprosjektet?**

Masteroppgaven/prosjektet skal etter planen avsluttes i juni 2022 og all innhentet informasjon om deg vil da bli slettet/destruert.

#### **Hva gir oss rett til å behandle personopplysninger om deg?**

Vi behandler opplysninger om deg basert på ditt samtykke.

På oppdrag fra Høgskulen på Vestlandet har NSD – Norsk senter for forskningsdata AS vurdert at behandlingen av personopplysninger i dette prosjektet er i samsvar med personvernregelverket.

#### **Hvor kan jeg finne ut mer?**

Hvis du har spørsmål til studien, eller ønsker å benytte deg av dine rettigheter, ta kontakt med:

- Høgskulen på Vestlandet ved prosjektansvarlig Vidar Andersen ([vidar.andersen@hvl.no](mailto:vidar.andersen@hvl.no) tlf 9753 1437)
- Vårt personvernombud heter Trine Anikken Larsen og kan nåes på e-post: [Trine.Anikken.Larsen@hvl.no](mailto:Trine.Anikken.Larsen@hvl.no) eller telefon 55 58 76 82.
- NSD – Norsk senter for forskningsdata AS, på epost ([personverntjenester@nsd.no](mailto:personverntjenester@nsd.no)) eller telefon: 55 58 21 17.

Med vennlig hilsen

Prosjektansvarlig

Joakim Gjengedal Olsbø

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## **Samtykkeerklæring**

Jeg har mottatt og forstått informasjon om prosjektet «**Reliabilitet i isometrisk markløft og isometrisk benkpress**», og har fått anledning til å stille spørsmål. Jeg samtykker til:

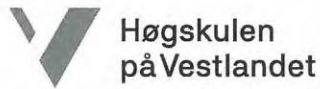
- å delta på en tilvenningstest og to eksperimentelle treningsøkter hvor affektiv opplevelse på ulik treningseffektivitet skal måles.

Jeg samtykker til at mine opplysninger behandles frem til prosjektet er avsluttet, ca. juni 2022.

---

(Signert av prosjektdeltaker, dato)

## Vedlegg 2, Medforfattererklæring



Høgskulen  
på Vestlandet

### Medforfattererklæring

Jeg samtykker i at artikkel

**Tittel: Within-session and between-session reliability of isometric mid-thigh pull and isometric bench press in strength-trained young adults**

**Publisert i: Frontiers in Sports and Active Living**

**Dato: 15.05.2022**

**Forfattere: Joakim Gjengedal Olsbø**

kan inngå som del av mastergradsavhandling for

**Mastergrad: Idrettsvitenskap**

**Beskriv kandidatens bidrag:**

Kandidaten har gjennomført rekruttering, datainnsamling, statistiske analyser og utforming av artikkel

Dato og sted:

Sogndal, 15.05.2022

Signatur kandidat

## Cover letter

Artikkelen er skrevet for journalen *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*. Journalen publiserer forskningsartikler som bidrar til økt kunnskap og forståelse av sport, fysisk aktivitet, og trening. Etersom artikkelen tar for seg måling av styrke, og styrke er en viktig komponent i både fysisk prestasjonsevne og helse relaterte aspekter, er artikkelen av relevans for denne utvalgte journalen.

# 1 Within-session and between-session reliability of isometric mid-thigh pull and 2 isometric bench press among strength-trained young adults

3 Joakim Gjengedal Olsbø<sup>1</sup>

4 **Keywords:** Reliability<sub>1</sub>, Isometric<sub>2</sub>, Mid-thigh pull<sub>3</sub>, Benchpress<sub>4</sub>, Peak force<sub>5</sub>.

## 6 Abstract

7 The purpose of this study was to determine within-session and between-session reliability in  
8 isometric mid-thigh pull (IMTP) and isometric bench press (IBP). A total 19 female (n = 3) and male  
9 (n = 16) students aged  $24.8 \pm 3.8$  years participated in this study (height in cm =  $179.6 \pm 7.6$ , weight  
10 in kg =  $176.3 \pm 8.6$ , training experience in year =  $5.0 \pm 2.8$ ). Participants completed three attempts of  
11 IMTP (n = 19) and three attempts of IBP (n = 8) in each of three separate sessions. A minimum of 48  
12 hours were given between each session. Force output was measured with a MuscleLab force  
13 platform. Peak force (newton) within a five-second-long contraction was used for data analysis.  
14 Intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) with 95% confidence interval and coefficient of variation  
15 (CV%) were used when determining reliability. Excellent within-session reliability was observed in  
16 all sessions of both IBP and IMTP (ICC ranging from 0.92 – 0.99 and 0.98 – 0.98 respectively).  
17 Between-session reliability was demonstrated as excellent for both IBP (ICC = 0.92) and IMTP (ICC  
18 = 0.97). CV demonstrated acceptable variability in both within-session analysis (IBP = 3.6% - 9.4%,  
19 IMTP = 4.7% - 5.1%) and between-session analysis (IBP = 6.3%, IMTP = 7.5%). The results of this  
20 study suggest excellent within-session and between-session reliability in both tests in strength-trained  
21 young adults. A low population sample in IBP encourages other studies on isometric bench press  
22 with larger samples to further address the reliability of the test.

23

## 24 Introduction

25 Sprinting, jumping, and change of direction are examples of sport-specific attributes which are  
26 suggested to have a strong correlation to muscular strength (1). There is substantial evidence that  
27 muscular strength plays a key role to performance in a number of different sports through affecting  
28 muscle force-time characteristics (2,3,4,5). Strength training is therefore considered to be a valuable  
29 part of an athlete's training protocol and should be incorporated to positively affect performance



30 levels (1,6). Testing for strength is therefore a vital practice in the field of sports. Sports professionals  
31 and researchers often practice some form of strength testing to assess change in performance related  
32 traits (**Feil! Fant ikke referansekinden.,8,Feil! Fant ikke referansekinden.**). Though dynamic 1RM  
33 tests have commonly been used as a tool to address this problem, isometric testing have gained  
34 popularity in the field (**Feil! Fant ikke referansekinden.,10**). Whereas dynamic testing consists of  
35 producing force on an object to affect its position and velocity, isometric testing is performed by  
36 producing force against a stationary object (11). It is suggested that isometric testing is less time-  
37 and resource demanding in addition to providing a lower risk of injury and fatigue (**Feil! Fant ikke**  
38 **referansekinden.,Feil! Fant ikke referansekinden.,10,11,12,13**). Dynamic tests such as 1RM squat  
39 and 1RM deadlift require more equipment and take more time to conduct as testing involves loading  
40 weights in between warmup and attempts (8,12). In addition, it is suggested that 1RM dynamic tests  
41 are accompanied by a few limiting factors such as fatigue. Fatigue can occur as a result of an  
42 unknown number of consecutive attempts until failure is reached (10). There is also a risk of  
43 underestimating 1RM due to overreaching in terms of loading to heavily and potentially missing a  
44 successful attempt at a lower load (10). These limiting factors is theorized not to be as prevailing  
45 when performing isometric movements (8,10). Although dynamic testing methods have proven to be  
46 a reliable measure for assessing strength (14,15,16), isometric assessing of change in performance-  
47 related traits provides options to quantify a series of force-time characteristics such as peak force and  
48 rate of force development (16,17). Though there are different force-time curve variables available for  
49 analysis when conducting isometric testing, peak force (PF) and rate of force-development (RFD) are  
50 suggested to have a strong correlation with weightlifting movements as well as a series of sports-  
51 related physical abilities such as jumping and change of direction (16,18).

52 Commonly, single joint movements such as knee extensions have been widely practiced, but in the  
53 1990s the isometric mid-thigh pull was developed to address force-time characteristics in cleans (9).  
54 Since then, many studies have been conducted to assess the validity and reliability of the isometric  
55 mid-thigh pull (7,8,9,13,19,20,21). A selection of studies shows within-session as reliable when  
56 using peak force to assess reliability (13,19,20,21). Between-session reliability of isometric mid-  
57 thigh pull have been demonstrated as good or excellent with intraclass correlation coefficient ranging  
58 from 0.89 to 0.99 in different populations. Studies has also been conducted on different angles in hip  
59 to determine which angles provides the highest reliability (13,20). A 145° angle in hip demonstrated  
60 an intraclass correlation coefficient ranging from 0.98 to 0.99. Studies has also shown varying  
61 results in terms of comparing reliability when analyzing with peak force against analyzing with rate

62 of force development (3,13,14,15,16,18,19,21,22). The majority of these studies have found peak  
63 force to provide higher reliability than rate of force development. Though isometric mid-thigh pull  
64 have been frequently studied, most of the research have been conducted on athletes of different age  
65 groups in a variety of sports. Determining reliability of the isometric-mid thigh pull in less researched  
66 populations should therefore be encouraged.

67 While isometric force generation assessment has been frequently researched, most of the research  
68 have been focusing on the lower limbs (23,24). Isometric assessment of upper-body strength have not  
69 been given the same attention as isometric assessment of lower-body strength. More research should  
70 be encouraged to develop the same accurate and reliable measure of upper-body muscular function as  
71 it has lower-body muscular function (23,24). Studies addressing upper-body strength have been using  
72 different methods and are therefore not comparable, and literature is limited in terms of developing a  
73 method of measuring upper-body strength through isometric testing. Different angles in the elbow  
74 have been tested and shown to provide varying levels of reliability (25). Observations of different  
75 correlations to dynamic performance depending on the angle in the elbow used to conduct isometric  
76 assessment of upper-body strength have also been made by Young et al. (25).

77 This study was conducted primarily to assess within-session and between-session reliability of  
78 isometric mid-thigh pull and isometric bench press. Hypothesis formed ahead of the study were: 1.  
79 Excellent within-session reliability of isometric mid-thigh pull is demonstrated. 2. Excellent  
80 between-session reliability of isometric mid-thigh pull is demonstrated. 3. Excellent within-session  
81 reliability of isometric bench press is demonstrated. 4. Excellent between-session reliability of  
82 isometric bench press is demonstrated.

83

## 84 **Methods**

### 85 **Study design**

86 This study had an experimental design with a test-rest approach to assess the within-session and  
87 between-session reliability of isometric bench press and isometric mid-thigh pull. Participants  
88 volunteered for three sessions, the first session being a familiarization session to exclude a potential  
89 effect of learning (7). Each session consisted of warmup and three attempts of each test. Participants  
90 were given a minimum of 48 hours between each session to exclude fatigue as limiting factor of force  
91 generation (7).

92



93

**94 Subjects**

95 Inclusion criteria of this study were  $\geq 1$  year experience with strength training,  $\geq 18$  years of age.  
96 Volunteers were excluded from the study if they had illness or injury that could prevent them from  
97 performing one or both tests. A total of 28 male ( $n = 21$ ) and female ( $n = 7$ ) students with more than  
98 1 year of experience with strength training voluntarily participated in this study, of which 19  
99 completed all three sessions (16 men, 3 women). Five participants withdrew from the study due to  
100 covid 19 infections while four were excluded due to missed sessions. Participants were asked not to  
101 perform any heavy resistance training for at least 48 hours ahead of sessions. All participants  
102 confirmed their voluntary participation by signing a written form ahead of the study. The form  
103 contained relevant information about the participants' rights as a volunteer as well as information  
104 about the study. The study was approved by NSD (Norwegian Centre for Research Data) before  
105 testing was initiated (reference number 389938). Subjects' characteristics are described in table 1.

106

**107 Procedures**

108 Participants were introduced to protocols in a familiarization session at the start of the study. The  
109 familiarization session was also used to assess descriptive variables and determine testing position.  
110 Height and weight were measured before warmup using a wall-mounted measuring tape and a seca  
111 mechanical weighing scale.

112 Standardization of testing position in isometric bench press (figure 1a) included a  $90^\circ$  angle in elbow  
113 (or as close as the rig allowed), bench placement on force platform, placement of head, shoulders,  
114 and backside in contact with bench and a  $90^\circ$  angle in both knee and hip. Placement of bar in rig as  
115 well as placement of grip on bar were noted to make angle in elbow reproducible in each attempt.  
116 Standardization of testing position in isometric mid-thigh pull (figure 1b) included angles of  $145^\circ$  in  
117 hip and  $135^\circ$  in knee or as close as rig allowed (7). Participants were instructed to adjust their stance  
118 according to their shoulder width. Position of distal end of hallux and lateral side of feet were noted  
119 to make sure angle and position of feet were consistent through all attempts. Grip placement on bar  
120 was also noted to make grip width reproducible. During isometric mid-thigh pull participants were  
121 given lifting straps to ensure grip strength was not a limiting factor of force production (26,27,28).

122 Each session consisted of warmup, following three maximal effort attempts of each of the two tests.  
123 The sequence of testing was kept identical each session, being warmup isometric bench press, testing  
124 isometric bench press, warmup isometric mid-thigh pull, and testing isometric mid-thigh pull in that  
125 specific order. Warmup was standardized for all participants and consisted of one set of a dynamic  
126 exercise followed by two attempts at 50% and 75% of perceived maximal effort. Between each  
127 warmup set participants were given a one-minute pause. Dynamic exercise for isometric bench press  
128 was 10 push-ups, while dynamic exercise for isometric mid-thigh pull was 10 squat jumps.  
129 Participants were talked through warmup and testing protocols ahead of the first session, and all  
130 instructions given during warmup and testing were standardized for each attempt and session. After  
131 warmup, participants were given a three-minute pause before testing. All attempts, warmup included,  
132 consisted of a five-second-long maximal contraction.

133 Instructions were given to gradually contract to avoid spikes in the data. In each attempt, participants  
134 were instructed to lay/stand still in the testing position until given instruction to start contracting.  
135 Instruction to start contracting were given when the force platform was ready. When maximal effort  
136 was reached, participants held the contraction while given a countdown from five to zero. When  
137 performing isometric bench press, participants were given instructions to keep head, shoulders, and  
138 backside in contact with the bench, as well as maintaining angles of knee and hip. When performing  
139 isometric mid-thigh pull, participants were instructed to pull upwards without leaning back to  
140 maintain testing position throughout the attempt. Between each attempt, participants were given a  
141 two-minute pause.

142 Measure of force was assessed with a MuscleLab force platform, model 2 (Ergo test Technology AS,  
143 Langesund, Norway). Software used to treat raw data was MuscleLab v8.27 (Ergo test Technology  
144 AS, Langesund, Norway).

145

## 146 **Statistical Analysis**

147 A total of 19 male ( $n = 16$ ) and female ( $n = 3$ ) participants are included in analysis of isometric mid-  
148 thigh pull, while a case of missing data resulted in the inclusion of only 8 male ( $n = 7$ ) and female ( $n$   
149  $= 1$ ) participants in isometric bench press. Statistical analysis was performed through SPSS v.28.0.1.0  
150 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA, 1989-2021). Normality of data was tested and confirmed  
151 with Shapiro-Wilk's ( $p=0.114$ ). Within-session- and between-session reliability were both tested with  
152 the intraclass correlation coefficient (95% CI) and coefficient of variation. For intraclass correlation

153 coefficient, values of <0.5 were considered poor, 0.5-0.75 were considered moderate, 0.75-0.90 were  
154 considered good, and >0.90 were considered excellent reliability (29). Coefficient of variation is  
155 presented as percentage and calculated using the formula  $CV (\%) = 100 \times \frac{\sum CV_i}{n}$ . (30). Acceptable  
156 coefficient of variation was determined as <10% (31).

157 Variable used in analysis is peak force as it is suggested to require less familiarization than other  
158 force-time variables in addition to being strongly correlated to performance in a variety of sports (8).  
159 Peak force has also been demonstrated to provide a higher reliability than rate of force development  
160 (25). Peak force was calculated based on values displayed by graphs in software. Force output while  
161 standing/laying still was subtracted from peak force achieved during the five second contraction,  
162 resulting in participants peak force production. In analysis of isometric bench press, this subtraction  
163 included the bench placed on the platform.

164

## 165 **Results**

### 166 **Within-session reliability**

167 Within-session reliability is presented in table 2 along with descriptive statistics of attempts.  
168 Excellent within-session reliability was observed in all sessions of isometric mid-thigh pull (session 1  
169 ICC = 0.99, session 2 ICC = 0.98, session 3 ICC = 0.98). Coefficient of variation of isometric mid-  
170 thigh were in all attempts demonstrated as acceptable (session 1 CV = 5.1%, session 2 CV = 4.7%,  
171 session 3 CV = 4.7%). Analysis of isometric bench press resulted in similar observations with all  
172 sessions demonstrating excellent reliability (session 1 ICC = 0.92, session 2 ICC = 0.99, session 3  
173 ICC = 0.99). Coefficient of variation of isometric bench press in session 1 (CV = 9.4%) differed from  
174 session 2 and session 3 (3.0% and 3.6%) but were still acceptable. In isometric mid-thigh pull,  
175 coefficient of variation ranged from 4.7% to 5.1% and was determined acceptable.

176

### 177 **Between-session reliability**

178 Between-session reliability is presented in table 3, in addition to descriptive statistics of each session  
179 of the two tests. Intraclass correlation coefficient was observed as excellent in both isometric bench  
180 press and isometric mid-thigh pull (0.92 and 0.97 respectively). Coefficient of variation were  
181 acceptable in both tests as both demonstrated 7.5% variance.

182

183

184 **Discussion**

185 The purpose of this study was to assess the within-session and between-session reliability of the  
186 isometric mid-thigh pull and the isometric bench press in a custom-built rig. Results were in  
187 correspondence with hypotheses as both isometric mid-thigh pull and isometric bench press  
188 demonstrated excellent within-session and between-session reliability. The intraclass correlation  
189 coefficient demonstrated values ranging from 0.98 to 0.98 when analyzing within-session reliability  
190 of isometric mid-thigh pull. Within-session reliability of isometric bench press were also  
191 demonstrated as excellent, with intraclass correlation coefficient ranging from 0.92 to 0.99.  
192 Coefficient of variation demonstrated low variance ranging from 4.7% to 5.1% in isometric mid-  
193 thigh pull and 3.6% to 9.4% in isometric bench press.

194 Measures of peak force in mid-thigh pull demonstrated to be consistent through all attempts within  
195 all three sessions (all ICC > 0.9) (30). Compared to earlier studies conducted on the reliability of  
196 isometric mid-thigh pull this study provided comparable results. Moeskops et al. conducted a study  
197 on reliability of isometric mid-thigh pull in young female athletes aged 6-17 years which resulted in  
198 intraclass coefficient ranging from 0.95 – 0.97 (32). Dos'Santos et al. conducted a similar study in  
199 another population, male and female collegiate athletes aged  $21.7 \pm 1.5$  years (20). The study  
200 examined different angles of hip when performing isometric mid-thigh pull intraclass correlation  
201 coefficient of both angles tested was 0.99. In addition to excellent reliability, coefficient of variation  
202 also demonstrated acceptable variation between attempts, ranging from 4.7% to 5.1%. This suggest  
203 that the procedures and conditions of the isometric mid-thigh pull causes the participant to perform at  
204 the same desired effort each attempt within one session. Coefficient of variation in all sessions were  
205 observed as similar to earlier studies. Dos'Santos et al. demonstrated coefficient of variation of 2.8%  
206 (20), while Moeskops et al. demonstrated coefficients of variation ranging from 5% to 6% (32).  
207 Though results of this study corresponds with results from earlier studies, this is to my knowledge the  
208 first evidence of high within-session reliability of isometric mid-thigh pull among strength-trained  
209 young adults.

210 Between-session reliability of isometric mid-thigh pull were found to be excellent. Intraclass  
211 correlation coefficient were demonstrated as 0.97. This provides evidence that testing procedures are  
212 reproducible between session in strength-trained young adults. Coefficient of variation were

213 acceptable in isometric mid-thigh pull between sessions (7.5%) which suggests that participants  
214 effort is consistent between all sessions. This further supports the procedures of this study. In  
215 comparison to other studies, result are similar to research conducted on the same issue but in  
216 different populations (20,22,33). The majority of studies researching the reliability of isometric mid-  
217 thigh pull have been conducted on male and female athletes of different ages in a variety of sports  
218 (34). This study was conducted on trained adults, and the similarity in results of intraclass correlation  
219 coefficient and coefficient of variation may suggest that the reliability of the isometric mid-thigh pull  
220 could be generalizable across different populations. It also further approves the procedure of  
221 assessing lower-body strength through isometric mid-thigh pull using peak force, as this study  
222 combined with earlier studies demonstrates it to be a reliable measurement with low variability.

223 Results of this study demonstrated excellent within-session reliability in all sessions of isometric  
224 bench press, with intraclass correlation coefficient ranging from 0.92 to 0.99. To my knowledge,  
225 there are no studies on within-session reliability in isometric bench press. Some other studies have  
226 been conducted on reliability of different isometric tests of upper-body strength (24,25,33). Within-  
227 session reliability of these tests have demonstrated to be excellent as well (24,25,33), but due to  
228 differences in methodology they are not comparable with this study. In addition to intraclass  
229 correlation coefficient demonstrating high reliability, coefficient of variation (3.6% - 9.4%) provides  
230 evidence of acceptable consistency in effort between attempts. These observations combined  
231 suggests that the method can potentially be feasible in assessment of upper-body strength, but a low  
232 sample size weakens the results. Also, coefficient of variation in session 1 (CV = 9.4%) being  
233 considerably higher than in session 2 (CV = 3.0%) and session 3 (CV = 3.6%) suggests some  
234 familiarization is needed when assessing upper-body strength with the isometric bench press.

235 As demonstrated in this study, the intraclass correlation coefficient of 0.92 provides evidence of  
236 excellent between-session reliability. Coefficient of variation at 7.5% suggests acceptable variations  
237 in peak force between sessions, indicating that procedures provide the participants with condition to  
238 reproduce the effort between each session. Between-session reliability in isometric bench press has to  
239 my knowledge only been addressed once before this study. Young et al. conducted a study on  
240 different angles in elbow during isometric bench press and the reliability of each angle performed  
241 (25). Reliability demonstrated when using a 90° angle in the elbow and peak force was an intraclass  
242 correlation coefficient of 0.89 (25). Even though the result of their study corresponds to a good  
243 reliability and not excellent as in this study, the difference between results is small. Coefficient of  
244 variation observed in the study conducted by Young et al. were lower (1.6% with 90° in elbow) (25).

245 The between-session coefficient of variation in isometric bench press of this study was demonstrated  
246 at 7.5%, which is higher but still acceptable. As methods were similar, the most probable cause of the  
247 difference in coefficient of variation is the sample size. Young et al. conducted their study with 24  
248 male participants, while this study only included 7 male and 1 female participant. Single cases of  
249 high variation will have impact on means,

250

## 251 **Limitations**

252 The low sample of participants included in analysis of isometric bench press compromises the  
253 strength of the results. It is therefore suggested that further the reliability of isometric bench press is  
254 further investigated to support the results of this study. Also, participants included in analysis of both  
255 isometric bench press and isometric mid-thigh pull could have been higher if not for dropouts.  
256 Although this is to be expected in most cases, one of the reasons of participants dropping out was an  
257 increase in cases of covid 19 infections in the relevant geographical area. Had the study been  
258 conducted at a time with lower incidence of covid 19, it is possible the number of participants  
259 completing all sessions had been higher, which would have positively affected the strength of the  
260 results.

261 In addition to the number of participants included in analysis of isometric bench press reliability, the  
262 number of female participants included in both tests is too low to be generalizable to the rest of the  
263 population.

264 As isometric assessment of strength provides other variables than peak force such as rate of force  
265 development and impulse, it is unclear if peak force is the most reliable variable. Both rate of force  
266 development and impulse has demonstrated great correlations in other populations (7,8,9,10). There  
267 is evidence that analyzing various aspects of force generation when exploring the reliability of  
268 isometric strength tests can provide various levels of reliability (9,10,14,15). Therefore, the result  
269 might have been shifted if another variable than peak force was selected for statistical analysis. In  
270 future studies it is suggested to compare peak force with rate of force development, especially in  
271 isometric bench press as literature is limited on the issue.

## 272 **Conclusion**

273 The importance of assessing change in force-time characteristics to determine the effect of training  
274 has been demonstrated through past research (1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,11). Therefore, it makes sense to

275 develop less invasive assessment methods of force-time characteristics (1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,11). This  
276 study contributes by providing support to the belief that isometric assessing of force-time  
277 characteristics is a reliable method to be practiced by sports-professionals. Peak force is suggested to  
278 be a reliable measurement in both isometric mid-thigh pull and isometric bench press in strength-  
279 trained young adults.

280 Compared to what other studies have suggested in terms of reliability of an upper-body isometric  
281 strength test (23,34), results of this study suggests that the isometric bench press could potentially be  
282 a feasible option due to high within-session and between-session reliability. It is nevertheless  
283 recommended to further investigate the reliability of the isometric bench press considering the low  
284 sample in this study combined with the lack of research conducted on the issue. Exploring the  
285 isometric bench press' potential relationship to dynamic performance is also encouraged, as literature  
286 revolving this form of isometric testing is limited and this study only evaluated its reliability. The  
287 isometric bench press could potentially be a useful tool mimicking movements similar to the dynamic  
288 bench press and to address levels of upper body strength. Young et al. supports this through the  
289 results of their study on the isometric bench press (25). Results of this study also further supports  
290 usage of the IMTP to assess lower body strength and changes force generating traits due to its high  
291 within-session and between-session reliability. In strength-trained trained young adults, the isometric  
292 mid-thigh pull has demonstrated to be highly reliable with acceptable variation in terms of both  
293 within-session reliability and between-session reliability.

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407 **Tables**

**Table 1.** Characteristics of subjects

Age (years)	Height (cm)	Bodyweight (kg)	Training Experience (years)
24.8 ± 3.8	179.6 ± 7.6	176.3 ± 8.6 cm	5.0 ± 2.8
Mean ± standard deviation			

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**Table 2.** Descriptive statistics of each attempt within the three different sessions in addition to within-session reliability of IBP and IMTP.

	Mean (N) ± SD			ICC (95%CI)	CV (%)
	A1	A2	A3		
Session 1					
IBP	723 ± 219	673 ± 167	698 ± 162	0.92 [0.75 - 0.98]	9.4%
IMTP	2080 ± 626	2079 ± 616	2111 ± 662	0.98 [0.97 - 0.99]	5.1%
Session 2					
IBP	759 ± 157	754 ± 146	745 ± 201	0.99 [0.97 - 1.00]	3.0%
IMTP	2107 ± 629	2042 ± 602	2100 ± 650	0.98 [0.97 - 0.99]	4.7%
Session 3					
IBP	728 ± 167	731 ± 169	696 ± 161	0.99 [0.98 - 1.00]	3.6%
IMTP	2122 ± 676	2124 ± 605	2115 ± 598	0.98 [0.97 - 0.99]	4.7%

Mean ± standard deviation (SD) presented in newton (N). IBP (isometric bench press), IMTP (isometric mid-thigh pull), ICC (Intraclass correlation coefficient [lower – upper]), CI (confidence intervals), A1 (attempt 1), A2 (attempt 2), A3 (attempt 3).

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**Table 3.** Descriptive statistics of each session in addition to between-session reliability of IBP and IMTP.

	Mean (N) $\pm$ SD			ICC (95%CI)	CV (%)
	S1	S2	S3		
IBP	700 $\pm$ 172	753 $\pm$ 153	718 $\pm$ 165	0.92 [0.75 - 0.98]	7.5%
IMTP	2090 $\pm$ 627	2083 $\pm$ 619	2121 $\pm$ 619	0.977 [0.95 - 0.99]	7.5%

Mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) presented in newton (N). IBP (isometric bench press), IMTP (isometric mid-thigh pull), ICC (Intraclass correlation coefficient [lower – upper]), CI (confidence intervals), S1 (session 1), S2 (session 2), S3 (session 3). Mean values presented is a calculated mean of all three attempts within each session.

*Supplementary Material*

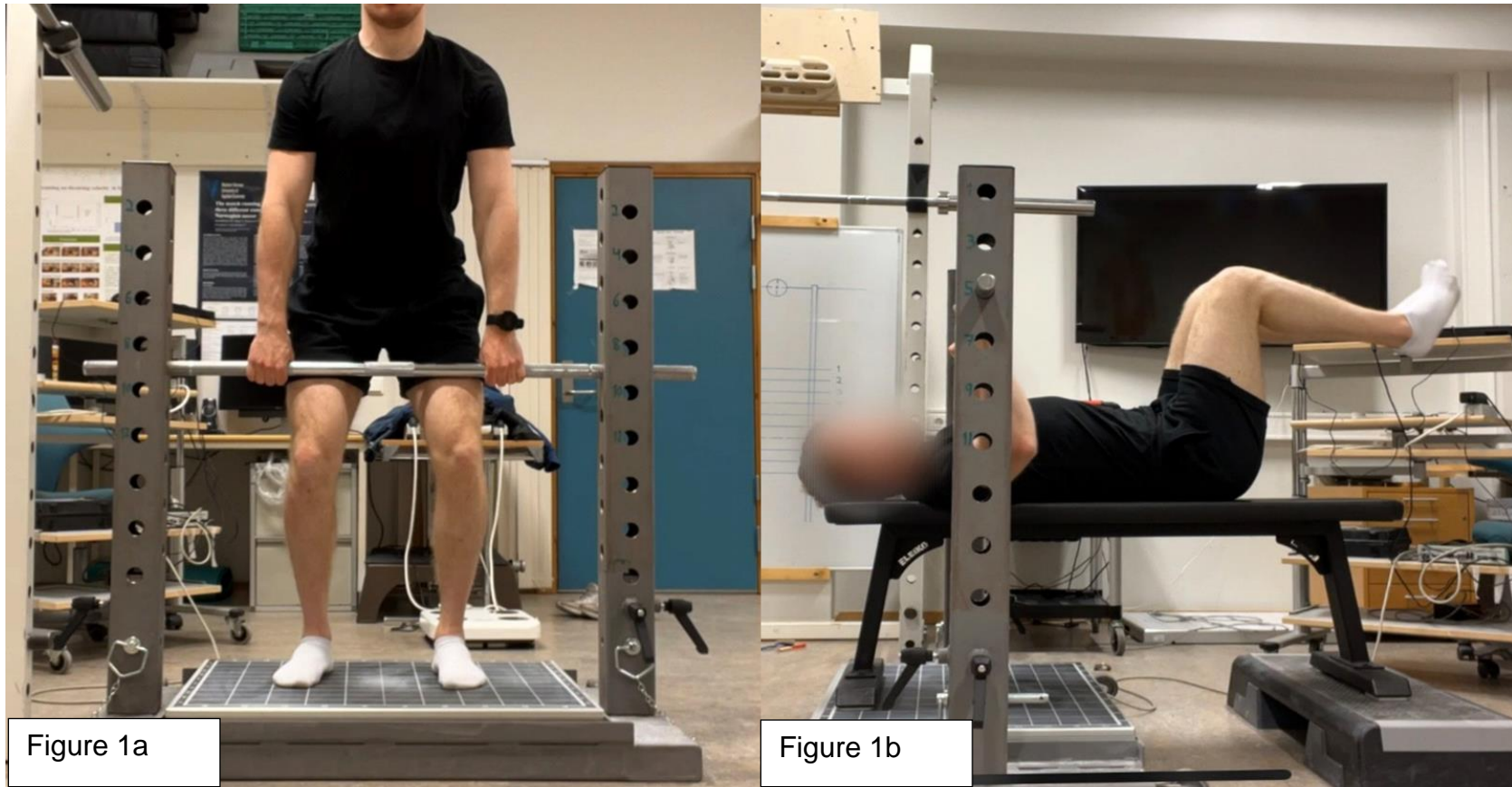


Figure 1 a and b showing testing positions of isometric mid-thigh pull (a) and isometric bench press (b)



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Example Statement on: Markram K and Markram H (2010) The Intense World Theory – a unifying theory of the neurobiology of autism. *Front. Hum. Neurosci.*



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4:224. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2010.00224

Autism spectrum disorders are a group of neurodevelopmental disorders that affect up to 1 in 100 individuals. People with autism display an array of symptoms encompassing emotional processing, sociability, perception and memory, and present as

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uniquely as the individual. No theory has suggested a single underlying neuropathology to account for these diverse symptoms. The Intense World Theory, proposed here, describes a unifying pathology producing the wide spectrum of manifestations



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observed in autists. This theory focuses on the neocortex, fundamental for higher cognitive functions, and the limbic system, key for processing emotions and social signals. Drawing on discoveries in animal models and neuroimaging studies in individuals with autism, we propose how a combination of genetics, toxin exposure and/or environmental stress could produce hyper-reactivity and hyper-plasticity in the microcircuits involved with perception, attention, memory and emotionality. These hyper-functioning circuits will eventually come to dominate their neighbors, leading to hypersensitivity to incoming stimuli, over-specialization in tasks and a hyper-preference syndrome. We make the case that this theory of enhanced brain function in autism explains many of the varied past results and resolves conflicting findings and views and makes some testable experimental predictions.

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(<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/>)

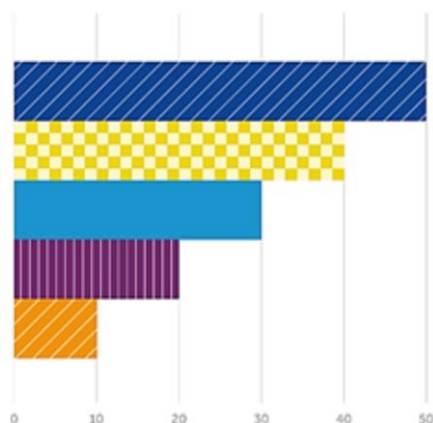
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### 4.1.2. Reference List

#### ARTICLE IN A PRINT JOURNAL

Sondheimer, N., and Lindquist, S. (2000). Rnq1: an epigenetic modi er of protein function in yeast. Mol. Cell.

5, 163-172.

#### ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE JOURNAL



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Tahimic, C.G.T., Wang, Y., Bikle, D.D. (2013). Anabolic effects of IGF-1 signaling on the skeleton. *Front. Endocrinol.* 4:6. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2013.00006

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Sorenson, P. W., and Caprio, J. C. (1998).  
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"Chemoreception," in *The Physiology of Fishes*, ed.  
D. H.

Evans (Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press), 375-405.

## BOOK



Cowan, W. M., Jessell, T. M., and Zipursky, S. L. (1997).

(<https://www.frontiersin.org>) *Molecular and Cellular Approaches to Neural*

*Development*. New York: Oxford University Press.

## ABSTRACT

Hendricks, J., Applebaum, R., and Kunkel, S. (2010). A  
world apart? Bridging the gap between theory and  
applied social gerontology. *Gerontologist* 50, 284-293.  
Abstract retrieved from Abstracts in Social Gerontology  
database. (Accession No. 50360869)

## WEBSITE

World Health Organization. (2018). *E. coli*.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/e-coli>

([https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ecoli)

[sheets/detail/ecoli](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ecoli)) [Accessed March 15, 2018].

## PATENT

Marshall, S. P. (2000). Method and apparatus for eye  
tracking and monitoring pupil dilation to evaluate  
cognitive activity. U.S. Patent No 6,090,051.



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Washington, DC: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

## DATA

Perdiguero P, Venturas M, Cervera MT, Gil L, Collada C. Data from: Massive sequencing of Ulms minor's transcriptome provides new molecular tools for a genus under the constant threat of Dutch elm disease. Dryad Digital Repository. (2015)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.ps837>

## THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

Smith, J. (2008) Post-structuralist discourse relative to  
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(<HTTPS://WWW.FRONTIERSIN.ORG>) phenomological pursuits in the  
deconstructivist arena.

[dissertation/master's thesis]. [Chicago (IL)]:

University of

Chicago

## PREPRINT



frontiersin.org) Smith, J. (2008). Title of the document. Preprint repository name [Preprint]. Available at:  
<https://persistent-url> (Accessed March 15, 2018).

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us/articles/360017860337-Frontiers-Reference-Styles-byJournal).

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Citing Medicine

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ntiersin.org) Sondheimer N, Lindquist S. Rnq1: an epigenetic modi er of protein function in yeast.

Mol Cell (2000) 5:163-72.

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Tahimic CGT, Wang Y, Bikle DD

signaling on the skeleton. *Front Endocrinol* (2013) 4:6.

doi:

10.3389/fendo.2013.00006

#### ARTICLE OR CHAPTER IN A BOOK

Sorenson PW, Caprio JC. "Chemoreception,". In: Evans DH, editor. *The Physiology of Fishes*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press (1998). p. 375-405.

#### BOOK

Cowan WM, Jessell TM, Zipursky SL. *Molecular and Cellular Approaches to Neural Development*. New York:

Oxford University Press (1997). 345 p.

#### ABSTRACT

Christensen S, Oppacher F. An analysis of Koza's computational effort statistic for genetic programming. In: Foster JA, editor. *Genetic Programming. EuroGP 2002: Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Genetic Programming; 2002 Apr 3–5; Kinsdale, Ireland*. Berlin:

Springer (2002). p. 182–91.

#### WEBSITE

World Health Organization. *E. coli* (2018).



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<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/e-coli>  
(<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/e-coli>) [Accessed March 15, 2018].

## PATENT

Pagedas AC, inventor; Ancel Surgical R&D Inc., assignee.

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(<HTTPS://WWW.FRONTIERSIN>).

Flexible Endoscopic Grasping and Cutting Device and Positioning Tool Assembly. United States patent US 20020103498 (2002).

## DATA



[frontiersin.org](https://www.frontiersin.org)) Perdiguero P, Venturas M, Cervera MT, Gil L, Collada C. Data from: Massive sequencing of Ulms minor's transcriptome provides new molecular tools for a genus under the constant threat of Dutch elm disease. Dryad Digital Repository. (2015)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.ps837>

## THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

Smith, J. (2008) Post-structuralist discourse relative to phenomenological pursuits in the deconstructivist arena.

[dissertation/master's thesis]. [Chicago (IL)]:

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