# Single-Leg Hop Test Performance and Isokinetic Knee Strength After Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction in Athletes

Ted Sueyoshi,\*<sup>†</sup> ATC, PES, Akihiro Nakahata,<sup>‡</sup> PT, Gen Emoto,<sup>‡</sup> MD, and Tomoki Yuasa,<sup>‡</sup> MD *Investigation performed at Emoto Knee and Sport Clinic, Fukuoka, Japan* 

Background: Isokinetic strength and hop tests are commonly used to assess athletes' readiness to return to sport after knee surgery.

**Purpose/Hypothesis:** The purpose of this study was to investigate the results of single-leg hop and isokinetic knee strength testing in athletes who underwent anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction (ACLR) upon returning to sport participation as well as to study the correlation between these 2 test batteries. The secondary purpose was to compare the test results by graft type (patellar tendon or hamstring). It was hypothesized that there would be no statistically significant limb difference in either isokinetic knee strength or single-leg hop tests, that there would be a moderate to strong correlation between the 2 test batteries, and that there would be no significant difference between graft types.

Study Design: Cross-sectional study; Level of evidence, 3.

**Methods:** Twenty-nine high school and collegiate athletes who underwent ACLR participated in this study. At the time of return to full sport participation, a series of hop tests and knee extension/flexion isokinetic strength measurements were conducted. The results were analyzed using analysis of variance and Pearson correlation (*r*).

**Results:** The timed 6-m hop test was the only hop test that showed a significant difference between the involved and uninvolved limbs (2.3 and 2.2 seconds, respectively; P = .02). A significant difference between limbs in knee strength was found for flexion peak torque/body weight at 180 deg/s (P = .03), flexion total work/body weight at 180 deg/s (P = .04), and flexion peak torque/body weight at 300 deg/s (P = .03). The strongest correlation between the hop tests and knee strength was found between the total distance of the hop tests and flexion total work/body weight at 300 deg/s (P = .03). There was no statistically significant difference in hop test performance or isokinetic knee strength between graft types.

**Conclusion:** The single-leg hop tests and isokinetic strength measurements were both useful for a bilateral comparison of knee functional performance and strength. Knee flexion strength deficits and flexion-to-extension ratios seemed to be correlated with single-leg hop test performance. There was no difference in postoperative hop test performance or knee strength according to graft type.

Keywords: hop test; isokinetic strength; knee rehabilitation; knee arthroscopic surgery

Rehabilitation after knee surgery before returning to sport participation is intensive, especially after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction (ACLR). Postoperative rehabilitation after ACLR has been an area of interest to

\*Address correspondence to Ted Sueyoshi, ATC, PES, Physiotherapy Associates, 9917 North 95th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, USA (email: pennstlions@hotmail.com).

The Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine, 5(11), 2325967117739811 DOI: 10.1177/2325967117739811 © The Author(s) 2017

many health care professionals. However, there is no established method to successfully assess an athlete's readiness to play. Although there is no universal test battery to assess an athlete's readiness to return to sport, various methods to objectively measure the athlete's function have been used including isokinetic and isometric strength tests, single-leg hop tests, and multiple hop tests, among others. 3,4,6,27 There are multiple research studies that have investigated many single-leg hop tests with strong reliability and validity 4,6,9,14,20 and their correlation to knee strength. Logerstedt et al 17 conducted a study on patients undergoing ACLR and suggested that single-leg hop tests conducted after 6 months postoperatively could predict the outcomes of patients' self-reported function a year after ACLR.

The limb symmetry index (LSI) is a commonly used concept to assess limb asymmetry/symmetry of strength and

This open-access article is published and distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - No Derivatives License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/), which permits the noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction of the article in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. You may not alter, transform, or build upon this article without the permission of the Author(s). For reprints and permission queries, please visit SAGE's website at http://www.sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Physiotherapy Associates, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup>Emoto Knee and Sport Clinic, Fukuoka, Japan.

The authors declared that they have no conflicts of interest in the authorship and publication of this contribution.

Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Emoto Knee and Sport Clinic Institutional Review Board.

functional tests.<sup>6</sup> Several studies in the past have suggested that both limbs in healthy participants are relatively symmetrical in functional tests and strength, with an LSI of 90% to 95%.<sup>5,10,22,26</sup> Also, a past study reported that patients who underwent ACLR still had a lower LSI with single-leg hop tests than healthy control participants even 1.5 to 2 years after surgery.<sup>2</sup>

Even though isokinetic strength and single-leg hop tests seem to be common test batteries to assess an athlete's readiness and function before returning to sport participation, an isokinetic testing machine is not readily available to health care professionals primarily because of its cost. Also, the correlation between the 2 test batteries varies from one study to another and has not been well established.<sup>7,8</sup> Thus, we decided to investigate the isokinetic strength and hop test profiles of athletes at the time of their return to full sport participation and whether the single-leg hop test results correlate with isokinetic knee strength and to what degree and with which parameters they correlate. The primary purpose of our investigation was to (1) conduct a bilateral comparison of single-leg hop tests and isokinetic knee strength measurements at the time of return to full sport participation in athletes who underwent ACLR and (2) study the correlation between these 2 test batteries. The secondary purpose of this study was to investigate whether there would be a significant difference in hop test or isokinetic strength results between graft types (patellar tendon or hamstring). It was hypothesized that (1) there would be no significant limb difference in either the single-leg hop tests or isokinetic knee strength test, (2) there would be a statistically significant correlation between the hop tests and isokinetic knee strength, and (3) there would be no statistically significant difference between graft types.

# **METHODS**

The study participants consisted of 29 high school and collegiate athletes (12 male and 17 female) who underwent ACLR at Emoto Knee and Sport Clinic. Ten of 29 participants underwent ACLR with a hamstring graft; the other 19 participants underwent ACLR with a patellar tendon graft. All patients had injured their knee during sport participation and had successfully returned to full sport activities after reconstructive surgery. All participants were operated on by 2 authors (G.E. and T.Y.). Those with a history of knee surgery on either limb and those who underwent bilateral procedures were excluded from this study. This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Emoto Knee and Sport Clinic, and all participants provided signed informed consent before the study's commencement (signed by a parent or legal guardian if the participant was a minor).

At the time of return to sport participation, the patients were assessed with a series of 4 single-leg hop tests as well as isokinetic knee extension and flexion strength testing using a NORM isokinetic machine (Cybex). The single-leg hop tests included the single hop for distance, triple hop for distance, timed 6-m hop, and crossover triple hop for distance over a single line with maximum effort. <sup>17,23</sup> The

|                         | No. of Participants |  |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| ACLR only<br>LMR or PLM | 16<br>11            |  |
| MMR + LMR               | 1                   |  |
| PMM + PLM               | 1                   |  |

<sup>a</sup>ACLR, anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction; LMR, lateral meniscus repair; MMR, medial meniscus repair; PLM, partial lateral meniscectomy; PMM, partial medial meniscectomy.

participants were required to stick their landing to be successful in all tests except for the timed 6-m hop. All hop tests were measured bilaterally. The LSI was calculated for all hop tests as well as the total distance of the 3 hop tests (LSI = injured leg/uninjured leg × 100). Isokinetic testing included strength measurements during knee extension and flexion, also measured bilaterally. The strength test was conducted at 180 and 300 deg/s with 5 repetitions at each speed with maximum effort. Peak torque, peak torque/body weight (PTBW), total work, total work/body weight (TWBW), and flexion-to-extension ratio for peak torque and for total work at each speed were recorded. The LSIs were also calculated. In addition, hop test and isokinetic strength outcomes were compared between patients who received a patellar tendon graft and those who received a hamstring graft.

Analysis of variance was used for all data analyses and Pearson r also calculated using SPSS software.

# **RESULTS**

The mean age of the 29 participants was  $16.1\pm1.3$  years, with a mean height and weight of  $166.0\pm7.6$  cm and  $60.4\pm11.2$  kg, respectively. In addition to the primary ACLR procedure, 13 of 29 participants also had a concomitant meniscus injury and had it partially removed or repaired. The surgical procedures undertaken by the participants are listed in Table 1. The patients participated in the following sports: basketball (n = 20), soccer (n = 3), judo/karate (n = 2), rugby (n = 2), gymnastics (n = 1), and baseball (n = 1). The mean time from surgery to return to sport was  $26.4\pm6.0$  weeks. There was no statistically significant correlation between return to sport and either the hop tests or isokinetic test.

The only hop test that showed a statistically significant limb difference was the 6-m hop. The mean lapsed time was  $2.3\pm0.2$  seconds and  $2.2\pm0.2$  seconds for the injured and uninjured leg, respectively (P=.02) (Table 2). A statistically significant between-limb difference in isokinetic knee strength was found during flexion for PTBW at 180 deg/s (P=.03), TWBW at 180 deg/s (P=.04), and PTBW at 300 deg/s (P=.03) (Table 3). The strongest positive correlation was found between the total distance of the 3 hop tests and TWBW during flexion at 300 deg/s (r=0.69, P<.05). The strongest negative correlation was found between the 6-m hop and PTBW during flexion at

TABLE 2 Single-Leg Hop Test Results<sup>a</sup>

|                    | Injure             | Injured Leg  |                    | Uninjured Leg |                |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
|                    | Mean ± SD          | 95% CI       | Mean ± SD          | 95% CI        | LSI (%)        |
| Single hop, cm     | $157.4 \pm 17.0$   | 151.6-163.2  | $164.1 \pm 19.3$   | 158.0-170.2   | 95.9 (6.8)     |
| Triple hop, cm     | $444.6 \pm 61.3$   | 424.0-465.2  | $468.0 \pm 67.0$   | 445.4-490.6   | 95.0 (8.1)     |
| Crossover hop, cm  | $400.0 \pm 65.1$   | 377.9-422.1  | $414.6 \pm 66.0$   | 393.5-435.7   | 96.4 (7.2)     |
| Total distance, cm | $1002.6 \pm 131.7$ | 958.5-1006.7 | $1031.0 \pm 163.8$ | 975.0-1087.0  | 97.2 (12.5)    |
| 6-m hop, s         | $2.3 \pm 0.2^b$    | 2.24 - 2.36  | $2.2 \pm 0.2^b$    | 2.15 - 2.25   | $106.2\ (9.7)$ |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>LSI, limb symmetry index (injured leg/uninjured leg × 100).

TABLE 3 Isokinetic Knee Strength Test Results<sup>a</sup>

|                     | Injured Knee        |               | Uninjured Knee     |               |             |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
|                     | Mean ± SD           | 95% CI        | Mean ± SD          | 95% CI        | LSI (%)     |
| At 180 deg/s        |                     |               |                    |               |             |
| Extension, N·m      |                     |               |                    |               |             |
| PT                  | $99.1 \pm 22.0$     | 91.5-106.7    | $106.4 \pm 35.1$   | 94.4-118.4    | 93.1 (14.6) |
| PTBW                | $164.2 \pm 19.1$    | 158.0-170.4   | $174.5 \pm 32.5$   | 163.4-185.6   | 94.0 (14.8) |
| TW                  | $125.6 \pm 31.9$    | 114.8-136.4   | $136.0 \pm 42.1$   | 121.4-150.6   | 92.3 (14.9) |
| TWBW                | $211.2 \pm 37.5$    | 198.5-223.9   | $229.8 \pm 47.6$   | 213.6-246.0   | 91.9 (15.1) |
| Flexion, N·m        |                     |               |                    |               |             |
| PT                  | $54.6 \pm 19.3$     | 48.0-61.2     | $61.6 \pm 17.1$    | 55.8-67.4     | 88.6 (18.1) |
| PTBW                | $90.4 \pm 24.0^b$   | 82.0-98.8     | $101.4 \pm 23.0^b$ | 93.6-109.2    | 89.1 (17.4) |
| TW                  | $71.1 \pm 30.6$     | 60.8-81.4     | $82.0 \pm 25.8$    | 73.2-90.8     | 86.7 (21.1) |
| TWBW                | $120.1 \pm 43.2^b$  | 105.5-134.7   | $138.3 \pm 35.2^b$ | 126.5-150.1   | 86.8 (21.6) |
| FLX/EXT, %          |                     |               |                    |               |             |
| PT                  | $54.0 \pm 11.6$     | 50.1-57.9     | $58.6 \pm 10.3$    | 55.2-62.0     | 92.1 (22.0) |
| TW                  | $55.1 \pm 12.6$     | 50.8-59.4     | $60.6 \pm 9.8$     | 57.4-63.8     | 90.9 (21.1) |
| At 300 deg/s        |                     |               |                    |               |             |
| Extension, N·m      |                     |               |                    |               |             |
| $\operatorname{PT}$ | $79.1 \pm 17.5$     | 73.3-84.9     | $83.6 \pm 26.6$    | 74.6-92.6     | 94.6 (12.2) |
| PTBW                | $131.4 \pm 18.0$    | 125.4 - 137.4 | $137.6 \pm 26.8$   | 128.5 - 146.7 | 95.4 (11.8) |
| TW                  | $102.6 \pm 24.3$    | 94.4-110.8    | $111.1 \pm 31.6$   | 100.4-121.8   | 92.3 (12.0) |
| TWBW                | $172.0 \pm 30.2$    | 161.7-182.3   | $184.1 \pm 36.6$   | 171.9-196.3   | 93.4 (12.8) |
| Flexion, N·m        |                     |               |                    |               |             |
| PT                  | $46.7 \pm 14.0$     | 41.9-51.5     | $51.8 \pm 15.0$    | 46.7 - 56.9   | 90.1 (13.2) |
| PTBW                | $78.0 \pm 18.1^{b}$ | 71.8-84.2     | $86.8 \pm 16.7^b$  | 81.2-92.4     | 89.8 (13.6) |
| TW                  | $59.4 \pm 23.7$     | 51.3-67.5     | $67.1 \pm 22.2$    | 59.6-74.6     | 88.6 (18.2) |
| TWBW                | $99.2 \pm 33.5$     | 87.8-110.6    | $111.8 \pm 30.6$   | 101.4-122.2   | 88.7 (18.0) |
| FLX/EXT, %          |                     |               |                    |               |             |
| PT                  | $59.1 \pm 12.2$     | 54.9-63.3     | $62.2 \pm 9.4$     | 59.0-65.4     | 95.0 (18.7) |
| TW                  | $57.8 \pm 13.3$     | 53.2 - 62.4   | $61.2 \pm 8.9$     | 58.2-64.2     | 94.4 (21.3) |

<sup>&</sup>quot;FLX/EXT, flexion-to-extension ratio; LSI, limb symmetry index (injured leg/uninjured leg × 100); PT, peak torque; PTBW, peak torque/ body weight; TW, total work; TWBW, total work/body weight.

300 deg/s (r = -0.54, P < .05) (Table 4). The LSIs of the hop tests did not show a statistically significant correlation with any of the LSIs of the isokinetic strength measurements.

## Patellar Tendon Graft Versus Hamstring Graft

For the 19 patients who underwent ACLR with a patellar tendon graft and the 10 patients with a hamstring graft, the mean age was  $16.2 \pm 1.2$  years and  $15.8 \pm 1.3$  years, respectively; the mean height was  $166.4 \pm 7.8$  cm and  $165.1 \pm 7.9$ cm, respectively; and the mean weight was  $61.1 \pm 10.0$  kg and  $59.0 \pm 11.8$  kg, respectively. None of these demographic data reached statistical significance (P < .05).

The hop test results showed that there was no statistically significant difference between the patellar tendon graft and hamstring graft in the reconstructed knee of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Statistically significant difference between limbs (P < .05).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Statistically significant difference between limbs (P < .05).

TABLE 4 Pearson r Values<sup>a</sup>

|   | r Value           | $95\%~\mathrm{CI}$   |  | r Value | $95\%~\mathrm{CI}$ |
|---|-------------------|--|--|---------|--------------------|
| Single hop vs isokinetic knee strength $(r > 0.4, P < .05)$ |                   | Crossover hop vs isokinetic knee strength $(r > 0.4, P < .05)$ |  |         |                    |
| Flexion PTBW at 180 deg/s                                   | 0.58              | 0.29 to 0.76   | Flexion TWBW at 300 deg/s  | 0.64    | 0.38 to 0.80       |
| Flexion TW at 180 deg/s                                     | 0.55              | 0.25 to 0.75   | Flexion PTBW at 300 deg/s  | 0.61    | 0.33 to 0.78       |
| Flexion PTBW at 300 deg/s                                   | 0.54              | 0.25 to 0.75   | FLX/EXT TW at 300 deg/s  | 0.60    | 0.31 to 0.77       |
| Flexion PT at 180 deg/s                                     | 0.54              | 0.24 to 0.74   | FLX/EXT PT at 300 deg/s  | 0.58    | 0.29 to 0.76       |
| Flexion TWBW at 180 deg/s                                   | 0.53              | 0.22  to  0.73   | Flexion TWBW at 180 deg/s  | 0.53    | 0.22 to 0.73       |
| Flexion PT at 300 deg/s                                     | 0.53              | 0.22  to  0.73   | FLX/EXT TW at 180 deg/s  | 0.48    | 0.16 to 0.70       |
| FLX/EXT TW at 180 deg/s                                     | 0.52              | 0.21  to  0.73   | FLX/EXT PT at 180 deg/s  | 0.47    | 0.15 to 0.70       |
| FLX/EXT PT at 180 deg/s                                     | 0.51              | 0.20  to  0.72   | Flexion PTBW at 180 deg/s  | 0.46    | 0.13 to 0.69       |
| Flexion TW at 300 deg/s                                     | 0.49              | 0.17 to 0.71   | Extension TWBW at 300 deg/s                                      | 0.41    | 0.07 to 0.66       |
| FLX/EXT TW at 300 deg/s                                     | 0.48              | 0.16 to 0.70   | Flexion TW at 300 deg/s  | 0.40    | 0.06 to 0.65       |
| Flexion TWBW at 300 deg/s                                   | 0.45              | 0.12 to 0.8  | Extension TWBW at 180 deg/s                                      | 0.40    | 0.06 to 0.65       |
| Extension PTBW at 180 deg/s                                 | 0.42              | 0.09 to 0.66   | 6-m hop vs isokinetic knee strength ( $r < -0.40, P < .05$ )     |         | ° < .05)           |
| Extension TW at 180 deg/s                                   | 0.42              | 0.09 to 0.66   | Flexion PTBW at 300 deg/s  | -0.54   | -0.74 to -0.24     |
| Extension TWBW at 180 deg/s                                 | 0.41              | 0.07 to 0.66   | FLX/EXT PT at 180 deg/s  | -0.46   | -0.69 to -0.13     |
| Triple hop vs isokinetic knee streng                        | th $(r > 0.4, P)$ | < .05)   | FLX/EXT TW at 300 deg/s -0.46                                    |         | -0.68 to -0.12     |
| Flexion TWBW at 300 deg/s                                   | 0.65              | 0.39 to 0.81   | Flexion PTBW at 180 deg/s  | -0.43   | −0.67 to −0.10     |
| Flexion PTBW at 300 deg/s                                   | 0.60              | 0.31 to 0.77   | Flexion TWBW at 300 deg/s  | -0.41   | -0.66 to -0.07     |
| Flexion TWBW at 180 deg/s                                   | 0.57              | 0.28 to 0.76   | FLX/EXT PT at 300 deg/s  | -0.41   | -0.66 to -0.07     |
| FLX/EXT TW at 300 deg/s                                     | 0.57              | 0.28 to 0.76   | Total distance vs isokinetic knee strength $(r > 0.40, P < .05)$ |         | 40, P < .05)       |
| Flexion TW at 300 deg/s                                     | 0.54              | 0.24 to 0.74   | Flexion TWBW at 300 deg/s  | 0.69    | 0.45 to 0.83       |
| FLX/EXT PT at 300 deg/s                                     | 0.52              | 0.21 to 0.73   | Flexion PTBW at 300 deg/s  | 0.67    | 0.41 to 0.81       |
| Extension TWBW at 180 deg/s                                 | 0.51              | 0.20 to 0.72   | FLX/EXT TW at 300 deg/s  | 0.63    | 0.36 to 0.80       |
| Flexion PTBW at 180 deg/s                                   | 0.50              | 0.19 to 0.71   | Flexion TWBW at 180 deg/s  | 0.60    | 0.32 to 0.78       |
| Flexion TW at 180 deg/s                                     | 0.47              | 0.15 to 0.70   | FLX/EXT PT at 300 deg/s  | 0.59    | 0.31 to 0.77       |
| FLX/EXT TW at 180 deg/s                                     | 0.46              | 0.12 to 0.68   | Flexion PTBW at 180 deg/s  | 0.54    | 0.24 to 0.74       |
| Extension TWBW at 300 deg/s                                 | 0.45              | 0.12 to 0.68   | FLX/EXT TW at 180 deg/s  | 0.52    | 0.21 to 0.73       |
| FLX/EXT PT at 180 deg/s                                     | 0.45              | 0.12 to 0.68   | Flexion TW at 300 deg/s  | 0.52    | 0.21 to 0.73       |
| Flexion PT at 300 deg/s                                     | 0.42              | 0.09 to 0.66   | Extension TWBW at 180 deg/s                                      | 0.50    | 0.17 to 0.71       |
| -   |                   |  | Flexion TW at 180 deg/s  | 0.45    | 0.12 to 0.68       |
|   |                   |  | Extension TWBW at 300 deg/s                                      | 0.41    | 0.07 to 0.66       |
|   |                   |  | Flexion PT at 300 deg/s  | 0.41    | 0.07 to 0.66       |

<sup>&</sup>quot;FLX/EXT, flexion-to-extension ratio; PT, peak torque; PTBW, peak torque/body weight; TW, total work; TWBW, total work/body weight.

study participants. There was also no statistically significant between-group difference in isokinetic quadriceps strength or hamstring strength. The results of the hop tests and isokinetic strength testing by graft type are summarized in Table 5.

### DISCUSSION

The results of our study supported our hypotheses that (1) there would be no significant limb difference in both single-leg hop tests and isokinetic knee strength testing, (2) there would be a statistically significant correlation between hop tests and isokinetic knee strength, and (3) there would be no statistically significant difference between graft types. The patients achieved desired limb symmetry 10,22 in single-leg hop test performance and isokinetic quadriceps strength upon returning to full sport participation. The only single-leg hop test that showed a significant limb difference was the timed 6-m hop. Also, the only isokinetic strength test parameters that showed a significant limb difference were PTBW during flexion at 180 deg/s and

300 deg/s and TWBW during flexion at 180 deg/s. The participants achieved the suggested LSI of better than 90% to 95%<sup>10,22</sup> in all single-leg hop tests and all isokinetic knee extension strength measurements. Lower LSIs were observed in isokinetic flexion strength. One can argue that the lower LSIs might be a result of the graft location in patients who underwent ALCR. However, the past literature has suggested that patients who underwent ACLR with a hamstring graft had symmetrical hamstring strength when compared with the contralateral side. <sup>11,16,19</sup> Also, only 10 of a total of 29 participants in this study had undergone ACLR with a hamstring graft.

On the other hand, according to a study by Karasel et al, <sup>13</sup> patients who underwent ACLR with a patellar tendon graft had significantly decreased quadriceps strength in their surgical side at a slower speed (60 deg/s) measured isokinetically. Their patients also had significantly lower flexion-to-extension ratios on the surgical knee compared with the healthy knee. However, the participants in our study achieved desired LSIs in all quadriceps strength parameters including flexion-to-extension ratios measured at higher speeds.

TABLE 5 Hop Test and Isokinetic Strength Test Results by Graft Type<sup>a</sup>

|                          | Patellar Tendon<br>Graft | Hamstring<br>Graft |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Hop test                 |                          |                    |
| Single hop, cm           | $156.7\pm16.7$           | $158.6\pm17.1$     |
| Triple hop, cm           | $443.4 \pm 21.1$         | $446.8 \pm 23.0$   |
| Crossover hop, cm        | $398.8 \pm 66.4$         | $402.2\pm68.9$     |
| Total distance, cm       | $1000.1 \pm 134.1$       | $1005.8 \pm 141.0$ |
| 6-m hop, s               | $2.3 \pm 0.2$            | $2.3 \pm 0.4$      |
| Isokinetic strength test |                          |                    |
| At 180 deg/s             |                          |                    |
| Extension PT, N·m        | $99.6 \pm 21.0$          | $98.0 \pm 23.8$    |
| Extension PTBW, N·m      | $164.7\pm20.8$           | $163.1 \pm 22.6$   |
| Flexion PT, N·m          | $55.1 \pm 19.1$          | $53.6 \pm 21.8$    |
| Flexion PTBW, N·m        | $91.0 \pm 24.8$          | $89.1 \pm 22.0$    |
| FLX/EXT PT, %            | $55.3 \pm 12.6$          | $54.6 \pm 14.0$    |
| At 300 deg/s             |                          |                    |
| Extension PT, N·m        | $78.5 \pm 18.2$          | $80.1 \pm 20.1$    |
| Extension PTBW, N·m      | $130.5 \pm 19.1$         | $133.1\pm19.8$     |
| Flexion PT, N·m          | $47.5 \pm 14.4$          | $45.0 \pm 16.0$    |
| Flexion PTBW, N m        | $78.5 \pm 18.0$          | $76.9 \pm 20.2$    |
| FLX/EXT PT, %            | $60.5 \pm 11.1$          | $56.1 \pm 12.0$    |

<sup>a</sup>Data are shown as mean ± SD. FLX/EXT, flexion-to-extension ratio; PT, peak torque; PTBW, peak torque/body weight; TW, total work; TWBW, total work/body weight.

Additionally, our investigation showed that there was no statistically significant difference in hop test performance or isokinetic knee strength of the reconstructed knee between the patellar tendon graft and hamstring graft. The results are consistent with those of past studies suggesting that graft type does not affect knee strength measured isokinetically. 11,16,19

As mentioned above, the timed 6-m hop was the only hop test that resulted in a statistically significant limb difference. However, we are not sure whether a 0.1-second difference between the surgical knee and healthy knee is clinically significant. This difference could be a result of limb dominance or a measurement error. Even though we did not record participants' limb dominance, Newton et al<sup>21</sup> suggested that even healthy patients have limb asymmetry in hop test performance.

Several past studies have suggested that quadriceps strength correlates with hop test results. 2,8,25,28 Schmitt et al<sup>25</sup> conducted a study on adolescent participants and concluded that quadriceps deficits could predict hop test performance regardless of the graft type, presence of a meniscus injury, or presence of symptoms including knee pain. However, our current study showed that there was a stronger correlation between flexion strength and hop test performance. One reason may be that the participants in our study did not differ in quadriceps strength when we compared the surgical side to the healthy knee, and the only statistically significant limb difference was seen in knee flexion strength. Also, some of the past studies included nonathletic populations, but our study only included competitive athletes who successfully returned to full sport participation.

Past studies that have investigated hop tests and knee strength do not always agree. 7,12,15 Fitzgerald et al7 reviewed studies to establish a correlation between hop tests and knee strength but were not able to do so and suggested that the correlation between the 2 test batteries varied among studies. Inconsistency in study results may also be caused by the different hop tests used. The hop tests used in these past studies varied, and this could be one of the factors why past studies failed to establish a correlation between hop tests and knee strength.

There are studies that have tried to establish a correlation between knee strength and hop tests to other objective and subjective measures. Mizner et al<sup>18</sup> studied muscle strength and its role in predicting landing patterns of female athletes and concluded that muscle strength was not a good predictor of improvement. Also, Reinke et al<sup>24</sup> investigated the correlation between hop tests and the International Knee Documentation Committee (IKDC) and Knee injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS) after ACLR and suggested that hop test results correlated with IKDC and KOOS values.

Our current investigation studied a broad range of isokinetic strength parameters, as past research has not investigated this as extensively as we have, to our knowledge. The only isokinetic test parameters that showed a statistically significant limb difference (PTBW during flexion at 180 and 300 deg/s and TWBW during flexion at 180 deg/s) resulted in relatively stronger correlations to all hop test measures. Hamstring strength deficits seemed to be better correlated with hop test performance in adolescent athletes who returned to sport after ACLR.

There are several limitations in our study. We included patients who underwent ACLR using different graft types and locations as well as those who underwent concomitant procedures such as meniscus repair and meniscectomy. This could potentially have affected our results, according to past research. 11,13,16,19 Also, a graft from the contralateral limb was used in some, but not all, of our patients, which was not recorded; this might have affected our results. Moreover, we were not able to conclude whether the statistically significant difference in hamstring strength was caused by the graft location or rehabilitation outcome. Our participants did not have a significant limb difference in quadriceps strength measured isokinetically. Thus, we were not able to assess whether quadriceps strength deficits would have correlated with hop test performance. Further prospective studies are needed to assist clinicians in making decisions on when to return athletes to their sport after knee surgery, especially to assist those who do not have access to an isokinetic machine.

In conclusion, isokinetic knee extension and flexion strength testing as well as hop tests are useful tools for a bilateral comparison of knee strength and function when returning athletes to their sport. Also, isokinetic flexion strength deficits and flexion-to-extension ratios may correlate better with hop test performance after knee arthroscopic surgery. Harvested graft types, that is, the patellar tendon graft or hamstring graft, did not affect hop test performance or isokinetic quadriceps and hamstring strength at the time of return to sport. Further research is necessary to better understand the correlation between the 2 test batteries and to assist clinicians without access to an isokinetic testing machine in evidence-based decision making as to when athletes can return to sport after ACLR.

### **REFERENCES**

- Ardern CL, Webster KE, Taylor NF, Feller JA. Return to sport following anterior cruciate ligament surgery: a systematic review and metaanalysis of the state of play. Br J Sports Med. 2011;45(7):596-606.
- Baltaci G, Yilmaz G, Atay AÖ. The outcomes of anterior cruciate ligament reconstructed and rehabilitated knees versus healthy knees: a functional comparison. Acta Orthop Traumatol Turc. 2112;46(3): 186-195.
- Caffrey E, Docherty C, Schrader J, Klossner J. The ability of 4 singlelimb hopping tests to detect functional performance deficits in individuals with functional ankle instability. J Orthop Sports Phys Ther. 2009;39(11):799-806.
- Eechaut C, Vaes P, Duquet W. Functional performance deficits in patients with CAI: validity of the multiple hop test. Clin J Sport Med. 2008;18(2):124-129.
- Ellenbecker TS, Roetert EP, Sueyoshi T, Riewald S. A descriptive profile of age-specific knee extension flexion strength in elite junior tennis players. Br J Sports Med. 2007;41(11):728-732.
- Engelen-van Melick N, van Cingel RE, Tijssen MP, Nijhuis-van Sanden MW. Assessment of functional performance after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction: a systematic review of measurement procedures. Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc. 2013;21(4):869-879.
- 7. Fitzgerald GK, Lephart SM, Hwang JH, Wainner RS. Hop tests as predictors of dynamic knee stability. *J Orhop Sports Phys Ther*. 2001;21(10):588-597.
- 8. Greenberger HB, Paterno MV. Relationship of knee extensor strength and hopping test performance in the assessment of lower extremity function. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther*. 1995;22(5):202-206.
- Gustavsson A, Neeter C, Thomeé P, et al. A test battery for evaluating hop performance in patients with an ACL injury and patients who have undergone ACL reconstruction. Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc. 2006;14(8):778-788.
- Hewett TE, Di Stasi SL, Myer GD. Current concepts for injury prevention in athletes after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. Am J Sports Med. 2013;41(1):216-224.
- Janssen RP, van der Velden MJ, Pasmans HL, Sala HA. Regeneration of hamstrings tendons after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc. 2013;21(4):898-905.
- Jones PA, Bampouras TM. A comparison of isokinetic and functional methods of assessing bilateral strength imbalance. J Strength Cond Res. 2010;24(6):1553-1558.
- Karasel S, Akpinar B, Gülbahar S, et al. Clinical and functional outcomes and proprioception after a modified accelerated rehabilitation program following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction with patellar tendon autograft. *Acta Orthop Traumatol Turc*. 2010;44(3): 220-228.

- Kivlan BR, Carcia CR, Clemente FR, Phelps AL, Martin RL. Reliability and validity of functional performance tests in dancers with hip dysfunction. *Int J Sports Phys Ther*. 2013;8(4):360-369.
- Kollock R, Van Lunen BL, Ringleb SI, Oñate JA. Measures of functional performance and their association with hip and thigh strength. J Athl Train. 2015;50(1):14-22.
- 16. Lautamies R, Harilainen A, Kettunen J, Sandelin J, Kujala UM. Isokinetic quadriceps and hamstring muscle strength and knee function 5 years after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction: comparison between bone-patellar tendon-bone and hamstring tendon autografts. Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc. 2008;16(11):1009-1016.
- Logerstedt D, Grindem H, Lynch A, et al. Single-legged hop tests as predictors of self-reported knee function after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. Am J Sports Med. 2012;40(10):2348-2356.
- Mizner RL, Kawaguchi JK, Chmielewski TL. Muscle strength in the lower extremity does not predict postinstruction improvements in the landing patterns of female athletes. J Orthop Sports Phys Ther. 2008; 38(6):353-361.
- Mohammadi F, Salavati M, Akhbari B, Mazaheri M, Mohsen S, Etemadi Y. Comparison of functional outcome measures after ACL reconstruction in competitive soccer players. *J Bone Joint Surg Am*. 2013;95(14):1271-1277.
- Munro AG, Herrington LC. Between-session reliability of four hop tests and the agility *T*-test. *J Strength Cond Res*. 2011;25(5): 1470-1477.
- Newton RU, Gerber A, Nimphius S, et al. Determination of functional strength imbalance of the lower extremities. J Strength Cond Res. 2006;20(4):971-977.
- Petschnig R, Baron R, Albrecht M. The relationship between isokinetic quadriceps strength test and hop tests for distance and one-legged vertical jump test following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. J Orthop Sports Phys Ther. 1998;28(1):23-31.
- Reid A, Birmingham TB, Stratford PW, Alcock GK, Giffin JR. Hop test provides a reliable and valid outcome measure during rehabilitation after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. *Phys Ther.* 2007;87(3): 337-349
- Reinke EK, Spindler KP, Lorring D, et al. Hop tests correlate with IKDC and KOOS at minimum of 2 years after primary ACL reconstruction. Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc. 2011;19(11):1806-1816.
- Schmitt LC, Paterno MV, Hewett TE. The impact of quadriceps femoris strength asymmetry on functional performance at return to sport following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. *J Orthop* Sports Phy Ther. 2012;42(9):750-759.
- van der Harst JJ, Gokeler A, Hof AL. Leg kinematics and kinetics in landing from a single-leg hop for distance: a comparison between dominant and non-dominant leg. Clin Biomech (Bristol, Avon). 2007; 22(6):674-680.
- van Grinsven S, van Cingel RE, Holla CJ, van Loon CJ. Evidencebased rehabilitation following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc. 2010;18(8):1128-1144.
- Xergia SA, Pappas E, Zampeli F, Georgiou S, Georgoulis AD. Association of the single-limb hop test with isokinetic, kinematic, and kinetic asymmetries in patients after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction. Sports Health. 2015;7(3):217-223.