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1 **Effects of barefoot and shod running on lower extremity joint loading, a**
2 **musculoskeletal simulation study.**

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15 **Keywords:** Biomechanics; barefoot; musculoskeletal; joint

16 **Abstract**

17 *PURPOSE:* The aim of the current investigation was to utilize a musculoskeletal simulation
18 based approach, to examine the effects of barefoot and shod running on lower extremity joint
19 loading during the stance phase.

20 *METHODS*: Twelve male runners, ran over an embedded force plate at 4.0 m/s, in both
21 barefoot and shod conditions. Kinematics of the lower extremities were collected using an
22 eight camera motion capture system. Lower extremity joint loading was also explored using a
23 musculoskeletal simulation and mathematical modelling approach, and differences between
24 footwear conditions were examined using paired samples t-tests.

25 *RESULTS*: Peak Achilles tendon force was significantly larger ($P=0.039$) when running
26 barefoot (6.85 BW) compared to shod (6.07 BW). In addition, both medial ($P=0.013$) and
27 lateral ($P=0.007$) tibiofemoral instantaneous load rates were significantly larger in the
28 barefoot (medial = 289.17 BW/s & lateral = 179.59 BW/s) in relation to the shod (medial =
29 167.57 BW/s & lateral = 116.40 BW/s) condition. Finally, the barefoot condition (9.70 BW)
30 was associated with a significantly larger ($P=0.037$) peak hip force compared to running shod
31 (8.51 BW).

32 *CONCLUSIONS*: The current investigation indicates that running barefoot may place runners
33 at increased risk from the biomechanical factors linked to the aetiology of chronic lower
34 extremity pathologies. However, future analyses using habitual barefoot runners, are required
35 before more definitive affirmations regarding injury predisposition can be made.

36

37 **Introduction**

38 Running is an extremely popular exercise modality. It has been projected that as many as 2
39 million people in the UK utilize running as a mode of exercise (1). There is an overwhelming
40 body of evidence, which has emphasized the physiological and psychological benefits of
41 physical activity and exercise (2). However, despite the plethora of physical benefits

42 associated with regular running, it is also associated with a high incidence of chronic
43 pathologies. Each year, up to 80 % of runners will suffer an overuse injury (3).

44

45 The knee joint is most susceptible to chronic pathology in runners (3). Specifically,
46 patellofemoral pain syndrome is the most frequent overuse injury encountered in runners (4),
47 characterized by pain at or anterior to the patella aggravated by physical activities that load
48 the patellofemoral joint (5). Pain symptoms are related to excessive patellofemoral loading
49 and typically persist for many years (6). A recent epidemiological analysis has shown that
50 there may be a link between patellofemoral pain in younger adults and subsequent
51 osteoarthritis at this joint (7). Furthermore, tibiofemoral pathologies are also common chronic
52 running injuries; associated with up to 16.8% of all knee injuries (8). The medial aspect of the
53 tibiofemoral joint is known to be significantly more prone to osteoarthritic degeneration than
54 the lateral compartment (9). The causes of tibiofemoral chronic pathologies relate to the
55 magnitude of the stress loading of the joint (10), which is considered to be the mechanical
56 parameter most strongly associated with the onset and progression of knee osteoarthritis. The
57 mechanism responsible for this is thought to be the increased joint contact forces experienced
58 by the medial compartment of the tibiofemoral joint during locomotion (11). Finally, Achilles
59 tendinopathies are also frequently occurring chronic musculoskeletal disorders in runners,
60 accounting for approximately 8–15% of all injuries (12). The pathogenesis of Achilles
61 tendinopathy is considered to be associated with habitual and excessive mechanical loading
62 of the tendon itself, which creates microscopic tears in the tendons' collagen fibres (13).

63

64 An array of different treatment/ preventative modalities, have therefore been investigated in
65 an attempt to attenuate the risk of running injuries. An extremely popular conservative

66 strategy is to select running trainers with appropriate biomechanical properties, as running
67 shoes are proposed as a mechanism by which the rate of chronic injuries can be controlled
68 (14). Recently however, it has been proposed that running using traditional running shoes
69 may place runners at increased risk from the biomechanical factors linked to the aetiology of
70 chronic running injuries (15). This led to a new proposal in footwear research, that running
71 barefoot footwear may be associated with a reduced incidence of chronic running injuries
72 (15). Based on this hypothesis, a number of runners are now choosing to run barefoot or in
73 minimalist footwear (16, 17).

74

75 In recent years, barefoot running has received considerable research attention in
76 biomechanical literature. Using a mathematical modelling approach driven by sagittal plane
77 external joint torques and knee kinematics, both Bonacci et al., (18) and Sinclair, (19) showed
78 that running barefoot significantly reduced patellofemoral joint loading during the stance
79 phase of running. Furthermore, using external joint torques and ankle joint kinematics,
80 Sinclair, (19) revealed that barefoot running was associated with significantly increased
81 Achilles tendon forces in comparison to running shod. Finally, Sinclair et al., (16) and
82 Sinclair et al., (17) found that barefoot running significantly increased the loading rate of the
83 external vertical ground reaction force. Previous analyses concerning the biomechanical
84 differences between barefoot and shod running, have utilized either the external ground
85 reaction force or joint torque driven mathematical modelling approaches to explore the loads
86 experienced by the musculoskeletal system. However, the external ground reaction force and
87 joint torques represent global indices of joint loading, and therefore are not representative of
88 localized joint loading (20). Herzog et al., (21) showed that muscles are the primary
89 contributors to lower extremity joint loading. Yet the complex role of muscles in controlling

90 joint biomechanics during human movement has received insufficient attention within the
91 literature, possibly due to difficulties in calculating muscle kinetics.

92

93 However, advances in musculoskeletal modelling have led to the development of bespoke
94 software which allows skeletal muscle force distributions to be simulated during movement
95 using motion capture based data (22). To date, such approaches have not yet been utilized to
96 explore biomechanical differences between barefoot and shod running. **Therefore, the aim of**
97 **the current investigation was to examine the effects of barefoot and shod running on lower**
98 **extremity joint loading using a musculoskeletal simulation based approach.** A study of this
99 nature may provide further insight into the biomechanical differences between barefoot and
100 shod running; particularly with regards to runners' susceptibility to chronic pathologies.

101

102 **Methods**

103 *Participants*

104 Twelve healthy male runners, volunteered to take part in this study. All were identified as
105 recreational runners who trained 3 times/week, completing a minimum of 35 km. The
106 participants provided written informed consent in accordance with the principles outlined in
107 the Declaration of Helsinki. The mean characteristics of the participants were; age $24.33 \pm$
108 4.09 years, height 1.77 ± 0.09 cm and body mass 75.44 ± 6.58 kg. The procedure utilized for
109 this investigation was approved by the University of Central Lancashire, Science,
110 Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, ethical committee.

111

112 *Procedure*

113 Participants ran at 4.0 m/s ($\pm 5\%$), striking an embedded piezoelectric force platform (Kistler,
114 Kistler Instruments Ltd., Alton, Hampshire) with their right foot. Running velocity was
115 monitored using infrared timing gates (Newtest, Oy Koulukatu, Finland). The stance phase
116 was delineated as the duration over which 20 N or greater of vertical force was applied to the
117 force platform (23). Runners completed a minimum of five successful trials in both barefoot
118 and shod conditions. The shod condition (New Balance 1260 v2) had an average mass of
119 0.285 kg, heel thickness of 25 mm and a heel drop of 14 mm. The order that participants ran
120 in each footwear condition was counterbalanced. Kinematics and ground reaction forces data
121 were synchronously collected. Kinematic data was captured at 250 Hz via an eight camera
122 motion analysis system (Qualisys Medical AB, Goteburg, Sweden). Dynamic calibration of
123 the motion capture system was performed before each data collection session.

124

125 To define the anatomical frames of the thorax, pelvis, thighs, shanks and feet retroreflective
126 markers were placed at the C7, T12 and xiphoid process landmarks and also positioned
127 bilaterally onto the acromion process, iliac crest, anterior superior iliac spine (ASIS),
128 posterior superior iliac spine (PSIS), medial and lateral malleoli, medial and lateral femoral
129 epicondyles, greater trochanter, calcaneus, first metatarsal and fifth metatarsal. Carbon-fibre
130 tracking clusters comprising of four non-linear retroreflective markers were positioned onto
131 the thigh and shank segments. In addition to these the foot segments were tracked via the
132 calcaneus, first metatarsal and fifth metatarsal, the pelvic segment was tracked using the PSIS
133 and ASIS markers and the thorax segment was tracked using the T12, C7 and xiphoid
134 markers. The shod condition was modified by cutting windows into the experimental
135 footwear at the calcaneus, first metatarsal and fifth metatarsal locations in accordance with

136 Shultz & Jenkyn (24). This allowed the anatomical markers at these positions to be placed
137 onto the skin in order to match the barefoot condition (25). Static calibration trials were
138 obtained with the participant in the anatomical position in order for the positions of the
139 anatomical markers to be referenced in relation to the tracking clusters/markers. A static trial
140 was conducted with the participant in the anatomical position in order for the anatomical
141 positions to be referenced in relation to the tracking markers, following which those not
142 required for dynamic data were removed.

143

144 *Processing*

145 Dynamic trials were digitized using Qualisys Track Manager in order to identify anatomical
146 and tracking markers then exported as C3D files to Visual 3D (C-Motion, Germantown, MD,
147 USA). All data were normalized to 100 % of the stance phase. Ground reaction force and
148 kinematic data were smoothed using cut-off frequencies of 50 and 12 Hz with a low-pass
149 Butterworth 4th order zero lag filter (26). All net joint force parameters throughout were
150 normalized by dividing by bodyweight (BW). Kinematic measures from the hip, knee, ankle
151 which were extracted for statistical analysis were 1) angle at footstrike, 2) peak flexion/
152 dorsiflexion during the stance phase and 3) angular range of motion (ROM) from footstrike to
153 peak angle.

154

155 Data during the stance phase were exported from Visual 3D into OpenSim 3.3 software
156 (Simtk.org). A validated musculoskeletal model with 12 segments, 19 degrees of freedom
157 and 92 musculotendon actuators (27) was used to estimate extremity joint forces. The model
158 was scaled for each participant to account for the anthropometrics of each athlete. As muscle

159 forces are the main determinant of joint compressive forces (21), muscle kinetics were
160 quantified using a static optimization in accordance with Steele et al., (28). Compressive
161 medial/ lateral tibiofemoral and hip joint forces were calculated via the joint reaction analyses
162 function using the muscle forces generated from the static optimization process as inputs.
163 Furthermore, medial and lateral tibiofemoral contact stresses (MPa) were quantified by
164 dividing the tibiofemoral force by the medial and lateral contact areas estimated using the
165 data of Kettelkamp and Jacobs, (29). From the above processing, peak medial tibiofemoral
166 force, peak lateral tibiofemoral force, peak hip force, peak medial tibiofemoral stress and
167 peak lateral tibiofemoral stress were extracted for statistical analyses. In addition medial/
168 lateral tibiofemoral and hip instantaneous load rates (BW/s) were also extracted by obtaining
169 the peak increase in force between adjacent data points.

170

171 Patellofemoral loading during the stance phase of running was quantified using a model
172 adapted from van Eijden et al., (30) in accordance with the protocol of Willson et al., (31). A
173 key drawback of this model is that co-contraction of the knee flexor musculature is not
174 accounted for. Taking this into account, summed hamstring and gastrocnemius forces derived
175 from the static optimization procedure were multiplied by their estimated knee joint muscle
176 moment arms as a function of knee flexion angle (32), and then added together to determine
177 the knee flexor torque during the stance phase. In addition to this, the knee extensor torque
178 was also calculated by dividing the summed quadriceps forces by this muscle groups' knee
179 joint muscle moment arms as a function of knee flexion angle (30). The knee flexor and
180 extensor torques were then summed and subsequently divided by the quadriceps muscle
181 moment arm to obtain quadriceps force adjusted for co-contraction of the knee flexor
182 musculature. Patellofemoral force was quantified by multiplying the derived quadriceps force
183 by a constant which was obtained by using the data of Eijden et al., (30). Finally,

184 patellofemoral joint stress (MPa) was quantified by dividing the patellofemoral force by the
185 patellofemoral contact area. Patellofemoral contact areas were obtained by fitting a
186 polynomial curve to the sex specific data of Besier et al., (33), who estimated patellofemoral
187 contact areas as a function of the knee flexion angle using MRI. From the above processing,
188 peak patellofemoral force and peak patellofemoral stress were extracted for statistical
189 analyses. In addition, patellofemoral instantaneous load rate (BW/s) was also extracted by
190 obtaining the peak increase in force between adjacent data points.

191

192 Finally, Achilles tendon forces were estimated in accordance with the protocol of
193 Almonroeder et al., (34), by summing the muscle forces of the medial gastrocnemius, lateral,
194 gastrocnemius, and soleus muscles. From the above processing, peak Achilles tendon force
195 and Achilles tendon instantaneous load rate (BW/s) were extracted for statistical analyses.

196

197 Running barefoot has been shown to alter the step length/ stance time during running (35),
198 which may affect the number of footfalls required to complete a set distance. We therefore
199 firstly calculated integral of the hip, tibiofemoral, patellofemoral and Achilles tendon forces
200 during the stance phase, using a trapezoidal function. In addition to this, we also estimated
201 the total force per mile (BW) by multiplying these parameters by the number of steps
202 required to run a mile. The number of steps required to complete one mile was quantified
203 using the step length (m), which was determined by taking the difference in the horizontal
204 position of the foot centre of mass between the right and left legs at footstrike.

205

206 *Statistical analyses*

207 Means, standard deviations (SD) and 95 % confidence intervals (95% CI) were calculated for
208 each outcome measure for both footwear conditions. The data was screened for normality
209 using Shapiro-Wilk tests which confirmed that the normality assumption was met.
210 Differences between footwear conditions were examined using paired samples t-tests, and
211 effect sizes were calculated using partial eta² ($p\eta^2$). Statistical actions were conducted using
212 SPSS v23.0 (SPSS, USA).

213

214 **Results**

215 *Joint kinematics*

216 The hip was significantly ($P=0.017$, $p\eta^2 = 0.42$) more flexed at footstrike in the shod
217 condition. In addition, peak hip flexion was significantly ($P=0.018$, $p\eta^2 = 0.41$) greater in the
218 shod condition.

219

220 The ankle was significantly ($P=0.001$, $p\eta^2 = 0.66$) more dorsiflexed at footstrike in the shod
221 condition. In addition, peak dorsiflexion was significantly ($P=0.0004$, $p\eta^2 = 0.69$) larger in
222 the shod condition, and ankle ROM was significantly ($P=0.032$, $p\eta^2 = 0.35$) greater in the
223 barefoot condition.

224

225 **@@@ TABLE 1 NEAR HERE @@@**

226 **@@@ FIGURE 1 NEAR HERE @@@**

227

228 *Temporal parameters*

229

@@@ TABLE 2 NEAR HERE @@@

230

231 Step length was significantly ($P=0.001$, $\eta^2 = 0.65$) greater during shod running (Table 2). In
232 addition, the number of steps per mile was significantly ($P=0.001$, $\eta^2 = 0.65$) lower in the
233 shod condition (Table 2).

234

235 *Tibiofemoral kinetics*

236 Medial tibiofemoral force instantaneous load rate was significantly larger ($P=0.013$, $\eta^2 =$
237 0.33) in the barefoot condition (Table 3). In addition, lateral tibiofemoral force instantaneous
238 load rate was significantly larger ($P=0.007$, $\eta^2 = 0.50$) in the barefoot condition (Table 3).

239

240 *Hip kinetics*

241 Peak hip force was significantly larger ($P=0.037$, $\eta^2 = 0.34$) in the barefoot condition (Table
242 3; Figure 3e). In addition, hip instantaneous load rate was significantly larger ($P=0.002$, $\eta^2 =$
243 0.59) in the barefoot condition (Table 3).

244

245 *Patellofemoral kinetics*

246 No differences ($P>0.05$) in patellofemoral loading were observed (Table 3-4; Figure 2ab).

247

248 *Achilles tendon kinetics*

249 Peak Achilles tendon force was significantly larger ($P=0.039$, $p\eta^2 = 0.33$) in the barefoot
250 condition (Table 3; Figure 2c). In addition, Achilles tendon force per mile was significantly
251 larger ($P=0.028$, $p\eta^2 = 0.37$) in the barefoot condition (Table 4).

252

253

254 @@@ TABLE 3 NEAR HERE @@@

255 @@@ TABLE 4 NEAR HERE @@@

256 @@@ FIGURE 2 NEAR HERE @@@

257 @@@ FIGURE 3 NEAR HERE @@@

258

259 Discussion

260 The aim of the current examination, was to examine the effects of barefoot and shod running
261 on lower extremity joint loading using a musculoskeletal simulation approach. To the authors
262 knowledge, this represents the first investigation to explore the biomechanical differences
263 between barefoot and shod running using this methodology. This investigation provides
264 further insight into the biomechanical differences between barefoot and shod running.

265

266 A key observation from the current analysis, is that patellofemoral loading parameters were
267 not statistically different between barefoot and shod running. This finding opposes those of
268 Bonacci et al., (18) and Sinclair, (19) who showed significant reductions in patellofemoral
269 loading when running barefoot. It is proposed that this observation may relate to the specific

270 kinematic adjustments that runners made in the current investigation. Typically, when
271 running barefoot the ankle is in a plantarflexed position at footstrike (15-17), and the knee
272 ROM is significantly reduced (19), which effectively attenuates the role of the knee as a
273 shock absorber (19). However, the current investigation showed no differences in knee
274 kinematics when running barefoot, and whilst the ankle angle at footstrike was significantly
275 altered in the barefoot condition, it was still in a dorsiflexed position. As such, it appears that
276 the kinematic adaptations that runners typically make in the absence of footwear were less
277 pronounced in this investigation, which may consequently explain the lack of differences in
278 patellofemoral loading. Additionally, this may relate to the manner in which patellofemoral
279 loading was calculated in the current study, as previous analyses have used mathematical
280 models which do not account for co-contraction of the knee flexors (18, 19). Nonetheless, the
281 current investigation indicates that running barefoot may not always attenuate the
282 patellofemoral loading parameters linked to the aetiology of patellofemoral pain in runners.

283

284 The current investigation also revealed that the rate at which both the medial and lateral
285 aspects of the tibiofemoral joint were loaded, was significantly larger in the barefoot
286 condition. This finding is supported by those of Sinclair et al., (36) who found that the
287 tibiofemoral rate of loading measured using an inverse dynamics based approach was
288 significantly larger when running barefoot, in relation to traditional running trainers. This
289 finding may be important, as increased compressive loading at the tibiofemoral joint, is a risk
290 factor for the onset and progression of osteoarthritis (37). Therefore, the current analysis
291 indicates that running barefoot may increase susceptibility to the risk factors associated with
292 tibiofemoral osteoarthritis.

293

294 A further important observation from the current investigation was that Achilles tendon
295 loading parameters were shown to be significantly larger in the barefoot condition. This
296 observation concurs with those of Sinclair, (19), who similarly showed that Achilles tendon
297 loading was greater when running barefoot. This observation may provide important clinical
298 information in regards to the initiation and progression of Achilles tendinopathy (38). The
299 aetiology of Achilles tendinopathy is mediated through repeated and excessive mechanical
300 loading of the tendon during activities such as running. Repetitive tendon loads such as those
301 initiate collagen and extracellular matrix synthesis and tissue degradation (39). Therefore, the
302 current investigation shows that running barefoot may place runners at increased risk from
303 the biomechanical parameters linked to Achilles tendinopathy.

304

305 In addition, this investigation also showed that peak compressive hip joint loading was
306 significantly larger when running barefoot, in comparison to the shod condition. This study
307 represents the first investigation to contrast hip joint loading during barefoot and shod
308 running using musculoskeletal simulation, therefore comparisons against previous analyses
309 are difficult. However, our findings are partially supported by those of Rooney & Derrick,
310 (40) who showed that non-rearfoot strike runners experienced significantly greater
311 compressive hip joint loading during running. However, in their prospective investigation of
312 running injuries in barefoot and shod runners Altman & Davis, (41) found that hip injuries
313 were statistically more frequent in shod runners. This appears to be contradictory as hip joint
314 pathologies are strongly influenced by compressive hip joint loading (42). It is clear from this
315 observation that further epidemiological research is required concerning the potential clinical
316 influence of running barefoot.

317

318 A potential drawback to the current study is that it examined only habitual shod runners, who
319 do not customarily run barefoot. Previous work examining the biomechanics of running
320 barefoot has drawn conflicting observations, often on the basis of the barefoot running
321 experience of their participants (15-17, 43). It can therefore, be speculated that the results
322 from the current analysis may have been different had a sample of habitual barefoot runners
323 been examined. Therefore, repeating the current investigation using habitual barefoot runners
324 is advisable for future research, which may allow more definitive assertions with regards to
325 injury predisposition to be made. That this study utilized a simulation based procedure to
326 quantify muscles forces and joint loading may also serve as a limitation. Whilst this procedure
327 is considered an improvement over previous approaches, in that joint reaction analyses are
328 representative of localized joint loading and muscular co-contraction is accounted for.
329 Musculoskeletal simulations depend on the underlying mathematical model and numerous
330 mechanical assumptions are made in the construction of musculoskeletal simulation models
331 (22). These predominately relate to the constrained rotational degrees of freedom at the knee
332 and ankle joints and the lack of key muscles such as recuts abdominis, which may lead to
333 incorrectly predicted muscle forces. However, as direct quantification of muscle forces are
334 not possible at this time, the current procedure is the most practicable method in dynamic
335 movements.

336

337 In conclusion, although the biomechanics of barefoot running have received extensive
338 research attention; there has yet to be a quantitative comparison of lower extremity joint
339 loading during barefoot and shod running using a musculoskeletal simulation based approach.
340 The present investigation therefore adds to the current knowledge, by providing a
341 comprehensive evaluation of lower extremity joint loading during barefoot and shod running
342 conditions. On the basis that hip, tibiofemoral and Achilles tendon loading parameters were

343 significantly greater when running barefoot, the findings from the current investigation
344 indicate that barefoot running may place runners at increased risk from the biomechanical
345 risk factors linked to the aetiology of chronic lower extremity pathologies. However, future
346 analyses using habitual barefoot runners, are required before more definitive affirmations
347 regarding injury predisposition can be made.

348

349 **Acknowledgements**

350 We thank Gareth Shadwell for his technical assistance.

351

352 **Compliance with ethical standards**

353 *Conflict of interest*

354 We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

355 *Ethical approval*

356 The current research project was approved by an institutional ethical panel. All procedures
357 performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical
358 standards of the institutional and the declaration of Helsinki.

359 *Informed consent*

360 All of the subjects provided written consent.

361

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497 **Figures**

498 **Figure 1: Joint kinematics as a function of footwear a. = hip, b. = knee and c. = ankle (black =**
499 **barefoot and grey = shod).**

500 **Figure 2: Patellofemoral and Achilles tendon kinetics as a function of footwear a. =**
501 **patellofemoral force, b. = patellofemoral stress and c. Achilles tendon force (black = barefoot**
502 **and grey = shod).**

503 **Figure 3: Tibiofemoral and hip kinetics as a function of footwear a. = medial tibiofemoral**
504 **force, b. = medial tibiofemoral stress, c. = lateral tibiofemoral force, d. = lateral tibiofemoral**
505 **stress and e. = hip force (black = barefoot and grey = shod).**

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Table 1: Hip, knee and ankle kinematics (Mean, SD and 95% CI's) as a function of footwear.

| | Barefoot | | | | Shod | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------|--------------|--------------|-------|------|--------------|--------------|---|
| | Mean | SD | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Upper | Mean | SD | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Upper | |
| Hip angle at footstrike (°) | 34.29 | 12.38 | 26.42 | 42.15 | 42.27 | 7.77 | 37.34 | 47.21 | * |
| Peak hip flexion (°) | 34.84 | 12.03 | 27.20 | 42.49 | 42.76 | 7.24 | 38.16 | 47.35 | * |
| Hip ROM (°) | 0.56 | 1.26 | 0.24 | 1.36 | 0.48 | 1.13 | 0.22 | 1.20 | |
| Knee angle at footstrike (°) | 25.05 | 5.45 | 21.59 | 28.52 | 24.67 | 9.12 | 18.88 | 30.47 | |
| Peak knee flexion (°) | 45.90 | 4.48 | 43.05 | 48.75 | 47.90 | 6.41 | 43.82 | 51.97 | |
| Knee ROM (°) | 20.85 | 7.38 | 16.16 | 25.54 | 23.22 | 8.54 | 17.80 | 28.65 | |
| Ankle angle at footstrike (°) | 4.56 | 6.93 | 0.15 | 8.96 | 12.74 | 2.62 | 11.07 | 14.40 | * |
| Peak dorsiflexion (°) | 18.35 | 4.17 | 15.70 | 21.00 | 22.82 | 3.85 | 20.37 | 25.26 | * |
| Ankle ROM (°) | 13.80 | 7.70 | 8.90 | 18.69 | 10.08 | 4.08 | 7.49 | 12.67 | * |

Key: * = significant difference

Table 2: Peak hip, knee and ankle loading parameters (Mean, SD and 95% CI's) as a function of footwear.

| | Barefoot | | | | Shod | | | | |
|---|----------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------|-------|--------------|--------------|---|
| | Mean | SD | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Upper | Mean | SD | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Upper | |
| Peak patellofemoral force (BW) | 4.32 | 0.93 | 3.73 | 4.91 | 4.51 | 1.07 | 3.83 | 5.19 | |
| Peak patellofemoral stress (MPa) | 5.05 | 0.93 | 4.46 | 5.64 | 5.14 | 0.78 | 4.65 | 5.63 | |
| Patellofemoral instantaneous load rate (BW/s) | 159.55 | 56.26 | 123.81 | 195.29 | 149.80 | 56.60 | 113.84 | 185.76 | |
| Peak Achilles tendon force (BW) | 6.85 | 1.95 | 5.61 | 8.09 | 6.07 | 1.22 | 5.29 | 6.84 | * |
| Achilles tendon instantaneous load rate (BW/s) | 174.17 | 85.71 | 119.71 | 228.63 | 142.16 | 32.01 | 121.83 | 162.50 | |
| Peak medial tibiofemoral force (BW) | 6.53 | 1.64 | 5.49 | 7.57 | 6.23 | 1.25 | 5.44 | 7.03 | |
| Peak medial tibiofemoral stress (MPa) | 12.51 | 2.75 | 10.76 | 14.26 | 11.77 | 2.04 | 10.47 | 13.07 | |
| Medial tibiofemoral instantaneous load rate (BW/s) | 289.17 | 142.69 | 198.50 | 379.83 | 167.57 | 77.16 | 118.54 | 216.59 | * |
| Peak lateral tibiofemoral force (BW) | 4.17 | 1.09 | 3.48 | 4.87 | 3.94 | 0.75 | 3.47 | 4.42 | |
| Peak lateral tibiofemoral stress (MPa) | 13.15 | 3.56 | 10.89 | 15.41 | 12.32 | 2.17 | 10.94 | 13.70 | |
| Lateral tibiofemoral instantaneous load rate (BW/s) | 179.59 | 60.90 | 140.89 | 218.28 | 116.40 | 30.13 | 97.25 | 135.54 | * |
| Peak hip force (BW) | 9.70 | 1.32 | 8.86 | 10.53 | 8.51 | 0.94 | 7.92 | 9.11 | * |
| Hip instantaneous load rate (BW/s) | 377.38 | 140.49 | 288.12 | 466.64 | 167.25 | 78.35 | 117.47 | 217.03 | * |

Key: * = significant difference

Table 3: Step characteristics (Mean, SD and 95% CI's) as a function of footwear.

| | Barefoot | | | | Shod | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------|-------|--------------|--------------|---|
| | Mean | SD | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Upper | Mean | SD | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Upper | |
| Step length (m) | 1.27 | 0.05 | 1.24 | 1.31 | 1.38 | 0.06 | 1.34 | 1.42 | * |
| Steps per mile | 632.42 | 26.41 | 615.64 | 649.19 | 583.20 | 24.32 | 567.75 | 598.65 | * |

Key: * = significant difference

Table 4: Joint loading per mile (Mean, SD and 95% CI's) of hip, knee and ankle loading.

| | Barefoot | | | | Shod | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---|
| | Mean | <i>SD</i> | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Upper | Mean | <i>SD</i> | 95% CI Lower | 95% CI Upper | |
| Patellofemoral force per mile (BW) | 321.49 | 52.39 | 288.20 | 354.77 | 322.16 | 84.85 | 268.25 | 376.07 | |
| Achilles tendon force per mile (BW) | 402.47 | 93.60 | 343.00 | 461.94 | 356.31 | 79.19 | 306.00 | 406.62 | * |
| Medial tibiofemoral force per mile (BW) | 464.62 | 110.98 | 394.11 | 535.14 | 441.14 | 81.48 | 389.38 | 492.91 | |
| Lateral tibiofemoral force per mile (BW) | 283.32 | 56.09 | 247.68 | 318.96 | 290.12 | 58.62 | 252.87 | 327.37 | |
| Hip force per mile (BW) | 854.05 | 187.03 | 735.22 | 972.88 | 781.19 | 109.56 | 711.58 | 850.80 | |

Key: * = significant difference