

Does Kinesiophobia Effect One Day Physical Activity Behaviour and Functionality of Young People with Ankylosing Spondylitis?

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between kinesiophobia, physical activity behaviour and functionality in patients with ankylosing spondylitis (AS).

Methods: This study included 57 participants (mean age, 30.8 ± 5.19 years) in 2 groups of AS and healthy controls. One day physical activity behaviour was evaluated with tri-axial accelerometer. Tri-axial accelerometer was recorded physical activity domains and intensities for 24 hours. Participants completed clinical questionnaires assessing pain, kinesiophobia, disease activity, and functionality. Kinesiophobia and pain were quantified by the Tampa Scale for Kinesiophobia and Short-Form McGill Pain Questionnaire. Function and disease activity were rated by using the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index, and Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score.

Results: There was no correlation between kinesiophobia and one day physical activity behaviour in AS patients group. There was a negative correlation between high physical activity level and disease activity ($p < 0.05$, $r = -.519$) and there was a negative correlation between high and moderate physical activity levels, and functionality ($p < 0.05$, $r = -.555$ $r = -.395$, respectively).

Conclusion: According to the results of this study showed that; there was a relationship between disease activity, functionality, and one day physical activity behaviour. On the other hand, there was not any relation between pain intensity, kinesiophobia and data obtained from accelerometer. Further studies with larger sample size and longer time periods should be carried out to reveal physical activity behaviours and its related factors in AS patients who will survive with this disease for years.

Keywords: ankylosing spondylitis, disease activity, functionality, kinesiophobia, physical activity

1. INTRODUCTION

AS is a rheumatic disease characterized by inflammation, pain, and stiffness especially in the spinal column and sacroiliac joints (1,2). The disease is prevalent between the ages of 20 and 30 which is an important period in lifespan for career stages and performing physically active life (3).

AS restrains individual's physical capacity and results in reduced participation in physical activity in their daily living due to restricted respiratory functions, pain, limitation of joints and spinal motions (4). Since it is well known that participation in regular physical activity can prevent chronic systemic diseases and improve musculoskeletal health, it is important to encourage AS patients to avoid getting into this vicious cycle (limited physical activity due to symptoms and exacerbated symptoms due to limited physical activity) (5). Therefore, it is a prerequisite to examine the factors that cause physical activity limitation, especially in adult AS patients who will survive with this disease for years.

Recently, some factors that influence physical activity have been identified by few researches (6-8). Disease activity, pain, depression, flexibility and respiratory functions are some of them. But there are few studies investigating the kinesiophobia which is defined by Kori et al, 'a fear of movement resulting from a feeling of vulnerability to painful injury or reinjury' (9, 10). It is assumed to be pain-related experiences, combined with kinesiophobia, may be more disabling than pain itself.

Functionality in daily living is an other crucial factor to maintain qualified life especially in young ages. Mobility restrictions of spine and pain are one of the limiting factors for functionality. Nas et al. have revealed this relation in AS (11). But, we have not known yet if kinesiophobia affects the physical activity behaviour and functionality in AS patients.

We suggest that it is important to identify the physical activity behaviour of patients with AS at young ages, firstly. Secondly,

factors relating with AS that cause limitations in physical activity and functionality should be revealed to be able to overcome these obstacles. Therefore, the aim of the study was to investigate the relationship between kinesiophobia with physical activity behaviour and functionality in young patients with AS.

2. METHODS

2.1. Study design and recruitment

The study was designed as a cross-sectional observational. It was carried out between December 2015 and May 2016, with patients who were diagnosed as AS, in rheumatology clinic, in Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Faculty of Medicine Hospital. Forty-two AS patients were screened for possible inclusion criteria whereas thirty AS patients agreed to participate in the study and twenty-seven age-matched healthy people were included into the control group. Patients with AS were recruited from a register of patients fulfilling the Newyork Classification Criteria, diagnosed by a rheumatologist at Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa, Cerrahpasa Faculty of Medicine Hospital, Istanbul. Eight patients withdrew from the assessment and four did not attend the accelerometer assessment, leaving a total of 30 patients who completed the study (Fig 1). Controls were recruited from the healthy hospital staff member with age matched AS patients. Participants in control group did not report any pain complaint.

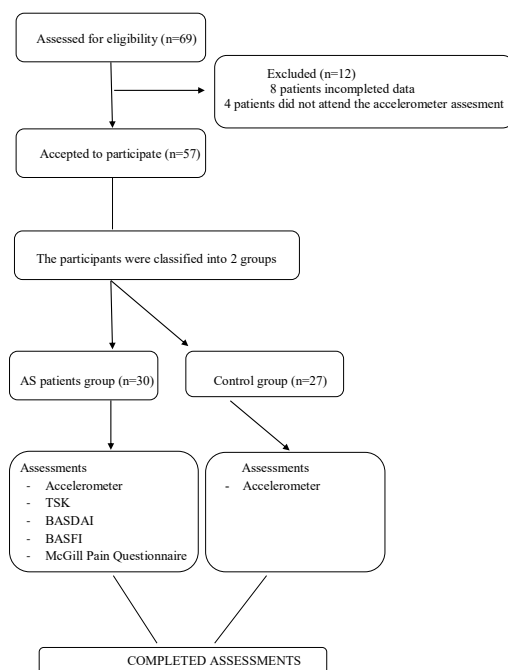


Figure 1. Design of the study

To participate in the study, subjects should have been between 20-40 years old, should have had the absence of lower extremity involvement, should have agree to participate in the study, and sign an informed consent form.

The exclusion criteria were having the cognitive disorder, the neurological deficit in lower limbs, visual, auditory, vestibular problems that could affect the independent walk. AS patients continued similar medical treatment in their routine.

Each participant who completed a recruitment screening received written and verbal explanations of the procedures to be applied. They were all asked to participate on a voluntary basis. The project observed the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki of 2013, and the study protocol was approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of Marmara University (Institutional Review Board No: 30.11.2015-4).

2.2. Assessment

The evaluation was comprised of questionnaires parts and accelerometer measurements. The characteristics of participants (age, gender, weight, height, employment, education, regularly exercise habit) were questioned by the *Socio-Demographic Data Form*. Participants were asked to complete the questionnaires, which assessed disease activity, functionality, kinesiophobia, pain intensity. Physical activity level was assessed with triaxial accelerometer. Tampa Scale for Kinesiophobia (TSK) was used to measure kinesiophobia scores. The pain was evaluated with Kisa Form-McGill Pain Questionnaire (SF-MPQ), disease activity was evaluated with Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), functionality was evaluated with Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI). All measurements were performed by the same physiotherapist for 2 groups.

2.3. Physical activity measurement

The one day physical activity behaviour was assessed according to the results of the triaxial accelerometer device manufactured by Maastricht University in the Netherlands (MOX). Accelerometer was recorded for 24 hours for each case, from 08:00 am until the next morning 8:00 am.

Records were uploaded to the computer program and the data was saved. A day was chosen when he/she continued any daily activities except Sunday, and he/she was moved in the middle of his/her pants belt. Participants measured minute by minute accelerations (expressed as counts) in the anteroposterior, mediolateral, and longitudinal axes of the trunk. Total sedentary time (sitting/reaching), total standing time, total light physical activity time, total moderate physical activity time, total high physical activity time were recorded (minutes per day) (12).

2.4. Disease-related variables

TSK consists of the 17 items that are rated using a 4-point Likert scale whereby 1 = strongly disagree and 4 = strongly agree. The total kinesiophobia score is the sum of responses to all 17 items. The total score ranges from 17 to 68 points, with higher scores indicating the presence of kinesiophobia.

The TSK is a reliable and valid instrument for the assessment of kinesiophobia in the Turkish population (13).

Pain severity and localization of the cases were evaluated according to the results of SF-MPQ. It consists of 15 descriptive adjectives for the pain sensation, which are self-rated by the patient (range from 0-3 points (from none to severe)). The total score is the sum of the intensity values of words chosen for sensory, effective and total descriptors. The SF-MPQ includes a pain intensity measure indicated by the visual analog scale (VAS) (14). The SF-MPQ is a valid construct within the Turkish culture (15).

BASDAI was used for an assessment of the disease activity. Six questions were asked. Fatigue, pain, discomfort, swelling was questioned in the first five questions. In the sixth question, the patient described their "morning stiffness". The patients scored between 0 and 10, with 0 indicating no and 10 indicating very severe. The total BASDAI score was calculated by the average of the scores obtained from the fifth and sixth questions and the sum of all the items and dividing them by 5. $((1+2+3+4+(5+6/2))/5)$. The BASDAI is a valid construct within the Turkish culture (16).

BASFI consists of the 10 items that are rated by using a 10 cm visual analog scale whereby 0 = easy and 10 = not possible, for each activity. The score is sum of all the items and dividing them by 10. Higher scores indicate less functionality. The Turkish version of the BASFI has been shown to be a valid and reliable scale for the assessment of functional status (17).

2.5. Statistical analysis

The SPSS version 21.0 for Windows was used to evaluate data and analyze descriptive statistics (frequency, mean, SD). Statistical analysis was performed at a 95% confidence level, and the *statistical significance* level was set as 0.05. In the present study, conformity to normal distribution was analyzed using the Shapiro–Wilks test. Descriptive statistics were used for demographic variables. Independent sample t-test (parametric test) and Mann Whitney U test (nonparametric test) were used to analyze the continuous variables. Intercorrelations between the one day physical activity behaviour, pain, kinesiophobia, disease activity and functionality parameters were analyzed using by Spearman correlation analysis (specifically, $r=0.5-1.0$ was large; $r=0.30-0.49$ was medium, and $r=0.1-0.29$ was small).

3. RESULTS

The comparisons of the demographic and clinical characteristics of the groups are shown in Table 1. No significant differences were found between the groups in regards to the demographic characteristic (age, weight, height, BMI, employment, regularly exercise habits parameters) ($p > 0,05$). The TSK score average was 46.56 (± 5.41), the McGill pain questionnaire score average was 24.76 (± 6.91), the BASDAI total score average was 5.64 (± 1.30), and the BASFI total score average was 3.78 of the AS

patients group (Table 1). AS group's kinesiophobia levels and disease activities were found to be high. At the same time, functionality were found to be low.

Table 1. Demographic and disease-specific variables

	AS (n=30)	Controls (n=27)	p ^a
Demographic			
Age (years)	32.6 \pm 5.04	28.9 \pm 4.73	0.06
Female sex (n/%)	15 (50%)	21(77.7%)	0.03
Weight (kg)	67.3 \pm 9.53	64.1 \pm 13.4	0.29
Height (cm)	167 \pm 8.54	166 \pm 7.30	0.63
BMI (kg/m ²)	23.9 \pm 2.69	23 \pm 3.95	0.28
Employment (n/%)	20 (66.7%)	17 (62.9%)	0.77
Education \geq 12 years (n/%)	14 (46.7%)	25 (92.5%)	0.001
Regularly exercise habits (n/%)	4(13.3%)	3(11.1%)	0,79
Disease characteristics			
Because of AS, applying to Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Units	1(3%)	N/A	
BASDAI	5.64 \pm 1.3	N/A	
BASFI	3.78 \pm 1.91	N/A	
McGill Pain Score	24.76 \pm 6.91	N/A	
TAMPA Kinesiophobia Score	46.56 \pm 5.41	N/A	

BMI:Body Mass Index, AS: Ankylosing Spondylitis, BASDAI Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index, BASFI Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index, N/A: not assessed, number of participants (%) and Mean (standard deviation), unless otherwise stated. p^a Independent-samples t-test

Moderate level physical activity time was lower in AS group than controls ($p < 0.05$) while there was no statistically significant difference in other domains of physical activity (total sedentary, standing, light and high level physical activity time) (Table 2).

Table 2. Daily physical activity behaviour in different domains, in patients with AS and controls

	AS (n=30)	Controls (n=30)	t ^a	p ^a
Domains (minutes)	Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD		
Sedantery	786.7 \pm 404.5	1045.7 \pm 408.2	-2.4	0.02*
Standing	377.9 \pm 175.2	379.2 \pm 198.7	-0.02	0.97
Moderate	64.2 \pm 45.4	91.1 \pm 52.8	-2.07	0.04*
Domains (minutes)	Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD	z ^b	p ^b
Light	9.46 \pm 5.1	13.9 \pm 16.4	-0.32	0.97
High	2.70 \pm 7.86	5.66 \pm 13.2	-1.43	0.15

SD:Standart Deviation, min:minimum, max:maximum. ^aIndependent-samples t-test, ^bMann Whitney U Test

Disease activity was found to be correlated with total high level physical activity time ($r = -.519$, $p < 0.05$). As the BASDAI total score increased, the severity of physical activity decreased. Therefore, functionality was found to be correlated with total moderate and high level physical activity time ($p < 0.05$, $r = -.555$ $r = -.395$, respectively) (Table 3). When the BASFI total

score decreased, total moderate and high physical activity time increased.

On the other hand, no correlation was found with kinesiophobia, pain and one day physical activity behaviour ($p > 0.05$) (Table 3).

Table 3. Comparison between results of accelerometer and TAMPA Kinesiophobia Score, McGill Pain Score, BASDAI, BASFI

Variables (AS) (n=30)	TAMPA Kinesiophobia Score	McGill Pain Score	BASDAI	BASFI
Sedentary	$r_h = -.109$ $p = .567$	-.035 .855	-.206 .275	-.185 .327
Standing	$r_h = -.018$ $p = .925$	-.205 .278	-.078 .680	-.115 .546
Light	$r_h = .142$ $p = .454$	-.026 .893	.029 .878	-.187 .321
Moderate	$r_h = .027$ $p = .888$	-.057 .765	-.113 .551	-.395* .031
High	$r_h = -.307$ $p = .099$	-.254 .176	-.519** .003	-.555** .001

BASDAI Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index, BASFI Bath Ankylosing, Spondylitis Functional Index, Spearman Correlations Test.

4. DISCUSSION

Current study examine the presence of kinesiophobia and its correlation with physical activity behaviour in patients with AS. On the basis of the our study's results, it is worthwhile to note that 96.7% AS patients in the current study had high kinesiophobia levels. Moderate level physical activity time was lower in AS group than controls. AS groups' disease activities were found to be high. There was no correlation with kinesiophobia, pain and physical activity behaviour. However, there was a negative correlation between disease activity and total high level physical activity time. In addition, there was a negative correlation between functionality and total moderate and high level physical activity time, too.

Interestingly, our results showed that physical activity levels of AS patients aged 20-40 years were not affected by high kinesiophobia and pain intensities. Most of the studies investigating kinesiophobia were carried out on musculoskeletal disorders and some of them involved ankylosing spondylitis, Sjögren's syndrome, fibromyalgia, osteoarthritis(specially knee) among rheumatological diseases (10, 18, 19, 20). Er G. et al, investigated relation between kinesiophobia and respiratory functions in AS (20-70 years). Their study did not find a significant relationship between TSK values and respiratory functions and endurance (21). Swinnen et al, reported that TSK-11 is a promising and valid tool to assess fearful beliefs in relation to activity limitations in axial spondyloarthritis (22). In recent study Oskay et al, examine the level of kinesiophobia and its correlation with some clinical variables in patients with AS (mean age 37.6 ± 10 years) (10). They found that, AS patients had high kinesiophobia level (≥ 37) and there was a correlation between kinesiophobia and physical function (assessed by BASFI), but kinesiophobia was not correlated with disease

activity or mobility levels. In the current study, AS group's kinesiophobia levels was found to be high but there was no correlation between kinesiophobia and one day physical activity behaviour. However, kinesiophobia affects the motivation of activity negatively (23). On the other hand, in a study published in 2016, Felicio et al. found that the pain which caused disability was not associated with a kinesiophobia in lowback pain (24).

One of the most common symptoms of AS is the pain. Fongen et al. indicated that the majority of patients had more obstacles than controls while performing physical function, these were pain-related disorders such as fatigue, stiffness, and disability. They reported that the pain and disease activity could be reduced physical activity level (25). In a study, avoidance of activity was also correlated with pain and depression on patients with chronic pain (26). However, kinesiophobia was correlated neither with pain nor with physical activity in our study, suggesting that kinesiophobia in patients with AS was not a direct obstacle because of their young ages. Even so, this potential relationship should be investigated by further studies with greater sample size.

Moderate level physical activity time was lower in AS group than controls and AS group spent less sedentary time in a day compared to controls while there was no statistically significant difference in other domains of physical activity (total standing, light and high physical activity time) in both groups. In a recent study showed that patients with AS had similar total physical activity, compared with controls, but may avoid in higher intensities of physical activity (25). In another study, Swinnen et al. used a limb containing two axial accelerometers and thermal sensors to evaluate physical activity, between 40 adult with spondyloarthropathies (mean age 44 ± 10 years) and 40 healthy controls. There was no significant difference between sedentary, light and moderate physical activity levels among the groups (27). Plasqui et al. compared the physical activity levels of 25 AS patients with 25 healthy adult controls (mean age 48 ± 11) using a triaxial accelerometer, and they found no significant difference in measured parameters between groups (2). Arends et al. used a uniaxial accelerometer to evaluate daily physical activity levels in patients with AS (mean age 44 years) and reported that their study had the limitations because their tool only provided single-axial motion recordings (23). The accelerometer which we used in our study (MOX) was Tri-Axis Digital Accelerometer. Three axial movements' accelerations, anteroposterior, mediolateral and vertical, can be recorded (28). The one of the possible explanation of nonsignificant difference in one day physical activity levels between healthy and AS groups in our study could be the characteristics of control group as being sedentary since their total sitting time was higher than AS group.

Another significant results of our study was the association of one day physical activity behaviour and disease related-variables (disease activity, functionality). As the total score of BASDAI increased, total high physical activity time decreased parallel with previous studies. Arends et al. showed that

high levels of physical activity were associated with low disease activity (23). Brophy et al. reported that people with moderate and low disease activity had a high level of physical activity (7). Fongen et al. compared the physical activity levels between healthy controls and AS patients (mean age 51.5 years with high disease activity and low disease activity), using the International Physical Activity Questionnaire-Long Form and found similar results (6).

In this study, we found that functionality was correlated with total moderate and high physical activity time in consistent with previous studies. O'Dwyer et al. found that there was a significant relationship between total physical activity score and BASFI scores (8). A high level of physical activity was found to be associated with good functionality by Brophy et al (7). In another study showed that, AS patients with reduced time spent in moderate and high physical activity levels had lower functionality (25).

The present study has some limitations that should be addressed. Most importantly, the sample size was small and the medication was ongoing. Patients' physical activity could be assessed for another day, so that Hawthorne effect could be prevented. Included controls could have led to selection bias based on physical activity behaviours. Individuals who have different jobs characteristics should be included to avoid sedentary behaviours in control groups for the further studies investigating physical activity behaviour of AS patients.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, regardless of disease activity and pain which are common symptoms in AS, kinesiophobia was present even the population was consisted of AS patients. One day physical activity monitoring in AS patients showed that they have tendency to spend time with sitting and lying, similar with healthy controls. They did not differ from controls by means of light and high level physical activity time. However, the moderate level physical activity time in AS group was considerably lower compared to healthy control group.

Kinesiophobia did not influence time spending physically active in AS patients. Further studies with larger sample size and longer time periods should be carried out to reveal physical activity behaviours and its related factors in AS patients who will survive with this disease for years.

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