

Abstract 1275

Validation of the FeetMe® System versus GAITRite® to Assess Gait Characteristics in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis: Subpopulation analysis

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## Background

The complete and objective gait assessment in multiple sclerosis (MS) patients is an unmet need, with important biases in the usual way of assessing gait (neurological examination/EDSS). GAITRite® measures different visuospatial gait parameters; however, its use is limited to a few centres due to its high price, physical space and the need of trained personnel for use and interpretation.

## Objectives

To determine the statistical agreement and precision of gait velocity in MS patients, measured by a shoe insole device with integrated motion and pressure sensors (FeetMe®) vs reference system (GAITRite®), in 25-Foot Walk Test (25FWT).

## Methods

This was an observational, cross-sectional, prospective, single-centre study. Patients 18-55 years, with MS (McDonald-2010), EDSS 0–6.5 and relapse free  $\geq 30$  days were included. GAITRite®/FeetMe® devices used. Primary endpoint was gait velocity (cm/second) (velocity-1/velocity-2 formulas). Secondary endpoints: ambulation time (seconds), gait cadence (steps/min) and stride length (cm), among others. Results of the 25FWT-both devices patient group with valid data (25PG+VD) analysis are presented, corresponding to the subpopulation who met all the selection criteria and performed 25FWT with both devices, having valid and evaluable data, at least for velocity.

## Results

127 patients included. At baseline, mean (SD) age was 40.7 (8.2) years, 67.7% women, 83.5% RRMS, EDSS 2.8 (1.9). Mean (SD) velocity-1 was 104.5 (31.6) for GAITRite®, 107.6 (30.3) FeetMe® with 0.88 intraclass coefficient correlation (ICC) and 0.89 Pearson correlation, while for velocity-2 were 104.5 (31.6) and 108.9 (31.0), respectively, with 0.90 ICC and 0.91 Pearson correlation. These results indicate a very strong agreement between devices on the same subjects. Mean (SD) ambulation time difference between devices was -0.01 (0.3). Cadence-1 and cadence-2 differences between devices were -0.3 (2.7) and -2.5 (2.7), respectively. Mean (SD) stride length difference was -2.6 (19.8). A stronger association was observed between EDSS and velocity, cadence and stride length, these parameters correlation decreased with higher EDSS scores. The analysis suggested that precision of FeetMe® device could be affected by level of disability of MS patients.

## Conclusions

Agreement between devices was almost perfect ( $ICC \geq 0.8$ ). FeetMe<sup>®</sup> assesses the gait of MS patients completely and objectively, with results correlated with significant clinical variables.

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