A REVIEW ON COMPARISON OF Q-ANGLE IN DIFFERENT ATHLETIC SPORTS

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Abstract: Objective – Seek out research that indicates whether the Q angle aids or hinders particular sports. Methodology- Using an online bibliographical database, we were able to find articles published in journals between 1998 and 2021. All the studies that were used in the meta-analysis were of high quality. Thirty-one studies were suitable in every way. Result - It was determined through statistical analysis that the Q angle might have both positive and negative effects on several sports. Most studies have shown that patellar alignment is affected by both positive and negative variations in Q angle. Conclusion-Statistical analysis suggests that Q angle may have both positive and negative effects on a wide range of sports. Q angle has been shown to influence patellar alignment both positively and negatively.

Index Terms - Athletes, Injuries, Patellofemoral syndrome, Sports.

I. INTRODUCTION

Quadriceps angle (Q-angle) is a vector measure used to quantify the strength of the extensor mechanism, which is created by the quadriceps muscle and the patellar tendon (Toby O. Smith et al., 2008). Two axes, one beginning at the q angle and the other at the patellar centre, lead to the tibial tuberosity. The Q-angle characterizes how the force vector produced by the quadriceps muscle is oriented with respect to the frontal plane. I looked at what the (Hassan Daneshmandi et al., 2011). It may be helpful in determining patellofemoral dysfunction (Toby O. Smith et al., 2008). In physiotherapy and orthopaedics, the Q angle is a commonly used measurement. Instead of directly measuring the q angle, it is more common to infer it from other data in practice. A positive and linear relationship between q angle and the quadriceps pull on the patella is observed, however, in a computational model. In the medical field, a two-shanked, handheld goniometer is commonly used to manually measure Q angles. The goniometer is unreliable because of its poor precision and reliance on the operator. Radiographs, which are two-dimensional projections to a frontal plane, are used for evaluating the q-angle or verifying the accuracy of hand-measurements. However, only in three dimensions can you use Q-angle coordinates. Inaccurate visual results may be achieved when using a 3D body model (Ann-Katrin Stensdotter, Per-Ivar Andersson et al., 2009). Exercise is excellent for both men and women, and its value to human health is well documented. There can be wide ranges in how often, how hard, and how long people exercise depending on factors including gender, age, and the kind of exercise being performed. For the purposes of this definition, we will use the term “sport” to refer to any competitive physical activity that follows a set of defined rules. This finding was reached by a team of academics (Mohamed EE et al., 2012). Q-angle is measured by extending the knee in the frontal plane and observing the resulting angle between the quadriceps muscle and the patellar tendon. There is evidence to show that a high Q-angle (greater than 15-20 degrees) is an anatomic risk factor for knee conditions like patellofemoral pain syndrome, subluxation/dislocation, knee extensor dysfunction, and patellofemoral discomfort. (E.T.A. member Lori A. Livingston) It has been theorized by some that the Q-angle can provide insight into the position, knee position, hip rotation, and tibial torsion of an individual. However, there is a lack of studies examining the full scope of anatomic factors that affect q-angle in athletes. This is due to the fact that a change in any of these alignment characteristics could cause a shift in the location of one or more landmarks needed to determine the q-angle and, thus, its magnitude. (Hassan Daneshmandi et al. 2011). The net lateral force applied to the patellofemoral joint during quadriceps contraction can be calculated by observing the q angle. An increase in Q angle increases contact pressure on the lateral side of the patella, while a decrease in Q angle increases pressure on the medial side of the kneecap. The Q-angle is influenced by the strength of the vastus lateralis and vastus medialis muscles; a stronger vastus lateralis decreases the Q-angle, and a stronger vastus medialis increases it. Thus, the Q-angle can be used as a quantitative measure of quadriceps muscle imbalance. (H Daneshmandi et al., 2010). In order to evaluate patellofemoral mechanics, doctors and coaches use the quadriceps angle. Assessing where the quadriceps femoris muscle attaches to the pelvis, thighbone, and lower leg is a clinical assessment. Misalignment in the extensor mechanism has been linked to conditions such as patellofemoral pain syndrome, hypermobile knee joints, and patellar instability.
Available data suggest that the Q-angle is a crucial characteristic for diagnosing and classifying lower-limb injuries incurred in sports. (Ali Fatahi et al., 2017). It is widely believed that biological variations between the sexes are the fundamental cause of the observed trend that females typically have larger Q angles than males. This belief is widely held due to the stereotype that women have a more narrow gynecoid pelvis. Among female athletes, a higher QA is associated with a higher incidence of knee injuries. Females have an average QA of 15.8 (+/-4.5) degrees, whereas males have an average QA of 11.2 (+/- 3.0) degrees, per Horton and Hall. It is possible that if QA is increased, contact pressure on the patellofemoral joint will rise. (Mohamed EE et al., 2012). As the quadriceps tighten, the space between the spina iliaca anterior superior and the tibial tubercle shrinks. The Q-angle is less when the quadriceps contract because the patella is contained within the tendon of the musculus quadriceps femoris. The Q-angle of an athlete is associated with knee pain and, possibly, the need for knee surgery. Overuse can cause the quadriceps to tighten and cause pain because they can increase the force with which they pull on the kneecap (patella). (Hahn T et al., 1997). The evidence supporting the efficacy of exposing students to the arts and sports is substantial. Some have speculated that the impact of clothing colours on individuals could lead to noticeable changes in how they see things. White, for instance, is commonly linked with purity, serenity, and fortitude. The Q angles used by football players and wrestlers may have a positive effect on their beauty without putting them at risk of injury. An abnormally large Q-angle causes the quadriceps femoris muscle to apply an abnormally large lateral stress to the patella, which can aggravate preexisting disorders such patellofemoral pain syndrome. ( Murat sen, Cuma Ece et al,. 2019).

Patellar subluxation and patellofemoral joint dysfunction are common knee problems among athletes who participate in contact sports like football, basketball, and volleyball. These kinds of injuries are frequently caused by Q-angles. A bigger Q-angle causes the quadriceps femoris muscle to put more lateral strain on the patella, which can lead to patella-femoral disorders. The Q-angle can be used as a diagnostic tool to reveal an uneven effort from the quadriceps. ( Uduonu, E.M, Ezeukwu, A. O et al., 2018). Surgery to medialize the patella is commonly used to treat people with knee pain or arthrosis caused by a high Q-angle. Among these are adjusting the patellar tendon's Tibial connection, strengthening or weakening the quadriceps, and stretching the lateral retinaculum. Although these methods are used to treat aberrant patellar tracking caused by a high Q-angle, nothing is known about how the Q-angle affects knee kinematics. Studies have revealed that too much medialization of the patella might increase the pressure exerted on the kneecap by the thighbone (patellofemoral contact). ( Yasayuki Mizuno, Masaru Kumagai et al,. 2000).

METHODOLOGY
There were 31 studies gathered, of which 12 were included in the analysis. All twelve studies have a good level of methodology. The weight of the evidence was determined by evaluating the quality of studies using a co-designed research. Twenty South African women's U-23 soccer players were hand-picked to take part in this research. Two groups of participants were formed: Those with knee injuries were in group -1, While group -2 consisted of those who had avoided injury. In female athletes from South Africa, ages 23 and under, there was no association between QA, PW, or INW with the probability of a knee injury.

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<td>1. 1. Mohamed EE.2. Useh U3.3. Mtshali BF</td>
<td>Three anatomical features—the quaternary angle (Q), pelvic width (PW), and Intercondylar notch (IC) width—were shown to be significant predictors of knee injury in female South African soccer players.</td>
<td>Twenty-four South African women's U-23 soccer players were hand-picked to take part in this research. Two groups of participants were formed: Those with knee injuries were in group -1, While group -2 consisted of those who had avoided injury.</td>
<td>In female athletes from South Africa, ages 23 and under, there was no association between QA, PW, or INW with the probability of a knee injury.</td>
<td>Q-angles ranged from 14 degrees to 18 degrees for both the injured and the unharmed. In this study, we ruled out the anatomical factors of QA, PW, and INW as contributors to knee injuries.</td>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>T. Puckree, A Govender, P Naidoo</td>
<td>A study of Indian distance runners' quadriceps angles and knee injuries</td>
<td>A total of one hundred (100) male Indian runners (ages 25-65) from five (5) Durban athletic organisations participated. Q was measured with a goniometer to get an accurate value. The information was gathered with the help of a questionnaire.</td>
<td>South Africans need to have reference values for Q-angles established, along with the prevalence and root causes of anomalous Q-angles among the general population.</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
<td>YILMAZ ALi kerim, KABADAYI Menderes, MAYDA M.Hakan</td>
<td>Examining the Q angles of female athletes across disciplines</td>
<td>The study included 42 female students from Ondokuz Mayis University's YasarDogu college of sports sciences. Many of these pupils were accomplished athletes with diverse skill sets, including those in badminton, rugby, volleyball, basketball, and futsal. Each participant had their Q angle, pelvic width, and femur length measured.</td>
<td>Q Angle is affected by a number of an athlete's physical attributes, including her athletic age, the length of her femur, and the breadth of her pelvis.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Murat Sen, Semra Cetin, cuma Ece</td>
<td>Analyzing the Quadriceps Q-Angle of Professional Soccer Players and Wrestlers</td>
<td>Scientists looked specifically at football and wrestling players. The ages of the volunteers went from 17 to 26. There are 97 females and 181 males altogether.</td>
<td>For athletes like football players and wrestlers, the Q angles were perfectly normal. The dominant foot also plays a role in the quadriceps Q angle alongside pelvic breadth, tibia and femur length, and sex.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Ami letafkar, Shahrzad zandi, Majid khodayi</td>
<td>Wrestlers frequently experience knee soreness, Q angle abnormalities, and flat feet.</td>
<td>Twenty experienced Iranian national wrestlers (average age 19.110.86, weight 70.518.4kg, height 173.29.1 cm) were chosen for this study. The patient's level of pain from flat feet, Q angles, and knees were measured using a goniometer and a pain score.</td>
<td>Using the kinetic chain theory, we discovered that those with flat feet may have more patella lateral rotation and Q angle, both of which can aggravate previous knee pain.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Ali Fatahi, Heydar Sadeghi, Mitra Ameli</td>
<td>Pro volleyball players' risk of knee injury is correlated with their Q angle.</td>
<td>Seventy professional volleyball players who were free of known musculoskeletal problems affecting the Q angle took part in the study.</td>
<td>The goal of this study was to identify bilateral Q angle variability and investigate significant variations in knee injuries among volleyball players. The Q angle between the right and left legs of males and females was shown to be significantly different using the independent t-test but not using the pair t-test.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>H. Daneshmandi, 2 F. Saki</td>
<td>Football players' hypermobility and Q-angle analysis</td>
<td>After being told of the research's purpose, 31 female football players agreed to participate. After receiving participants' informed consent, we documented their ages, heights, levels of physical activity, and injury histories.</td>
<td>When evaluating knee discomfort and hypermobility, measuring the Q-angle may provide useful information. As a result, it appears that assessing Q-angle in hypermobile adults may be helpful for anticipating the onset of knee problems in this population.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>T.J. Ellapen, H.J. Van Heerden, R. Taylor</td>
<td>Students who play rugby at school face a significant risk of suffering knee injuries.</td>
<td>Over the course of two years, 115 high school rugby players gave their consenting, personal information. In order to better understand the causes and preventative measures for acute rugby knee injuries, players filled out a self-report musculoskeletal injury and activity history questionnaire.</td>
<td>Quadriceps angle deviation was a leading cause of knee injury among players.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>I. Hassan, F. Saki, S. Farzaneh Saki, S. Shahheidari</td>
<td>In female athletes, there is a direct correlation between Q-angle and limb alignment issues.</td>
<td>Measurements of navicular drop, Q-angle, genu recurvatum, femoral anteversion, tibia-femur angle, tibiofemoral angle, dorsiflexion, hip internal and external rotation, and total joint laxity were taken from the thighs of over 130 female athletes.</td>
<td>Q-angle increases due to three factors: tibiofemoral angle, hip internal rotation, and femoral anteversion, with the last having the most effect.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>T.J. Ellapen, S. Satyendra, J. Morris</td>
<td>Muscle and bone injuries typical of recreational half marathon runners in KwaZulu-Natal</td>
<td>The information was gathered from two hundred runners who competed in half-marathon road races between February and June of 2012. Runners were given a questionnaire a year before to recruiting to self-report any musculoskeletal injuries they may have sustained while running.</td>
<td>In our sample of casual runners, the knee, tibia, and fibula, as well as the lower back and hip, were the most frequently injured areas.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Orhan Ahmet Sener, M. Mehmet Durmaz</td>
<td>Teenage males and females' Q-angles are affected by their training and education in various sports.</td>
<td>Using a goniometer, the Q-angles of 240 female and 600 male individuals were assessed in both the prone and upright positions. T-tests were used for statistical analysis.</td>
<td>Q-angle was shown to be impacted by both the frequency and intensity of physical exercise, suggesting that sport education may operate as a moderator of this relationship.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>MITCHELL J. RAUH, D. KOESPPELL</td>
<td>Injury Propensity and Quadriceps Angle in high school cross-country runners</td>
<td>Our research included measuring the Q-angles of 393 male and female high school cross-country runners (ages 12-18 years).</td>
<td>To determine the Q-angles of 393 male and female high school cross-country runners</td>
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### RESULTS

This analysis drew from a total of 31 articles. There were 12 studies that were considered to be useful. There were 1,718 total athletes, with 674 being female. Q-angle values were found to differ significantly (p<0.001) between football players and wrestlers in a comparison conducted by (Murat sen, semra cen et al., 2019). While male wrestlers averaged 13.86 degrees, men soccer players had a standing right Q angle of 15.35 degrees. The Q angles were standard for athletes such as football players and wrestlers. The Q angle while standing is greater than when the person is resting supine. This article reports on a study of 88 Indian distance runners that examined the relationship between quadriceps angle and knee damage (T Puckree, A. Govender, et al., 2007). Roughly half of all runners experienced knee pain at some point. One-half of the sample had Q-angles that were much higher than average. As many as 67% of runners who had abnormal Q-angles wound up having knee problems. The injury rates of runners were independent of their mileage and frequency of runs. Analysis of the impact of athletic training and formal schooling on young men's and women's Q angles yielded mean ages of 19.16 and 21.120 years, respectively (Orhan Ahmet sener, Mehmet Durnaz et al., 2019). Participation is high throughout all ages, but most heavily among those between the ages of 17 and 22. Both young women and men's dominant knee Q angles proved to be within normal parameters. For men, the ideal knee Q angle is greater than 17 and for women, it is greater than 20. The Q angle hypothesis posits that extracurricular school sports programmes reduce the Q angle. One study from 2013 looked at the musculoskeletal injuries experienced by recreational half-marathon runners in KwaZulu-Natal and found the most common ones to be: (T J ELLAPEN, S Satyendra et al., 2013). For recreational runners, this study found that injuries to the knee, tibia/fibula, lower back, and hip were the most common. One hundred eighty (180) runners (90%) reported musculoskeletal issues (p<0.001). The most frequently injured anatomical locations were the knee (26% of injuries), the tibia/fibula (22% of injuries), and the lower back/hip (16% of injuries) (p<0.001). Abnormalities in the quadriceps and hip flexion angles make runners more vulnerable to musculoskeletal problems (p<0.05).

The goal of the study (T.J.Ellapen, H.J. van Heren et al., 2016) was to gain a better understanding of the prevalence and nature of knee injuries among high school rugby players. During a two-year period, 115 high school rugby players provided information with their parents' approval. One hundred twenty-four athletes suffered from an acute musculoskeletal knee injury (p<0.001). Tackles (52.1%), dives and falls (43.47%), and high-velocity turns (4.34%) all contributed to players suffering from acute musculoskeletal injuries (p<0.05). A higher rate of knee injury has been observed in rugby players with aberrant quadriceps angles (p<0.05). It was determined that the athletes' levels of physical activity did not put them at a higher risk of knee damage (p<0.05).

Female athletes from a wide range of sports had their Q angles calculated (YILMAZ Ali kerim, KABADAYI Menderes et al., 2017). Volleyball and basketball players were shown to have a greater average height than athletes from other sports, while volleyball and futsal athletes had a higher average Q angle than athletes from other sports (p<0.01). Q angle in female athletes was found to be influenced by a number of physical parameters including sex, age, and pelvic breadth. Strengthening the quadriceps, a muscle that is dynamically employed throughout training and sports, is thought to reduce Q angle and, by extension, injury risk.

Hypermobile athletes exhibited considerably higher mean Q angle values than non-hypermobile athletes, according to a study comparing joint hypermobility and Q angle in female football players (H Daneshmandi and F.saki et al., 2010). (p<0.05). There was a preponderance of injuries to the lower extremities. In hypermobile people, measuring the q angle may help anticipate the onset of knee issues. Musculoskeletal profiles and regular screenings are so crucial.

When the pelvic breadth and intercondylar notch width were also analysed as potential predictors of knee injuries in female South African soccer players, it was revealed that the Q-angle was within the range of 14° to 18° for both the damaged and uninjured groups (Mohammed EE, Usher U et al., 2012). In a study of female South African athletes under the age of 23, researchers found no correlation between the structural variables of quadriceps area (QA) and hamstring length (INW) with the likelihood of knee injury.

Q Angle was found to be connected with the number of times professional volleyball players experienced knee injuries (Ali fatahi, Heydar Sadeghi et al., 2017). While men had a higher incidence of knee injuries (12.52%) than women (11.89%), the distribution of injured knees (11.53%) and severely injured knees (12.25%) was similar between the sexes. Q angle for the right leg was measured between 12.34 and 2.36 degrees, with a mean of 12.34 degrees and a standard deviation of 12.48 degrees. When analysing the Q angles from the right and left sides, the pair t test found no significant differences between the sexes. Nonetheless, the independent t test showed that there are substantial differences between the right and left legs regardless of gender. The chi-square test indicates a statistically significant relationship between the Q angle and the incidence of injuries.
It was shown that high school cross-country runners with a Q-angle of more than 20 degrees had a 1.7 times higher risk of injury than those with a Q-angle of 10 degrees to 15 degrees (MITCHELL J.RAUH, THOMAS D. KOEPSELL et al., 2007). An increased risk of injury for high school cross country runners with a large or asymmetric Q-angle. A larger tibiofemoral angle, femoral anteversion, and hip internal rotation (all p<0.05) were significant predictors of a larger Q-angle in another study evaluating lower extremity malalignment and its linear connection with Q-angle in female athletes (Daneshmandi, Hassan; saki, et al. 2011). Tibiofemoral angle, hip internal rotation, and femoral anteversion all contribute to a larger Q-angle, but femoral anteversion has the greatest impact. This is why it's crucial to zero in on the pressures and potential harm associated with poor posture and how they affect Q-angle.

We investigated the link between flat foot deformity and knee discomfort in wrestlers and confirmed the findings of previous research (Amir Letafatkar, shahrzad Zandi et al., 2013) that established a correlation between the two. A high Q-angle in the dominant leg is significantly associated with knee pain (r=0.949). Additionally, a high Q-angle in the dominant leg is significantly associated (r=0.278) with a flat foot malformation. Fortunately, the increased patella lateral rotation and Q-angle brought on by the flat foot deformity led to the development of knee pain.

**Discussion**

The goal of the research was to examine the relationship between Q-angle and performance in various sports. Many different types of athletes participated in the study. According to a survey of the relevant literature, women have a sharper Q angle than men do. As a general rule, men have lower Q-angles than women since they are taller. However, contrary to popular belief, women do not have a more lateraled anterior superior iliac spine than men. In a study of female athletes, researchers discovered that sports age, femur length, and pelvic breadth all had direct or indirect effects on Q-angle. When wrestling, as when playing soccer, the dominant foot remains forward, indicating the greater importance of the feet. Regular exercise has been postulated as a means of lowering a high Q-angle. The findings suggest that exercise has a positive effect on Q-angle. It might be argued that a higher Q-angle is desirable during childhood and physical exertion. (Murat Sen et al., 2019). Certain studies have linked disorders of the patellofemoral joint to Q angles greater than 15 degrees in men and 20 degrees in women. The likelihood of lateral dislocation of the patella is increased during quadriceps contractions because of the stress vector imparted to the patella from the side. It is hypothesised that as Q-angle grows, so does the amplitude of this lateral force vector and the inclination for patellar translation to the side. The increased Q-angle during quadriceps activity has been connected to increased pressure between the patella and the underlying lateral femoral condyle, suggesting that this may be a strong predictor of knee injury, especially in sports that include a lot of jumping and landing. Researchers led by Ali Fatali uncovered this (2017b). Q-angles were found to be related to biomechanical characteristics including femur and pelvic length, and to be less likely to shift in athletes who underwent more strenuous training programmes. Mehmet Durmaz et al. (2019). According to the research, men runners who have abnormal Q-angles are more likely to experience musculoskeletal knee injury. (T J Ellapan et al., 2013). Injured rugby players had much more obverse Q-angles than healthy players, and this was especially true for those who had suffered musculoskeletal knee injuries. T.J. Ellapan et al. (2016) draw this inference from their research. 16 percent of males and 20 percent of females with abnormally high QA did not present with knee injuries, suggesting that higher QA may not be the exclusive cause of knee injuries, as found by Emami et al. According to the findings of the study (Mohamed EE et al., 2012),. Also, the wounded limb was not necessarily the one with the greater Q-angle. Using a large Q-angle as a risk factor may be problematic if the measured leg is normal because of the greater probability of misdiagnosing a runner's injury risk when just one lower limb is analysed. Here's only one case in point: (MITCHELL J.RAUH et al., 2007). According to the study's findings, those with higher Beighton scores also had greater Q-angle values. Ligament laxity is a common cause of abnormally loose joints. It follows that highly mobile people have larger Q-angles (H.Daneshmandi et al., 2010). Lower limb kinematics were found to be influenced by the Q-angle. Changing the Q angle places an abnormal stress on the patella cartilage, which can aggravate or possibly cause a variety of knee issues. The Q-angle can be altered if the quadriceps aren't uniformly activated. In accordance with past data suggests that patellar lateral translation and Q-angle are both increased in those with flat feet, and that this leads to the development of knee soreness. Several researchers agreed on this finding in 2013. (among them Amir Letafatkar). The purpose of this research was to compare open- and closed-kinetic-chain exercises for their efficacy in treating patellar chondromalacia. Our research suggests that CKC semi-squat workouts are superior to OKC SLR programmes. The semi-squat population saw a reduction in Q-angle, suggesting an effect. According to research by Doucette and Child, CKC training improves VM muscle activation and functional capacity compared to the vastus lateralis. The Q-angle can be reduced and patellar malalignment toward the medial side can be corrected by increasing the activity of the VM muscle. The patellar kinematics were found to be solely affected by a lateral tilt of the patella when the Q-angle was dropped in 2007 (A H Bakhhtiary, F Fatemi, et al.). This was likely due to the patella tracking along the medial trochlear ridge. When the Q-angle is tiny, the resulting lateral tilt is also little, while when the Q-angle is great, the resulting medial tilt is large. Tibial varus orientation and external rotation may account for the observed lack of medial displacement and lateral rotation. The results reveal that the medial patellofemoral contact pressure increases less with a lower Q-angle than with a larger one. We contend that the translation-tilt relationship is founded on the dimensions and geometry of the trochlear ridge. A hypoplasic lateral trochlear ridge increases translation and decreases concomitant tilt when the Q-angle is altered by the same amount. In accordance with (Yasayuki Mizuno, Masaru Kumagai et al., 2000).

**Recommendations for future studies**

Scientists must calculate the maximum Q-angle that poses a risk to male and female athletes. It is important to investigate whether or not Q-angle asymmetry is related to running injuries (MITCHELL J.RAUH et al., 2007). More research is needed, ideally incorporating other sports, to draw a fuller picture. Developing a standardised clinical Q-angle approach necessitates first testing the reliability and validity of this method on a symptom-free control group and a patellofemoral disorder group with matched confounding factors. After that is done, clinicians will have a better idea of whether or not the Q-angle is a helpful clinical criterion for assessing patients with PPFS and patellar instability. After reviewing the data provided by (Toby O. Smith, Nathan J. Hunt et al., 2008).
Conclusion

Women have a larger Q angle than men do because their pelvises are proportionally larger. Males with Q angles more than 15 degrees and females with angles greater than 20 degrees are more likely to experience pathological problems. Age, gender, athletic training, injuries, patellofemoral syndrome, joint hypermobility, and deformity all play a role in the degrees of the Q angle of athletes.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thanks GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY, for approving this study and allowing me to conduct this research , I would also like to thanks Dr.Priya Mahto ma,am for her guidance and information provided throughout the study . Thank-you all of the research authorities cited in this review.

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