

Participant Information Statement



Research Study: Assessing clinician attitudes and current practices for the use of ankle supports in the management and prevention of lateral ankle sprain.

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1. What is this study about?

We are conducting a research study to determine clinicians' current practices and attitudes on the use of ankle supports (i.e., brace and tape) in the management and prevention of lateral ankle sprains.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

2. Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Dr Claire Hiller, Associate Professor, The University of Sydney
- Dr Alycia Fong Yan, Senior Lecturer in Exercise and Sport Science, The University of Sydney
- Dr Paula Beckenkamp, Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy, The University of Sydney
- Mr Tomas Megalaa, PhD student, The University of Sydney

Mr Tomas Megalaa is conducting this study as part of a PhD candidature at the University of Sydney, under the supervision of Associate Professor Claire Hiller, Dr Paula Beckenkamp, and Dr Alycia Fong Yan.

3. Who can take part in the study?

We are seeking health professionals, medical professionals, athletic trainers or athletic coaches registered with an official governing body within Australia and are currently involved, or involved at least once in the previous 12 months, in the management and/or prevention of lateral ankle sprains.

4. What will the study involve for me?

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to answer questions as part of this online survey about use of ankle supports in the management and prevention of lateral ankle sprains. The survey will take approximately 10 -15 minutes.

5. Can I withdraw once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The University of Sydney.

By submitting your survey, you consent to take part in the study. You can stop the survey at any time and return to it at a later date (once you start the survey you will have one week to complete it) and can return (by pressing the back button) and change your answer on any of the questions. You can withdraw at any time before you submit the final answers, however, once your responses are submitted, they cannot be withdrawn. This is because the responses are anonymous, and we will not be able to tell which ones are yours.

6. Are there any risks or costs?

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study.

7. Are there any benefits?

You will not receive any direct benefits from participating in the study.

8. What will happen to information that is collected?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing we collect the information from the answers you provide in the survey for the purposes of this study. Any information you provide will be stored securely. The study findings will be disseminated via publication and presentation in national and/or international conferences. As your answers are anonymous, you will not be individually identifiable in these publications. All answers in the survey will be digitised and stored on a password protected computer at the University of Sydney's 2-step verification secure cloud storage. Only the study researchers will have access to the information you provide.

9. Will I be told the results of the study?

You will have the opportunity to receive a brief lay summary of the overall results of this study. If you indicate you wish to receive the lay summary of the results, you will be directed to provide your email in a separate page. Your email will be stored separately from your survey responses, hence keeping your answers anonymous.

10. What if I would like further information?

After you have read this information, the following researcher will be available to answer any questions you may have:

- Mr Tomas Megalaa (PhD student) via email: tmeg0836@uni.sydney.edu.au

11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney [2023/277] according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the University:

Human Ethics Manager
human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
+61 2 8627 8176

This information sheet is for you to keep