

## Impact of Shoes Characteristics to Lower Back Pain in Orthotics Prosthetics Students in Jakarta



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**ABSTRACT:** Standing for more than 20 minutes causes low back pain (LBP). Students majoring in prosthetics orthotics need to practice and stand for more than 2 hours per day. Long standing requirement is un-avoided in students, causing musculoskeletal disorder such as low back pain. The characteristics of shoes are important in development and treatment of lower back conditions. Shoes have several features, which play important roles in posture stability. Usage of shoes with certain characteristics may contribute to low back pain in students.

**Objective:** To determine relationship between shoes characteristics and standing duration on low back pain in orthotic prosthetics students.

**Method:** Correlational quantitative method with cross-sectional design. Purposive sampling used in order to obtain sample of 30 people. Independent variables are the suitability of the shoes used, firmness of shoes soles, *heel counter of shoes*, and standing duration. Dependent variable is low back pain.

**Result:** The relationship between the suitability of the shoes used and low back pain obtained p value of 0.141. Relationship between firmness of shoes sole and low back pain obtained p value of 0.355. Relationship between shoes *heel counter* and low back pain obtained p value of 0.948. Relationship between standing duration and low back pain obtained p value of 0.01. Conclusion: Appropriate of shoes used, firmness of shoes soles, heel counter of shoes, do not have significant relationship with the LBP. Standing duration has significant relationship with LBP.

**Conclusion :** Appropriate of shoes used, firmness of shoes soles, heel counter of shoes, do not have significant relationship with the LBP. Standing duration has significant relationship with LBP.

**KEYWORDS:** Low Back Pain, Shoes Characteristics, orthotics prosthetics

### I. INTRODUCTION

Effectiveness of standing at work causes workers to perform this position for long period of time [17]. Despite of its productivity, standing can cause loss of movement in back, increased load on the tissues and leads to pain [14]. Standing for more than 4 hours a day increased lower back pain by 100% [2, 18]. Standing for more than 20 minutes will slowly reduce tissue elasticity, increases muscle pressure and causes discomfort in lower back area [35].

Low back pain (LBP) is clinical syndrome characterized by pain or unpleasant feeling in lower back area. It may be experienced as a pain, burning, stabbing, sharp or dull, or vague, ranging in intensity from mild to severe. The exact incidence of low back pain in Indonesia is unknown, estimated varies between 7.6% to 37% [36].

Students majoring in orthotic prosthetics need to implement their knowledge in practical session based on prosthetics/orthotics course. Standing time spent during practical session may varies among courses, but it takes more than 4 hours per day. For example, standing time to perform rectification of prosthesis/orthosis, fabrication of devices, and fitting process with model patient. Long standing requirement is un-avoided in students, causing musculoskeletal disorder such as low back pain.

A pair of shoes causes changes in standing posture, as well as changes in force and movement. The shoes are the only connection between body and ground during standing. Changing shoes may change standing posture and whole alignment of entire body [6]. The characteristics of shoes are important in development and treatment of various foot, lower limb, and lower back conditions [8]. Shoes have several features which play important roles in posture stability [30]. In addition, shoes are useful for providing weight support and additional shock absorption for the wearer [11].

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Shoes with firm heel counter can control neutral position of heel, prevent it from collapsing to medial side [34]. Shoes can protect user from foot pronation, thus provide better balance and prevent low back pain [22]. Assessment of shoe characteristics can be done with Footwear Suitability Scale instrument [26]. This assessment determines how many characteristics of shoes are in accordance with the user's feet. Assessment of these characteristics are important to ensure that usage of shoes do not cause problems with the feet or back [8, 37]. Shoes used by students at Department of Prosthetics Orthotic during practical session are diverse. Commonly it is a pair of sneakers or sport shoes. The purpose of this study is to investigate relationship between shoe characteristics, standing duration, and lower back pain in students at Orthotic Prosthetic Department, polytechnique of health science of Jakarta I, Indonesia. Human research ethics committee of Health Polytechnic of Jakarta I approved study protocol, all participants taking part in the study given informed consent.

### II. METHOD AND MATERIAL

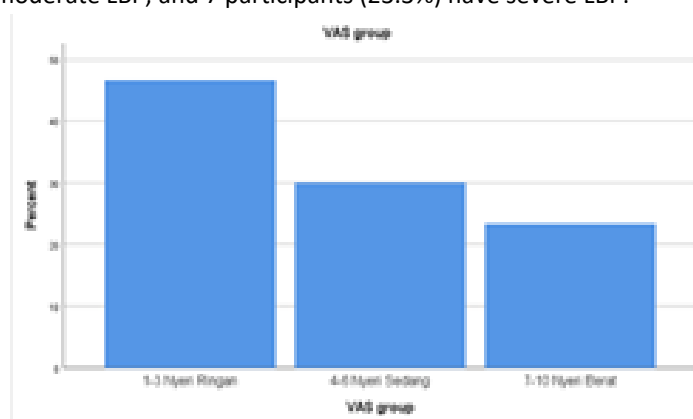
Correlational quantitative method with cross-sectional design was used for this investigation. Population in this study were students of Department of Prosthetic Orthotics, polytechnique of health science of Jakarta I, used purposive sampling method for participant sampling. The inclusion of this study were students of the Department of Orthotic Prosthetics, experienced at least 1 hours standing per day and experienced low back pain. Exclusion criteria are student with history of trauma, disease, or spine abnormalities.

Questionnaire contains Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) was used to describe level of low back pain. Participant's standing duration was asked. The Footwear Suitability Scale was used as a tool for measuring shoes characteristics of participants. It contains of suitability of shoes, firmness of soles, and heel counter features. SPSS v.25 for Windows was used to analyze the data. Bivariate data analysis used Kendall's tau-b test used to test relationship between two variables.

### III. RESULT

Table I summarizes participants' characteristics with highest age frequency of 20 years (66.7%), followed with 33.3% participant with 21 years old of age. By gender, 20 participants were female and 10 participants were male. There were 16 participants has normal body mass index/ BMI (53.3%), 7 participants (23.3%) in obese category, and 5 participants (16.7%), in thin category and 2 participants (6.7 %) in fat category.

In shoes characteristic, 12 participants wear quite appropriate shoes (40%), 11 participants wear appropriate shoes (36.7%), 7 participants wear quite appropriate shoes. In standing duration carried out by participants, the numbers are diverse. 12 participants (40%) stand for less than 2 hours per day, 9 participants (30%) stand 2-4 hour per day, 9 participants (30%) stand for more than 4 hour per day. **Figure 1** shows Lower Back pain scale experienced by participants. 14 participants (46.7%) have mild LBP, 9 participants (30%) have moderate LBP, and 7 participants (23.3%) have severe LBP.



**Figure 1** Bar Chart of LBP pain scale

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**Table 1. Participants' characteristics**

| Demographic                         | N  | %     |
|-------------------------------------|----|-------|
| <b>Age</b>                          |    |       |
| ≤ 20 years old                      | 20 | 66.7% |
| ≥ 21 years old                      | 10 | 33.3% |
| <b>Gender</b>                       |    |       |
| Female                              | 20 | 66.7% |
| Male                                | 10 | 33.3% |
| <b>Body Mass Index (BMI)</b>        |    |       |
| Thin                                | 5  | 16.7% |
| Normal                              | 16 | 53.3% |
| Fat                                 | 2  | 6.7%  |
| Obese                               | 7  | 23.3% |
| <b>Shoe Characteristics</b>         |    |       |
| <b>Suitability Scale Assessment</b> |    |       |
| Very Appropriate                    | 7  | 23.3% |
| Appropriate                         | 11 | 36.7% |
| Quite Appropriate                   | 12 | 40%   |
| <b>Standing Duration</b>            |    |       |
| ≤ 2 hours                           | 9  | 30%   |
| 2-4 hours                           | 12 | 40%   |
| ≥ 4 hours                           | 9  | 30%   |

Kendall's tau test was used to determine the relationship between suitability of shoes and low back pain. Result obtained with p-value 0.141, shows no significant relationship between two variables with correlation coefficient 0.245. (Table 2)

**Table 2. Relationship between suitability of shoes and low back pain**

| Shoes suitability scale                  | Visual Analogue Scale |       |          |       |        |       | Total |       |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                          | Mild                  |       | Moderate |       | Severe |       | f     | %     |
|                                          | f                     | %     | f        | %     | f      | %     |       |       |
| Very Suitable                            | 5                     | 35.7% | 1        | 11.1% | 1      | 14.3% | 7     | 23.3% |
| Appropriate                              | 4                     | 28.6% | 6        | 66.7% | 1      | 14.3% | 11    | 36.7% |
| Quite Suitable                           | 5                     | 35.7% | 2        | 22.2% | 5      | 71.4% | 12    | 40%   |
| Total                                    | 14                    | 100%  | 9        | 100%  | 7      | 100%  | 30    |       |
| Correlations coefficient (Kendall's tau) |                       |       |          |       |        |       | 0.245 |       |
| P_value ( Kendall's tau)                 |                       |       |          |       |        |       | 0.141 |       |

Table 3 shows results of non-parametric Kendall's tau to test relationship between each shoes characteristics and low back pain. "Firmness of sole" category shows significant relationship with p-value 0.355. With p-value > 0.05, it shows that there is no significant relationship between two variables with correlation coefficient of 0.163. Heel counter shows significant relationship with p-value 0.948. With p-value > 0.05, it shows that there is no significant relationship between two variables with correlation coefficient of -0.12.

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**Table 3. Relationship between characteristics of shoes and low back pain**

| Shoe Characteristics Against Low Back Pain |                         |       |       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Firmness of sole                           | Correlation coefficient | 1.000 | 0.163 |
|                                            | Sig. (2-tailed)         |       | 0.355 |
| Heel counter                               | Correlation coefficient | 1.000 | -0.12 |
|                                            | Sig. (2-tailed)         |       | 0.948 |

Table 4 shows Kendall's tau result to determine relationship between standing duration and low back pain, obtained p-value 0.01. It shows significant relationship between two variables with correlation coefficient of 0.541. The correlation coefficient shows two variables have strong relationship, and positive correlation (unidirectional). Positive correlation indicates that the longer the duration of standing, intensity of low back pain is higher.

**Table 4. Relationship between standing duration and low back pain**

| Standing duration                       | Visual Analogue Scale |       |               |       |             |       | Total        |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|
|                                         | Mild pain             |       | Moderate pain |       | Severe pain |       | f            | %     |
|                                         | f                     | %     | f             | %     | f           | %     |              |       |
| < 2 hours                               | 8                     | 57.1% | 1             | 11.1% | 0           | 0%    | 9            | 16.7% |
| 2 – 4 hours                             | 5                     | 35.7% | 4             | 44.4% | 3           | 42.9% | 12           | 53.3% |
| > 4 hours                               | 1                     | 7.1%  | 4             | 44.4% | 4           | 57.1% | 9            | 16.7% |
| Total                                   | 14                    | 100%  | 9             | 100%  | 7           | 100%  | 30           |       |
| Correlation coefficient (Kendall's tau) |                       |       |               |       |             |       | <b>0.541</b> |       |
| P_value ( Kendall's tau)                |                       |       |               |       |             |       | <b>0.01</b>  |       |

### V. DISCUSSION

Standing duration and low back pain have significant relationship. Longer standing duration creates more lower back pain in participants. The results of this study are in accordance with Susanti et al. (2015); discussed relationship between standing duration and myogenic low back pain in cashiers. Workers who carry out long standing activities in the same position for more than 20 minutes feel LBP. The results of this study also in accordance with Nelson-Wong (2010) conducted with 15 healthy respondents who were asked to stand for 2 (two) hours continuously while they're doing 4 (four) different jobs. There were discomfort in the lower back area turned into lower back pain when respondents were asked to stand for 4 hours every day [27].

### VI. CONCLUSIONS

Characteristics of shoes based on shoes suitability do not have significant relationship to LBP. Firmness of shoes sole and shoes heel counter do not have significant relationship with the LBP. Standing duration has significant relationship with LBP.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This study was done by self-funding from the authors. The authors thank to all participants and research assistant.

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