

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BACK STRENGTHENING EXERCISES VERSUS MOTOR CONTROL HIP EXERCISES IN CHRONIC LOWER BACKACHE AND FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY IN CASE OF PROLONG STANDING PERSONS

**Dr.Sudhansu Bhusan Mangaraj<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr.Ashish Yadav<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1\*,2</sup> PhD, Physiotherapy Dept. ANS hospital, Jaipur, Rajasthan

**\*Corresponding Author:** drbutu@gmail.com

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.63299/ijopt.0701117>

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** An estimated 5 to 15% of people will experience persistent low backache (CLBA), which is a frequent health issue. The clinical results of CLBP indicate that the selection order of core muscles is changed and lumbar instability is reduced. There is no information in the literature on the relative benefits of hip control exercises vs core muscle training for the chronicity of lower backache. The impact of double management on persistent lower back ach was assessed in this research.

**Method:** Forty patients with persistent lower backache had been collected from the ANS hospital's emergency unit. Following randomization, these 40 patients were distributed in two groups, A and B. For 30 days, both groups got the identical treatment. For all groups, assessments were conducted before the treatment began on day 0, during the session on day 15, and after the intervention on day 30. Analysis and conclusions were drawn from the afterwards outcomes.

**Results:** The results indicated that each group had improved in every end measure, notably pain and functional status as measured by the Oswestry Disability Index, the Numerical Pain Rating Scale, and the Straight Leg Rise Test. The rise in productivity was significantly different between the groups but not statistically relevant within the groups.

**Conclusion:** The current research suggests that, regardless of prolonged standing, hip motor control exercises and core muscle strengthening exercises are both beneficial rehabilitation strategies for all individuals with persistent lower back ach. Exercises for hip motor control, however, had a major impact on lbp maintenance.

**Keywords:** Chronic lower back ach, core muscle strengthening, hip motor control exercise, numeric pain scale, oswestry disable index, straight leg rise.

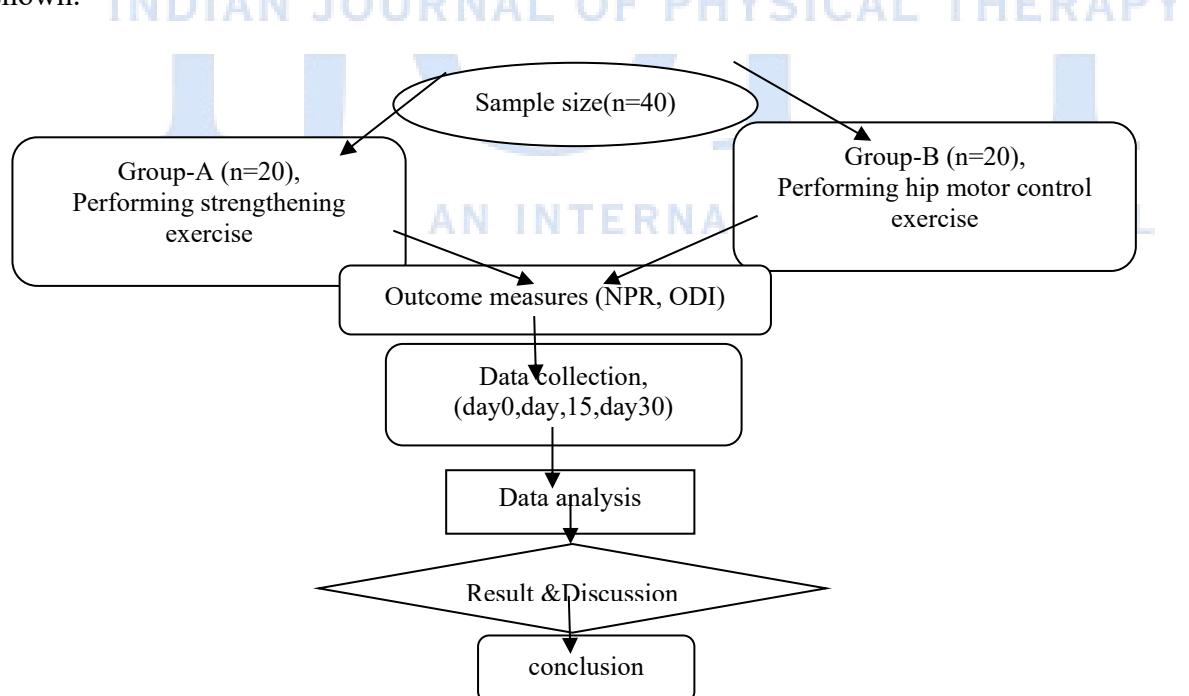
### Introduction

A feeling of discomfort and tightness in the area of the back beneath the bottom line of the ribs, which includes the buttocks, lower lumbar spine, and lumbosacral region, are sometimes referred to as "lower back ach" (LBP). Localized, diffuse, radiating, or referred pain are some of the ways that this pain may appear (1, 2). Long-term standing causes lower back ach by increasing lumbar lordosis, reducing mobility, and wearing out muscles. This results in protracted spinal strain and poor blood flow. Those who are prone to discomfort are most affected by these physiological changes. After 48 to 120 minutes, static standing positions result in lumbar erector spinae exhaustion, and lactic acid accumulation weakens the spine's support. While decreased

fidgeting restricts tissue extraction, elevated lumbar lordosis increases spinal strain and pelvic tilt. Muscle pain and discomfort are caused by reduced circulation, which drains muscles adequate oxygen. In pain-prone people, increased gluteus medius co-activation exacerbates core weakness (10). LBP is the leading cause of impairment and a major contribution to the worldwide incidence of disease, affecting individuals of all ages (3, 4). In the US, low backache (LBP) is a very common ailment that has a startlingly detrimental effect on community in terms of costs and impairment. With almost 52.3 million doctor visits per year in 2012, it is the most frequent cause for seeking medical attention (5). The number of instances of LBP in the year after an acute episode varies from 24 to 87, and 90 percent of individuals will suffer it at some point in their lives. Both the lifetime incidence (74–85%) and actual point incidence (32–40%) of LBP are quite high. However, because of diminished productivity and temporary or permanent incapacity to work, LBP has a financial effect in addition to being a significant personal health issue. Finding efficient treatments that best suit each person's present requirements should thus receive more attention. In fact, current conservative treatments (such as aerobic activities, flexibility training, strength training, and stabilization exercises) show promise in treating LBP (8–9). Although stabilization exercise regimens were successful in lowering LBP and disability, they have been used extensively in the treatment of LBP. Stabilization exercises are designed to enhance the performance of certain trunk muscles that are thought to regulate the articulation of the spine. These kinds of exercises may be useful in treating lower back ach by helping the spine and pelvis restore mobility and balance (7). In order to optimize lumbopelvic rhythm, lessen adaptive lumbar loading, and improve overall spinal stability—especially in patients with hip mobility restrictions or instability—hip motor control exercises for lower back ach (LBP) focus on hip stabilizers such as gluteus medius, maximus, and deep rotators (11). The goal of the study was to determine the impact of hip motor control exercises and core muscle strengthening on patients with persistent lower back ach by measuring pain and function using the Oswestry Disability Index, a numerical pain rating scale, and straight leg raise range of motion.

## Method & Material

**Methods and study design:** This is a randomization controlled study with one blind. It is a factorial approach with two (group) by three (time) measurements being repeated. An illustration of the whole research design is shown.



**Study participants:** The proposed research will attract, participate, and randomly assign 40 individuals ( $n = 20/\text{group}$ ) with limited mobility and frequent LBP between the ages of 20 and 50. A community medical practitioner or other local healthcare providers may recommend program participants, or they may self-refer. Informal written permission will be provided by the participant. This experiment received ethical authorization from the ANS Hospital in Jaipur (study number: 14 F025).

**Randomization and blinding:** A 30-day core endurance exercise program or a hip motor control training program will be randomly allocated to participants in a 1:1 ratio. Multiple block selection will be used to

ensure an equal sample size. The study team conducting outcome assessments will not be aware of the group distribution during the experiment. The allocation algorithm and distribution table were developed by a biostatistician. The right treatments were assigned to the research respondents after they were enrolled.

**Study time line:** A 30-day initial diagnostic phase, a 4-week exercise regimen phase, and a post-exercise phase will all be included in this study. Participants will perform their baseline assessments at the ANS hospital's physiotherapy unit prior to the administration. The last assessment was carried out following the thirty-first day of sessions, and participants will be reviewed on the fifteenth day of the four-week exercise intervention. Day 0 will serve as the starting point, Day 15 as the center point, and Day 30 as the end of the event. These data will be used to calculate the rate, duration, intensity of pain, and impairment of LBP reappearance throughout the follow-up period.

**Outcome measures:** The following outcome criteria will be evaluated at beginning, during the exercise procedure, and 30 days into the follow-up period:

Pain along with perceived disability (tertiary outcomes): LBP will be measured using a numerical pain rating (NPR) scale ranging from 0 to 10. Perceived disability will be measured using the Roland Morris Disability Questionnaire, which has 24 items pertinent to LBP (12). These data will be used to calculate the rate, duration, pain intensity, and difficulty of LBP recurrence throughout the follow-up period. In order to evaluate LBP recurrence, we first need to recognize an episode of LBP as a period of lower back ach lasting more than twenty-four hours, followed by a minimum of one month without LBP. The description put forward by de Vet and colleagues is consistent with this idea(13). Subsequently, we will calculate the length of each episode, the mean and maximum impairment/pain ratings over the follow-up period, and the frequency of LBP episodes every three months to determine the length of the repetition rate.

Oswestry disabled index: Scholars as well as assessors utilize the Oswestry Disability Index, also called the Oswestry Lower back ach Disability Questionnaire, as a crucial instrument to gauge a patient's long-term functional impairment. In terms of low back rehabilitation tools, the exam is considered the "gold standard." This scale asks about functional activities and the degree of pain. The following is how the scale is comprehended: Minimum impairment ranges from 0% to 20%, severe impairment ranges from 21% to 40%, major disability ranges from 41% to 60%, crippled ranges from 61% to 80%, and 81% to 100% confined to bed.

Straight leg raise test: A physical assessment technique called the Straight Leg Raise (SLR) test, also known as the Lasegue sign, is used to identify lower back nerve root irritation, especially when evaluating sciatica or ruptured discs (L5/S1). A positive test, which indicates transmitting discomfort below the knee, usually happens at a 30 to 70-degree angle. The exam entails raising the patient's straight leg while they are supine.

**Exercise interventions:** Over the course of 30 days, daily controlled instruction will take place. The exercise duration will be 25% of maximal isometric endurance for both the hip motor coordination exercise (Glute bridge with emphasis on symmetry Clamshell, Side-lying hip abduction, Hip hinge training, Single-leg stance control) and the core strengthening exercise (Abdominal bracing, Pelvic tilts, Bird dog, Dead bug, Plank/Side plank) group. By basing the exercise frequency on maximal contractile force instead of a single repetition maximum, the risk of injury from performing a maximal explosive trunk extension practice is decreased. On the fifteenth day, which is halfway through the training program, strength will be assessed again, and exercise intensity levels will be adjusted accordingly.

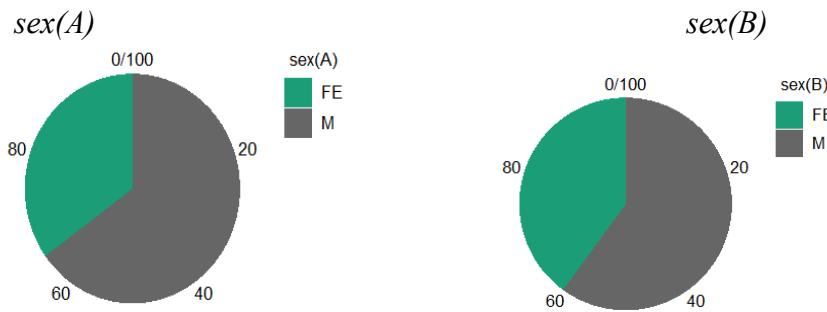
**Statistical analyses:** In order to examine LBP recovery, we will compute the rate of LBP recurrence, the median duration of an instance, and magnitude as the mean and maximum pain and disability ratings during a single episode of LBP appearance and throughout the follow-up period. We will also determine whether the groups vary in these metrics, and we will evaluate any possible prejudice resulting from loss to follow-up by determining whether characteristics measured at the start of the training and immediately after will suggest termination. To improve the accuracy of effects, we will use linear relationships with variables to calculate a difference in group means for the three outcome measures (i.e., NPR, ODI, and SLR).

## Results

| Descriptive Statistics |        |        |        |        |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Descriptive Statistics |        |        |        |        |
|                        | sex(A) | sex(B) | age(A) | age(B) |
| Valid                  | 20     | 20     | 20     | 20     |
| Missing                | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Mean                   |        |        | 38.900 | 40.750 |
| Std. Deviation         |        |        | 7.188  | 6.835  |
| Minimum                |        |        | 27.000 | 27.000 |
| Maximum                |        |        | 50.000 | 50.000 |

Note. Not all values are available for Nominal Text variables

Pie charts



### Paired Samples T-Test

| Measure 1    | Measure 2      | t     | df | p      |
|--------------|----------------|-------|----|--------|
| npr day0(A)  | - npr day0(B)  | 2.015 | 19 | 0.058  |
| npr day15(A) | - npr day15(B) | 2.179 | 19 | 0.042  |
| npr day30(A) | - npr day30(B) | 3.322 | 19 | 0.004  |
| odi day0(A)  | - odi day0(B)  | 1.585 | 19 | 0.129  |
| odi day15(A) | - odi day15(B) | 2.896 | 19 | 0.009  |
| odi day30(A) | - odi day30(B) | 4.027 | 19 | 0.0007 |
| slr day0(A)  | - slr day0(B)  | 1.567 | 19 | 0.134  |
| slr day15(A) | - slr day15(B) | 1.815 | 19 | 0.085  |
| slr day30(A) | - slr day30(B) | 3.358 | 19 | 0.003  |

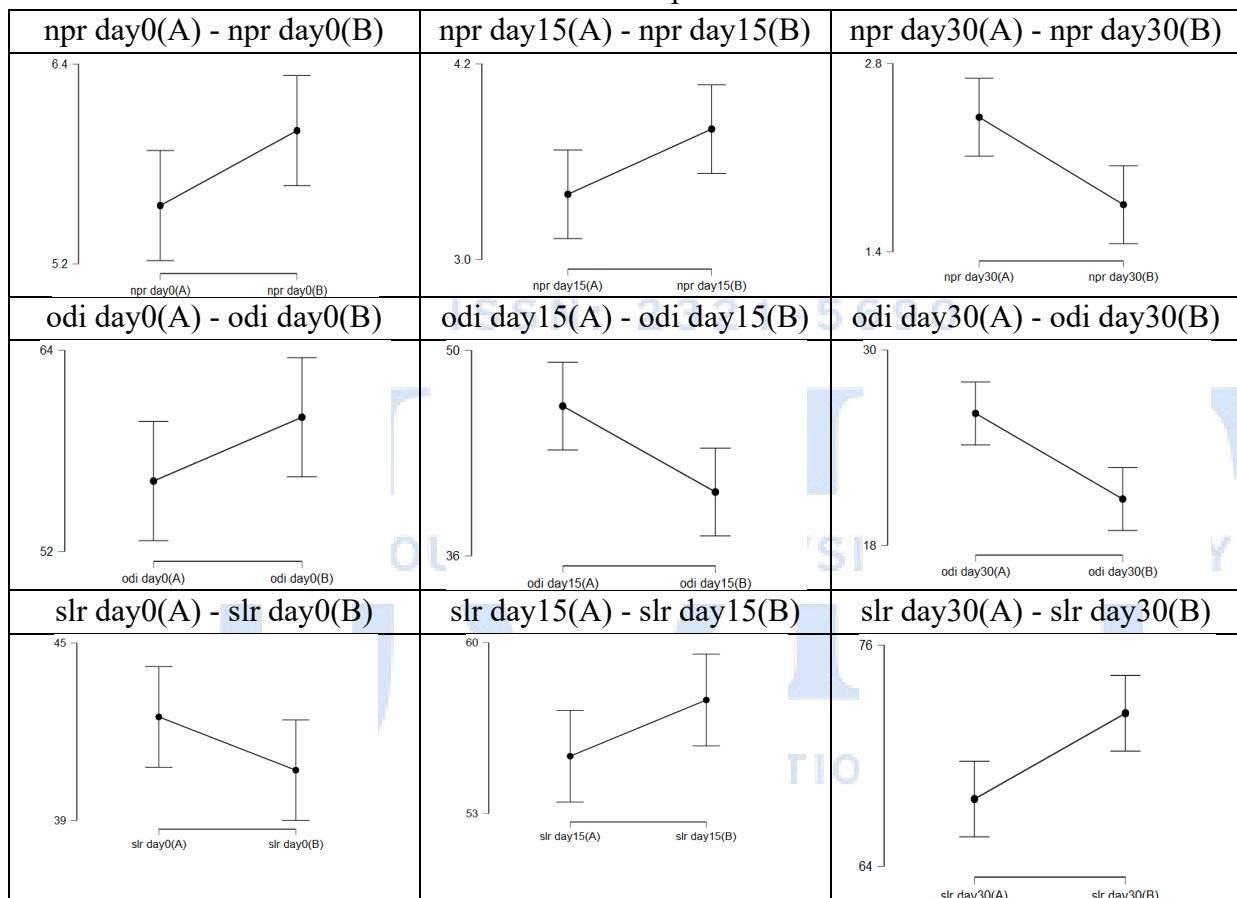
Note. Student's t-test.

### Descriptives

|              | N  | Mean   | SD    | SE    |
|--------------|----|--------|-------|-------|
| npr day0(A)  | 20 | 5.550  | 1.234 | 0.276 |
| npr day0(B)  | 20 | 6.000  | 1.076 | 0.241 |
| npr day15(A) | 20 | 3.400  | 0.995 | 0.222 |
| npr day15(B) | 20 | 3.800  | 0.616 | 0.138 |
| npr day30(A) | 20 | 2.400  | 0.995 | 0.222 |
| npr day30(B) | 20 | 1.750  | 0.550 | 0.123 |
| odi day0(A)  | 20 | 56.200 | 9.197 | 2.057 |
| odi day0(B)  | 20 | 60.000 | 5.982 | 1.338 |
| odi day15(A) | 20 | 46.200 | 9.197 | 2.057 |
| odi day15(B) | 20 | 40.350 | 3.703 | 0.828 |

**Paired Samples T-Test**

| <b>Measure 1</b> |    | <b>Measure 2</b> | <b>t</b> | <b>df</b> | <b>p</b> |
|------------------|----|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| odi day30(A)     | 20 | 26.100           | 5.180    |           | 1.158    |
| odi day30(B)     | 20 | 20.850           | 2.159    |           | 0.483    |
| slr day0(A)      | 20 | 42.500           | 7.067    |           | 1.580    |
| slr day0(B)      | 20 | 40.700           | 5.904    |           | 1.320    |
| slr day15(A)     | 20 | 55.350           | 5.254    |           | 1.175    |
| slr day15(B)     | 20 | 57.650           | 5.373    |           | 1.201    |
| slr day30(A)     | 20 | 67.650           | 5.659    |           | 1.265    |
| slr day30(B)     | 20 | 72.300           | 5.292    |           | 1.183    |

**Descriptives Plots****Discussion**

While core training protocols focus on global trunk contractions to increase spinal stability, hip motor control workouts stress precise neuromuscular coordination among hip defenders such gluteal and rotators to raise lumbo-pelvic positioning in the management of lower back ach (LBP). Clinical study evidence shows that both approaches reduce pain and dysfunction in chronic lower back ach, although hip motor control often yields greater short-term effects when concentrating on deep muscle restoration. Hip-focused treatments also address common hip extensor and abductor deficiencies that result in persistent LBP. Over a 30-day period, hip motor control and core strengthening exercises both provide long-lasting pain relief in chronic lower back ach (LBP), although the evidence does not convincingly establish

| Group-A(core stabilization exercise)  | Group-B(hip motor control exercise)   |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>Primary focus: Trunk &amp; spinal stabilizers<br/>Key muscles: Transversus abdominis, Multifidus, Obliques<br/>Main goal: Boost the stability of your spine, Boost the reliability of the segmental spine, Cut back on frequent lumbar movement, enhance the deep trunk muscles' neuromuscular control, Reduce the lumbar spine's tensile and shear pressures.</p> | <p>Primary focus: Hip muscles &amp; lumbopelvic coordination<br/>Key muscles: Gluteus maximus, Gluteus medius, Hip rotators<br/>Main goal: Enhance hip-pelvis-spine load transmission, address hip muscle weakness and delayed activation, enhance the lumbopelvic cadence when performing functional tasks, Minimize defensive misuse of the lumbar region, Enhance your gait, squat, and lift patterns of movement.</p> |                                  |
| Physiological Domain  | Effect of core stabilization  | Effect of motor control exercise |
| Muscular  | Increase deep muscle activation   | increase gluteal activation      |
| Neuromuscular   | Increase coordination   | Increase hip control & timing    |
| Biomechanical   | Decreased lumbar stress   | Reduced lumbar load              |
| Sensory   | Raised in proprioception  | Increase proprioception          |
| Kinetic chain   |   | increase load distribution       |
| Pain  | Decrease in nociceptions  | Reduced mechanical pain input    |

## Conclusion

Lower back discomfort can be effectively treated with hip motor control and core stability exercises. Core improvement primarily enhances spinal stability and reduces pain, whilst hip motor control exercises boost functional mobility and load distribution. A thorough rehabilitation approach that takes hip and trunk control into account yields the greatest clinical outcomes.

## Reference:

- Chen S, Chen M, Wu X et al. Global, regional and National burden of low back pain 1990–2019: A systematic analysis of the global burden of disease study 2019 [J]. J Orthop Translat, 2022, 32:49–58.
- Urits I, Burshtein A, Sharma M et al. Lower back pain, a comprehensive review: pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment [J]. Curr Pain Headache Rep, 2019, 23:23.
- Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 354 diseases and injuries for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2017: a systematic analysis for the global burden of disease study 2017 [J]. Lancet, 2018, 392:1789–1858.
- Wirth, B. Schweinhardt P. Personalized assessment and management of non-specific lower back pain [J]. Eur J Pain, 2024, 28:181–198.
- Andersson G, Watkins-Castillo SI. Spine: low back and neck pain. In: The burden of musculoskeletal diseases in the United States. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. 2014. <http://www.boneandjointburden.org/2014-report>. Accessed 17 September 2015.
- Stanton TR, Latimer J, Maher CG, Hancock M. Definitions of recurrence of an episode of lower back pain: a systematic review. Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2009; 34(9):E316–22. doi:10.1097/BRS.0b013e318198d073.
- Hodges, P.W. & Richardson, C.A. Inefficient muscular stabilization of the lumbar spine associated with lower back pain: a motor control evaluation of transversus abdominis. Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 21, 2640–2650 (1996).
- A. Searle, M. Spink, A. Ho, and V. Chuter, “Exercise interventions for the treatment of chronic lower back pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials,” Clinical Rehabilitation, vol. 29, no. 12, pp. 1155–1167, 2015.
- R. Gordon and S. Bloxham, “A systematic review of the effects of exercise and physical activity on non-specific chronic lower back pain,” Healthcare, vol. 4, no. 2, p. 22, 2016.
- The impact of different standing positions on gluteus medius activation and lumbar lordosis in LBP-developers during prolonged standing. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0317291>

- 11 Effects of hip exercises for chronic low-lower backache patients with lumbar instability, PMCID: PMC4339134 PMID: [25729164](#)
- 12 Roland M, Morris R. A study of the natural history of lower backache: part I: development of a reliable and sensitive measure of disability in low-lower backache. Spine. 1983;8(2):141–4.
- 13 de Vet HC, Heymans MW, Dunn KM, Pope DP, van der Beek AJ, Macfarlane GJ, et al. Episodes of lower back ach: a proposal for uniform definitions to be used in research. Spine (Phila Pa 1976). 2002;27(21):2409–16. doi:10.1097/01.BRS.0000030307.34002.BE.

ISSN: 2321-5690

