

# Effect of Maitland Mobilization and Kaltenborn–Evjenth Mobilization on the SLR Angle

The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of Maitland mobilization and Kaltenborn–Evjenth mobilization on the SLR angle. Subjects randomly divided into Kaltenborn–Evjenth group(n=8) and Maitland group(n=7). The mean height, age, body weight was 176.00±5.10 cm, 22.75±1.83 years, 72.63±10.65 kg respectively in Kaltenborn–Evjenth group. The mean height, age, body weight was 175.00±5.60 cm, 22.29±3.68 years, 78.00±12.36 kg respectively in Maitland group. Hip joint accessory movements with Grade III or IV were applied depend on the patient's condition to the restricted direction for 1 minute each set, and performed 5 set in a Maitland group. Hip joint anteroposterior gliding with Grade III were applied 60 for 1 minutes each set, and performed 5 set in a Kaltenborn–Evjenth group. The angle of first pain was referred to as P1 and subjects were pointed out that they could not bend the knee anymore, then examiner measure SLR angle. The SLR was significantly increased in the Maitland group compared to the Kaltenborn–Evjenth group after intervention(p<.05). In a within group difference, SLR significantly increased in the both groups(p<.05). These results indicated that Maitland mobilization could be recommended the excellent technique to increase the hip flexion in patient with hip hypo-mobility.

Key words: *Maitland; Kaltenborn–Evjenth; Mobilization; Grade; Hip Flexion*

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## INTRODUCTION

Joint mobility is normally evaluated by the range of motion(ROM) of the joints, that is clinically defined as the ROM angle between maximal extension and flexion during bi-articular muscles are relaxed(1). The active ROM is smaller than passive ROM and is independent of a participant's effort, muscle strength and motivation(2). Hip is an important to maintain the center of gravity during both dynamic and static balance, and hip disorders could contribute to change body posture(3).

Recent researches suggested that abnormal hip joint morphology could limit the ROM without pathology(4, 5). However, the reduced ROM of lower extremity is often observed in patients with numerous hip joint pathologies. The patients with labral tear and femoro-acetabular impingement (FAI) is likely to exhibit decreased hip flexion ROM

(6–8).

The limitations of hip mobility have been suggested to be present in distal lower extremity pathologies(9,10) and some lumbar spine disorders (11). These mobility limitations linked to the patients with FAI and/or hip labral tear(12, 13), osteoarthritis(4, 14) and sports related groin pain (13, 15). Especially, limitations in hip flexion ROM have been related to the hip pathology(7, 8).

The mobilization which is defined as passive movement could used to decrease the pain, maintain mobility, improve hypo-mobility and delay progressive stiffness(16). There is a report that manual therapy have no effect on joint function (17), however some evidence suggests that subjects with hip disorders could benefit on the hip joint mobilization by increasing ROM and reducing functional limitations(18, 19).

Self-mobilization or passive mobilization has

been recommended as intermodal approach to the hip pathology(20–22). Especially, Posterior, lateral and inferior mobilization is the appropriate intervention to the restrictions of hip mobility which is related to the capsular disorders(23, 24). Mobilizations could increase hip flexion and Grade IV mobilizations were provided to repair hip mobility(25–27). Grade IV mobilization is a small-amplitude passive motion at the end of range against soft tissue resistance(28) among the 4 mobilization grade. Long axis distraction could increase the elasticity of the joint capsule and boost relaxation of the hip muscles(29, 30).

There is little evidences which supporting the effects of hip manual mobilizations on improving hypo-mobility(31, 32), even hip mobilization with Maitland and Kaltenborn–Evjenth technique. The purpose of present study is to investigate the effect of applied hip mobilization with Maitland and Kaltenborn –Evjenth technique on the SLR angle.

## METHODS

### Subjects

Fifteen male with hip joint hypo-mobility were analyzed among participants who has the hip flexion degree less than 90. Subjects who had surgery on the hip joint in the last 6 months or had rheumatoid arthritis were excluded. Subjects randomly divided into two group, Kaltenborn–Evjenth (n=8) and Maitland(n=7) group. The mean height of the subjects was  $176.00 \pm 5.10$  cm, mean age was  $22.75 \pm 1.83$  years and mean body weight was  $72.63 \pm 10.65$  kg in Kaltenborn–Evjenth group, and the mean height of the subjects was  $175.00 \pm 5.60$  cm, mean age was  $22.29 \pm 3.68$  years and mean body weight was  $78.00 \pm 12.36$  kg in Maitland group. All subjects provided written informed consent to participate in the study. This study was approved by the IRB of the Namseoul University of Korea.

### Intervention

One physical therapist completed interventions for this report. The physical therapist has 7 years clinical experience and complete Maitland 2a Course. In a Maitland group, hip joint accessory movements (among the postero–anterior, antero–posterior, rotation, transverse mvts and distraction) with Grade III or IV were applied depend on

the patient's condition to the restricted direction for 1 minute each set, and performed 5 set. Therapist treated one area if subject have a hypo-mobility to the one direction, and treated all disordered area if have a hypo-mobility in various directions. In a Kaltenborn–Evjenth group, hip joint anteroposterior gliding with Grade III were applied 60 for 1 minutes each set, and performed 5 set. Treatment was applied to the hypo-mobility dominant leg.

### Measurement SLR

Straight leg raise angle was measured by standard dual-arm goniometer with the subject in a supine position. One physical therapist measured the SLR angle and was blind to each subject. The standard dual-arm goniometer was placed parallel to the femur with the subject in the position of lying on the back. The knee and ankle were hold in the extension position. Holding the talus bone without hip rotation, increased the hip flexion and lifting the lower limbs until subjects first noticed of pain in the area of the hamstrings. End range of ankle dorsi–flexion was avoided to prevent stiffness or pain of the calf muscle from confusing the sense of hamstring stiffness and pain, which are indicator the limitation of SLR. The angle of first beginning of pain was referred to as P1(33). Subjects were pointed out that they could not bend the knee anymore, then examiner measure SLR angle. The SLR angle was recorded three times for each subject, and used average data. All subjects began with a single measurement of the passive SLR on their dominant leg.

### Statistical Analysis

The independent two-sample t-test were used to test whether SLR means are significantly different from each group after intervention, and Paired sample t-test were used in 'before–after' intervention in each group. The significance level was set at  $p < .05$ .

## RESULTS

The demographic variables of the subjects, including height, age and weight were recorded. These variables revealed no significant difference among the two groups. The baseline measurement of the SLR was not statistically significantly different among the two groups(Table 1). The Maitland

group showed statistically significant improvement in the SLR compared with the Kaltenborn – Evjenth group after intervention ( $p < .05$ ). On comparing the SLR before and after mobilization, significant improvement was noted in the both Kaltenborn–Evjenth and Maitland group ( $p < .05$ ).

**Table 1.** Changes in the Straight Leg Raising Angle

Group	Before treatment (m±SD)	After treatment (m±SD)
Kaltenborn –Evjenth mobilization	68.00±6.44°	77.38±3.20° *
Maitland mobilization	75.14±9.87°	83.86±2.79° *
$\rho$	0.19	0.00

\* Significantly different before and after treatment

P Significantly different between the two groups

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of present study was to report the effect of hip joint mobilization which is Maitland and Kaltenborn–Evjenth techniques on the change of SLR angle. The SLR of Maitland group was significantly increased compared with the Kaltenborn –Evjenth group after intervention. On comparing the SLR angle between before and after mobilization, significant increasing was noted in the both Kaltenborn –Evjenth and Maitland group ( $p < .05$ ). Present study suggested that the Maitland hip mobilization has a greater benefit of SLR than the Kaltenborn –Evjenth hip mobilization. One potential description is the combination of accessory movement which occurs in Maitland mobilization but not in Kaltenborn–Evjenth posterior mobilization. Comparing of Kaltenborn–Evjenth group with Maitland group was difficult due to lack of evidence to support Kaltenborn –Evjenth hip mobilization.

Mobilization could change positional fault of the joint, provide a stretching effect on the muscles and joint capsules(34) and has been recommended to increase accessory movements in hypo–mobile structures(35). The capsule –ligamentous tissues of a joint are mechanically stretched(27) and articular mechanoreceptor is activated during mobilization. Thus, may bring pain inhibition and enhanced motor control or repairing normal arthrokinematics(27, 36, 37). Joint mobilization could effect on the motor unit activity over the

joint and on those in more remote area, even on those opposite side of the body(36).

Neurophysiological mechanisms related with mobilization contain alterations of potentially central pain processing mechanisms(38) as well as the descending pain modulatory system(39). It is possible that mobilization decreases pain by stimulating joint mechano –receptors, which consequently inhibits nociceptive stimuli(27, 40). In addition to these biomechanical and neuro –physiological effects, the repetitive motion of mobilization might change the attentions of anti–inflammatory mediators in the joint, which might subsequently inhibit nociceptors(41). Lastly, other probable mechanisms contain psychological effects such as a decrease in fear avoidance related with movement(42).

Whatever the results, the immediate effect of Maitland indicates opportunity for future researches to discover the long–term effects of joint mobilization. Additionally, it’s difficult to compare our data directly with other studies due to osteoarthritis subjects participated in the most other studies and subjects were young men in this study. Researches are needed to compare effects of Maitland mobilization(43) and Mulligan mobilization(37) or Kaltenborn–Evjenth mobilization and Mulligan mobilization on SLR in the future.

## CONCLUSIONS

Present study suggested that SLR angle was significantly improved before and after the treatment in both Kaltenborn–Evjenth and Maitland group. However, SLR angle was significantly increased in Maitland group compared with the Kaltenborn–Evjenth group after intervention. Consequently, these results indicated that Maitland mobilization could be recommended the excellent technique to increase the hip flexion in patient with hip hypo–mobility.

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