

I agree entirely when the author says “Despite this lack of evidence, it could be entirely possible that excessive compensatory pronation of the foot is pathologic and it was not the intention of this essay to argue that it is not. It was the intention to argue that such an assertion can not be made from the available evidence”. This raises the question, can it be proven that excessive pronation is pathologic? If excessive pronation cannot be proven to be pathologic, then what measures can be used to predict pathology or evaluate the effectiveness of a treatment?

I see two problems in proving that excessive pronation is the cause of pathology. The first, is a problem of definition. When is the magnitude, duration, or velocity of pronation normal and when does it become excessive? If one were to use the definition of the normal foot proposed by Root et al, then any foot that does not stand in STJ neutral position would have excessive pronation. In Mcpoil’s (McPoil TG et al, 1996) study of a hundred feet, randomly chosen, none functioned near neutral position. Using Root’s definition, and McPoil’s sample, one could imply that that all feet are pronated from where they should be. Now, the problem is deciding whether a foot is abnormally pronated or excessively pronated. This leads to the second problem that the author alludes to when he states, “Excessive pronation could actually just be a normal variant and other

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