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2 of Wheelchair Propulsion Trials in Non-disabled Young Adults

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1 **ABSTRACT.**

2
3 **Background**

4 There has been a growing interest in "Lifestyle Physical Activity" (LPA) among wheelchair users. LPA can be
5 quantified via "pushes" as an outcome metric. This study examined the accuracy and precision of research-
6 grade devices for counting pushes across a series of wheelchair propulsion trials.

7
8 **Methods**

9 Eleven non-disabled, young adults completed 19, 1-minute wheelchair propulsion trials at self-selected speeds
10 with a wheelchair equipped with a SMARTwheel (SW) device and while being video recorded. Participants
11 further wore 2 ActiGraph accelerometers, one on the wrist and one on the upper arm. Video footage enabled
12 manual counting of the number of pushes (gold standard). Total pushes were averaged across 16 workloads (3
13 trials of repeated workloads were excluded) for each device and compared to manually counted pushes.

14
15 **Results**

16 Compared to manually counted pushes, SW demonstrated the greatest accuracy (mean difference [MD]
17 compared to video of 2.3 pushes [4.5% error]) and precision (standard deviation of the mean difference [SDMD])
18 compared to video of 4 pushes, (Coefficient of Variation [CV] =.04), followed by the upper arm-worn
19 accelerometer (MD of 4.4 pushes [10.4% error] and SDMD of 10, [CV= .06]), followed by the wrist-worn
20 accelerometer (MD of 12.6 pushes [27.8% error] and SDMD of 13 [CV=.15]).

21
22 **Conclusions**

23 SW demonstrated greater accuracy and precision than ActiGraph accelerometers placed on the upper arm and
24 wrist. The accelerometer placed on the upper arm was more accurate and precise than the accelerometer
25 placed on the wrist. Future investigations should to identify the source(s) of inaccuracy among wearable push
26 counters.

27
28 **Key Words:** Wheelchair, Actigraphy, Physical Activity, Health Promotion, Disability
29

INTRODUCTION.

There has been a growing interest in the study of physical activity for management of health outcomes among wheelchair users, and this has largely focused on participation in intentional, structured, and planned exercise training.^{1,2} Nevertheless, there are many barriers for participation in this type of physical activity, and such barriers may underlie the low numbers of wheelchair users who achieve recommended physical activity levels.³⁻⁶ To that end, researchers have recently advocated for a paradigm shift towards organic incorporation of health-promoting physical activity into daily life, termed "Lifestyle Physical Activity" (LPA).^{1,5} The paradigm shift advocated for an application of concepts regarding LPA among those who use manual wheelchairs as a primary or only means of mobility (e.g., spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and spina bifida). The paradigm shift included suggestions for a working definition and metrics of LPA for manual wheelchair users followed by brief discussion of LPA correlates, consequences, interventions, and safe movement considerations.

One of the key steps in meeting the challenges of this paradigm change involves tools for monitoring "pushes" as a metric of LPA. To date, little is known regarding the accuracy and precision of research-grade devices (e.g., SMARTwheels [SW] and ActiGraph accelerometers) for monitoring pushes as a metric of LPA. Such research is important for documenting changes in LPA pre/post intervention and better identifying associated outcomes of LPA in wheelchair users. SWs have a long history of providing reliable data and being a critical instrument for wheelchair research studies involving the relationship between the type of wheelchair, set-up, activity, technique, anatomy, and physiology, and repetitive strain injury.⁷ SW devices are considered the gold standard but are impractical for daily use, not cost-effective, and currently no longer in production (SW cost: \$15,000 USD in 2012, ActiGraph Accelerometer cost: \$430 USD, Apple Watch Series 8 cost: \$399 USD, Fitbit Flex 2 cost: \$229 USD). There has been recent interest in the accuracy and/or precision of commercially available wearable devices such as Apple Watch⁸⁻¹¹ and Fitbit.⁸ The Apple Watch Series 4 has demonstrated a mean absolute percentage error (MAPE) of 9.2-13.9%^{8,9} compared with manual counting of pushes during wheelchair propulsion and this was substantially better than the Fitbit Flex 2 (MAPE of 59.7%).⁸ To our knowledge, there are currently no data on the accuracy and/or precision of research-grade devices for push counts.

The current paper extends previous research and explores research-grade tools for measuring pushes as an outcome metric of interventions designed for promoting LPA in wheelchair users. If we can provide accurate and precise measurements of pushes, future research can better examine the relationship between physical activity and its correlates in manual wheelchair users, so that clinicians may prescribe, promote, and monitor LPA. Accordingly, we examined the accuracy and precision of ActiGraph accelerometers and SW for measuring push counts during 19 bouts of manual wheelchair propulsion in healthy young adults. We expected that SW would demonstrate greater accuracy and precision than the wearable ActiGraph accelerometers. Additionally, we examined the accuracy and precision of research-grade accelerometers based on location on the arm (i.e., wrist vs. upper arm) and expected that the accelerometer on the upper arm would demonstrate better accuracy and precision for counting pushes than the accelerometer placed on the wrist. This study is a proof-of-concept pilot project conducted between August 2021 and November 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. We tested non-disabled individuals to enable a rapid evaluation of the accuracy and precision of research-grade devices.

Comentado [HS2]: Comment 1

1 This was necessary as individuals with spinal cord injury, who are commonly enrolled in wheelchair studies, are
2 particularly vulnerable to respiratory infections and other complications.¹²⁻¹⁴ and we sought to reduce risks of
3 COVID-19 exposure by using non-disabled individuals.

4 **METHODS**

5 **Participants**

6 This research protocol was approved by the University of Alabama at Birmingham Institutional Review Board
7 (IRB-30007513) and registered with ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT04987177). Eleven non-disabled adults were
8 recruited through local flyers, medical school interest groups, and word of mouth, and all participants provided
9 written consent prior to participation. These data are secondary analyses of a parent study (Clinical trial
10 registration number: NCT04987177). The parent study had 90% power at $\alpha=0.05$ to detect a repeated measures
11 correlation of 0.238 (two tail) with 12 participants, each completing 16 repeated measures. Our final sample
12 size of $N=11$ was similar in size to many other wheelchair propulsion studies that enrolled wheelchair users¹⁵⁻
13 ¹⁹ or non-disabled individuals²⁰⁻²⁴. Inclusion criteria were a) age ≥ 18 years, b) ability to safely participate in
14 vigorous physical activity (assessed by the Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire for Everyone [PAR-Q+],
15 and c) no current usage of a wheelchair. Exclusion criteria were failure to meet all the inclusion criteria. Inclusion
16 and exclusion criteria were selected to maximize the participant safety and protocol completion.

17 **Instrumentation and Configurations**

18 All testing was performed using the same TiLite (TiLite, Permobil, Timra, Sweden) wheelchair (specifications in
19 accordance with the recommendations of Fritsch et al.²⁵ are in **supplemental table 1**). The submaximal peak
20 test was performed with SHOX (Custom Engineered Wheels, Inc., Baldwin, MS, USA) solid tires mounted to
21 TiLite Shadow 25" wheels. The within-subject repeated measures protocol was performed with a 25" Primo
22 (Xiamen Lenco Co, LTD, Xiamen, China) pneumatic tire on the left side and a 25" SMARTwheel equipped with
23 matching pneumatic tire on the right side. During all testing, the wheelchair was secured to a WheelMill
24 ergometer²⁶ using two straps attached to the wheelchair backrest stabilizer bar and 1 strap across the foot plate.
25 We manipulated rolling resistance by adjusting the WheelMill parameters of testing decay and force multiplying
26 coefficients²⁶ which both are inversely related to rolling resistance (i.e., \downarrow decay/force multiplying coefficient = \uparrow
27 rolling resistance). Participants were equipped with two ActiGraph GT3X+ accelerometers (ActiGraph, LLC,
28 Pensacola, FL, USA); 1 on the right wrist above the distal radioulnar joint and 1 on the right upper arm at a point
29 halfway between the lateral epicondyle of the elbow and the greater tubercle of the humerus. The
30 accelerometers were calibrated by the manufacturer prior to the start of the study. The accelerometer is a
31 lightweight, small device that contains a solid-state accelerometer that generates an electrical signal
32 proportional to the force acting on it along three axes. Acceleration detection ranged in magnitude from 0.5-
33 2.5g, and the frequency ranged from 0.25-2.50Hz. The signal was digitized by a 12-bit analog converter and
34 integrated over 1s epoch intervals. The data were downloaded via the ActiLife software using a sample
35 frequency of 100Hz and re-integrated into vector magnitude per 1s epoch with the low frequency extension
36 applied and imported to Microsoft Excel for further processing. Vector magnitude was expressed as counts per
37 minute across each bout of manual propulsion. 2D sagittal view video footage was collected from the right side.

38 **Rating of Perceived Exertion (RPE)**

1 A non-differentiated 0-10 OMNI scale validated for use in manual wheelchair propulsion testing²⁷ was used to
2 monitor perceived exertion during the acclimation period, submaximal test, and repeated measures protocol.
3 Participants were introduced to the scale during the consent process and refamiliarized with the scale prior to
4 the acclimation period, submaximal test, and repeated measures protocol.

6 **Acclimation Period**

7 A summary of the entire protocol can be found on **figure 1**. Since participants were non-disabled persons with
8 minimum previous wheelchair propulsion experience, we implemented an acclimation period prior to the graded
9 exercise test and repeated measures protocol. Participants were instructed to "propel at a casual pace that was
10 comfortable for them" for 3-4 minutes. During this time, rolling resistance was manipulated, and RPE²⁷ was
11 collected every 30-45 seconds. Participants were allowed to change pushing speeds as resistances changed
12 to maintain a comfortable pace, and this would naturally change pushing cadence. The starting resistance and
13 resistance changes were based on the teams prior Wheelmill experience. The acclimation period was
14 considered complete once the participant had completed a minimum of three minutes and we had identified at
15 least one resistance rated as "easy" (RPE=2) and at least one rated as "hard" (RPE≥7). The "easy" resistance
16 was used as the beginning resistance for the submaximal test. The speed pushed during the "easy" resistance
17 was used as the target speed participants maintained during the submaximal peak test. We required experience
18 of a "hard" rolling resistance to ensure participants had experienced it prior to the submaximal and repeated
19 measures testing. Participants rested for at least 5 minutes following the acclimation period.

21 **Data Collection**

22 *Submaximal test to estimate maximum workload*

23 The submaximal test estimated the maximum workload for use in the repeated measures protocol. Each
24 participant completed the submaximal graded exercise test at the speed established during the acclimation
25 period. Participants pushed continuously for the entire test, with workload (i.e., rolling resistance) increasing
26 every minute until the participant reached RPE=8. The starting rolling resistance for each participant was
27 established based on acclimation phase where RPE=2 rolling resistance (i.e., the same values for the WheelMill
28 control parameters were input). Rolling resistance was increased each minute by a constant amount (i.e., a
29 0.04 unit decrease in the WheelMill parameter "force multiplying coefficient"). RPE was documented during the
30 last 20 seconds of each one-minute stage. Participants rested for at least 30 minutes before starting the
31 repeated measures protocol.

32
33 Each participant's maximum (i.e., 100%) workload capacity was estimated from the RPE-force multiplying
34 coefficient relationship measured during the submaximal test. Maximum capacity (i.e., 100% workload) was
35 defined as the estimated force multiplying coefficient at RPE=10. For each participant, RPE was regressed on
36 force multiplying coefficient to generate the individualized linear equation of **equation 1**.

37
38 **Equation 1:** $(RPE \times \beta) + \text{constant} = \text{force multiplying coefficient}$

1 RPE=10 was then plugged in to estimate the force multiplying coefficient at maximum capacity (i.e., 100%
2 workload). This estimated force multiplying coefficient was set as the 100% rolling resistance level tested during
3 the repeated measures protocol and was used to generate all other resistance levels tested using **equation 2**.

4
5 **Equation 2:** resistance level = target % × 100% force multiplying coefficient

6 7 *Within-Subject Repeated Measures Test*

8 Participants next completed a single-blind, within-subject repeated measures experiment. Each participant
9 completed 19, 1-minute propulsion bouts at a self-selected speed. The 19 bouts consisted of 16 unique
10 resistance levels between 25% and 100% in 5% increments of each participants estimated maximum capacity
11 (i.e., 25%, 30%, 35%, etc.). Three resistance levels (25%, 50%, 75%) were completed twice, once in each
12 block. To reduce potential fatigue effects, the 19 trials were divided into two blocks. Block 1 included 9 trials,
13 and block 2 included 10 trials. The trials were partitioned in a manner that total workload, defined as the sum of
14 the resistance levels (% max), was equal between blocks. Within each block, trial order was designed to have
15 an unpredictable pattern of increases/decreases in resistance and featured the highest rolling resistance trials
16 towards the middle of the set. Participants completed the blocks in a counterbalanced order within gender.
17 **(Table 1)** Within each block, participants rested for 2 minutes after each one-minute trial and rested for 30
18 minutes between blocks. An automatic timer with a bell was used to instruct the participants when to begin and
19 end each trial. Heart rate was recorded at the 40-second mark of each trial, and RPE was recorded immediately
20 following the end of each trial.

21 22 **Adverse Events**

23 No adverse events occurred during testing.

24 25 **Video Counting Process**

26 Videos of each one-minute trial were deidentified, randomized, and divided into four batches for counting. Each
27 one-minute clip was viewed by one person. A stroke count was recorded using a tap counter application using
28 the following criterion: A stroke was counted at the end of each cycle after the subject touched the wheel,
29 pushed forward, then let go. Each batch was counted twice before moving onto the next batch (i.e., batch 1
30 counted twice, then batch 2 counted twice, etc.). Once the count was completed, the results were recorded into
31 a spreadsheet, and any discrepancy was recorded and discussed.

32 33 **Statistical Analysis**

34 Data analyses were conducted for N=16 trials (the second trial for the 25/50/75% conditions were not analyzed)
35 in SPSS version 28 (IBM, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL). We evaluated accuracy and precision with absolute and
36 relative metrics. Absolute accuracy was calculated as the mean difference between manually counted pushes
37 and device-measured pushes. Relative accuracy was assessed as percentage error (i.e., [mean difference
38 between manually counted pushes and device-measured pushes ÷ by manual pushes] × 100) and the frequency
39 of large errors per device was based on ≥5%, ≥10%, and ≥25% error. Absolute precision was assessed as the
40 standard deviation of the mean difference, and relative precision was assessed as the coefficient of variation
41 (CV). We provided Bland-Altman plots to illustrate metrics of absolute accuracy and relative precision. We

1 further conducted Spearman rho's bivariate correlation analyses among manually recorded push count
2 difference, workload, rolling resistance, power output, and speed to evaluate sources of inaccuracy in counting
3 pushes among ActiGraph accelerometers.

5 RESULTS.

6 *Participants*

7 Eleven (7 males, 4 females) non-disabled individuals with minimal previous experience propelling a manual
8 wheelchair completed the study. Mean age (SD) was 24 years (+/-2.3 y), ranging from 22 to 29. Based on body
9 mass index (BMI), 8 participants were normal weight (18.5-24.9 kg/m²), 1 was overweight (25-29.9 kg/m²), and
10 2 were obese (≥30 kg/m²). (Table 1)

12 *Accuracy*

13 Metrics for absolute and relative accuracy are presented in table 2 and illustrated in figures 2-5. Push counts
14 captured by the wrist ActiGraph deviated from the manually counted condition by a mean of 12.6 (27.8% error)
15 pushes. The frequency of small (≥5% error), medium (≥10% error), and large (≥25% error) errors were 115
16 (66%), 98 (56%), and 79 (45%), respectively. Push counts captured by the upper arm ActiGraph deviated from
17 the manually counted condition by a mean of 4.4 (10.4% error) pushes. The frequency of small (≥5% error),
18 medium (≥10% error), and large (≥25% error) errors were 44 (25%), 34 (19%), and 25 (14%), respectively. Push
19 counts captured by the SW deviated from the manually counted condition by a mean of 2.3 (4.5% error) pushes.
20 The frequency of small (≥5% error), medium (≥10% error), and large (≥25% error) errors were 25 (14%), 23
21 (13%), and 13 (7%), respectively.

23 *Precision*

24 Metrics for absolute and relative precision are presented in table 3 and illustrated in figures 2-5. Regarding the
25 wrist ActiGraph, the SD of the mean difference compared with video was 13 (CV=.15). Regarding the upper
26 arm ActiGraph, the SD of the mean difference compared with video was 10 (CV=.06), whereas the SD of the
27 mean difference for the SW compared with video was 4 (CV=.04).

29 *Spearman's Rho correlations*

30 Spearman's rho correlations between upper arm ActiGraph-Video push count difference and workload, rolling
31 resistance, power output, and speed are provided in table 4. Upper arm ActiGraph-Video push count difference
32 was significantly associated with rolling resistance ($\rho=-0.174$, $p=0.022$) and power output ($\rho=-0.268$, $p<0.001$).
33 However, upper arm ActiGraph-Video push count difference were not associated with workload ($\rho=-0.070$,
34 $p=0.354$) and speed ($\rho=-0.137$, $p=0.072$).

36 DISCUSSION.

37 The study examined the accuracy and precision of the ActiGraph accelerometers and SWs for measuring push
38 counts during manual wheelchair propulsion. The SW provided more accurate and precise estimates of push
39 counts compared with accelerometers placed on the upper arm and wrist. The results further indicated more
40 accuracy and precision of push count measurements with the accelerometer placed on the upper arm compared
41 with the wrist. This preliminary study supports the accuracy and precision of SWs and perhaps upper arm-worn

1 ActiGraph as research-grade devices for quantifying pushes as a metrics of LPA in persons who use manual
2 wheelchairs.

3
4 Overall, compared to manual counting, SW slightly undercounted total pushes (SD) averaged across 16
5 workloads (manual: 48[8] pushes vs SW: 50[8] pushes). We suspect the SW undercounting could stem from
6 discrepancies of defining a "push" or due to a push occurring on the wheel and not the push rim where the
7 sensor on the SW is located. This could be the focus of future research examining the accuracy and precision
8 of SW for measuring pushes in manual wheelchair users.

9
10 Conversely, compared to manual counting, both ActiGraph accelerometers overcounted total pushes (SD)
11 averaged across all 16 workloads (upper arm: 54[11] pushes, wrist: 63[12] pushes, manual: 50[8] pushes). Due
12 to limited research in using wearable devices for wheelchair push counts, comparisons of our study population
13 with existing research is limited. Our finding of wearable push counters having the tendency to overcount is
14 somewhat consistent with previous studies evaluating Apple Watch accuracy for counting pushes during
15 wheelchair propulsion.⁹⁻¹⁰ However, we identified one study that reported undercounting from the series 1 Apple
16 Watch compared with manual counting during wheelchair propulsion through a 21-part obstacle course.¹¹ This
17 may be due to differences in the definition of a "push" or in the methodology. For example, one group of
18 researchers¹¹ defined a push as "any force that was applied to the rim of the wheel by the hand that resulted in
19 movement of the manual wheelchair," including backwards pushes, and the testing protocol included
20 multidirectional/backwards propulsion, whereas our protocol included only forward propulsion. Overall, this
21 suggests that wearable device-measures of push counters tend to overcount during forward wheelchair
22 propulsion. Further investigation is required to evaluate the accuracy and precision of wearable device-
23 measures of push counts during backward wheelchair propulsion.

24
25 The tendency for wearable push counters to overestimate can possibly be explained by increased "noisiness"
26 of hand/arm motion during a push, resulting in falsely counted pushes. Based on **figure 3**, for a large portion of
27 the time, the upper arm ActiGraph accelerometer was accurate, but there was a subset of trials in which the
28 accelerometer push counts varied significantly from the manually recorded pushes counts (the gold standard).
29 We evaluated hand-traced patterns during the wheelchair propulsion to determine if certain motions/hand
30 patterns (i.e., vertical hand accelerations inherent in some certain push pattern trajectories) contributed to the
31 inaccuracy of push counts recorded by accelerometers. However, we were not able to confirm this theory.
32 Additionally, we evaluated bivariate correlations between upper arm ActiGraph-Video push count difference and
33 workload, rolling resistance, power output, and speed. Our results suggest that rolling resistance and power
34 output may have influenced the differences between the upper arm worn ActiGraph accelerometer and manually
35 counted pushes. This warrants further investigations of whether vertical acceleration or other potential factors
36 (i.e. wheelchair configuration, propulsion mechanics, individual factors) may contribute to these discrepancies
37 in recorded push counts.

38
39 Our results suggest that an ActiGraph accelerometer on the upper arm during wheelchair propulsion was more
40 accurate (% error=10.4 vs 27.8) and precise (CV=.06 vs .15) than a unit worn on the wrist for measuring push
41 counts. This further supports our suggestion that increased "noisiness" in arm/wrist motion is a contributing

1 factor of overcounting. During wheelchair propulsion, the activity of the hand/wrist is higher and more variable
2 than the mid humerus portion of the arm. Further work needs to be done to confirm if this pattern is present
3 among more experienced wheelchair users.

4
5 Our results suggest that SW (4.5% error) was more accurate than the wrist-worn ActiGraph accelerometer
6 (27.8% error) and an upper arm-worn ActiGraph accelerometer (10.4% error) in our sample of non-disabled
7 young adults. Previous studies have reported series 4 Apple Watch to have an accuracy (9.2-13.9% error),^{8, 9}
8 which is comparable to the accuracy of our upper arm-worn accelerometer. However, the Apple Watch from the
9 aforementioned study may be more accurate in measuring push counts than the wrist-worn accelerometer in
10 our study. This is contradictory to what one would expect, as ActiGraph is a research-grade device while the
11 Apple Watch is not. Future investigations are needed to identify the source(s) of inaccuracy among wearable
12 push counters and to compare research grade devices to commercially available devices.

13
14 **Some limitations should be considered when evaluating the results of this study.** We included a relatively small
15 sample size of persons who were inexperienced with manual wheelchair propulsion. Future research may
16 include a larger sample size of persons who use manual wheelchairs regularly (i.e., more than 50% of their daily
17 life). Another limitation was that ActiGraph accelerometers were placed only on the right side, as there may
18 differences in push counts between the dominant and non-dominant sides. Furthermore, we used a WheelMill
19 ergometer rather than over-ground manual wheelchair propulsion for this study protocol. Wheelchair propulsion
20 over-ground may have different biomechanical characteristics compared with wheelchair propulsion on an
21 ergometer and may translate to daily life more readily. One other limitation is the use of research-grade devices
22 to capture push counts. A potential avenue of research would be to compare accuracy and precision of
23 commercially available activity monitors for measuring pushes in manual wheelchair users.

24 **Conclusion**

25
26 This study examined the accuracy and precision of ActiGraph accelerometers and SW for measuring pushes in
27 non-disabled young adults. SWs demonstrated greater accuracy and precision than ActiGraph accelerometers
28 placed on the upper arm and wrist, yet the accelerometer placed on the upper arm was more accurate and
29 precise than the accelerometer placed on the wrist. An area for future investigation includes direct comparison
30 of the accuracy and precision of available wearable devices, including ActiGraph accelerometers, Apple Watch,
31 and Fitbit devices for manual wheelchair push counting. Once the most accurate and precise device is identified
32 and deemed to yield acceptable data, future studies can then focus on furthering our understanding of physical
33 activity and its correlates and consequences in manual wheelchair users. One potential example, among many,
34 includes evaluating the relationship between daily push counts and health outcomes such as cardiovascular
35 disease in wheelchair users.

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37
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39 **Declaration of Interests**

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Comentado [HS4]: Comment 1

1 The authors report there are no competing interests to declare.

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1 **SUMMARY - ACCELERATING TRANSLATION**

2 **Title:** Accuracy and Precision of Actigraphy and SMARTwheels for Measuring Push Counts Across a Series of
3 Wheelchair Propulsion Trials in Non-disabled Young Adults

4
5 **Main Problem to Solve:** There has been a growing interest in the study of physical activity for management of
6 health outcomes among wheelchair users. One key step in monitoring physical activity levels involves having
7 tools for monitoring "pushes." To date, little is known about how well research-grade devices work for monitoring
8 pushes. If we can provide accurate and precise measurements of pushes, future research can better examine
9 physical activity among manual wheelchair users, so that clinicians may prescribe, promote, and monitor
10 physical activity.

11
12 **Aim of Study:** Examine the accuracy and precision of SW and ActiGraph accelerometers for measuring push
13 counts during 19, 1-minute bouts of manual wheelchair propulsion in healthy non-disabled adults

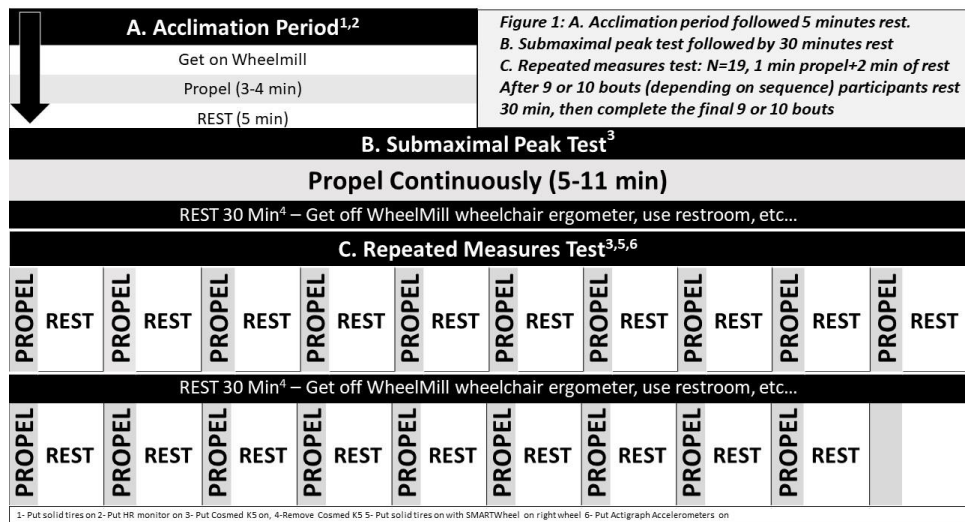
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15 **Methods:** Eleven (7 males, 4 females) non-disabled, young adults completed the protocol. All testing took place
16 on a wheelchair machine that allowed us to control the resistance they pushed against. The same wheelchair
17 was used for each participant, equipped with a device that counts pushes. Participants further wore 2 devices,
18 one on the wrist and one on the upper arm that counted pushes. Video footage was recorded which enabled
19 manual counting of the number of pushes (gold standard). Participants underwent an acclimation period to get
20 used to pushing a wheelchair. Then participants underwent an exercise test in which they pushed continuously
21 for 5-10 minutes as the resistance they pushed against increased. Lastly, participants underwent 19, 1-minute
22 pushing bouts against various resistances ranging from 25-100% of the estimated maximum resistance they
23 could push against. We used the data obtained from the device on the wheel, the two devices on the participants
24 arms, and the data from the video recordings to compare how accurate and precise each tool was for counting
25 pushes. The manual counts from the video data were used as the gold standard and is what the other devices
26 were compared to. We also evaluated various push mechanics to see if any certain factor may have caused the
27 devices to count incorrectly.

28
29 **Results:** The device on the wheelchair most the most accurate and precise tool, followed by the device on the
30 participants upper arm, followed by the device on the participants wrist. The device on the wheelchair tended
31 to slightly undercount, while both devices on the participants arms tended to overcount. We were not able to
32 identify a particular pattern of pushing that could be responsible for miscounting by the devices, but our results
33 suggest that two push mechanical factors may be associated with miscounting by devices.

34 **Conclusion:** Among the three devices we evaluated, the device on the wheelchair is a better tool to use for
35 counting pushes in manual wheelchair propulsion, followed by the device worn on the upper arm, followed by
36 the device worn on the wrist. Further research needs to investigate potential factors that cause the devices to
37 miscount. Once this is better understood, researchers can better examine physical activity among manual
38 wheelchair users, so that clinicians may prescribe, promote, and monitor physical activity.

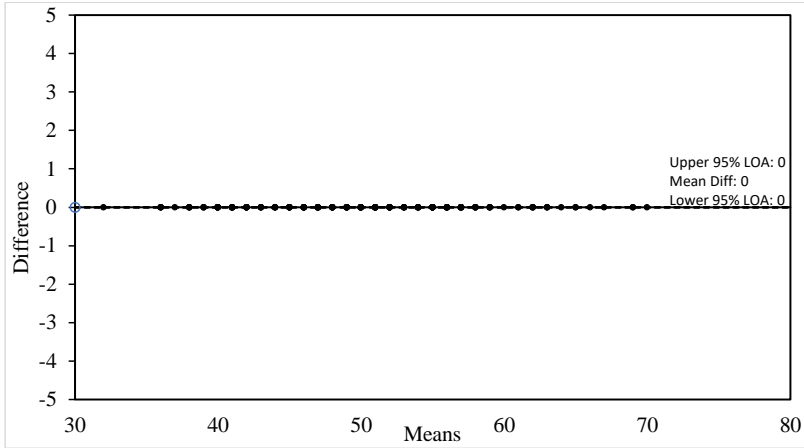
1 FIGURES AND TABLES.

2 **Figure 1.** Summary of Testing Protocol



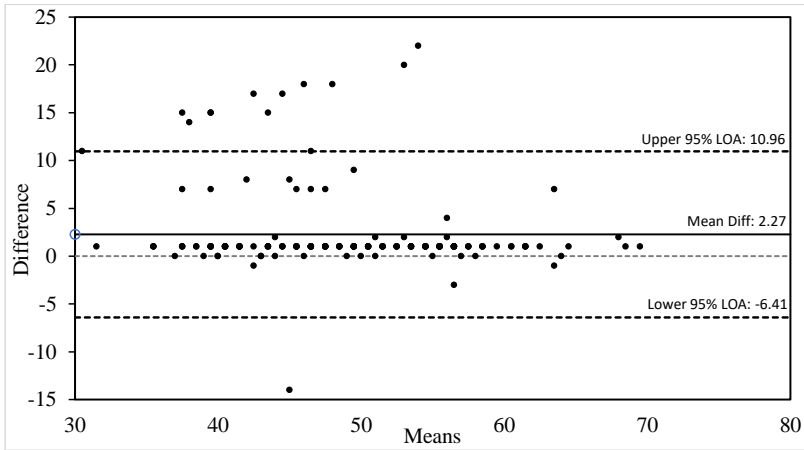
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1 **Figure 2.** Bland-Altman Plot for Video 2. Negative Y-axis Values Indicate the 2nd Manual Push Counts Were
2 Greater than the 1st Manual Push Count and Vice-versa.



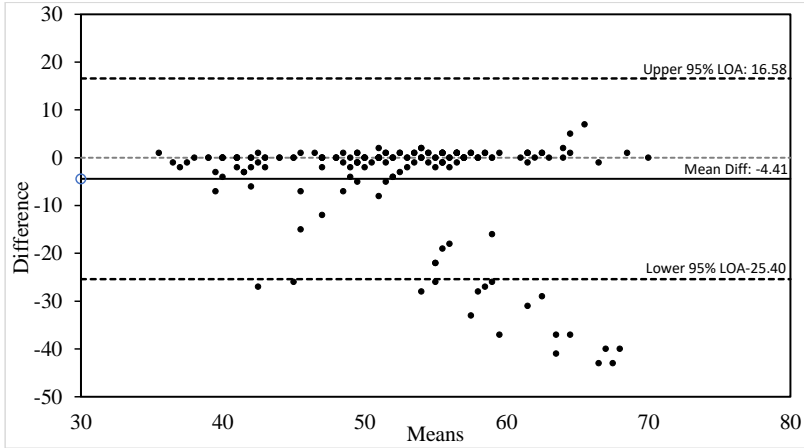
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1 **Figure 3.** Bland-Altman Plot for the SW. Positive Y-axis Values Indicate SW Push Counts that Were Less Than
2 Manual Push Counts and Vice-versa



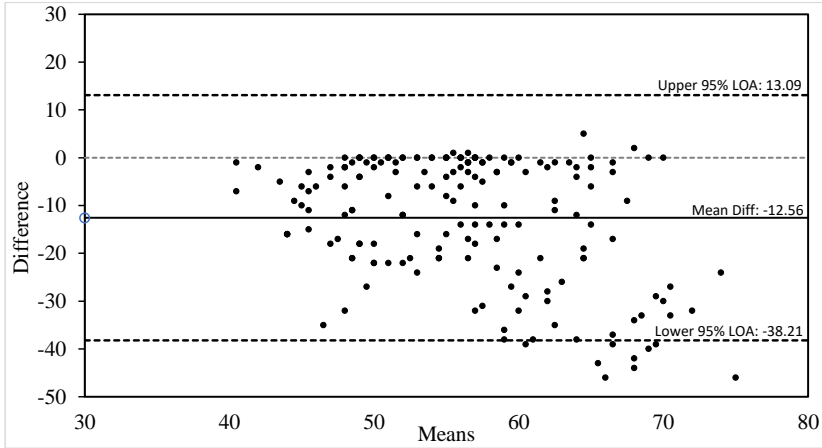
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1 **Figure 4.** Bland-Altman Plot for the Upper Arm ActiGraph Accelerometer. Positive Y-axis Values Indicate
2 ActiGraph Upper Arm Push Counts that Were Less Than Manual Push Counts and Vice-versa



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1 **Figure 5.** Bland-Altman Plot for the Wrist ActiGraph Accelerometer. Positive Y-axis Values Indicate ActiGraph
2 Wrist Push Counts that Were Less Than Manual Push Counts and Vice-versa.



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Table 1. Participant Characteristics of the Sample of Non-disabled Young Adults (N=11)

Participant Number	Gender	Age (years)	Race/Ethnicity	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	BMI (kg/m ²)	Sequence
1	M	29	White	183	77.1	23.1	B
2	F	23	White	163	87.1	33.0	B
3	M	23	White	178	77.7	24.6	A
4	M	22	White	188	74.8	21.2	B
5	F	28	White	168	52.7	18.8	A
6	M	23	White	173	77.8	26.1	A
7	F	24	White	168	54.1	19.3	B
8	M	22	White/Asian	180	73.0	22.5	B
9	M	22	Asian/Hispanic	175	70.1	22.8	A
10	M	24	White	191	111.5	30.7	B
11	F	22	White	170	59.0	20.4	A
Average/ Total	M=7 F=4	24+/- 2.33	White only=9 All Other=2	176 +/- 8.43	74.1 +/- 15.69	23.8 +/- 4.32	A=5 B=6

Note: Data are presented as number or mean +/- SD. *M* Male; *F* Female.
 Sequence A was block X, 30 min rest, block Y.
 Sequence B was block Y, 30 min rest, block X.
 Block X trial order (N=9, sum=575%): 55%, 50%, 70%, 75%, 100%, 90%, 25%, 30%, 80%.
 Block Y trial order (N=10, % sum=575%): 25%, 50%, 35%, 95%, 85%, 65%, 45%, 40%, 75%, 60%.

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Table 2. Accuracy of ActiGraph GT3X+ Devices Worn on the Wrist and Upper Arm and SMARTWheel for Capturing Pushes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion Across 16 Trials of Increasing Workloads in a Sample of 11 Non-disabled Young Persons

	Absolute Accuracy		Relative Accuracy			
	Mean (SD) of Total Pushes Averaged Across 16 Workloads	Mean Difference in Total Pushes Averaged Across 16 Workloads Compared with Video	Mean (SD) Percentage Error	n _≥ 5% error (%)	n _≥ 10% error (%)	n _≥ 25% error (%)
Manually Counted	50(8)					
Wrist ActiGraph	63(12)	12.6	27.8(30.0)	115(66%)	98(56%)	79(45%)
Upper Arm ActiGraph	54(11)	4.4	10.4(24.8)	44(25%)	34(19%)	25(14%)
SMARTwheel	48(8)	2.3	4.5(8.8)	25(14)	23(13%)	13(7%)

Note: SD standard deviation.

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Table 3. Precision of ActiGraph GT3X+ Devices Worn on the Wrist and Upper Arm and SMARTWheel for Capturing Pushes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion Across 16 Trials of Increasing Workloads in a Sample of 11 Young Persons

	Absolute Precision	Relative Precision
	SD of the Mean Difference in Total Pushes Averaged Across 16 Workloads Compared with Video	Coefficient of Variation
Wrist ActiGraph	13	.15
Upper Arm ActiGraph	10	.06
SMARTwheel	4	.04

Note: SD standard deviation.

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Table 4. Spearman's Rho Correlations Between Upper Arm ActiGraph-Video Push Count Difference and Workload, Rolling Resistance, Power Output, and Speed

	Workload (%)	Rolling (N)	Resistance (N)	Power output (W)	Speed (m/s)
(N=11 participants)	-0.070	-0.174		-0.268	-0.137
	P=0.354	P=0.022		P<0.001	P=0.072
	N=175	N=175		N=175	N=175

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