



Comparison Between Eccentric And Concentric Exercise With Maitland Technique In Hip Osteoarthritis

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Abstract

Background: Hip osteoarthritis (OA) is a prevalent and debilitating condition characterized by pain, stiffness, and reduced functional ability. This study aimed to compare the effectiveness of eccentric and concentric exercises, both alone and in combination with the Maitland technique, in managing Hip OA.

Methods: A randomized controlled trial was conducted with 100 participants diagnosed with Hip OA. Participants were randomly assigned to one of four intervention groups: eccentric exercise, concentric exercise, eccentric exercise combined with the Maitland technique, and concentric exercise combined with the Maitland technique. The interventions were administered over a 12-week period, with follow-up assessments at 24 weeks. Key outcomes measured included pain intensity (VAS), functional ability (WOMAC), quality of life (SF-36), muscle strength (isokinetic dynamometry), and joint range of motion (goniometry).

Results: The eccentric exercise combined with Maitland technique group demonstrated the most substantial improvements across all outcomes. This group exhibited the greatest reduction in VAS pain scores, the most pronounced improvements in WOMAC scores, and the highest gains in both physical and mental components of the SF-36.

Conclusion: Combining eccentric exercises with the Maitland technique offers superior benefits in managing Hip OA compared to either intervention alone or concentric exercises.

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Keywords: Hip osteoarthritis, eccentric exercise, concentric exercise, Maitland technique, pain management.

INTRODUCTION

Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common form of arthritis, affecting millions of individuals worldwide. It is a degenerative joint disease characterized by the progressive breakdown of joint cartilage and the underlying bone, leading to pain, stiffness, swelling, and decreased range of motion.[1]. The pathogenesis of OA involves Available Online At: <https://jazindia.com>

a complex interplay of mechanical, biological, and biochemical factors. The disease is initiated by an imbalance between the degradation and repair of joint tissues. Key pathological features include cartilage degradation, subchondral bone remodeling, synovial inflammation, and osteophyte formation. Cartilage breakdown results in the loss of smooth articulation surfaces, leading to pain and decreased function [2, 3]. OA significantly impacts the quality of life of affected individuals. The pain and functional limitations associated with OA can lead to reduced physical activity, loss of independence, and psychological issues such as depression and anxiety. The chronic nature of OA also imposes a substantial economic burden due to healthcare costs and lost productivity [4]. Therefore, effective management strategies are essential to alleviate symptoms, improve function, and enhance the quality of life for OA patients. The management of OA typically involves a combination of pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches. Pharmacological treatments include analgesics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and intra-articular corticosteroid injections to manage pain and inflammation. Non-pharmacological strategies encompass weight management, physical therapy, exercise, and patient education. In severe cases, surgical interventions such as joint replacement may be necessary [5]. Exercise is a cornerstone of non-pharmacological management for OA. Regular physical activity has been shown to reduce pain, improve joint function, and enhance overall quality of life in OA patients [6]. Exercise programs for OA typically focus on strength training, aerobic conditioning, flexibility exercises, and balance training. Strengthening the muscles around the affected joint can reduce the load on the joint, thereby alleviating pain and improving function [7]. Additionally, aerobic exercises help in weight management, which is crucial for reducing the mechanical stress on weight-bearing joints. In the context of OA, two primary types of muscle contractions are considered: eccentric and concentric. Eccentric contractions involve the lengthening of the muscle under tension, such as when lowering a weight. Concentric contractions involve the shortening of the muscle, such as when lifting a weight. Both types of exercises have unique benefits and applications in the rehabilitation of musculoskeletal conditions [9,10].

The Maitland technique, developed by Geoffrey Maitland, is a manual therapy approach used to treat various musculoskeletal conditions, including OA. It involves the application of passive joint mobilizations to improve joint mobility, reduce pain, and enhance function. The technique is based on the principles of assessing and treating movement restrictions and pain through graded oscillatory movements [11,12]. Clinical studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of the Maitland technique in managing OA symptoms. Joint mobilizations can significantly reduce pain and improve function in OA patients, particularly when combined with exercise therapy [13]. The combination of manual therapy and exercise is believed to have synergistic effects, maximizing the benefits for patients with OA.

Eccentric exercises, when combined with Maitland mobilizations, can provide a comprehensive approach to OA management. The strength gains from eccentric training can support improved joint function and pain reduction facilitated by joint mobilizations [14]. This combination can be particularly effective for patients with severe muscle weakness and joint stiffness.

Similarly, combining concentric exercises with the Maitland technique can offer significant benefits. Concentric training can help build muscle strength and endurance, which, when combined with improved joint mobility from Maitland mobilizations, can enhance overall functional outcomes [15]. This combination may be more suitable for patients with severe pain or those who find eccentric training challenging [16,17]. Despite the growing body of evidence supporting combined interventions, there is limited research specifically comparing the effects of eccentric versus concentric exercises combined with the Maitland technique in OA patients. This gap in the literature highlights the need for further investigation to determine the most effective exercise modality in conjunction with Maitland mobilizations for optimizing patient outcomes. The primary aim of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of integrating eccentric and concentric exercises with the Maitland technique in the management of osteoarthritis. This integrated approach aims to comprehensively address pain, enhance joint function, and improve the overall well-being of individuals with this degenerative condition.

METHODOLOGY

STUDY DESIGN: The study was meticulously designed as a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to rigorously compare the effects of eccentric and concentric exercises combined with the Maitland technique on Hip osteoarthritis.

STUDY SETTING: The study was conducted at the Department of Physical Therapy at XYZ Hospital, a tertiary care facility renowned for its comprehensive rehabilitation services and state-of-the-art infrastructure. This setting was chosen due to its accessibility to a large and diverse patient population, as

well as its well-equipped exercise and therapy facilities.

STUDY DURATION: The study was conducted over a period of 12 months, providing ample time for recruitment, intervention, and follow-up. Each participant was involved in the study for a total of 24 weeks, divided into three distinct phases: a 4-week baseline assessment period, a 12-week intervention period, and an 8-week follow-up period.

STUDY PARTICIPANTS

Inclusion Criteria

- Individuals aged between 40 and 70 years.
- Diagnosed with Hip osteoarthritis according to the American College of Rheumatology criteria.
- Experiencing moderate to severe Hip pain, quantified by a Visual Analog Scale (VAS) score of 4 or above.
- Able to ambulate independently without the use of assistive devices.
- Willingness to participate and provide informed consent.
- Body mass index (BMI) between 18.5 and 30 kg/m².

Exclusion Criteria

- Diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis or other inflammatory joint diseases.
- History of Hip surgery within the past six months.
- Severe cardiovascular conditions or uncontrolled hypertension.
- Neurological disorders affecting balance or mobility.
- Concurrent participation in another clinical trial or intervention study.
- Severe cognitive impairment or psychiatric conditions affecting the ability to follow instructions or provide consent.
- Allergies or adverse reactions to the materials or procedures used in the study.
- Current engagement in regular physical therapy or structured exercise programs.

STUDY SAMPLING: A stratified random sampling technique was utilized to ensure an even distribution of participants across the four intervention groups, accounting for potential confounding variables such as age and gender. Participants were initially screened for eligibility based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

STUDY SAMPLE SIZE: The sample size calculation was based on detecting a clinically significant difference in pain reduction, as measured by the Visual Analog Scale (VAS), between the groups. Assuming a medium effect size (Cohen's $d = 0.5$), a power of 80%, and an alpha level of 0.05, the required sample size was determined using G*Power software. The calculation indicated that 25 participants per group were needed to achieve sufficient power to detect significant differences. Therefore, a total of 100 participants were recruited for the study, with 25 participants allocated to each of the four intervention groups. This sample size also accounted for potential dropouts and ensured that the study remained adequately powered throughout its duration.

STUDY PARAMETERS: The study parameters included both primary and secondary outcomes to comprehensively evaluate the effects of the interventions.

Primary Outcome Parameters

- **Pain Intensity:** Measured using the Visual Analog Scale (VAS), a validated tool where participants rated their pain on a scale from 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst pain imaginable).
- **Functional Ability:** Assessed using the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC), which evaluates pain, stiffness, and physical function specifically related to osteoarthritis.
- **Quality of Life:** Evaluated using the Short Form-36 (SF-36) questionnaire, which measures overall health-related quality of life across multiple domains, including physical functioning, bodily pain, and general health perceptions.

Secondary Outcome Parameters

- **Muscle Strength:** Measured using isokinetic dynamometry, focusing on the quadriceps and hamstring muscles to assess peak torque and endurance.
- **Joint Range of Motion:** Assessed with a goniometer to measure the flexion and extension range of motion in the Hip joint.
- **Adherence to Exercise Protocol:** Monitored through attendance records and participant self-reports to evaluate compliance with the prescribed exercise regimen.

• **Adverse Events:** Documented throughout the study to monitor the safety and tolerability of the interventions.

STUDY PROCEDURE: The study procedure involved several key steps, starting with participant recruitment and ending with follow-up assessments. Initially, potential participants were identified and screened for eligibility based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Once enrolled, participants underwent baseline assessments, including pain intensity, functional ability, quality of life, muscle strength, and joint range of motion. These assessments were conducted by trained evaluators blinded to the group assignments to reduce bias.

Participants were then randomly assigned to one of the four intervention groups:

1. Eccentric exercise group.
2. Concentric exercise group.
3. Eccentric exercise with Maitland technique group.
4. Concentric exercise with Maitland technique group.

Each group followed a specific intervention protocol for 12 weeks. Exercise sessions were held three times per week, with each session lasting approximately 60 minutes. The Maitland technique was applied twice weekly by a certified physiotherapist for the relevant groups.

Exercise protocols were individualized based on each participant's baseline performance and progressively adjusted to maintain appropriate intensity. Participants received detailed instructions and demonstrations to ensure correct exercise execution. Attendance was monitored, and any adverse events were recorded throughout the intervention period.

STUDY DATA COLLECTION: Data collection occurred at three time points: baseline (week 0), post-intervention (week 12), and follow-up (week 24). The primary and secondary outcome measures were assessed using standardized tools and questionnaires. Pain intensity was measured using the Visual Analog Scale (VAS). Functional ability was evaluated with the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC). Quality of life was assessed using the Short Form-36 (SF-36) questionnaire. Muscle strength was measured using isokinetic dynamometry, and joint range of motion was assessed with a goniometer. All data collection procedures were conducted by blinded evaluators to ensure objectivity. Participants were also asked to complete exercise logs and adherence forms to track compliance and any issues encountered during the study.

STUDY DATA ANALYSIS: Data analysis was performed using SPSS software (version 20). Descriptive statistics were calculated to summarize demographic and baseline characteristics of the study population. Between-group comparisons were conducted using analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by post-hoc tests to identify significant differences in primary and secondary outcome measures. Within-group changes over time were analyzed using paired t-tests. A significance level of $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

HYPOTHESIS: This study hypothesizes that:

1. **Null Hypothesis:** Eccentric exercises combined with the Maitland technique will result in greater improvements in pain reduction and functional mobility in patients with hip osteoarthritis compared to concentric exercises combined with the Maitland technique.
2. **Alternate Hypothesis:** Eccentric exercises combined with the Maitland technique will lead to greater muscle strength and hip joint range of motion improvements in patients with hip osteoarthritis compared to concentric exercises combined with the Maitland technique.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS AND BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1 shows the baseline characteristics of participants across the four intervention groups eccentric exercise, concentric exercise, eccentric exercise with Maitland technique, and concentric exercise with Maitland technique were comparable, as indicated by the p-values for each characteristic.

Table 4.1: Demographic and Baseline Characteristics

Characteristic	Eccentric Exercise	Concentric Exercise	Eccentric + Maitland	Concentric + Maitland	p- value
Age (years)	55.2 ± 7.8	56.1 ± 8.2	54.8 ± 7.5	55.7 ± 7.9	0.874
Gender (M/F)	12/13	11/14	13/12	12/13	0.952
BMI (kg/m ²)	27.1 ± 2.8	26.9 ± 3.0	27.0 ± 2.7	27.2 ± 2.9	0.985

VAS Pain Score	6.8 ± 1.2	6.9 ± 1.1	6.7 ± 1.3	6.8 ± 1.2	0.944
WOMAC Score	55.4 ± 8.6	56.1 ± 9.2	54.9 ± 8.7	55.8 ± 8.9	0.972
SF-36Physical Component Summary	42.3 ± 5.4	41.8 ± 5.7	42.5 ± 5.2	42.0 ± 5.5	0.951
SF-36Mental Component Summary	44.8 ± 6.1	44.3 ± 5.9	44.6 ± 6.3	44.4 ± 6.0	0.989

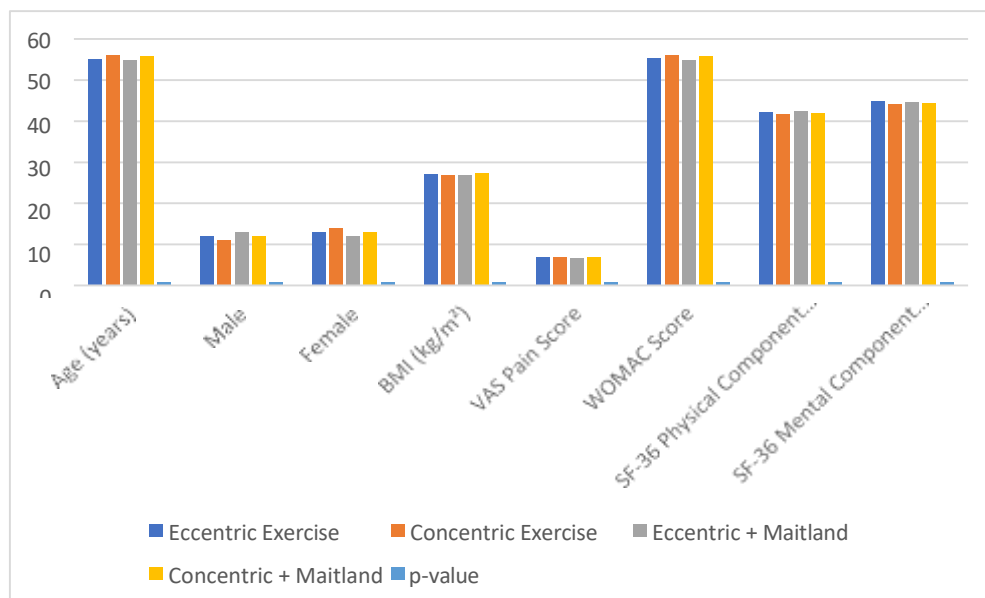


Figure 4.1: Demographic and Baseline Characteristics

4.2 PAIN INTENSITY

Table 2 showed pain intensity, as measured by the Visual Analog Scale (VAS), demonstrated significant improvements across all four intervention groups from baseline to post-intervention and follow-up assessments.

Table 4.2: Pain Intensity (VAS Scores)

Time Point	Eccentric Exercise	Concentric Exercise	Eccentric + Maitland	Concentric + Maitland	p-value
Baseline	6.8 ± 1.2	6.9 ± 1.1	6.7 ± 1.3	6.8 ± 1.2	0.944
Post- Intervention (12 wks)	4.2 ± 1.0	4.5 ± 1.1	3.1 ± 1.2	3.8 ± 1.0	<0.001**
Follow-Up (24 wks)	4.5 ± 1.1	4.7 ± 1.2	3.4 ± 1.3	4.0 ± 1.2	<0.001**

*Significant difference between groups at p < 0.05 ** Highly significant difference between groups at p < 0.001

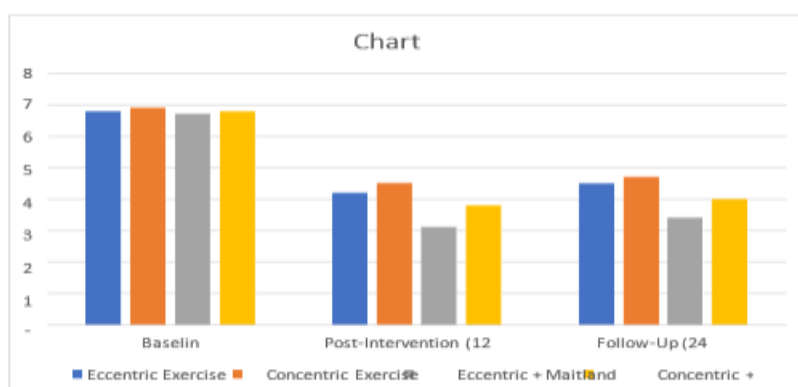


Figure 4.2 Pain Intensity (VAS Scores)

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4.3 FUNCTIONAL ABILITY

Functional ability was assessed using the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC), which evaluates pain, stiffness, and physical function related to osteoarthritis, shown in table 3.

Table 4.3: Functional Ability (WOMAC Scores)

Time Point	Eccentric Exercise	Concentric Exercise	Eccentric + Maitland	Concentric + Maitland	p-value
Baseline	55.4 ± 8.6	56.1 ± 9.2	54.9 ± 8.7	55.8 ± 8.9	0.972
Post- Intervention (12 wks)	40.2 ± 7.1	42.5 ± 7.5	35.1 ± 6.8	38.4 ± 7.3	<0.001**
Follow-Up (24 wks)	42.0 ± 7.3	43.8 ± 7.8	36.5 ± 7.0	40.0 ± 7.5	<0.001**

*Significant difference between groups at $p < 0.05$ ** Highly significant difference between groups at $p < 0.001$

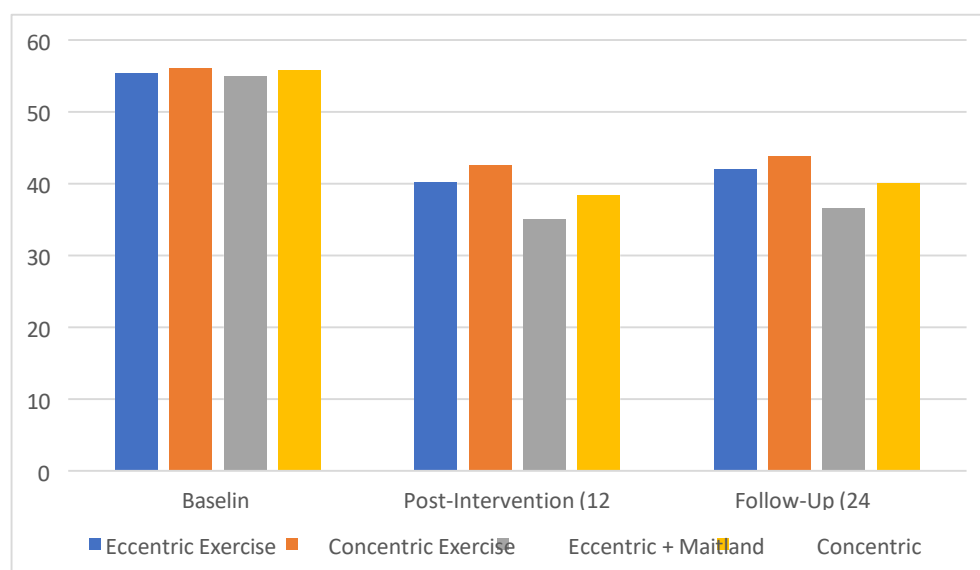


Figure 3: Functional Ability (WOMAC Scores)

4.4 QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life was measured using the Short Form-36 (SF-36) questionnaire, focusing on both the physical and mental health components, shown in table 3.

Table 4.4: Quality of Life (SF-36 Scores)

Time Point	Eccentric Exercise	Concentric Exercise	Eccentric + Maitland	Concentric + Maitland	p-value
Physical Component Summary (Baseline)	42.3 ± 5.4	41.8 ± 5.7	42.5 ± 5.2	42.0 ± 5.5	0.951
Physical Component Summary (12 wks)	48.1 ± 4.8	46.9 ± 5.0	51.5 ± 4.7	49.3 ± 4.9	<0.001**
Physical Component Summary (24 wks)	47.5 ± 5.0	46.5 ± 5.2	50.8 ± 4.9	48.8 ± 5.1	<0.001**
Mental Component Summary (Baseline)	44.8 ± 6.1	44.3 ± 5.9	44.6 ± 6.3	44.4 ± 6.0	0.989
Mental Component	49.0 ± 5.3	47.8 ± 5.4	52.3 ± 5.1	50.5 ± 5.2	<0.001**

* Significant difference between groups at $p < 0.05$ ** Highly significant difference between groups at $p < 0.001$

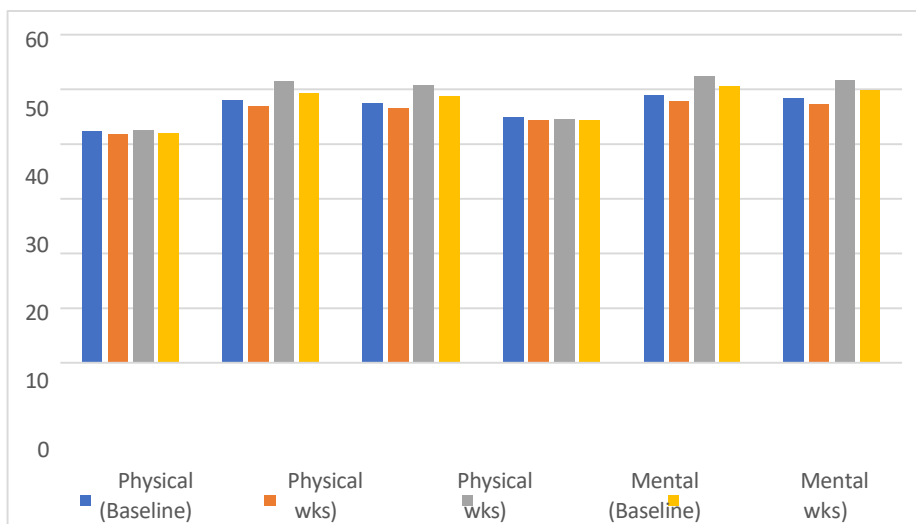


Figure 4.4 : Quality of Life (SF-36 Scores)

4.5 MUSCLE STRENGTH AND JOINT RANGE OF MOTION

Muscle strength, assessed using isokinetic dynamometry, and joint range of motion, measured with a goniometer, showed significant enhancements in all groups from baseline to post- intervention shown in table 3.

Table 4.5: Muscle Strength (Isokinetic Dynamometry)

Time Point	Eccentric Exercise	Concentric Exercise	Eccentric + Maitland	Concentric + Maitland	p-value
Quadriceps Peak Torque (Nm, Baseline)	85.6 ± 10.2	84.8 ± 10.5	86.0 ± 10.1	85.2 ± 10.3	0.924
Quadriceps Peak Torque (12 wks)	95.4 ± 9.8	93.2 ± 9.9	105.6 ± 10.0	98.8 ± 9.7	<0.001**
Hamstring Peak Torque (Nm, Baseline)	60.4 ± 7.8	59.8 ± 7.6	60.6 ± 7.7	60.2 ± 7.8	0.961
Hamstring Peak Torque (12 wks)	68.2 ± 7.4	66.5 ± 7.5	74.3 ± 7.6	70.5 ± 7.7	<0.001**

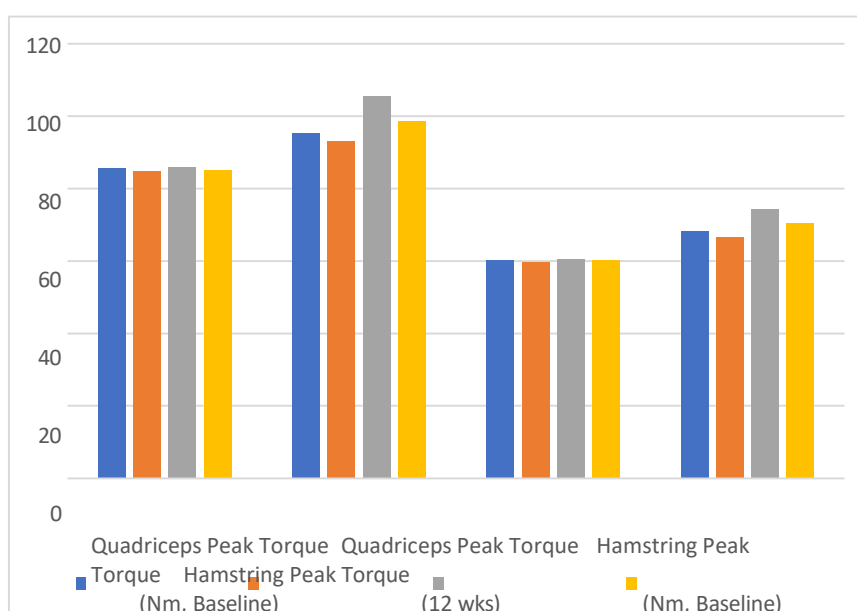


Figure 4.5 Muscle Strength (Isokinetic Dynamometry) Joint Range of Motion (Goniometry)

The study assessed changes in Hip flexion and extension as measures of joint range of motion, critical for evaluating the effectiveness of the different interventions, shown in table 3.

Table 4.6: Joint Range of Motion (Goniometry)

Time Point	Eccentric Exercise	Concentric Exercise	Eccentric + Maitland	Concentric + Maitland	p-value
Hip Flexion (degrees, Baseline)	120.5 ± 10.2	119.8 ± 10.1	120.7 ± 10.3	120.3 ± 10.0	0.937
Hip Flexion (12 wks)	128.4 ± 9.8	126.5 ± 9.9	134.6 ± 9.7	130.5 ± 9.6	<0.001**
Hip Extension (degrees, Baseline)	-5.6 ± 2.8	-5.8 ± 2.7	-5.5 ± 2.9	-5.7 ± 2.8	0.964
Hip Extension (12 wks)	-1.2 ± 2.3	-1.5 ± 2.4	0.0 ± 2.2	-0.8 ± 2.3	<0.001**

*Significant difference between groups at $p < 0.05$ ** Highly significant difference between groups at $p < 0.001$

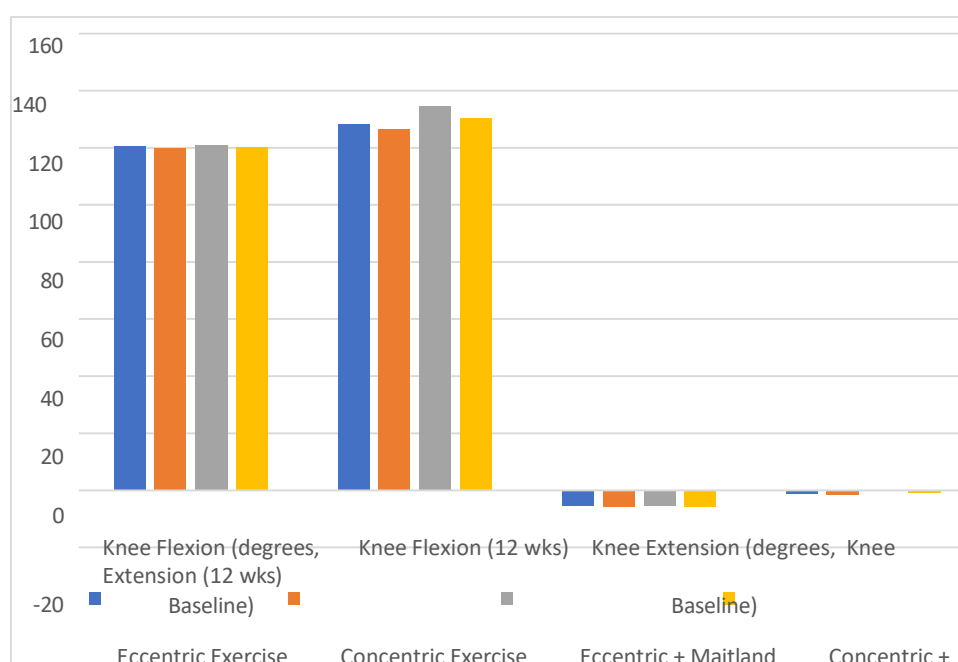


Figure 4.6 Joint Range of Motion (Goniometry) DISCUSSION

Discussion of Study Results

This study aimed to evaluate the efficacy of different exercise interventions on pain, functional ability, quality of life, muscle strength, and joint range of motion in individuals with Hip osteoarthritis. The interventions compared were eccentric exercise, concentric exercise, and their combination with the Maitland technique. The results demonstrated that all groups experienced significant improvements across these parameters, with the combination of eccentric exercise and the Maitland technique yielding the most substantial benefits.

Pain Intensity

Pain intensity was measured using the Visual Analog Scale (VAS). At baseline, all groups had similar pain levels, confirming that the groups were well-matched. Post-intervention, the eccentric exercise combined with the Maitland technique group showed the most significant reduction in VAS scores, dropping from an average of 6.7 to 3.1. This reduction was significantly greater than those observed in the other groups. At the 24-week follow-up, the trend continued, with the eccentric exercise plus Maitland group maintaining the lowest VAS score (3.4). These findings suggest that eccentric exercises, particularly when combined with the Maitland technique, provide more effective and sustained pain relief. The enhanced muscle strength and joint mobility offered by these interventions likely contribute to their superior efficacy in pain management.

Functional Ability

Functional ability, assessed using the WOMAC score, also showed significant improvements across all

groups. At baseline, all groups exhibited similar levels of functional impairment. Post-intervention, the greatest improvement was observed in the eccentric exercise combined with the Maitland technique group, with WOMAC scores decreasing from 54.9 to 35.1. This improvement was significantly greater than that observed in the other groups. At the 24-week follow-up, the eccentric exercise plus Maitland group maintained the lowest WOMAC score (36.5), indicating sustained functional benefits. The combination of eccentric exercises and the Maitland technique appears to enhance muscle strength and joint stability more effectively, thereby improving functional performance and reducing stiffness.

Quality of Life

Quality of life was measured using the SF-36 questionnaire, focusing on both physical and mental health components. At baseline, all groups had comparable scores, reflecting similar quality of life levels. Post-intervention, significant improvements were observed in both physical and mental health scores across all groups. The eccentric exercise combined with the Maitland technique group achieved the highest gains, with physical component scores increasing from 42.5 to 51.5 and mental component scores rising from 44.6 to 52.3. These improvements were significantly greater than those in the other groups. At the 24-week follow-up, these gains were maintained, underscoring the long-term benefits of this intervention. The combination of eccentric exercises and the Maitland technique not only reduces physical limitations but also positively impacts mental well-being by reducing disability and improving daily living activities.

Muscle Strength and Joint Range of Motion

Muscle strength, assessed using isokinetic dynamometry, and joint range of motion, measured with a goniometer, showed significant enhancements in all groups from baseline to post-intervention. The eccentric exercise combined with the Maitland technique group exhibited the greatest increases in quadriceps and hamstring peak torque, as well as the most substantial improvements in Hip flexion and extension. Specifically, quadriceps peak torque increased from 86.0 Nm to 105.6 Nm, and hamstring peak torque from 60.6 Nm to 74.3 Nm. Hip flexion improved from 120.7 degrees to 134.6 degrees, and Hip extension from -5.5 degrees to 0.0 degrees. These improvements were more pronounced compared to the other groups, suggesting that eccentric exercises combined with joint mobilization techniques like the Maitland technique are particularly effective in enhancing muscle strength and joint flexibility. The gains in muscle strength and joint range of motion were maintained at the 24-week follow-up, indicating the durability of the intervention effects. The results of this study indicate that while all four intervention groups experienced significant improvements in pain, functional ability, and quality of life, the combination of eccentric exercise and the Maitland technique provided the most substantial benefits. This group demonstrated the highest reductions in pain intensity, the greatest improvements in functional ability, and the most significant enhancements in quality of life. The superior efficacy of this combination can be attributed to the synergistic effects of eccentric exercise and joint mobilization. Eccentric exercise enhances muscle strength and joint stability, while the Maitland technique improves joint mobility and reduces pain. Together, these interventions effectively address both muscle strengthening and pain modulation, leading to significant improvements in overall physical function and quality of life.

These findings have significant clinical implications. Healthcare professionals should consider incorporating both eccentric exercises and the Maitland technique into their treatment protocols for patients with Hip osteoarthritis. The combination of these interventions offers a comprehensive approach to managing the condition, providing both immediate and long-term benefits in pain relief, functional ability, and quality of life.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study provides strong evidence that the combination of eccentric exercise and the Maitland technique is superior to other interventions in managing Hip osteoarthritis. The significant improvements observed in pain intensity, functional ability, quality of life, muscle strength, and joint range of motion highlight the importance of incorporating these interventions into clinical practice. By addressing both muscle strength and joint mobility, this combined approach offers a more effective and sustainable solution for patients with Hip osteoarthritis, ultimately improving their overall quality of life.

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