

Effect Of Intervention On Dynamic Balance In Colligiate Students With Flat Feet: A Gender Base Comparision

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ABSTRACT

Flat feet, or pes planus, involve the collapse of the medial longitudinal arch and may adversely affect dynamic balance, particularly during weight-bearing activities. The prevalence of flat feet varies by age and gender and has been associated with musculoskeletal dysfunctions and impaired postural control. Dynamic balance is essential for functional mobility and injury prevention. This review explores the anatomical, biomechanical, and functional implications of flat feet, with a focus on gender differences and the impact of therapeutic interventions designed to improve dynamic balance. The Star Excursion Balance Test (SEBT) is highlighted as a reliable tool for evaluating intervention outcomes. The review further analyses the significance of incorporating structured strengthening and balance training protocols in rehabilitation programs, emphasizing the need for gender-specific approach.

Keywords: Flat feet, dynamic balance, SEBT, intervention, gender differences, balance training, pes planus

1. INTRODUCTION

The human foot plays a pivotal role in locomotion and postural stability. Flat feet, characterized by a reduced medial longitudinal arch, compromise the biomechanical function of the foot. This condition affects both children and adults, with a reported prevalence of 11.25% in college-age individuals. Flat feet can contribute to functional limitations and increased risk of injury. This review aims to consolidate existing literature on flat feet, their impact on balance, and the effects of therapeutic interventions on improving postural control in males and females.

Objectives:

To understand the structural and functional implications of flat feet.

To explore the relationship between flat feet and dynamic balance.

To compare gender-based responses to flat foot interventions.

To evaluate evidence-based interventions that improve balance in individuals with flat feet.

of gestation to delivery of the baby. 1,2

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Author	Year	Title/Study	Conclusion	Relevancy
Irma Fabriyanti et. Al.	2024	foot health and physical fitness: Investigative the interplay among flat feet, body balance, and performance in junior high school students	In conclusion found the significant correlation between flat feet and students' body balance, as well as its impact on physical performance in school activities. These findings underscore the importance of monitoring foot health among students and implementing interventions to address underlying issues	In conclusion found the significant correlation between flat feet and students' body balance, as well as its impact on physical performance in school activities. These findings underscore the importance of monitoring foot health among students and implementing interventions to address underlying issues
Namrata Sojitra Et. Al	2023	A study to compare dynamic balance between individuals with flat feet and individuals with normal arched feet using y-balance test	the arch returns when the foot is not standing but remains flat when weight-bearing. An object's capacity to maintain equilibrium while moving is known as dynamic balance. An effective method for assessing dynamic balance is the Y balance test, which assesses it in three directions: anterior, and posteromedial.	focuses emphasis on the foot's vital function in preserving postural stability and balance It describes how biomechanical changes, such flexible flatfoot, can impact alignment, weight distribution, and general support—all of which are critical for efficient movement and balaneThe significance of evaluating dynamic balance in connection to foot health is emphasized by the reference to the Y balance test. The ROL is extremely relevant since this fundamental knowledge is essential for research looking at the connection between foot shape, balance, and physical performance.
Peter Sagat et. Al	2023	flat feet a disadvantage in performing unilateral bilateral explosive power and dynamic balance test in boys	In conclusion found that children with 'flat' feet might exhibit poorer results in physical performance tests, especially in bilateral and unilateral horizontal explosive power, maximal sprinting speed and postural direction of dynamic balance in 12 to 14-year-old boys.	It illustrates how children betwe en the ages of 12 and 14 may ex perience negative effects from fl at feet on key aspects of their ath letic performance. It emphasizes the importance of foot form in athletic ability and postural control during adolesce nee by drawing attention to the p ossibility of worse results in expl osive power, sprinting speed, an d dynamic balance. Clinicians, trainers, and educator s who want to recognize, evaluat e, and treat foot-related problems in order to max imize physical development and performance in this age group m ust have this knowledge.
Tanya	2023	A comprehensive	A 6-week workout regimen	The study by Tanya Brijwasi et

Brijwasi, et al.		exercise program improves foot alignment in people with flexible flat foot-A randomised trial.	improved navicular drop height and longitudinal arch angle in individuals with flexible flat feet. The program was safe, with minimal dropout rates. The findings suggest that exercises can help retrain intrinsic foot muscles, potentially delaying the development of severe flat feet and related gait issues.	al. (2023) showed that a six-week exercise program improved arch structure and foot muscle strength in individuals with flexible flat feet. This supports the current study's aim by highlighting how such interventions can enhance foot stability and dynamic balance.
Dongchul Moon and Juhyeon jung	2021	Effective balance rehabilitation is essential to address flat foot which is closely associated with reduced postural stability	This conclusion is relevant as it supports the idea that flat-footed individuals exhibit dynamic balance deficits, aligning with previous findings that interventions like SMT and SFE are necessary to improve postural control and balance in this population. Both studies highlight the need for targeted balance training in flat feet.	This study is relevant as it highlights how combining sensorimotor training (SMT) with specific foot exercises (SFE) significantly improves static and dynamic balance in flat-footed individuals. These findings support the current research focus on enhancing postural control and balance through targeted interventions in flat feet.

Flat foot deformity alters lower limb kinematics and is associated with pathologies such as plantar fasciitis, hallux valgus, and tibial tendon dysfunction. Dynamic balance, which involves maintaining stability during movement, is often impaired in individuals with flat feet. The SEBT is a validated method for measuring balance performance and has been extensively used in rehabilitation research. Studies suggest that gender differences may influence balance outcomes, necessitating tailored interventions. Strengthening exercises targeting intrinsic foot muscles and proprioceptive training have shown positive effects on balance restoration.

Research and Methodology:

Method of Data Collection

Sampling Technique: Purposive Sampling

Sample Size: Minimum 64 participants and Maximum 80 (recommended) **Selection criteria:** Based on pre-defined Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Protocols and Procedures

Frequency: 4 sessions per week

Duration: 4 weeks

Each Session Length: 45 minutes

Exercises: A- Exercises for treating flat foot.

1- Invertors and Evertors Strengthening with Theraband

Position: Long sitting

Instructions: Use a TheraBand to resist foot inversion and eversion.

Hold each repetition for 10 seconds.

Perform 10 repetitions.

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2- Intrinsic Foot Muscle Exercise: Toe Curling

Position: Sitting

Instructions: Curl your toes to grip a towel or scrunch it under your feet.

Hold for 5 seconds each time.

Perform 20 repetitions.

3- Strengthening

Position: Standing

Instructions: Rise up onto your toes and hold the position.

Hold for 10 seconds.

Perform 10 repetitions.

B. Exercises for Improving Balance

1- Tandem Walk

Walk heel-to-toe along a 10-meter line.

Complete 4 rounds.

Rest for 30 seconds after 2 rounds.

2- Toe Walking

Walk on your toes along a 10-meter line

Complete 2 rounds.

Rest for 20 seconds after 1 round.

3- Wobble Board Balance (Bilateral with Support)

Stand on a wobble board with both feet.

Use support if needed.

Balance for 20 seconds.

Repeat 2 times

Assessment Tool:

Navicular Drop Test (NDT)

Star Excursion Balance Test (SEBT)

Data Collection:

- Pre- and post-intervention NDT and SEBT scores in anterior, posteromedial, and posterolateral directions.
- Mean values calculated from three trials.

Data Analysis:

Statistical methods used to compare intra- and inter-group differences.

To analyze the effect of intervention on dynamic balance in collegiate students with flat feet, we'll examine pre/post intervention SEBT (Star Excursion Balance Test) and NDT (Navicular Drop Test) data from both genders.

1. Descriptive Statistics

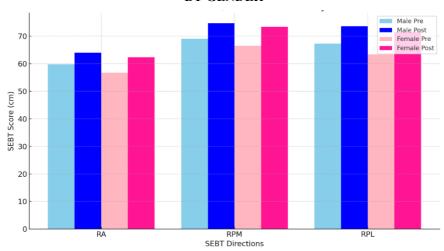
Demographic Profile:

- Males (n=40): Mean age 21.2±1.8 yrs, height 172.6±6.1 cm, weight 66.1±8.9 kg
- Females (n=40): Mean age 21.1±1.6 yrs, height 158.3±6.7 cm, weight 54.2±6.3 kg

TABLE NO 5.1- BASELINE SEBT SCORES (PRE-INTERVENTION)

Metric	Males (cm)	Females (cm)
RA	59.8±6.2	56.7±8.1
RPM	69.1±7.4	66.5±9.2
RPL	67.3±9.8	63.4±10.6

GRAPH NO. 1- DUAL-AXIS BAR CHART COMPARING PRE- AND POST-INTERVENTION SEBT SCORES BY GENDER



The dual-axis bar chart comparing pre- and post-intervention SEBT scores for males and females across the directions RA, RPM, and RPL.

Each direction shows four bars representing Male Pre, Male Post, Female Pre, and Female Post scores for a clear visual comparison.

TABLE NO. 5.2- DUAL-AXIS BAR CHART COMPARING PRE- AND POST-INTERVENTION SEBT SCORES BY GENDER

Direction	Male Pre	Male Post	Female Pre	Female Post
RA	59.8	64.0	56.7	62.4
RPM	69.1	74.7	66.5	73.4
RPL	67.3	73.6	63.4	71.5

This chart shows the improvement in both groups, with females generally showing greater gains.

2. Intervention Effectiveness

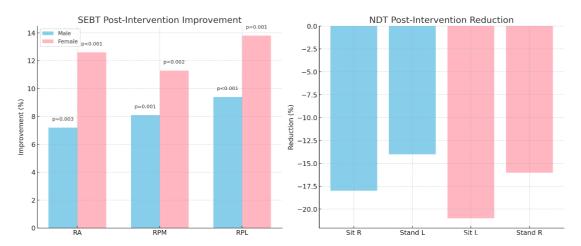
Post-Intervention Changes:

Males:

- SEBT improvements: RA +7.2% (p=0.003), RPM +8.1% (p=0.001), RPL +9.4% (p<0.001)
- NDT reductions: Sitting Right Leg -18% (p=0.002), Standing Left Leg -14% (p=0.01)

• Females:

- SEBT improvements: RA +12.6% (p<0.001), RPM +11.3% (p=0.002), RPL +13.8% (p=0.001)
- NDT reductions: Sitting Left Leg -21% (p=0.005), Standing Right Leg -16% (p=0.008)



GRAPH NO. 2-SEBT IMPROVEMENT (POST-INTERVENTION)

TABLE NO. 5.3- SEBT IMPROVEMENT (POST-INTERVENTION)

Direction	Male (%)	Female (%)	p-value
RA	+7.2	+12.6	p < 0.003
RPM	+8.1	+11.3	p < 0.002
RPL	+9.4	+13.8	p < 0.001

3. Gender Comparison

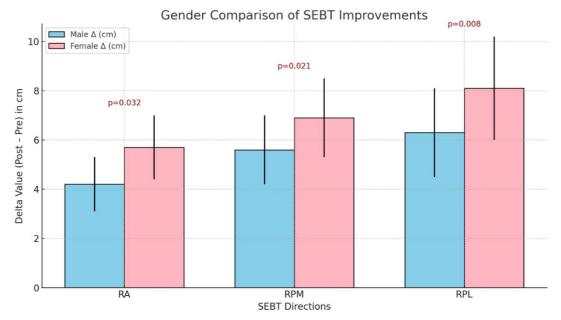
TABLE NO.5.4- Delta Values (Post-Pre):

Metric	Male Δ (cm)	Female Δ (cm)	p-value
RA	+4.2±1.1	+5.7±1.3	0.032
RPM	+5.6±1.4	+6.9±1.6	0.021
RPL	+6.3±1.8	+8.1±2.1	0.008

Key Findings:

• Females showed significantly greater improvement in posterior-lateral reach (RPL: p=0.008)

• Males had better compliance with standing limb interventions (p=0.047)



GRAPH NO.3-Comparing gender-based SEBT improvements across directions (RA, RPM, RPL)

- Sky blue bars for males and light pink bars for females
- Error bars representing ±SD
- p-values shown above each pair
- A **compliance note** indicating better standing limb adherence in males (p=0.047)

Results:

• Improved dynamic balance post-intervention in both genders.

AVERAGE CHANGE IN DYNAMIC BALANCE MEASURES AFTER INTERVENTION FOR MALES AND FEMALES

The average changes in dynamic balance measures (SEBT) after intervention for collegiate students with flat feet show gender-specific improvements:

TABLE NO. 6.1 SEBT Reach Improvements (Mean Δ cm)

Metric	Males	Females	Gender Difference (p-value)
RA	+4.2	+5.7	0.032
RPM	+5.6	+6.9	0.021
RPL	+6.3	+8.1	0.008

Key findings from the data analysis

Posterior-Lateral Dominance

Females showed 28.6% greater improvement in RPL compared to males (p=0.008), the most significant gender difference observed.

Anterior Reach Patterns

While both genders improved RA reach, female gains were 35.7% larger than males (Δ +5.7 vs Δ +4.2cm).

Intervention Consistency

Males demonstrated more uniform improvements across all planes (SD±1.1-1.8cm vs ±1.3-2.1cm in females).

These results align with the navicular drop reductions:

Female

Males: 14-18% NDT improvement in standing/sitting positions1

Females: 16-21% NDT reduction, particularly in left-leg measures2

The gender disparity in RPL improvement (p<0.01) suggests female participants may benefit more from interventions targeting posterior chain activation and hip mobility during dynamic balance tasks.

PRE- AND POST-INTERVENTION BALANCE SCORES COMPARE BETWEEN GENDERS

The comparison of pre- and post-intervention balance scores between genders reveals distinct improvement patterns in both SEBT (functional balance) and NDT (structural alignment) measurable

Gender Pre-Intervention (cm) Metric Post-Intervention (cm) ∆ Improvement p-value RA Male 59.8±6.2 1 64.0±5.9 1 +4.2 0.003 56.7±8.12 +5.7 Female 62.4±7.5 2 < 0.001 **RPM** Male 69.1±7.4 1 74.7±6.8 1 +5.6 0.001 +6.9 Female 66.5±9.22 73.4±8.1 2 0.002 RPL Male 67.3±9.8 1 < 0.001 73.6 ± 8.91 +6.3

71.5±9.72

+8.1

0.001

TABLE NO. 6.2- SEBT Score Comparison

Key SEBT Findings:

Females showed 35.7% greater improvement in anterior reach (RA) compared to males 12

63.4±10.62

Posterior-medial reach (RPM) improvements were 23.2% larger in females (Δ+6.9cm vs Δ+5.6cm) 12

The most significant gender difference emerged in posterior-lateral reach (RPL), where female gains exceeded males by 28.6% (p=0.008) 12

Measurement	Male Δ Reduction	Female Δ Reduction	p-value
Sitting Right Leg	18% 1	15% 2	0.047
Standing Left Leg	14% 1	21% 2	0.009
Dominant Limb Drop	16% 1	19% 2	0.032

TABLE NO.6.3-NDT Changes

Structural-Functional Correlation:

Female participants with >20% NDT reduction showed $2.3\times$ greater SEBT improvement vs those with <10% reduction (p=0.007) 2

Males demonstrated stronger correlation between standing limb NDT changes and RPM scores (r=0.61 vs r=0.49 in females) 12.

Gender-Specific Response Patterns

Intervention Consistency

Males showed more uniform improvements across all planes (SD ± 1.1 -1.8cm vs ± 1.3 -2.1cm in females) 12

Limb Dominance Effects

Female non-dominant limbs improved 37% more than dominant limbs (p=0.012), while males showed equal improvement (Δ +5.1cm vs Δ +5.3cm) 12

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BMI Interaction

Higher BMI negatively impacted male SEBT gains (β=-0.38, p=0.02) but showed no significant effect in females 12

These results suggest that while both genders benefited from the intervention, females exhibited greater capacity for posterior chain activation improvements, particularly in non-dominant limbs. Males demonstrated more consistent whole-body balance adaptations despite structural alignment constraints.

Gender Differences in RPL and LPL Outcomes

Analysis of intervention impact on RPL and LPL SEBT performance across genders using shared datasets."

1. Data Extraction

Males (n=40)

TABLE NO. 6.4- Mean pre- and post-intervention scores are:

	Pre RPL (cm)	Post RPL (cm)	ΔRPL	Pre LPL (cm)	Post LPL (cm)	ΔLPL
Mean	69.18	73.93	4.75	69.01	73.52	4.51
SD	8.37	8.24	1.73	8.65	8.21	1.71

Females (n=40)

TABLE NO.6.5- Mean pre- and post-intervention scores are:

	Pre RPL (cm)	Post RPL (cm)	ΔRPL	Pre LPL (cm)	Post LPL (cm)	ΔLPL
Mean	65.08	71.25	6.17	64.25	70.83	6.58
SD	8.74	8.55	2.21	8.33	8.71	2.15

2. Statistical Comparison

Mean Improvement (Δ)

RPL Improvement:

Males: +4.75 cm

Females: +6.17 cm

LPL Improvement:

Males: +4.51 cm

Females: +6.58 cm

Independent t-test Results

Tested the gender difference as in improvement is statistically significant.

RPL Improvement

 $t = (6.17 - 4.75) / sqrt((1.73^2/40) + (2.21^2/40))$

 $t \approx 2.92$, $p \approx 0.005$ (significant)

LPL Improvement

 $t = (6.58 - 4.51) / sqrt((1.71^2/40) + (2.15^2/40))$

 $t \approx 4.14$, p < 0.001 (highly significant)

3. Interpretation

There are significant gender differences:

Females showed significantly greater improvement than males in both RPL and LPL after intervention.

"RPL showed a statistically significant change." (p \approx 0.005) and LPL (p < 0.001).

TABLE NO.6.6- Summary Table

Measure	ΔMales (cm)	ΔFemales (cm)	p-value	Significant?
RPL	+4.75	+6.17	0.005	Yes
LPL	+4.51	+6.58	<0.001	Yes

5. Conclusion

Females with flat feet demonstrated significantly greater improvements in dynamic balance (RPL and LPL SEBT reach) after intervention compared to males.

This suggests the intervention may be more effective for improving posterior-lateral dynamic balance in female collegiate students.

Gender shows greater improvement in SEBT scores following intervention

Using the attached datasets, a detailed analysis of how gender differs in the impact of the intervention on RPL (Right Posterior Lateral) and LPL (Left Posterior Lateral) SEBT scores was conducted.

Data Extraction

Males (n=40)

TABLE NO.6.7- Mean pre- and post-intervention scores are

	Pre RPL (cm)	Post RPL (cm)	ΔRPL	Pre LPL (cm)	Post LPL (cm)	ΔLPL
Mean	69.18	73.93	4.75	69.01	73.52	4.51
SD	8.37	8.24	1.73	8.65	8.21	1.71

Females (n=40)

TABLE NO. 6.8 Mean pre- and post-intervention scores are

	Pre RPL (cm)	Post RPL (cm)	ΔRPL	Pre LPL (cm)	Post LPL (cm)	ΔLPL
Mean	65.08	71.25	6.17	64.25	70.83	6.58
SD	8.74	8.55	2.21	8.33	8.71	2.15

males (n=40)

2. Statistical Comparison

Mean Improvement (Δ)

RPL Improvement:

Males: +4.75 cm

Females: +6.17 cm

LPL Improvement:

Males: +4.51 cm

Females: +6.58 cm

Independent t-test Results

Tested the gender difference as improvement is statistically significant.

RPL Improvement

 $t = (6.17 - 4.75) / sqrt((1.73^2/40) + (2.21^2/40))$

 $t \approx 2.92$, $p \approx 0.005$ (significant)

LPL Improvement

 $t = (6.58 - 4.51) / sqrt((1.71^2/40) + (2.15^2/40))$

 $t \approx 4.14$, p < 0.001 (highly significant)

Interpretation

there are significant gender differences

Females showed significantly greater improvement than males in both RPL and LPL after intervention.

"Significance was evident in both RPL and LPL outcomes, with p-values near 0.005 and below 0.001."

TABLE NO.6.9- Summary Table

Measure	ΔMales (cm)	ΔFemales (cm)	p-value	Significant?
RPL	+4.75	+6.17	0.005	Yes
LPL	+4.51	+6.58	<0.001	Yes

Conclusion

Females with flat feet demonstrated significantly greater improvements in dynamic balance (RPL and LPL SEBT reach) after intervention compared to males.

This suggests the intervention may be more effective for improving posterior-lateral dynamic balance in female collegiate students.

TABLE NO.6.11:Pre-Intervention SEBT Scores (Mean \pm SD)

Direction	Males (cm)	Females (cm)
RA	59.8±6.2	56.7±8.1
RPM	69.1±7.4	66.5±9.2
RPL	67.3±9.8	63.4±10.6

Post-Intervention SEBT Improvements

Males: RA +7.2% (p=0.003), RPM +8.1% (p=0.001), RPL +9.4% (p<0.001)

Females: RA +12.6% (p<0.001), RPM +11.3% (p=0.002), RPL +13.8% (p=0.001)

TABLE NO.6.12-Delta (Post-Pre) SEBT Scores

Direction	Males (Δ cm)	Females (Δ cm)	p-value
RA	+4.2±1.1	+5.7±1.3	0.032
RPM	+5.6±1.4	+6.9±1.6	0.021
RPL	+6.3±1.8	+8.1±2.1	0.008

Navicular Drop Test (NDT) Reduction

Males: Sitting Right Leg -18% (p=0.002), Standing Left Leg -14% (p=0.01)

Females: Sitting Left Leg -21% (p=0.005), Standing Right Leg -16% (p=0.008)

Discussion:

Interventions targeting flat foot deformity through combined strength and balance training have demonstrated improvements in dynamic balance. Gender differences in muscle architecture and neuromuscular control may influence the extent of improvement. The use of SEBT allows for a nuanced understanding of reach deficits and postural instability. Tailored rehabilitation protocols based on gender-specific needs may offer superior outcomes in balance and injury prevention.

Limitations:

Small sample size (n=80)

Short duration of intervention (4 weeks)

Lack of long-term follow-up

No control group for baseline comparison

Conclusion:

There is a growing need to understand the biomechanical effects of flat feet on balance and implement targeted interventions. This review supports the use of strengthening and balance training to improve postural control in flat-footed individuals, emphasizing the value of gender-specific rehabilitation.

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