

SUMMARY

Injury of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is frequent. ACL lesion has serious consequences on the knee joint biomechanics as well as neurophysiological changes. This study summarizes the facts in the field of ACL lesion, in terms of injury, therapy and the return of a patient to daily life. The present research into anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) lesion has shown varying results. We investigated the electromyographic (EMG) activity of femoral muscles (semimembranosus, biceps femoris m. (BF), vastus medialis m. (VM), vastus lateralis m. (VL)) during specific physical activities (PA) in the closed kinetic chain (CKC). The main focus was on the protective pattern of femoral muscles activity in knees with insufficient stability, due to ACL lesion. The study was based on theory as well as previous investigations of "the hallstring reflex". 16 patients with ACL lesion (6 men and 10 women; mean age = 34 years, range = from 15 to 54) divided in 2 groups (with and without ACL reconstruction) participated in this study. The EMG activity of assessed femoral muscles was analysed during 3 specific activities: calm standing (CS), rhythmic weight bearing (RWB), forward lunge (FL). The performance of PA were standardized by the use of the forceplate offered by NeuroCom® "Balance Master®" system software. The EMG data were acquired through the use of the electromyograph Telemyo 16 Noraxon, further recorded and processed with MYO 2.1 O. Two non-parametric tests, the Wilcoxon matched pairs signed-ranks test, and the Mann-Whitney U test, were used to compare the EMG activity between a) injured and non-injured lower limb within one patient, b) injured lower limbs within groups of patients with and without ACL reconstruction.

Key words: the knee joint, ACL lesion, ACL reconstruction, electromyography, rehabilitation