



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Lateral wedge insoles for reducing biomechanical risk factors for medial knee osteoarthritis progression : a systematic review and meta-analysis

Arnold, JB, Wong, DX, Jones, R, Hill, CL and Thewlis, D

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/acr.22797>

Title	Lateral wedge insoles for reducing biomechanical risk factors for medial knee osteoarthritis progression : a systematic review and meta-analysis
Authors	Arnold, JB, Wong, DX, Jones, R, Hill, CL and Thewlis, D
Publication title	Arthritis Care & Research
Publisher	Wiley
Type	Article
USIR URL	This version is available at: http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/37792/
Published Date	2016

USIR is a digital collection of the research output of the University of Salford. Where copyright permits, full text material held in the repository is made freely available online and can be read, downloaded and copied for non-commercial private study or research purposes. Please check the manuscript for any further copyright restrictions.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: library-research@salford.ac.uk.

Lateral wedge insoles for reducing biomechanical risk factors for medial knee osteoarthritis progression: a systematic review and meta-analysis

John B. Arnold, PhD¹, Daniel X. Wong¹, Richard K. Jones, PhD^{2,3}, Catherine L. Hill, MBBS, FRACP, MSc, MD^{4,5}, Dominic Thewlis, PhD^{1,6}

¹Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity (ARENA), Sansom Institute for Health Research, School of Health Sciences, University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia;

²School of Health Sciences, University of Salford, Frederick Road, Salford, UK;

³Arthritis Research UK Epidemiology Unit, Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, UK;

⁴Department of Rheumatology, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woodville Road, Woodville, Adelaide, Australia;

⁵The Health Observatory, School of Medicine, The University of Adelaide, Woodville, South Australia, Australia

⁶Centre for Orthopaedic and Trauma Research, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia;

Corresponding author

John B. Arnold

Alliance for Research in Exercise, Nutrition and Activity (ARENA)

Sansom Institute for Health Research

School of Health Sciences, University of South Australia

GPO Box 2471, Adelaide, Australia 5001

T: +61 8 8302 1207; F: +61 8 8302 2766; E-mail: john.arnold@unisa.edu.au

Running title

Lateral wedge insoles for knee OA

Keywords

knee osteoarthritis, biomechanics, insole, gait

Word Count: 3792

1 **Objective**

2 Lateral wedge insoles are intended to reduce biomechanical risk factors of medial knee
3 osteoarthritis (OA) progression, such as increased knee joint load; however, there has been no
4 definitive consensus on this topic. The aim of this systematic review and meta-analysis was
5 to establish the within-subject effects of lateral wedge insoles on knee joint load in people
6 with medial knee OA during walking.

7 **Methods**

8 Six databases were searched from inception until February 13th 2015. Included studies
9 reported on the acute biomechanical effects of lateral wedge insoles in people with medial
10 knee osteoarthritis during walking. Primary outcomes of interest relating to the
11 biomechanical risk of disease progression were the 1st and 2nd peak external knee adduction
12 moment (EKAM) and knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI). Eligible studies were pooled
13 using random-effects meta-analysis.

14 **Results**

15 Eighteen studies were included with a total of 534 participants. Lateral wedge insoles resulted
16 in a small but statistically significant reduction in the 1st peak EKAM (SMD: -0.19; 95% CI -
17 0.23 – -0.15) and 2nd peak EKAM (SMD: -0.25; 95% CI -0.32 – -0.19) with a low level of
18 heterogeneity ($I^2 = 5\%$ and 30% , respectively). There was a favourable but small reduction in
19 the KAAI with lateral wedge insoles (SMD: -0.14; 95% CI -0.21 – -0.07, $I^2 = 31\%$). Risk of
20 methodological bias scores (Quality Index) ranged from 8 to 13 out of 16.

21 **Conclusions**

22 Lateral wedge insoles cause small reductions in the EKAM and KAAI in people with medial
23 knee OA during walking. At present, they appear ineffective at attenuating structural changes
24 in people with medial knee OA as a whole and may be better suited to targeted use in
25 biomechanical phenotypes associated with larger reductions in knee load.

26 **Systematic Review Registration (PROSPERO): CRD42015015392**

27

28 **Significance and Innovations**

- 29 • This review presents the first comprehensive synthesis of studies investigating the
30 effect of lateral wedge insoles on biomechanical risk factors for medial knee
31 osteoarthritis progression, such as medial knee joint loading
- 32 • This review of 18 studies found lateral wedge insoles had a small statistically
33 significant effect on reducing the 1st and 2nd peak external knee adduction moment
34 and knee adduction angular impulse
- 35 • Biomechanical effects of lateral wedge insoles persisted regardless of whether a sham
36 insole or footwear was used as the comparison condition
- 37 • Variability in patient response highlights the need to consider the potential of lateral
38 wedge insoles to attenuate disease progression in specific biomechanical phenotypes

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48 The local mechanical environment plays an important role in the pathogenesis of knee
49 osteoarthritis (OA) (1). Knee joint loading, estimated using surrogate measures such as the
50 external knee adduction moment (EKAM), has been implicated in both the development of
51 knee pain and radiographic progression of medial knee OA in older adults (2, 3). Knee load
52 during walking is also positively associated with levels of subchondral bone change (4),
53 worsening of bone marrow lesions (5), cartilage loss (6) and progression to total knee
54 replacement in those with established disease (7). Non-invasive interventions aimed at
55 reducing knee load during walking may therefore hold potential to slow disease progression
56 in people with medial knee OA.

57 The medial knee compartment more commonly shows radiographic disease, proposed to be a
58 result of bearing a greater proportion of load (~60%) compared to the lateral compartment
59 (~40%) during walking (8). The EKAM has been used as a proxy for medial knee joint load
60 and a reduction in the EKAM represents a change in medial to lateral distribution and a
61 relative lowering of the medial compartment load (9). The area underneath the EKAM curve,
62 the knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI), represents the cumulative effect of the EKAM
63 over the stance phase (10). High medial knee loading during walking estimated using the
64 EKAM and KAAI is predictive of structural progression in knee OA (3, 6, 11), and as they
65 are modifiable factors with conservative interventions, are potential targets to slow disease
66 progression.

67 Lateral wedge insoles are in-shoe devices that lower medial tibiofemoral compartment load to
68 potentially reduce the deleterious effects of aberrant mechanics in knee OA. Originally
69 described in 1987 by Yasuda & Sasaki (12), they consist of a simple wedged insole with an
70 elevated lateral profile and angle of inclination facing toward the outside of the heel.

71 Variations to this design have been described, ranging from shortened devices covering only
72 the heel (13), to modifications of over-the-counter arch supports (14). The elevated lateral

73 profile of lateral wedge insoles shifts the point of application of the ground reaction force
74 (centre of pressure) toward the outside of the foot, shortening the ground reaction force lever
75 arm on the inside of the knee and reducing the EKAM (15).

76 The clinical and biomechanical effects of lateral wedge insoles in people with medial knee
77 OA have been extensively studied. Recommendations feature in clinical guidelines for the
78 conservative management of knee OA, including those from the American College of
79 Rheumatology (ACR) (16) and Osteoarthritis Society International (OARSI) (17). However,
80 recommendations remain inconsistent. Internationally, some guidelines issue a conditional
81 recommendation (16, 17), whilst others do not recommend use of lateral wedge insoles on the
82 basis of equivocal evidence of any benefit on pain or knee function (18). A recent meta-
83 analysis demonstrated an effect of lateral wedge insoles on pain outcomes below the
84 minimally clinical important difference for OA (19). However, to our knowledge, there
85 remains no comprehensive meta-analysis of their effect on biomechanical risk factors for
86 knee OA progression, such as knee load. The objective of this review was to determine the
87 within-subject effects of lateral wedge insoles on biomechanical risk factors for disease
88 progression (EKAM and KAAI) in patients with medial knee OA during walking.

89 **Methods**

90 **Design**

91 This systematic review was conducted in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for
92 Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Statement guidelines (20). This protocol
93 for this review was registered on the international prospective register of systematic reviews
94 (PROSPERO), registration number (CRD42015015392).

95 **Search Strategy**

96 The PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcome) framework was used to
97 define the search strategy. The electronic databases Medline (via OvidSP), EMBASE (via
98 OvidSP), CINAHL (via EBSCOhost), AMED (via OvidSP), Scopus and Web of Science (via
99 ISI Web of Knowledge) were searched from inception to February 13th 2015. Searches were
100 limited to studies on adults aged ≥ 18 years published in English. The Medical Subject
101 Headings (MeSH) were used for keywords where available, with an example of the full
102 search terms and combinations provided in Supplementary File 1. Search terms included a
103 mixture of words relating to gait kinetics, kinematics and muscle activity to maximise the
104 chance of retrieving relevant studies as these outcomes are frequently reported together. Each
105 database was searched by two independent researchers to ensure reproducibility, with
106 agreement required on the number of search hits achieved in each database before screening
107 was initiated.

108 **Eligibility Criteria**

109 To be included in this review, studies must have been peer-reviewed journal articles
110 investigating the biomechanical effects of laterally wedged insoles in adults with knee
111 osteoarthritis during walking. All study designs were considered, as long as they included a
112 within-group comparison of baseline versus insole conditions in people with medial knee
113 OA. Eligible designs included (but were not limited to): randomised controlled trials (RCTs),
114 Quasi-RCTs, non-RCTs, cohort studies, case-control and case-series. Systematic and
115 narrative reviews were eligible for the purposes of manual reference list searching only to
116 identify any studies missed in the primary search. Conference abstracts and unpublished data
117 were not eligible.

118 Studies must have investigated a lateral wedged insole, defined as an in-shoe orthotic device
119 with an angle of inclination towards the lateral border of the foot. No restrictions were made

120 regarding the features of insoles (i.e. length – heel or full-length), degree of angulation,
121 density or presence of concurrent arch support in the device. For prospective studies, only
122 baseline data inferring the immediate effects of lateral wedge insoles were used. Studies
123 allowing greater than a one month wear-in period were excluded, as this is the longest time
124 period where effects are shown not to decline with continued wear (21).

125 As this review was focused on the biomechanical effects specific to lateral wedge insoles,
126 studies must have included a comparison condition where the insole was not used during
127 walking. This could be either in the same footwear but with the insole removed or in the same
128 footwear with a sham device (thin flat insole) that is theoretically biomechanically ‘inert’
129 relative to the laterally wedged insole. This allowed the type of footwear, which can itself
130 independently alter knee biomechanics, to be controlled within studies. Studies testing
131 ‘variable stiffness’ shoes, were not eligible as although these devices work by the same
132 mechanism, other design features may impact upon their effects and it is unclear if shoe
133 features could be held constant across testing conditions (22, 23). Primary outcome variables
134 of interest were specific due to their relevance to disease progression included features of the
135 external knee adduction moment; the 1st peak EKAM, 2nd peak EKAM and the area under the
136 EKAM curve, the knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI).

137 **Study inclusion**

138 All articles from searching of electronic databases were aggregated in bibliographic software
139 (Endnote® X7, Thomson Reuters, Philadelphia, USA), where duplicate references were
140 removed and cross-checked between two researchers to ensure agreement. The eligibility
141 criteria were applied to the title and abstract by two independent researchers, with the
142 retained articles again cross-checked. The retained articles were retrieved in full-text and
143 screened according to the criteria, with the final remaining articles forming the results of the

144 systematic review. Discrepancies in eligibility assessment made by two independent
145 researchers were first resolved by discussion, with the opinion of a third researcher sought if
146 consensus was not reached. Reference lists of the final included studies were manually
147 searched for any relevant articles not identified in the initial search.

148 **Critical Appraisal of Risk of Methodological Bias**

149 Critical appraisal of each individual study was carried out by two independent reviewers
150 using a modified version of the Quality Index (24). Similar to previous systematic reviews,
151 we elected to use an abridged version containing 16 items relevant to a range of study
152 designs, whilst still being applicable to randomised studies. The 16 items assessed the
153 reporting quality, external validity and internal validity (bias and confounding). Each study
154 was scored with the tool with each item graded as Yes (1 point), No (0 points) or unable to
155 determine (0 points) to give a total score out of 16.

156 **Data Extraction**

157 Point estimates of effects including descriptive (means, medians, standard deviations, change
158 scores) and inferential statistical information (p-values, confidence intervals) were extracted
159 and cross-checked by two reviewers (JA and DW). Where different wedge angulations were
160 given between participants and raw data were available, the mean value was computed. When
161 adequate data was reported, standardised mean differences were calculated as the mean
162 difference in the biomechanical parameter between the insole and no-insole conditions,
163 divided by the pooled standard deviation with adjustment for small sample sizes (Hedges g :
164 SMD)(25). Where not reported, the standard error of the mean difference and correlations
165 between outcomes were estimated from P-values using the equivalent T-statistic (26). When
166 this was not possible, an imputation approach was taken where the standard error of the mean
167 difference was estimated using the lowest correlation estimate from other studies (26). If

168 more information was required from that provided in the paper, authors were contacted
169 directly to provide necessary data (relevant data from two studies was provided immediately).

170 **Data Synthesis and Analysis**

171 Meta-analysis was performed in Review Manager (RevMan) software (version 5.2, Cochrane
172 Collaboration, Oxford, UK) using the inverse variance method, where the contribution of
173 effect sizes from individual studies is weighted on sample size and their precision of the
174 estimate. Significant heterogeneity across studies was anticipated due to differences in the
175 distribution of participant characteristics (i.e. severity of OA), therefore a random-effects
176 model was used to more conservatively estimate the pooled effect of the intervention.
177 Sensitivity analysis according to the presence of a neutral (flat) insole was also performed
178 when possible to assess the effect of this feature of study design to alter the biomechanical
179 differences between conditions, as it has previously been shown to influence clinical
180 outcomes (19). Publication bias was assessed using funnel plots and Egger's regression test
181 using STATA (v14, StataCorp, College Station, TX, USA).

182 Statistical heterogeneity was assessed using the Chi^2 test and Cochran's Q statistic, which
183 determines whether observed differences in results between studies differ due to chance
184 alone, and the I^2 statistic, which describes the percentage of the variability in effect estimates
185 that is due to heterogeneity rather than sampling error (chance). Guidelines from the
186 Cochrane Collaboration were followed for the interpretation of heterogeneity, where 25, 50
187 and 75% represent low, moderate and high heterogeneity, respectively (27). Effect sizes
188 were interpreted as 0.2 (small), 0.5 (medium) and 0.8 (large) (28). To contextualise the effect
189 sizes, the overall pooled estimates were back-transformed into original units using reference
190 data from the largest study (15) ($n=73$) with mean and standard deviations of 3.82 SD 0.78
191 (Nm/%BW*Ht) for the 1st peak EKAM and 1.26 SD 0.37 (Nm.s/BW*Ht) for the KAAI.

192 **Results**

193 Three hundred and eighty three (383) records were identified. After assessing eligibility
194 against the criteria, 48 studies were retained for full-text review. Eighteen studies met all
195 eligibility criteria and were included in the final review (Figure 1). Eleven review articles
196 were identified on the topic, but searching of reference lists yielded no additional studies not
197 identified in the primary search. Authors of two studies provided additional data to allow
198 effect sizes to be calculated (29, 30).

199 ****Figure 1 here****

200 *Study Characteristics*

201 The 18 eligible studies included a total of 534 participants. All but four studies were within-
202 subjects repeated measures designs, with the remaining being randomised trials (30-33). Four
203 studies reported the use of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria (31, 34-
204 36), with ten stating cut-offs regarding the severity of knee pain (13, 21, 29, 31, 32, 34, 36-
205 39), most commonly >3/10 on a visual analog scale (21, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 40). This
206 definition varied across studies according to the activity, with pain recalled during walking
207 (29, 39), walking two blocks and/or climbing stairs (36), weight bearing activities (38) on
208 most days of the past month (21, 32, 41). All studies included radiographic assessment of
209 tibiofemoral OA. This was most commonly defined as Kellgren-Lawrence Grade 2 and above
210 (21, 29, 31, 32, 34, 37-40, 42). Presence of medial joint space narrowing greater than lateral
211 (13, 21, 29, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39, 41) and/or varus knee alignment (30, 36, 40, 42, 43) were used
212 to limit participants to those with medial tibiofemoral OA.

213 Two studies reported the effects of heel wedges (43, 44), 14 studies investigated full-length
214 insoles and two studies included both heel and full-length insoles (40, 45). The most

215 common insole inclination angle was five degrees (21, 29, 32, 33, 36, 39-41, 45), with insole
216 angles ranging from four (42) to 11 degrees (34). The presence of a concomitant medial arch
217 support was common with four studies modifying generic insoles(31, 37, 38, 45) and three
218 used a bespoke design (29, 33, 39). Fourteen studies prescribed the same insole to all
219 participants, with the remaining four using a customised amount based on comfort and/or
220 pain level (31, 35, 37, 38). A flat insole was the comparison condition in four studies(31, 34,
221 37, 38), seven studies used participants' own footwear (21, 30, 32, 36, 40, 42, 45) , five
222 studies used standardised footwear(29, 33, 35, 39, 44), one study used both a flat insole and
223 participants own footwear (41) and one study did not report the type of footwear (43).
224 Walking speed was either controlled across conditions within a threshold of each
225 participants' preferred speed(21, 31, 32, 36-38, 40), self-selected by participants but
226 comparable across conditions (35, 41, 43), uncontrolled and not taken into account or
227 reported(29, 30, 33, 34, 39, 42, 44) or the method was not reported but walking speed
228 remained similar(45). Table 1 and Table 2 summarise the characteristics of included studies
229 and participants.

230 ****Table 1 here****

231 ****Table 2 here****

232 *Knee joint loading*

233 *1st peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM)*

234 Eighteen studies reported the effect of lateral wedge insoles on the 1st peak EKAM, of which
235 13 used a shoe-only comparison and five used a neutral (flat) insole. As some studies made
236 multiple comparisons with different insole angles, a total of 27 comparisons were included in
237 the data synthesis (20 shoe comparison, seven neutral (flat) insole comparison) (Table 3).

238 The overall pooled effect estimate suggested that lateral wedge insoles resulted in a
239 statistically significant reduction in the 1st peak EKAM (SMD = -0.19 [95% CI -0.23 - -
240 0.15], $p < 0.001$), with a low level of statistical heterogeneity ($\text{Chi}^2 = 26.7$, $p = 0.42$, $I^2 = 3\%$)
241 (Figure 2). This represents a small effect size and equates to an absolute change in the 1st
242 peak EKAM of approximately 0.15 %BW*Ht. Subgroup comparisons yielded similar results,
243 with the pooled effect similar in both shoe-only (SMD= -0.20 [95% CI -0.25 - -0.14]) and
244 neutral (flat) insole comparisons (SMD = -0.22 [95% CI -0.30 - -0.13]). Egger's regression
245 test for funnel plot asymmetry were not statistically significant, indicating weak evidence of
246 publication bias for the 1st peak EKAM ($\beta = -0.61$, SE 0.37 $p = 0.111$) (Supplementary File
247 2).

248 ****Figure 2 here****

249 *2nd peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM)*

250 Eight studies reported the effect of LWI on the 2nd peak EKAM; seven studies with a shoe-
251 only comparison, one study with a neutral (flat) insole comparison and one study reported
252 both comparisons. A total of 12 comparisons were included in the data synthesis (Table 3).

253 Overall, LWI resulted in a statistically significant reduction in the 2nd peak EKAM (SMD = -
254 0.25 [95% CI -0.31 - -0.18], $p < 0.001$), with a low to medium level of statistical
255 heterogeneity ($\text{Chi}^2 = 14.8$, $p = 0.19$, $I^2 = 26\%$) (Figure 3).

256 There was also evidence for differences according to subgroup analysis, with comparisons
257 relative to shoe-only conditions resulting in a larger pooled effect (SMD = -0.29 [95% CI -
258 0.35 - -0.22]) than neutral (flat) insole comparisons (SMD = -0.15 [95% CI -0.24 - -0.06]).
259 Egger's regression test for funnel plot asymmetry were not statistically significant, indicating
260 weak evidence of publication bias for the 2nd peak EKAM ($\beta = -0.29$, SE 1.27 $p = 0.822$).

261

****Figure 3 here****

262 *Knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI)*

263 Nine studies with a total of 11 comparisons were reported for the effect of LWI on the KAAI,
264 with all but one comparing the LWI to a shoe-only condition (Table 3). The overall pooled
265 estimate indicated a statistically significant reduction in the KAAI with LWI (SMD = -0.14
266 [95% CI -0.21 – -0.07], $p < 0.001$), with a low level of statistical heterogeneity ($\text{Chi}^2 = 14.44$,
267 $p = 0.15$, $I^2 = 31\%$) (Figure 3). The pooled effect size equates to an absolute change in the
268 KAAI of approximately 0.05 Nm.s/BW*Ht. Egger's regression test for funnel plot
269 asymmetry were not statistically significant, indicating weak evidence of publication bias for
270 the KAAI ($\beta = -0.53$, SE 1.19 $p = 0.663$).

271

****Figure 4 here****

272

****Table 3 here****

273 *Risk of Bias*

274 The modified index scores of included publications ranged from eight to 13 out of 16 (Table
275 1). Scoring agreement from two reviewers was evident on 271 of 288 items (agreement =
276 94%). Less than half of studies satisfactorily described their employed intervention clearly
277 (item 4) with most neglecting to report the density of the insole material. Inadequate
278 reporting of sampling methods for recruitment (item 8) and reporting of the proportion of
279 participants who agreed to participate from the initial recruitment (item 9) was also common.
280 All studies also failed to report if they blinded the assessors during the analysis of primary
281 outcome measures (item 11). Full risk of bias scoring is provided in Supplementary File 3.

282

283 **Discussion**

284 This meta-analysis has demonstrated that lateral wedge insoles cause small reductions on
285 biomechanical risk factors for disease progression (EKAM and KAAI) in people with medial
286 knee OA. Proxies for medial relative to lateral compartment load were reduced with the use
287 of lateral wedge insoles, including the 1st peak EKAM, 2nd peak EKAM and KAAI,
288 irrespective of the presence of a neutral insole or footwear comparison.

289 This is the first meta-analysis on the effect of lateral wedge insoles on parameters of medial
290 knee joint load (EKAM and KAAI) relevant to disease progression in people with knee OA.
291 One previous review attempted to perform quantitative comparisons but did not establish
292 pooled effect estimates (46). This review is therefore the most definitive, up-to-date and
293 comprehensive analysis on this issue to clarify the effects of lateral wedge insoles on
294 biomechanical risk factors for knee OA progression.

295 Lateral wedge insoles were associated with a modest reduction in the EKAM, questioning
296 their potential to attenuate structural changes considering the effect of elevated knee load on
297 risk for disease progression. A meta-analysis of prospective studies reported 1.9 times
298 increased odds of OA progression for every 1 unit increase in the peak EKAM (%BW*Ht)
299 (47). The overall effects revealed in this review on the 1st peak EKAM equates to a minimal
300 reduction of 0.15 %BW*Ht. This may, in part, may explain the findings from randomised
301 trials that lateral wedge insoles did not reduce the rate of cartilage loss over 12 months (48)
302 or the rate of joint space narrowing over 2 years (49). Conversely, an alternate explanation is
303 the inclusion of all participants with knee OA in previous clinical trials, despite up to 23%
304 showing paradoxical increases in medial knee joint load with the use of lateral wedge insoles
305 (29, 32). Recent evidence indicates that individuals with greater eversion of the ankle/subtalar
306 complex during walking are more likely to decrease their EKAM when using a lateral wedge
307 insole (50). Prescription based on biomechanical response and use of insoles only in
308 individuals who show reductions in knee joint loading (biomechanical phenotypes) appears

309 more appropriate to increase the likelihood of a favourable long-term response regarding the
310 attenuation of structural changes. This would limit their application and benefit to a smaller
311 number of individuals, but is still likely to be significant considering the overall prevalence of
312 knee OA and projected rise due to population ageing and rising obesity levels (51). Further
313 research investigating targeted use of lateral wedge insoles in biomechanical phenotypes
314 likely to benefit is required to fully interrogate their potential to limit disease progression.

315 An important issue regarding knee load exposure in osteoarthritis is the concept of
316 cumulative loading (52). Despite associations between the EKAM and disease progression,
317 the KAAI has been proposed as a more useful measure to account for both the duration and
318 magnitude of loading in knee OA. Indeed, the KAAI but not the peak EKAM has been
319 associated with medial tibiofemoral cartilage loss over 12 months (6) and 2 years (11).

320 Although the overall reduction in the peak EKAM and KAAI with lateral wedge insoles per
321 step was small, it may surmount to a large cumulative effect imparted on the knee over the
322 course of the day (52). This should be considered when interpreting the findings of this
323 review and future research on load modifying interventions in knee osteoarthritis.

324 Unlike the results of a meta-analysis on the effect of lateral wedge insoles on pain (19), no
325 subgroup differences according to use of a neutral (flat) insole were observed for the 1st peak
326 EKAM. A subgroup difference was observed for the 2nd peak EKAM, with studies without a
327 neutral insole comparison reporting smaller effect sizes. This is inconsistent with concern that
328 flat insoles are not biomechanically inert, and considering the results of this meta-analysis
329 and others (19), appears more relevant to the placebo effect and pain outcomes rather than
330 knee loading.

331 The main limitation to this review was the available body of evidence, which primarily
332 consisted of peer-reviewed single-group crossover studies testing the immediate effect of

333 insoles. Numerous RCTs on lateral wedge insoles have been published, but report only pain
334 outcomes (19) and data on their acquired or long term biomechanical effects are scarce (31).
335 We assessed for the presence of publication bias by using funnel plots and formal testing
336 which revealed weak evidence for an effect, strengthening the inferences from this review.
337 An imputation approach for some comparisons was used to derive standard errors for effect
338 sizes, however we took the most conservative approach by using the lowest correlation
339 estimate amongst studies with all available data (26). The variability in measurement
340 approach for the EKAM is also worthy of mention, however given the relative consistency in
341 findings across studies this appears to have not had a major influence. The use of the EKAM
342 to infer knee load in previous studies is also contentious as the contribution of muscle forces
343 to joint load is not considered. However, clinical relevance was maintained in this review by
344 the focus on outcomes that have demonstrated links with disease progression (3, 6).

345 In conclusion, lateral wedge insoles have a small effect on reducing medial knee joint load in
346 people with medial knee OA. The magnitude of the changes observed in the EKAM and
347 KAAI equates to minimal absolute reduction in knee joint load. At present, lateral wedge
348 insoles appear ineffective at attenuating structural changes in people with medial knee OA as
349 a whole. Recent evidence suggests they may be better suited to targeted use in biomechanical
350 phenotypes associated with larger reductions in knee load, with future clinical trials required
351 to investigate this potential.

352 **Acknowledgements and Funding**

353 We would like to acknowledge all authors who provided additional data. No sources of
354 funding were obtained for this systematic review.

355 **Competing Interest Statement**

356 RKJ may receive royalties from Salford Insole™, a manufacturer of lateral wedge insoles.

357 All other authors declare no conflicts of interest.

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375 **References**

- 376 1. Felson DT. Osteoarthritis as a disease of mechanics. *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage*.
377 2013;21(1):10-5.
- 378 2. Amin S, Luepongsak N, McGibbon C, LaValley M, Krebs D, Felson D. Knee
379 adduction moment and development of chronic knee pain in elders. *Arthritis Care Res*.
380 2004;51(3):371-6.
- 381 3. Miyazaki T, Wada M, Kawahara H, Sato M, Baba H, Shimada S. Dynamic load at
382 baseline can predict radiographic disease progression in medial compartment knee
383 osteoarthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2002;61(7):617-22.
- 384 4. Bennell K, Creaby M, Wrigley T, Bowles K, Hinman R, Cicuttini F, et al. Bone
385 marrow lesions are related to dynamic knee loading in medial knee osteoarthritis. *Ann*
386 *Rheum Dis*. 2010;69(6):1151-4.
- 387 5. Chang AH, Moio KC, Chmiel JS, Eckstein F, Guermazi A, Prasad PV, et al.
388 External knee adduction and flexion moments during gait and medial tibiofemoral disease
389 progression in knee osteoarthritis. *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage*. (0).
- 390 6. Bennell K, Bowles K, Wang Y, Cicuttini F, Davies-Tuck M, Hinman R. Higher
391 dynamic medial knee load predicts greater cartilage loss over 12 months in medial knee
392 osteoarthritis. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2011;70(10):1770-4.
- 393 7. Hatfield GL, Stanish WD, Hubble-Kozey CL. Three-Dimensional Biomechanical
394 Gait Characteristics at Baseline are Associated with Progression to Total Knee Arthroplasty.
395 *Arthritis Care & Research*. 2015:n/a-n/a.
- 396 8. Mündermann A, Dyrby CO, D'Lima DD, Colwell CW, Andriacchi TP. In vivo knee
397 loading characteristics during activities of daily living as measured by an instrumented total
398 knee replacement. *Journal of Orthopaedic Research*. 2008;26(9):1167-72.
- 399 9. Schipplein O, Andriacchi T. Interaction between active and passive knee stabilizers
400 during level walking. *J Orthop Res*. 1991;9(1):113-9.
- 401 10. Thorp L, Sumner D, Block J, Moio K, Shott S, Wimmer M. Knee joint loading
402 differs in individuals with mild compared with moderate medial knee osteoarthritis. *Arthritis*
403 *Rheum*. 2006;54(12):3842-9.
- 404 11. Chang AH, Moio KC, Chmiel JS, Eckstein F, Guermazi A, Prasad PV, et al.
405 External knee adduction and flexion moments during gait and medial tibiofemoral disease
406 progression in knee osteoarthritis. *Osteoarthritis Cartilage*. 2015.
- 407 12. Yasuda K, Sasaki T. The mechanics of treatment of the osteoarthritic knee with a
408 wedged insole. *Clinical orthopaedics and related research*. 1987;215:162-71.
- 409 13. Hinman RS, Bowles KA, Payne C, Bennell KL. Effect of length on laterally-wedged
410 insoles in knee osteoarthritis. *Arthritis Care & Research*. 2008;59(1):144-7.
- 411 14. Butler RJ, Marchesi S, Royer T, Davis IS. The effect of a subject-specific amount of
412 lateral wedge on knee mechanics in patients with medial knee osteoarthritis. *Journal of*
413 *Orthopaedic Research*. 2007;25(9):1121-7.
- 414 15. Hinman RS, Bowles KA, Metcalf BB, Wrigley TV, Bennell KL. Lateral wedge
415 insoles for medial knee osteoarthritis: Effects on lower limb frontal plane biomechanics.
416 *Clinical Biomechanics*. 2012;27(1):27-33.
- 417 16. Hochberg MC, Altman RD, April KT, Benkhalti M, Guyatt G, McGowan J, et al.
418 American College of Rheumatology 2012 recommendations for the use of nonpharmacologic
419 and pharmacologic therapies in osteoarthritis of the hand, hip, and knee. *Arthritis care &*
420 *research*. 2012;64(4):465-74.

- 421 17. McAlindon T, Bannuru R, Sullivan M, Arden N, Berenbaum F, Bierma-Zeinstra S, et
422 al. OARSI guidelines for the non-surgical management of knee osteoarthritis. *Osteoarthritis*
423 *and Cartilage*. 2014;22(3):363-88.
- 424 18. Fernandes L, Hagen KB, Bijlsma JWJ, Andreassen O, Christensen P, Conaghan PG,
425 et al. EULAR recommendations for the non-pharmacological core management of hip and
426 knee osteoarthritis. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*. 2013.
- 427 19. Parkes MJ, Maricar N, Lunt M, et al. Lateral wedge insoles as a conservative
428 treatment for pain in patients with medial knee osteoarthritis: A meta-analysis. *JAMA*.
429 2013;310(7):722-30.
- 430 20. Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG. Preferred reporting items for systematic
431 reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA statement. *Ann Intern Med*. 2009;151(4):264-9.
- 432 21. Hinman RS, Bowles KA, Bennell KL. Laterally wedged insoles in knee osteoarthritis:
433 do biomechanical effects decline after one month of wear? *BMC Musculoskelet Disord*.
434 2009;10(1):146.
- 435 22. Bennell KL, Kean CO, Wrigley TV, Hinman RS. Effects of a modified shoe on knee
436 load in people with and those without knee osteoarthritis. *Arthritis & Rheumatism*.
437 2013;65(3):701-9.
- 438 23. Erhart JC, Mündermann A, Elspas B, Giori NJ, Andriacchi TP. A variable-stiffness
439 shoe lowers the knee adduction moment in subjects with symptoms of medial compartment
440 knee osteoarthritis. *Journal of biomechanics*. 2008;41(12):2720-5.
- 441 24. Downs SH, Black N. The feasibility of creating a checklist for the assessment of the
442 methodological quality both of randomised and non-randomised studies of health care
443 interventions. *Journal of epidemiology and community health*. 1998;52(6):377-84.
- 444 25. Hedges LV. Distribution theory for Glass's estimator of effect size and related
445 estimators. *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*. 1981;6(2):107-28.
- 446 26. Elbourne DR, Altman DG, Higgins JP, Curtin F, Worthington HV, Vail A. Meta-
447 analyses involving cross-over trials: methodological issues. *Int J Epidemiol*. 2002;31(1):140-
448 9.
- 449 27. Higgins JPT, Thompson SG, Deeks JJ, Altman DG. Measuring inconsistency in meta-
450 analyses; 2003.
- 451 28. Cohen J. A power primer. *Psychol Bull*. 1992;112(1):155.
- 452 29. Jones RK, Chapman GJ, Forsythe L, Parkes MJ, Felson DT. The relationship between
453 reductions in knee loading and immediate pain response whilst wearing lateral wedged
454 insoles in knee osteoarthritis. *J Orthop Res*. 2014;32(9):1147-54.
- 455 30. Duivenvoorden T, van Raaij TM, Horemans HL, Brouwer RW, Bos PK, Bierma-
456 Zeinstra SM, et al. Do laterally wedged insoles or valgus braces unload the medial
457 compartment of the knee in patients with osteoarthritis? *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related*
458 *Research®*. 2015;473(1):265-74.
- 459 31. Barrios JA, Butler RJ, Crenshaw JR, Royer TD, Davis IS. Mechanical effectiveness
460 of lateral foot wedging in medial knee osteoarthritis after 1 year of wear. *J Orthop Res*.
461 2013;31(5):659-64.
- 462 32. Hinman R, Bowles K, Metcalf B, Wrigley T, Bennell K. Lateral wedge insoles for
463 medial knee osteoarthritis: Effects on lower limb frontal plane biomechanics. *Clinical*
464 *Biomechanics*. 2012;27(1):27-33.
- 465 33. Jones R, Nester C, Richards J, Kim W, Johnson D, Jari S, et al. A comparison of the
466 biomechanical effects of valgus knee braces and lateral wedged insoles in patients with knee
467 osteoarthritis. *Gait Posture*. 2013;37(3):368-72.
- 468 34. Abdallah AA, Radwan AY. Biomechanical changes accompanying unilateral and
469 bilateral use of laterally wedged insoles with medial arch supports in patients with medial
470 knee osteoarthritis. *Clinical Biomechanics*. 2011;26(7):783-9.

- 471 35. Moyer RF, Birmingham TB, Dombroski CE, Walsh RF, Leitch KM, Jenkyn TR, et al.
472 Combined effects of a valgus knee brace and lateral wedge foot orthotic on the external knee
473 adduction moment in patients with varus gonarthrosis. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*.
474 2013;94(1):103-12.
- 475 36. Hinman RS, Payne C, Metcalf BR, Wrigley TV, Bennell KL. Lateral wedges in knee
476 osteoarthritis: What are their immediate clinical and biomechanical effects and can these
477 predict a three-month clinical outcome? *Arthritis Care Res*. 2008;59(3):408-15.
- 478 37. Butler R, Marchesi S, Royer T, Davis I. The effect of a subject-specific amount of
479 lateral wedge on knee mechanics in patients with medial knee osteoarthritis. *J Orthop Res*.
480 2007;25(9):1121-7.
- 481 38. Butler RJ, Barrios JA, Royer T, Davis IS. Effect of laterally wedged foot orthoses on
482 rearfoot and hip mechanics in patients with medial knee osteoarthritis. *Prosthet Orthot Int*.
483 2009;33(2):107-16.
- 484 39. Jones R, Chapman G, Findlow A, Forsythe L, Parkes M, Sultan J, et al. A New
485 Approach to Prevention of Knee Osteoarthritis: Reducing Medial Load in the Contralateral
486 Knee. *The Journal of Rheumatology*. 2013;40(3):309-15.
- 487 40. Hinman R, Bowles K, Payne C, Bennell K. Effect of length on laterally-wedged
488 insoles in knee osteoarthritis. *Arthritis Care Res*. 2008;59(1):144-7.
- 489 41. Kerrigan D, Lelas J, Goggins J, Merriman G, Kaplan R, Felson D. Effectiveness of a
490 lateral-wedge insole on knee varus torque in patients with knee osteoarthritis. *Arch Phys Med
491 Rehabil*. 2002;83(7):889-93.
- 492 42. Pagani C, Hinrichs M, Brüggemann G. Kinetic and kinematic changes with the use of
493 valgus knee brace and lateral wedge insoles in patients with medial knee osteoarthritis. *J
494 Orthop Res*. 2012;30(7):1125-32.
- 495 43. Shimada S, Kobayashi S, Wada M, Uchida K, Sasaki S, Kawahara H, et al. Effects of
496 disease severity on response to lateral wedged shoe insole for medial compartment knee
497 osteoarthritis. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*. 2006;87(11):1436-41.
- 498 44. Leitch K, Birmingham T, Jones I, Giffin J, Jenkyn T. In-shoe plantar pressure
499 measurements for patients with knee osteoarthritis: Reliability and effects of lateral heel
500 wedges. *Gait Posture*. 2011;34(3):391-6.
- 501 45. Maly MR, Culham EG, Costigan PA. Static and dynamic biomechanics of foot
502 orthoses in people with medial compartment knee osteoarthritis. *Clinical Biomechanics*.
503 2002;17(8):603-10.
- 504 46. Radzimski AO, Mündermann A, Sole G. Effect of footwear on the external knee
505 adduction moment—a systematic review. *The knee*. 2012;19(3):163-75.
- 506 47. Henriksen M, Creaby MW, Lund H, Juhl C, Christensen R. Is there a causal link
507 between knee loading and knee osteoarthritis progression? A systematic review and meta-
508 analysis of cohort studies and randomised trials. *BMJ open*. 2014;4(7):e005368.
- 509 48. Bennell K, Bowles K, Payne C, Cicuttini F, Williamson E, Forbes A, et al. Lateral
510 wedge insoles for medial knee osteoarthritis: 12 month randomised controlled trial. *BMJ*.
511 2011;342:d2912.
- 512 49. Pham T, Maillefert JF, Hudry C, Kieffert P, Bourgeois P, Lechevalier D, et al.
513 Laterally elevated wedged insoles in the treatment of medial knee osteoarthritis1: A two-year
514 prospective randomized controlled study. *Osteoarthritis Cartilage*. 2004;12(1):46-55.
- 515 50. Chapman GJ, Parkes MJ, Forsythe L, Felson DT, Jones RK. Ankle motion influences
516 the external knee adduction moment and may predict who will respond to lateral wedge
517 insoles?: an ancillary analysis from the SILK trial. *Osteoarthritis Cartilage*. In Press.
- 518 51. Holt H, Katz J, Reichmann W, Gerlovin H, Wright E, Hunter D, et al. Forecasting the
519 burden of advanced knee osteoarthritis over a 10-year period in a cohort of 60–64 year-old
520 US adults. *Osteoarthritis Cartilage*. 2011;19(1):44-50.

521 52. Maly M. Abnormal and cumulative loading in knee osteoarthritis. *Curr Opin*
522 *Rheumatol.* 2008;20(5):547-52.

523

Table 1. Characteristics of included studies and intervention

Authors	Country	Clinical criteria	Intervention	Comparisons	Applied	QI Score (/16)
Abdallah et al. (2011) (34)	Egypt	ACR criteria Pain VAS (≥ 30 mm)	6° and 11° full length lateral wedge insoles with medial arch supports	Neutral insole	Bilateral	8
Barrios et al. (2013) (31)	United States	ACR criteria ^a Pain VAS ($\geq 3/10$)	8° full length lateral wedge insoles (customised via subjective comfort) and adhered to off the shelf insoles	Neutral insole	Unilateral	13
Butler et al. (2007) (37)	United States	Pain VAS ($\geq 3/10$)	9° full length lateral wedge insoles (customised via subjective comfort) and adhered to off the shelf insoles adhered to the neutral orthoses	Neutral insole	Unilateral	7
Butler et al. (2009) (38)	United States	Pain VAS ($\geq 3/10$) during weight bearing activities	10° full length lateral wedge insoles (customised via subjective comfort) and adhered to off the shelf insoles	Neutral insole	Unclear	9
Duivenvoorden et al. (2015) (30)	The Netherlands	Pain VAS (/10) mean: 6 SD 3, WOMAC (/100) mean: 47 SD 19	6° full length lateral wedged insole	Own shoes	Unclear	9
Hinman et al. (2012) (32)	Australia	Pain VAS ($> 3/10$ upon walking) & on most days of past month WOMAC pain (/20) mean: 7 SD 3; function (/68) mean: 25 SD 13	5° full length non customised standard lateral wedged insoles	Own shoes	Bilateral	12
Hinman et al. (2009) (21)	Australia	Pain VAS ($> 3/10$ upon walking) & on most days of past month WOMAC pain (/20) mean: 6 SD 3; function (/68) mean: 20 SD 14	5° full length non customised lateral wedged insoles	Own shoes	Bilateral	11
Hinman et al. (2008a) (13)	Australia	Pain VAS ($> 3/10$ upon walking) & on most days of past month WOMAC pain (/20) mean: 8 SD 3; mean stiffness: 4 SD 2; function (/68) mean: 24 SD 11	5° full length and rearfoot lateral wedged insoles	Own shoes	Bilateral	9
Hinman et al. (2008b) (36)	Australia	Pain Likert-type scale average ($> 3/11$), on most days of previous month and when walking 2 blocks and/or climbing stairs WOMAC pain (/20) mean: 9 SD 3; function (/68) mean: 30 SD 11	5° full length non customised standard lateral wedged insoles	Own shoes	Bilateral	10
Jones et al. (2013a) (39)	United Kingdom	Mild pain walking on flat surface during the past week (in KOOS pain subscale)	5° full length lateral wedged insoles; one with medial arch support, one without	Standardised shoe	Bilateral	9

Authors	Country	Clinical criteria	Intervention	Comparisons	Applied	QI Score (/16)
Jones et al. (2013b) (33)	United Kingdom	Symptomatic medial compartment OA confirmed by surgeon and x-rays. WOMAC pain (/100) mean 50 SD 15.7; stiffness (/100) mean 61.5 SD 20.3; function (/100) mean 54.2 SD 13.9	5° full length lateral wedged insoles with medial arch support	Standardised shoe	Bilateral	10
Jones et al. (2014) (29)	United Kingdom	Mild pain walking on flat surface during the past week (in KOOS pain subscale)	5° full length lateral wedged insoles; one with medial arch support, one without	Standardised shoe	Bilateral	10
Kerrigan et al. (2002) (41)	United States	Knee pain on most days of recent month	5° and 10° full length lateral wedged insoles	Flat insole + own shoes	Unclear	9
Leitch et al. (2011) (44)	Canada	Clinical diagnosis of OA confined primarily to medial tibiofemoral compartment	4° and 8° heel wedge placed underneath the insole on the lateral side of the shoe	Standardised shoe	Unilateral	10
Maly et al. (2002) (45)	United States	Medial compartment OA confirmed by physician and x-rays. WOMAC total (/96): 38 SD 14; mean pain (/20): 7 SD 3; mean stiffness (/8): 3 SD 1; mean function (/68): 26 SD 10	5° valgus heel wedge (modified off-the-shelf orthosis)	Routine footwear	Bilateral	8
Moyer et al. (2013) (35)	Canada	ACR criteria Symptoms at medial TFJ KOOS mean pain: 49.3 SD 15.9; mean symptoms: 37.5 SD 11.2; mean ADL: 54.3 SD 15.3; mean sport & rec: 18.8 SD 14; mean KOOS QoL: 23.8 SD 13.7	3°, 6° and 9° full length lateral wedge insole (customised via subjective comfort)	Standardised shoes	Unilateral	9
Pagani et al. (2012) (42)	Germany	WOMAC (11pt scale) mean pain: 9.8 SD 3.7 mean stiffness: 7.8 SD 2.8	4° full length lateral wedged insole	Own shoes	Bilateral	9
Shimada et al. (2006) (43)	Japan	Not reported	6° heel wedge (10 mm height)	Not reported	Bilateral	8

^a stated inclusion criteria were consistent with ACR criteria, but all criteria not reported as assessed

Table 2. Characteristics of participants in included studies

Authors	n	Gender (M:F)	Age (years)	Height (m)	Body mass (kg)	BMI (kg/m ²)	Bilateral knee OA included	Radiographic features	KL Grade			
									1	2	3	4
Abdallah et al. (2011) (34)	21	0:21	54.1 (7.4)	1.57 (0.06)	84.1 (8.7)	NR	NR	KL Grade ≥2 FTA: 176 - 180°(varus)	NR	NR	NR	NR
Barrios et al. (2013) (31)	38 ^a	NR	62.6 (7.4)	NR	NR	33.6 (7.6)	Yes	KL Grade ≥2 medial tibiofemoral compartment	0	8	6	5
Butler et al. (2007) (37)	20	9:11	63 (6)	NR	NR	33.4 (7.8)	Yes	KL Grade ≥2 medial tibiofemoral compartment	0	7	6	7
Butler et al. (2009) (38)	30	13:17	63.1 (6.8)	NR	NR	33.8 (6.9)	NR	KL Grade ≥2 medial tibiofemoral compartment	0	9	9	11
Duivenvoorden et al. (2015) (30)	42	14:28	54 (7)	NR	NR	30 (5)	NR	KL Grade ≥1 Hip-Knee-Ankle angle (°varus): 7 SD 4	15	8	18	1
Hinman et al. (2012) (32)	73	28:45	63.3 (8.4)	1.67 (0.09)	77.2 (14.5)	27.7 (3.6)	Yes	Medial tibiofemoral osteophytes & JSN medial > lateral KL Grade 2 & 3 Mechanical axis: 180.9° SD 2.6 (0.9°valgus)	0	41	32	0
Hinman et al. (2009) (21)	20	8:12	63.5 (9.4)	1.69 (0.07)	83.1 (14.2)	NR	Yes	Medial tibiofemoral osteophytes & JSN medial > lateral; KL Grade 2 & 3	0	8	12	0
Hinman et al. (2008a) (13)	13	6:7	59.7 (6.2)	1.69 (0.14)	81.0 (20.4)	NR	Yes	Medial tibiofemoral osteophytes KL Grade 2 & 3 Mechanical axis: (°): 178.1 SD 2.9 (1.9° varus) ^p	0	7	6	0
Hinman et al. (2008b) (36)	40	16:24	64.7 (9.4)	1.64 (0.09)	79 (12)	29.6 (4.2)	Yes	Medial tibiofemoral osteophytes Mechanical axis: 174.5 SD 4.7 (5.5°varus)	3	10	11	16
Jones et al. (2013a) (39)	51	29:22	59.6 (8.9)	1.69 (0.08)	90.3 (17.9)	31.6 (5.07)	Yes	KL grade 2 or 3 & JSN medial > lateral; no tricompartment OA	0	22	29	0

Authors [reference]	n	Gender (M:F)	Age (years)	Height (m)	Body mass (kg)	BMI (kg/m ²)	Bilateral knee OA included	Radiographic features	KL Grade (n=)			
									1	2	3	4
Jones et al. (2013b) (33)	28	16:10	66.3 (8.2)	1.75 (0.13)	88.7 (15.1)	NR	NR	Medial JSN; no lateral or PFJ OA	0	10	18	0
Jones et al. (2014) (29)	70	43:27	60.3 (9.6)	1.69 (0.09)	87.3 (18.5)	30.5 (4.9)	NR	KL grade 2 or 3 & JSN medial > lateral compartment, no tibiofemoral + PFJ OA	0	17	25	0
Kerrigan et al. (2002) (41)	15	8:7	69.7 (7.6)	1.67 (0.07)	83.9 (11.9)	NR	NR	KL Grade ≥3 Presence of definite osteophyte & medial JSN (but not lateral)	0	0	10	5
Leitch et al. (2011) (44)	12	5:7	48 (9)	1.72 (0.11)	90.5 (16.8)	30.45 (4.22)	NR	All KL Grades	2	2	3	5
Maly et al. (2002) (45)	12	9:3	60 (9.39)	NR	99.1 (15.8)	32.42 (5.03)	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Moyer et al. (2013) (35)	16	8:8	55 (7.0)	NR	NR	32 (6.2)	No	KL Grade ≥1 & JSN medial > lateral Mechanical axis: 173.4° (6.6° varus)	2	5	6	3
Pagani et al. (2012) (42)	10	2:8	57.5 (7.1)	1.68 (0.04)	78.8 (12.2)	28 (4.3)	NR	KL Grade ≥2 Mean varus malalignment (°varus): 2.1 SD 1.2°	0	6	4	0
Shimada et al. (2006) (43)	23	6:17	67.0 (8.7)	1.50 (0.07)	60.3 (7.1)	NR	Yes	KL Grade ≥1 Mechanical axis: 6.2° varus SD 4.4	11	11	13	11

All values are reported as mean (standard deviation) unless otherwise indicated

^a total sample size was 38 but 19 allocated to insole group

^b FTA angle computed from A-P knee x-ray and regression equation

^c hip-knee-ankle angle estimated from motion capture data

NR: not reported; PFJ: patellofemoral joint; QI: Downs & Black Quality Index

Table 3. Summary of comparisons across 18 studies included in the analysis of the 1st peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM), 2nd peak EKAM and knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI)

Authors	Information available	Unit of measure	Study comparisons		SMD (A-B)	SE (A-B)	Correlation used
			Condition (A)	Comparator (B)			
1st peak knee adduction moment (EKAM)							
Abdallah et al. 2011	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	6° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.18	0.17	0.70
Abdallah et al. 2011b	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	11° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.31	0.17	0.70
Barrios et al. 2013	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg m	8° full length wedged insole ^a	Flat insole	-0.19	0.18	0.70
Butler et al. 2007	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	Nm/kg*m	9° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.25	0.09	0.92
Butler et al. 2009	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	Nm/kg*m	10° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.24	0.09	0.88
Duivenvoorden et al. 2015	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	NR	6° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.10	0.13	0.70
Hinman et al. 2008a	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.53	0.23	0.72
Hinman et al. 2008b	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	%BW*Ht	5° heel wedge	Participant's own shoes	-0.32	0.23	0.70
Hinman et al. 2008c	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.21	0.12	0.70
Hinman et al. 2009	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.32	0.17	0.70
Hinman et al. 2012	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.28	0.08	0.74
Jones et al. 2013a	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole	Standardised shoe†	-0.14	0.11	0.70
Jones et al. 2013b	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe†	-0.14	0.11	0.70
Jones et al. 2013c	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe†	-0.54	0.15	0.70
Jones et al. 2014	Group differences, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole	Standardised shoe†	-0.14	0.04 ^d	0.95 ^e
Jones et al. 2014b	Group differences, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe†	-0.27	0.08 ^d	0.94 ^e

Kerrigan et al. 2002	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	N.m/kg.m	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.22	0.08	0.96
Kerrigan et al. 2002b	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	N.m/kg.m	5° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.16	0.08	0.96
Kerrigan et al. 2002c	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	N.m/kg.m	10° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.37	0.10	0.93
Kerrigan et al. 2002d	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	N.m/kg.m	10° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.30	0.20	0.70
Leitch et al. 2011	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	4° heel wedge	Standardised shoe*	-0.05 ^c	0.22	0.70
Leitch et al. 2011b	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	8° heel wedge	Standardised shoe*	-0.10 ^c	0.22	0.70
Maly et al. 2002	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole ^a	Routine footwear	0.15	0.26	0.70
Maly et al. 2002b	Treatment specific summaries, P values (F-test)	Nm/kg	5° heel wedge	Routine footwear	-0.07	0.05	0.99
Moyer et al. 2013	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	4° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe [^]	-0.09	0.19	0.70
Pagani et al. 2012	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	4° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.19	0.25	0.70
Shimada et al. 2006	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	Nm/kg	6° heel wedge ^b	NR (footwear assumed)	-0.20	0.05	0.97

2nd peak knee adduction moment (EKAM)

Butler et al. 2007	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	Nm/kg*m	9° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.06	0.11	0.89
Hinman et al. 2008a	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.33	0.12	0.92
Hinman et al. 2008b	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	%BW*Ht	5° heel wedge	Participant's own shoes	-0.16	0.11	0.93
Hinman et al. 2008c	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.31	0.07	0.89
Hinman et al. 2009	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.15	0.11	0.89
Jones et al. 2013c	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe†	-0.49	0.10	0.89
Kerrigan et al. 2002	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	N.m/kg.m	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.27	0.07	0.96
Kerrigan et al. 2002b	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	N.m/kg.m	5° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.16	0.06	0.97
Kerrigan et al. 2002c	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	N.m/kg.m	10° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.32	0.08	0.95

Kerrigan et al. 2002d	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	N.m/kg.m	10° full length wedged insole	Flat insole	-0.22	0.12	0.89
Moyer et al. 2013	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	4° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe [^]	-0.22	0.13	0.89
Pagani et al. 2012	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	4° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.17	0.15	0.89
<i>Knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI)</i>							
Barrios et al 2013	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm.s.kg.m	8° full length wedged insole	Insole comparison	-0.01	0.09	0.68
Duivenvoorden et al. 2015	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	NR	6° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.02	0.09	0.68
Hinman et al. 2009	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.14	0.18	0.68
Hinman et al. 2012	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	%BW*Ht	5° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.21	0.06	0.86
Jones et al. 2013a	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole	Standardised shoe†	-0.16	0.09	0.68
Jones et al. 2013b	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe†	-0.16	0.09	0.68
Jones et al. 2013c	Treatment specific summaries, P values (t-test)	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe†	-0.57	0.16	0.68
Jones et al. 2014	Group differences, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole	Standardised shoe†	-0.17	0.09 ^d	0.74 ^e
Jones et al. 2014b	Group differences, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	5° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe†	-0.13	0.09 ^d	0.72 ^e
Moyer et al. 2013	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	%BW*Ht	4° full length wedged insole ^a	Standardised shoe [^]	-0.02	0.09	0.68
Pagani et al. 2012	Treatment specific summaries, correlation assumed	Nm/kg	4° full length wedged insole	Participant's own shoes	-0.14	0.25	0.68

^a with medial arch support

^b 10 mm height equates to 6 degree angulation as reported in Duivenvoorden et al (2015)

^c values obtained from figures

^d pooled standard deviation computed from SD of difference scores as raw values not reported

^e correlation computed taking into account comparator standard deviation only as intervention not reported

†Ecco – Zen, Bredebro, Denmark

[^] New Balance, Boston, MA, USA; *New Balance 882, Boston, MA, USA; NR: not reported

Figure legends

Figure 1: PRISMA flowchart of study selection.

Figure 2: Forest plot of data pooling for the 1st peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM). Solid squares indicate the effect size and horizontal bars the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). Solid diamonds represent the pooled estimate. Included studies were weighted based on the standard error of the effect size.

Figure 3: Forest plot of data pooling for the 2nd peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM) and knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI). Solid squares indicate the effect size and horizontal bars the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). Solid diamonds represent the pooled estimate. Included studies were weighted based on the standard error of the effect size.

Figure 1. PRISMA flowchart of study selection.

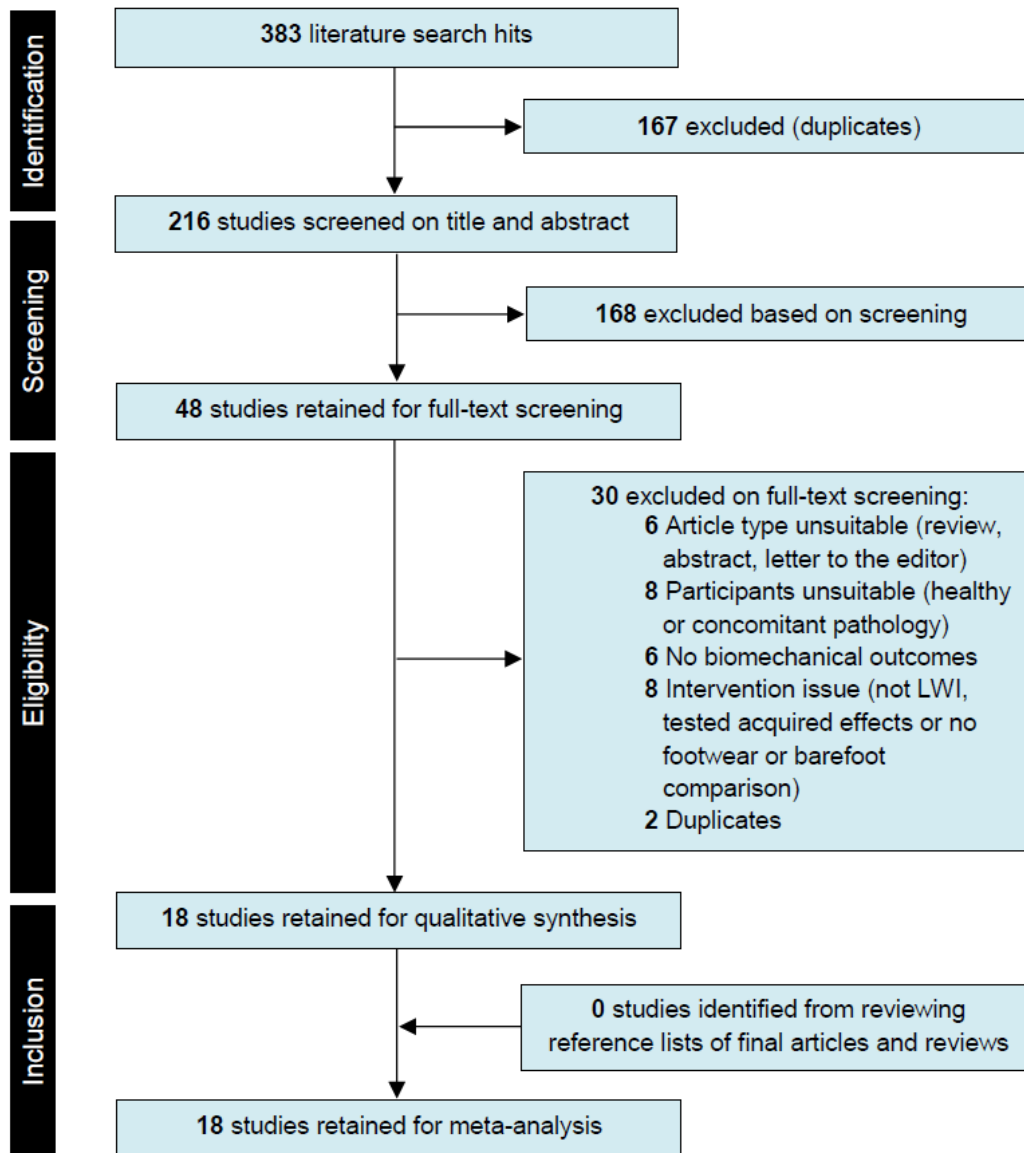


Figure 2. Forest plot of data pooling for the 1st peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM). Solid squares indicate the effect size and horizontal bars the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). Solid diamond represents the pooled estimate. Included studies were weighted based on the standard error of the effect size.

1st peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM)

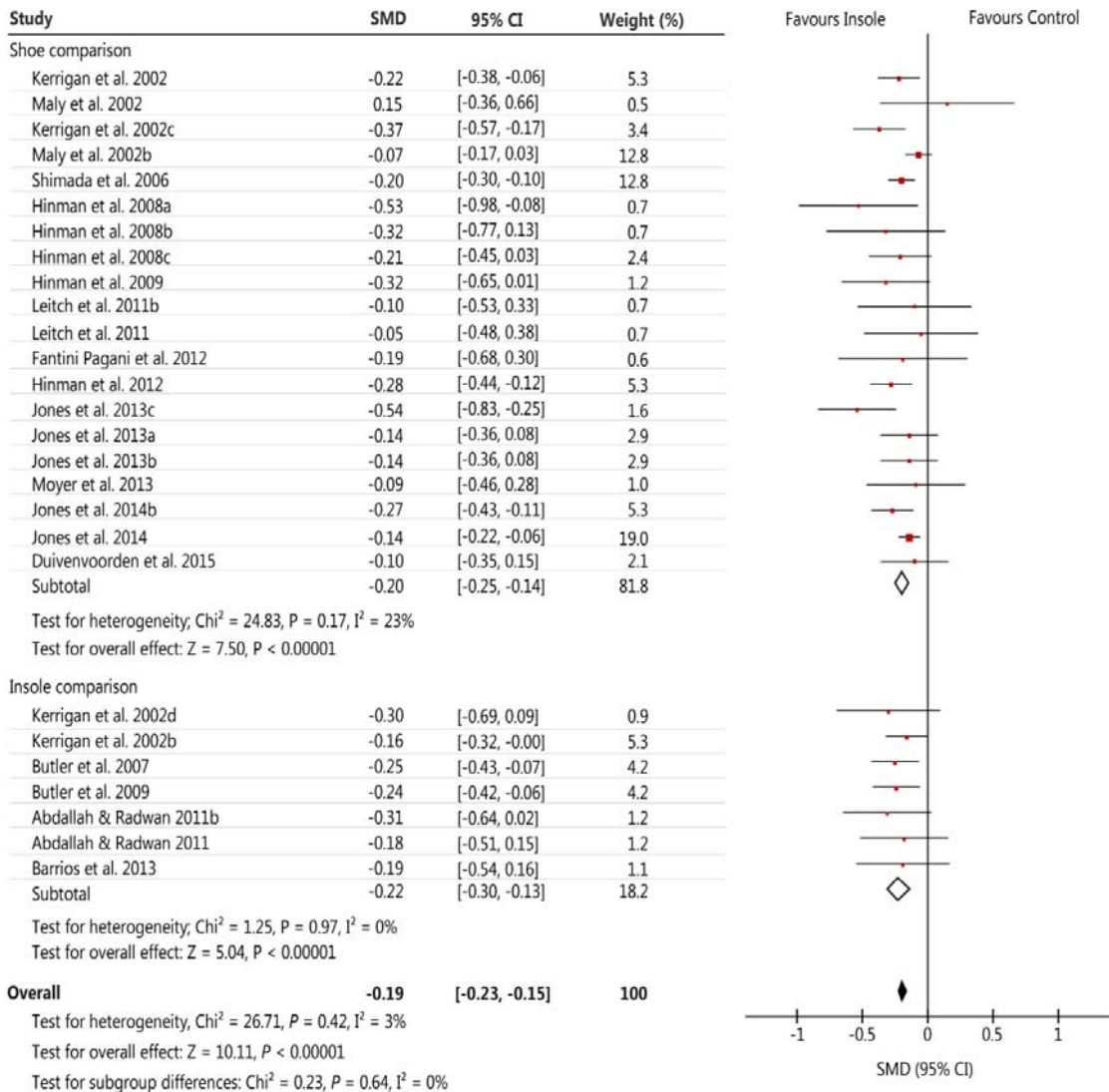
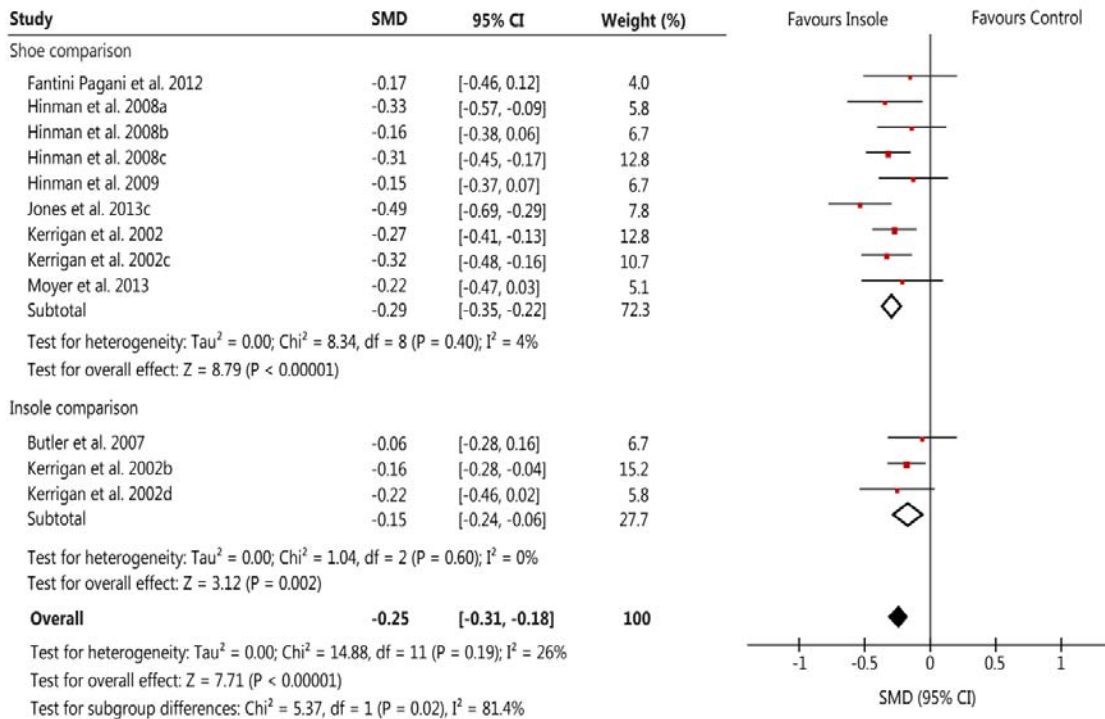


Figure 3. Forest plot of data pooling for the 2nd peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM) and knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI). Solid squares indicate the effect size and horizontal bars the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). Solid diamond represents the pooled estimate. Included studies were weighted based on the standard error of the effect size.

2nd peak external knee adduction moment (EKAM)



Knee adduction angular impulse (KAAI)

