

AMRTA-X: GRASP KINEMATIC ANALYSIS DURING MYOELECTRIC PREHENSION ORTHOSIS AND BODY POWERED PREHENSION ORTHOSIS'S USAGE ON BRACHIAL PLEXUS INJURY PATIENTS

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ABSTRACT

Brachial Plexus Injury (BPI) results in decreased motor function in upper extremity and leads to reduced hand grasping movement. Orthotic prehension is designed to create artificial grasp movements in paralyzed hand. This study was to compare grasp kinematic improvement between body powered and myoelectric prehension orthosis usage in patients with BPI. This study was a single group without control and post test with experimental study. The subjects of the study (n = 11) were brachial plexus injury patients with non-functional hand strength. Joint motion and angular velocity of metacarpophalangeal (MCP) and proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joint of index finger were evaluated. There was an improvement in joint motion and angular velocity after both orthosis usage. Joint motion in MCP and PIP, Angular velocity in MCP were not significantly different between myoelectric and body powered and myoelectric prehension orthosis usage. PIP angular velocity improvement were better after body powered prehension orthosis usage (p = 0.03). In conclusion, body powered and myoelectric prehension orthosis usage improved kinematic parameter of index finger's MCP and PIP joint. PIP angular velocity was better after body powered prehension orthosis usage.

Keywords: kinematic analysis; brachial plexus injury; body powered prehension orthosis; myoelectric prehension orthosis

ABSTRAK

Cedera Pleksus Brakhialis (CPB) menyebabkan penurunan fungsi motorik ekstremitas atas dan mengganggu gerakan menggenggam. Ortosis prehension dirancang untuk menciptakan gerakan menggenggam buatan pada tangan yang mengalami kelumpuhan. Perbandingan perbaikan kinematika gerakan menggenggam antara penggunaan ortosis prehension body powered dengan ortosis prehension myoelektrik pada subyek penderita CPB. Studi ini adalah studi eksperimental single group, post test only. Subyek penelitian (n = 11) adalah pasien CPB dengan kekuatan tangan non-fungsional (MMT < 3). Analisis kinematik dilakukan dengan mengevaluasi pergerakan dan kecepatan sudut sendi metacarpophalangeal (MCP) dan interphalangeal proksimal (PIP) jari telunjuk pada proses menggenggam. Terdapat perbaikan pergerakan dan kecepatan sudut sendi setelah penggunaan kedua jenis ortosis. Pergerakan sendi MCP dan PIP, serta kecepatan sudut sendi MCP tidak berbeda signifikan antara penggunaan kedua jenis ortosis. Peningkatan kecepatan sudut PIP lebih baik setelah penggunaan ortosis prehension body powered (p = 0,03). Sebagai simpulan, penggunaan ortosis prehension body powered dan myoelektrik dapat meningkatkan parameter kinematik pada sendi MCP dan PIP jari telunjuk saat gerakan menggenggam. Perbaikan kecepatan sudut sendi PIP lebih baik setelah penggunaan ortosis prehension body powered.

Kata kunci: analisis kinematik; cedera pleksus brakialis; ortosis prehension body powered; ortosis prehension myoelektrik

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INTRODUCTION

Strong and sudden trauma that affects the shoulder region may result in damage to the shoulder and other

structures that surrounds it, including muscles, fascia, skin, bones, and neuromuscular structures. In neuromuscular damage, the brachial plexus may be affected by this trauma. The brachial plexus injury

(BPI) is a lesion on nerve tissue originating from the 5th cervical roots to the 1st thoracic root (C5-Th1). These lesions carry consequences, occurrence of neurological deficits in various structures that innervated by these nerve roots (Kang & Wolfe 2011, Kelly & Leonard 2012).

The incidence of BPI increased every year in Dr. Soetomo Academic Hospital Surabaya. Most of all were males (86%) in the 21-30 years old (37%). The most frequent injury mechanisms were motorcycle accidents (90%), and the right side of injury was the right side (77%). The levels of injury were 24% C5-6 postganglionic, 19% C5-7 postganglionic, 3% postganglionic C8-T1, 54% C5-T1. In the complete BPI, the postganglionic C5-7 and preganglionic C8-T1 combinations occurred in 33% of cases (Rachmawati et al 2016, Suroto 2011, Suroto 2015).

Generally, human hands play an important role in human interaction with the environment. In BPI, motor disturbances can result in loss of grip strength and hand function. According to data between January 2005 - December 2009 in Dr. Soetomo, from 14 patients postoperative BPI, 7 patients had a motor power with more than or equal to 3, and 7 patients had muscle strength less than 3 (Kelly & Leonard 2012, Rachmawati et al 2016, Gustus et al 2012, Suroto 2011).

Brachial Plexus Injury (BPI) causes impaired motor and sensory function in the upper extremity. Impaired motor function in the shoulder, elbow and wrist caused disruption of the ability of stabilization, positioning and placement of the upper motion. While impaired motor function in both of extrinsic and intrinsic hand muscle caused disruption of hand prehension ability. The combination of all of those impairment added with exteroceptive and proprioceptive sensory dysfunction caused hand dexterity disruption (Jones 1996, Wardhani et al 2011).

In the BPI rehabilitation program, the use of shoulder-elbow-wrist orthosis improves the stabilization, positioning and placement of upper extremity in functional position. Meanwhile, the use of prehension orthosis is intended to improve the ability of hand prehension. Although in practice, the use of prehension orthosis in Dr. Soetomo Academic Hospital for the BPI cases had never been given (Wardhani et al 2011, Bengtson & Shin 2008, Lunsford & DiBello 2008, Smania et al 2012, Hapsari et al 2017). In this case, there are two types of prehension orthosis; body powered prehension orthosis is prehension orthosis that used other healthy part of body to empower prehension ability. On the other hand, an externally powered

prehension orthosis uses external source to create artificial grasp action (Lunsford & DiBello 2008).

This study intended to compare kinematic improvement effect after body powered and myoelectric prehension orthosis usage in BPI patient. Body powered prehension orthosis that was used was a shoulder-driven prehension orthosis with the same principle design as in Lehneis publication. Thumb was fixated in an opposition position to the 2nd and 3rd fingers; the 2nd and 3rd fingers are driven by voluntary closed mechanical system through a cable drawn by the contralateral side through a shoulder harness (Lehneis 1968, Michael & Nunley 1992, Lunsford & DiBello 2008).



Figure 1. Body powered (shoulder driven) prehension orthosis installed on subject

Myoelectric prehension orthosis that were used were developed by the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga - Dr. Soetomo Academic Hospital. This myoelectric signal were taken from electrode that were placed over Platysma and Sternocleidomastoideus muscle and processed later on surface EMG (sEMG) hardware (Myoware and Teensy board) and Arduino based-on software developed by the Faculty of Biomedical Technic of Science and Technology, Universitas Airlangga. The energy source for High torque motor servo and sEMG were 5V Battery 7500 mA.H. The mechanical components were 3D printed polylactic acid (PLA), and designed to enable the orthosis to make a three-jaw chuck position. This orthosis is a development of the Powered Dynamic Hand Orthosis (PDHO) (Lehneis 1968, Brown & Roberts 2008, Fundhi et al 2016, Geethanjali 2016, Saharan et al 2017, Salamat et al 2017, Pawana 2016).

Kinematic parameters that were evaluated were joint movement and angular velocity at metacarpophalangeal (MCP) and proximal interphalangeal (PIP) joint of index finger. Both of it were two of upmost kinematic parameters being analyzed. The kinematic analysis were conducted by using software Kinovea that had a quality, validity and reliability for measuring motion analysis

(Charmant 2017, Chen et al 2015, Cordella et al 2014, Grigg et al 2017, Puig-Divi et al 2017, Mohamed 2015).



Figure 2. Myoelectric prehension orthosis installed on subject.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this single group without control, post-test research design was conducted on 11 patients with right brachial plexus injury in Medical Rehabilitation Installation of Dr. Soetomo Academic Hospital that fulfilled inclusion and exclusion criteria and recruited as research subjects. The inclusion criteria were right brachial plexus injury with hand muscle strength less than 3, could understand and followed instructions, agreed to be the subject of research as well as following the entire series of research by signing informed consent form. The exclusion criteria were limitation of range of motion that inhibited orthosis installation, weakness of the left shoulder muscles, upper extremity acute inflammation, upper limb skin lesions, the size of the orthosis that did not match the subject body size. The subjects would be ruled out from the study if they developed an allergic reaction to the orthosis or could not complete the entire series of studies.

Table 1. Baseline characteristic

Character	Value
N	11
Sex	Male 11 (100%)
Age (years)	27,18 ± 5,95
Height (cm)	166,45 ± 4,61
Weight (kg)	64.91 ± 10,11
BMI (kg/m2)	23,36 ± 3,44
BPI side	Right side 11 (100%)
Root affected	Total C5-Th1 11 (100%)
Degree of lesion	Complete 10 (91%)
Duration (years)	3,8 ± 2,74
BPI's surgery history	FFMT 8 (72,7%)
Rehabilitation program	Routinely 9 (81,8%)

All subjects used shoulder-elbow orthosis to eliminate shoulder and elbow motoric disturbance. Then, they used both types of prehension orthosis alternately. First, subjects used body-powered prehension orthosis, and performed orthotic control exercises for 15 minutes. Then, grasp simulation video were recorded. After washout period for 7 days, the subjects used myoelectric prehension orthosis, and performed orthotic control exercises for 15 minutes. Then, grasp simulation video were recorded again. All videos were recorded with Sony Handycam HDR-CX240E in special grasp simulation platform. Then, these recordings were kinematically analyzed with Kinovea ver. 0.8.26.

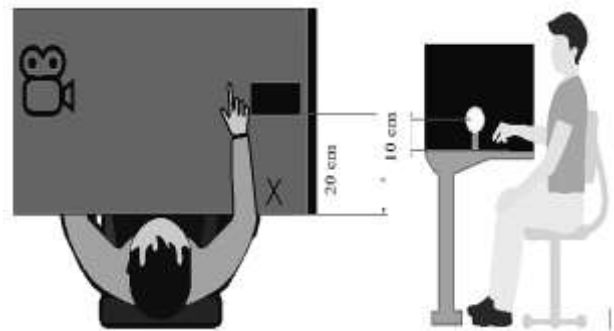


Figure 3. Grasp simulation special platform.

The subject were instructed to grasp the 3 cm-diameter cylinder three times. The fastest grasp was being analyzed. All of the data were collected and analyzed using SPSS version 17 software. This study was ethically approved by Health Research Ethical Committee of Dr. Soetomo Academic Hospital Surabaya.

RESULTS

The study involved 11 male, right total BPI, age range of 22-36 years. All subjects were total BPI patients, 91% had complete lesions, 55% BPI at trunk level, 91% had BPI due to motorcycle accidents, 82% had undergone free functioning muscle transfer (FFMT) operation, performed routine rehabilitation, BPI occurs between 4 months - 10 years, and all subjects have intrinsic and non-functional hand muscle strength (Table 1).

The initial and final angle of the MCP joint showed that there was no significant difference between the use of body-powered prehension orthosis with myoelectric ortosis. While in the initial and final angle parameters PIP showed that there was a significant difference between the use of body-based prehension orthosis with myoelectric ortosis. In the joint angle motion parameters, myoelectric prehension orthosis did not differ significantly in the MCP and PIP joint angle

motion parameters compared to the body powered orthosis (Table 2).

The joint angular velocity parameters showed that body powered prehension orthosis is significantly superior than compared with myoelectric prehension orthosis in the PIP angular velocity parameter, while in the MCP angular velocity parameter, body powered prehension orthosis did not differ significantly from myoelectric prehension orthosis (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

This study was the first experimental study that compared between body powered prehension orthosis and myoelectric prehension orthosis usage in BPI subjects. There were some literatures that discussed prehension orthosis usage in BPI, but no one conducted any comparison between two types of prehension orthosis. Browns and Slack only mentioned externally powered prehension orthosis usage in BPI, while Michael and Lehneis mentioned body powered prehension orthosis (Brown & Roberts 2008, Slack & Berbrayer 1992, Michael & Nunley 1992, Lehneis 1968).

The subjects of this study were 11 male patients with BPI aged 20-36 years. All subjects were total BPI patients, 91% had complete lesions, 55% BPI at trunk level, 91% had BPI due to motorcycle accidents, 82% had undergone free functioning muscle transfer (FFMT) operation, performed routine rehabilitation. The BPI occurred between 4 months to 10 years, and all subjects had intrinsic and non-functional hand muscle strength (MMT <3) (table 1). The baseline characteristics of subjects were suitable with some literatures. The Department of Orthopedic and Traumatology Dr. Soetomo Academic Hospital mentioned that BPI sufferers were mostly male with young adult age (25-35 years old), and as suspects of motorcycle accidents. Narakas mentioned that 70% of BPI involved motorcycle traffic accidents. Rachmawati mentioned that half of BPI patients had functional upper muscle strength after FFMT procedures (Kang & Wolfe 2011, Suroto 2011, Rachmawati et al 2016).



Figure 4. Kinematic analysis of MCP and PIP joints during myoelectric prehension orthosis usage. **Left:** initial position; **Right:** Final position

All subjects could complete the entire research phase until finished. It showed that subjects can adapt to the use of shoulder-angled orthosis as well as both types of prehension orthosis and had an ability to control the orthosis after a 15 minutes orthosis control exercise session. The use of orthosis prehension in the subject was a form of environmental change that was intended to overcome the existing impairment on the subject. The ability to operate the orthosis showed a successful adaptation to a new environment (WHO 2001, Johnson & Mansfield 2014).

The ability of subject to control basic movement of prehension orthosis was also a great first step; considering that this was the first time he had experienced for using, feeling and controlling the orthosis. The ability of the subject to be able to move his hands back consciously had a great psychological impact, the change from being immobile limb to being mobile could be a big motivation for him. Instead of just moving the fingers, the control exercises also ensured that the orthosis worked well, where three jaw chuck movements that became the goal of finger movement were also achieved (Suroto 2011).

This study also showed that both orthosis design were safe to be used since there were no major or fatal side effect. The side effect that occurred in this study was one subject being exhausted after body powered orthosis usage and another one subject felt uncomfortable in her neck and face after myoelectric prehension orthosis usage.

Table 2. Kinematic parameter comparison of MCP and PIP joint

Kinematic Parameter	n	Body Powered Orthosis		Myoelektric Orthosis		p	Sig.
		Value	SD/Range	Value	SD/Range		
MCP initial angle (°)	11	-14	-36 – (-5)	-8	-54 – (-4)	0,857 ^b	
MCP final angle (°)	11	5	-25 – 28	13	-50 – 30	0,350 ^b	
MCP joint movement (°)	11	22	7,27	25	10,25	0,441 ^a	
PIP initial angle (°)	11	50	11,24	22	10,81	0,000 ^a	**
PIP final angle (°)	11	61	42 - 77	31	21 – 78	0,04 ^b	**
PIP joint movement (°)	11	11	5 - 31	14	6 – 42	0,181 ^b	
MCP angular velocity (°/s)	11	44	22,78	33	9,88	0,218 ^a	
PIP angle velocity (°/s)	11	24	20-80	17	7 - 43	0,03 ^b	**

The joint movement comparison result suggests that there is an advantage in the mechanical design of myoelectric prehension orthosis, ie the presence of a second joint in the finger bar that allows flexion movement in the PIP joints to be minimal. But the superiority of the design brings another consequence, in which the size and mechanical design of myoelectric prehension orthosis becomes larger and more complex. In fact, in terms of successful performing the task of grasping, both types of orthosis is successfully solve it. Thus, when viewed from the side of effectiveness, a more simple design is certainly preferred. Bos also mentions that it should be a consideration in designing of a functional hand tool (in this case orthosis prehension) that less complex design but still give a good function (Bos, et al., 2016).

The results of the research on the parameters of joint movement of both types of orthosis show that there is movement of MCP joints of 22-25° and PIP 11-14° joints. With such a wide range of joint motion is still very far from the area of normal joint motion, only about 25% (MCP joint) and 15% (PIP joint). The joint movement is suitable with the Sancho-Bru research, which states that Holding a cylinder with a diameter of 64 mm movement need MCP joint flexion of 10.2° and PIP joint flexion 37.6°. Hayashi mentioned that it is necessary to move the MCP joints at least 100°, which begins with extension 30° and ends at flexion 70° so that there is no disruption of hand function. Bain's research states that the functional joint extent required to perform 20 items of function tests holding Sollerman's hands for MCP joints is 19-71° flexion (48% of total joint joints of MCP joints) and PIP 23-87° joints (59% total joint PIP). So, it can be predicted that with the use of both this study's orthosis, they wouldn't able to mimic normal hand function or complete the task of daily activity (Duncan, et al., 2013; Hayashi, et al., 2014; Bain, et al., 2015; Sancho-Bru, et al., 2014).

Other mechanical design problems for a good prehension orthosis include the space in the hand is narrow. This is a design challenge, because imperfect mechanical design will produce not perfect finger

movements. Improper mechanical design may also results in joint misalignment in hand, which may lead to discomfort in users, rejection in use, even to pressure sore occurrence (Bos, et al., 2016).

Angular velocity parameter comparison result suggests that body powered prehension orthosis can work to close the grasp faster, the factor that causes the speed of orthosis prehension body powered angle can be faster is because the closing speed of the grip is produced through direct body movement transmission, in this case the shoulder adduction movement. Whereas in myoelectric prehension othosis, the angular velocity is limited by the inherent specifications of the electric motors used, the magnitude of the energy source voltage as well as the efficiency of the mechanical components of the orthoses. The restriction of shoulder adduction movement is a motor learning process that is still in its early stages, only through a 15 minute adaptation process during the exercise of orthotic control, and a brief adaptation process also makes the subject to ensure that gripping movements have succeeded only from visual feedback.

Goebel's research mentions that through regular and rigorous exercise, a neurostructural organization will produce a more efficient movement. The imperfection of the sEMG system and the added lack of mechanical feedback and relatively short training time will result in the subject's adaptation process with more difficult myoelectric prehension orthosis (Goebel and Palmer, 2013; Carey, et al., 2015; Bos, et al., 2016; Hitec Multiplex, 2018).

The resultant angular velocity produced by both types of orthosis is still far from the normal value mentioned by Chen's research which states that the normal male hand angle velocity at MCP joints is 12,16 rad/s equivalent to 696,95 °/s and in the PIP joint 15,03 rad/s equivalent to 860,93 °/s. However, the speed of grasping it is still faster than the Dorenfeld's developmental orthosis that takes time to close the grip by 60° in 4.17 seconds, or has an angular velocity of 14.3 °/s (Chen, et al., 2013; Dorenfeld, et al., 2013).

In the study there are some limitations of research, namely: orthosis prehension body powered and myoelektrik only available in 1 size, whereas research subjects have variations of body size, so it is possible there is an orthosis that is not fit for the body size of the subject.

There is difficulty in the process of recognition of movement by using a marker, the marker can not be attached completely to the wick joints of the wrist, MCP, PIP and DIP because the design of mechanical systems and orthotic materials sometimes cover the axis of the joint

CONCLUSION

Body powered shoulder-driven prehension orthosis and myoelectric prehension orthosis usage improves kinematics parameters of MCP and PIP joints of the second finger on BPI grip movements. Body powered shoulder-driven prehension orthosis usage is no better than myoelectric prehension orthosis prehension in improving movement of the MCP and PIP joints also MCP joint angular velocity. Body powered shoulder-driven prehension orthosis usage is better than the use of myoelectric prehension orthosis in improving the angular velocity of the second PIP joint joint in the BPI grip movement.

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