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1 **Title: Accuracy of activPAL self-attachment methods**

2

3 **Running Head: Self-attaching the activPAL**

4

5 **ABSTRACT**

6 This study examined the accuracy of self-attachment of the activPAL activity monitor. A
7 convenience sample of 50 participants self-attached the monitor after being presented with
8 written material only (WMO) and then written and video instructions (WV); and completed a
9 questionnaire regarding the acceptability of the instructional methods. Participants positioned
10 the monitor lower than the instructed position on the thigh (WMO $-5.15 \pm 2.75\text{cm}$, WV -4.16
11 $\pm 2.15\text{cm}$; $p=0.008$ difference) and approximately two cm lateral from the thigh midline
12 (WMO $1.90 \pm 0.92\text{cm}$; WV $2.08 \pm 1.24\text{cm}$). The orientation of the device was positioned
13 correctly along the midline (within <1 degree of vertical). Acceptability was high for both
14 instructional methods although preference was shown for the WV instruction. In conclusion,
15 participants consistently self-attached the activPAL close to the intended placement with
16 either instructional method. The addition of video instruction produced a slightly more
17 accurate attachment and was preferred by the participants.

18 **Keywords:** Sedentary behavior, sitting, measurement, instructional materials

19

20 INTRODUCTION

21 There is a growing body of evidence that too much sitting is a health risk for adults
22 (Owen, Salmon, Koohsari, Turrell, & Giles-Corti, 2014; Tremblay, Colley, Saunders, Healy,
23 & Owen, 2010). Although much of this evidence has been derived from self-report measures
24 of sedentary time, with the associated susceptibility to error and bias (Atkin et al., 2012;
25 Webb & Bain, 2011), objective measurement tools, such as accelerometers, are increasingly
26 being incorporated into population-based studies (Wijndaele et al., 2015). Most of the
27 objective monitor data collected to date classifies sedentary time spent at low acceleration
28 recorded at the device wear locations of the hip, waist, or wrist (Wijndaele et al., 2015).
29 However, sedentary behavior is defined by both a low energy expenditure (≤ 1.5 metabolic
30 equivalents), and a sitting or reclining posture (Sedentary Behaviour Research Network,
31 2012). With its ability to accurately distinguish sitting/lying and upright postures (Bassett et
32 al., 2014), the activPAL activity monitor is being increasingly used in free-living studies to
33 examine time spent sitting/lying as a measure of sedentary behaviour (Dunstan et al., 2013;
34 Healy, Winkler, Owen, Anuradha, & Dunstan, 2015).

35 The activPAL is a small, lightweight monitor worn on the thigh. As indicated in a
36 recent review (Edwardson et al., 2016), in studies of adults, researchers have mostly followed
37 the manufacturer-recommended practices for continuous wear protocols (i.e., waterproofing
38 then attachment with a medical dressing) or for overnight-removal protocols (i.e., attachment
39 with the easily removable PAL Stickies). Some researchers use pouches to attach the device
40 (Ridgers et al., 2012; Stanton, Guertler, Duncan, & Vandelanotte, 2014). Participants need to
41 re-attach the monitors themselves when the devices fall off or are removed — at least daily in
42 overnight-removal protocols (Edwardson et al., 2016). Yet, researchers have exclusively used
43 a face-to-face approach to initially attach the activPAL at the first study assessment and have
44 mostly used face-to-face fittings for the initial attachment at repeat assessments (Edwardson

45 et al., 2016). Allowing participants to also initially attach the activPAL themselves has the
46 potential to reduce research costs. Firstly, research staff time could be reduced by adopting a
47 mail-out distribution approach, such as has been used for other accelerometers in large-scale
48 studies (Eakin et al., 2010; Lee & Shiroma, 2014; Plotnikoff et al., 2013). To yield an overall
49 cost saving however, the self-attachment method would need to ensure correct initial
50 attachment and promote adequate compliance with wear time so as not to affect the amount
51 of valid data retrieved (Matthews, Hagstromer, Pober, & Bowles, 2012; Trost, McIver, &
52 Pate, 2005). Otherwise, administrative costs of research staff following up participants would
53 be incurred (Matthews et al., 2012). A mail-out self-attachment approach could also have
54 non-financial advantages, such as improved reach, representativeness and equity by
55 facilitating the inclusion of participants from geographically dispersed locations in research.

56 Determining where participants self-attach their activPAL monitors is a necessary
57 step in establishing whether output from studies using a self-attachment protocol are likely to
58 achieve the level of accuracy we would expect based on validation studies derived from
59 monitors that have been carefully attached by trained staff (Grant, Ryan, Tigbe, & Granat,
60 2006). The accurate distinction the activPAL achieves between sitting/reclining versus
61 upright posture relies on the device angles indicating particular thigh angles. As such,
62 classification accuracy is affected to some degree by the orientation and rotation of the
63 device, and possibly by the location on the thigh, since the thigh is curved.

64 According to the manual, the activPAL will function correctly if placed in an upright
65 position “anywhere on the front of the thigh” (PAL Technologies Ltd, 2010). However, high-
66 quality data for research may entail stricter requirements. As to what constitutes “upright”,
67 based on correspondence with PAL technologies, the rotation of the monitor away from the
68 midline should be no more than 10 degrees either direction (M.H. Granat, personal
69 communication, May 2015). Placement as close as possible to the midline is desirable as the

70 curved surface of the thigh means placements further from the midline increasingly become
71 more like the side than the front of the thigh. Vertical positioning along the midline may be
72 unimportant, with a laboratory validation study demonstrating good inter-device reliability
73 across higher and lower placements of the activPAL along the midline (Grant et al., 2006).
74 Nonetheless, it is prudent to still consider this issue as reliability has only been established for
75 sitting and standing postures during which all of the thigh is respectively horizontal and
76 vertical. Inter-device reliability along the midline has not been tested for other postures with
77 more variable thigh angles that tend to be poorly classified, such as sitting perched forwards
78 (Steeves et al., 2015) and other non-standard positions (Davies, Reilly, & Paton, 2012).

79 To our knowledge, accuracy of placement of the activPAL device attached by trained
80 staff or by participants has not been reported to date; nor has the impact of various
81 instructional methods on the accuracy of monitor placement. This study aimed to assess and
82 compare, using two instructional methods, how accurately adult participants self-attached the
83 activPAL activity monitor relative to the position indicated in the device's user manual.
84 Placement error was considered separately for orientation/rotation, position on front versus
85 side of thigh, and vertical positioning along the midline. A secondary aim was to examine the
86 acceptability of the methods in terms of satisfaction with the content of both the written and
87 video instructions.

88

89 **METHOD**

90 **Study design**

91 This study evaluated the accuracy and acceptability of two instructional methods to
92 self-attach the activPAL activity monitor: written material only (WMO), and written and
93 video material (WV). Data were collected mid-March to the end of April 2015, and were
94 analysed in April-May 2015. The study was given ethical approval from The University of
95 Queensland Behavioral & Social Sciences Ethical Review Committee, and all participants
96 provided written, informed consent. The instructional methods were developed in
97 consultation with three researchers at the Cancer Prevention Research Centre, The University
98 of Queensland, who use activPAL devices in field-based research. The materials were also
99 presented to five adults (students at the University of Queensland) not familiar with the
100 device, prior to the initial data collection for feedback and modification.

101 **Participant recruitment**

102 Participants were adults at least 18 years of age, who were recruited by convenience
103 sampling, social media and word of mouth in Brisbane, Australia, particularly through
104 universities and workplaces. Purposive sampling was used to recruit participants across a
105 range of ages and gender. Participants were ineligible if they were non-ambulatory and/or did
106 not speak English fluently. It was estimated that a sample size of 50 was sufficient to provide
107 $\geq 80\%$ power (two-tailed $p < 0.05$) to detect a mean difference between WMO and WV
108 instructions of approximately 1 cm in placement error, assuming standard deviations of
109 2.5cm and 2.0cm for the change between instructional conditions, for vertical and horizontal
110 placement error, respectively. Fifty-one participants were recruited and one participant was
111 excluded from the analysis based on the poor quality of the photographs taken.

112 **Data collection**

113 For each participant, data were collected in a single assessment of approximately 30
114 minutes duration, conducted at place convenient to the participant (their home, their
115 workplace, or facilities at The University of Queensland). A single assessor conducted all
116 assessments using the same equipment each time. The activPAL monitor (35mm x 53mm x
117 7mm; 15g) was covered with a nitrile sleeve and a stick figure was drawn on the front to
118 indicate the correct orientation in which to wear the monitor (i.e., head up, feet down), as per
119 standard practice in field based studies (Edwardson et al., 2016).

120 The order of WMO and WV instructions could not be randomised. All participants
121 first undertook self-attachment of the activPAL following the written instructions (WMO).
122 Written instructions were given (Supplementary data 1), along with the necessary equipment
123 (adhesive patch, alcohol swab, activPAL monitor) for the participant to self-attach the
124 activPAL monitor on the right leg. To minimise learning effects, after the WMO instruction,
125 the right leg was covered and no feedback was given to the participants about the accuracy of
126 their device placement. Then, an instructional video plus the same equipment was provided,
127 so that all participants could self-attach the monitor to the left leg having received both
128 written and video instructions. The video instruction can be seen at:
129 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHCCX2GW3DM>. In both sets of instructions, the
130 intended midline and vertical placement of the monitor was described to participants as ‘one
131 third of the way down, on the midline, between the hip and knee’ and is derived from the
132 description in the activPAL manual (PAL Technologies Ltd, 2010).

133 The researcher took several photographs of each thigh using a camera (Canon 1100D)
134 supported by a tripod. The crease of the thigh, top of the patella and the midline were
135 identified and marked by the researcher. A measuring scale (ruler) was then taped next to the
136 activPAL in order to set the scale. After the assessment the participant completed a self-

137 administered online questionnaire regarding the acceptability of the instructional methods.

138 This questionnaire was also used to capture demographic characteristics.

139 **Measures**

140 Placement accuracy was measured from the photographs, using a Java image
141 processing program available from the US National Institutes of Health (ImageJ:
142 <http://imagej.nih.gov/ij/index.html>) that enables distances, in millimetres, to be calculated
143 from the image pixels (Ferreira & Rasband, 2012). The midline was marked between the top
144 of the patella and the crease of the thigh and the distance between these points was taken as
145 the thigh length. Actual placement was measured as distance outward from the midline
146 (horizontally) and distance along the midline upward from the patella (vertically). The correct
147 placements were taken as zero cm from the midline and two-thirds of the thigh length upward
148 from the patella (vertically). Placement error was measured as actual minus intended
149 placement, with positive values representing placement that is too high (vertically) or too far
150 outward (horizontally). To minimise errors, all measures were taken from the corners rather
151 than the middle of the activPAL (the lower left and right corners when measuring vertically,
152 the outermost upper and lower corners when measuring horizontally) with the average of the
153 two measures used. Measures were corrected by half of the height or width of the activPAL
154 as appropriate to indicate the position of the middle of the monitor. Absolute error was also
155 examined, such that higher values represent greater error in either direction.

156

157 The extent to which the monitor was positioned in the correct orientation was
158 measured first as the basic orientation (correct, upside down, rotated right, rotated left). Then,
159 for those with the monitor in the correct basic orientation, the rotation of the monitor in either
160 direction, relative to its correct placement (i.e., aligned with the midline) was estimated, as

161 depicted in Figure 1. The hypotenuse was taken as the activPAL width (3.5 cm) and the
162 opposite side was taken as the absolute height difference in placement above the knee
163 between the two bottom corners of the activPAL. The rotation angle (θ) was calculated as the
164 inverse sine function of the opposite/hypotenuse ratio, then was expressed in degrees.

165

166

INSERT FIGURE 1 ABOUT HERE

167

168 The questionnaire included Likert scale questions on acceptability, ranging from 1
169 (very poor) to 10 (very good), specifically how easy the instructional methods were to
170 read/understand, the length of the material and whether they were sufficiently descriptive.
171 This questionnaire also included demographic characteristics (age, gender, first language,
172 highest education level completed, occupation, employment status, height, and weight). Body
173 mass index (BMI) was calculated and dichotomised as normal weight/underweight (< 25
174 kg/m^2) and overweight/obese ($\geq 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$) (World Health Organisation, 2000).

175 **Statistical analysis**

176 Data analyses was performed in SPSS version 22.0 (IBM Corporation). All analyses
177 were limited to the 50 participants with useable photographic data. The demographic
178 characteristics of the sample were reported as n (%) or means and standard deviations
179 ($M \pm SD$). Placement error (rotation, horizontal and vertical) was summarised ($M \pm SD$,
180 Minimum, Maximum) along with 95% Limits of agreement ($M \pm 1.96 \times SD$) and absolute
181 placement error ($M \pm SD$). Placement error was compared between the two instructional
182 conditions using paired t-tests. Nonparametric tests (Wilcoxon signed ranks test) and medians
183 were reported for rotation angles. All differences are described relative to WMO. As the
184 pooled results may not apply to all types of participants in the sample, differences in

185 placement error by participant characteristics (age group, gender, education, BMI category,
186 occupation, language) were examined, using a mixed model. The study was not powered *a*
187 *priori* to examine these differences. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$ (two-tailed).

188

189 **RESULTS**

190 Table 1 shows the characteristics of the 50 included participants. Participants were
191 aged 19 to 72 years, most (82%) had a completed post-school qualification and were either in
192 full time employment (42%) or studying (36%). The average BMI of the sample was 23.8
193 ± 2.7 kg/m², with 38% categorised as overweight/obese.

194

195

INSERT TABLE 1 ABOUT HERE

196

197 Under both WMO (50 attachments) and WV (50 attachments) instructional
198 conditions, 49 attachments were in the right orientation and one was upside down, with both
199 upside down attachments performed by the same participant. Of the 49 participants who
200 attached the monitor in the correct orientation, the rotation angles ranged from 0 to 6.7
201 degrees with WMO instructions (median = 2.3 degrees) and from 0 to 8.5 degrees with WV
202 instructions (median = 2.8 degrees) and were not significantly different between the
203 instructional conditions ($p=0.754$). The horizontal placement deviated significantly from the
204 midline with both WMO and WV instructions (both $p<0.001$), with participants on average
205 placing the monitor approximately two cm outwards from the midline (i.e., laterally) (Table
206 2). The degree of placement error did not vary significantly or by a large amount depending
207 on the instructions given (mean difference = -0.19 cm, 95% CI: -0.48, 0.09 cm, $p=0.172$). For
208 both instructional methods, the monitor was placed significantly lower on the thigh than the
209 instructed placement location, by approximately 4–5 cm ($p<0.001$) (Table 2). The placement
210 was approximately one centimetre closer to the intended location with WV instructions than
211 with WMO ($p=0.008$).

212

213 INSERT TABLE 2 ABOUT HERE

214

215 INSERT TABLE 3 ABOUT HERE

216

217 Table 3 shows the differences in absolute placement error by age, gender, education,
218 occupation, native language and weight status. Placement error in both instructional
219 conditions varied significantly only by gender, and only in terms of vertical error. Women
220 showed significantly less vertical placement error on average than men, both with written
221 instructions only (-1.72 cm, 95% CI: -3.23, -0.21 cm, $p=0.026$) and after video instruction (-
222 1.56 cm, 95% CI: -2.65, -0.47 cm, $p=0.006$). Most of the non-significant differences in
223 horizontal placement error were also small, with confidence intervals containing differences
224 of <1 cm. By contrast, for vertical placement error, sizeable differences (≥ 1 cm) were not
225 unlikely based on the confidence intervals. Here, differences of ≥ 1 cm were observed between
226 age groups and occupational categories prior to video instruction. The direction of the results
227 for vertical placement error in both instructional conditions tended to show more placement
228 error for those who were aged 40 years and older, employed in office-based occupational
229 categories (professional/managerial, white collar/administrative), native English speakers,
230 and not university educated, relative to their respective counterparts.

231 *Preference for instruction methods and acceptability of materials*

232 Most participants (44/50, 88%) reported fully reading the written material; the only
233 participant in the sample who attached both monitors upside down reported not fully reading
234 the instructions. All participants stated that they did not need further support after being
235 presented with the video and written materials and nearly all participants (47/50, 94%)
236 indicated they preferred having both instructions to having only the written materials.

237 Table 4 describes the satisfaction scores with the written instructions and video
238 demonstration. The materials were mostly satisfactory in terms of clarity, length and level of
239 detail, particularly the video, for which mean scores on all satisfaction scales were greater
240 than nine out of a possible 10 (Table 4). Very few (n=2, 4%) participants indicated the video
241 should have been more elaborate. Seven participants (14%) wanted more information in the
242 written instructions. Those who provided suggestions for additional written information
243 (n=23, 46%) wanted a more detailed step-by-step description or pictures of how to measure a
244 third of the thigh and how to find the top of the thigh and the midline. Two participants, both
245 aged over 65 years, wanted more instruction on how to peel off the backing tape. Suggestions
246 for changes to the video by seven participants (14%) concerned how to measure a third of the
247 leg and the midline, and wanting more time between the attachment steps. In reporting
248 whether they preferred the video or written materials, 44 (88%) participants chose the video
249 stating it was easier to get a visual demonstration on how to measure a third of the thigh and
250 on how to handle the tape, and it gave less room for misunderstanding. Those who preferred
251 the written instructions to the video (n=6, 12%) reported the reasons for their preference
252 being that this format was quicker, short and concise, and they could attach the monitor at
253 their own pace.

254 INSERT TABLE 4 ABOUT HERE

255

DISCUSSION

This study was the first to evaluate how adults self-attach the activPAL activity monitor under two instructional methods: written instructions alone and written instructions followed by a video demonstration. The findings indicated that most participants self-attached the monitor on the thigh in the correct orientation, and broadly “on the front of the thigh” as required for correct functioning, but typically slightly further down and outward from the position recommended by the manufacturer. Acceptability was high for both instructional materials. Most participants preferred written and video instructions rather than written instructions alone and no participants reported requiring any form of instruction in addition to the written and video materials.

Only 2% of monitor attachments were in the wrong orientation (always inverted), and acceleration data collected upside down can be reprocessed correctly in the device software. Quality controls, such as photographic records, to identify and rectify such data would be advisable. None of the monitors that were placed upright were misaligned by the 10 degrees or more that may interfere with device functioning, based on correspondence with PAL technologies (M.H. Granat, May 2015). The usual self-attachment position was slightly too low along the midline (4–5 cm) and slightly too far outward from the midline (≈ 2 cm) relative to the position in the instructions. The variability in positioning shown by the 95% limits of agreement suggests that self-attachment protocols are likely to result in most participants placing their monitor somewhere between approximately the intended location and 5 cm too far outward and 10 cm too low. Further study is recommended to determine how much deviation from the manufacturer-recommended placement can be tolerated without meaningfully impacting data quality, when classifying activities (sitting/lying, standing, and stepping) across a wide range of activities performed in the wide array of

postures people adopt in their everyday lives (Davies et al., 2012; Hewes, 1955), such as perching forwards or sitting cross-legged.

The accuracy of placement may depend to some extent on the study population, with significant differences between men and women in vertical placement accuracy. Some non-significant differences by age groups and occupational categories were also noted (≥ 1 cm difference observed) and the study was not powered *a priori* to test demographic differences. We would suggest some caution in expecting the same degree of placement accuracy we observed overall within these and any other unexamined population groups.

Providing video instructions in addition to the written materials improved placement accuracy vertically, where the amount of placement error was greatest. However, this additional instruction did not improve significantly or to a large degree the placement error in terms of device orientation and rotation (which was minimal to begin with) or distance horizontally from the midline. Though efforts were made to minimise learning effects, they may have still accounted for some of the improvement between the first attachment with WMO instructions then the subsequent WV attachment. Learning effects unlikely completely explain the findings, since the improvements though were predominantly in vertical placement only, and matched up with participant comments, such as that the video helped them use the tape to measure one third of the way down the thigh. In addition to some degree of improvement in placement accuracy, including video instructions, such as ours, which is freely available online, along with written materials was preferred by participants over written materials only.

Findings from this study suggest that self-attachment of the activPAL monitor, such as through mail-out, is a suitable approach based on the general indications regarding the position of the monitor needing to be “upright” and on the “front of the thigh”. However, in

absence of clear-cut data on device placement and classification accuracy, it may be prudent to measure device placement. For example, participants could upload or email photographs, that could be used for anything from detailed examination of all placements, to a cursory check for extreme misplacement only, or even as a “referee” when other data checks indicate the output data from the device looks questionable. This issue extends beyond primary self-attachment protocols as even when initial attachment is by trained staff, participants typically reattach their own monitors when they change the dressing every day when using waking-wear or work-wear only protocols (Barreira et al., 2015; Kozey-Keadle, Libertine, Lyden, Staudenmayer, & Freedson, 2011) or in continuous wear protocols where attachment fails (Dunstan et al., 2013; Healy et al., 2015).

To our knowledge, no previous studies have assessed instructional methods to self-attach activPAL activity monitors. An instructional video about the ActiGraph activity monitor targeting children and adolescents was shown to be a sufficient method for participants to comply with the wearing protocol and obtain valid data (Thompson, Abdelsamad, Cantu, & Gillum, 2012). While the ActiGraph monitor is attached differently to the activPAL, we also found that video instruction, coupled with written instructions, was enough to achieve attachment in broadly the correct location, and was acceptable to participants. Regarding the specific instructions contained within the written materials and videos, possible areas for improvement included more details on how to find the midline and the top third of the thigh with a measuring tape provided as an aid, and instructions on using the adhesive tape (especially for older participants). Participants typically chose their midline slightly outward of its position measured standing. An instruction to find this position while standing up, prior to sitting down, before the soft tissue of the thigh expands and it is harder to find accurately could be helpful. The video was designed to be watched prior to attaching the monitors, but many participants tried attaching their monitor while watching the video,

and wanted more time between each attachment step. Creating a longer video with instructions suited to this preference may work, with a shorter video available to watch prior to attaching the monitor.

A limitation of this study was recruitment through convenience sampling, which limits the generalisability of the results and compromises the external validity (Daniel, 2011). Although the sample included a diverse group in terms of age (19–72 years) and gender, the group was mostly highly educated, of professional/managerial occupation or studying, and of normal/underweight body weight. For other groups covered to a limited extent or not at all in the sample (low socioeconomic status, non-English speaking background and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander), the acceptability and cultural appropriateness of the materials, and their adequacy in helping participants accurately attach their monitors should be evaluated. The research conditions may have overstated the accuracy and the acceptability of the video in particular. Participants may be more inclined to ignore instructions without the researcher observing and participants may have been disinclined to say negative things about the video since the researcher who collected data was clearly identifiable as the actor in the video.

CONCLUSION

This study examined the accuracy and acceptability of self-attachment of the activPAL monitor using two instructional methods that might be used for mail out distribution: written instructions and written plus video instructions. The findings indicated that either of the instruction conditions were sufficient for self-attaching the monitor in what is broadly the correct orientation and position. However, more subtle placement errors were apparent that have an unknown impact on data quality that merits further investigation. The addition of the video instructions made placement more accurate and was desired by most

participants. Hence, it is recommended that participants are provided with both the written materials and video instructions. Future studies using the activPAL could employ these methods to instruct initial self-attachment by participants, therefore providing wider reach and reducing costs in public health research, with photographic verification of correct device placement being advisable.

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Table 1: Participant characteristics (n=50)

Characteristic	n (%) or mean \pm SD
Women	30 (60%)
Age (years)	35.04 \pm 14.13
Highest education completed	
Year 12 or less	8 (16%)
Trade/certificate/diploma	8 (16%)
University degree/postgraduate qualification	34 (68%)
Employment status	
Full-time	21 (42%)
Part-time/casual	9 (18%)
Studying	17 (34%)
No paid work or study	3 (6%)
Occupation	
Professional/managerial	17 (34%)
White collar/administrative	9 (18%)
Blue collar/ pink collar	3 (6%)
Not working/student	21 (42%)
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	23.75 \pm 2.74
% overweight/obese (BMI \geq 25 kg/m ²)	19 (38%)
% English as first language	31 (62%)

Table 2: Vertical and horizontal placement of the activPAL according to written instruction only (WMO) and written and video instruction (WV).

	Vertical Error (cm above intended placement)		Horizontal Error (cm lateral to the intended placement)	
	WMO	WV	WMO	WV
Minimum, Maximum	-12.91, 0.30	-8.55, 1.65	0.12, 4.15	-0.38, 5.09
Mean difference \pm SD	-5.15 \pm 2.75	-4.16 \pm 2.15	1.90 \pm 0.92	2.08 \pm 1.24
95% Limits of agreement	-10.55, 0.25	-8.37, 0.05	0.1, 3.7	0.34, 4.5
Absolute error (M \pm SD)	5.17 \pm 2.70	4.23 \pm 2.01	1.90 \pm 0.92	2.10 \pm 1.20

n=50; cm (centimetres), M (mean), SD (standard deviation)

Table 3: Differences between sociodemographic groups in absolute error for vertical and horizontal placement of activPAL when receiving written instruction only (WMO) and written and video instruction (WV).

		Vertical Error		Horizontal error	
		Mean difference (95% CI)	p	Mean difference (95% CI)	p
Women vs Men	WMO	-1.72 (-3.23, -0.21)	0.026	-0.14 (-0.67, 0.40)	0.614
	WV	-1.56 (-2.65, -0.47)	0.006	0.20 (-0.51, 0.90)	0.573
Age: <40 vs ≥40 years	WMO	-1.32 (-2.94, 0.31)	0.110	0.16 (-0.41, 0.72)	0.577
	WV	-0.23 (-1.47, 1.01)	0.714	0.40 (-0.34, 1.13)	0.284
Education: university vs not	WMO	-0.21 (-1.88, 1.46)	0.801	-0.39 (-0.94, 0.16)	0.162
	WV	-0.70 (-1.92, 0.52)	0.256	-0.12 (-0.86, 0.62)	0.750
BMI: overweight/obese vs normal/underweight	WMO	0.17 (-1.44, 1.77)	0.836	0.19 (-0.35, 0.73)	0.481
	WV	-0.69 (-1.86, 0.49)	0.245	0.20 (-0.91, 0.51)	0.575
Occupation: “office” vs other ^a	WMO	1.55 (-0.03, -3.13)	0.055	-0.03 (-0.59, 0.53)	0.916
	WV	0.74 (-0.47, 1.94)	0.225	0.14 (-0.59, 0.87)	0.694
First language: English vs not	WMO	0.56 (-1.04, 2.15)	0.484	0.10 (-0.44, 0.64)	0.712
	WV	0.37 (-0.82, 1.55)	0.539	-0.20 (-0.91, 0.52)	0.582

n=50, CI = confidence interval; estimates obtained as comparisons of marginal means from mixed models with participants’ data repeated across instructional conditions, main effects and interactions for demographic characteristics and instructional conditions.

^a Professional/managerial, white collar/administrative versus blue/pink collar, not working/student

Table 4: Participant ratings of satisfaction (1 = very poor to 10 = very good) of the instructional methods (n=50)

	Mean \pm SD	
	Written	Video
How easy it was to read (written) or understand (video)	8.52 \pm 1.26	9.62 \pm 0.67
The length of the written material/video	7.88 \pm 1.93	9.36 \pm 0.99
Was it sufficiently descriptive?	8.34 \pm 1.44	9.50 \pm 0.79

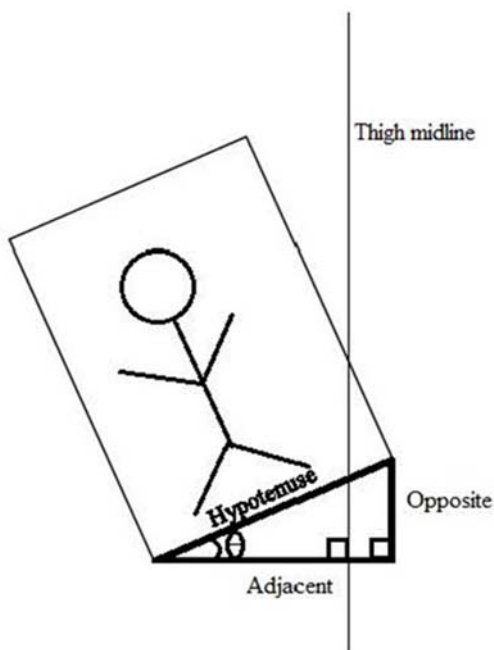


Figure 1. Calculation of angle of rotation.