

1 **A Femoral Clamp to Reduce Soft Tissue**  
2 **Artefact: Accuracy and Reliability in**  
3 **Measuring Three-Dimensional Knee**  
4 **Kinematics During Gait**

5 **Ding, Ziyun<sup>1</sup>**

6 Department of Bioengineering  
7 Imperial College London London,  
8 SW7 2AZ United Kingdom  
9 [z.ding@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:z.ding@imperial.ac.uk)

10  
11 **Güdel, Manuela**

12 Department of Bioengineering  
13 Imperial College London London,  
14 SW7 2AZ United Kingdom  
15 [manuela.g@bluewin.ch](mailto:manuela.g@bluewin.ch)

16  
17 **Smith, Samuel H L**

18 Department of Bioengineering  
19 Imperial College London  
20 London, SW7 2AZ United Kingdom  
21 [Samuel.Smith781@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Samuel.Smith781@mod.gov.uk)

22  
23 **Ademefun, Richard A**

24 Department of Bioengineering  
25 Imperial College London London,  
26 SW7 2AZ United Kingdom  
27 [richardademefun@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardademefun@yahoo.co.uk)

28  
29 **Bull, Anthony M J**

30 Department of Bioengineering  
31 Imperial College London London,  
32 SW7 2AZ United Kingdom  
33 [a.bull@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.bull@imperial.ac.uk)

37 **ABSTRACT**

38           The accurate measurement of full six degrees-of-freedom (DOFs) knee joint  
39 kinematics is prohibited by soft tissue artifact (STA), which remains the greatest source of  
40 error. The purpose of this study was to present and assess a new femoral clamp to reduce  
41 STA at the thigh. It was hypothesised that the device can preserve the natural knee joint  
42 kinematics pattern and outperform a conventional marker mounted rigid cluster during gait.  
43 Six healthy subjects were asked to walk barefoot on level ground with a cluster marker set  
44 (cluster gait) followed by a cluster-clamp-merged marker set (clamp gait) and their  
45 kinematics was measured using the cluster method in cluster gait and the cluster and clamp  
46 methods simultaneously in clamp gait. Two operators performed the gait measurement. A  
47 six DOFs knee joint model was developed to enable comparison with the gold standard knee  
48 joint kinematics measured using a dual fluoroscopic imaging technique. One-dimensional  
49 paired t-tests were used to compare the knee joint kinematics waveforms between cluster  
50 gait and clamp gait. The accuracy was assessed in terms of the root mean square error,  
51 coefficient of determination and Bland-Altman plots. Inter-operator reliability was assessed  
52 using the intra-class correlation coefficient. The result showed that the femoral clamp did  
53 not change the walking speed and knee joint kinematics waveforms. Additionally, clamp gait  
54 reduced the rotation and translation errors in the transverse plane and improved the  
55 interoperator reliability when compared to the rigid cluster method, suggesting a more  
56 accurate and reliable measurement of knee joint kinematics.

57

58 **INTRODUCTION**

59           The knee joint is one of the most complicated synovial joints [1] that primarily moves  
60 in flexion/extension and external/internal rotation [2]. Coupled motions, due to the articular

61 geometry and the rolling and sliding of the knee as the flexion and extension moments  
62 introduce shear forces, result in abduction/adduction and anterior/posterior translation [1–  
63 3]. These coupled motions are important in pathologies and injuries, such as knee  
64 osteoarthritis [4,5] and ligament rupture [6–9]. Therefore, in order to monitor and evaluate  
65 such conditions, the ability to measure the full six degrees-of-freedom (6DOFs), or three  
66 dimensional (3D), knee joint kinematics is required [10–13].

67         Although technologies exist to measure bone motion directly [14–20], these are  
68 clinically impractical due to a combination of invasiveness (for example, pins inserted to the  
69 bones, or ionising radiation), cost ( advanced imaging), limited field of view (imaging), time  
70 (scanning, imaging segmentation and registration), and ethics. Therefore, other methods are  
71 preferred clinically, which infer motion of the underlying bones from the movement of  
72 overlying soft tissue. These include, for example, electromagnetic motion tracking [21], and  
73 marker-based [22] or markerless optical motion tracking [23,24], and include techniques to  
74 minimise the effect of soft tissue artefact (STA), which is the relative movement of soft  
75 tissue to the underlying bones due to inertial effects, skin stretching/sliding, and muscle  
76 contractions [25–27]. At the knee joint, STA particularly affects the measurement of subtle  
77 movements such as abduction/adduction, external/internal rotation, anterior/posterior and  
78 lateral/medial translations: the tracking errors between the surface markers and the  
79 underlying bone can be up 40 mm at the thigh and 15 mm at the shank [28–31], resulting in  
80 rotation errors of up to 20° and translation errors of 20 mm in both the frontal and  
81 transverse planes. For planes of motion other than the sagittal plane, STA remains the main  
82 limitation of these measurement technologies.

83 STA can be corrected mathematically through the application of optimisation  
84 techniques, including the least squares method [32–35] and the point cluster technique  
85 [36,37]. Although these techniques provide encouraging results they can only compensate  
86 for the inter-marker movement, which is a minor component of STA [30,38]. Global  
87 optimisation techniques have been developed which use underlying knee joint models that  
88 include kinematic constraints to limit STA [39,40]. These constraints, to either a 1 DOF hinge  
89 or a 3 DOFs sphere, may in fact increase the error due to over-simplification of the complex  
90 knee joint [38]. Additionally, they are too restrictive in clinical practice for the study of knee  
91 pathologies that, by definition, include motion in the other DOFs [27].

92 To measure knee joint motion both the shank and the thigh need to be tracked  
93 accurately. Shank STA is very small compared to STA at the thigh [26] and therefore the  
94 focus of this study is to better measure knee joint kinematics by devising a technique to  
95 measure thigh motion. The approach taken is to develop a device to physically attach to the  
96 thigh, tracking the femur. Such attachment systems have been designed previously [41,42],  
97 for example, the KneeKG system, that has been shown to have an accuracy of 2.5° in  
98 rotation and 2.5 mm in translation during non-weightbearing knee flexion/extension [1,41].  
99 As knee joint kinematics is activity dependent [22,27], these results cannot be generalised  
100 for weightbearing activities, such as gait. Another variable that needs to be considered is  
101 whether such a device would change the natural kinematics pattern during gait. The  
102 purposes of the study were twofold: first, to present a new femoral device to reduce STA at  
103 the thigh; and second, to assess its performance in tracking knee joint kinematics during  
104 overground walking. The hypothesis of the study was that the device can preserve the

105 natural knee joint kinematics pattern and outperform a conventional marker mounted rigid  
106 cluster in accuracy and reliability during gait.

## 107 **METHODS**

### 108 **The femoral clamp design and fabrication**

109         The device functions on two key principles, where the first is that the femoral  
110 epicondyles are very close to the surface of the skin and clamping at the epicondyles will  
111 reduce errors in all planes of motion, except flexion/extension which will cause twisting and  
112 shear on the surface that is difficult to control. The flexion/extension motion between  
113 surface and bone is then resisted by a stabilising bar that straps along the anterior aspect of  
114 the thigh. However, the thigh soft tissue can rotate around the bone. A fixed bar would then  
115 transmit this rotation to the epicondyles and result in the device separating from its  
116 attachment points. Therefore, the stabilising bar is attached to the clamp with a rotational  
117 bearing that permits axial rotation without changing the flexion/extension position of the  
118 bar.

119         The femoral clamp consists of two femoral pads, a femoral arch, a stabilizing bar and  
120 the distal and proximal Velcro straps (Fig.1). The 40.0-mm-diameter, 8.0-mm-thick circular  
121 femoral pads are 3D-printed (Ultimaker 2, Ultimaker B.V., Geldermalsen, Netherlands) using  
122 PLA (PolyLactic Acid). They are placed over the medial and lateral femoral epicondyles and  
123 are interconnected over the front of the knee via an 8.0-mm-thick femoral arch, made of  
124 moulded Polycaprolactone (PCL), designed to have an appropriate stiffness to apply a  
125 compressive force to the epicondyles. To further minimise the movement between the  
126 femoral pads and the underlying bone, they are attached posteriorly by a distal Velcro strap.  
127 The stabilizing bar consists of a proximal part and a distal part angled 160° to the proximal

128 part. The proximal part rests on the anterior aspect of the thigh, restricting the rotation of  
129 the device in the sagittal plane. The distal part inserts into the femoral arch through a pivot  
130 bearing. The mass of the whole device is 63 g.

131 Insert figure 1

### 132 **Validation experiment**

133 Six healthy subjects (three male and three female; age  $31.4 \pm 4.0$  years; height  $1.76 \pm$   
134  $0.10$  m; mass  $74.3 \pm 16.8$  kg; body mass index  $23.8 \pm 3.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) with no self-reported lower  
135 limb musculoskeletal pain or impairments were recruited. Institutional ethics approval and  
136 informed consent were obtained. Subjects were asked to walk barefoot at a self-selected  
137 speed on level ground with a cluster-based marker set (cluster gait) followed by a  
138 clusterclamp-merged marker set (clamp gait) on their pelvises and right legs. Knee joint  
139 motion was measured using the cluster method in cluster gait and the cluster and clamp  
140 methods simultaneously in clamp gait. In the cluster-based marker set, reflective markers  
141 were placed on the anterior/posterior superior iliac spine, medial/lateral femoral  
142 epicondyles, medial/lateral malleoli, second/fifth metatarsal head, and lateral and posterior  
143 calcaneus. Additionally, two clusters of three markers were placed onto the lateral and  
144 frontal aspects of the thigh and shank (Fig. 2) [43]. Three walking trials were recorded for  
145 cluster gait, as well as a standing reference trial of subjects standing in a neutral position  
146 before the walking trials. In clamp gait the markers on the medial/lateral femoral  
147 epicondyles were removed and five markers were placed on the clamp (Fig.1d). Once the  
148 clamp was aligned and stable, subjects were given several practice trials (including walking  
149 and standing up from a chair) to familiarise themselves with the device. Similar to cluster  
150 gait, three walking trials and a standing reference trial were recorded. The protocol was

151 performed by two separate operators with experience in palpating bony landmarks. The  
152 order of the operators was randomised. Following completion of the protocol the first time,  
153 the whole marker set was removed, and subjects were given a break; then the second  
154 operator repeated the identical protocol. Marker trajectories were measured with a 10-  
155 camera optical motion capture system (Vicon Motion Systems Ltd, Oxford, UK, 100 Hz).  
156 Measured kinematics was initially processed in Vicon Nexus (V2.6.1), including labelling, gap  
157 filling and heel strikedetection (using the vertical component of the posterior calcaneus  
158 marker [44]), and then lower-pass filtered using a fourth-order, zero-lag Butterworth filter  
159 with a cut-off frequency of 6 Hz [45] in MATLAB (The MathWorks Inc., USA).

160 Insert Figure 2

### 161 **Knee model**

162 The knee is described with full six DOFs with the anatomical geometry scaled from an  
163 MR-based musculoskeletal (MSK) model (female, 43 years, 1.84 m, 78 kg [46]), implemented  
164 in an open source musculoskeletal modelling software, FreeBody (v2.1, [47,48]). To enable  
165 the comparison with knee joint kinematics in the literature measured using the gold  
166 standard dual fluoroscopic imaging technique [49], the coordinate system of the thigh and  
167 shank and rotations and translations at the knee are defined as follows (see Fig.3): the thigh  
168 origin is the midpoint between the medial and lateral femoral epicondyles, the superior -  
169 inferior (SI) - axis points from the thigh origin to the hip joint centre (centre of a sphere  
170 fitted to the femoral head), the temporary lateral - medial (tempLM) - axis points from the  
171 medial to lateral femoral epicondyle, the anterior - posterior (AP) - axis is the cross product  
172 of the SI and tempLM axes, pointing anteriorly and the LM - axis is the cross product of the  
173 AP and SI axes, pointing laterally; the shank origin is the midpoint between the centres of

174 two circles fitting the medial and lateral plateaus separately, the SI - axis points from the  
175 midpoint of medial and lateral malleoli to the shank origin, the tempLM - axis connects the  
176 centres of plateau circles, the (AP) - axis is the cross product of the SI and tempLM axes,  
177 pointing anteriorly and the LM - axis is the cross product of the AP and SI axes, pointing  
178 laterally. The bony landmarks on the anterior/posterior superior iliac spine from the MSK  
179 model and the same landmarks from the standing reference trial were used to construct the  
180 hip joint centre and similarly, the landmarks on the femoral epicondyles and malleoli from  
181 the MSK model and from the reference trial were used to construct the shank origin, based  
182 on the method described by Soderkvist and Wedin [32, 48]. Knee rotations are calculated as  
183 the orientation of the shank with respect to the thigh, resolving the Cardan angles in the  
184 sequence of flexion/extension, abduction/adduction and external/internal rotation [2]; knee  
185 translations are calculated as the displacement of the thigh origin with respect to the shank  
186 origin, represented in the shank LCS [8]. The location and orientation of the thigh and shank  
187 segments are determined based on the method described by Horn et al.[35]: for the thigh  
188 segment constructed using three markers from the thigh cluster in the cluster method and  
189 three markers from the femoral arch in the clamp method; for the shank segment using  
190 three markers from the shank cluster in both methods. All markers are visible during the  
191 analysed gait cycles. The resulting knee kinematics was normalised to 100% of the gait cycle  
192 with 101 sample points.

193  Insert Figure 3

## 194 **Data analysis**

195 To test whether the device changes the walking pattern, walking speed and knee  
196 joint kinematics were compared. Walking speed, was calculated as the distance of the

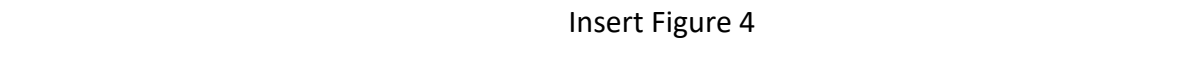


197 posterior calcaneus marker in a gait cycle divided by time and averaged over three walking  
198 trials for both cluster and clamp gait. Waveforms of knee joint kinematics in cluster gait  
199 were compared with waveforms in clamp gait as measured using the cluster method.  
200 Onedimensional (1D) two-tail paired t-tests ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) based on the methodology of  
201 statistical parametric mapping (SPM, [50]) were conducted using “SPM1D”, an open-source  
202 package for SPM, written in MATLAB (<http://www.spm1d.org/index.html>, [38]). This  
203 computes the Fstatistics (SPM {t}) and critical threshold ( $t^*$ ): a statistical difference is  
204 detected if SPM {t} exceeds the threshold.

205         For clamp gait, knee joint kinematics as measured using the cluster method and the  
206 clamp method were assessed in terms of the accuracy and inter-operator reliability and  
207 their differences were compared using the non-parametric Wilcoxon signed rank test in  
208 SPSS (Version 24.0, IBM Corp., USA,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ). Eleven data points during stance (0-60% of  
209 gait, starting from 0% of gait with 6 percentage point intervals) were calculated from the  
210 ensemble average knee joint kinematics over three walking trials. The accuracy when  
211 compared to the gold standard knee joint kinematics [49] was assessed in terms of the root  
212 mean square error (RMSE), coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) and Bland-Altman plots  
213 (including the bias and confidence interval: 1.96 standard deviation). The inter-operator  
214 reliability was assessed using ICCs (intra-class correlation coefficients, two-way  
215 randomeffects, absolute agreement model in SPSS [51]), where values of less than 0.5,  
216 between 0.5 and 0.75, between 0.75 and 0.90, and greater than 0.90 are indicative of poor,  
217 moderate, good, and excellent reproducibility, respectively [52]. ICCs were calculated for  
218 eleven data points (starting from 0% of gait with 10 percentage point intervals) as well as

219 the range of motion (ROM) and peaks during gait and expressed as mean over six subjects.

220 Figure 4 shows the flowchart of the data analysis in the study.

221  Insert Figure 4

## 222 **RESULTS**

223 There was no significant difference in walking speed (1.20 m/s vs 1.22 m/s,  
224 respectively,  $p = 0.753$ ) or knee joint kinematics waveforms ( $p > 0.05$ ; Fig.5) between cluster  
225 gait and clamp gait.

226  Insert figure 5

227 The clamp method produced smaller errors in external/internal rotation,  
228 anterior/posterior and lateral/medial translations when compared to the cluster method as  
229 evaluated by the reductions in the range of Bland-Altman bias ([0.2, 4.3] vs. [-4.6, 6.9] ° in  
230 external/internal rotation; [-2.9, 13.0] vs. [-3.4, 13.7] mm in anterior/posterior translation;  
231 and [-4.7, 1.2] vs. [-7.3, 1.9] mm in lateral/medial translation) and confidence interval ([-6.1,  
232 11.3] vs. [-8.7, 12.5] ° in external/internal rotation; [-2.6, 13.4] vs. [-6.2, 15.4] mm in  
233 anterior/posterior translation; and [-9.2, 2.5] vs. [-16.8, 7.9] mm in lateral/medial  
234 translation) as well as the mean RMSEs ( $3.3 \pm 0.8$  vs.  $4.6 \pm 0.9$  ° in external/internal rotation;  
235  $7.1 \pm 4.5$  vs.  $8.1 \pm 4.6$  mm in anterior/posterior translation; and  $2.9 \pm 1.4$  vs.  $5.8 \pm 2.4$  mm in  
236 lateral/medial translation). When compared to the gold standard data from the literature,  
237 the device is a better fit to the kinematics in the transverse plane, as assessed by the greater  
238  $r^2$  ( $0.60 \pm 0.06$  vs.  $0.20 \pm 0.02$  in external/internal rotation;  $0.61 \pm 0.15$  vs.  $0.40 \pm 0.21$  in  
239 anterior/posterior translation; and  $0.63 \pm 0.18$  vs.  $0.28 \pm 0.06$  mm in lateral/medial  
240 translation,  $p = 0.031$ ).

241  Insert figure 6 and TABLE 1.

242 For 13 data points of interest during clamp gait, ICCs ranged from 0.50 to 0.96 in the  
243 cluster method and ranged from 0.61 to 0.98 in the clamp method. When compared to the  
244 cluster method, the device improved the inter-operator reliability in abduction/adduction  
245 (0.84 vs. 0.70,  $p=0.001$ ), external/internal rotation (0.84 vs. 0.72,  $p=0.017$ ),  
246 anterior/posterior (0.84 vs. 0.70,  $p=0.004$ ), and lateral/medial (0.88 vs. 0.76,  $p=0.001$ )  
247 translations.

248 Insert TABLE 2

249

## 250 DISCUSSION

251 The purpose of this study was to present and assess a femoral device to reduce STA,  
252 which is a major limitation in the measurement of full 6DOFs of knee joint kinematics. The  
253 first key finding was that our proposed device did not change the walking speed and the  
254 natural knee kinematics pattern of subjects, enabling the use of this device in gait analysis.

255 Previous studies comparing knee joint kinematics measured concurrently during gait  
256 from surface markers and using the fluoroscopic imaging found the rotation errors to be up  
257 to 7.5° [53] and translation errors up to 7 mm [54] in the non-sagittal plane. In particular,  
258 external/internal rotation and lateral/medial translation displayed the largest errors in  
259 functional activities [53,54]. The errors reported from the cluster method were in the same  
260 range as these prior studies in the non-sagittal plane. For the new clamp device there was a  
261 decrease in measured knee translation and rotation errors in the transverse plane and the  
262 results were a better fit to the gold standard measurements from the literature. This  
263 suggests that there is a reduction in the relative transverse movement between the clamp  
264 and the femur compared to the cluster-based technique, resulting in an improvement in the

265 measurement reliability. As there was a reduction in errors in tracking the femur, this might  
266 result in an improvement in the measurement of hip joint kinematics, although this wasn't  
267 assessed in this study.

268         The new device still showed considerable knee superior/inferior translation and this  
269 amount of translation is not seen in direct measures using bone pins and imaging [25, 37].  
270 This DOF also had the lowest ICC. Therefore, the method should not be used to comment on  
271 absolute values and patterns of superior/inferior translation at the knee.

272         The intra-operator reliability of the custom-made cluster used in the study has been  
273 reported previously [43]. Other researchers also investigated inter-operator reliability using  
274 the cluster method for knee rotations [55]. Although the use of different reliability index  
275 impedes the direct comparison, similar findings have been obtained: the reliability was low  
276 in the non-sagittal plane with the lowest value for knee abduction/adduction. The use of the  
277 clamp provided a more reliable measure of knee joint kinematics in the non-sagittal plane,  
278 which may partly be due to the reduced STA. Furthermore, the femoral clamp appears to  
279 have less uncertainty in reinstallation than the thigh cluster, as it will only stabilise on the  
280 thigh when it is properly positioned. However, the mean and the range of ICCs for knee  
281 rotations were slightly lower in this study when compared to other similar clamps (i.e., the  
282 KneeKG with ICCs ranging from 0.89 to 0.94, compared to 0.84 to 0.90 here [57]). The mass  
283 of the clamp made from PCL presented here (63 g) is significantly less than other similar  
284 clamps (with mass ranging from 125 g [1] to 180 g [42]). Therefore, it is expected that, an  
285 improved fixation of the stabilising bar with the femoral clamp may further reduce the  
286 effect of gravity and improve its reliability; this is being investigated.

287           There were some limitations to this study. First, sizing of this device could be  
288 improved and even customised through using rapid manufacturing techniques. The current  
289 device was only suited for medium-sized knees and additional sizes with different arch width  
290 would be required for very large or very small knees, as the fit of the arch to the femoral  
291 epicondyles is a key component of the device's tracking capability. Secondly, as an  
292 assessment of the accuracy, the gold standard knee joint kinematics from the literature was  
293 collected for a different subject group walking on a treadmill at a preferred reduced walking  
294 speed. Simultaneous data collection with fluoroscopy was not possible in this study and this  
295 may explain the considerable errors in knee flexion/extension from both methods.  
296 Furthermore, this study was limited to young, healthy subjects and so future work should  
297 focus on using subjects that reflect a clinical population.

298           In conclusion, the results partially support the hypothesis that for self-selected  
299 walking, our proposed device is more accurate and reliable in measuring knee joint  
300 kinematics than a conventional rigid cluster-based method in the transverse plane.

301

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306

307

1 **NOMENCLATURE**

<i>DOFs</i>	degrees-of-freedom
<i>ICC</i>	Intra-class correlation coefficient
<i>PLA</i>	poly lactic acid
PCL	polycaprolactone
<i>RMSE</i>	root mean square error
<i>ROM</i>	range of motion
<i>SPM</i>	statistical parametric mapping
<i>STA</i>	soft tissue artefact

2

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### Figure Captions List

Fig. 1

The femoral clamp (a) and its lateral (b) and frontal (c) view on the thigh segment; the lateral femoral pad is placed at the posterior aspect of the lateral epicondyle and the medial femoral pad is placed at the superior aspect of the medial epicondyle; (d) the soft tissue can move around the axis of rotation without affecting the clamp attachments.

Fig.2

Marker placement for the cluster-based gait methodology. Markers are placed on: right anterior superior iliac spine (RASIS), left anterior superior iliac spine (LASIS), right posterior superior iliac spine (RPSIS), left posterior superior iliac spine (LPSIS), medial femoral epicondyle (MFE), lateral femoral epicondyle (LFE), medial malleolus (MM), lateral malleolus (LM), second metatarsal head (MTHII), fifth metatarsal head (MTHV), lateral calcaneus (LCAL) and posterior calcaneus (PCAL).

Fig.3

Local coordinate systems of the thigh and shank segments: the lateral – medial (LM) axis is the cross product of the anterior – posterior (AP) and superior – inferior (SI) axes, pointing laterally. The red dots represent the origins; the black dots represent the medial/lateral femoral epicondyles; and the white dots represent the centres of two circles fitted to the medial and lateral plateaus.

Fig. 4 Data analysis flowchart.

Fig. 5 Comparison of mean (solid line) and standard deviation (shaded area)

knee joint kinematics waveforms between cluster gait and clamp gait for one representative subject. Knee flexion(+)/extension(-), abduction(+)/adduction(-), external(+)/internal(-) rotation, anterior(+)/posterior(-), superior(+)/inferior(-) and lateral(+)/medial(-) translations are measured using the cluster method. The horizontal dashed line indicates the critical thresholds ( $t^* = 31.757$ ,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ). Regions of the gait cycle for which SPM  $\{t\}$  exceeded the critical threshold are considered as statistically significant differences.

Fig. 6 Knee joint kinematics (mean in solid line and standard deviation in shaded area) measured using the cluster method and the clamp method during clamp gait (left panel) for one representative subject, compared to the literature [44]. The differences in eleven data points digitised from the ensemble average kinematics during stance (0-60% of gait, starting from 0% of gait with 6 percentage point intervals) in comparison with the literature are represented in the Bland-Altman plots (right panel) with the corresponding root mean square error (RMSE) and coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ).

1

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#### Table Caption List

Table 1 The accuracy of knee joint kinematics as measured using the cluster method and the clamp method during clamp gait, in comparison with the literature data [44]. Bland-Altman bias (B) and confidence interval (CI) are

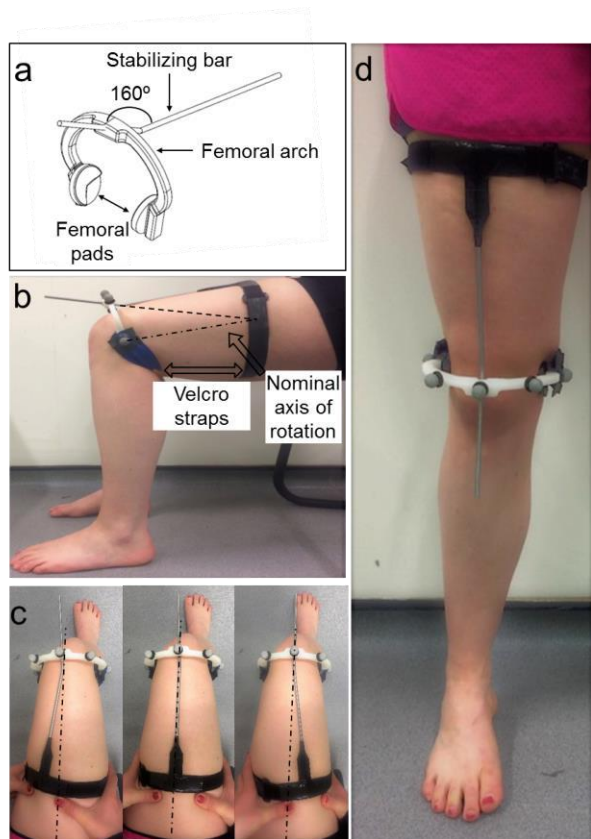
expressed as range; root mean square error (RMSE) and coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) are expressed as mean (standard deviation) across six subjects. The non-parametric Wilcoxon signed rank test is performed to compare the differences in RMSE and  $r^2$  between the two methods.

Table 2 Inter-operator reliability to measure knee joint kinematics using the cluster method in comparison with the clamp method during clamp gait. The intra-class correlation coefficients (ICCs) are calculated for the range of motion (ROM), peak, eleven points during the gait cycle (starting from 0% of gait with 10 percentage point intervals) and expressed as mean across six subjects. The non-parametric Wilcoxon signed rank test is performed to compare the differences in ICCs between the two methods.

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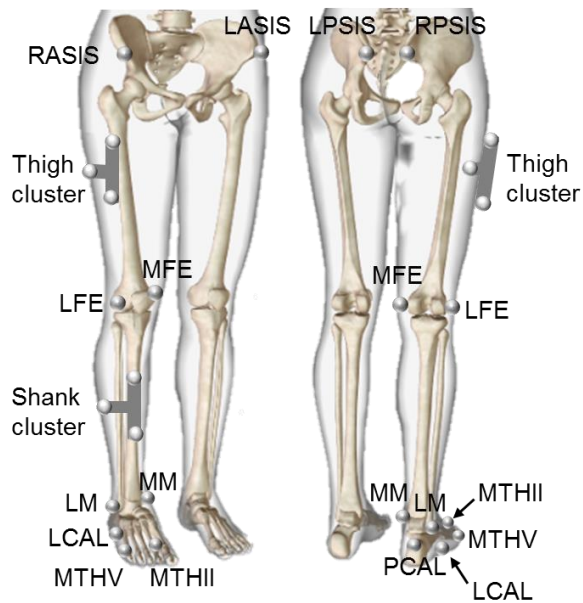


1

2 **Fig.1.** The femoral clamp (a) and its lateral (b) and frontal (d) view on the thigh segment; the  
3 lateral femoral pad is placed at the posterior aspect of the lateral epicondyle and the medial  
4 femoral pad is placed at the superior aspect of the medial epicondyle; (c) the soft tissue can  
5 move around the axis of rotation without affecting the clamp attachments.

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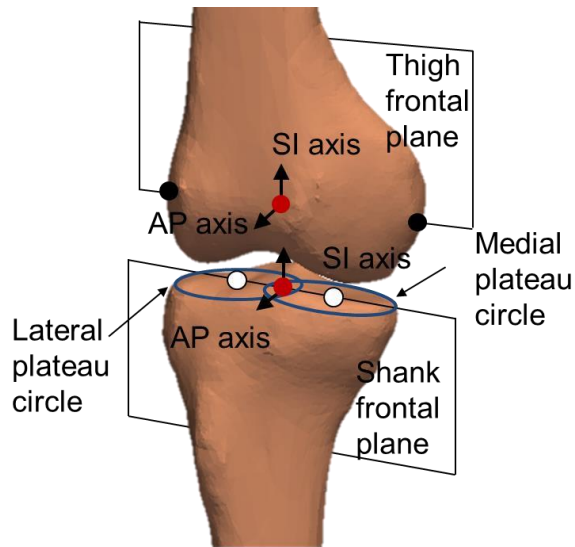
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2 **Fig.2** Marker placement for the cluster-based gait methodology. Markers are placed on: right  
3 anterior superior iliac spine (RASIS), left anterior superior iliac spine (LASIS), right posterior  
4 superior iliac spine (RPSIS), left posterior superior iliac spine (LPSIS), medial femoral  
5 epicondyle (MFE), lateral femoral epicondyle (LFE), medial malleolus (MM), lateral malleolus  
6 (LM), second metatarsal head (MTHII), fifth metatarsal head (MTHV), lateral calcaneus  
(LCAL) 7 and posterior calcaneus (PCAL).

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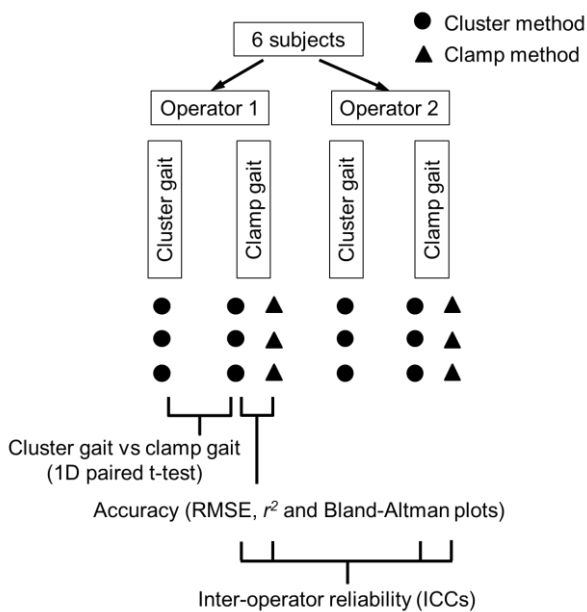


1

2 **Fig.3** Local coordinate systems of the thigh and shank segments: the lateral – medial (LM)  
axis

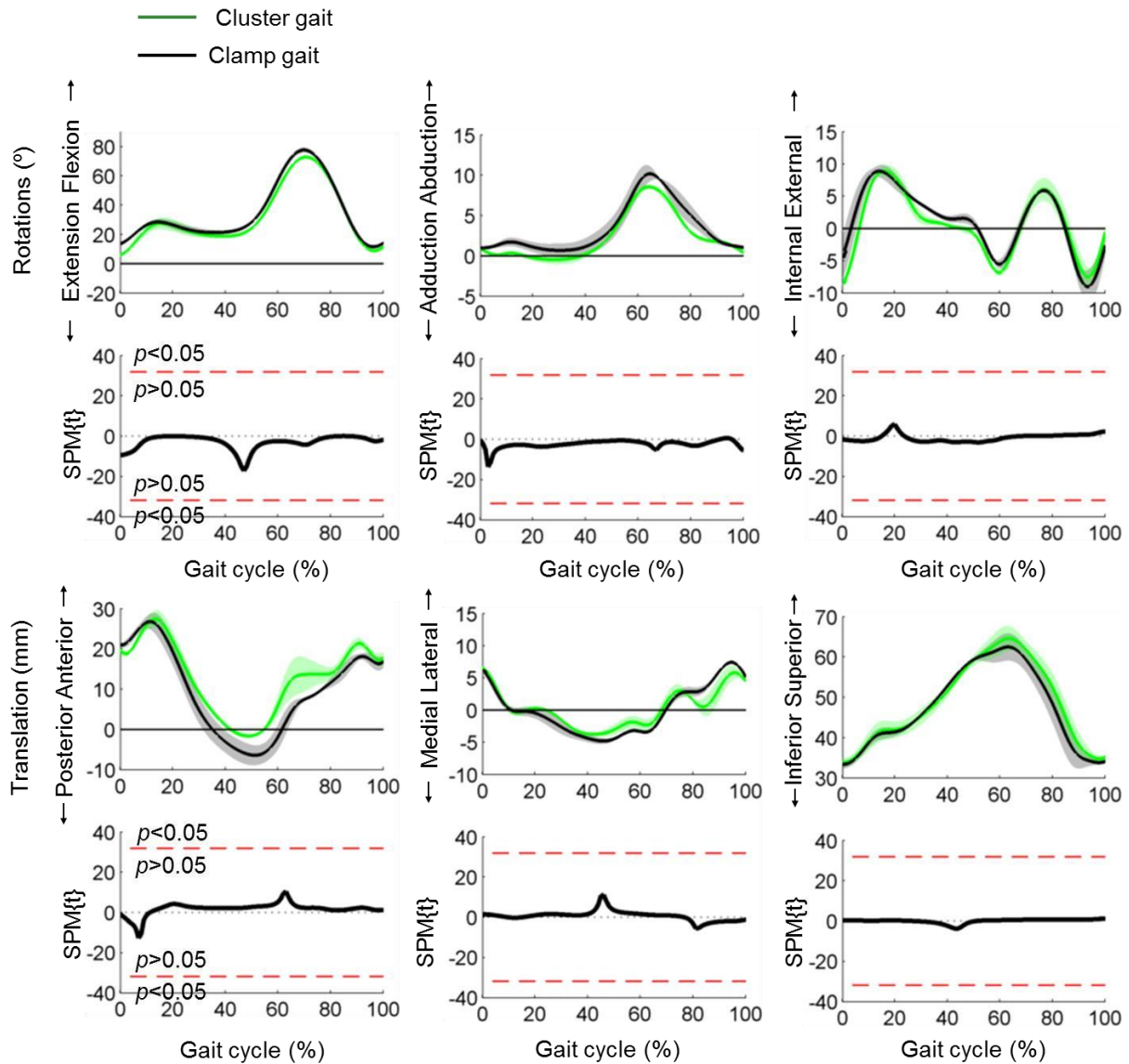
3 is the cross product of the anterior – posterior (AP) and superior – inferior (SI) axes, pointing  
4 laterally. The red dots represent the origins of the thigh and the shank; the black dots  
5 represent the medial/lateral femoral epicondyles; and the white dots represent the centres  
6 of two circles fitted to the medial and lateral plateaus.

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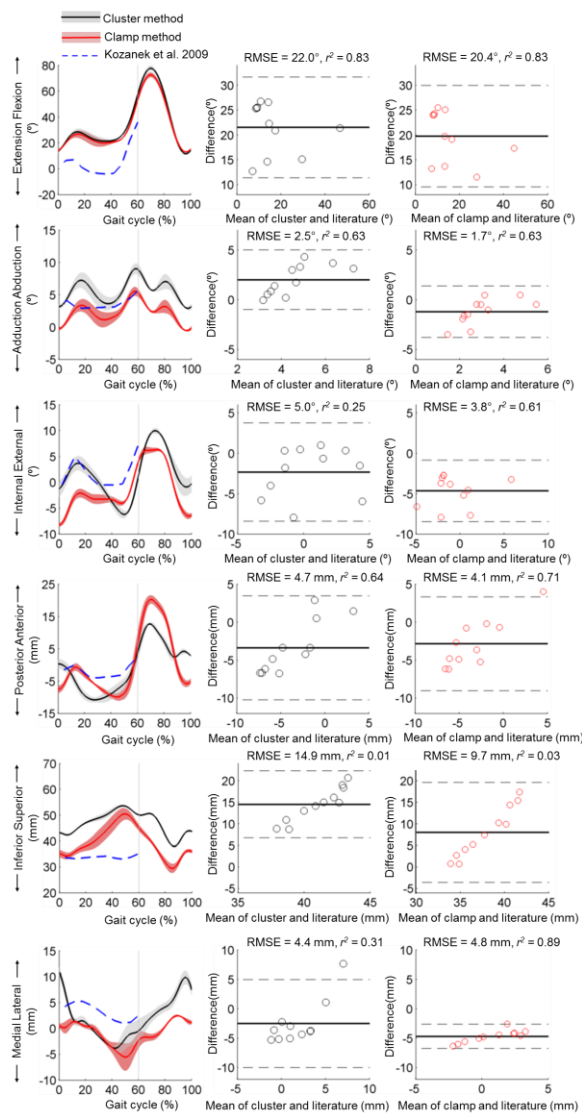


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2 **Fig.4** Data analysis flowchart.



1  
 2 **Fig.5.** Comparison of mean (solid line) and standard deviation (shaded area) knee joint kinematics  
 3 waveforms between cluster gait and clamp gait for one representative subject. Knee  
 4 flexion(+)/extension(-), abduction(+)/adduction(-), external(+)/internal(-) rotation,  
 5 anterior(+)/posterior(-), superior(+)/inferior(-) and lateral(+)/medial(-) translations are measured  
 6 using the cluster method. The horizontal dashed line indicates the critical thresholds ( $t^* = 31.757$ ,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ). Regions of the gait cycle for which SPM {t} exceeded the critical threshold are considered  
 as  
 8 statistically significant differences.



1

2 **Fig.6.** Knee joint kinematics (mean in solid line and standard deviation in shaded area)

3 measured using the cluster method and the clamp method during clamp gait (left panel) for

4 one representative subject, compared to the literature [44]. The differences in eleven data

5 points digitised from the ensemble average kinematics during stance (0-60% of gait, starting

6 from 0% of gait with 6 percentage point intervals) in comparison with the literature are

7 represented in the Bland-Altman plots (right panel) with the corresponding root mean

8 square error (RMSE) and coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ).

Table 1. The accuracy of knee joint kinematics as measured using the I cluster method and the clamp method during clamp gait, in comparison with the literature data [44]. Bland-Altman bias (B) and confidence interval (CI) are expressed as range; room mean square error (RMSE) and coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) are expressed as mean (standard deviation) across six subjects. The non-parametric Wilcoxon signed rank test is performed to compare the differences in RMSE and  $r^2$  between the two methods.

	<u>Fle/ext (°)</u>				<u>Abd/add (°)</u>				<u>Ext/int (°)</u>			
	<u>B</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>RMSE</u>	<u><math>r^2</math></u>	<u>B</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>RMSE</u>	<u><math>r^2</math></u>	<u>B</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>RMSE</u>	<u><math>r^2</math></u>
cluster	-2.1,21.5	-12.3, 32.1	11.2(6.1)	0.85(0.03)	-4.0,3.2	-8.4,7.2	2.9(1.2)	0.61(0.14)	-4.8, 6.9	-8.7,12.5	4.6(0.9)	0.20(0.02)
clamp	-0.5,19.8	-8.6,30.6	11.5(5.7)	0.84(0.02)	-4.2,1.2	-6.8,5.3	2.6(0.8)	0.57(0.08)	0.2,4.3	-6.1,11.3	3.3(0.8)	0.60(0.06)
<u>p-value</u>			<u>0.688</u>	<u>0.688</u>			<u>0.688</u>	<u>0.219</u>			<u>0.219</u>	<u>0.031*</u>
	<u>Ant/pos (mm)</u>				<u>Sup/inf (mm)</u>				<u>Lat/med (mm)</u>			
	<u>B</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>RMSE</u>	<u><math>r^2</math></u>	<u>B</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>RMSE</u>	<u><math>r^2</math></u>	<u>B</u>	<u>CI</u>	<u>RMSE</u>	<u><math>r^2</math></u>
cluster	-3.4,13.7	-6.2, 15.4	8.1(4.6)	0.40(0.21)	2.9,15.5	-5.3,32.3	12.9(4.9)	0.02(0.01)	-7.3, 1.9	-16.8,7.9	5.8(2.4)	0.28(0.06)
clamp	-2.9,13.0	-2.6,13.4	7.1(4.5)	0.61(0.15)	-3.6,10.7	-15.7,37.0	11.2(5.4)	0.01(0.01)	-4.7,1.2	-9.2,2.5	2.9(1.4)	0.63(0.18)
<u>p-value</u>			<u>0.688</u>	<u>0.031*</u>			<u>0.688</u>	<u>1.000</u>			<u>0.319</u>	<u>0.031*</u>

Fle/ext = flexion/extension, Abd/add = abduction/adduction, Ext/int = external/internal rotation, Ant/pos = anterior/posterior translation,

Sup/inf = superior/inferior translation, Lat/med = lateral/medial translation. \* indicates significantly different ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

Table 2. Inter-operator reliability to measure knee joint kinematics using the cluster method in comparison with the clamp method during clamp gait. The intra-class correlation coefficients (ICCs) are calculated for the range of motion (ROM), peak, eleven points during the gait cycle (starting

from 0% of gait with 10 percentage point intervals) and expressed as mean across six subjects. The non-parametric Wilcoxon signed rank test was performed to compare the differences in ICCs between the two methods.

	ICC											
	Fle/ext		Abd/add		Ext/int		Ant/pos		Sup/inf		Lat/med	
	Cluster	Clamp	Cluster	Clamp	Cluster	Clamp	Cluster	Clamp	Cluster	Clamp	Cluster	Clamp
ROM	0.96	0.92	0.79	0.81	0.82	0.94	0.66	0.83	0.85	0.94	0.73	0.88
Peak	0.94	0.93	0.80	0.80	0.62	0.84	0.74	0.76	0.59	0.92	0.71	0.90
0% Gait	0.91	0.88	0.70	0.79	0.55	0.90	0.72	0.87	0.65	0.78	0.75	0.79
10% Gait	0.87	0.86	0.72	0.76	0.78	0.87	0.74	0.81	0.67	0.78	0.73	0.93
20% Gait	0.88	0.81	0.67	0.90	0.72	0.78	0.79	0.94	0.74	0.90	0.85	0.98
30% Gait	0.94	0.95	0.63	0.82	0.88	0.80	0.78	0.90	0.92	0.80	0.77	0.86
40% Gait	0.88	0.94	0.71	0.97	0.83	0.92	0.85	0.84	0.90	0.94	0.70	0.88
50% Gait	0.92	0.87	0.69	0.80	0.82	0.80	0.83	0.90	0.60	0.92	0.78	0.77
60% Gait	0.94	0.93	0.77	0.94	0.81	0.88	0.68	0.75	0.76	0.94	0.73	0.96
70% Gait	0.94	0.90	0.61	0.77	0.54	0.80	0.50	0.84	0.69	0.62	0.67	0.84
80% Gait	0.91	0.87	0.69	0.89	0.59	0.78	0.50	0.83	0.63	0.61	0.81	0.88
90% Gait	0.96	0.96	0.52	0.85	0.70	0.85	0.52	0.92	0.77	0.91	0.76	0.86
100% Gait	0.80	0.83	0.77	0.78	0.68	0.76	0.82	0.71	0.85	0.78	0.85	0.94
Mean	0.91	0.90	0.70	0.84	0.72	0.84	0.70	0.84	0.74	0.83	0.76	0.88
<i>p</i> -value	0.245		0.001*		0.017*		0.004*		0.180		0.001*	

Fle/ext = flexion/extension, Abd/add = abduction/adduction, Ext/int = external/ internal rotation, Ant/pos = anterior/posterior translation,

Sup/inf = superior/inferior translation, Lat/med = lateral/medial translation. \*indicates significantly different ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).



