



Title Static and/or Dynamic Vertical Platform Posturography
Agency HAS, Haute Autorité de Santé/French National Authority for Health
2, avenue du Stade de France, FR-93218 Saint-Denis La Plaine Cedex, France;
Tel: +33 1 55 93 71 12, Fax: +33 1 55 93 74 35; contact.seap@has-sante.fr, www.has-sante.fr
Reference www.has-sante.fr/portail/display.jsp?id=c_576214

Aim

To assess the expected benefit of analyzing static and/or dynamic vertical postural control on a force platform (forceplate).

Conclusions and results

The assessment will advise the French National Health Insurance (NHI) on including the technique on the list of reimbursed procedures. The assessment was requested by UNCAM (French National Union of Health Insurance Funds) and SOFMER (*Société française de médecine physique et de réadaptation*, French society of physical medicine and rehabilitation). HAS examined the indications, efficacy, and safety of the technique and its contribution to the care strategy.

- Computer-assisted posturography quantifies the balance disorder, documents each of the sensory components (proprioceptive, visual, vestibular) that help maintain postural stability, and analyses postural abnormalities and the risks of falling. It is a second-line procedure used as an adjunct to clinical examination and conventional tests.
- Several clinical assessment studies have established the expected benefits of the technique. The technique should be performed only in individuals with serious, progressive disorders. It is used to:
 - evaluate balance and postural control particularly in patients suffering from vestibular and neurological disorders and in elderly patients. The aim is to select therapy for balance disorders and the prevention of falls.
 - evaluate the benefit of different therapeutic procedures on balance in disabled people.
- No complications are associated with the technique. The examination must, however, be conducted under safe conditions to avoid any risk of the patient falling.

Methods

HAS' method for assessing the expected clinical benefit of medical or surgical procedures is based on a critical appraisal of published scientific data and on the expert opinion of a multidisciplinary working group of health-care professionals. Several databases (MEDLINE, the Cochrane Library, National Guideline Clearinghouse, HTA Database) were searched (January 1995 to February 2007). Studies assessing a) the technical performance of the equipment (reproducibility studies) and b) the expected benefits in terms of treatment efficacy and performance were selected for analysis. A working group (specialists in physical medicine and rehabilitation, ENT, neurology, sports medicine and sports traumatology, and orthopedic surgery) reviewed the results of this analysis.