Methods

- Four physical therapists with various amounts of BBTW training and clinical experience assessed direction of balance loss in 10 healthy volunteers to determine where to apply weights.
- Subjects were assessed by at least two therapists.
- Therapists assessed at least six subjects.
- Each subject had 30 minutes between sessions; all weighting sessions were videotaped and completed within a four-hour period.
- Six trained reviewers then viewed videos and scored balance loss following perturbations. At least four reviewers examined videos for each therapist.

RESULTS

- Reliability of the balance loss scale was > 0.90.
- ICCs ranged from 0.57 to 0.78 within the four therapists.
- Agreement within one point for each perturbation scored on the rubric across five to six reviewers for each therapist ranged from 0.80 to 0.93.
- The highest ICCs and agreement values were consistently aligned with the most experienced therapist.

OBJECTIVE

- Examine the inter-rater reliability of the BBTW method with a focus on assessing direction of balance loss.

REFERENCES


CONCLUSION

- Assessing direction of balance loss has moderate to good inter-rater reliability and good to excellent agreement.
- These results support BBTW as a promising intervention. Clinicians and reviewers can be trained to provide reliable results although intermittent review of the scoring rubric after practice assessing balance loss is recommended.