

Is it possible to predict the effect of balance training based on networks in the brain in children with cerebral palsy?

No registrations found.

Ethical review	Positive opinion
Status	Recruiting
Health condition type	-
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON29671

Source

NTR

Brief title

CP-RehOP

Health condition

Impaired balance control in children with spastic cerebral palsy

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Project leader; Prof. Dr. J.G. Becher

Principal investigator: Dr. Pieter Meyns

Sponsor: VU University Medical Center Amsterdam
Dept. of Rehabilitation Medicine

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Subsidising party: European Commission – Marie Skłodowska-Curie action (European fellowship – proposal 660458)

Intervention

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

The Pediatric Balance Scale (PBS) will be evaluated as the main outcome of balance control.

Secondary outcome

Additional balance control measures, such as:

1. 'balance' and 'running speed and agility' subtest of the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency
2. Trunk Control Measurement Scale
3. Sensory Organization Test
4. Spatio-temporal and kinematic gait parameters during unperturbed and perturbed walking
5. Maximum Lyapunov Exponents
6. Gait sensitivity Norm
7. Foot Placement Estimator

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) measures of the brain, such as:

1. structural brain Magnetic Resonance Imaging scans (T1 & FLAIR)
2. Diffusion tensor imaging scans
3. resting-state functional MRI scans

Study description

Background summary

Rationale: Children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) typically experience sensorimotor disorders such as a spastic paresis with muscle weakness, abnormal muscle activity, and ataxia. Poor balance control during standing and walking is a primary deficit in CP, which has a large impact on a child's daily life. To improve their mobility, adequate treatment is essential. However, studies investigating the effectiveness of balance rehabilitation in CP have revealed mixed results. This is due to two reasons. First, due to the various clinical scales and experimental measures available, measuring varying components of balance, it is very complex to diagnose deficits in balance control in CP. Second, it is currently unknown which are the underlying neural causes of poor balance control in CP. Research is needed to provide fundamental insights in both areas.

Objective: First, it will be investigated which is the best diagnostic tool for imbalance in CP. Second, it will be determined whether balance training can promote balance control in CP, and whether the improvements will be maintained after a follow-up period of 6 weeks. Third, the structural and functional brain networks involved in balance control in CP will be examined and whether advances in balance control can be predicted from the neuroimaging data. Finally, it will be investigated whether advances in balance control are supported by neuroplastic changes.

Study design: RCT

Study population: Thirty-one children with spastic CP and ten typically developing (TD) children will be recruited in total (8-14 years old). All will be part of the two parts of the current proposal (A. pre-training/cross-sectional part; and B. post-training/longitudinal part). TD children are recruited to determine baseline balance deficits in CP and investigate differences in neuroplastic changes after training between both groups. Ten additional age-matched children with spastic CP will be recruited, which will receive the same assessments but will not be included in the balance training program (to compare with the group that did receive training for evaluation of the neuroplasticity after training).

Intervention (if applicable): For home-based balance training all participants will use the X-box One Kinect (Microsoft). Children will undergo a 6 week training program (5x/week, 30min/session) using Kinect games with a focus on balance.

Main study parameters/endpoints: The primary outcome of balance control that will be investigated is the Pediatric Balance Scale. Additional (secondary) balance outcomes during standing and walking will be assessed with clinical balance tests ('balance' and 'running speed and agility' subtest of the Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency, Trunk Control Measurement Scale) and experimental measures during standing and on an instrumented treadmill (kinematic, kinetic and EMG). During standing the Sensory Organization Test will be evaluated to assess the individual's ability to use visual, proprioceptive and vestibular cues to maintain postural stability in stance, using posturography. During gait, spatiotemporal gait parameters (step width, variability measures, whole body centre-of-mass movement), the Maximum Lyapunov Exponent, gait sensitivity norm, and Foot Placement Estimator will be included to assess gait stability. Brain neuroimaging data includes structural (T1-weighted/Flair) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), diffusion tensor imaging, and resting state-fMRI. All measured pre and post training.

Nature and extent of the burden and risks associated with participation, benefit and group relatedness: Visits for baseline measurement will be scheduled simultaneously with regular

consultancies if possible, to limit the number of visits to the medical center. If possible the clinical and experimental balance measurements and the MRI scans will be attempted to be performed on the same day or adjacent days. If necessary for logistic reasons or if preferred by the patient and parents/guardians the measurements can be split into separate sessions. The length of the scanning procedure proposed is about 30 minutes. Lying still for this amount of time might be burdensome for some children. Combined the balance measurements (and logistics) will take approximately 4 hours. Home-based training will be 6 weeks, some burden is expected from playing these games at home for the children and their parents. Post-training measurements (same as baseline) will be performed after the training period. Baseline as well as post-training measurements are non-invasive. Additionally, a follow-up measurement will be performed 6 weeks after the end of the training (which will include only balance assessment, no MRI). Practical relevance of the study is that this extensive evaluation of balance combined with training and brain imaging could contribute to improving balance management in CP in the (near) future.

Children with spastic CP between the ages of 8 and 14 years old will be investigated as balance control is a major issue in this population. This age range was chosen as these children are most likely sufficiently cooperative to perform the balance and MRI assessments, and will be expected to show more neuroplastic changes due to balance training than adolescents and adults.

Study objective

First, it will be investigated which is the best diagnostic tool for imbalance in CP.

Second, it will be determined whether balance training can promote balance control in CP, and whether the improvements will be maintained after a follow-up period of 6 weeks.

Third, the structural and functional brain networks involved in balance control in CP will be examined and whether advances in balance control can be predicted from the neuroimaging data.

Finally, it will be investigated whether advances in balance control are supported by neuroplastic changes.

Study design

At baseline all primary and secondary outcomes will be measured.

6 weeks after baseline (i.e. post-training), all primary and secondary outcomes will be measured again.

12 weeks after baseline (i.e. follow-up), all primary and secondary outcomes will be measured again (except for the MRI scans).

Intervention

For balance training the latest serious gaming product; X-box One Kinect (Microsoft) will be used.

The 31 children with cerebral palsy in the intervention group and the 10 typically developing children will undergo a 6 week training program (5x/week, 30min/session). Kinect games with a focus on balancing movements will be used (Kinect Sports Rivals, and Kinect Dance Central). The intervention will be performed at home.

The 10 children with CP in the control group will not receive the balance training.

Contacts

Public

VU University Medical Center,
P.O. Box 7057
J.G. Becher
Amsterdam 1007 MB
The Netherlands
+31 (0)20 4440763

Scientific

VU University Medical Center,
P.O. Box 7057
J.G. Becher
Amsterdam 1007 MB
The Netherlands
+31 (0)20 4440763

Eligibility criteria

Inclusion criteria

- diagnosis of bilateral spastic CP, lower limbs more involved than the upper limbs;*
- 8-14 years;
- GMFCS level 2;*
- able to stand independently for 2 min;
- Child and Parent/guardian consent;

- Sufficient cooperation & cognitive skills: able to follow simple instructions & complete the measurements.
 - MRI can be performed without general anesthesia.
- * criteria for children with CP, not for the typically developing control children.

Exclusion criteria

- orthopaedic surgery or other surgery in the past twelve months that might influence mobility;
- Botulinum Toxin A injections in the past six months;
- Selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) in the past year;
- Vestibular deficits, benign vertigo or unstable epilepsy;
- Claustrophobia;
- Pacemaker or other non-removable magnetic metal-containing objects;
- Not able to lie still for the duration of the scan;
- Not willing to hear about 'incidental findings', potential unforeseen, clinically relevant abnormalities found in the MRI images

Study design

Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Placebo

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Recruiting
Start date (anticipated):	05-09-2016
Enrollment:	51
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Positive opinion	
Date:	26-08-2016
Application type:	First submission

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register ID

NTR-new NL5854

NTR-old NTR6034

Other Marie Skłodowska-Curie intra-European fellowship (European Commission) / METC VUmc : 660458 / 2016.175

Study results