

1 **Title: “Fast gait speed and self-perceived balance as valid predictors and discriminators of**
2 **independent community walking at 6 months post-stroke.**

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41

42 **Abstract**

43 **Purpose:** To determine the validity of walking speed, muscle strength, function of the
44 hemiparetic lower limb and self-perceived balance to predict and discriminate independent
45 community walkers (ICW) within the first 6 months post-stroke.

46 **Methods:** Inpatients with a first ischemic stroke (<3 months), able to walk, were evaluated
47 (T0) and re-evaluated after 6 months post-stroke (T1). Comfortable, fast speed and the
48 difference between fast and comfortable speed, muscle strength of knee flexors and
49 extensors, sensory-motor function of the hemiparetic lower limb and self-perceived balance
50 were assessed at T0 and T1. At T1, a self-reported question was used to discriminate ICW vs
51 Dependent Community Walkers (DCW). ROC curve analysis was used to determine valid
52 predictive (T0) and discriminative (T1) cut-offs of ICW.

53 **Results:** Only 25.7% of the 35 participants were ICW at T1. Valid predictive cut-offs at T0
54 were found for fast speed (≥ 0.42 m/s) and Falls Efficacy Scale (<57). Valid discriminators
55 were found at T1 for fast speed (> 0.84 m/s) and FES (<18.50).

56 **Conclusion:** Fast speed and self-perceived balance appear to be important characteristics of
57 ICW at 6 months and may be useful early predictors of the potential for patients to achieve
58 this. Further research is needed to ensure the precision of these functional cut-offs.

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60

61

62 **Implications for Rehabilitation:**

63 1) Prognostic information is important for people with stroke and health services. The ability to walk
64 faster than 0.42m/s and a fear of falling on the Falls Efficacy Scale of less than 57 in the first 3
65 months after stroke predict who will be an independent community walker at 6 months.

66

67 2) At 6 months after stroke, people who cannot walk faster than 0.84m/s or who have a have Falls
68 Efficacy Scale score <18.5 are unlikely to be walking independently in the community.

69

70 3) Rehabilitation to promote independent walking should focus on walking speed, balance re-
71 education and strategies to reduce fear of falling.

72

73

74 **Background**

75

76 Stroke is a major cause of disability worldwide [1, 2]. For many patients, improving
77 walking ability after a stroke is one of the most important goals [3], that is only accomplished
78 when they are able to walk independently in the community [3, 4].

79 Community walking (CW) has been defined as the ability to confidently walk in
80 outdoor terrains [5], enabling visits to the supermarket, shopping and banking and enabling
81 participation in social events or recreation activities [3]. Based on this definition, several
82 functional measures have been used to reflect the dimensions of CW, in particular distance
83 and temporal components and postural stability [6]. Walking speed has been considered a key
84 outcome associated with CW [7] based on the assumption that subjects who cannot walk fast
85 enough to safely cross the road or perform activities such as shopping with adequate speed
86 will avoid walking in these out-of-home contexts [8]. However, using walking speed as a
87 proxy measure for CW has been criticised, in part because there is a lack of consensus about
88 the required speed to walk independently in the community after a stroke [8]. Therefore,
89 other functional measures, such as balance have been considered relevant for describing the
90 CW [9, 10], as it could capture complementary aspects of this ability, providing information
91 on the maintenance of postural stability while walking around physical obstacles [9].

92 Muscle strength and motor function of the hemiparetic lower limb have also been
93 considered important components of functional walking capacity in the clinical context [11,
94 12], but no studies have explored their relevance for discriminating different dependency
95 levels of CW post-stroke. Theoretically, it may be possible to identify cut-off values for
96 various functional components of walking which may have the potential to predict and
97 discriminate different dependency levels of CW.

98 The aim of this study was to determine the potential of functional measures such as
99 walking speed, muscle strength, function of the hemiparetic lower limb and self-perceived
100 balance to predict and discriminate independent walkers in community within the first 6
101 months post-stroke.

102

103 **Methods**

104 **2.1. Design and Participants**

105 A diagnostic study was conducted in four hospitals of the central region of Portugal.
106 The study received full approval from the Institutional Ethics Committees of each hospital.
107 Inpatients with stroke were included if they (i) had a first ischemic stroke within the previous
108 3 months; (ii) were able to walk 5 meters without a walking device but with human
109 assistance, if needed; (iii) scored less than 34 on the Fugl-Meyer leg sub-scale indicating a
110 lower limb sensory-motor impairment and (iv) had no previous history of severe
111 cardiovascular diseases [13]. Subjects were excluded if they had (i) involvement of the
112 brainstem or cerebellum structures and (ii) a score less than 27 in the Mini-Mental State
113 Examination, indicative of cognitive impairment [14]. Before data collection, more detailed
114 information about the study was provided and written informed consent was obtained. Forty
115 subjects fulfilled the inclusion criteria and all agreed to participate in the study. Participants
116 were then evaluated (T0) and re-evaluated at 6 months post-stroke onset in their ambulatory
117 setting (T1).

118

119 **2.2. Measures and Procedures**

120 Sociodemographic and anthropometric data (age, gender, body mass index) and
121 clinical diagnosis [15] (partial anterior circulation syndrome - PACS; posterior circulation
122 syndrome - POCS; and lacunar syndromes - LACS) were obtained to characterise the sample.

123 Walking speed, muscle strength, sensory-motor function of the hemiparetic lower
124 limb and self-perceived balance were assessed at T0 and T1.

125 Walking speed is an easy and reliable measure of walking function and a highly
126 recommended tool for monitoring the progress of hemiplegic gait [16]. Walking at
127 comfortable and fast speeds provides complementary information on walking function after

128 stroke [17, 18]. Subjects with a significant difference between comfortable and fast speeds,
129 have greater potential to adapt to different modes of locomotion and, consequently, are more
130 likely to be able to walk in the community. Walking speed was assessed with the 5-meters
131 walk test (5mWT), a shortened variation of the 10-meters walk test [17] widely used in acute
132 stroke patients to minimize participant fatigue [19]. Tape was placed on the floor, following
133 the standard procedures [19]. Subjects performed three trials at their comfortable speed, with
134 a 5-minute interval between each trial and then repeated the same procedures at their fastest
135 speed.

136 Muscle strength was measured in the knee flexors and extensors of the hemiparetic
137 lower limb. A lack of knee muscle strength has been associated with reduced gait stability
138 after a stroke [20, 21]. Maximal isometric contractions values were recorded using a hand
139 held dynamometer (Microfet, Hoogan Health Industries, Draper, UT USA) following
140 standard procedures [11, 22, 23]. Three trials were performed for each muscle group, with 30
141 to 60-seconds interval between each trial.

142 Sensory-motor function of the hemiparetic lower limb was assessed using the leg sub-
143 score of the Fulg-Meyer scale. This scale is a well-designed, feasible and efficient clinical
144 method for measuring sensory-motor stroke recovery [24]. The leg sub-score is a numerical
145 scoring system for measurement of reflexes, joint range of motion, coordination and speed.
146 Each item is scored on a 3-point ordinal scale: 0=cannot perform; 1= perform partially and 2=
147 perform fully. A maximum score of 34 can be reached [25].

148 Self-perceived balance was assessed using the Falls Efficacy Scale (FES) [26], which
149 measures the fear of falling while performing common daily activities. After a stroke, the fear
150 of falling is a common cause of dependence and decline in social participation. The FES, a
151 valid and reliable measure of self-perceived balance in subjects with stroke [27, 28], is a 10-
152 item self-report questionnaire describing common daily activities, each rated from 1 (no fear

153 of falling) to 10 (fear of falling). A subject with no fear of falling scores a minimum of 10; a
154 maximum score of 100, means a substantial fear of falling.

155 The ability to walk in the community was assessed at T1 using a self-reported
156 question about difficulties in walking out of home after the stroke. Five responses were
157 provided: (1) have no difficulty in walking in the community and do not require physical
158 assistance or supervision; (2) mild difficulty in walking in the community, requiring
159 supervision to walk far away from home; (3) moderate difficulty, needing supervision to walk
160 near and far away from the home; (4) severe difficulty in walking in the community, always
161 requiring physical assistance from another person; (5) does not walk outside of the home.
162 Subjects who responded to the first category were categorized as “Independent Community
163 Walkers (ICW)”; those responding with categories 2- 5 were categorized as “Non-
164 Independent Community Walkers (NICW)”.

165

166 **2.3. Statistical Analysis**

167 Data analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences
168 (SPSS, Version 19). A significance level of 0.05 was used for all statistical tests.

169 Medians and associated confidence interval at 95% were calculated for each functional
170 measure for ICW and NICW groups. Mann-Whitney tests were performed to explore
171 significant differences between groups at T0, at T1 and in their extent of recovery,
172 considering median differences between T1 and T0. Data from functional measures were
173 used at T0 to determine functional predictors and at T1 to determine discriminative functional
174 characteristics of ICW.

175 A receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis was performed, the area
176 under the curve (AUC: fair:0.50 to 0.75; good:0.75 to 0.92; very good: 0.92 to 0.97; and
177 excellent:0.97 to 1.00, probability [29]), sensitivity (true positive rate) and specificity (false
178 negative rate) values and the percentage of agreement (the number of agreement scores
179 divided by the total number of scores; minimum acceptable is of 80% [30]) were calculated
180 to determine optimal cut-offs for functional components. An optimal cut-off is considered to
181 be the one that maximizes the sum of sensitivity and specificity (participants that were DCW
182 and are misclassified as ICW), assuming the highest sensitivity as the most important factor
183 (as the focus was on the ICW identification). The cut-off values obtained were used to stratify
184 subjects by dichotomous variables (i.e., 0="walking speed below the cut-off" or 1="walking
185 speed above the cut-off).

186

187 **3. Results**

188 **3.1. Sample characteristics**

189 Forty subjects with stroke (27 men) were assessed at T0 however, 5 participants
190 dropped out at T1 due to: another stroke episode (n=2); hip fracture (n=1) and no reasons
191 specified (n=2). Thirty-five (23 men) subjects with stroke (mean post-stroke onset of
192 45.5±22.1 days at T0) completed the study. On average, subjects with stroke were 69.3±11.2
193 years old and had a mean body mass index of 25.5±3.2kg/m². Nineteen (54%) subjects were
194 affected on the right side and 16 (46%) on the left side. The stroke event was classified as
195 PACS for 15 subjects (43%), POCS for 4 subjects (11%) and LACS for 16 subjects (46%).
196 Socio-demographic, anthropometric and clinical data of subjects with stroke are presented in
197 Table 1.

198 [Insert Table 1]
199

200 Based on the self-administered question that distinguishes 5 levels of CW, 25.7%
201 (n=9) of the subjects had no difficulty in walking in the community, 28.6% (n=10) required
202 supervision to walk far away from home, 22.9% (n=8) needed supervision to walk near or far
203 away from home, 14.3% (n=5) always required physical assistance to walk outside of the
204 home and 8.6% (n=3) could not walk in the community. Subjects allocated to the first level
205 were classified as ICW (25.7%) and the others were classified as DCW (74.3%).

206

207 Results from functional measures of ICW and DCW at T0, at T1 and median
208 differences between T1 and T0 are presented in Table 2.

209 Subjects identified as ICW presented with significantly higher comfortable walking
210 speed (p=0.005), higher fast speed (p=0.003), larger difference between fast and comfortable
211 speed (p=0.0004), higher strength of knee extensors (p=0.016) and lower scores on the FES
212 scale (p=0.002) at T0 than DCW. At T1, ICW presented with significantly higher fast speed

213 (p=0.001), larger difference between fast and comfortable speed (p=0.010) and significantly
214 lower scores on the FES scale (p=0.001) than DCW. Differences between groups in the
215 extent of recovery from T0 to T1 (median differences) were borderline significant (p=0.067)
216 for the difference between fast and comfortable speed.

217

218 [Insert Table 2]

219

220 **3.2. Functional predictors of independent walkers in the community.**

221 Table 3 presents cut-offs, AUC, sensitivity and specificity values and the percentage
222 of agreement between dichotomous functional measures at T0 and the subsequent
223 classification into ICW or DCW (T1).

224 Valid cut-offs, with a good probability (AUC between 0.75 and 0.92) of accurately
225 predicting ICW subjects at an early stage post-stroke (T0) were found for fast walking speed
226 (AUC=0.83; p=0.004) and for the FES scale (AUC=0.83; p=0.003). A cut-off of >0.42m/s
227 for fast speed correctly allocated 8 ICW and 20 NICW and misclassified 8 subjects as ICW
228 who were DCW (80% agreement). A cut-off for FES scale <57 allocated correctly 8 ICW and
229 20 DCW and misclassified 6 subjects as DCW and 1 subject as ICW (80% agreement).

230

231 [Insert Table 3]

232

233 **3.2. Functional discriminators of independent walkers in the community.**

234 Table 4 presents cut-offs, AUC, sensitivity and specificity values and the percentage
235 of agreement between dichotomous functional measures (T1) and the classification into ICW
236 or DCW (T1). Valid discriminative characteristics of ICW after a stroke were found for fast
237 speed (AUC=0.95; p=0.001) and for FES scale (AUC=0.90; p=0.001). A cut-off of >0.84m/s
238 for fast speed revealed a very good probability (AUC between 0.92 and 0.97) to properly

239 classify ICW's. This cut-off misclassified only 3 DCW that in fact were ICW (91.40 %
240 agreement). A cut-off of <18.50 for the FES scale revealed a good probability of correctly
241 classifying ICW's (AUC between 0.75 and 0.92). Using this cut-off, only 5 subjects who
242 were ICW were incorrectly classified as DCW (85.71% agreement).

243

244 [Insert Table 4]

245

246 **Discussion**

247 The main findings of this study were that fast speed and self-perceived balance were
248 valid predictors (<3 months post-stroke) and functional discriminative characteristics of ICW
249 at 6 months post-stroke. These findings confirm the importance of walking speed for CW
250 demonstrated in previous research. However, our findings are novel in identifying the
251 importance of self-perceived balance as a predictor and characteristic of independent CW.

252 From a total of 35 subjects included, only 9(25.7%) became ICW. In previous studies
253 20% to 67% of subjects became ICW, after 9 to 48 months post-stroke [31, 32]. The
254 variability found in these percentages might be a result of differences in the sample
255 characteristics (e.g. degree of functional impairment), in the time post stroke when ICW were
256 assessed or in the classification of CW. For example, some authors consider limited walkers
257 ("independent in at least one moderate community activity ... ") as ICW [32], whereas this
258 study and that of Lafuente et al. [31] used more stringent definitions e.g. an ICW is a " patient
259 that could walk to stores, friends or activities in the vicinity without physical assistance or
260 supervision".

261 In the present study, fast speed >0.42m/s and FES scale scores <57 (at <3 months
262 post-stroke) were valid predictors of ICW at 6 months. No other studies have conducted
263 longitudinal research which enables the prediction of CW ability at 6 months post-stroke,
264 based on parameters measured in the first 3 months. However, the predictive ability of

265 functional measures have been tested in other periods of early rehabilitation. Uitman et al.
266 [33] found a cut-off $>0.86\text{m/s}$ for comfortable speed, from inpatients (Functional Ambulation
267 Categories ≥ 3) at discharge from a rehabilitation setting, as a valid predictor for ICW at
268 approximately 9 months post-stroke. In addition, Bland et al. [34] found a score of >20 for
269 Berg Balance Scale at a rehabilitation centre admission, as predictive of ICW at discharge 1
270 to 2 months post-stroke [34]. These previous results revealed a tendency for walking speed
271 and measures of balance to predict ICW, which reinforce our results. There is, however, a
272 noteworthy difference between these results and those of the present study regarding the cut-
273 offs for walking speed. Contrary to the Uitman et al. [33] study, who found valid cut-offs for
274 comfortable speed, the present study only demonstrated validity cut-offs for fast speed. The
275 potential of fast walking training has been demonstrated by Lamontagne and Fung [17], in
276 terms of improvement of kinematics and muscle activation patterns. Research to test whether
277 training fast walking speed improves the number of ICW is needed.

278 Fast walking speeds $>0.84\text{m/s}$ demonstrated validity to functionally characterise ICW
279 at 6 months post-stroke. The measurement of fast speed is currently not routinely undertaken
280 during the first months of recovery, because of fears of causing fatigue or increasing the risk
281 of falls [35]. However, given the relevance of fast speed to CW ability, it is advisable that
282 research exploring the impact of various gait interventions include assessment of fast walking
283 speed.

284 Interestingly, the cut-off for fast speed identified in this study ($>0.84\text{m/s}$) was lower
285 than the cut-off for comfortable speed proposed by Lord and Rochester [3], despite both
286 studies being conducted in similar periods of stroke recovery. These differences might reflect
287 the variability in the walking test used: a 10-meter walk test was used by Lord and Rochester
288 [3] and a 5-meter walk test was used in the present study. It is known that walking speed
289 achieved in longer distances tend to be higher, compared with speed attained over short

290 distances [36]. Therefore an accepted, standardised measure of walking speed is crucial for
291 the establishment of accurate cut-offs to identify ICW.

292 In the present study, ICW were characterised by FES scores <18.50 , i.e. a very low
293 fear of falling. The FES scale assesses self-perceived balance [37], whereas other measures,
294 such as Berg Balance scale or Dynamic Gait Index [33], assess balance using direct
295 observation. Importantly, FES is a simple and quick test that may be usefully undertaken in
296 busy clinical settings to predict future walking outcomes. Functional balance and self-
297 perceived balance are not always correlated [37] and therefore these two types of measures
298 should be combined in future studies to further understand the contribution of balance to a
299 patient's reintegration in the community.

300 False positive and false negative cases demonstrated some percentage of error when
301 using the cut-offs for predicting ICW. Furthermore, the magnitude of the error may change if
302 applied to subjects with different characteristics from those included in this study. Thus, these
303 cut-offs should be applied with caution and used to inform clinicians about likely outcomes
304 and most relevant treatment plans rather than for deciding on therapy discharge. Regular
305 follow-ups to monitor recovery and accurately identify misclassified cases are recommended.

306

307 **Study limitations and recommendations for future research**

308 A number of possible limitations must be considered, regarding the present results.
309 First, it must be noted that the definition used to discriminate ICW from NICW is different
310 from others previously employed [4, 32]. A standard definition of ICW is needed to allow a
311 more equitable comparison of results across studies. Its development should account for the
312 self-reported opinion of people with stroke and their caregivers about which criteria are really
313 of importance for defining this activity.

314 In this study, subjects were assessed during the first 3 months post-stroke and
315 followed up at 6 months post-stroke. Additional gains in walking ability may be possible
316 beyond this time-point and the probability of more subjects becoming ICW might
317 subsequently increase. Therefore, follow-up subjects at longer periods post stroke i.e. 12
318 months might provide information on the statistical robustness of the cut-offs, by increasing
319 the numerical representation of ICW.

320 Data collection on muscle strength was limited to isometric strength of the knee
321 extensors and knee flexors muscles of the hemiparetic lower limb. Further research should
322 collect data on isometric muscle strength for other hip muscles and for leg muscles in both
323 hemiparetic and non-hemiparetic lower limbs. Thus, more comprehensive information will be
324 provided about the contribution of lower limb muscle strength to CW.

325 In this work, a small sample was recruited (N=35). The construction of a logistic
326 regression model, which is a popular statistical procedure to control the influence of potential
327 cofounders, was therefore not possible. To further ensure the precision of cut-offs, future
328 studies should recruit larger samples and the influence of factors e.g., age, gender, time post-
329 stroke at baseline or BMI should be considered in logistic regression models.

330

331 **Conclusion**

332 This research has confirmed that fast gait speed and self-perceived balance can predict
333 and discriminate (with 80% accuracy) those able to walk independently in the community at
334 6 months post-stroke. The 5-mWT and the FES are quick, easy and cheap tests to perform in
335 clinical practice and should be used routinely to guide goal setting and treatment planning
336 and to reduce patient uncertainty about outcomes. Interventional research should target
337 increasing walking speed, improving balance and reducing fear of falling to enhance
338 community independence post-stroke.

339

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343

344 **Declaration of interest**

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447 Table 1-Socio-demographic, anthropometric and clinical characteristics of the subjects with stroke (n=35).

| Variable | Results |
|--|---|
| Age (years) | 69.3±11.2 (44-87) |
| Gender (F:M) | 23 _M ;12 _F ; |
| BMI (Kg/m ²) | 25.5±3.2 (15.0-31.6) |
| Time post-stroke (days) | 45.5±22.1 (13.0-90.0) |
| Hemiparesis (R:L) | 19 _R ;16 _L |
| Stroke classification (PACS;POCS;LACS) | 15 _{PACS} ;4 _{POCS} ;16 _{LACS} |

448 PACS, partial anterior circulation syndrome; POCS, posterior circulation syndrome; LACS, lacunar syndromes F, female; M, male; BMI,
449 Body Mass Index; R, right; L, left.

450 Table 2. Median (95% Confidence Interval) at T0 and T1 and median differences (T1-T0) values of walking speed, balance, muscle strength
451 and sensorio-motor function of the hemiparetic lower limb for walking groups (Independent Community Walkers and Dependent
452 Community Walkers).
453

| Functional Measures | | ICW | DCW | p-value |
|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Comfortable speed (m/s) | T0 | 0.31(0.19-0.49) | 0.14 (0.13-0.21) | 0.005** |
| | T1 | 0.40(0.29-0.69) | 0.30 (0.26-0.39) | 0.061 |
| | MD | 0.06 (-0.09-0.38) | 0.17 (0.10-0.21) | 0.469 |
| Fast speed (m/s) | T0 | 0.64(0.43-1.04) | 0.21(0.22-0.42) | 0.003** |
| | T1 | 0.98(0.91-1.27) | 0.60 (0.43-0.67) | 0.001** |
| | MD | 0.34 (0.13-0.60) | 0.16 (0.14-0.33) | 0.210 |
| Fast - Comfortable (m/s) | T0 | 0.31 (0.17-0.61) | 0.10 (0.07-0.23) | 0.004** |
| | T1 | 0.58(0.39-0.83) | 0.19 (0.13-0.32) | 0.001** |
| | MD | 0.28 (-0.09-53.31) | 0.06 (-0.01-(-0.16)) | 0.067 |
| Knee extensors strength (Kg/f) | T0 | 7.57(5.98-11.10) | 6.02(4.31-6.52) | 0.016* |
| | T1 | 8.67(6.93-10.25) | 7.45(6.13-8.00) | 0.101 |
| | MD | -0.4 (-2.27-2.37) | 1.7 (0.87-2.42) | 0.239 |
| Knee flexors strength (Kg/f) | T0 | 6.0(4.30-7.11) | 4.68(3.30-5.63) | 0.342 |
| | T1 | 7.27(6.09-9.63) | 6.90(4.77-7.06) | 0.197 |
| | MD | 2.1 (0.23-4.08) | 1.53 (0.89-2.01) | 0.271 |
| Leg Sub-score (Fugl-Meyer) | T0 | 24.00(21.49-26.73) | 24.50(21.25-26.06) | 0.838 |
| | T1 | 29.00(24.73-31.94) | 28.50(24.22-29.40) | 0.697 |
| | MD | 5.00 (0.68-7.76) | 3.00 (1.72-4.59) | 0.446 |
| Falls Efficacy Scale | T0 | 28.00(16.16-52.51) | 66.50(56.00-70.92) | 0.002** |
| | T1 | 7.00(3.69-13.65) | 43.00(32.27-51.65) | 0.001** |
| | MD | -23.00 (-45.01-(-6.32)) | -19.00 (-30.89-(-12.11)) | 0.643 |

454 *p-values of Mann-Whitney test <0.05; ** p-values <0.01, for comparison between Independent Community Walkers and Dependent
455 Community Walkers. Walking speed was assessed in meters per second (m/s); Knee extensor and flexor strength was assessed in Kilograms
456 of force (Kg/f). ICW, Independent Community Walkers; DCW, Dependent Community Walkers; MD, median differences.

457
458 Table 3: Cut-off specified with area under the curve, sensitive and specificity values and percentage of agreement between dichotomous
459 functional measures at T0 and the classification into "Independent Community Walkers" and "Dependent Community Walkers" at T1.
460

| Functional Measures | Walking in the community (self-reported question) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| | T0 | AUC | Cut-off | ICW | DCW | Agreement (%) |
| Comfortable Speed | 0.81 | | >0.24m/s | 2 (TP) | 3 (FP) | 71.43 |
| | | | <0.24m/s | 7 (FN) | 23 (TN) | |
| Fast Speed | 0.83 | | >0.42m/s | 8 (TP) | 6 (FP) | 80.00 |
| | | | <0.42m/s | 1 (FN) | 20 (TN) | |
| Fast Speed-Comfortable Speed | 0.82 | | >0.16m/s | 8 (TP) | 8 (FP) | 74.28 |
| | | | <0.16m/s | 1 (FN) | 18 (TN) | |
| Knee extensor strength (Kg/f) | 0.77 | | >6.22kg/f | 9 (TP) | 12 (FP) | 65.71 |
| | | | <6.22kg7f | 0 (FN) | 14 (TN) | |
| Knee flexor strength (kg/f) | 0.61 | | >5.77 | 6 (TP) | 10 (FP) | 25.71 |
| | | | <5.77 | 3 (FN) | 16 (TN) | |
| Leg Sub-score (Fugl-Meyer) | 0.48 | | >22.50 | 7 (TP) | 16 (FP) | 48.57 |
| | | | <22.50 | 2 (FN) | 10 (TN) | |
| | | | Sensitivity= 0.78 | Specificity= 0.62 | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------------------|--|---|------|
| Falls Efficacy Scale | 0.83 | <57.00 >57.00 | 8 _(TP) 1 _(FN) | 6 _(FP) 20 _(TN) | 80.0 |
| | | | Sensitivity= 89.0 | Specificity= 23.0 | |

461 AUC: Area under the curve. AUC values should be interpreted as follows: 0.50 to 0.75 = fair; 0.75 to 0.92 = good; 0.92 to 0.97 = very good;
462 0.97 to 1.00 = excellent probability. TP, number of true positive results; FP, number of false positive results; FN, number of false negative
463 results; TN, number of true negative results. Sensitivity = TP/ (TP+FN); Specificity = FP/ (FP+TN). Agreement % = number of accurate
464 results/total. ICW, Independent Community Walkers; DCW, Dependent Community Walkers
465

466 Table 4: Cut-off specified with area under the curve, sensitive and specificity values and percentage of agreement between dichotomous
467 functional measures at T1 and walking in the community classification ("Independent Community Walkers" and "Dependent Community
468 Walkers"), at T1.

| Functional Measures | T1 | AUC | Cut-off | Walking in the community (self-reported question) | | Agreement (%) |
|--------------------------------|----|------|-----------|--|--------------------|---------------|
| | | | | ICW | NICW | |
| Comfortable Speed | | 0.71 | >0.29m/s | 7 _(TP) | 12 _(FP) | 60.0 |
| | | | <0.29m/s | 2 _(FN) | 14 _(TN) | |
| | | | | Sensitivity= 77.8 | Specificity= 46.15 | |
| Fast Speed | | 0.95 | >0.84m/s | 9 _(TP) | 3 _(FP) | 91.40 |
| | | | <0.84m/s | 0 _(FN) | 23 _(TN) | |
| | | | | Sensitivity= 1.0 | Specificity= 11.54 | |
| Fast Speed-Comfortable Speed | | 0.86 | >0.37m/s | 8 _(TP) | 8 _(FP) | 74.29 |
| | | | <0.37m/s | 1 _(FN) | 18 _(TN) | |
| | | | | Sensitivity= 89.0 | Specificity=30.77 | |
| Knee extensors strength (Kg/f) | | 0.69 | >7.44kg/f | 7 _(TP) | 13 _(FP) | 57.14 |
| | | | <7.44kg7f | 2 _(FN) | 13 _(TN) | |
| | | | | Sensitivity= 77.8 | Specificity= 50.0 | |
| Knee flexors strength (kg/f) | | 0.65 | >5.92 | 7 _(TP) | 15 _(FP) | 51.43 |
| | | | <5.92 | 2 _(FN) | 11 _(TN) | |
| | | | | Sensitivity= 77.8 | Specificity= 44.0 | |
| Leg Sub-score (Fulg-Meyer) | | 0.54 | >23.50 | 8 _(TP) | 18 _(FP) | 45.71 |
| | | | <23.50 | 1 _(FN) | 8 _(TN) | |
| | | | | Sensitivity= 89.0 | Specificity= 69.23 | |
| Falls Efficacy Scale | | 0.90 | <18.50 | 9 _(TP) | 5 _(FP) | 85.71 |
| | | | >18.50 | 0 _(FN) | 21 _(TN) | |
| | | | | Sensitivity= 1.0 | Specificity= 19.23 | |

469 AUC: Area under the curve. AUC values should be interpreted as follows: 0.50 to 0.75 = fair; 0.75 to 0.92 = good; 0.92 to 0.97 = very good;
470 0.97 to 1.00 = excellent probability. TP, number of true positive results; FP, number of false positive results; FN, number of false negative
471 results; TN, number of true negative results. Sensitivity = TP/ (TP+FN); Specificity = FP/ (FP+TN). Agreement % = number of accurate
472 results/total. ICW, Independent Community Walkers; DCW, Dependent-Community Walkers.
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