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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effectiveness of BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training to Improve Sitting Balance in Subjects with Stroke

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Article History

Received: 15.05.2025 Revised: 04.06.2025 Accepted: 13.07.2025 Published: 04.08.2025 Abstract: Background: Greater postural sway while maintaining quiet sitting or standing, as well as a smaller range in movement has been found to occur after stroke. The ability to provide a stable foundation for the performance of upper limb and lower limb tasks with the help of weight shifting training. Performing exercises on an unstable surface (BOSU ball) has been proposed to increase proprioceptive demands and stress the muscles to a greater extent to improve the trunk stability and balance. Objectives: To determine the effect of BOSU ball training in improving the Stabilization of Girdles, investigate the effect of BOSU ball training in improving the sitting balance, and to compare the efficacy of BOSU ball training and Conventional treatment in improving the postural stability and balance in stroke subjects. Methodology: 54 samples were random selected in the community rehabilitation centres and hospitals in Chennai. The participants will be randomly assigned into control or the experimental group to receive 1 hour per session with rest period intermittently, weekly 5 days for total of 4 weeks. Control group will be receiving routine mat activities in sitting and lying position (supine or prone). Experimental group will be receiving trunk exercise, prone on elbows, prone on hands, quadruped and sitting position, pelvic bridge by the use of BOSU ball, sitting on BOSU ball to train for reaching activities. Results: The pre-test and post-test mean values of Trunk Impairment Scale (TIS) the experimental groups showed significance in reducing Trunk instability and improved stability hence alternate hypothesis is accepted. On comparing pre-test and post-test mean values of FIST the experimental group A showed significance in improving functional activity. Conclusion: BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training is more effective than standard rehabilitation in improving trunk and sitting balance in stroke patients. These results would be supported by pre- and post-intervention scores on the TIS and the Functional Sitting Balance Scale (FSBS), with data collected and analysed The study's findings could potentially lead to the recommendation of BOSU Ball training as a beneficial addition to stroke rehabilitation programs, resulting in better functional outcomes, enhanced trunk control, improved sitting balance, and ultimately, a higher quality of life for stroke survivors.

Keywords: BOSU ball, Weight shifting, Stroke, and Balance.

INTRODUCTION

Stroke is a leading cause of long term disability worldwide, significantly impacting patients' quality of life. Among the various impairments caused by stroke, deficits in trunk control and sitting balance are particularly debilitating, affecting patients' ability to perform daily activities and increasing the risk of falls. Rehabilitation strategies that effectively address these deficits are crucial for improving patient outcomes[1,2]. Up to 50% of stroke survivors experience chronic disability as a result of their high morbidity. Consequently, a stroke is a condition that is significant for public health and has negative social and economic effects. In the sub-acute phase, more than 80% have a disturbance in their balance. It lessens capacity for carrying out everyday duties; six months following this condition, 40% of stroke subjects report difficulty with ADLs and 30% for limitations on their ability to participate in activities. Imbalance in posture and functional performance unsteadiness in gait are strongly linked to trunk dysfunction. It could result in a decline in one's capacity for ADLs and a lower standard of living (QoL)[3]. In terms of the total number of cases, the burden raised significantly between 1990 and 2019 (70.0% incident strokes, 43.0% enlarge in stroke-related deaths, 102.0 percent raise in prevalent strokes, and

144.0 percent increases in DALYs). The majority of the global stroke burden, states 86.0% of deaths and 89.0% of DALYs, was concentrated in lower & middle income countries (LMIC)[4].

Stroke is a major worldwide health issue that contributes significantly to morbidity and mortality in both developed and, increasingly, low- middle income countries (LMICs). LMICs account for 70 percent stroke cases, as a result, disease burden is larger than high income countries. Since India's life expectancy has lately increases over sixty, the number of age-related, noncommunicable diseases has increased. Stroke is now India's 5th common cause of disability and its 4th major cause of death. Reliable data on stroke prevalence, incidence and outcome are required to address the rising incidence of stroke in India. This data can be used to drive health care guidelines, organizing service for strokes and track impact of any modifications made to patient treatment. 1,175,778 stroke event reports were reported in India (2016), according to the Global Burden of Disease. A recent systematic analysis that mostly included cross-sectional study estimated that between 105 and 152/100,000 indian population experience a stroke per year[5]. There are two primary categories of strokes: Ischemic stroke: Approximately 87% of all strokes are of this type, which happens when a blood



supply to the brain is blocked by blood clot. Ischemic stroke comes in two primary forms: Thrombotic Stroke causes clotting of blood that develops in an artery supplying the brain with blood. It frequently happens in arteries that have atherosclerosis[6]. An embolic stroke occurs when substance, such as a blood clot, originates outside of the brain, most often in the heart, and travels via bloodstream to smaller brain arteries[7].

After a stroke, functional changes are frequent. Following a stroke, motor and cognitive deficits that impact gait, strength, tone, proprioception, balance, and coordination are common[8]. Moreover, balance deficits are a major factor in the adverse outcomes that follow a stroke, such as a higher chance of falls, injuries from falls, such as fractures, fear of falling, and even death[9,10,11]. Seated lateral balance control serves as the most severely compromised by strokes and most susceptible to functional alterations brought about by rehabilitation. As such, this will be the main goal of the neurorehabilitation therapy. Proprioception, which refers to the unconscious and conscious awareness of joint stability, muscle sensation, and postural balance, is the reception of stimuli created within an organism. The term "proprioception" describes a person's ability to sense their body's location, movement speed, and general or particular resistance[12]. Specific exercise training can help with trunk control.

Verheyden et al. (2009) recommended that exercise for the trunk in all planes while supine have been shown to enhance trunk control in sub-acute stroke subjects[13]. Ryerson et al. (2008) suggested that training in proprioception is necessary to enhance trunk movement and balance. Most traditional trunk management for stroke patients involves sturdy surfaces. These writers discussed publications that simulated unstable surfaces using air cushions, swiss-balls, balance boards, balance pads, and other devices. Physio ball is an unstable equipment that is widely used in the fitness and rehabilitation fields[14].Trunk exercises with physio balls typically require more force to be produced by the muscle of trunk to sustain proper balance and stability. Owing to its widespread use in rehabilitation, a thorough review of therapy ball use among stroke patients would confirm the device's ability to enhance trunk movement. Aim of this research is to examine the efficacy of trunk training using a physio-ball as an outcome measure in studies including stroke patients[15]. One innovative approach in stroke rehabilitation is Bosu Ball Weight Shifting Training, which involves performing exercises on a Bosu Ball to challenge and enhance balance and stability. This method leverages the principles of dynamic stability and proprioception, potentially offering a novel means of improving trunk and sitting balance in stroke patients[16].

BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training represents an innovative approach in stroke rehabilitation. The BOSU Ball, which stands for "Both Sides Up," is a versatile

training tool featuring a dome-shaped side and a flat side, allowing for a wide range of exercises. This tool is designed to provide an unstable surface, thereby challenging balance, coordination, and stability[17]. Exercises performed on the BOSU Ball involve shifting weight in various directions while maintaining balance, which engages the core muscles and enhances proprioception, the body's capacity to perceive its location and motion in space. The effectiveness of BOSU Ball training in stroke rehabilitation is supported by Dynamic balance exercises using several studies. unstable surfaces, such as the BOSU Ball, significantly improved trunk performance in stroke subjects, emphasizing the potential of this intervention in rehabilitation settings. Proprioceptive and balance training significantly enhanced postural control and reduced the risk of falls in stroke survivors[18]. The Trunk Impairment Scale (TIS) & Function in Sitting Balance Test (FIST) are widely used to measure trunk and sitting balance in stroke patients. The TIS assesses three components: dynamic sitting balance, coordination and static seated balance of trunk movement. It is a reliable and valid tool for evaluating the effectiveness of interventions aimed at improving trunk control[19,20]. The FIST, on the other hand, measures the functional aspects of sitting balance, including the ability to maintain balance while performing various tasks. These scales are essential for objectively quantifying the improvements resulting from rehabilitation interventions[21]. This dissertation aims to assess the effectiveness of BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training usingTrunk Impairment Scale (TIS) - help stroke patients improve their trunk and sitting balance and the Function in Sitting Balance Test (FIST) scale as outcome measures. By comparing the results of an experimental group receiving Bosu Ball training with a control group receiving standard rehabilitation, this research seeks to provide evidence on the efficacy of this intervention. The main aim of the current study was to identify the effectiveness of BOSU ball weight shifting training in improving the Postural stability and sitting balance in subjects with stroke. Further, to find the effect of BOSU ball training in improving the Stabilization of Girdles, to investigate the effect of BOSU ball training in improving the sitting balance, and to compare the efficacy of BOSU ball training and Conventional treatment in improving the postural stability and balance in stroke subjects.

METHODS METHODOLOGY

AND

- Study design: Experimental design
- Sampling method: Simple Random Sampling Technique
- Study setting: Community
- Study size: 54 subjects
- Study duration: 8 weeks (5 session per week)

Inclusion criteria:

• Age between 35 to 60 years

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- Both male and female
- Subacute and post-stroke subjects
- Subjects with FIST score >1

Exclusion criteria:

- Acute stage of stroke
- Other neurological condition
- Non-cooperative subjects
- Participants who are non -willing
- Subjects with psychological disorders

Data collection

The subjects were given detailed explanation about the study and its importance. They were assessed and screened for inclusion and exclusion criteria. Informed consent was obtained by the patient and their family. Education of importance of bosu ball weight shifting training and it's importance was elaborated in patients convenience language. Totally 27 subjects were enrolled in the study. In the other hand 27 subjects were allocated in control group were followed up by myself and treatment was provided by another therapist. Group A (Experimental Group) with 27 subjects was underwent Bosu ball weight shifting training for 4days per week for 8 week, 1 hour per day which includes warm ups and cooling down. Group B (Control Group) with 27 subjects were underwent Regular Mat exercises, and functional training for the same duration as of Group A. Pre-test assessment was done and noted the values at the end of the intervention (8 weeks) post-test assessment was done and statistical analyzation was done.

Group A: Bosu ball weight shifting training:

Step 1: Basic Weight Shifting

Step 4: Functional Training Reaching Tasks:

- Starting Position: Sit on the flat side of the Bosu Ball.
- Exercise: Reach for objects placed at different heights and distances. This functional task improves dynamic balance and coordination.



This engages the core muscles and enhances proprioception.

- Sitting Weight Shifting:
- Starting Position: Sit on the flat side of the Bosu Ball in chair feet on the floor surface apart.
- Exercise: Shift weight from forward and backward, and side to side. If you need support hold onto a stable surface. This engages the core muscles and enhances proprioception

Step 2: Intermediate Balance Exercises Seated Marching:

- Starting Position: Sit on the flat side of the Bosu

 Ball
- Exercises: Lift one knee towards the chest, then lower it and repeat with the other leg. This exercise improves dynamic sitting balance and trunk stability.

Step 3: Advanced Dynamic Exercises Sitting Arm Raises:

- Starting Position: sit on the flat side of the Bosu Ball with feet on the flat surface knee-width apart.
- Exercise: Raise one arm forward or to the side while maintaining balance. This exercise enhances coordination and postural control. Seated Trunk Rotations:
- Starting Position: Sit on the flat side of the BOSU ball.
- Exercise: While maintaining the stability of the lower body, rotate the upper body left and right. This improves trunk mobility and dynamic sitting balance.





Step 5: Bridging exercise

Starting position: lying on crook line position where Bosu ball placed under feet. Lie on back with knees bent Exercise: Lift the hips above the ground and line up them with knees and shoulders. This functional task improves dynamic balance and core & back muscles.



Step 6: Quadruped exercise

Starting position: Crawling position where Bosu ball placed under hands or knees.

Exercise: In Crawling position place the Bosu ball under hands and then after to the knees region maintain for few seconds which enhances core strength, including both lower abdominal and lower back muscle strength.







Steps 7: Elbow plank

Starting Position: Crawling pose where the BOSU ball placed under elbow Exercise: In Crawling position place the BOSU ball under elbow for few seconds which enhances core strength, including both lower abdominal & lower back muscle strength and girdle stabilization.



Group B mat activities training:

Step 1: Basic Weight Shifting

This engages the core muscles and enhances proprioception. Sitting Weight Shifting:

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Starting Position: Sit on the flat side of the chair feet on the floor surface apart.

Exercise: Shift weight from forward and backward, and side to side. If you need support hold onto a stable surface. This engages the core muscles and enhances proprioception.

Step 2: Intermediate Balance Exercises

- Seated Marching:
- Starting Position: Sit on the flat side of the chair.
- Exercises: Lift one knee towards the chest, then lower it and repeat with the other leg. This exercise improves dynamic sitting balance and trunk stability.
- Step 3: Advanced Dynamic Exercises
- Sitting Arm Raises:
- Starting Position: sit on the flat side of the chair with feet on the flat surface knee-width apart.
- Exercise: Raise one arm forward or to the side while maintaining balance. This exercise enhances coordination and postural control.

Seated Trunk Rotations:

- Starting Position: Sit on the flat side of the chair.
- Exercise: While maintaining the stability of the lower body, rotate the upper body left and right. This improves trunk mobility and dynamic sitting balance.

Step 4: Functional Training

- Reaching Tasks:
- Starting Position: Sit on the flat side of the chair.
- Exercise: Reach for objects placed at different heights and distances. This functional task improves dynamic balance and coordination.



Step 5: Bridging exercise

- Starting position: lying on crook line position. Lie on back with knees bent
- Exercise: Lift the hip up from the ground and bring them into alignment with shoulders and knees. This functional task improves dynamic balance and core & back muscles.





Step 6: Quadruped exercise

- Starting position: Crawling position where hold under hands or knees.
- Exercise: In Crawling position place where hold under hands and then after to the knees region maintain for few seconds which enhances core strength, including both lower abdominal and lower back muscle strength.



Steps 7: Elbow plank

• Starting Position: Crawling pose where the mat placed under elbow Exercise: In Crawling position place the mat under elbow for few seconds which enhances core strength, including both lower abdominal & lower back muscle strength and girdle stabilization.





Outcome Measures

Trunk Impairment Scale (TIS): This scale assesses trunk control, including dynamic and static sitting coordination and balance.

Function in Sitting Balance Scale (FIST): This scale measures the functional aspects of sitting balance.

Trunk Impairment Scale (TIS) after a stroke, the TIS is intended to assess trunk motor dysfunction. It evaluates coordination and seated balance in both static and dynamic situations. The TIS has 3 main sub-scales: Static Sitting Balance: Assesses the capacity to maintain a seated position without assistance. Dynamic Sitting Balance: Measures the ability to execute specific trunk movements in a seated position. Coordination: Assesses the control and smoothness of trunk movements. The TIS is scored out of 23 points: Coordination (0-6 points), Dynamic sitting balance (0-10 points) and Static sitting balance (0-7 points). Higher score indicates better trunk function and control. Function In Sitting Test (FIST)-The FIST is a performance-based assessment used to evaluate an individual's ability to maintain balance and perform functional tasks while sitting. It is especially useful in clinical settings for patients with balance impairments. The FIST includes 14 items, each scored on a scale from 0 to 4, based on the level of assistance required to complete the task:0: Dependent (unable to complete the task or requires full assistance) 1: Needs significant assistance 2: Needs moderate assistance 3: Needs minimal assistance4: Independent (able to complete the task without assistance) Tasks in the FIST include activities such as: Reaching in different directions Picking up objects from the floor Moving between different sitting postures. Higher scores indicate improved sitting balance and functional independence. The overall score goes from 0 to 56.

Statistical analysis

The collected sample data were analysed and tested using Social Statistical Package (SPSS) version 27, Student paired T test used to analyse the significance within groups and independent T test was adopted the statistical significance between groups. To summarise the data like age, gender, BMI and handedness, mean and standard deviations were used.

RESULTS

Table 1. Participant's age group at baseline

-		rubie it i urticipunt s		Juscinic	m 1
			Group		Total
		Count	13	13	26
	< 50	Count			
Age group		% within Group	48.1%	48.1%	48.1%
	50-54 >=55	Count	6	3	9
			22.2%	11.1%	16.7%
		% within Group	22.2%	11.1%	10.7%
		Count	8	11	19
		% within Group	29.6%	40.7%	35.2%
		~	27	27	54
Total		Count	_,	_,	
Total		% within Group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		70 William Group	100.070	100.070	100.070

Table 2. Participant's gender at baseline Group Total

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	Male	Count	19	18	37	
Gender		% within Group	70.4%	66.7%	68.5%	
	Eamala	Count	8	9	17	
Female	% within Group	29.6%	33.3%	31.5%		
Total		Count	27	27	54	
	% within Group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

Table 3. Participant's BMI at baseline

			Group		Total
	Normal	Count	3	6	9
BMI Level	TOTTIMI	% within Group	11.1%	22.2%	16.7%
	Over weight	Count	22	18	40
		% within Group	81.5%	66.7%	74.1%
	Obese	Count	2	3	5
		% within Group	7.4%	11.1%	9.3%
Total		Count	27	27	54
					



		% within Group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Tab	ole 4. Participant's han	dedness at ba	seline	
			Group		Total
	Right	Count	12	9	21
Handedness	Left	% within Group Count	44.4% 15	33.3% 18	38.9% 33
Total	2011	% within Group Count	55.6% 27	66.7% 27	61.1% 54
101111		% within Group	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5. Pre and post-test mean and standard deviation values of TIS and FIST of group A

Group A	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
TIS Post-test	15.19	27	2.354
TIS Pre-test	9.93	27	1.774
FIST Post-test	24.85	27	2.553
FIST Pre-test	19.85	27	1.812

Table 6. Pre and post-test mean and standard deviation values of TIS and FIST of group B

Group B	Mean Mean	N	Std. Deviation	
TIS Post-test	12.48	27	1.889	
TIS Pre-test	9.93	27	1.774	
FIST Post-test	21.26	27	2.194	
FIST Pre-test	19.78	27	1.761	

Figure 1. Comparison of pre and post-test mean values of group A

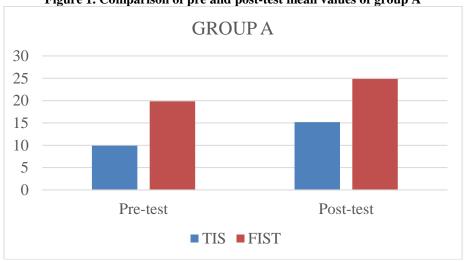


Figure 2. Comparison of pre and post-test mean values of group B

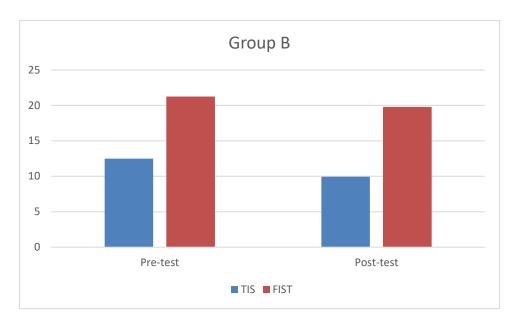
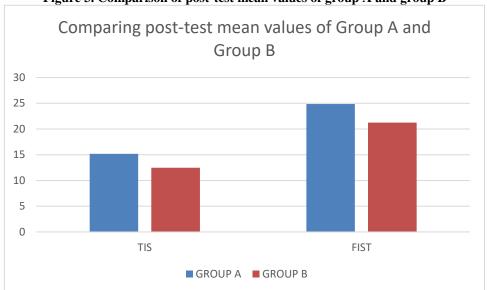


Figure 3. Comparison of post-test mean values of group A and group B



After meeting the inclusion requirements, fifty four individuals were randomly assigned to one of the two intervention groups, each with twenty seven subjects and they underwent the intervention. BOSU ball improved Trunk Impairment Scale (15.19 ± 2.354) and Function in Sitting Test (24.85 ± 2.553) were recorded. Mat activities Trunk Impairment Scale (12.48 ± 1.889) and Function in Sitting Test (21.26 ± 2.194) were recorded. Hence, less improvement in trunk impairment and sitting balance were recorded by the mat activities group. There was no significant difference (P>0.00) in the pre-test scores of trunk stability and sitting balance between the two groups. Two groups noted a improvement in post-test trunk stability and sitting balance. Comparison of the TIS post-test mean values of Group A (15.19) and Group B (12.48). Comparison of the FIST post-test mean values of Group B (21.26). Within group improvements:

Group A BOSU ball improved significantly after the intervention. The P values are low, indicating a highly significant improvement.

Group B there were also significant improvements in both tests, but the improvements were much smaller than Group B.

Between the group:

The improvements of Group A were effectively higher compared to Group B. The P values for the independent t-tests are low, indicating highly significant differences

in the improvements between the groups. On comparing the pre- and post-test mean values of TIS the experimental group (BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training) showed significance in reducing Trunk



instability and improved stability hence alternate hypothesis is accepted. On comparing pre-and post-test mean values of FIST the experimental group A (BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training) showed significance in improving Functional activity hence null hypothesis is rejected.

DISCUSSION

The trunk stability function of stroke patients dramatically improved, according to this study. In everyday living activities, both intervention groups experienced functional improvements. The results can be the result of using task-related programs more frequently. Thus, the practice of acquiring new skills caused the individuals' functional abilities to change significantly. The analysis of the demographic data was done to determine the base line homogeneity. At baseline, variables such as age, gender, handedness, side affected, and kind of stroke were examined. The mean age of the male and female participants in groups A and B. as well as the type and side of the stroke, were recorded. Once the homogeneity of the two groups was confirmed, the pre-test was administered using two valid scales that were well-known to physiotherapists and frequently utilized in neuro-rehabilitation settings. Its distinct theoretical framework was the deciding factor in choosing the tool for both interventions. The involvement of the hemiplegic side and age may have an impact on the study's prognosis and outcomes, according to some literature. A 50-minute BOSU ball training program added to increase sitting ability may have contributed to the outcome. Thus, this explains why the patients' motions became more fluid but their taskcompletion speed remained unchanged.

The patients took their own time in accomplishing the task rather than finishing it sooner. This dissertation was finding to investigate the effects of BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training in improving sitting and trunk balance in stroke subjects compared to standard rehabilitation. A total of 54 participants were selected for the study and assigned into experimental and control group. Participants were selected based on specific inclusion criteria, including a confirmed diagnosis of stroke, ability to follow instructions, and absence of severe cognitive impairments. Following the intervention participants post-intervention period, underwent assessments using the TIS and FIST to evaluate changes in trunk and sitting balance. The data collected from both groups were analyzed to compare the effectiveness of BOSU Ball training versus standard rehabilitation in improving sitting and trunk balance in stroke subjects. The study's findings revealed significant improvements in trunk and sitting balance among participants in the experimental group who received BOSU Ball training comparing to control group who received standard rehabilitation. These improvements were evidenced by higher post-intervention scores on the TIS and FIST in the experimental group. The study demonstrated that BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training is an effective

intervention for improving sitting and trunk balance in stroke subjects. The improvements of Group A were effectively higher compared to Group B. The P values for the independent t-tests are low, indicating highly significant differences in the improvements between the groups. On comparing the pre- and post-test mean values of TIS the experimental group (BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training) showed significance in reducing Trunk instability and improved stability. The findings suggest that incorporating BOSU Ball training into stroke rehabilitation programs can lead to better functional outcomes and enhanced quality of life for stroke survivors.

CONCLUSION

BOSU Ball Weight Shifting Training is more effective than standard rehabilitation in improving sitting and trunk balance in stroke subjects. These results would be supported by pre- and post-intervention scores on the Trunk Impairment Scale (TIS) and the Function in Sitting Test (FIST), with data collected and analysed The study's findings could potentially lead to the recommendation of BOSU Ball training as a beneficial addition to stroke rehabilitation programs, resulting in better functional outcomes, enhanced trunk control, improved sitting balance, and ultimately, a higher quality of life for stroke survivors.

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