The influence of non-invasive stimulation techniques on spasticity of children with cerebral palsy: a systematic review

Which non-invasive stimulation techniques are effective in reducing spasticity in children with cerebral palsy?

Highlights

- Spasticity can be treated with different forms of non-invasive stimulation techniques
- The Modified Ashworth Scale and Tardieu scale are mainly used to measure spasticity, but they can be questioned.
- The effect of the functionality has to be further investigated
- Long-term effects must be further investigated

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Situate master thesis

This master thesis is part of a research field in the pediatric rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy (CP) can be defined as a heterogeneous group of non-progressive motor disorders caused by chronic brain injuries that originate in the prenatal period, perinatal period or first few years of life. It can be classified under four major subtypes: spastic, athetoid, ataxic and mixed cerebral palsy, spastic cerebral palsy is the most common form. Athetoid, dyskinesia or dystonia are mainly involuntary sustained or intermittent muscle contraction who causes twisting and repetitive movements, abnormal posture or both (Eggink et al., 2017). Ataxic are impairment of coordination of goal-directed movements (Eggink et al., 2017).

The motor disorders may range from difficulties with fine motor control to severe spasticity in all limbs.

Muscle spasticity can be defined as a form of muscle hypertonia associated with upper neuron disease. There is resistance to passive stretch, this results in a minimal initial resistance followed by an incremental increase in muscle tone. The tone increases in proportion to the velocity of stretch. Muscle spasticity is also accompanied by hyperreflexia and variable degrees of muscle weakness and is mainly measured by Modified ash worth scale (MAS), Tardieu scale (TS) or Modified Tardieu scale (MTS). A more reliable and valid measurement tool is the use of an instrumented assessment where integrated biomechanical and electrophysiological measures are used, this showed higher responsiveness than the clinical scales (Bar-On et al., 2014; Sloot et al., 2017). Research about this technique is still going on.

The treatment of spasticity can be divided into five main groups: (1) Preventative measure, (2) therapeutic motor interventions (e.g. physical therapy, occupational therapy, hippotherapy) either with or without the addition of physical modalities (e.g. vibration and electrical currents), (3) positioning/orthotics (e.g. taping, splints, wheelchairs and standers), (4) oral medication (e.g. baclofen and dantrolene), injectable neurolytic medication (e.g. botulinum toxins) and (5) surgical interventions (e.g. lengthening operation, tenotomy, posterior rhizotomy, spinal cord and deep cerebellar stimulation, neurectomies) (Naro et al., 2017). Oral medication and Injectable neurolytic medication are been proven to be effective to decrease spasticity but also have side effects (Bar-On et al., 2014; Naro et al., 2017). Surgery like neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery have the strength to promote normal bone and muscle growth but a disadvantage is that this not eliminate spasticity (Naro et al., 2017). Therapeutic interventions like stretching, neurodevelopmental treatment, casting, Bo bath, casting and strengthening exercises are frequently used in rehabilitative programs and have been proven effective (Naro et al., 2017).

The effect of physical modalities or non-invasive stimulation techniques on the spasticity have been searched by Naro et al. 2017 but not specific for children with CP. Non-invasive can be defined that the skin should not be penetrating, and nothing may be taken orally. Stimulation techniques are all kinds of therapy for which an external device is needed to be able to apply this therapy. (Naro et al., 2017)

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Little is known about the influence of non-invasive stimulation techniques on the muscle spasticity in children with cerebral palsy.

The aim of this master thesis is to get an overview of which non-invasive stimulation techniques may or may not have an influence.

At the start of this master thesis there was no ongoing research for this topic at the University of Hasselt. This article is written according to a central format by two master students rehabilitation science and physiotherapy with the support and recommendation from Prof. Dr. Meyns Pieter and Prof. Dr. Meesen Raf.

The first part of this thesis took place in the first master year and will have a focus on the literature study of the articles written in the domain of non-invasive stimulation techniques and to establish a research protocol.

The second part of the thesis will take place in the second master year and will have a focus on the research itself.

PART 1: LITERATURE REVIEW

1 ABSTRACT

<u>Background</u>: Cerebral palsy (CP) is one of the most common non-progressive neurological brain disorders that occur during the fetal or infant development. Spastic diplegia and hemiplegia cerebral are the most common types CP. There are a lot of treatments to decrease spasticity, but in this review the focus is on non-invasive stimulation techniques and the effect of this stimulation.

<u>Objective</u>: To determine which non-invasive stimulation techniques are effective and how effective these are for the treatment of spasticity in children with CP.

<u>Search methods:</u> In May 2018 PubMed and Web of Science was searched with the keywords: 'Cerebral Palsy', 'Muscle spasticity' and 'Stimulation.

<u>Selection criteria</u>: There were studies included with children and adolescents with spastic CP. These studies also had to use central nervous stimulation, peripheral nervous stimulation, neuromuscular stimulation or muscle stimulation. The spasticity from the participants had to be measured with the Modified Ashworth Scale or Modified Tardieu scale to be included.

<u>Data collection and analysis:</u> Two authors screened titles and abstract. After this, potentially included studies were screened on full text. This two authors extracted all relevant data from included full texts and conducted a quality assessment.

Main results:

Two studies used central nervous stimulation, one study used peripheral nervous stimulation, two studies used neuromuscular stimulation and seven studies used muscle stimulation.

One study found that anodal transcranial direct current stimulation applied on the left M1 reduced the spasticity significantly on the right shoulder, elbow, wrist and fingers compared to baseline. Transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation did not have an influence on the spasticity.

The studies which used functional electrical stimulation or neuromuscular electrical stimulation on the Gluteus Medius found a significant influence on the spasticity. Neuromuscular electrical stimulation on the tibialis anterior and gastrocnemius and threshold electrical stimulation had no influence on the spasticity. If electrical stimulation was used in addition to passive stretch, there was a significant decrease of spasticity.

If shock wave therapy or radial shock wave therapy was applied on plantar flexors there was a significant effect on spasticity. If extracorporeal shock wave therapy which was applied on the lower limb and when repeated muscle vibration which was applied to the Achille's tendon, there was also a seen a significant effect on spasticity. Laser acupuncture which was applied on four different points had an influence on the spasticity.

<u>Author's conclusions:</u> The results of this literature review suggest that anodal transcranial direct current stimulation applied on M1; Functional electrical stimulation and neuromuscular electrical stimulation on gluteus medius; Electrical stimulation, shock wave therapy and radial shock wave therapy applied on plantar flexors; Extracorporeal shock wave therapy applied on the lower limb; Focal muscle vibration applied to the Achille's tendon and laser acupuncture was applied on four different points have an influence on the spasticity by children in CP. However, these results should be carefully interpreted because the quality assessment of the different studies can be questionable. Also, the follow-up time and the time that interventions lasted varied between the different studies. It is still difficult to say which non-invasive stimulation is the most effective as treatment of spasticity in children with CP. Further research is necessary.

2 INTRODUCTION

Cerebral palsy (CP) is one of the most common non-progressive neurological brain disorders that occur during the foetal or infant development (van der Krogt, Bar-On, Kindt, Desloovere, & Harlaar, 2016). With an overall prevalence of 2.11 cases per 1000 live births world-wide, in the United Kingdom 1.86 cases per 1000 and in the United states 3.6 cases per 1000 live births (Wang et al., 2016). The most important risk factors are low birth weight, intrauterine infections and multiple gestation (Wang et al., 2016).

CP can be classified according to the predominant motor disorder: spastic, dyskinetic/dystonic or ataxic. The spasticity in spastic CP can be described as a velocity-dependent increase in tonic stretch reflex due to hyper-excitability (Aree-uea et al., 2014; van der Krogt et al., 2016).

Spastic diplegia and hemiplegia are the most common types CP. This occur in 80% to 90% of the children who have CP (Bar-On et al., 2014). Pain, decrease of passive range of motion (pROM) and prevention of function are commonly seen in children with CP and the management of the spasticity is necessary to prevent the development of secondary muscle contractures, bone deformities and delay or avoid surgery.(Bar-On et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2016).

MAS and MTS are the most common clinical assessments for spasticity (Bar-On et al., 2014).

The measurement of spasticity is difficult because the use these clinical assessments of joint resistance is based on the subjective feeling of resistance to manual passive stretching at different velocities (Bar-On et al., 2014; Sloot et al., 2017). A difference between a slow and fast passive movement can be spasticity-related (Bar-On et al., 2014; Sloot et al., 2017). The validity and reliability of the clinical assessment is previously tested (Sloot et al., 2017) but can be questioned because these do not differentiate between the neural and non-neural components causes of the spasticity (Bar-On et al., 2014; Haugh, Pandyan, & Johnson, 2006).

The treatment of spasticity can be divided into five main groups: Preventative measure, therapeutic interventions and physical modalities, positioning/orthotics, oral medication, injectable neurolytic medication and surgical interventions (lengthening operation, tenotomy, posterior rhizotomy, spinal cord and deep cerebellar stimulation, neurectomies) (Naro et al., 2017).

There are different methods to apply physical modalities or non-invasive stimulation techniques which have an influence on the treatment of spasticity. The stimulation can be applied on the central nervous system examples are transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) (Naro et al., 2017), transcranial direct current stimulation (tic's) (Naro et al., 2017) and transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation (tSCS) (Solopova et al., 2017). It can be applied on the peripheral nervous system examples are neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) (Naro et al., 2017) and transcutaneous electric nerve stimulation (TENS) (Naro et al., 2017). The stimulation of the muscle self is frequently applied with ultrasound (Us), shock wave therapy (SW) and focal muscle vibration (FMV) (Naro et al., 2017).

Because of this large range of non-invasive stimulation techniques, the aim of this study is to determine which non-invasive stimulation techniques are effective in reducing the spasticity in children with CP.

3 METHODS

3.1 Research question

The main research question for this systematic review can be formulated as: 'Which non-invasive stimulation techniques are effective in reducing spasticity in children with cerebral palsy?'

A PICO formulated for this research question:

Population: Children with spastic cerebral palsy

Intervention: non-invasive stimulation techniques

Comparison: no operation, no medication, orthosis or other type non-invasive techniques Outcome: muscle spasticity

3.2 Literature search

PubMed database and Web of Science were systematically searched for literature to answer the research question.

The keywords used for this study are cerebral palsy and muscle spasticity.

For the PubMed database there were two MeSH terms: 'cerebral palsy' and 'muscle spasticity'.

Included in the MeSH term cerebral palsy there were 46 entry terms which describe the different forms of cerebral palsy. They were all included in the search strategy.

Muscle spasticity had five entry terms and three subheadings.

The entry terms are:

- Spasticity, Muscle
- Spastic
- Clasp-Knife Spasticity
- Clasp Knife Spasticity
- Spasticity, Clasp-Knife

The three used subheadings were: 'prevention and control', 'rehabilitation' and 'therapy'.

These were used to establish the search terms.

To exclude surgery, we added 'not surgery', 'Not Baclofen' and 'Not Botulinum' to the search terms. These were added because the main interest is non-invasive stimulation.

Stimulation was not added to this search string because a lot of hits could be missed.

The final search string used was: (cerebral palsy[mesh]) AND ((("Muscle Spasticity/prevention and control"[Mesh] OR "Muscle Spasticity/rehabilitation"[Mesh] OR "Muscle Spasticity/therapy"[Mesh])) NOT "Muscle Spasticity/surgery"[Mesh] NOT baclofen NOT botulinum).

This search strategy was performed on 23/05/2018 and on this date, there were 264 hits. Those were screened on title and abstract for inclusion criteria (see 3.3).

For the Web of Science database, the following topics were used: 'cerebral palsy', muscle spasticity', 'stimulation'.

Stimulation was chosen because the intervention must be non-invasive stimulation. However, if 'non-invasive stimulation' was used as a third topic, a lot of hits could have been missed.

Here also the topics 'not baclofen', 'not botulinum' and 'not surgery' were added. The final search term was as follows: TOPIC: (Cerebral Palsy) *AND* TOPIC: (Muscle spasticity) *AND* TOPIC: (Stimulation) *NOT* TOPIC:(Surgery) *NOT* TOPIC: (Baclofen) *NOT* TOPIC: (Botulinum)

This search strategy was performed on 23/05/2018 and on this date, there were 95 hits. Those 95 hits were screened on title and abstract for inclusion criteria (see 3.3).

3.3 Selection criteria

Following inclusion criteria were used: children with spastic CP (<21 years), non-invasive stimulation techniques, a specific description of the place of intervention and measurement of spasticity.

Exclusion criteria were: The influence of any kind of surgery on the spasticity, the influence of any kind of medication that affect the spasticity, like Botulinum and baclofen, adults (>21 years), the use of biofeedback, therapeutic motor interventions because there is no stimulation and/or no specific description of the place of intervention (e.g. horseback riding, active education, vestibular, visual, auditory or tactile stimulation techniques) and studies not written in English.

3.4 Quality assessment

For the quality assessment of the randomized controlled trials (RCT), the Dutch Cochrane checklist for RCT was used.

This checklist consists of ten questions and "YES", "NO", "?" or "not applicable" can be answered. Every "YES" count as one point, a higher score present better quality.

Cohort studies were assessed for quality using the Risk of bias in non-randomized studies of interventions (ROBINS-I).

This consist of seven bias domains and each domain has its own sub-questions to determine the risk of bias.

- 1. Bias due to confounding?
- 2. Bias in selection of participants into the study?
- 3. Bias in classification of interventions?
- 4. Bias due to deviations from intended interventions?
- 5. Bias due to missing data?
- 6. Bias in measurement of outcomes?
- 7. Bias in selection of the reported result?

In this quality assessment there was no scoring with points. Depending on whether 'yes' or 'no' was answered to the sub questions, the table for each domain could determine whether there was a low, moderate, serious or critical risk of bias.

The Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale (NOS) for case control studies. The three domains selection, comparability and exposure are divided into different questions.

- Selection
 - Is the case definition adequate?
 - Representativeness of the cases?
 - Selection of controls?
 - Definition of controls?
- Comparability
 - Comparability of cases and controls based on the design or analysis?
- Exposure
 - Ascertainment of exposure?
 - Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls?
 - Non-response rate?

The scoring was performed by giving stars to the answer with a high quality. Every question can earn one star. In the domain comparability a maximum of two stars be given because there are only two questions.

3.5 Data extraction

The data extracted from the included studies consists of: population, aim of the study, study protocol, description of the interventions, outcome measures and results. Strengths and weaknesses were also summarized.

The aim of the study had to describe the place of interventions for example which limb(s), muscle(s), muscle group(s), nerve, spine level or brain area was stimulated and examined. If this was not specifically described, the articles were excluded.

To represent how the population of the studies were composed, sample size, age, inclusion and exclusion criteria were used.

Study protocol was added because there is a large range on how the assessments were performed. In here is a description of when the measurements took place and how long the study lasted.

For the interventions, the type of intervention with a correct description of the used device and other parameters such as duration and number of sessions are important.

Of the outcome measures, the evaluation of spasticity was mainly considered for this study. For the results, data concerning the within-group and between-group comparisons were used concerning spasticity.

Strength and weaknesses where also listed because this was essential for the discussion.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Study selection

The literature search on PubMed revealed 264 hits and Web of Science had 95 hits on 23/05/2018. We had a total of 359 studies, six were duplicates and 31 reviews, which were excluded. After a screening of title and abstract, the full text of selected studies was screened. Flow chart 1

Table 1 gives an overview of the excluded articles

The following articles were excluded:

- One hundred articles because their research focused on the influence of spasticity of different forms of surgery examples are neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery or medication that affects the spasticity such as Botulinum or baclofen.
- There were 58 articles which did not use non-invasive stimulation therapy like physical modalities as previously described.
- Fifty-four articles were excluded because the evaluation of the spasticity did not occur or was not measured according to the MAS, TS or MTS in these articles. Some articles did mentioned measurement of spasticity in their abstract/title, after reading the full text it turned out that spasticity was not measured with a measuring instrument specific developed for spasticity.
- In 47 articles there was no intervention to influence spasticity. Most of them describe commonly used therapy, progression of CP, the development of contractures or the anatomy of muscles, nerves or vessels.
- Thirty articles were not analyzed as they included other pathologies than spastic CP. Some of the pathologies they described were traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury. Some studies analyzed only healthy subjects.
- Nine articles did not involve children. Based on the abstract/title it appeared that they were children, after checking the full texts it turned out that the age was older than 21.
- Eight articles were not written in English.
- Two articles did not specifically describe the place where the stimulation was applied during the interventions.

After exclusion these articles, 14 studies met the inclusion criteria.

4.2 Quality assessment

Quality assessment of the RCTs was performed with the Dutch Cochrane checklist for RCT. Table 2 gives an overview.

The designs of the included articles were: seven RCT's (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Aree-uea et al., 2014; Dabbous, Mostafa, El Noamany, El Shennawy, & El Bagoury, 2016; Dali et al., 2002; El-Shamy, Eid, & El-Banna, 2014; Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008; Solopova et al., 2017), four cohort studies (Celletti & Camerota, 2011; Gonkova, Ilieva, Ferriero, & Chavdarov, 2013; Mirea, Onose, Padure, &

Rosulescu, 2014; Pool, Blackmore, Bear, & Valentine, 2014) and three case-control studies (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010; Karabay et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2016)).

For the seven RCT's, the way of randomization was not explained in three studies (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Dabbous et al., 2016; Solopova et al., 2017), one study used a 1:1 ratio in blocks of four randomizations (Aree-uea et al., 2014), one used sealed envelopes (El-Shamy et al., 2014), one used flipping a coin for one leg and the other leg was put in the other group (Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008), one study had a technician, who was not involved, who made batches in which six active and three placebo devices were placed(Dali et al., 2002).

The person who performed the randomization was blinded in four studies (Aree-uea et al., 2014; Dali et al., 2002; El-Shamy et al., 2014; Solopova et al., 2017), in two studies this was not described (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Dabbous et al., 2016) and in one study this was not possible due the way of randomization (Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008). Blinding of the patients was only possible in one study (Dali et al., 2002).

In five studies the effect assessors were blinded for group assignment (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Aree-uea et al., 2014; Dali et al., 2002; El-Shamy et al., 2014; Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008). In two studies this was not described (Dabbous et al., 2016; Solopova et al., 2017).

There was no significant difference at baseline assessment in five studies (Al-Abdul Wahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Aree-uea et al., 2014; Dali et al., 2002; El-Shamy et al., 2014; Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008). In two studies this was not described (Dabbous et al., 2016; Solopova et al., 2017)

Follow-up data was available for 85% in six RCT's. Only in one study (Dali et al., 2002) this was not the case. and they did not used the results of the patients who left the study during their research.

All studies analyses their patients in the same group as in which they started. Only in one study (Dabbous et al., 2016) this was not described.

In five RCTs there was no selective publication bias. In two studies this could not be derived from the context (AI-Abdulwahab & AI-Khatrawi, 2009; Solopova et al., 2017). No RCTs had unwanted influence by sponsors and the groups were treated equally.

Two studies scored 5/10 (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Dabbous et al., 2016), one study had 7/10 (Solopova et al., 2017) and one study had 8/10 (Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008), three studies have 9/10 (Aree-uea et al., 2014; Dali et al., 2002; El-Shamy et al., 2014).

Quality assessment of the four cohort studies was performed with de ROBINS-I. Table 3 gives an overview.

All four cohort studies had a low risk of bias due to confounding, bias in selection of participants into the study, bias in classification of interventions and bias due to missing data. There was not enough information available in all the studies about the bias due to deviations from intended interventions. One study (Gonkova et al., 2013) had a low risk of bias in measurements of outcomes, one had a moderate

risk (Celletti & Camerota, 2011) because it was not described if outcome assessors were aware of the intervention which the children received. Two study(Mirea et al., 2014; Pool et al., 2014) had a serious risk for bias, in the study of Mirea et al.,2014 was not described if the outcome measure could have been influenced by knowledge of the intervention received and if the outcome assessors were aware of the interventions the children received. Pool et al., 2014 had an influence by knowledge and were the outcome assessors aware of the intervention.

Quality assessment of the case-control studies was performed with the NOS. Table 4 gives an overview.

Two studies received nine stars and are of high quality (Karabay et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2016). One study (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010) received eight stars, the reason was that the person who performed the clinical examinations was not blinded to intervention.

4.3 Data extraction

A detailed summary of the results can be found in the table 6. Data included in the summary are: aims of the study, population, interventions, study protocol, outcome measures, results and strengths and weaknesses.

4.3.1 Aims of the study

There were two studies that stimulated the central nervous system to decrease spasticity. One study used tDCS on the M1 to decrease the spasticity in the upper limbs (Aree-uea et al., 2014). The other study used tSCS on T11 and L1 to decrease leg spasticity (Solopova et al., 2017).

One study stimulated a peripheral nerve. This study used functional electrical stimulation (FES) on the common fibular/peroneal nerve to investigate its effect on the swing phase of gait which is impaired by spasticity (Pool et al., 2014).

Two studies that stimulated the peripheral nervous system used NMES. One of these used it on both hip abductors muscles to decrease spasticity in the hip adductor muscles (AI-Abdulwahab & AI-Khatrawi, 2009). The other one used NMES on the tibialis anterior to decrease the spasticity in the gastrocnemius (Karabay et al., 2015). One of the studies used electrical stimulation (ES) on the quadriceps in addition to passive stretch of the hamstrings to decrease spasticity in the hamstrings (Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008). There was one study which used threshold electrical stimulation (TES) on the lower limbs to decrease spasticity of the lower limbs (Dali et al., 2002).

Seven studies stimulated the muscle itself. One of these used SW stimulation on the plantar flexors to examine the effect on spastic equines foot (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010). Another study used radial shock wave therapy (rSWT) on the middle of the gastrocnemius muscle and the soleus muscle to decrease the spasticity of spastic plantar flexor muscle (Gonkova et al., 2013). Two studies used extracorporeal shock wave therapy (ESWT). One study used it on the on the gastrocnemius and soleus to decrease spasticity in the plantar flexor muscles (Wang et al., 2016). There were two studies which used extracorporeal shock wave therapy. One used it on the lower and upper limbs muscles to decrease

spasticity of spastic upper and lower limbs (Mirea et al., 2014), the other one used it on the middle of the gastrocnemius and soleus muscle to decrease spasticity of the lower limbs (EI-Shamy et al., 2014). One study used muscle vibration on the gastrocnemius and soleus muscles to decrease the spasticity of the Achille's tendon (Celletti & Camerota, 2011).

One study used laser acupuncture on four acupuncture points in the leg (GB34), foot (LI4), elbow (LI12) and hand (Liv3) to decrease spasticity in the wrist and ankle flexors (Dabbous et al., 2016).

4.3.2 Population

The population of all these studies consisted of children with spastic CP. The age of the participants in the studies ranged from 21.5 months to 18 years.

In one study the children had GMFCS levels one or two (Pool et al., 2014) and in one study all the children had GMFCS level two (Aree-uea et al., 2014). There was also one study where the children had a mean score of >70% on the Raven's test (Solopova et al., 2017).

Children in two studies had not have previous or ongoing treatment with BTX-A or antipasti medication (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010; Wang et al., 2016).

In eight studies, if there was a history of treatment with BTX-A or antispastic medication this had to be two weeks to seven months prior to the start of the interventions. (Aree-uea et al., 2014; Celletti & Camerota, 2011; El-Shamy et al., 2014; Gonkova et al., 2013; Karabay et al., 2015; Mirea et al., 2014; Pool et al., 2014; Solopova et al., 2017). In four studies the use of BTX-A is not mentioned (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Dabbous et al., 2016; Dali et al., 2002; Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008).

In two studies the children did not have had a previous surgery in the ankle area, foot or leg (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010; Wang et al., 2016). In two studies the children did not have had a surgery in the ankle area. (El-Shamy et al., 2014; Gonkova et al., 2013). There was one study where there were no children included that have had a lower limb orthopedic surgery 24 months prior to the intervention (Celletti & Camerota, 2011). In one study the children did not have a previous surgery at the site of gluteus medius (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009). In one study none of the children have had an orthopedic surgery of the upper limb (Aree-uea et al., 2014). There was one study where there were no children included that have had an orthopedic lower limb surgery on the affected side in the past 12 months (Pool et al., 2014). In one study there were no children who had leg surgery just before or during the trial(Dali et al., 2002). In one study there were no children who had severe contractures of lower limb that required surgical orthopedic treatment (Solopova et al., 2017). Three studies did not mention anything about previous surgeries (Dabbous et al., 2016; Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008; Mirea et al., 2014).

In two studies the children were be able to walk without use of devices (Celletti & Camerota, 2011; El-Shamy et al., 2014). In another study the children were able to walk unaided or at least with a walker (Dali et al., 2002). There were two studies where the children had to be ambulant with or without the use of devices (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Amelio & Manganotti, 2010). In one study the children were all unable to walk without help (Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008).

There were eight studies with an intervention group and a control group (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Aree-uea et al., 2014; Dabbous et al., 2016; Dali et al., 2002; El-Shamy et al., 2014; Karabay et al., 2015; Solopova et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2016). The total sample size of these studies varied from 28 to 66 participants. The sample size from the intervention group ranged from 14 to 36, while the sample size of the control group ranged from 14 to 32. Two of these studies also used a group of healthy children as control (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Solopova et al., 2017). The sample size of this group of children was 20 and ten respectively.

Three studies did only have an intervention group (Celletti & Camerota, 2011; Mirea et al., 2014; Pool et al., 2014). The sample size of this studies varies between five and 63. Three studies had one group of children, but these children were their own control (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010; Gonkova et al., 2013; Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008). In this study the sample sizes ranged from 11 to 25 children.

Two studies made a difference between spastic hemiplegia and diplegia. In one of them was a total sample size of 25 children. There were ten hemiplegic children and 14 diplegic children (Gonkova et al., 2013). The other one had a sample size of 57 children, with 15 hemiplegic and 21 diplegic children in the intervention group and 10 hemiplegic and 11 diplegic children in the control group (Dali et al., 2002).

4.3.3 Intervention

In the studies were stimulation of the central nervous system was applied, one used anodal tic's stimulation of the brain with one mA over the left M1, for 20 minutes each day for five consecutive days (Aree-uea et al., 2014). They used a pair of surface sponge electrodes soaked in 0,9% NaCl with an area of 35cm² which were placed using the international Electroencephalography 10/20 electrode placement system and the cathode was placed on the right shoulder (Aree-uea et al., 2014). The other used tSCS stimulation of the spinal cord using two cathodes of 2.5 cm round electrodes which were placed in midline at T11 and L1 and the two anodes of 5.0 x 8cm² rectangular plates were symmetrically placed on the iliac crests. Fifteen sessions of 25 minutes of stimulation over a period of three weeks, this was given by biphasic rectangular 1.0 ms pulses (30Hz) with a modulated frequency of ten kHZ and the main intensity stimulation was ten to 50 mA for most children (Solopova et al., 2017).

In the studies were stimulation of the peripheral nervous system was applied, one used FES for one hour each day, six days per week for eight weeks using 'The Walkaide' which delivered asymmetrical biphasic surface electrical stimulation with an maximum pulse width of 300µs, maximum frequency of 33Hz and an adjustable intensity that was represented in mA (Pool et al., 2014).

Two used NMES stimulation, in one NMES was applied for 15 min each session, three sessions each day, seven consecutive day with four 32mm round self-adhesive electrodes with a small battery powered NMES unit that produced biphasic asymmetrical waveforms, two independently controlled output channels, more than 20.0mA output current, pulse width of 50µsec and a frequency of 20Hz (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009). The other NMES study stimulated with an two-channel self-adapting multimodal electro stimulator 30 min each session five days each week for four weeks with two 5.5 x 6.5 cm surface electrodes, 20-30mA intensity, 250µs pulse width and a frequency of 25 Hz, 10 sec on and 12 sec off (Karabay et al., 2015).

In the study were ES was applied they used an two-channel stimulator for 30 min, three times each week for four weeks, with a frequency of 30 Hz, pulse width of 0.4ms, 4s on and 4s off and the intensity was as high as the participants would tolerate (Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008).

The study were TES was applied for six hours each night for six days each week over a period of 12 months used a One2one stimulator with a pulse amplitude of $1-5\mu$ A, frequency of 35Hz, average current density of 0.46μ A/mm² and average power density of 25μ W/mm² (Dali et al., 2002).

In the studies were the muscle self was stimulated, one used SW stimulation for one time using an electromagnetic coil lithotripter provided with in-line ultrasound, radiographic and computerized aiming, 1500 shots using ultrasound pointer-guide and 0,030mJ/mm³ of energy were applied (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010). One study used radial shock wave (RSWT) for one session of 1500 shots using a BTL-5000 RSWT unit with a small head applicator and a frequency of 5Hz and 1.5bars pressure (Gonkova et al., 2013). One study used radial extracorporeal shock wave (RESWT) session of 1500 shots, with a frequency of eight Hz and an air pressure of 0.6 bar each week for three months using RSWT device Swiss Dolor Clast and the radial (blue) handpiece with 15 mm applicator (Wang et al., 2016). Two studies used extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT). One study applied 500 shocks with an 15mm handpiece, three times for each treated muscle using a BTL-5000 unit, a frequency of 10 Hz and 0.15mJ/mm² energy (Mirea et al., 2014), The other study applied 1500 shots in one session each week for three months using ultrasound pointer guide, frequency of 5 Hz, pressure of 1.5 bars and energy of 0.030mJ/mm² with an electromagnetic coil lithotripter provided with in-line ultrasound, radiographic and computerized aiming (El-Shamy et al., 2014).

One study applied FMV for 10 min and a 30 sec free interval each session, three sessions each day for three days using CRO system with a frequency of 100 Hz and a peak amplitude of 0.05-0.5mm (Celletti & Camerota, 2011).

One study used laser acupuncture applied for 30 secs at each point, two sessions each week for three months with a diode laser device with a wavelength of 650nm, power output of 0-250mW and a pen probe with a diameter of 1 cm (Dabbous et al., 2016).

4.3.4 Study protocol

In the studies where stimulation of the central nervous system was applied, the measurements of the effect of brain stimulation happened at baseline, immediately after the intervention period, 24 and 48 hours after (Aree-uea et al., 2014), in the spinal cord stimulation the measurements happened at baseline and immediately after (Solopova et al., 2017).

In the studies where stimulation of the peripheral nervous system was applied, the measurements of the effect of FES was taken every week for 20 weeks (Pool et al., 2014). In one they measured at baseline, after 10 min, at the end of the first NMES and after seven days (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009). Three measured at baseline and immediately after intervention (Dali et al., 2002; Karabay et al., 2015; Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008).

In the studies where stimulation of the muscle was applied using different kinds of SW, the measurements happened in two studies before and after the placebo intervention and active SW therapy and on one, four (Gonkova et al., 2013) and 12 weeks after intervention (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010). One study measured at baseline, one month and three months after (Wang et al., 2016). Two studies measured only at baseline and the end of the intervention (El-Shamy et al., 2014; Mirea et al., 2014). FMV measurement took place at baseline, 24 hour, 30 days and 12 weeks after (Celletti & Camerota, 2011).

The study with laser acupuncture took measurements at baseline and immediately after the treatment (Dabbous et al., 2016).

4.3.5 Outcome measures

The MAS is used in 13 of the 15 studies (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009; Amelio & Manganotti, 2010; Aree-uea et al., 2014; Celletti & Camerota, 2011; Dabbous et al., 2016; Dali et al., 2002; El-Shamy et al., 2014; Gonkova et al., 2013; Karabay et al., 2015; Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008; Mirea et al., 2014; Solopova et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2016) In one study, the researchers used the Modified Tardieu Scale (Pool et al., 2014).

4.3.6 Results studies

In the studies were stimulation of the central nervous system was applied showed that the one was stimulation was applied using anodal tic's a significant difference was found in the MAS for the shoulder between groups immediately (p < 0.01) and 24 hours (p < 0.05) after treatment and between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.01) and 48 hours (p < 0.05) after treatment in the intervention group. They also found a significant difference for the elbow between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), and 48 hours (p < 0.001) after treatment in the intervention group. They also found a significant difference for the elbow between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001) after treatment in the intervention group. For the wrist

they found a significant difference between groups immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.05) and 48 hours (p < 0.05) after treatment and between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001) and 48 hours (p < 0.01) after treatment in the intervention group. They found a significant difference for the fingers between groups immediately after the treatment (p < 0.01) and between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001) and 48 hours (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001) and 48 hours (p < 0.001) and between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001) and 48 hours (p < 0.001) and the intervention group. They found a significant difference for the fingers between groups immediately after the treatment (p < 0.001) and between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001) and 48 hours (p < 0.001) after treatment in the intervention group. (Aree-uea et al., 2014).

The study which used tasks found no changes in spasticity in either group (Solopova et al., 2017).

In the studies were stimulation of the peripheral nervous system was used showed that the study which used FES found a significant improvement of the MTS between the pre-FES and FES phases (p < 0.01) and the pre- and post-FES phases (p < 0.01) (Pool et al., 2014).

The two studies which used NMES, one found a significant difference of the MAS for the hip adductor muscles between the end of the first stimulation and seven days after the first assessment for the intervention group (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009) the second found no significant changes for the MAS (Karabay et al., 2015).

The study in which ES in addition to passive stretch was used showed a mean difference in decrease of the MAS due to addition of ES of 0.8 points (p = 0.046) (Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008). The study which used TES found that the MAS was unchanged in all groups (Dali et al., 2002).

In the studies were stimulation of the muscle self was used showed that the study with SW stimulation found a significant difference in the MAS between the baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), one week (p < 0.001) and four weeks (p < 0.02) after treatment in the intervention group (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010). The study where RSWT was used found a significant difference in MAS immediately (p < 0.001), two weeks (p < 0.001) and four weeks (p < 0.001) and four weeks (p < 0.001) after treatment compared to the baseline for the intervention group (Gonkova et al., 2013).

The study where RESWT was used showed a significant difference in the MAS for the left side between baseline and 3 months after the baseline measurements (p < 0.01) for the treatment group (Wang et al., 2016).

The two studies which used ESWT showed a significant difference for MAS between baseline and the end of the treatment in the control group (p = 0.017) and for the intervention group (p = 0.001) (EI-Shamy et al., 2014) or showed that the MAS decreased almost one degree after treatment, but the significance of this was unclear (Mirea et al., 2014).

The study which used FMV showed significant differences for the MAS between baseline and 24 hours after treatment (p = 0.001), between baseline and 30 days after treatment (p = 0.007) and between baseline and 12 weeks after treatment (p < 0.0001) (Celletti & Camerota, 2011).

The study which used leisure acupuncture showed significant differences on the MAS for the wrist flexors (p = 0.00) and ankle plantar flexors (p = 0.00) in the intervention group and significant differences on the MAS for the wrist flexors (p = 0.00) and ankle plantar flexors (p = 0.01) between groups (Dabbous et al., 2016).

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reflection on the quality of the studies

The quality of the seven RCT's varied. In two studies four questions were answered 'not described' and thus had a low quality. Dabbous et al., 2016 was the only study where laser therapy was applied on a young group of hemiplegic spastic CP children in one institute. This could mean that the groups were comparable at baseline and so this study was included in this literature review. The study of Al-Abdullahi & Al-Khatrawi, 2009 used a motion & gait laboratory of a Humanitarian city and thus selective publication bias could be present. The groups were not comparable at baseline because they used a healthy control group and children with CP as control group. This study described the use of NMES in a functional way and is reproductive. For this reason, this study was included.

The quality of the four Cohort studies was performed with the ROBINS-I. The study of Mirea et al., 2014 had a serious risk of bias, but this study was performed on all GMFCS levels and the four different spastic syndrome distribution. For this reason, this study was included. In their results the reduction of the spasticity was described but not if this was significant, they mentioned that their results were significant and that the result persisted for three to four weeks in the discussion but this was nowhere else described. The study of Pool et al., 2014 also had a serious risk of bias and the first author was responsible for the clinical assessments and the initial setup of the device. This could be a measurement in outcome bias but can approached positively because only one person performed the measurements and these can all be assessed in the same way. Also this was the only study were FES was applied. For these reasons, this study was included.

The quality of the case-control studies was performed using the NOS. These three studies were of high quality, but in the study of Amelio & Manganotti 2010 the children served as their own control, where in the other two, the children were divided into an intervention group and a control group. They used a small sample size compared to the two others. In the study of Karabay et al., 2015 spasticity was briefly described but their main focus was the muscle architecture of the tibialis anterior and gastrocnemius.

5.2 Reflection on findings in function of research questions

The research question was: which different types of non-invasive stimulation techniques have an influence on the spasticity in children with CP?

Stimulation applied on the central nervous system showed only a significant decrease of the spasticity in the upper limb on children with spastic CP and GMFCS level two, three and four if stimulation was applied for 20 minutes each day for five consecutive days on the left M1 using anodal tDCS and combined with routine physical therapy(Aree-uea et al., 2014). This was the first study to investigate the effect of tDCS applied to patients with spastic CP and cannot be compared to other studies. However in this study the follow-up time was 48 hours after intervention, this is a short period and no statement can be made regarding the long-term follow-up (Aree-uea et al., 2014).

Stimulation applied for 20 minutes each session for 15 sessions on children with spastic CP GMFCS level two, three and four using tSCS had no significant decrease of the spasticity in the lower limbs

(Solopova et al., 2017). This is in contrast with two other studies who found that epidural SCS reduced the spasticity according the MAS (Dekopov et al., 2015; Shabalov et al., 2000). However they did found an significant increase in the GMFM-88 score in the intervention group, this means that these children have better motor functions (Solopova et al., 2017).

Stimulation applied on the peripheral nervous system showed a significant decrease of the spasticity in the lower limb in children with unilateral spastic CP GMFCS level one or two if FES was applied one hour each day, six days a week for eight weeks (Pool et al., 2014). This was also found in two other studies (Hazlewood et al., 1994; Carmick et al., 1993). Improving the spasticity could have an influence on the selective motor control which would lead to better motor functions (Pool et al., 2014).

Stimulation with NMES of the gluteus medius 15 minutes each session, three sessions each day for seven consecutive days showed a significant decrease of the spasticity in the hip adductors in children with spastic diplegic CP who could walk with or without assistive device (Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009). One previous case report showed similar results but the NMES program was applied on the quadriceps (Daichmann et al., 2003), this means that these children gait is close to the level of healthy children(Al-Abdulwahab & Al-Khatrawi, 2009).

Stimulation with NMES of the tibialis anterior and gastrocnemius 30 min each day, five days a week for four weeks on children with spastic diplegic CP GMFCS levels one to five showed no significant decrease of the spasticity (Karabay et al., 2015). This is in contrast with two previous studies who did found a decrease of spasticity in the lower limb (Reed B., 1997; Seifart et al., 2009). This study mainly focused on muscle volume , cross-sectional area, thickness and muscle belly length, only the cross-sectional area of the tibialis anterior was significantly different in the two groups((Karabay et al., 2015). Stimulation of the quadriceps with ES 30 minutes, three times each week in addition to passive stretch of the hamstrings five time each week for four weeks in children with spastic CP and who were unable to walk independently showed a significant decrease in the spasticity (Khalili & Hajihassanie, 2008). This was also found in two studies (Shindo and Jones., 1987; Pandyan et al., 1997), where one stimulated the wrist extensors (Pandyan et al., 1997).

Stimulation of the quadriceps and tibialis anterior with TES six hours each night, six night each week for 12 months in children with spastic hemiplegia and spastic diplegia who walked with or without a walker showed no decrease in the spasticity of the lower limb (Dali et al., 2002). This is in contrast with one study where FES was applied (Hazelwood et al., 1994).

Stimulation applied on the muscle showed a significant decrease of the spasticity in the gastrocnemius and soleus in children with unilateral spastic equinus with the use of SW applied for one session consisting of 1500 shots(Amelio & Manganotti, 2010). One other study found similar results in adult patients with stroke (Manganotti & Amelio., 2005). They only applied one session of SW and the results lasted for four weeks but not after 12 weeks also no statement can be made if the stimulation have an effect on a functional level (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010).

Stimulation of the gastrocnemius and soleus with RWST in one session consisting of 1500 shots decreased the spasticity significantly in children with spastic hemiplegia or diplegia CP (Gonkova et al.,

2013). Two studies found similar results, One study (Amelio & Manganotti, 2010) applied SW, the other (Vidal et al., 2011) applies RSWT on adults with CP. RSWT is safe, better tolerated and less painful than SW (Gonkova et al., 2013).

Stimulation of the plantar flexors muscles in children with spastic CP for one session consisting of 1500 RESWT, once a week for three months combined with traditional conservative therapy showed a significant decrease in the spasticity (Wang et al., 2016). This is the first study where RESWT is applied to very young children with CP and they also found that RESWT more effective is when MAS is higher and should be started as early as possible, however this study design must been taken into account, The parents could chose in witch group their child participated (Wang et al., 2016).

Stimulation of the gastrocnemius and soleus using ESWT consisting of one session of 1500 shots each week for three months showed a significant decrease of the spasticity in children with spastic hemiplegic CP who could walk without the use of walking aids (EI-Shamy et al., 2014). Similar results were found in (Amelio & Manganotti .,2010; Vidal et al., 2011; Gonkova et al., 2013). In this study the functional capacity of gait was also analyzed (EI-Shamy et al., 2014).

Stimulation of the mainly affected muscles in children with spastic hemiplegia, triplegia, quadriplegia and diplegia CP with GMFCS levels one to five using three sessions ESWT consisting of 500 shocks in each muscle showed a decrease in the spasticity whether this was significant was not clear (Mirea et al., 2014). Significantly decreases in spasticity was found in two other studies (Amelio & Manganotti., 2010; Vidal et al., 2011). In this study was no long-term follow-up but all different kinds of CP were evaluated (Mirea et al., 2014).

Focal muscle vibration on both sides of the Achilles tendon for 10 minutes, three times each day for three consecutive days in children with spastic diplegic CP who could walk without devices showed a significant decrease of the spasticity (Celletti & Camerota, 2011). One study had similar results (Camerota et al., 2011).

Laser acupuncture applied for 30 seconds on four different points two times each week for three months and received conventional physiotherapy in children with spastic hemiplegic CP showed a significant decrease of the spasticity (Dabbous et al., 2016). Three studies had similar results (Asagai et al., 1994; fadaie et al., 2002; anwar et al., 2008). They only used four stimulation points whereas other studies used a large number of acupuncture points, the specific inclusion criteria were not described in this study making it impossible to imitate this study (Dabbous et al., 2016).

5.3 Strengths and weaknesses of the literature review, a reflection

Some strength of this literature review are that there was a clear definition of spasticity and non-invasive stimulation techniques, this was necessary to excluded articles who did not meet the inclusion criteria of these definitions. It was difficult to define a proper definition for spasticity because every study used a different description, especially the older studies. Only the MAS, TS and MTS were determined to measure spasticity, this to exclude articles where they described in the abstract that the spasticity was measured but after checking the full text it appeared that this was done using a test which focus on the functionality, range of motion or strength rather than the spasticity. The reliability and validity of these assessment are questioned. A recently developed technique used a combination of the MAS and

integrated biomechanical and electrophysiological measure (Bar-On et al., 2014; Sloot et al., 2017) and were found valid and reliable, but since this was not used in the studies, MAS, TS and MTS were used. Both auteurs did the selection of the studies and were blinded for each other. When both had made a list these were compared to each other and where different answers were given, these studies were discussed.

Some weaknesses of this literature review are the use of a long search string in PubMed, this could prevent some studies to be found. Although not surgery was added to the search string, there were a lot of studies where surgery was applied. Despite CP was used as a topic in Web of Science, there were a lot of articles where the intervention was not performed on CP. Stimulation was not used as a search item in PubMed because then, some hits were missed. The quality assessment can be questioned because only one person performed this quality assessment, especially the quality of the cohort and case-control studies. These last two checklists were not know to the researcher who performed the quality assessment and found some questions hard to understand because these were not available in Dutch.

5.4 Recommendations for future research

Some recommendations for future research for al kind of interventions in the use of an integrated biomechanical and electrophysiological measure in combination with the MAS, this to get an objective outcome instead of a subjective outcome.

When stimulation is applied on the central nervous system more studies should use longer intervention time in tDCS and tSCS in the treatment of spasticity in children with spastic CP. The inclusion of a motor function test can determine whether this effect is also visible on the functionality in these children. A longer follow-up period is also a recommendation, to know the effects of the intervention on long term follow-up.

When stimulation is applied on the peripheral nervous system the use of functional neuromuscular stimulation is recommended. Improving of the functionality can be added, not only on the lower limb but also on the upper limb, there were no studies found where the upper limb was evaluated using NMES. A longer intervention and follow-up period can be feasible for better results.

When stimulation is applied on the muscle the use of RCT's is feasible, if this is not possible there should be a control group who are not the same children. In this way the quality of these studies can be better. Also, the stimulation of the upper limb can be researched. The inclusion of a functionality test is recommended. Long-term follow up and a longer intervention period can determine the effects on longterm. A clear description of the included patients and baseline assessment can be essential by reproducing the study.

6 CONCLUSION

The results of this literature review suggest that the spasticity in children with CP can be decreased with the use of non-invasive stimulation techniques. However, the results must be carefully interpreted because the quality assessment of the different studies can be questionable. Also, there was a large different in the intervention period and the follow-up time. Some studies performed only on hemiplegic CP while other applied on quadriplegic CP. The following interventions had a significant decrease of the spasticity TDCS, FES, NMES, SW, RSWT, ESWT, repeated muscle vibration and laser acupuncture applied as previously described while tSCS, ES and TES had no significant influence on the spasticity, but in these studies the focus was the functionality of the children.

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- Zhukovskaia, E. D., Semenova, K. A., Devchenkova, V. D., & Morozova, T. P. (1991). [Zinc sulfate in the complex treatment of children with cerebral palsy]. *Zh Nevropatol Psikhiatr Im S S Korsakova, 91*(8), 15-17.

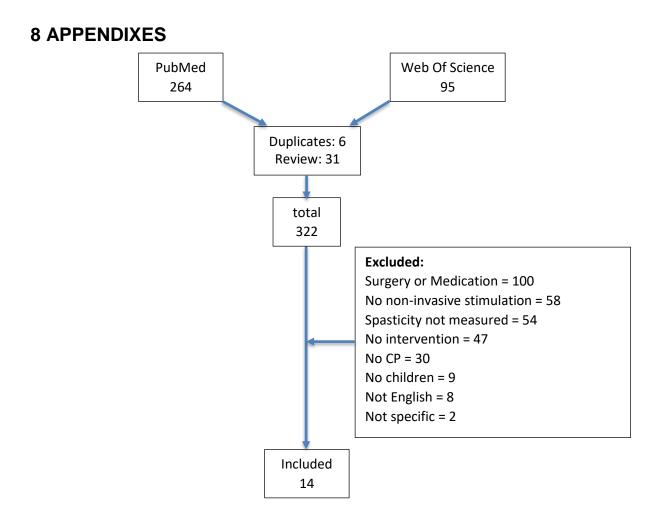


Figure 1: Flow chart in and excluded article

Table 1: Overview reason excluded articles

Reason for exclusion	Number of studies	Author(s), Year
Invasive technique	100	 (Arroyave Loaiza, Jarillo Soto, Garfias Garnica, Ribera Ibarra, & Uribe Zamarripa, 2000; Awad, 1972; Benedetti, Colombo, Alexandre, & Pellegri, 1982; Berman, Vaughan, & Peacock, 1990; Bigtre & Blennow, 1971; Bleck, 1990; Bogdanov, Pinchuk, & Mikhailenok, 1990; Bogdanov, Sheliakin, Pinchuk, & Pisar'kova, 1993; Boogerd & Beijnen, 2000; Bowen, MacEwen, & Mathews, 1981; Braid, Kirker, & Baguley, 2013; Brin & Kireeva, 1991; Cigala, Marmo, Lottio, Cigala, & Lombari, 2003; Cooper, Riklan, Amin, Waltz, & Cullinan, 1976; Cooper, Upton, & Amin, 1980; Copp, Harris, & Keenan, 1970; Couto et al., 1976; Dahlin, Knutsson, & Nergardh, 1993; "Dantrolene: new indication. Cerebral palsy in children: uncertain clinical benefit," 2008; Davis, Cullen, Duenas, & Engel, 1976; Davis, Gray, Ryan, & Schulman, 1985; Davis, Schulman, & Delehanty, 1987; Dequeker, Van Campenhout, Feys, & Molenaers, 2018; Doll, 2003; Engsberg, Ross, Collins, & Park, 2006; Engsberg, Ross, 2018; Doll, 2003; Engsberg, Ross, Collins, & Fodor, 1980; Gerasimiuk, Gusel, Klimenko, & Korovin, 1990; Gigante et al., 2013; Gong et al., 2010; Gutlieb et al., 1985; Grobb-Selbeck & Doose, 1973; Gu, Wang, & Chai, 1998; Gul, Steinbok, & McLeod, 1999; Hariga, 1970; G. F. Harris, Millar, Hemmy, & Lochner, 1993; Hays et al., 1998; Hugenholtz, Humphreys, McIntyre, Spasoff, & Steel, 1988; Ignatowicz, Gdakowicz, Kowalczyk, & Zukowska-Walczyk, 1974; Ignatowicz, Michalowicz, Kmiec, & Kruzel, 1989; Jelasic, 1974; Joynt & Leonard, 1980; Kadhim & Miller, 2014; Kasatkin, 2008; Kinghorn, 1992; Klimenko, 1981; Knutsson, 1983; Kwon & Kim, 2009; Laitinen & Singounas, 1971; Lin, Brown, & Walsh, 1999; Lnenicka & Stara, 1992; Maenpaa et al., 2003; Maksimov, Secheiko, & Andriichuk, 1999; Maritz, Muller, & Pompe van Meerdervoort, 1978; Mathew & Mathew, 2005; Mathew, Mathew, Chorsas, & Antonisamy, 2005; Molnar, 1987; Montgomery et al., 1994; Nonson, Best, Campbell, & Fehlings, 2008; Nogen, 1976, 1979; Nowotny, Krauze, Moskala, Adowska, & Marek, 1980; Ojemann, Park, Komanetsky, Day, &
Intervention was not stimulating	58	(Akbayrak, Armutlu, Gunel, & Nurlu, 2005; Alemdaroglu et al., 2016; Androwis, Michael, Strongwater, Foulds, & leee, 2013; Androwis, Strongwater, Foulds, & leee, 2014b; Babina, Kotliarov, & Soikher, 2010; Bertea, 1984; Blaga, 1982; Bonnechere, Omelina, Jansen, & Van Sint Jan, 2017; Bonnefoy-Mazure et al., 2016; Brouwer, Davidson, & Olney, 2000; Burtner, Woollacott, & Qualls, 1999; Cheng, Ju, Chen, & Wong, 2012; Chrysagis, Skordilis, Stavrou, Grammatopoulou, & Koutsouki, 2012; Currie & Mendiola, 1987; Dimitrijevic et al., 2012; dos Santos & de Oliveira, 2004; Fischer-Brandies, Limbrock, & Tragner-Born, 1988; Fowler, Ho, Nwigwe, & Dorey, 2001; Gillett, Lichtwark, Boyd, & Barber, 2015; Gressmann, 1972; Helt & Foulds, 2004; Hemayattalab, Arabameri, Pourazar, Ardakani, & Kashefi, 2013; Iakovlev, Vasilevskii,

		Tsukerman, & Klimenko, 1975; Johnston et al., 2011; Kassee, Hunt, Holmes, & Lloyd, 2017; Kassover, Tauber, Au, & Pugh, 1986; Kendall & Robson, 1966; Kerem, Livanelioglu, & Topcu, 2001; Krautwurst, Dreher, & Wolf, 2016; Liu et al., 2014; Malila, Seeda, Machom, & Eungpinithpong, 2015; Mazzone et al., 2011; Myhr & von Wendt, 1991, 1993; Nash, Neilson, & O'Dwyer, 1989; O'Dwyer, Neilson, & Nash, 1994; Otis, Root, & Kroll, 1985; Ozkan & Zincir, 2017; Parvin, Taghiloo, Irani, & Mirbagheri, 2017; Patrick, 1989; Radtka, Skinner, Dixon, & Johanson, 1997; Robertson, 1980; Sedin, 1988; Semenova, Bubnova, Vinogradova, & Tikunova, 1986; Singhi, 2004; Skrotzky, Gallenstein, & Osternig, 1978; Smiley et al., 2002; Stepanchenko, 1990; Stotz & Muller, 1973; Tona & Schneck, 1993; Tremblay, Malouin, Richards, & Dumas, 1990; Truscelli, 1980; Unger, Faure, & Frieg, 2006; Ungermann & Gras, 2011; Van den Berg-Emons, Van Baak, Speth, & Saris, 1998; van den Noort, Scholtes, Becher, & Harlaar, 2010; Weightman et al., 2014; Wu, Hwang, Ren, Gaebler- Spira, & Zhang, 2011)
Spasticity was not measured	54	(Androwis, Michael, Nolan, et al., 2015; Angelo, 1992; Babina, Tsvetkov, Kotliarov, & Borisenko, 1996; Baranova, 1973; Carmick, 1995, 1997; Chad, Bailey, McKay, Zello, & Snyder, 1999; Chen et al., 2016; Crenshaw et al., 2000; Duncan, Barton, Edmonds, & Blashill, 2004; Eek, Tranberg, & Beckung, 2011; Feldkamp, 1979; Ferre et al., 2017; Flamand, Beaulieu, Nadeau, & Schneider, 2012; Flamand & Schneider, 2014; Gates et al., 2012; Givon, 2009; F. A. Harris, 1978b; Huang, Ellis, Wagenaar, & Fetters, 2014; Iasnogorodskii, Karachevtseva, & Rumiantseva-Russkikh, 1978; Junge et al., 1992; Kamper, Yasukawa, Barrett, & Gaebler-Spira, 2006; Keklicek, Uygur, & Yakut, 2015; King, Levin, Schmidt, Oestreich, & Heubi, 2003; Kluzik, Fetters, & Coryell, 1990; Laskas, Mullen, Nelson, & Willson-Broyles, 1985; Law et al., 1991; Lucca, 1979; Maenpaa, Jaakkola, Sandstrom, Airri, & von Wendt, 2004; Maenpaa, Jaakkola, Sandstrom, & Von Wendt, 2004; Naslund, Sundelin, & Hirschfeld, 2007; Neilson & McCaughey, 1982; Noronha, Bundy, & Groll, 1989; Nunes, Quevedo, & Magdalon, 2008; Ozer, Chesher, & Scheker, 2006; E. S. Park, Park, Chang, Choi, & Lee, 2004; Qi et al., 2018; Rodda & Graham, 2001; Jessica Rose, Cahill-Rowley, & Butler, 2017; Santos et al., 2016; Scheker, Chesher, & Ramirez, 1999; Scherzer, Ilson, Mike, & Iandoli, 1973; Schmartz, Meyer-Heim, Muller, & Bolliger, 2011; Scholtes et al., 2008; Simon et al., 1978; Sommerfelt, Markestad, Berg, & Saetesdal, 2001; Stackhouse, Binder-Macleod, & Lee, 2005; Strashko, Kapustianska capital A, & Bobyreva, 2016; Strobl, 2002; Szawlowski, 1971; Trevisi et al., 2012; Wiart, Darrah, & Kembhavi, 2008; T. Wright & Nicholson, 1973; Yildizgoren, Yuzer, Ekiz, & Ozgirgin, 2014)
There was no intervention	47	(Androwis, Strongwater, Foulds, & leee, 2014a; Badell-Ribera, 1985; Bhatnagar & Srivastava, 1982; Carter, 1991; Cheney, 1997; Chiu, Ada, Butler, & Coulson, 2011; Coman, 1975; Cooley, 2004; Dan, 2017; de Bruin, Smeulders, Kreulen, Huijing, & Jaspers, 2014; DiMario & Sladky, 1989; Elkamil et al., 2011; Erenberg, 1984; Fee & Foulds, 2004; L. A. Fonseca et al., 2013; S. T. Fonseca, Holt, Saltzman, & Fetters, 2001; Foran, Steinman, Barash, Chambers, & Lieber, 2005; Gagliano et al., 2009; Gibbs, Harrison, Stephens, & Evans, 1999; Green & Hurvitz, 2007; F. A. Harris, 1978a; Hawley & Reiser, 1978; Katusic & Mejaski-Bosnjak, 2011; Koman, 2002; Lauer, Johnston, Smith, & Lee, 2008; Lees, Kennedy, Gadde, & Macnamara, 1983; Levine & Kliebhan, 1981; Mayer, 2002; Nielsen, Willerslev-Olsen, Lorentzen, & Sinkjaer, 2013; O'Neil et al., 2006; Pape et al., 1993; E. Y. Park & Kim, 2013; Parot & Leclercq, 2016; Pelekh, 1998; Phillips & Park, 1991; Rassafiani, Ziviani, Rodger, & Dalgleish, 2008, 2009; Robinson, McCarthy, & Little, 1989; J. Rose & McGill, 1998; Ross & Engsberg, 2007; Roujeau, Di Rocco, & Zerah, 2008; Sanchez et al., 2015; Shi & Chen, 2006; van der Linden, Aitchison, Hazlewood, Hillman, & Robb, 2004; Wilson, 1976; Woods, Cervone, & Fernandez, 2004; Zhou, Butler, & Rose, 2017)
Review	31	(Aiona & Sussman, 2004; Albright, 1996; Aversano, Sheikh Taha, Mundluru, & Otsuka, 2017; Barak, Hutzler, & Dubnov-Raz, 2014; Binder & Eng, 1989; Cauraugh, Naik, Hsu, Coombes, & Holt, 2010; Diamond, 1986; Fixsen, 1983; Frigo & Crenna, 2009; Garvey, Giannetti, Alter, & Lum, 2007; Gunduz, Kumru, & Pascual-Leone, 2014; Hurst, Lajara-Nanson, Dinakar, & Schiffer, 2004; Kedem & Scher, 2015; Khosla & Perkash, 1983; Leafblad & Van Heest, 2015;

		Mayson & Harris, 2014; Merrill, 2009; Mori et al., 2014; Naro et al., 2017; Peng et al., 2011; Penn, 1982; Pin, Dyke, & Chan, 2006; Pinder, Brogden, Speight, & Avery, 1977; Prasad, Breen, Ampola, & Rosman, 1997; Rosenbaum, 2003; Ryan, Cassidy, Noorduyn, & O'Connell, 2017; Scianni, Butler, Ada, & Teixeira- Salmela, 2009; Stavness, 2006; Tosi, Maher, Moore, Goldstein, & Aisen, 2009; Wongprasartsuk & Stevens, 2002; Wood et al., 2005)
The intervention was not performed on cerebral palsy	30	(Androwis, Michael, Jewaid, et al., 2015; Armutlu & Fil, 2010; Bakhtiary & Fatemy, 2008; Cabitza & Marraccini, 1968; Childers & Hux, 2013; Cooper et al., 1977; Dymarek, Taradaj, & Rosinczuk, 2016a, 2016b; Elbasiouny, Moroz, Bakr, & Mushahwar, 2010; Galanda & Hovath, 1997; Galea, 2012; Ganesan, 2013; Gao & Zhang, 2008; Gilmore, Ziviani, Sakzewski, Shields, & Boyd, 2010; Ikumi et al., 2017; Y. W. Kim, Chang, Kim, Kwon, & Lee, 2017; Kitatani et al., 2016; Laddha, Ganesh, Pattnaik, Mohanty, & Mishra, 2016; Lohse-Busch, Reime, & Falland, 2013; Lorentzen, Pradines, Gracies, & Nielsen, 2018; Lou et al., 2010; Manella & Field-Fote, 2013; Ring & Weingarden, 2007; Sabut, Sikdar, Kumar, & Mahadevappa, 2011; Sonner & Ladle, 2018; Struppler, Havel, & Muller-Barna, 2003; Teixeira et al., 2016; Usuki & Tohyama, 2016; J. Wright & Rang, 1990; Yang, Jee, Hwang, & Sohn, 2017)
The intervention was not performed on children	9	(Ahlborg, Andersson, & Julin, 2006; Arvio, Bjelogrlic-Laakso, & Salokivi, 2014; Cadenhead, McEwen, & Thompson, 2002; Condliffe, Jeffery, Emery, & Gorassini, 2016; Engel, Jensen, & Schwartz, 2004; Hershler et al., 1989; S. J. Kim et al., 2011; Ortega, 1978; Vidal, Morral, Costa, & Tur, 2011)
The article was not available in English	8	(Drobny et al., 1987; Jusic & Fronjek, 1970; Kolbl, 1968; Koziavkin, Vinogradova, & Stepanchenko, 1992; Lima et al., 2008; Tardieu, 1962; Wojcik, 1988; Xu, He, Li, & Mai, 2007)
not specific	2	(Cheng, Yu, Wong, Tsai, & Ju, 2015; Katusic, Alimovic, & Mejaski-Bosnjak, 2013)

Checklist RCT

- Were patients randomly assigned to an intervention group? 1.
- Were the persons performing the randomization blinded? 2.

3. Were patients and clinicians blinded for group assignment?

- Were effect assessors blinded for group assignment? 4.
- Were the groups comparable at baseline? 5a.
- If no: was a correction performed during analysis? 5b.
- Is follow-up data available for a large enough sample (85%) of the 6a. included patients?
- 6b. If no: is a selective loss-to-follow-up excluded?

Were all included patients analysed in the same group they were 7. randomized to?

- 8. Have the groups been treated equally, apart from the intervention
- Is selective publication of results sufficiently excluded? 9.
- 10. Is unwanted influence of sponsors sufficiently excluded?

Score op 10

Aree et al 2014	Dabbous et a 2016	EL-Shamy et al 2014	AL-Abdulwahad et al 2009	Solopova et al 2016	Khalili et al 2008	Dali et al 2002	
Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ	
Y	?	Y	?	Y	Ν	Y Y	
Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Y	
Υ	?	Υ	?	Ν	Y	Y	
Υ	?	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Υ	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ν	
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	
NA Y	?	NA Y	NA Y	NA Y	NA Y	Y Y	
Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ	
Υ	Υ	Υ	?	?	Y	Υ	
Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ	
9	5	9	5	7	8	9	
Q0%	50%	00%	50%	70%	80%	00%	

90% 50% 90% 50% 70% 80% 90%

Legend: Y=YES, N=NO, NA= Not Applicable, ?=not sure.

Table 3 Quality assessment cohort

(version for cohort-type studies) Version 19 September 2016				
Version 19 September 2016	Celetti	Gonkova	Mirea	Poo
	2011	2013	2014	2014
Signaling questions				
Bias due to confounding				
1.1 Is there potential for confounding of the effect of intervention in this study?	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
If <u>N/PN</u> to 1.1: the study can be at low risk of bias due to confounding and no further signaling questions need be considered				
If Y/PY to 1.1: determine whether there is a need to assess time-varying confounding:				
1.2. Was the analysis based on splitting participants' follow up time according to intervention received?				
If N/PN, answer questions relating to baseline confounding (1.4 to 1.6)				
If Y/PY, go to question 1.3.				
1.3. Were intervention discontinuations or switches likely to be related to factors that are prognostic for the outcome?				
If N/PN, answer questions relating to baseline confounding (1.4 to 1.6)				
If Y/PY, answer questions relating to both baseline and time-varying confounding (1.7 and 1.8)				
Questions relating to baseline confounding only				
1.4. Did the authors use an appropriate analysis method that controlled for all the important confounding domains?				
1.5. If $\underline{Y/PY}$ to 1.4: Were confounding domains that were controlled for measured validly and reliably by the variables available in this study?				
1.6. Did the authors control for any post-intervention variables that could have been affected by the intervention?				
Questions relating to baseline and time-varying confounding 1.7. Did the authors use an appropriate analysis method that controlled for all the important confounding domains and for time-varying confounding?				
1.8. If $\underline{Y/PY}$ to 1.7: Were confounding domains that were controlled for measured validly and reliably by the variables available in this study?				
Risk of bias judgement	L	L	L	L
Bias in selection of participants into the study				
2.1. Was selection of participants into the study (or into the analysis) based on participant characteristics observed after the start of intervention?	N	N	N	Ν
If <u>N/PN</u> to 2.1: go to 2.4				
2.2. If Y/PY to 2.1: Were the post-intervention variables that influenced selection likely to be associated with intervention?				
2.3 If Y/PY to 2.2: Were the post-intervention variables that influenced selection likely to be influenced by the outcome or a cause of the outcome?				
2.4. Do start of follow-up and start of intervention coincide for most participants?2.5. If Y/PY to 2.2 and 2.3, or N/PN to 2.4: Were adjustment techniques used that are likely to correct for the presence of selection biases?	Y	Y	Y	Y
Risk of bias judgement	L	L	L	L
Bias in classification of interventions				†
3.1 Were intervention groups clearly defined?	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.2 Was the information used to define intervention groups recorded at the start of the intervention?	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.3 Could classification of intervention status have been affected by knowledge of the outcome or risk of the outcome?	N	N	N	Ν
Risk of bias judgement	L	L	L	L
Bias due to deviations from intended interventions	1		1	1
If your aim for this study is to assess the effect of assignment to intervention, answer questions 4.1 and 4.2				1
4.1. Were there deviations from the intended intervention beyond what would be expected in usual practice?				1

	-	1	1	
4.2. If Y/PY to 4.1: Were these deviations from intended intervention unbalanced between groups <i>and</i> likely to have affected the outcome?				
If your aim for this study is to assess the effect of starting and adhering to intervention, answer questions 4.3 to 4.6				
4.3. Were important co-interventions balanced across intervention groups?	?	?	?	?
4.4. Was the intervention implemented successfully for most participants?	Y	Y	Y	Y
4.5. Did study participants adhere to the assigned intervention regimen?	Y	Y	Y	Y
4.6. If N/PN to 4.3, 4.4 or 4.5: Was an appropriate analysis used to estimate the effect of starting and adhering to the intervention?	?	?	?	?
Risk of bias judgement	NI	NI	NI	NI
Bias due to missing data				
5.1 Were outcome data available for all, or nearly all, participants?	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.2 Were participants excluded due to missing data on intervention status?	Ν	N	N	N
5.3 Were participants excluded due to missing data on other variables needed for the analysis?	N	N	N	N
5.4 If PN/N to 5.1, or Y/PY to 5.2 or 5.3: Are the proportion of participants and reasons for missing data similar across interventions?				
5.5 If PN/N to 5.1, or Y/PY to 5.2 or 5.3: Is there evidence that results were robust to the presence of missing data?				
Risk of bias judgement	L	L	L	L
Bias in measurement of outcomes				
6.1 Could the outcome measure have been influenced by knowledge of the intervention received?	N	N	?	Y
6.2 Were outcome assessors aware of the intervention received by study participants?	?	N	?	Y
6.3 Were the methods of outcome assessment comparable across intervention groups?	Y	Y	Y	Y
6.4 Were any systematic errors in measurement of the outcome related to intervention received?	N	N	N	N
		L	S	S
Risk of bias judgement	М			
Risk of bias judgement Bias in selection of the reported result	IM			
	M			
Bias in selection of the reported result	N	N	N	N
Bias in selection of the reported result Is the reported effect estimate likely to be selected, based on the results, from 7.1 multiple outcome measurements within the outcome domain? 7.2 multiple analyses of the intervention-outcome relationship?		N N	N N	N N
Bias in selection of the reported result Is the reported effect estimate likely to be selected, based on the results, from 7.1 multiple outcome <i>measurements</i> within the outcome domain?	N			
Bias in selection of the reported result Is the reported effect estimate likely to be selected, based on the results, from 7.1 multiple outcome measurements within the outcome domain? 7.2 multiple analyses of the intervention-outcome relationship?	N	N	N	N

Responses underlined in green are potential markers for low risk of bias, and responses in red are potential markers for a risk of bias. Where questions relate only to sign posts to other questions, no formatting is used. Legend: N=NO, Y=YES, L= Low, M= moderate, S=Serious, ?= not sure, NI= No information

CASE CONTROL STUDIES			
	Wang 2016	Amelio 2010	Karabay 2015
Selection			
1) Is the case definition adequate?			
a) yes, with independent validation	А	А	А
b) yes, e.g. record linkage or based on self-reports			
c) no description			
2) <u>Representativeness of the cases</u>			
a) consecutive or obviously representative series of cases	A	A	А
b) potential for selection biases or not stated			
3) Selection of Controls			
a) community controls	Α	А	А
b) hospital controls			
c) no description			
4) Definition of Controls			
a) no history of disease (endpoint)	А	А	A
b) no description of source			
Comparability			
1) Comparability of cases and controls based on the design or analysis			
a) study controls for (Select the most important factor.)	NO sig dif	same persons	no sig dif
b) study controls for any additional factor (These criteria could be modified to indicate specificcontrol for a second important factor.)	side sig did both	same persons	no sig dif
Exposure			
1) Ascertainment of exposure			
a) secure record (e.g. surgical records)			
b) structured interview where blind to case/control status	В		В
c) interview not blinded to case/control status		С	
d) written self-report or medical record only			
e) no description			
2) Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls			
a) yes	А	А	А
b) no			+
3) Non-Response rate			
a) same rate for both groups	A	A	A
b) non-respondents described			
c) rate different and no designation			
stars?	9	8	9

Table 5 Data extraction included articles

TITLE	EFFECT OF SHOCK WAVE STIMULATION ON HYPERTONIC PLANTAR FLEXOR MUSCLES IN PATIENTS WITH CEREBRAL PALSY: A PLACEBO-CONTROLLED STUDY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Amelio & Manganotti, 2010
AIM OF THE STUDY	To investigate in a placebo-controlled open study, the effects of a single shock wave stimulation in plantar flexor muscle for a hypothetical treatment of spastic equines foot.
POPULATION	 12 Children with CP¹ Mean age 8 (range = 6-11) Inclusion criteria Ability to ambulate Spastic hemiparesis Spastic_equines No previous treatment with BTX-A² (7) No recent treatment with BTX-A (5) No previous surgery of the foot, ankle and/or leg 12 children completed the program.
INTERVENTION	Shock wave stimulation Electromagnetic coil lithotripter provided with in-line ultrasound, radiographic and computerized aiming was used. Pressure pulses focused in hypertonic muscle of the lower limb - 1500 shots in middle of belly soleus and gastrocnemius using ultrasound pointer-guide. - Energy applied: 0,030 mJ/mm²
STUDY PROTOCOL	One placebo treatment session with no shock waves were applied, followed 6 weeks later by one active shock wave treatment session. They also included a 2-week interval between monitoring of placebo and treatment. Measurements - Before and after placebo - Before and after active shock wave - 1, 4 and 12 weeks after active shock wave treatment
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	Passive range of motion ankle – Electronic goniometer Spasticity plantar flexor – Modified Asworth scale Pedobarometric assessment
RESULTS	Placebo stimulation - No sig ³ changes in MAS ⁴ and PROM ⁵ Active stimulation MAS - Sig difference between baseline and immediately after treatment (3.3 – 1.8) (p<0,001)
STRENGHTS	 Examination where performed by the same physician The children where their own control They used a 2week interval to avoid possible cross-over effect There were no side effects
WEAKNESSES	 Small sample size The protocol was not blinded

¹ Cerebral palsy
 ² Botulinium toxin A
 ³ significant
 ⁴ Modified Ashworth scale
 ⁵ Passive range of motion

TITLE	A PROSPECTIVE CASE-CONTROL STUDY OF RADIAL EXTRACORPOREAL SHOCK WAVE
	THERAPY FOR SPASTIC PLANTAR MUSCLE IN VERY YOUNG CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Wang 2016
AIM OF THE STUDY	To prove that rESWT ⁶ combined with traditional conservative therapy is as safe but not more effective than traditional conservative in the treatment of spastic plantar flexor muscle in very young patient with CP.
POPULATION	66 children with CP
	Inclusion - Age between 12 and 60 months - Diagnosis CP - MAS plantar flexor muscle greater than grade 1 and up to grade 4 - Availability to attend the hospital during treatment and follow-up assessments Exclusion - - Fixed contractures or deformities at left ankle - Myopathies - Clinical signs of myopathy and neuropathy - Treatment with shock waves in the past - Treatment with BTX-A and/or focal intramuscular treatment with phenol and alcohol in the past - Previous surgery of the foot, ankle and leg - Treatment with drugs for spasticity control - Infection or tumor at the site of therapy application - Serious blood dyscrasia - Blood-clotting disorders - Treatment with oral anticoagulants - r - Treatment with oral anticoagulants - - - Treatment with oral ange 22.3 months, 11 F ⁷ and 23 M ⁸ control group : n = 32, median age 21.5 months, 11 F and 21 M There were no lost-to-follow up
INTERVENTION	rESWT Treated with radial shock wave device Swiss DolorClast, using the radial (blue) handpiece with 15 mm applicator. - 1500 radial shock waves per session and leg → 3000 radial shock waves/session → 36000 radial shock waves end intervention - Frequency: 8Hz - Air pressure: 0.6 bar → EFD+ of 0.03mJ/mm² - Coupling gel evenly distributed over gastrocnemius and soleus
STUDY PROTOCOL	3 months rESWT and conservative therapy or 3 months conservative therapy - rESWT = 1 session/week - conservative therapy = 6 days/week 30 min/type ⁹ therapy Measurements: - - Baseline (BL) - 1 month (M1) after BL - 3 months (M3) after BL
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	MAS – Treatment success was defined as individual improvement by more than 1 grade at M3. <u>pROM</u> – Goniometer in supine position with knee extended. <u>GMFM-88¹⁰</u>
RESULTS	MAS - rESWT left: 2.6±1.0 BL ¹¹ to 1.5±1.0 M3 (-42%) (p<0.01)

 ⁶ Radial extracorporeal shock wave therapy
 ⁷ Female
 ⁸ male
 ⁹ Physical therapy, chinese massage, meridian mediation and muscle stimulation
 ¹⁰ Gross motor function measurment
 ¹¹ Baseline

	 13 Patients in rESWT showed significant improvement on left side by more than 1 grade at MAS at M3 but only 2 patients on the right side and 0 in control group. <u>pROM</u> rESWT left: 18.0 ± 11.6 degrees BL to 33.6 ± 11.1 M3 (+87%) (p<0.05) rESWT right: 21.9 ± 12.6 BL to 34.4 ± 10.0 M3 (+57%) Control left: 18.3 ± 8.6 BL to 23.4 ± 6.8 M3 (+28%) Control right: 17.8 ± 9.9 BL 23.6 ± 8.2 M3 (+33%) Within subject effects time, time x treatment and treatment were sig. Only BL to M3 was sig.
STRENGHTS	 All treatments were performed on outpatient basis The assessors had no access to treatment records There were no adverse effects
WEAKNESSES	 Parents were allowed to choose which treatment their child would receive No blinding for patients, parents and therapists Parents of children who had better motor skills tended to choose for the rESWT.

TITLE	LASER ACUPUNCTURE AS AN ADJUNCTIVE THERAPY FOR SPASTIC CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Dabbous 2016
AIM OF THE STUDY	To investigate whether biostimulation by low-level on acupuncture points on upper and lower limbs add a clinical benefit to conventional physiotherapy in hemiplegic spastic cerebral palsy children.
POPULATION	40 children (23 M, 17 F) – Mean age: 3y ¹² (SD = ± 2m ¹³) (range: 1 – 4y) Study group: n = 20 Control group: n = 20
INTERVENTION	Laser acupuncture Diode laser device with a wavelength of 650 nm and a power output of 0-250 mW for biostimulation of the acupuncture points, with a pen probe with a diameter of 1 cm with was applied for 30s at 4 different points. ¹⁴ - GB 34: lateral aspect leg, anterior and inferior head fibula in deep depression. Ll 4: dorsum hand between first and second metacarpal bones, radial to midpoint second metacarpal bone. - Ll 12: lateral aspect elbow, superior lateral epicondyle humerus. - Liv 3: dorsal foot, 2 Tsun proximal to Web margin between first and second metatarsals.
STUDY PROTOCOL	2 sessions/week for 3 months and conventional therapy Measurements: – BS – Immediately after treatment period
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	Muscle tone - MAS of wrist flexors and ankle flexors <u>ROM</u>
RESULTS	MAS - Control group: No sig difference (p=0.08) - Study group: sig difference wrist flexors (p=0.00) and ankle plantar flexors (p=0.00) - Between groups: sig difference for wrist flexors (p=0.00) and ankle plantar flexors (p=0.01) - Control group: sig difference wrist flexion (p=0.003), ankle plantar flexion (p=0.024), ankle dorsiflexion (p=0.029). - Study group: sig difference wrist flexion (p=0.01), wrist extension (p=0.00), ankle plantar flexion (p=0.01) and ankle dorsiflexion (p=0.01) - Between groups: no sig difference was found
STRENGHTS	 It's a painless technique
WEAKNESSES	 No clear inclusion or exclusion criteria Only 4 acupuncture points in contrast with other studies Small sample size

 ¹² years
 ¹³ months
 ¹⁴ Points are known from acupuncture experiences to be effective in treatment spasticity

TITLE	REDUCTION OF SPASTICITY IN CEREBRAL PALSY BY ANODAL TRANSCRANIAL DIRECT
	CURRENT STIMULATION
AUTHORS, YEAR AIM OF THE	Aree-uea 2014 To evaluate the anti-spasticity effects of anodal transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) over the
STUDY	left M1 in individuals with spastic cerebral palsy (CP)
POPULATION	46 children Inclusion - Diagnosis Cp - GMFCS ¹⁵ levels 2 to 4 - 8 – 18y - Upper limb spasticity MAS 1 to 3 Exclusion - - Severe spasticity and contractures - Autism, mental retardation, psychosis and drug addiction - Pregnancy, skull defect and epilepsy - Receiving concomitant alternative therapies (herbs or massage)
	 Orthopedic surgery upper limb Initiation or change in dosage oral antispastic drug within 5 days BTX-A or BTX-B injections less than 90 days prior Active tDCS group: 23 Sham tDCS group: 23
	45 children completed the program (1 lost to follow up at 48 hours in Sham group)
INTERVENTION	Anodal tDCS - 1mA over left M1 - Applied via 0,9% NaCl soaked pair of surface sponge electrodes (35cm²) - Maximum output of 10mA. - Stimulation over left M1 or C3 locus according to international EEG ¹⁶ 10/20 electrode placement system, cathode placed right shoulder.
STUDY PROTOCOL	20 min active tDCS-therapy/day Normal drug administration each day and routine physical therapy treatment (passive stretch 1/week, active cycling/treadmill 30min/each day.) Measurements: - Baseline - 5 days treatment - After evaluation - 24 hours after - 48 hours after
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	MAS - Right shoulder, elbow, wrist and fingers pROM - Goniometer - Shoulder flexion, extension, abduction and adduction • Elbow flexion • Wrist flexion • Thumb (carpometacarpal) abduction
RESULTS	MAS - Shoulder Sig difference between groups immediately after(p<0,01) and 24h(p<0,05). Sig difference between BS - immediately after(p<0,001), 24h (p<0,01) and 48h(p<0,05) in active tDCS group. Blow No sig difference between groups Sig difference between BS - immediately after(p<0,001), 24h(p<0,001) and 48h(p<0,001) in active tDCS group. Wrist Sig difference between groups immediately after(p<0,001), 24h(p<0,05) and 48h(p<0,05) Sig difference between BS – immediately after(p<0,001), 24h(p<0,001) and 48h(p<0,01) in active tDCS group. Fingers Fingers
	 Sig difference between groups immediately after(p<0,01)

¹⁵ Gross motor function classification system
 ¹⁶ electroencephalography

	 Sig difference between BS – immediately after(p<0,001), 24h(p<0,001) and 48h(p<0,001) in active tDCS group. Immediately after Shoulder abduction(p<0,05) was sig different between groups Shoulder flexion(p<0,01), shoulder abduction adduction(p<0,001), elbow flexion(p<0,05), wrist flexion(p<0,05) and thumb abduction(p<0,05) were sig in tDCS group 24h Shoulder flexion(p<0,01), shoulder abduction(p<0,05), shoulder adduction(p<0,05) were sig in tDCS group At the shoulder flexion(p<0,01), shoulder abduction(p<0,05), shoulder adduction(p<0,05) were sig in tDCS group compared to BS At the shoulder flexion(p<0,05) and shoulder abduction(p<0,05) were sig in tDCS group compared to BS
STRENGHTS	 Randomization in 1:1 ratio in blocks of four randomizations. Physiotherapist who did the assessments was blinded to treatment condition During the sham and active stimulation, the power indicator lit up. The same physiotherapist did all the assessments. Integrated intent-to-treat analysis: last observation carried forward. Report of 1 side effect and how they solved this. Because the large electrodes there is a change that the result was more generalized than
	very specific. – No long-term effects

TITLE	EVTRACORDOREAL SHOCKWAVE THERARY (ESWIT) DENEETS IN SPASTIC CHILDREN WITH
	EXTRACORPOREAL SHOCKWAVE THERAPY (ESWT) BENEFITS IN SPASTIC CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Mirea 2014
AIM OF THE STUDY	To evaluate the effect of a 3 session of ESWT on spastic upper and lower limbs muscles in children with CP.
POPULATION	 63 children 37M, 26F Mean age 99.57m (SD = ±53.74 m) <u>Inclusion</u> informed consent signed by parent age between 2-18years diagnosed spastic CP MAS between 1-3 in targeted muscles <u>Exclusion</u> Fixed contracture Severe neurological associated disorders Dyskinetic CP Any muscle relaxant medication peripheral action (Baclofen or BTX-A) 2 weeks prior Any changes in relaxant medication central action 2 week prior
INTERVENTION	3 ESWT sessions - BTL-5000 unit - Energy: 0.15mJ/mm² - Total shots dose: 500 shocks/treated muscle - Frequency: 10Hz - Multi-focus hand piece with 15mm diameter
STUDY PROTOCOL OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	Measurements: – BS – At discharge MAS: triceps surea, hamstrings, hip adductors, biceps brachialis, terres pronator, flexor carpi Gross motor function classification system expanded and revised
	GMFM-66
RESULTS	MAS reduced almost 1 degree after treatment
STRENGHTS	 Used all GMFCS levels Used all spastic syndrome, quadriplegia, hemiplegia, triplegia and diplegia.
WEAKNESSES	 No exact numbers to compare their results, baseline numbers, after treatment Not sure if all children completed the study In their discussion they mention that they found a significant improvement, but this cannot be found anywhere in the study. They did not mention how long their intervention lasted nor how much time there was between the ESWT sessions.

TITLE	EFFECT OF RADIAL SHOCK WAVE THERAPY ON MUSCLE SPASTICITY IN CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Gonkova 2013
AIM OF THE STUDY	To investigate the effect of radial shock wave therapy (RSWT) on muscle spasticity of plantar flexor muscles in children with cerebral palsy
POPULATION	25 children - 16M, 9F - Mean age: 4.84y (SD = ±3.11y) <u>Inclusion</u> - > 18 months - No BTX-A 7 months prior - No BTX-A 7 months prior - No surgery in area ankle Spastic hemiplegia: 10 children Spastic diplegia: 15 children
INTERVENTION	RSWT - BTL-5000 RSWT unit - Small head applicator - 1 session 1500 shots in the middle of gastrocnemius and soleus Frequency: 5Hz - Pressure: 1.5 Bars, burst mode
STUDY PROTOCOL	Observational, placebo-controlled double-blinded study. 1 placebo treatment after 4 weeks 1 active treatment session Measurements: - BS - Immediately after - 2 weeks - 4 weeks No other physiotherapy procedures were performed in following 4 weeks.
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	MAS pROM Baropodometric measurement
RESULTS	Placebo - No sig difference in pROM or MAS after treatment. RSWT - Sig difference in pROM(p<0.001) and MAS(p<0.001) after treatment
STRENGHTS	 The same physician who was blinded to protocol performed clinical examinations. Each child served as its own control. Placebo treatment with two cushions between head applicator and muscle, 100 shots with lowest intensity.
WEAKNESSES	 Performed in one facility Small sample size

TITLE	PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE OF FOCAL MUSCLE VIBRATION EFFECTS ON SPASTICITY DUE TO CEREBRAL PALSY IN A SMAAL SAMPLE OF ITALIAN CHILDREN
AUTHORS, YEAR	Celletti 2011
AIM OF THE STUDY	To explore the effects of repeated muscle vibration stimulation (rMV) on the Achille's tendon using a protocol on 5 children with cerebral palsy.
POPULATION	5 children - Mean age 9.3y (SD = ±3.12y) Inclusion - Diagnoses confirmed by magnetic resonance imaging of the brain - <18 years
INTERVENTION	 3 rMV sessions/day for 10 min and 30sec free interval for 3 consecutive days Applied both sides Achille's tendon Frequency: 100Hz Peak-to-peak amplitude: 0.05-0.5mm
STUDY PROTOCOL	Standard and individual physiotherapy program. Measurements: – BS T0 (7 days prior) – 24 hours (T1) – 30 days (T2) – 12 weeks (T3)
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	MAS pROM – Goniometer
RESULTS	$\begin{tabular}{lllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$
STRENGHTS	 Measurement performed by same experienced observers. Data collecting happened by different team in double-blinded system
WEAKNESSES	– Small sample size

TITLE	EFFECT OF EXTRACORPOREAL SHOCK WAVE THERAPY ON GAIT PATTERN IN HEMIPLEGIC CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	El-Shamy 2014
AIM OF THE STUDY	To investigate the effects of shock wave therapy on the lower limb on gait pattern in children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy .
POPULATION	30 children - 18M, 12F - 6-8 y Inclusion - Diagnose CP - No previous surgery in area ankle - No drug for spasticity control - No previous treatment BTX-A 7 months prior - Good vision - Comprehend instructions - Walking without use of walking aids SWT group: 15 children, mean age 6.93y Control group: 15 children, mean age 6.8 y
INTERVENTION	Shock wave instrumentation 1session/week for 3 months An electromagnetic coil lithotripter provided with in-line ultrasound, radiographic and computerized aiming was used. - 1500 shots in middle gastrocnemius and soleus using ultrasound pointer guide. - Energy: 0.030mJ/mm² - Frequency: 5Hz - Pressure: 1.5 bars burst mode
STUDY PROTOCOL	Both groups received conventional physical therapy program for 3 months, 1hour/day, 3days/week
	Measurements: – BS – End treatment.
	MAS
MEASUREMENT	Gait analysis
RESULTS	MAS – Control group: BS 2.27 – post treatment 1.86 (p=0.017) – SWT group: BS 2.34 – post treatment 1.63 (p=0.001)
STRENGHTS	Same examiner evaluated the outcome measurement
WEAKNESSES	
VILANNESSES	 Only 2 evaluation moments over the 3 months. No evaluation of long-term effects.
	The evaluation of long-term enects.

TITLE	NEUROMUSCULAR ELECTRICAL STIMULATION (NMES) OF THE GLUTEUS MEDIUS IMPROVES THE GAIT OF CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Al-Abdulwahab S 2009
AIM OF THE STUDY	to investigate the short and long-term effects of simultaneous continuous NMES of both hip abductors during walking on the temporal-spatial gait characteristics and hip adductor muscle tone in children with spastic diplegia caused by cerebral palsy.
POPULATION	Control group healthy: 20 children, mean age 7.7 ± 1.6 years Inclusion
	 independently walking before age 18 months.
	CP: 31 children Inclusion
	– age 5-12 year
	 ambulatory with or without assistive device
	 ability to cooperate during assessment and protocol
	 no history of hip dislocation ability to comprehend instructions
	 ability to comprehend instructions Exclusion
	 severe associated sensory impairments
	 history orthopaedic surgery at site gluteus medius
	 use of oral neuropharmacological agents or injectable materials
	– epilepsy
	Control group CP: 10 children, mean age 8.3 ± 2.1 years
	Experimental group CP: 21 children, mean age 7.4 \pm 2.04 years
INTERVENTION	<u>NMES</u>
	 Small batery-powered NMES units producing biphasic asymmetrical waveforms.
	 Output channels: 2, independently control Output current: >20.0 mA
	- Pulse width: 2-200 μ sec \rightarrow 50 μ sec
	- Frequency: 2-200 Hz \rightarrow 20Hz
	 Rated consumption electrical current: >115ma Power source: DC 9 V battery
	 Size: 96mm (H) x 16mm (W) x 27mm (D)
	 Weight: 130g, including battery
	 Applied: four self-adhesive electrodes (round 32mm diameter) into both gluteus medius. First NMES management program
	 For immediate and short-term effects
	 Anatomically identified gluteus medius and electrodes applied
	 Initially given on bed in supine: tingling sensation
	 Until isometric contraction was felt (2-3min hold) Unit attached to back child in seated position with feet touching the ground
	 Unit turned on at isometric contraction
	 Walk 470 cm turn and return to chair
	Child had to looked straight ahead Second NMES management program
	 Home-based program, long term effects
	 7 days intensive NMES 15 min (2 session (day))
	 15 min/ 3 session/day Parents instructed how to use NMES
	 Rest at least 3 hours between sessions
	Third NMES management program – Lie supine 10 min followed by first NMES protocol
STUDY PROTOCOL	Measurements: – First: immediately after child arrived gait laboratory and adopted supine position
	 First, inimediately and child arrived gait laboratory and adopted supine position Second: after 10 min
	 Third: end first NMES and during continuous electrical isometric contraction
	 Fourth: seven days after first MT assessment and end second NMES program
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	 MAS Gait analysis
RESULTS	Hip adductor
RESULTS	 – Experimental group: no difference between first and second measurement, sig difference
CTREALE	between third and fourth measurement.
STRENGTHS	Different time of assessment Comparison healthy children
	Comparison healthy children

TITLE	EFFECTS OF SPINAL CORD STIMULATION ON MOTOR FUNCTIONS IN CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Solopova I.A., 2016
AIM OF THE STUDY	To investigate if it is possible to regulate the functional properties of abnormally developed spinal neuronal locomotor networks using transcutaneous spinal cord stimulation on T11 and L1.
POPULATION	28 Children with CP (spastic diplegia) (9.4 +-1.7 years).
	Inclusion
	 A mean score of >70% on the Raven's test During the study not being treated with anti-spastic medication Received no botulinum toxin injections within the 6 months before the studty
	Exclusion
	 Severe contractures of lower limbs, which impeded rehabilitation and required surgical orthopaedic treatment, fractures, osteoporosis, thromboembolic disease, instability of the cardiovascular system, degradation of intellectual development
	Randomised in:
	 Experimental group (n=13) Control group (n=15)
	10 Non-injured normally developed children (8.7 +- 21 years)
INTERVENTION	Experimental group: 15 sessions of training combined with tSCS. The child was placed in a Lokomat device. tSCS:
	 A 2.5-cm round electrodes (Syrtenty) placed midline at the T11, and L1 spinous processes as cathodes + two 5.0 x 8 cm² rectangular plates (Syrtenty) placed symmetrically on the skin over the iliac crests as anodes. Biphasic rectangular 1.0 ms pulses (30 Hz), modulated frequency of 10 kHz Initially delivered at L1 level for 5 minutes in upright posture During the first 10 minutes of locomotor training: applied at T11 vertebral level, followed by the combination of T11 and L1 stimulation for the next 10 minutes. Afterwards the stepping performance was continued for 20 minutes without stimulation. Main intensity stimulation: 10 to 50 mA for most children. Intensity was chosen individually: 5 to 10% below threshold of muscle contraction + well tolerated by all the participants
	Game-like augmented performance feedback exercise were used. Locomotor training was performed at a treadmill speed of ~1km/h.
STUDY	15 Sessions over a period of 3 weeks.
PROTOCOL	
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	 All CP children were tested before and after treatment. Modified Ashworth scale: leg spasticity GMFM-88: level of motor functions L-FORCE test of Lokomat software: isometric force in flexors and extensors of hip as well as
	 of knee muscles (30° hip flexion, 45° knee flexion) L-Rom test: active range of the movements for flexion and extension in hip en knee joints (in suspended position) EMG of rectus femoris, biceps femoris, lateral gastrocnemius, tibialis anterior: measured
	during air stepping with 100% body weight support by Lokomat device as well as during unaided stepping on Lokomat at the subjects' maximal speed without body weight support, but supported from a horizontal rail, as needed.
RESULTS	Clinical score - No significant group differences in the baseline clinical measurements - After treatment, there were no changes of spasticity in any participant either group, as measured by the Ashworth score.
STRENGTHS	 Good randomisation Experimental, control and group of healthy subjects to compare
WEAKNESSES	 Treatment and testing were not blinded No repeated baseline measures
WEAKNESSES	 No MAS at end study

TITLE	EFFECTS OF SHORT-TERM DAILY COMMUNITY WALK AIDE USE ON CHILDREN WITH UNILATERAL SPASTIC CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Pool D., 2014
AIM OF THE STUDY	To determine the effects of functional electrical stimulation (FES) on the common fibular nerve on the main impairments affecting gait in children with unilateral spastic cerebral palsy
POPULATION	12 participants
	Inclusion
	 Diagnosis of unilateral spastic cerebral palsy Aged 5 to 18 years
	 Passive dorsiflexion range of affected ankle of at least 5°
	 Gross Motor Function Classification System level I or II Achieves full passive knee extension bilaterally
	 Dynamic popliteal angle of 45° on the affected side
	 Able to cooperate with assessment procedures
	 Willing to use the Walk Aide at least 1 hour a day, 6 days a week for 8 weeks
	Exclusion
	 History of uncontrolled seizure disorder Orthopaedic lower limb surgery on the affected side in the past 12 months
	 Pins or plates at the site of electrical stimulation
	 Botulinum toxin A to lower limb in the past 3 months
INTERVENTION	The Walk Aide: delivers asymmetrical biphasic surface electrical stimulation (ES) in a synchronized manner to stimulate active ankle dorsiflexion during the swing phase of gait. During a gait cycle, the Walk Aide stimulates the common fibular nerve.
	 Maximal pulse width: 300µs Maximal frequency: 33Hz
	 Adjustable intensity (mA)
	During the FÉS intervention phase: using the device for at least 1 hour a day, 6 days a week for 8 weeks.
	Families completed a weekly diary, which included recording the hours of usage of the device each day intensity level, skin integrity, and any other observations.
STUDY PROTOCOL	20 weeks – 6-week pre-FES phase
	 8-week FES intervention phase 6-week FES abase
Оитсоме	 6-week post-FES phase Bilateral measures were taken to monitor adverse changes (increases in spasticity or clinically
MEASUREMENT	significant loss of range).
	 Goniometer: passive range of motion Modified Tardieu scale: dynamic range of motion
	 Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale: spasticity in gastrocnemius muscle
	 Handheld Dynamometry: ankle dorsiflexion strength and heel raises
	 Selective motor control assessment: selective motor control of ankle dorsiflexion Single-limb balance assessment: ankle stability and balance
	 Observational Gait Scale (OGS): changes at the level of the foot and ankle in gait Self-reported Toe Drag and Falls
RESULTS	Range of Motion
	 improved significantly between both the pre-FES and FES phases (P < 0.01) and the pre- and post-FES phases (P = 0.01).
	 Throughout the study, loss of range was noted in 2 children (1.7° and 2.1°) between the pre- and post-FES phases.
	 Spasticity improved significantly between the pre-FES and FES phases (P < 0.01) and the pre- and
	post-FES phases (P < 0.01).
	 significant reduction in Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale scores was found between the pre-FES and FES phases (P = 0.03), as well as between the pre- and post-FES phases (P < 0.01).
STRENGTHS	Clear inclusion- and exclusion criteria
WEAKNESSES	 No blinding Some normal administrated the intervention and tools the measurements
	 Same person administered the intervention and took the measurements No control-group

TITLE	ELECTRICAL STIMULATION IN ADDITION TO PASSIVE STRETCH HAS A SMALL EFFECT ON
	SPASTICITY AND CONTRACTURE IN CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY: A RONDOMISED WITHIN-PARTICIPANT CONTROLLED TRIAL
AUTHORS, YEAR	Khalili M.A., 2008
AIM OF THE STUDY	To investigate if electrical stimulation on the quadriceps in addition to passive stretching of the
	hamstrings reduce spasticity and contracture more than passive stretching alone in children with cerebral palsy.
POPULATION	11 Participants
	 6 females, 5 males Mean age: 12.8 years (SD = +- 0.9 years)
	Inclusion
	 Cerebral Palsy
	 Spasticity affecting the knee flexors of both legs
	 Unable to walk independently
	Exclusion
	 Not have normal tactile and pain sensation
	 Informed consent could not be obtained
INTERVENTION	Experimental intervention
	 30 min of electrical stimulation of the quadriceps 3 times per week
	 two-channel stimulator applied electrical stimulation to the antagonist muscle
	(quadriceps femoris) of the experimental leg
	• Frequency: 30 Hz
	 Pulse width: 0.4 ms Duty cycle: 4s on and 4s off (ramp up of 0.5s)
	 Duty cycle: 4s on and 4s off (ramp up of 0.5s) Intensity: as high as the participant would tolerate and to produce a visible
	contraction.
	 passive stretching of the hamstrings 5 times per week three brief stretches were applied to the hamstrings femorie
	 three brief stretches were applied to the hamstrings femoris. Stretch for 30 s
	 One minute rest between three stretches
	Control intervention
	 passive stretching of the hamstrings 5 times per week.
	Neither the experimental or control legs received any other form of intervention during the four-week period.
STUDY PROTOCOL	 Baseline measurements were collected before randomisation
0	 After 4 weeks outcome measures were collected immediately after the last intervention
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	 Modified Ashworth scale: spasticity of the hamstrings Goniometer: contracture
	Modified Ashworth scale
RESULTS	 mean decrease in the experimental group was 2.0 points (SD 0.9), while in the control group it
	was 1.2 points (SD 0.6).
	 mean difference in decrease due to the addition of electrical stimulation to the stretching
	regimen was 0.8 points (95% CI 0.1 to 1.5, p = 0.046)
	Goniometer
	 mean increase in passive knee extension in the experimental group was 13 degrees (SD = 5), while in the control group it was 9 degrees (SD = 3).
	 mean difference in increase in passive knee extension due to the addition of electrical stimulation to the stretching regimen was 4 degrees (95% CI 0 to 7, p = 0.04).
<u> </u>	
STRENGTHS	– Randomization
WEAKNESSES	- Small sample size
	 Short duration Relatively low-intensity regimen
	 No blinding
	The binding

TITLE	THRESHOLD ELECTRICAL STIMULATION (TES) IN AMBULANT CHILDREN WITH CP/ A
AUTHORS, YEAR	RANDOMIZED DOUBLE-BLIND PLACEBO-CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL Dali C., 2002
AIM OF THE STUDY	To examine whether TES on the lower limb can improve motor function in spastic children compared with a placebo group.
POPULATION	57 Stable children with cerebral palsy – 36 males, 21 females
	 Mean age: 10 years 11 months Inclusion
	Diagnosed with cerebral palsy (CP) Spastic diplegic or hemiplegic CP
	 5-18 years old at entry Ability to walk unaided or at least with a walker Being able to understand the design of the trial
	Exclusion
	 Had leg surgery just before or during the trial Had developed severe illness Were pregnant
	 Stopped using the stimulator for an extended period
	Experimental group: 15 children with hemiplegia, 21 with diplegia Placebo group: 10 children with hemiplegia, 11 with diplegia
INTERVENTION	Experimental group - Two thirds of the children
	 TES Delivered by a One2One stimulator Pulse amplitude: 1-5 μA Low frequency: 35Hz Maximum average current density: 0.46μA/mm²
	 Maximum average power density: 25 µW/mm² Placebo group One thirds of the children Inactive stimulators: Sham group
	TES was applied to the quadriceps femoris and tibialis anterior muscles. Patients with hemiplegia: affected leg was treated every night Patients with diplegia: alternating treatment of the legs
	Patients recorded the use of the stimulator in a logbook.
STUDY PROTOCOL	Twelve month period Children slept with TES for at least 6 hours per night, 6 nights a week. Before the start of the treatment:
	 Set of motor function tests An examination of ROM of legs and arms, reflexes, height, weight, puberty stage (Tanner 1962)
	 Spasticity Half of the children had a cross-sectional CT of the quadriceps muscle Parents were asked to fill in a questionnaire in the beginning and at the end of the trial
OUTCOME MEASUREMENT	 Motor function test: designed for this study CT: quadriceps and tibialis anterior muscles: cross-sectional area (cm²) Questionnaire: impression of the child's motor function ROM: legs and arms
	 Modified Ashworth scale: spasticity Clonus levels
RESULTS	Logbook – 82% uses TES every night except for a few weeks on average <u>ROM</u> – Non-significant TES effect (p=0.31 for diplegic and hemiplegic groups combined) <u>Modified Ashworth scale</u>
STRENGTHS	– Unchanged – Double-blind
	 Experimental and placebo-group
WEAKNESSES	 Results are from diplegic and hemiplegic groups combined

TITLE	SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF NEUROMUSCULAR ELECTRICAL STIMULATION ON MUSCLE
	ARCHITECTURE OF THE TIBIALIS ANTERIOR AND GASTROCNEMIUS IN CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY
AUTHORS, YEAR	Karabay I., 2014
AIM OF THE STUDY	To explore the short-term effects of neuromuscular electrical stimulation application on tibialis anterior (stimulated muscle) and gastrocnemius (antagonist) muscles' size and architecture in children with cerebral palsy by using ultrasound.
POPULATION	28 patients with CP
	Inclusion
	 Spastic CP Aged between 3 and 14 years
	Exclusion
	 Fixed deformity of the ankle joint
	 Previous surgery within the last 1 year
	 Previous botulinum toxin injections to calf muscles within the last 6 months
	 Any neurologic or orthopaedic condition of the lower limbs (unrelated to CP)
	Patients were put in group A and group B alternatingly.
INTERVENTION	Group A (n=14)
	 Conventional physiotherapy NMES treatment
	 NMES treatment Bilaterally to TA muscle
	 30mins/session, once daily, 5 days a week, 4 weeks
	 Two-channel self-adapting multimodal electro stimulator (SAMMS Mod
	Professional)
	• Two surface electrodes with the size of 5.5 x 6.5 cm (active electrode was placed
	on the one-third proximal)
	 piece of TA muscle
	 Intensity: 20-30 mA
	 Sequence pulse width: 250µs Frequency: 25Hz
	 Frequency: 25Hz Sequence on 10 secs and then off for 12 secs.
	 Level of stimulation was increased until contraction was observed also as the
	patient became more accommodated to is.
	Group B (N =14)
	 Conventional physiotherapy
STUDY PROTOCOL	Prospective study 4 weeks, 20 sessions
Оитсоме	Initially and at the end of the treatment
MEASUREMENT	 GMFCS: Gross motor function
	 Ankle dorsiflexion: Selective motor control
	 Modified Ashworth scale: Spasticity
	Ultrasonographic measurements of TA and GC muscles bilaterally
RESULTS	 The groups were similar as regards to age, sex, body mass index, and GMFCS levels (all Ps > 0.05)
	Spasticity
	– Not changed significantly
STRENGTHS	Experimental group and placebo group
WEAKNESSES	 No blinding possible
	– No randomization
	 No long-term follow-up

PART 2: PROTOCOL

The Effect of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation on Spasticity and Manual Ability in Children with Cerebral Palsy: A Randomized Controlled Trial: Protocol

1. INTRODUCTION

Cerebral palsy (CP) in children is one of the most common non-progressive neurological brain disorders which occur during the foetal or infant development (van der Krogt et al., 2016). Risk factors are low birth weight, intrauterine infections and multiple gestation (Wang et al., 2016). Spasticity can be described as a velocity-dependent increase in tonic stretch reflex due to hyper-excitability (Aree-uea et al., 2014).

Spastic diplegia and hemiplegia cerebral are the most common types CP, this occur in 80 to 90% of the children who have CP (Bar-On et al., 2014). Pain, decrease of passive range of motion (pROM) and prevention of function are commonly seen in children with CP and the management of the spasticity is necessary to prevent the development of secondary muscle contractures, bone deformities and delay or avoid surgery.(Bar-On et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2016). MAS and MTS are the most common clinical assessments for spasticity (Bar-On et al., 2014). The validity and reliability of the clinical assessment is previously tested (Sloot et al., 2017) but can be questioned because these do not differentiate between the neural and non-neural components causes of the spasticity (Bar-On et al., 2014; Haugh et al., 2006).

The treatment of spasticity can be divided into five main groups: (1) Preventative measure, (2) therapeutic motor interventions (e.g. physical therapy, occupational therapy, hippotherapy) either with or without the addition of physical modalities (e.g. vibration and electrical currents), (3) positioning/orthotics (e.g. taping, splints, wheelchairs and standers), (4) oral medication (e.g. baclofen and dantrolene), injectable neurolytic medication (e.g. botulinum toxins) and (5) surgical interventions (e.g. lengthening operation, tenotomy, posterior rhizotomy, spinal cord and deep cerebellar stimulation, neurectomies) (Naro et al., 2017). Oral medication and Injectable neurolytic medication are been proven to be effective to decrease spasticity but also have side effects (Bar-On et al., 2014; Naro et al., 2017). Surgery like neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery have the strength to promote normal bone and muscle growth but a disadvantage is that this not eliminate spasticity (Naro et al., 2017). Therapeutic interventions like stretching, neurodevelopmental treatment, casting, Bo bath, casting and strengthening exercises are frequently used in rehabilitative programs and have been proven effective (Naro et al., 2017).

The effect of physical modalities or non-invasive stimulation techniques on the spasticity have been searched by Naro et al., 2017 but not specific for children with CP. Non-invasive can be defined that the skin should not be penetrating, and nothing may be taken orally. Stimulation techniques are all kinds of therapy applied on the central nervous system, peripheral nervous system and the muscle self for which an external device is needed to be able to apply this therapy. (Naro et al., 2017)

The systematic review: 'The influence of non-invasive stimulation techniques on spasticity of children with CP', showed that stimulation applied on the central nervous system, peripheral nervous system and the muscle self could significantly reduce the spasticity of children with CP. One study who used anodal transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) applied on the left M1 for 20 minutes each day for five consecutive days in children with spastic Cp and GMFCS level two focused on the spasticity of the upper limb. This study concluded a significant effect of tDCS on the shoulder immediately after (p<0.001) and after 24 hours (p<0.05) between groups and between baseline and immediately after (p<0.001), 24 hours after (p<0.01) and 48 hours after (p<0.05). In the elbow between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001), and 48 hours (p < 0.001) after treatment. In the, wrist between groups immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.05) and 48 hours (p < 0.05) after treatment and between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001) and 48 hours (p < 0.01) after treatment. In the fingers between groups immediately after the treatment (p < 0.01) and between baseline, immediately (p < 0.001), 24 hours (p < 0.001) and 48 hours (p < 0.001). TDCS uses constant or alternating current and consists in the application of a low amplitude direct electrical current through electrodes placed on the scalp (Naro et al., 2017). This was applied 20 minutes each day for five days on the left M1 to children with spastic CP and gross motor function classification system (GMFCS) level two to reduce the spasticity (Aree-uea et al., 2014). This study did a follow-up till 48 hours after the intervention. There is not much known about the long-term effects of tDCS on spasticity in children with CP. Therefore, in this study, there will be a follow-up till one week after treatment. In the study of Aree-uea et al., 2014, the manual ability of the children is not mentioned. However, the manual ability is also frequently impaired in children with CP. Manual ability can be defined as a "capacity to manage daily activities requiring the use of the upper limbs whatever the strategies involved". This can be influenced by environmental and/or personal factors, environmental like devices and personal like motivational, cognitive and emotional status (Arnould, Penta, Renders, & Thonnard, 2004). To measure this the Abilhand-kids questionnaire is frequently used. In this study, the Abilhand-kids will be used to have a view on the change in manual ability of the children after they got tDCS.

2. AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of anodal transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) on the Modified Ashworth Scale (MAS) and the Abilhand-Kids in children with spastic CP. This simulation will be compared to a sham-group.

2.1. Research question

What is the effect of anodal transcranial direct current stimulation on the Modified Ashworth Scale and the Abilhand-Kids in children from eight to 18 years old with spastic hemiplegic CP?

2.2. Hypothesis

The null hypothesises are:

H1a: Children with spastic CP who receive the five-day tDCS program with their routine treatment and mobilisation of the uppe r limb will show a significant improvement on the MAS.

H1b: Children with spastic CP who receive the five-day tDCS program with their routine treatment and mobilisation of the upper limb will show a significant improvement on the Abilhand-kids.

H1c: If there is an improvement on the MAS after the five-day tDCS program with their routine treatment and mobilisation of the upper limbs, there will be an improvement on the Abilhand-kids.

The alternative hypothesises are:

H2a: There is no significant effect of the five-day tDCS program on the MAS.

H2b: There is no significant effect of the five-day tDCS program on the Abilhand-kids.

H3b: If there is no improvement on the MAS after the five-day tDCS program with their routine treatment and mobilisation of the upper limbs, there will be no improvement on the Abilhand-kids.

3. METHOD

3.1. Design

The design of this study is a randomized controlled trial. The patients will be randomized by an online randomization tool. The participants and assessors will be blinded to patient allocation and intervention. The therapist who will administer the stimulation cannot be blinded. The therapist who performs the data-analysis will also be blinded from the group allocation.

There will be a five-day intervention, with 20 minutes of stimulation, the routine treatment of the children and mobilisation of the upper limbs each day. The stimulation and tests will be administered at REVAL (Rehabilitation Research Centre) in Diepenbeek. There will be one physiotherapist who gives the stimulation and one other who performs the mobilisations of the upper limbs. The routine treatment will be given by their regular physiotherapist. The design is illustrated in Figure 1.

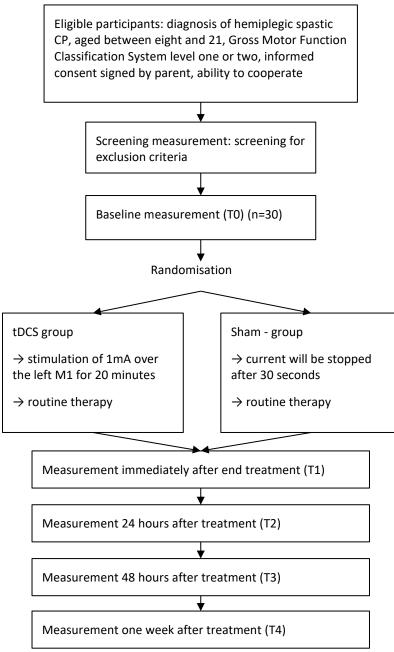


Figure 1

3.2. Participants

There will be 30 participants in this study, aged eight to 18 years old, which will be equally randomized into an intervention group and a sham group. The following criteria will be implemented:

3.2.1. Inclusion criteria

The following inclusion criteria must be satisfied: diagnosis of hemiplegic spastic CP, aged between eight and 18, Gross Motor Function Classification System level one or two, Manual Ability Classification System one to three, informed consent signed by parent and ability to cooperate.

3.2.2. Exclusion criteria

Patients with the following exclusion criteria will be excluded: Botulinum toxin injections less than six months prior to the begin of the study, previous surgery of the upper limb, epilepsy, previous cranioplasty, severe spasticity and contractures, participating in other studies, receiving concomitant alternative therapies.

3.2.3. Recruitment

Patients with hemiplegic spastic CP will be recruited via flyers and posters in UZ Leuven, Campus Pellenberg, which is a CP-reference center.

3.3. Medical ethics

The parents or guardians will have to provide written informed consent. Approval by the Ethics Committee of the university of Hasselt will be requested in august 2018.

3.4 Intervention

The tDCS is applied via surface sponge electrodes which were soaked in 0.9% NaCl of 35cm². This device (Soterixmedical, model 1224-B) had an maximum output of 10mA. The stimulation site will be determined according to the international electroencephalography (EEG) 10/20 electrode placement system. (Aree-uea et al., 2014; Valle et al., 2007). The cathode is placed on the right shoulder.

In the sham-group the current will be discontinued after 30 seconds, but the power indicator remains on. This will make sure there is blinding of the participants.

The stimulation will be applied 1mA over the left M1 with a maximum output of 10mA (Aree-uea et al., 2014).

The sessions will comprise 30 minutes of tDCS or sham therapy a day, each day, for five consecutive days. The participants also receive their routine physical treatment and daily passive mobilisation of the upper limbs.

3.5. Outcome measurements

There is not many research done about the long-term effects of tDCS. In this study, there will be measuring moments before the treatment, immediately after and at three other moments after treatment. The last measurement will take place after one week to investigate whether tDCS has an effect that stays longer than 48 hours after treatment.

The measurements will be taken at a baseline (T0), immediately at the end of treatment (T1), 24 hours after treatment (T2), 48 hours after treatment (T3) and one week after treatment (T4). In this way, immediately changes will be measured, but also the longer effects will be recorded.

3.5.1. Primary outcome measurements

Spasticity

The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of tDCS on spasticity of the upper limb. The spasticity of the shoulder, elbow, wrist and fingers will be measured by the MAS. This test will be performed in supine position, because moving can increase spasticity.

The joint will be placed in a maximally flexed position and will be moved to a position of maximal extension over one second. The participant will be instructed to relax. The following grades will be used: grade 0 will mean that there is no increase in muscle tone; Grade 1 will mean that there is a slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch and release or by minimal resistance at the end of the range of motion when the affected part(s) is moved in flexion or extension; Grade 1+ will mean a slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch, followed by minimal resistance throughout the remainder (less than half) of the ROM; Grade 2 will mean a more marked increase in muscle tone through most of the ROM, but affected part(s) easily moved; Grade 3 will mean a considerable increase in muscle tone, passive movement is difficult; Grade 4 will mean an affected part is rigid in flexion or extension (Bohannon & Smith, 1987). This is illustrated in figure 2.

Grade	Description
0	No increase in muscle tone
1	Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch and release or by minimal resistance at the end of the range of motion when the affected part(s) is moved in flexion or extension
1+	Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch, followed by minimal resistance throughout the remainder (less than half) of the ROM
2	More marked increase in muscle tone through most of the ROM, but affected part(s) easily moved
3	Considerable increase in muscle tone, passive movement difficult
4	Affected part(s) rigid in flexion or extension

Figure 2: Grading of the Modified Ashworth Scale

The ICC scores showed that the interrater reliability varied from moderate to good (0.61-0.87). Testretest reliability is poor to good (0.63-0.83) (Mutlu, Livanelioglu, & Gunel, 2008).

The spasticity will be measured for shoulder anteflexion and retroflexion, elbow flexion and palmar flexion of the wrist. The MAS will be measured on all measuring moments, so there will be a good vision on the effects of tDCS.

Manual Ability

In this study, the manual ability of the upper limbs of the participants will also be measured. For this, the Abihand-kids will be used.

This is a questionnaire for the parents who perceived the child's manual performance of 21 bimanual daily activities. It scores how the task is experienced by the child. Answers are rated on a three-point ordinal scale (de Jong, van Meeteren, Emmelot, Land, & Dijkstra, 2018; Klingels et al., 2010). The parents must answer with 'impossible', 'difficult' or 'easy'. They can also choose '?' when the activity is not attempted in the last three months. The child is never asked to perform the activities in front of the assessor. The questions are shown in figure 3. The study of Jong et al., 2018 investigated the validity

and reliability of the Abilhand-kids. These researchers concluded a high internal consistency (0.94) and for validity a strong association with the Manual Ability Classification System. The test-retest reliability was 0.92. The overall ICC was 0.92 (95% CI: 0.87-0.96). As such, this questionnaire has been found reliable and valid as a performance and capacity-bases rating method this is the difference between what a child can do under normal daily environment and standardized controlled conditions (de Jong et al., 2018). The Abilhand-kids was originally developed in French, but has been translated in English and Dutch. The Abilhand-kids will be taken at T0, T3 and T4. This because a learning effect can influence the result. To avoid this even more, the activities will be presented at a different order at every measuring moment. The parents will get time to fill in this questionnaire while their children are being tested.

One therapist will perform all the measurements and will not be involved in the data-analysis. The Abilhand-kids will be scored by a researcher who is also not involved in the data-analysis.

Item	Impossible	Difficult	Easy	?
Opening a jar of jam				
Putting on a backpack/schoolb ag				
Opening the cap of a toothpaste tube				
Unwrapping a chocolate bar				
Washing the upper-body				
Rolling-up a sleeve of a sweater				
Sharpening a pencil				
Taking off a T- shirt				
Squeezing toothpaste onto a toothbrush				
opening a bread box				
Unscrewing a bottle cap				
zipping-up trousers				
Buttoning up a shirt/sweater				

Filling a glass with water		
Switching on a bedside lamp		
Putting on a hat		
Fastening the snap of a jacket		
Buttoning up trousers		
opening a bag of chips		
Zipping-up a jacket		
Taking a coin out of a pochet		

Figure 3: Abilhand-kids

3.5.2. Secondary outcome measurements

Pain

An important factor that can have an influence on the performance of the participants is pain. The VASscale will be used to indicate the overall pain of the participants. The participants will be asked to indicate their overall pain on a line from zero to ten. Thus, it will be seen if pain increase or decrease as a consequence of stimulation or decrease of spasticity. The VAS-scale will be evaluated on all measuring moments.

Passive Range of Motion

The passive range of motion (pROM) will also be measured, because spasticity can affect the mobility of a joint. This will be measured with a goniometer. The degree of mobility toward flexion, extension and abduction of the shoulder, flexion and extension of the elbow and palmar and dorsal flexion of the wrist will be measured. The pROM will be measured at all measuring moments.

3.6. Data-analysis

The program JMP will be used for data-analysing. The two treatment conditions will be compared on all baseline outcome measures. This will be done by using a series of paired t-tests. We will also calculate intent-to-treat to take dropouts into account. Both the primary and secondary variables will be analysed using repeated measure analysis of variance (ANOVA), time, treatment condition, and the interaction between time and treatment condition as independent variables. The p-value of <0.05 will be considered as significant difference. The interaction term of group and time (group x time) will also be assessed.

4. TIME PLANNING

In august 2018, the approval of the Ethics Committee will be requested. As soon as there is approval, the recruitment will start.

In February and March 2019, the measurements and interventions will take place and from end March the analysis can be done.

The aim is to end the analysis in April 2018 and the study will be finished at mid May 2019.

5. REFERENCES

Uncategorized References

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VOORTGANGSFORMULIER WETENSCHAPPELIJKE STAGE DEEL 1

DATUM	INHOUD OVERLEG	HANDTEKENINGEN
25/11/2017	Opstellen en ondertekenen van contract	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
29/01/2018	Overlopen zoekstrategieën en gevonden artikels, vaste	Promotor:
	zoekstrategie opgesteld.	Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
19/04/2018	Overlopen gevonden artikels en vastleggen in- en exclusiecriteria,	Promotor:
	Artikels die niet beschikbaar voor de studenten opgezocht en	Copromotor:
	doorgemaild door promotor. Tips ivm juiste definitie geven	Student(e):
	gekregen.	Student(e):
5/05/2018	Eerste versie thesis doorgestuurd via mail	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
8/05/2018	Feedback op eerste versie gekregen via mail	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
20/05/2018	Vraag over het meten van spasticiteit via mail gesteld.	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
23/05/2018	Antwoord gekregen over de vraag meten spasticiteit.	Promotor:
	Overzicht checklist doorgestuurd met enkele vragen.	Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
24/05/2018	Antwoord gekregen op de vraag van de checklist.	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
30/05/2018	Tweede versie thesis doorgemaild.	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
4/06/2018	Afspraak feedback tweede versie thesis en bespreking protocol. En	Promotor:
	inschrijvingsformulier gemaild.	Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
5/06/2018	Voorstel protocol gemaild	Promotor:

Masterproefcoördinatie Revalidatiewetenschappen en Kinesitherapie Campus Diepenbeek <u>marleen.vanvuchelen@uhasselt.be</u> Prof. M. Vanvuchelen Agoralaan Gebouw A Room 0.01

and the second		C
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
5/06/2018	Voorstel protocol goedgekeurd.	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
6/06/2018	Derde versie thesis doorgemaild.	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
8/06/2018	Eerste versie protocol doorgemaild.	Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):
		Promotor:
		Copromotor:
		Student(e):
		Student(e):

ZELFEVALUATIERAPPORT

WETENSCHAPPELIJKE STAGE - DEEL 1

Naam & Voornaam STUDENT: Robijns Liesje

Naam & Voornaam (CO)PROMOTOR & PROMOTOR: Meyns Pieter, Meesen Raf

TITEL masterproef (Nederlandstalig of Engels): The influence of non-invasive stimulation techniques on spasticity of children with cerebral

palsy: a systematic review

LITERATUURSTUDIE	Gestelde deadline	Behaald op	Reflectie
De belangrijkste concepten en conceptuele kaders van het onderzoekdomein uitdiepen en verwerken	December 2018	Januari 2018	Goed
De belangrijkste informatie opzoeken als inleiding op de onderzoeksvraag van de literatuurstudie	Januari 2018	Januari 2018	Goed
De opzoekbare onderzoeksvraag identificeren en helder formuleren in functie van de literatuurstudie	Januari 2018	Januari 2018	Goed
De zoekstrategie op systematische wijze uitvoeren in relevante databanken	Maart 2018	April 2018	Goed
De kwaliteitsbeoordeling van de artikels diepgaand uitvoeren	Maart 2018	April 2018	Goed
De data-extractie grondig uitvoeren	April 2018	April 2018	Zeer goed
De bevindingen integreren tot een synthese	Mei 2018	Mei 2018	Zeer goed

ONDERZOEKSPROTOCOL	Gestelde deadline	Behaald op	Reflectie
De onderzoeksvraag in functie van het onderzoeksprotocol identificeren	April 2018	Mei 2018	Goed
Het onderzoeksdesign bepalen en/of kritisch reflecteren over bestaande onderzoeksdesign	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Goed
De methodesectie (participanten, interventie, uitkomstmaten, data-analyse) uitwerken	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Goed

ACADEMISCHE SCHRIJVEN	Gestelde deadline	Behaald op	Reflectie
Het abstract tot he point schrijven	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Voldoende
De inleiding van de literatuurstudie logisch opbouwen	Mei 2018	Mei 2018	Goed
De methodesectie van de literatuurstudie transparant weergegeven	April 2018	April 2018	Goed
De resultatensectie afstemmen op de onderzoeksvragen	Mei 2018	Mei 2018	Goed
In de discussiesectie de bekomen resultaten in een wetenschappelijke tekst integreren en synthetiseren	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Goed
Het onderzoeksprotocol deskundig technisch uitschrijven	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Goed
Referenties correct en volledig weergeven	Juni 2018	Juni 2018	Zeer goed

ZELFSTUREND EN WETENSCHAPPELIJK DENLEN EN HANDELEN	Aanvangsfase	Tussentijdse fase	Eindfase
Een realistische planning opmaken, deadlines stellen en opvolgen	Goed	Voldoende	Zeer goed
Initiatief en verantwoordelijkheid opnemen ten aanzien van de realisatie van de wetenschappelijke stage	Voldoende	Goed	Zeer goed
Kritisch wetenschappelijk denken	Goed	Goed	Goed
De contacten met de promotor voorbereiden en efficiënt benutten	Goed	Zeer goed	Zeer goed
De richtlijnen van de wetenschappelijke stage autonoom opvolgen en toepassen	Goed	Goed	Goed
De communicatie met de medestudent helder en transparant voeren	Goed	Goed	Goed
De communicatie met de promotor/copromotor helder en transparant voeren	Goed	Goed	Goed
Andere verdiensten:			

RWK

ZELFEVALUATIERAPPORT

Naam & Voornaam STUDENT: Meeuwssen Sanne

Naam & Voornaam (CO)PROMOTOR & PROMOTOR: Prof. Dr. Meyns Pieter, Prof. Dr. Meesen Raf

TITEL masterproef (Nederlandstalig of Engels): The influence of non-invasive stimulation techniques on spasticity of children with cerebral palsy: a systematic review

LITERATUURSTUDIE Gestelde deadline Behaald op Reflectie De belangrijkste concepten en conceptuele kaders van het onderzoekdomein uitdiepen en verwerken Januari 2018 Te laat hieraan begonnen December 2018 De belangrijkste informatie opzoeken als inleiding op de onderzoeksvraag van de literatuurstudie Dit ging goed Januari 2018 Januari 2018 De opzoekbare onderzoeksvraag identificeren en helder formuleren in functie van de literatuurstudie Dit was snel duidelijk Januari 2018 Januari 2018 April 2018 De zoekstrategie op systematische wijze uitvoeren in relevante databanken Maart 2018 Hier is te veel tijd over gegaan Dit bleek een hekelpunt De kwaliteitsbeoordeling van de artikels diepgaand uitvoeren Maart 2018 April 2018 April 2018 April 2018 De data-extractie grondig uitvoeren De bevindingen integreren tot een synthese Mei 2018 Mei 2018

ONDERZOEKSPROTOCOL	Gestelde deadline	Behaald op	Reflectie
De onderzoeksvraag in functie van het onderzoeksprotocol identificeren	April 2018	Mei 2018	Te laat aan kunnen beginnen, doordat we nog niet zover waren
Het onderzoeksdesign bepalen en/of kritisch reflecteren over bestaande onderzoeksdesign	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Idem
De methodesectie (participanten, interventie, uitkomstmaten, data-analyse) uitwerken	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Idem

ACADEMISCHE SCHRIJVEN	Gestelde deadline	Behaald op	Reflectie
Het abstract tot he point schrijven	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Is helemaal het laatste geweest
De inleiding van de literatuurstudie logisch opbouwen	Mei 2018	Mei 2018	
De methodesectie van de literatuurstudie transparant weergegeven	April 2018	April 2018	
De resultatensectie afstemmen op de onderzoeksvragen	Mei 2018	Mei 2018	
In de discussiesectie de bekomen resultaten in een wetenschappelijke tekst integreren en synthetiseren	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Langer mee bezig geweest dan verwacht, nog veel aanpassingen moeten maken
Het onderzoeksprotocol deskundig technisch uitschrijven	Mei 2018	Juni 2018	Te laat aan kunnen beginnen
Referenties correct en volledig weergeven	Juni 2018	Juni 2018	Is het allerlaatste

ZELFSTUREND EN WETENSCHAPPELIJK DENLEN EN HANDELEN	Aanvangsfase	Tussentijdse fase	Eindfase
Een realistische planning opmaken, deadlines stellen en opvolgen	V	G	G
Initiatief en verantwoordelijkheid opnemen ten aanzien van de realisatie van de wetenschappelijke stage	G	ZG	ZG
Kritisch wetenschappelijk denken	G	ZG	ZG
De contacten met de promotor voorbereiden en efficiënt benutten	G	G	G
De richtlijnen van de wetenschappelijke stage autonoom opvolgen en toepassen	G	G	ZG
De communicatie met de medestudent helder en transparant voeren	V	G	ZG
De communicatie met de promotor/copromotor helder en transparant voeren	G	G	G
Andere verdiensten:			