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1 **Validation of a novel device to measure and provide feedback on sedentary behavior**

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15

16 Short title: Validation of the SitFIT

17

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31

32 **Abstract**

33 **Purpose.** Pedometers, which enable self-monitoring of step counts, are effective in
34 facilitating increases in physical activity. Similar devices which provide real-time feedback
35 on sedentary (sitting) behavior are limited. This study aimed to develop and validate a novel
36 device – the SitFIT – which could accurately measure and provide feedback on sedentary
37 behavior and physical activity.

38 **Methods.** The SitFIT is a tri-axial accelerometer, developed by PAL Technologies, which is
39 worn in the front trouser pocket. This enables tracking of thigh inclination and therefore
40 differentiation between sitting and upright postures, as well as tracking of step count. It has a
41 display to provide user feedback. To determine the validity of the SitFIT for measuring
42 sedentary behavior and step counts, 21 men, aged 30-65 years, with body mass index
43 $26.6 \pm 3.9 \text{ kg.m}^{-2}$ wore a SitFIT in a front trouser pocket and an activPAL accelerometer
44 attached to their thigh for up to seven days. Outputs from the SitFIT were compared with the
45 activPAL, which was assumed to provide gold-standard measurements of sitting and step
46 counts.

47 **Results.** Mean step counts were ~4% lower with the SitFIT than activPAL, with correlation
48 between the two methods being very high ($r=0.98$) and no obvious bias from the line of
49 equality (regression line: $y=1.0035x+418.35$). Mean sedentary time was ~5% higher with the
50 SitFIT than activPAL, correlation between methods was high ($r=0.84$) and the equation of the
51 regression line was close to the line of equality ($y=0.8728x+38.445$).

52 **Conclusions.** The SitFIT has excellent validity for measurement of free-living step counts
53 and sedentary time and therefore addresses a clear need for a device that can be used as a tool
54 to provide feedback on sedentary behavior to facilitate behavior change.

55

56 **Keywords:** sedentary; sitting; objective measurement; validation; behavior change

57

58 **Introduction**

59 Sedentary behavior has been defined as **waking** activities in a sitting, reclining **or lying**
60 posture with energy expenditure ≤ 1.5 METS (where 1 MET is resting energy expenditure)
61 **(1)**. Existing research, from both observational and experimental studies, demonstrate that
62 high levels of sedentary behavior are associated with a range of adverse health outcomes
63 including mortality, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity (2-8), and that
64 interventions which reduce sedentary behavior can induce positive changes to markers of
65 health and disease risk (9-15). However, effective intervention tools to facilitate reductions
66 in sedentary behavior are currently limited (16).

67

68 A considerable body of evidence from randomised controlled trials has shown that
69 pedometer-based interventions – which enable individuals to self-monitor their physical
70 activity level (i.e. steps taken per day), set physical activity targets and provide real-time
71 feedback of progress towards their goal – are effective for increasing physical activity, and
72 improving health outcomes in a range of population groups (17-19). Pedometers are also
73 highly valued for self-monitoring by those taking part in behavioral interventions (20). There
74 are a plethora of devices available which build on the pedometer to provide feedback of a
75 number of indices of physical activity measurement such as steps, distance travelled and
76 energy expenditure (21). However, consumer devices to enable the self-monitoring of free-
77 living sedentary behavior are more limited, with the majority of devices using an
78 acceleration-based, rather than posture-based, approach to estimate time spent sedentary
79 (21,22). Thus most currently available devices cannot distinguish between sitting and quiet
80 standing, so cannot be used as a self-monitoring tool in interventions aiming to reduce time
81 spent sitting. A small number of devices are available that use pressure sensors in a sock or

82 shoe to determine standing or a pressure sensor on a chair to determine sitting (on a particular
83 chair) (21) and, one device worn on the lower back using an elasticated belt (originally
84 developed to monitor posture) has also been used to monitor time spent sitting (21,22). Thus
85 devices available to monitor and provide feedback on time spent sitting under free-living
86 conditions throughout the day are limited and there is a clear need to develop and validate a
87 device for the self-monitoring of sitting behavior, preferably in combination with step counts
88 to target both physical activity and sedentary behavior with a single device.

89

90 The European Fans in Training (EuroFIT) study is a large-scale randomised controlled trial
91 aiming to increase physical activity and reduce sedentary behavior over 12 months in middle-
92 aged male fans of football (soccer) clubs in England, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal
93 (23). To facilitate self-monitoring of physical activity and sedentary behavior in the
94 EuroFIT trial (and future studies), we aimed to develop and validate a novel low-cost pocket-
95 worn device with an integrated display – called the SitFIT – which could measure daily
96 sedentary behavior and physical activity accurately, and provide real-time feedback to enable
97 prompts for and self-monitoring of behavior change for both. **This paper describes the**
98 **development of the SitFIT, and the determination of its criterion validity (compared with the**
99 **ActivPAL) for measurement of steps and sedentary time in a sample of adult males.**

100

101 **Methods**

102 *Development of the SitFIT*

103 The SitFIT is a tri-axial accelerometer, developed by PAL Technologies, which uses static
104 and dynamic accelerations in the three orthogonal axes to calculate wear (and non-wear)
105 time, posture allocation (upright or sedentary), transportation and stepping. It has been

106 designed to be worn in the front trouser pocket to enable the device orientation to track the
107 inclination of the thigh allowing detection of sitting/lying and upright postures by assessment
108 of the axes through which gravitational acceleration is detected (Figure 1). This is the same
109 concept underpinning the activPAL activity monitor (PAL Technologies, Glasgow, UK), a
110 small tri-axial accelerometer affixed to the front of the thigh, which is regarded as a gold-
111 standard device for the measurement of free-living sitting behavior (in addition to its
112 measurement of physical activity) because its thigh-based position is optimal for
113 distinguishing between sitting and upright postures (24,25). However, as the activPAL is
114 affixed to the thigh under clothing, it is not readily accessible; this, together with its lack of a
115 display to provide feedback, makes it unsuitable for providing real-time feedback on
116 sedentary behavior during everyday activities. The front trouser pocket location of the SitFIT
117 tracks thigh inclination, but provides the advantage of providing easy access for the user to
118 enable provision of feedback. The pocket is also more likely to be acceptable for daily long-
119 term wear than attachment to the thigh via a surgical dressing. Unlike the activPAL which
120 has no facility to provide feedback on a screen on the device, the SitFIT was designed with a
121 display to provide real-time visual feedback of stepping and sedentary/upright behaviors, a
122 vibrotactile actuator to provide customisable haptic feedback of time spent sitting, and a
123 Bluetooth SMART module to enable communication with external devices such as
124 smartphones, tablets and PCs. The key characteristics of the ActivPAL and SitFIT are shown
125 in Table 1.

126 Also unlike the activPAL, which is held in a fixed orientation on the thigh, the SitFIT can
127 move in the trouser pocket, thus changing its orientation relative to the thigh. To overcome
128 this, algorithms were developed by PAL Technologies to allow the device to be carried at
129 random orientations in the pocket and to rotate during use. The SitFIT produces outcomes
130 that are mainly based on the device's ability to count steps and to determine the wearer's

131 posture from its trouser pocket location. The SitFIT counts steps using all three (XYZ) axes
132 of space accelerations, with the step counting algorithm samplings each of the three axes
133 separately 10 times every second. The algorithm looks for a swing leg phase expressed as a
134 relative smooth variation of the axis acceleration value, followed by a sharp acceleration
135 change attributed to heel strike. Depending on device orientation in the pocket, any axis can
136 be dominant, hence the step count algorithm looks for all combinations of swing-heel strike
137 patterns over three axes and their inversions. The count of steps is the sum of the steps
138 counted across all axes, meaning that steps from all three axes are added but the same step is
139 not counted more than once. A time-based filter is applied to cut-off high frequency noise in
140 the step counting arising from the device's free movement inside the pocket that would
141 otherwise produce extra step counts; practically, a refractory period is created between steps,
142 preventing erroneous reporting of high frequency stepping. An automatic gain control feature
143 is implemented based on inter-step intervals that makes the algorithm more sensitive during
144 slow stepping. Additionally, there is a maximum time-period between two successive heel
145 strikes that can lead to the registration of a step. Beyond this maximum, period step signals
146 are regarded as individual noise bursts and do not contribute to step counting.

147 The determination of posture from a randomly placed device in the pocket is a greater
148 challenge than step counting. The posture estimation algorithm uses containers (i.e. periods
149 of time where activity is of a single class) of upright, sedentary, transport and non-wear using
150 historical and future criteria to set the limits for the sequential containers. The criteria used to
151 characterise a container are: a) the presence of steps; b) high frequency low level background
152 noise; c) sporadic noise bursts; d) a combination of changes to the static accelerations of the
153 three axes. The highest weighted criterion to identify the upright container is the existence of
154 steps. The algorithm identifies a container as upright when there are steps within it, and
155 tracks back in time until the last sufficient change in static accelerations is found to indicate

156 the change in posture. A prolonged period without significant dynamic accelerations is
157 weighted towards a sedentary container. Any significant dynamic acceleration or stepping
158 resets the weighting. A prolonged period totally without dynamic accelerations, following an
159 identified sedentary period, weighs towards a non-wear container. Persistent high frequency –
160 low level dynamic accelerations without stepping is weighted towards a transport container.
161 Sporadic noise bursts that do not constitute stepping are weighted towards upright (quiet
162 standing). If no stepping is identified before a significant static acceleration change, the
163 container is reassigned as sedentary. This algorithm is summarised in Figure 2.

164

165 ***Validation of stepping and sitting/upright time algorithms in free-living conditions***

166 Once algorithms for detection of sitting vs upright time, and step counts with the SitFIT were
167 fully developed, we sought to validate their accuracy under real-world free-living conditions
168 by comparing sitting time and step count outputs from the SitFIT with those from the
169 activPAL, which was assumed to provide gold-standard measures of sitting time and step-
170 counts, over several days. To do this, we asked 21 men, aged 30-65 years, with body mass
171 index $26.6 \pm 3.9 \text{ kg.m}^{-2}$ who were willing to wear trousers with front pockets, and had no
172 contraindications to engaging in physical activity (as assessed by the Physical Activity
173 Readiness Questionnaire), to each concurrently wear a SitFIT device in a front trouser pocket
174 and an activPAL accelerometer attached to their thigh for up to seven days. This participant
175 group was chosen as the first intended use of the SitFIT was in the EuroFIT study which was
176 a randomized controlled trial designed to increase physical activity and reduce sedentary
177 behavior in overweight and obese middle-aged male soccer fans (23). Participants were
178 recruited via email invitation or word-of-mouth and were primarily employees of the
179 University of Edinburgh. All provided written informed consent, and the study was approved

180 by the Research Ethics Committee of the Moray House School of Education, University of
181 Edinburgh.

182

183 Participants were instructed to affix an activPAL activity monitor (model activPAL3, PAL
184 Technologies, Glasgow, UK) to the front of their thigh using a surgical dressing for 24 hours
185 per day for seven days. Over the same time-period, they were asked to carry a SitFIT device
186 in their front trouser pocket during all waking hours, putting the device on as soon as they
187 woke in the morning and removing it before they went to bed at night. Valid data were
188 obtained for 7 days in 18 participants, 8 days in 1 participant, 6 days in 1 participant and 5
189 days in 1 participant, providing a total of 145 valid days where SitFIT and activPAL data
190 could be compared.

191 Data were processed using proprietary software developed by PAL Technologies, which
192 summarised data in 5-minute epochs throughout the day, quantifying the duration of time
193 spent sitting (or lying), standing, stepping and of non-wear, as well as the number of steps
194 taken, in each epoch for both the activPAL and SitFIT devices. The software automatically
195 detected periods of non-wear, using the algorithms described above, and data were cleaned to
196 remove periods identified as non-wear for either device. Thus data analysis only included the
197 waking periods where both devices were worn: this step was necessary to ensure
198 comparability of SitFIT and activPAL data, as SitFIT devices were removed at night. To
199 determine whether it was necessary to account for nesting of multiple observation days per
200 participant in our analysis, we explored the effect of including a term for ‘participant’ in
201 analysis of the linear regression between SitFIT and ActivPAL outputs for step count and
202 sedentary time, and when comparing the mean difference in outputs between the two devices.
203 This had no material effect of on the findings (for example, r^2 for the correlation between

204 SitFIT and ActivPAL sedentary time measurements was 0.7007 when all data points were
205 considered independent and 0.7010 taking nesting into account. For step count, r^2 was 0.9608
206 when all data points were considered independent and 0.9610 accounting for nesting). We
207 therefore took the parsimonious approach of considering the each of the 145 observation days
208 as independent data points in our data analysis. Cumulative sitting time and cumulative step
209 count throughout each day was calculated for the SitFIT and activPAL devices for each of the
210 145 days, and mean \pm SD values reported graphically. Mean (\pm SD) values for the difference
211 in cumulative sitting time and step count were also shown in graphical form. Mean absolute
212 errors for cumulative sitting time and step count were calculated as the mean of the absolute
213 differences between SitFIT and ActivPAL measurements (i.e. ignoring the direction of error
214 for each individual measurement). A Bland and Altman limits of agreement approach was
215 used to ascertain bias and variability in the SitFIT measures of sitting time and step counts
216 compared with the activPAL (26). The relationships between daily sitting time and step count
217 outputs between activPAL and SitFIT were assessed by plotting scatter graphs and assessing
218 Pearson correlations (r) between the two measures and proximity of the relationship to the
219 line of equality ($y = x$).

220

221 **Results**

222 Over the 145 measurement days, mean (\pm SD) daily wear time for the SitFIT was 16.1 ± 4.2
223 hours and for the ActivPAL was 22.9 ± 3.0 hours. The median-time for putting on the SitFIT
224 in the morning was 07:35; the median-time for removing it in the evening was 22:55.

225 Comparisons between the SitFIT and ActivPAL for step-counts and sedentary time were
226 made over the time-period when both devices were worn on each day. Figure 3A shows
227 mean cumulative step-count values over the 145 days measured using SitFIT and activPAL

228 devices with the mean \pm SD for differences in cumulative step counts between the two
229 devices over the course of the day. Throughout the day, differences in cumulative step count
230 between the devices were small, with no clear bias in either a positive or negative direction.
231 Mean (\pm SD) daily step counts for the two devices over the 145 observation periods are
232 shown in Table 1. Figure 3B shows a Bland-Altman plot of the mean difference and 95%
233 Limits of Agreement for 24-hour step counts between SitFIT and ActivPAL devices, with
234 values summarised in Table 2 Overall, mean step counts were \sim 4% lower with the SitFIT
235 than ActivPAL, with the 95% Limits of Agreement for step counts between the devices
236 ranging from -2667 to +1817 steps per day. Mean absolute error in step count for the SitFIT
237 compared with the ActivPAL was 826 steps per day. Step counts between the two devices
238 differed by less than 1000 steps per day on 69% (100 out of 145) of days and by less than
239 2000 steps on 94% (137/145) of days. Pearson correlation between step counts for the two
240 methods was very high ($r = 0.98$, $r^2 = 0.96$), with no obvious bias from the line of equality
241 (equation of regression line: $y = 1.0035x + 418.35$) (Figure 3C).

242

243 Figure 4A shows mean cumulative sedentary time values over the 145 days measured using
244 SitFIT and activPAL devices with the mean and standard deviation for differences in
245 cumulative sedentary time between the two devices. Over the course of the day, there was no
246 clear bias in sedentary time between the two devices: mean (\pm SD) daily values for sedentary
247 time for the SitFIT and activPAL are shown in Table 2. A Bland-Altman plot of the mean
248 difference and 95% Limits of Agreement for sedentary time is shown in Figure 4B, with
249 values summarised in Table 2. Overall, mean sedentary time was \sim 5% higher with the SitFIT
250 than activPAL, with 95% Limits of Agreement ranging from -159 minutes to +180 minutes
251 per day. Mean absolute error in sedentary time for the SitFIT compared with the ActivPAL
252 was 66 minutes per day. Sedentary time measures between the two devices differed by less

253 than 60 minutes on 61% (89/145) and by less than 120 minutes on 86% (125/145) of days.
254 Correlation between upright time for the two methods was high ($r = 0.84$, $r^2 = 0.70$), although
255 lower than observed for step count, with the equation of the regression line being close to the
256 line of equality ($y = 0.8728x + 38.445$) (Figure 4C).

257

258 **Discussion**

259 The aim of this paper was to describe the development and validation of the SitFIT – a novel
260 pocket-worn device to measure and provide real-time feedback on sedentary behavior and
261 stepping activities. While the SitFIT was initially designed for use in the EuroFIT trial (23),
262 it can be used as a monitoring tool for sedentary behavior and stepping in widespread
263 settings. Novel algorithms were developed to detect sitting and upright postures, which
264 accounted for changes in device orientation within the pocket, and the accuracy of the SitFIT
265 for measurement of step counts and sedentary behavior was assessed under free-living
266 conditions. Our data revealed that the SitFIT had excellent validity for counting steps, with a
267 mean difference in step counts between SitFIT and activPAL devices of ~4%, a correlation
268 coefficient for step counts between the two devices of 0.98, and daily step counts differing
269 between the two devices by less than 2000 steps on 94% of measurement days. Previous
270 studies have reported that the most accurate commercially-available pedometers have a 95%
271 confidence interval for free-living 24-hour step counts of $\sim \pm 3000$ -4000 steps per day
272 compared with a criterion measure and suggested that devices with mean differences in step
273 counts within $\pm 10\%$ of the criterion measure have acceptable validity (27,28). More
274 recently, correlation coefficients with criterion measures for 24-hour steps counts for
275 commercially-available wearable activity monitors have been reported in the range of 0.94-
276 0.99 with 95% confidence intervals for the difference in 24-hour step counts typically within

277 ~ ± 1000-3000 steps per day (29). Thus, overall these data indicate that the SitFIT device has
278 excellent validity for measuring step-counts under free-living conditions which is at least as
279 good as other devices on the market.

280

281 While there are a number of acceptable options available which monitor and provide
282 feedback on indices of physical activity, such as step counts, devices which provide real-time
283 feedback on sedentary behavior are more limited. The activPAL is generally regarded as the
284 gold-standard device for the measurement of sedentary behavior (24,25): one version of this
285 device – the activPAL VT (<http://www.paltechnologies.com/products/>) – provides
286 vibrotactile feedback to the wearer when they have sat continuously for 15 or 30 minutes to
287 provide information and a prompt to stand up. The SitFIT builds on activPAL VT in two
288 important ways. First, its pocket location is more amenable to long-term wear than having a
289 device affixed to the front of the thigh, and second, it has a display which provides real time
290 feedback on step count and time spent sitting (or upright) – analogous to a pedometer – which
291 can thus be used to work towards daily targets. The LUMOback activity tracker (LUMO
292 Bodytech, Mountain View, CA, USA) – a device worn as a belt around the waist which is
293 synced to a smartphone to provide feedback on sitting, standing and stepping – was used in
294 one randomised controlled trial as an intervention tool to facilitate reductions in sitting time
295 amongst office workers (30). However, this device, which was originally developed as a
296 posture monitor, has now been discontinued by the manufacturer, and its replacement, the
297 Lumo Lift, with its placement near the collarbone is not suitable for objective monitoring of
298 sitting behavior (<http://www.lumobodytech.com/lumo-back/>, accessed 14.03.17). Most other
299 devices purporting to provide feedback on sedentary behavior to the user do so by equating
300 sedentary time as a lack of dynamic movement, rather than by measurement of a sitting
301 posture (21,22), and therefore do not provide a direct measurement of sedentary behavior in

302 line with the Sedentary Behavior Research Network definition (1). This has potentially
303 important implications, as these other devices would record a period of quiet standing as
304 being sedentary, and there is increasing evidence that breaking up sitting with periods of
305 quiet standing can produce metabolic benefits (13-15,31). Thus, such devices would not be
306 able to provide effective feedback on a standing desk intervention, for example. Therefore,
307 there is a clear need for a simple device that can provide users with feedback on sitting
308 behavior, and the SitFIT addresses this gap.

309

310 The accuracy of the SitFIT for measurement of time spent sitting was also very good. Mean
311 sedentary time as measured by the SitFIT and activPAL differed by ~5%, with a correlation
312 coefficient between the two measures of 0.84. This compares favourably with validation of
313 the LUMObac against the activPAL which reported a mean difference of 9.5% between the
314 two devices for measurement of sedentary behavior over a 24-hour cycle (22). The
315 difference in daily sitting time between the SitFIT and activPAL was less than 60 minutes on
316 61% of day and less than 120 minutes on 86% of days. Other devices use an acceleration-
317 based, rather than posture-based, approach to estimate time spent sedentary (21,22) and thus
318 cannot distinguish between sitting and quiet standing. When such devices are validated
319 against the activPAL, their accuracy in determining sedentary behavior is considerably poorer
320 (22), which limits their potential for use in intervention aimed at reducing sitting time. It is
321 of note that the accuracy of the SitFIT in measuring step counts was somewhat higher than its
322 accuracy in determining time spent sitting. This is understandable given the greater technical
323 challenges associated with quantification of sitting time compared with quantification of step
324 count. The pocket location of the SitFIT has a number of advantages with respect to long-
325 term usability: it can be carried inconspicuously, it is not directly attached to the skin (as the
326 activPAL is) and is easily accessible for the provision of feedback to the user. However, as

327 the SitFIT is free to move and change orientation in the pocket, the technical challenge of
328 detecting posture allocation (sitting vs upright) is substantially greater than for the detection
329 of steps, and for the detection of posture allocation using the gold-standard activPAL where
330 the location and orientation of the device on the thigh is constant. To address this problem,
331 an algorithm was developed to account for the random orientation of SitFIT in the pocket, as
332 described in the methods. In this context, we feel that the validity of this algorithm, assessed
333 here under real-world free-living conditions, for detection of sitting and upright time (the
334 latter simply being wear time minus sitting time) is excellent and certainly acceptable for use
335 as a tool to provide users with feedback on sedentary behavior in behavior change
336 intervention programs.

337

338 This study provides an important first step in validating the SitFIT but further work is needed
339 to validate the device in groups of users other than middle-aged men and to provide construct
340 as well as criterion validity for the device. There are also some limitations with the SitFIT
341 which need to be considered. Firstly, as the device is pocket-worn, it may not be suitable for
342 use for people who do not usually wear trousers with front pockets. To address this issue, a
343 new device called the Activator, which is based on the same sensing platform as the SitFIT,
344 but can be attached to clothing or worn discretely on the thigh using an integrated elastic loop
345 (in addition to being pocket-worn), is currently being developed by PAL Technologies.
346 Secondly, while the accuracy of the SitFIT for measurement of sedentary behavior is
347 acceptable for providing user feedback in the context of a behavior change intervention, it is
348 not equivalent to the ActivPAL in this context, so for measurement of sedentary behavior as a
349 research outcome, it should not be considered to be an ActivPAL replacement.

350

351 For the output display on the SitFIT, we deliberately chose to provide users with simple,
352 actionable, feedback with the aim of facilitating behavior change. Pedometers, which
353 provide a simple output of step count are effective at increasing physical activity (17-19):
354 with the SitFIT we sought to provide an additional simple summary measure of sedentary
355 time which could be used for goal setting and feedback. Further work is needed to validate
356 the device for other outputs, such as number of sit-to-stand transitions, which have been
357 shown to be associated with metabolic outcomes (15,32) and are a viable target for a
358 sedentary behavior change intervention. In addition, further work is needed to develop and
359 validate outputs related to intensity of physical activity, in addition to total step count, for the
360 SitFIT. Increasing the number and complexity of data outputs would necessarily complicate
361 the output display and end-user input would be needed to develop the best ways of
362 visualising such data outputs for the user. Trials would also be needed to determine whether
363 provision of more detailed feedback beyond step count and total sedentary time resulted in
364 greater behavior change.

365

366 In conclusion, the SitFIT – a novel device to monitor and provide real-time feedback of
367 stepping and sedentary behavior – has excellent validity for the measurement of step counts
368 and sitting and upright time. While there are a number of devices available which can
369 provide feedback to the user on step counts, there is a lack of devices available which can
370 provide feedback on time spent sitting and being upright. Thus the SitFIT addresses a clear
371 need for a device that can be used as a tool to provide feedback to the user on sedentary
372 behavior to facilitate behavior change. As such, the SitFIT can be considered to be a
373 complementary device to the ActivPAL, which remains the gold-standard device for
374 measurement of sedentary behavior as a research outcome. Randomised controlled trials –

375 such as the EuroFIT study (23) – are now needed to determine the effectiveness of such
376 technology-supported approaches for eliciting long-term sedentary behavior change.

377

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384 interests.

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486 **Figure Legends**

487 **Figure 1.** The pocket-worn SitFIT device during sitting, standing and stepping activities. The
488 SitFIT tracks the orientation of the upper thigh, so changes orientation when posture changes
489 from sitting to upright. The display provides real-time feedback of sitting (or upright) time
490 and of step count.

491

492 **Figure 2. Flow-diagram illustrating the algorithm for decision-rules used by the SitFIT**
493 **to determine posture allocation.**

494

495 **Figure 3. Panel A: Cumulative step counts and differences in cumulative step counts**
496 **over the course of the day measured using the SitFIT and activPAL devices.** N = 145,
497 values are mean for step counts for each device and mean \pm SD for the difference in step
498 count. **Panel B: Scatterplot showing the relationship between daily step counts measured**
499 **using SitFIT and activPAL devices.** Black line is line of best fit; dotted red line is line of
500 equality; N = 145. **Panel C: Bland-Altman plot of difference in step counts between**
501 **SitFIT and activPAL devices against ActivPAL (gold-standard) step counts.** N = 145,
502 black dotted line represents mean difference between devices; red dotted lines represent 95%
503 limits of agreement.

504

505 **Figure 4. Panel A: Cumulative sedentary time and differences in cumulative sedentary**
506 **time over the course of the day measured using the SitFIT and activPAL devices.** N =
507 145, values are mean for sedentary time for each device and mean \pm SD for the difference in
508 step count sedentary time. **Panel B: Scatterplot showing the relationship between daily**
509 **sedentary time measured using SitFIT and activPAL devices.** Black line is line of best fit;
510 dotted red line is line of equality; N = 145. **Panel C: Bland-Altman plot of difference in**
511 **sedentary time between SitFIT and activPAL devices against ActivPAL (gold-standard)**
512 **sedentary time.** N = 145, black dotted line represents mean difference between devices; red
513 dotted lines represent 95% limits of agreement.

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Table 1. Characteristics of the ActivPAL and SitFIT

ActivPAL	SitFIT
Worn on front of thigh	Worn in front trouser pocket
Attached firmly using a surgical dressing	Free to move in pocket
Fixed orientation relative to thigh	Random orientation relative to thigh
Worn 24 hours per day	Worn during waking hours, removed at night
Data on sedentary behaviour or step count provided to the researcher via download to PC at the end of monitoring period	Screen to provide real-time feedback to user on sedentary behavior and step count (data also stored on device and is downloadable)
Provides gold-standard measurement of sedentary (and stepping) behavior for use in research studies	To be used as a tool to facilitate sedentary and physical activity behavior change in interventions
Provides 1-2 week snapshots of sedentary and stepping behaviour to the researcher	Suitable for long-term self-monitoring of sedentary and stepping behaviour by the user

Table 2. Comparison of ActivPAL and SitFIT derived measures of step counts and sedentary time over 145 24-hour observation periods.

	ActivPAL (mean \pm SD)	SitFIT (mean \pm SD)	Difference (SitFIT minus ActivPAL) (mean (95% Limits of Agreement))	Correlation coefficient (r)
Step count (steps.day ⁻¹)	10250 \pm 5571	9797 \pm 5579	-452 (-2669, 1762)	0.98
Sedentary time (min.day ⁻¹)	462 \pm 166	485 \pm 159	23 (-159, 180)	0.84

Limits of Agreement expressed as the mean difference \pm 1.96 x SD







