



## MAGNITUDE OF MULTIPLANAR BREAST KINEMATICS DIFFERS DEPENDING UPON RUN DISTANCE

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## ABSTRACT

Recommendations for breast support, dynamic breast pain assessment, and implications for sports performance have been made within breast biomechanics research; however, these studies have been based upon short exercise protocols (2 to 5 min). The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of breast support on multiplanar breast kinematics over a five kilometre run. Ten female participants (34D or 32DD) conducted two five kilometre runs, in a low and high breast support. Relative multiplanar breast kinematics were averaged over five gait cycles at six intervals of a five kilometre run. Increases in multiplanar breast kinematics were reported from the start to the end of the run, with the greatest rate of increase in breast kinematics reported within the first two kilometres of running. The greatest relative increases in breast range of motion (34%), velocity (33%), and acceleration (41%) were reported in the superioinferior direction at the fifth kilometre (33 minutes of running) in the high breast support. Key findings suggest that the run distance, and therefore run duration, employed for both fundamental research and product validation protocols should be carefully considered and it is suggested that running protocols for assessing breast biomechanics should exceed seven minutes.

**Key words:** *Running, sports bras, breast support, females, kinematic*

## INTRODUCTION

The majority of literature investigating the biomechanics of the breast has been conducted during treadmill running (Mason, Page, & Fallon, 1999; McGhee, Steele, Power, 2007; Scurr, White, & Hedger, 2009; 2010; 2011). From this research sports bras are recommended as the most appropriate breast support for females, based upon the reduction of relative breast kinematics (Mason et al., 1999; Scurr et al., 2009), improvements in breast comfort (McGhee et al., 2007; Scurr et al., 2010), and the potential to widen exercise participation (Mason et al., 1999). Important research areas are examined in these publications, such as establishing what an effective breast support is, which informs product design (Starr et al., 2005), the assessment of breast pain, ensuring females are exercising in comfort (Scurr, et al., 2010), and examining functional alterations during running to examine

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3 31 the effect of breast biomechanics on sports performance (Boschma, Smith, & Lawson, 1995;  
4 32 White, Scurr, & Smith, 2009).

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7 33 While these publications have significantly progressed knowledge within the area of  
8 34 breast biomechanics, the conclusions drawn have been the result of work conducted over  
9 35 short running bouts (up to 5 minutes). Many modalities of exercise, specifically running, are  
10 36 often conducted over durations exceeding two minutes. Furthermore, the current UK  
11 37 government guidelines on exercise prescription to maintain a healthy lifestyle for adults is  
12 38 thirty minutes of exercise (the equivalent of a five kilometre run paced at  $10 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ) five  
13 39 times a week (Department of Health, UK, Physical activity recommendations, 2011).  
14 40 Previous literature has not considered the magnitude of breast kinematics over common  
15 41 running distances, which limits the possible application of the results.

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24 42 To date, one publication has monitored breast displacement at minute intervals over a  
25 43 five minute treadmill run, to explore the notion that poor breast support (everyday bra) may  
26 44 pose an injury risk to the breast. Bowles and Steele (2003) reported significant increases in  
27 45 superioinferior breast displacement from the first minute to the fourth and fifth minute of  
28 46 running. Bowles and Steele (2003) attributed increases in breast displacement to tissue strain  
29 47 as a result of the repeated loading on the delicate breast tissues during running. However, it is  
30 48 extremely difficult to isolate tissue strain when wearing an external breast support, as it is  
31 49 unclear if the support is influencing the magnitude of breast movement. It could be  
32 50 hypothesised that the loading on the breast tissue over an extended run (e.g. five kilometre  
33 51 run), and therefore the support demand on the bra, is much greater than during a five minute  
34 52 run, which may cause further increases in the magnitude of relative breast kinematics. The  
35 53 initial work of Bowles and Steele (2003) only considered the superioinferior breast  
36 54 displacement, however, it is well established that the breast moves in three directions (Scurr  
37 55 et al., 2009) and the velocity and acceleration of the breast are important measures for  
38 56 understanding more about the biomechanics of the breast (Mason et al., 1999; McGhee et al.,  
39 57 2007; Scurr et al., 2010; McGhee, Steele, Zealey, & Takacs, 2012). Examining the magnitude  
40 58 of multiplanar breast kinematics over a common running distance, in each direction of  
41 59 movement, could increase knowledge of the breast during running, inform breast  
42 60 biomechanics protocols, provide vital information for sports bra design, and enable valid  
43 61 product assessments.

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3 62 Another potential influence on the magnitude of breast kinematics during a prolonged  
4 63 run is the influence of increased sweat rates, and increased skin and core body temperature.  
5 64 During exercise, skin blood flow and sweat rates (Taylor & Groeller, 2008) are elevated from  
6 65 a thermoneutral state in response to increasing core body and skin temperature. The  
7 66 magnitude of the increase in core body and skin temperature and the associated  
8 67 thermoeffector responses, will depend upon the metabolic heat production, external  
9 68 environment, and clothing worn (Parsons, 2014). Bras are fitted closely to the thorax  
10 69 covering the breast tissue and often a large portion of the upper thorax. Furthermore, sports  
11 70 bras commonly include multiple layers of material with differing functions, with the material  
12 71 frequently covering more of the thorax and breast tissue than an everyday bra. Increased skin  
13 72 and core body temperature when wearing these garments may have implications for both the  
14 73 breast and bra during running. Firstly, the increased temperature of the skin and breast may  
15 74 alter the physical state of the adipose tissue within the breast, whereby the adipose tissue is  
16 75 close to reaching its melting point (transitioning from a semi-solid state to a liquid state) at  
17 76 approximately 32°C to 35°C (Schmidt-Nielson, 1946), which may result in a more malleable  
18 77 tissue. Secondly, the bras themselves may be influenced by temperature of the skin and  
19 78 breast, and amount of sweat absorbed. The properties of the fabrics incorporated in the bras,  
20 79 such as a bras elasticity, stretch-recovery rate, and strength may be affected, and therefore the  
21 80 ability of the bra to reduce the relative breast kinematics may be affected.

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36 81 The aim of the current study was to quantify multiplanar breast kinematics during a  
37 82 five kilometre run in a low and high breast support. It was hypothesised that the magnitude of  
38 83 relative multiplanar breast kinematics would significantly increase throughout the five  
39 84 kilometre run in the low and high breast support conditions.

## 40 41 42 43 85 **METHODS**

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46 86 Following institutional ethical approval, ten female volunteers (experienced treadmill  
47 87 and outdoor runners currently training  $\geq 30$  min,  $\geq$  five times per week) with a mean and  
48 88 standard deviation (SD) age of 23 years (2 years), body mass 62.1 kg (5.4 kg), and height  
49 89 1.60 m (0.05 m), participated in this study. All participants provided written informed  
50 90 consent to participate. Participants had not had children and not experienced any surgical  
51 91 procedures to the breast. Participants' bra size was measured employing the best fit criteria  
52 92 recommended by White and Scurr (2012), which ensures minimal movement of the bra over  
53 93 the skin, with the under-band, straps, and centre gore of the bras tightly fit to the thorax and  
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3 94 breasts. Participants were required to fit either of the cross-graded bra sizes of 34D and  
4 95 32DD.

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7 96 Participants performed two five kilometre treadmill runs on separate days, 24 to 72  
8 97 hours apart; once in a low breast support (everyday t-shirt bra) and once in a high breast  
9 98 support (Shock Absorber, B4490 sports bra) (Figure 1). Participants selected a comfortable  
10 99 running speed, which they felt they could maintain for the duration of the run, this ranged  
11 100 from  $8.5 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  to  $10.5 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ , with an average of  $9 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  ( $1 \text{ km}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$ ). Once selected, this  
12 101 speed remained constant throughout all run trials. Participants wore the same footwear and  
13 102 lower body clothing for all trials.

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20 103 ----- INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE -----

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23 104 Six retro-reflective hemi-spherical markers (diameter of 12 mm) were positioned with  
24 105 hypo-allergenic tape on the following anatomical landmarks; the suprasternal notch, the left  
25 106 and right anterior inferior aspect of the 10<sup>th</sup> ribs, on the bra directly over the right nipple  
26 107 (Scurr et al., 2010; 2011) (Figure 2), and one positioned on the lateral aspect of the left heel  
27 108 to identify gait cycles (Scurr et al., 2009; 2010; 2011).

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35 110 Three-dimensional coordinates of the six markers were tracked by eight calibrated  
36 111 Oqus infrared cameras (Qualisys, Sweden) sampling at 200 Hz. The eight cameras were  
37 112 positioned in an arc around the treadmill. Cameras recorded the final ten seconds of the first  
38 113 two minutes of the running. The average distance covered within this time was 322 m (64 m).  
39 114 Following this, cameras recorded for ten seconds within the final 100 m of each kilometre  
40 115 interval following this. With participants completing the five kilometre runs at different  
41 116 treadmill speeds the kilometre intervals were on average at 6.6 minutes (0.3 minutes), 13.1  
42 117 minutes (0.7 minutes), 19.6 minutes (1.0 minutes), 26.2 minutes (1.4 minutes), and 32.7  
43 118 minutes (1.7 minutes).

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51 119 Markers were identified and three-dimensional data reconstructed in the Qualisys  
52 120 Track Manager software (Qualisys, Sweden). The global coordinate system identified x' as  
53 121 the line of progression on the treadmill (anteroposterior), y' as mediolateral, and z' as  
54 122 superioinferior (Figure 2). Raw three-dimensional coordinate data were exported from

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3 123 Qualisys to a Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) program in MATLAB (MathWorks, UK). A cut-  
4 124 off frequency of 13 Hz was selected for the low pass filter with the majority of the signal  
5 125 power reported below this frequency. Filtered three-dimensional coordinates for the markers  
6 126 on the thorax, nipple, and heel were then exported to Visual3D (C-Motion, Inc.).  
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11 127 To establish relative breast kinematics, independent to the 6 *dof* movement of the  
12 128 thorax, an orthogonal segment coordinate segment converted global coordinates of the right  
13 129 nipple to relative coordinates using a transformation matrix within Visual3D. Three non-  
14 130 collinear markers positioned on the thorax were used to define the segment coordinate  
15 131 system, with the left and right anterior inferior ribs identified as the medial and lateral  
16 132 locations of the distal end of the segment and the suprasternal notch as the proximal end. A  
17 133 virtual mid-point was established between the medial and lateral points of the distal end (ribs)  
18 134 which extended to the suprasternal notch creating the superioinferior and primary axis ( $z''$ ),  
19 135 the reference frontal plane ( $y'-z'$ ) was then defined using the three markers, with vector  $y''$   
20 136 perpendicular to the  $z'$  axis. Vector  $x''$  was directed anterior to this plane, and using the right  
21 137 hand rule was perpendicular to  $z''$  and  $y''$  (Mills, Loveridge, Milligan, Risius, & Scurr, 2014).  
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30 138 Using the relative nipple coordinates, minima positional coordinates were subtracted  
31 139 from maxima coordinates of the right nipple, during each gait cycle ( $n = 5$ ) (Scurr et al.,  
32 140 2009; 2010) to calculate breast range of motion in three-dimensions. First (velocity,  $m \cdot s^{-1}$ )  
33 141 and second (acceleration,  $m \cdot s^{-2}$ ) derivatives of the relative nipple coordinates were calculated  
34 142 instantaneously for each sample (0.005 s), with peak values recorded during each gait cycle.  
35 143 Percentage increases were calculated for multiplanar breast kinematics from the first two  
36 144 minutes of running to each kilometre interval of the five kilometre runs for the low and high  
37 145 breast support conditions. To determine running gait cycles, instantaneous velocity of the  
38 146 heel was derived from the anteroposterior coordinates (Zeni, Richards, & Higginson, 2008).  
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46 147 All data were checked for normality using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-  
47 148 Wilk tests, with normality assumed when  $p > 0.05$ . Homogeneity of variance was assessed  
48 149 using Mauchly's test of Sphericity, with homogenous data assumed when  $p > 0.05$ . Two-way  
49 150 repeated measures ANOVAs were performed to assess any significant differences ( $p < .05$ ) in  
50 151 relative breast kinematics in each direction of movement, between and within low and high  
51 152 breast supports across the five kilometre run (six intervals). *Post hoc* pairwise comparisons  
52 153 with Bonferroni adjustment were performed following the two-way repeated measures  
53 154 ANOVAs.  
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3 155 **RESULTS**  
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6 156 Relative breast range of motion  
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9 157 The magnitude of relative multiplanar breast range of motion in the low breast  
10 support, during the five kilometre run is presented in figure 3. Percentage increases in  
11 158 multiplanar breast range of motion were reported from the first two minutes to the second  
12 159 kilometre interval (13.1 minutes of running). After this time point no further percentage  
13 160 increases were reported in either the anteroposterior or mediolateral range of motion.  
14 161 However, the superioinferior breast range of motion continued to increase, with significant  
15 162 increases ( $p < .05$ ) reported between two minutes of running to the first, fourth, and fifth  
16 163 kilometres. The greatest percentage increase in multiplanar breast range of motion from the  
17 164 first two minutes was reported at the fifth kilometre (32.7 minutes of running) in the  
18 165 superioinferior direction (23%). However, the greatest change in multiplanar breast range of  
19 166 motion, between two consecutive distance intervals, was reported in the superioinferior breast  
20 167 range of motion between the first two minutes of running and first kilometre interval (14%).  
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33 170 The magnitude of relative multiplanar breast range of motion in the high breast  
34 171 support, during the five kilometre run is presented in figure 4. A similar pattern is reported  
35 172 when participants wore the high breast support, whereby percentage increases were reported  
36 173 in multiplanar breast range of motion from the first two minutes of running up until the  
37 174 second kilometre interval (13.1 minutes of running). However, percentage increases were  
38 175 reported to increase further in the mediolateral range of motion until the third kilometre (19.6  
39 176 minutes of running), and until the fifth kilometre in the superioinferior breast range of  
40 177 motion.  
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50 179 Significant ( $p < .05$ ) increases were reported from two minutes of running to first and  
51 180 fifth kilometre intervals in anteroposterior range of motion, to the fourth and fifth kilometre  
52 181 intervals in the mediolateral range of motion, and to the third, fourth, and fifth kilometre  
53 182 intervals in the superioinferior breast range of motion. The greatest relative percentage  
54 183 increase in multiplanar breast range of motion from the first two minutes was reported at the  
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3 184 fifth kilometre interval (32.7 minutes of running) in the superioinferior direction, a 34%  
4 185 increase from the baseline. However, the greatest change in multiplanar breast range of  
5 186 motion, between two consecutive distance intervals, was reported in the superioinferior  
6 187 direction between the first two minutes and first kilometre interval (6.6 minutes of running)  
7 188 (20%).

11 189 Relative breast velocity

15 190 When participants wore the low breast support, percentage increases in peak relative  
16 191 multiplanar breast velocity were seen from the first two minutes of running until the second  
17 192 kilometre interval (13.1 minutes of running) (Figure 5), at this time point the greatest increase  
18 193 in anteroposterior breast velocity is reported (27%). Furthermore, the greatest percentage  
19 194 increase in anteroposterior breast velocity, between two consecutive distance intervals in the  
20 195 run, was seen between the first and second kilometre intervals, a difference of 22%. Whereas,  
21 196 the greatest relative increases in mediolateral and superioinferior breast velocity, between  
22 197 consecutive distance intervals, occurred between the first two minutes to first kilometre  
23 198 interval (6.6 minutes of running). Peak anteroposterior and mediolateral breast velocities did  
24 199 not increase past the second kilometre of running (13.1 minutes of running); however,  
25 200 significant increases ( $p < .05$ ) were reported in peak superioinferior breast velocity at the  
26 201 fourth and fifth kilometre intervals.

36 202 ----- INSERT FIGURE 5 HERE -----

39 203 Percentage increases were reported in the peak multiplanar breast velocity over the  
40 204 first three consecutive distance intervals (322 m, first, and second kilometres) when  
41 205 participants wore the high breast support (Figure 6). Percentage increases in the mediolateral  
42 206 and superioinferior velocity continued to increase until the third kilometre of running; at this  
43 207 point the superioinferior velocity reached its greatest increase (37%) from the first two  
44 208 minutes of running.

50 209 ----- INSERT FIGURE 6 HERE -----

53 210 The greatest percentage increases in peak anteroposterior and mediolateral velocity,  
54 211 between two consecutive distance intervals, were reported between the first two minutes (322  
55 212 m) and first kilometre interval (6.6 minutes of running), however, this was reported between



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3 213 the first (6.6 minutes of running) and second (13.1 minutes of running) kilometre intervals for  
4 214 the superioinferior breast velocity (Figure 6).

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7 215 Relative breast acceleration

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10 216 In the low breast support, percentage increases in peak multiplanar breast acceleration were  
11 217 reported from the first two minutes of running until the second kilometre interval (13.1  
12 218 minutes of running) (Figure 7). However, percentage increases were reported in the  
13 219 superioinferior and mediolateral breast acceleration past this time point. Percentage increases  
14 220 in peak superioinferior acceleration continue to rise until the fifth kilometre interval (32.7  
15 221 minutes of running), reaching a peak increase of 27%. At this time a significant increase ( $p <$   
16 222 .05) was reported in peak superioinferior breast acceleration from the first two minutes of  
17 223 running to the fifth kilometre interval.

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28 225 The greatest percentage increases in peak multiplanar breast acceleration, between  
29 226 two consecutive distance intervals, were reported within the first two kilometres of running  
30 227 (13.1 minutes of running), with increases in mediolateral and superioinferior acceleration  
31 228 occurring between two minutes and the first kilometre, and between the first and second  
32 229 kilometre intervals for the anteroposterior breast acceleration.

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37 230 Percentage increases in peak multiplanar breast acceleration were seen to increase  
38 231 gradually from the first two minutes to the second kilometre interval (13.1 minutes of  
39 232 running) in the high breast support condition (Figure 8). The greatest percentage increases in  
40 233 peak multiplanar breast acceleration, between two consecutive distance intervals, were  
41 234 reported between the first and second kilometres. The anteroposterior and mediolateral breast  
42 235 acceleration reached peak magnitudes at the second kilometre interval. Whereas, the  
43 236 superioinferior breast acceleration continued to increase at each time interval and reached a  
44 237 peak at 32.7 minutes of running (5<sup>th</sup> km). A significant ( $p <$  .05) increase in peak  
45 238 superioinferior breast acceleration was reported from the first two minutes of running to the  
46 239 fifth kilometre interval.

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54 240 ----- INSERT FIGURE 8 HERE -----

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57 241 **DISCUSSION**

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3 242 Understanding whether run distance influences the magnitude of multiplanar breast  
4 243 kinematics may increase our understanding of the breast and bra during running, help to  
5 244 provide recommendations for breast biomechanics protocols, and may provide insight into  
6 245 product performance during common running distances. This study aimed to quantify the  
7 246 magnitude of multiplanar breast kinematics during a five kilometre treadmill run in a low and  
8 247 high breast support condition, to determine if breast kinematics differed over a prolonged  
9 248 treadmill run. The key findings were that significant increases in multiplanar breast  
10 249 kinematics occurred during a five kilometre run in a low and high breast support, with the  
11 250 greatest increases between two consecutive distance intervals commonly occurring between  
12 251 the first two minutes (322 m) to the first kilometre interval. The greatest relative percentage  
13 252 increases in multiplanar breast range of motion (34%), velocity (37%), and acceleration  
14 253 (41%) over the five kilometre run, occurred in the superioinferior direction when participants  
15 254 wore the high breast support.

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26 255 The current study identified previously unreported increases in multiplanar breast  
27 256 kinematics over a five kilometre run in a low and high breast support, which has implications  
28 257 for past and future breast biomechanics protocols. Excluding breast velocity in the low breast  
29 258 support, the greatest overall increases in multiplanar breast kinematics in the low and high  
30 259 breast supports, were reported in the superioinferior direction. These findings indicate that  
31 260 superioinferior breast kinematics were subject to the greatest change in magnitude over a five  
32 261 kilometre run, with up to 41% increase in breast acceleration. It is important to consider what  
33 262 impact this may have on the breast tissue during running and whether these increases in  
34 263 magnitude could pose an injury risk to the breast tissue. Greater relative accelerations of the  
35 264 breast tissue will lead to greater resultant breast forces, which could lead to tissue strain.  
36 265 However, it is assumed that the potential for strain on the breast tissues is considerably less in  
37 266 the high breast support condition as a result of the structured design and superior support of  
38 267 this bra, when compared to the low breast support.

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49 268 When examining the greatest increases in multiplanar breast kinematics between two  
50 269 consecutive distance intervals of the run in the low and high breast supports, the greatest  
51 270 increases were frequently reported between the first two minutes and the first kilometre  
52 271 interval (6.6 minutes of running). Excluding the superioinferior breast kinematics, which  
53 272 continued to increase, it is suggested that the magnitude of anteroposterior and mediolateral  
54 273 breast kinematics begin to plateau around the second kilometre interval (13 minutes of  
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3 274 running). Based upon the steep increases in breast kinematics within the first kilometre of  
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5 275 running, it is recommended that breast biomechanics protocols should examine breast  
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7 276 kinematics over at least one kilometre (approximately seven minutes of running at an average  
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9 277 speed of 9 km.hr<sup>-1</sup>), and where possible up to 13 minutes of running to obtain a more  
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11 278 representative measure of breast kinematics for exercising females.

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13 279 Another potential explanation for the increases in breast kinematics is the influence of  
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15 280 increased skin and body temperature on the breast tissue. The participants completed the five  
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17 281 kilometre run in a biomechanics laboratory, at an ambient temperature of 19°C. Though the  
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19 282 high breast support incorporates wicking fabrics, designed to draw moisture away from the  
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21 283 body, the increased material thickness and skin coverage may have heightened the thermal  
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23 284 insulation of this bra, which may have increased the local skin and breast temperature more  
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25 285 than the low breast support. It is proposed that a gradual increase in the temperature of the  
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27 286 breast tissue could have led to the adipose tissue in the breast reaching its melting point and  
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29 287 transitioning from a semi-solid state to a liquid state (Schmidt-Nielson, 1946), resulting in a  
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31 288 more malleable tissue. This potential change in the adipose tissue within the breast could  
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33 289 explain the significant increases in breast kinematics throughout the five kilometre run.

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35 290 The potential decline in the support performance of the two breast support garments  
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37 291 may provide further explanation for the reported increases in multiplanar breast kinematics  
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39 292 throughout the five kilometre run. Increased skin temperatures and any sweat absorbed by the  
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41 293 bra during the five kilometre run may have influenced the mechanical properties of the  
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43 294 fabrics (Ayres, White, Hedger, & Scurr, 2013) such as elasticity, recovery and strength.  
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45 295 Ayres et al., (2013) reported significant increases in the mass of two sports bras following 20  
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47 296 minutes of exercise, likely due to the accumulation of unevaporated sweat. Within the current  
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49 297 study, the high breast support contained polyester, polyamide and elastane, whereas the low  
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51 298 breast support incorporated only polyamide and elastane Lycra. The blending of intelligent  
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53 299 fibres ensures the sports bra contains diverse mechanical properties, with polyester known for  
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55 300 its strength and elastic-recovery properties, making it the single most commonly used fibre  
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57 301 for sportswear (Shishoo, 2008). It is proposed that the low breast support may be subjected to  
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59 302 greater stretch rate over time without polyester fibres incorporated into this bra. However, the  
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303 high breast support (sports bra) may have gained more mass than the low support due to its  
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305 greater material thickness, coverage, and wicking properties. A further consideration of the  
interaction between the breast and bra is that of relative movement between the breast and

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3 306 bra. Breast movement was monitored by a marker positioned directly over the nipple on top  
4 307 of the bra, and therefore any movement of the breast inside the cup of the bra is unknown and  
5 308 could influence the resulting breast kinematics. The potential for this was reduced by the  
6 309 professional bra fit and the style of the sports bra. An important factor of the White and Scurr  
7 310 (2012) bra fitting method is to ensure the cup of the bra is not baggy or gaping and the breast  
8 311 tissue fills the cup of the bra. The style of bra was a soft cup sports bra, and therefore  
9 312 deformed, to an extent, as the breast displaced during the gait cycle. The need to quantify the  
10 313 potential movement of the breast inside a bra is evident and should be a focus of future work  
11 314 within this area of research.

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19 315 Running kinematics were not measured during the current study, however it is  
20 316 important to consider whether running kinematics could have changed between support  
21 317 conditions and over time (Hardin, Van Den Bogert, & Hamill, 2004; Williams & Cavanagh,  
22 318 1987; Williams, Snow, & Agruss, 1991), and how this may have influenced the reported  
23 319 differences over the five kilometre run. With breast kinematics measured relative to the  
24 320 thorax segment, it could be assumed that any changes in this segments kinematics could  
25 321 impact upon the resulting breast kinematics (White, Scurr, & Smith, 2009). The influence of  
26 322 breast support on running kinematics has received little attention and should be a focus of  
27 323 future work. Understanding the potential improvements or detriments to running kinematics  
28 324 based upon the breast support worn, would help to inform exercising females of the most  
29 325 appropriate support for optimal sporting performance.

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39 326 The findings of this study have important implications for breast biomechanics  
40 327 assessment protocols, the evaluation and marketing of breast support performance, and  
41 328 females exercising for prolonged durations. Based upon the results of this study both breast  
42 329 biomechanics protocols and product assessment protocols should carefully consider the  
43 330 duration of run employed. The results of the current study demonstrate increases in  
44 331 multiplanar breast kinematics until the second kilometre interval (13 minutes), and increases  
45 332 in superiorinferior breast kinematics until the fifth kilometre interval (32.7 minutes of  
46 333 running). It is important to consider the implications these findings have on females  
47 334 exercising for this duration (five kilometre run) or longer and those with larger breast masses.  
48 335 Dependent upon the support worn, it could be hypothesised that superiorinferior breast  
49 336 kinematics may continue to increase over a longer run (e.g. half marathon or marathon),  
50 337 putting these exercising females under a greater risk of tissue strain at the breast. Brown,

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3 338 White, Brasher, and Scurr (2013) identified that 91% of female London marathon runners  
4 339 reported to wear a sports bra, but identified only 21% of this population rated their  
5 340 knowledge of breast health and bras as above average. It is crucial that exercising females  
6 341 have a good understanding of appropriate breast support and the performance of sports bra  
7 342 over time. Within the current study increases in multiplanar breast kinematics were reported  
8 343 in both the low and high breast support conditions over a five kilometre run, however, the  
9 344 magnitude was significantly reduced in the high breast support (sports bra) when compared to  
10 345 the low support (everyday bra), providing superior support to the breasts.

## 17 346 **CONCLUSION**

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20 347 This study found significant increases in multiplanar breast kinematics during a five  
21 348 kilometre treadmill run in a low and high breast support, with the steepest increases occurring  
22 349 between the first two minutes of running to the first kilometre interval (on average 6.6  
23 350 minutes of running at 9 km.hr<sup>-1</sup>). Based upon these findings it is recommended that breast  
24 351 biomechanics protocols incorporate at least seven minutes of running to obtain a more  
25 352 representative measure of breast kinematics for exercising females. The superioinferior  
26 353 breast kinematics displayed the greatest percentage increase from the start to the end of the  
27 354 five kilometre run, and it is possible that the magnitude may continue to increase during  
28 355 prolonged running before reaching a plateau. It was suggested that these findings were due to  
29 356 the combined effect of a small degree of tissue strain due to the repeated loading on the breast  
30 357 during prolonged treadmill running, an increased temperature of the breast tissue, and finally  
31 358 the deterioration in the performance of the fabric properties of the breast supports during the  
32 359 run. Due to the superior support offered by the high breast support, these bras are still  
33 360 recommended over a lower breast support to reduce relative breast kinematics.

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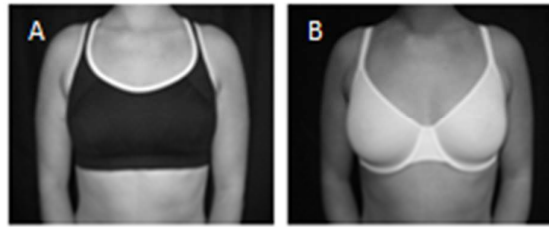
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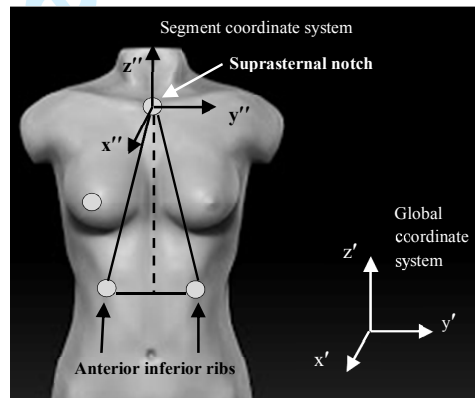
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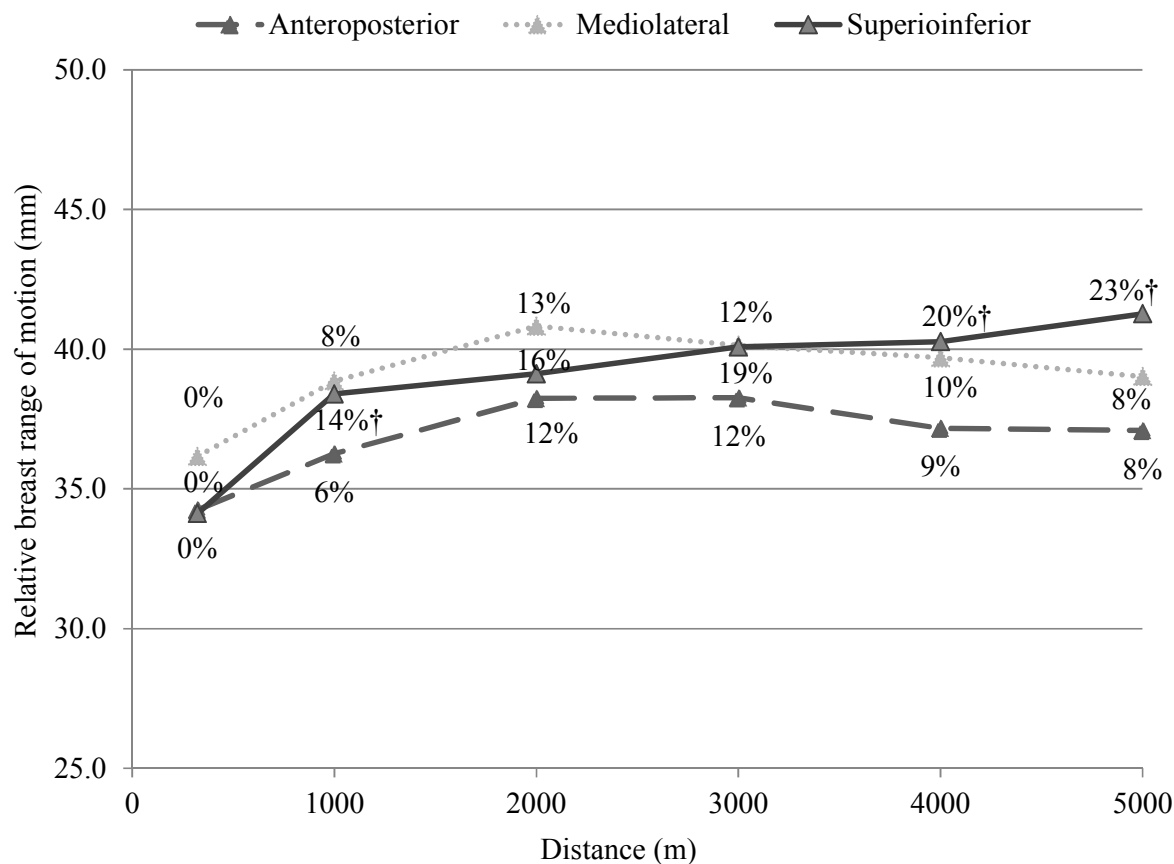




**Figure 1** (A) High support condition sports bra: B4490, Shock Absorber level 4 support, made from 57% polyester, 34% polyamide, and 9% elastane. (B) Low support conditions everyday bra: Marks and Spencer Seamfree Plain Under wired T-Shirt Bra, non-padded, made from 88% polyamide and 12% elastane lycra.

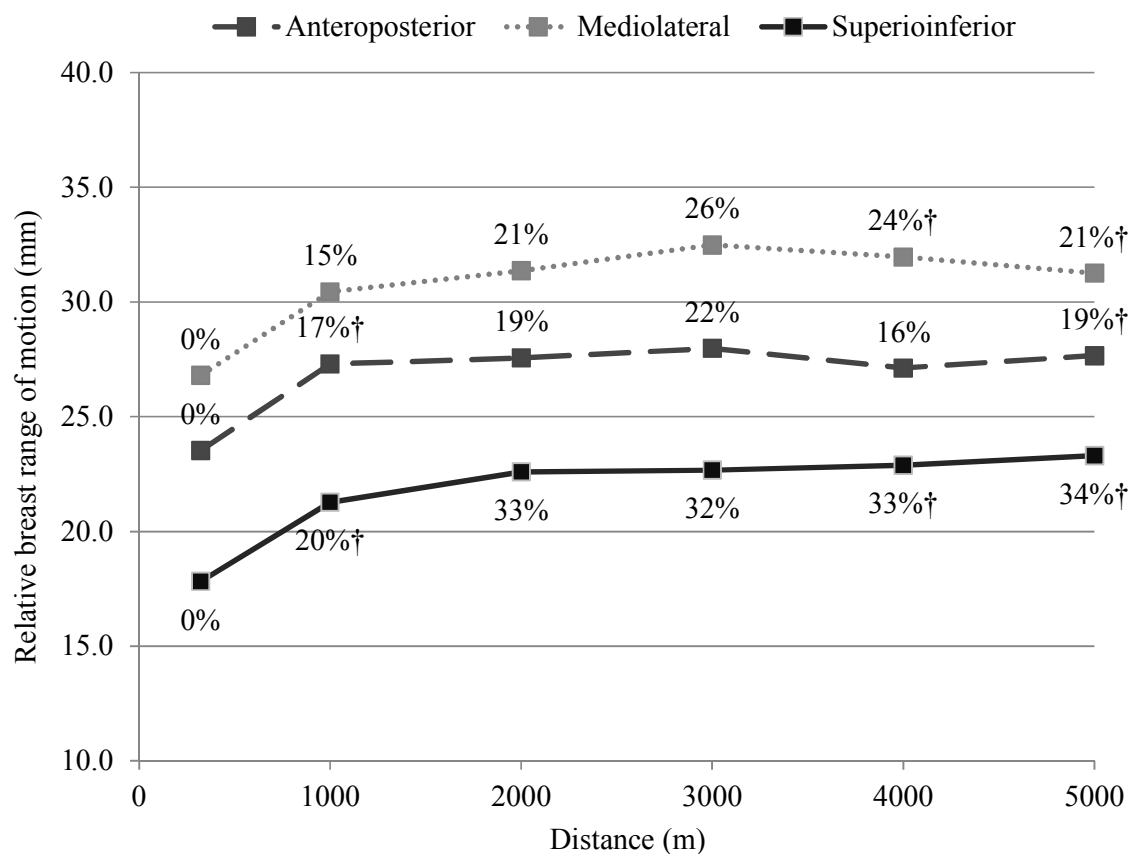


**Figure 2** Marker locations, axes and coordinate systems for the global coordinate system ( $x'$ ,  $y'$ ,  $z'$ ) and segment coordinate system ( $x''$ ,  $y''$ ,  $z''$ ).



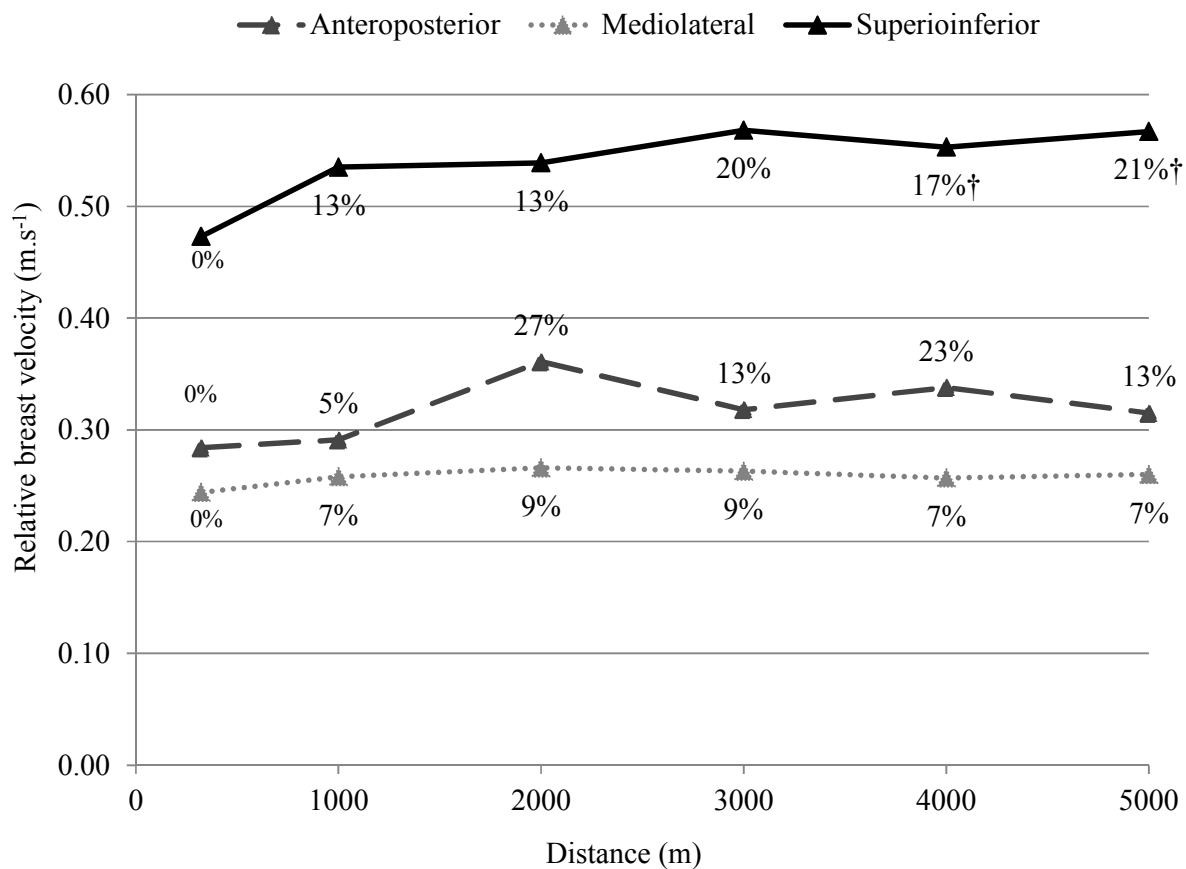
**Figure 3.** Mean multiplanar breast range of motion (mm) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached 322 m  $\pm$  64 m) to each consecutive distance interval in a low breast support.

N.B. † Significant increase in breast range of motion from the first two minutes to the kilometre interval,  $p < 0.05$



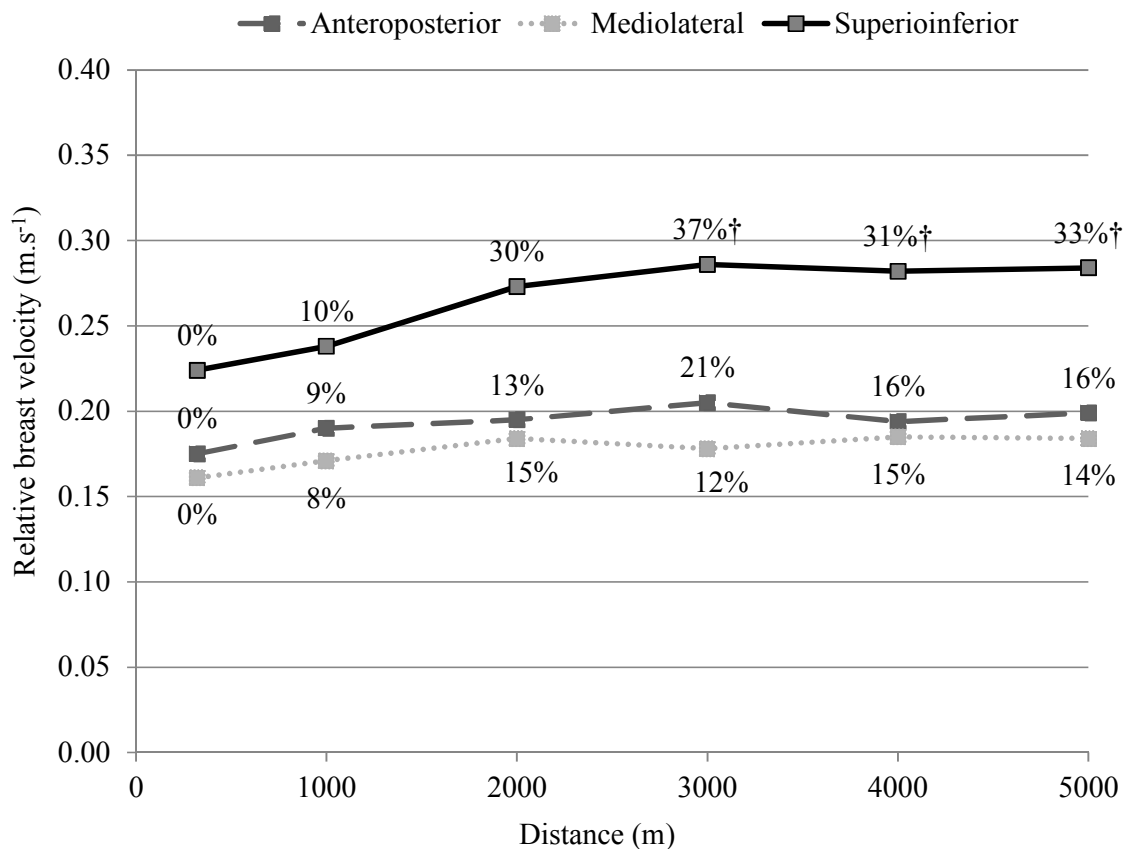
**Figure 4.** Mean multiplanar breast range of motion (mm) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached 322 m  $\pm$  64 m) to each consecutive distance interval in a high breast support.

N.B. † Significant increase in breast range of motion from the first two minutes to the kilometre interval,  $p < 0.05$



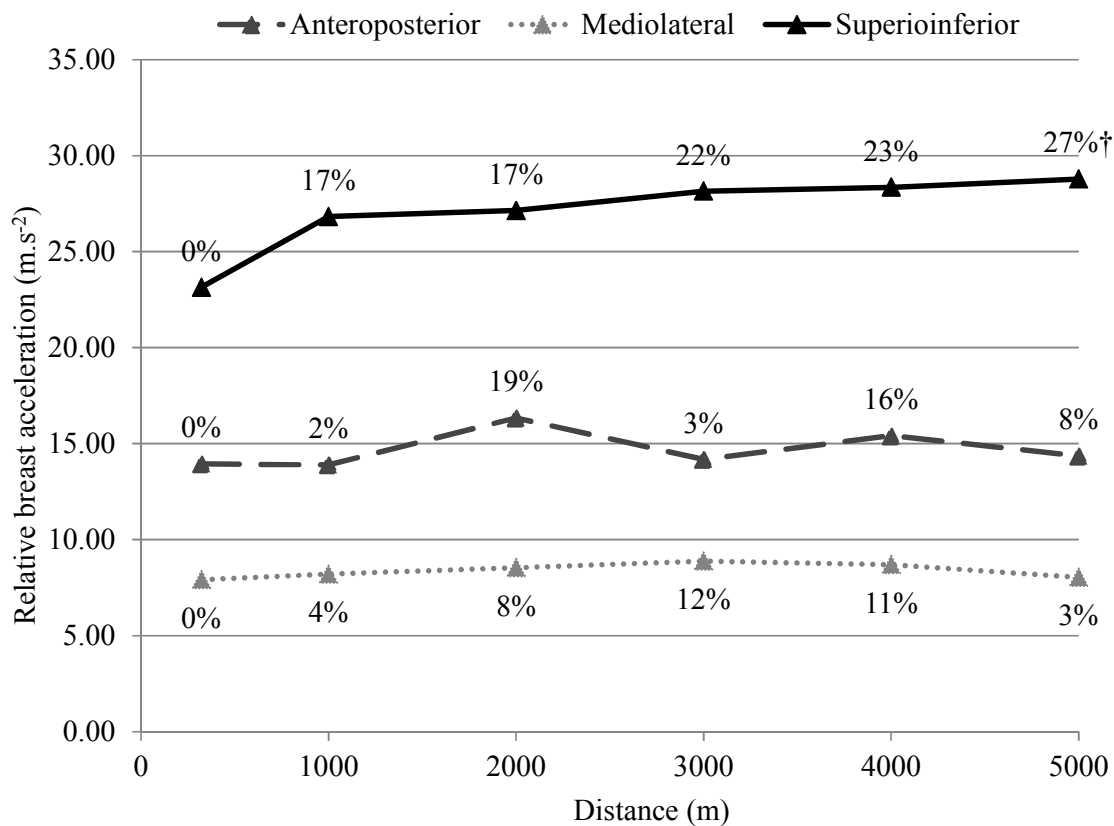
**Figure 5.** Mean peak multiplanar breast velocity ( $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached  $322 \text{ m} \pm 64 \text{ m}$ ) to each consecutive distance interval in a low breast support.

N.B. † Significant increase in peak breast velocity from the first two minutes to the kilometre interval,  $p < 0.05$



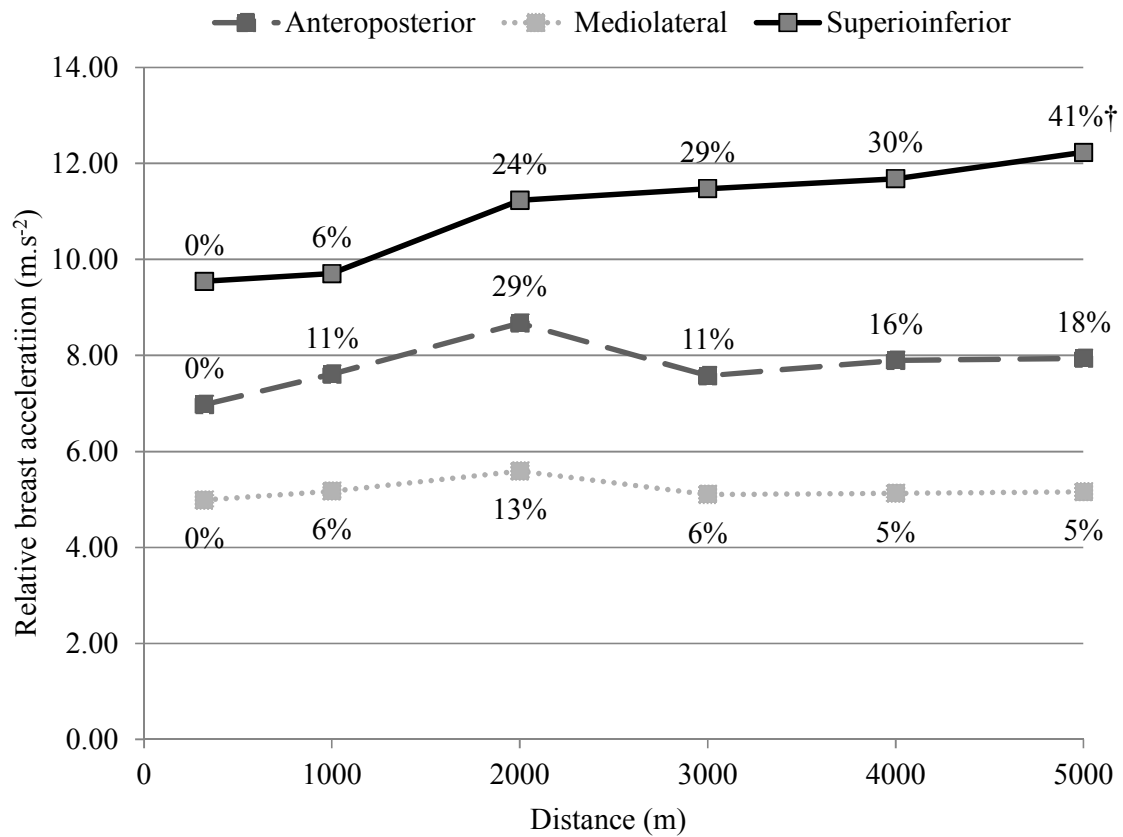
**Figure 6.** Mean peak multiplanar breast velocity ( $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached  $322 \text{ m} \pm 64 \text{ m}$ ) to each consecutive distance interval in a high breast support.

N.B. † Significant increase in peak breast velocity from the first two minutes to the kilometre interval,  $p < 0.05$



**Figure 7.** Mean peak multiplanar breast acceleration ( $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-2}$ ) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached  $322 \text{ m} \pm 64 \text{ m}$ ) to each consecutive distance interval in a low breast support.

N.B. † Significant increase in peak breast acceleration from the first two minutes to the kilometre interval,  $p < 0.05$



**Figure 8.** Mean peak multiplanar breast acceleration ( $\text{m.s}^{-2}$ ) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached  $322 \text{ m} \pm 64 \text{ m}$ ) to each consecutive distance interval in a high breast support.

N.B. † Significant increase in peak breast acceleration from the first two minutes to the kilometre interval,  $p < 0.05$