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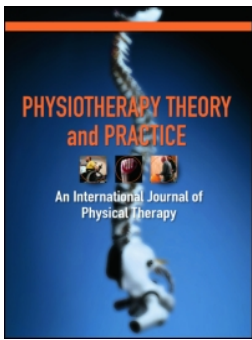
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REVIEW



Shoulder and elbow range of motion for the performance of activities of daily living: A systematic review

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ABSTRACT

The loss of range of motion (ROM) in the upper extremities can interfere with activities of daily living (ADL) and, therefore, many interventions focus on improving impaired ROM. The question, however, is what joint angles are needed to naturally perform ADL. The present review aimed to compile and synthesize data from literature on shoulder and elbow angles that unimpaired participants used when performing ADL tasks. A search was conducted in PubMed, Cochrane, Scopus, CINAHL, and PEDro. Studies were eligible when shoulder (flexion, extension, abduction, adduction) and/or elbow (flexion, extension) angles were measured in unimpaired participants who were naturally performing ADL tasks, and angles were provided per task. Thirty-six studies involving a total of 66 ADL tasks were included. Results demonstrated that unimpaired participants used up to full elbow flexion (150°) in personal care, eating, and drinking tasks. For shoulder flexion and abduction approximately 130° was necessary. Specific ADL tasks were measured often, however, almost never for tasks such as dressing. The synthesized information can be used to interpret impairments on the individual level and to establish rehabilitation goals in terms of function and prevention of secondary conditions due to excessive use of compensatory movements.

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KEYWORDS

Contracture; range of motion; recovery of function; self-care; upper extremity

Introduction

An adequate active range of motion (ROM) in all directions in the upper extremity joints is necessary to perform all types of activities of daily living (ADL) (Pieniazek, Chwala, Szczechowicz, and Pelczar-Pieniazek, 2007; World Health Organization, 2001). When daily tasks such as eating, drinking, dressing, or personal care are impeded due to decreased ROM, then the activity must either be performed by using compensatory movement strategies (Adams, Grosland, Murphy, and McCullough, 2003; Bland, Beebe, Hardwick, and Lang, 2008; de Groot et al., 2011; Fradet et al., 2015; Metzger, Dromerick, Holley, and Lum, 2012; Pereira, Thambyah, and Lee, 2012) with the assistance of adaptive instruments or with help from other people. Each of these solutions might initially be considered as adequate, however, in the long term, they may all have physical, psychological, social, and/or financial disadvantages. For example, compensatory movements can lead to serious secondary conditions such as the overuse of muscles around the affected joint and an increased risk of soft tissue

problems and degenerative joint diseases (de Groot et al., 2011; Mell, Childress, and Hughes, 2005; Veeger et al., 2006). Therefore, maintaining or restoring the ROM of joints is often a treatment goal in physical rehabilitation. However, this goal is usually established in terms of maximal ROM while, in fact, maintaining or restoring the minimal ROM necessary for the ADL of an individual could be sufficient. To set such ADL-related goals, reference values for minimally required ROM per ADL task are necessary.

Impaired ROM can occur at all ages as a consequence of medical conditions such as skin contractures due to a burn injury, muscle shortness, tendon or ligament contractures, adhesive capsulitis, bone fractures, plexus lesions, pain, or (neuromuscular) diseases such as cerebral palsy, rheumatoid arthritis, spinal cord injury, stroke, and others (Fergusson, Hutton, and Drodge, 2007; Klotz et al., 2013; Magee, 2008; Magermans, Chadwick, Veeger, and van der Helm, 2005; Petuskey et al., 2007; Skalsky and McDonald, 2012; van Andel et al., 2008; Willig et al., 1995). Residual pathologic motion patterns of upper extremity joints may persist following rehabilitation for patients who have

experienced a stroke (Kim et al., 2011) and after arthroplasty of the shoulder in patients with degenerative osteoarthritis (Kasten et al., 2010).

ROM is usually assessed as the degree of maximal mobility of a specific joint in a particular plane of movement. Although these measurements provide clinicians with valuable data, they do not specify information regarding the functional capacities of the individual patient in daily living. For instance, one patient with impaired shoulder flexion motion may not be able to raise an upper limb as far as unimpaired participants but may still be able to normally execute almost all ADL tasks. Whereas, on the other hand, another patient with approximately the same impairments can be physically disabled due to different demands of daily activities, for example, living in a house with many high cupboards. Furthermore, information concerning activity limitations is often gathered by questionnaires and/or by assessing a patient's performance on a small set of ADL tasks. However, from questionnaires, no insight into possible harmful movement patterns can be gained and, when using a small set of ADL tasks, knowledge on which set is most appropriate should be available.

In 1981, Morrey, Askew, and Chao (1981) had already drawn attention to the issue of functional ROM and performed an extensive study in which elbow angles of different movement directions were measured while participants (age range 21–75 years) performed 15 different ADL tasks. Since that time, the data of this study have been used as a reference. However, the use of these data is limited as only the elbow was assessed, and the 15 tasks that were analyzed did not address full ADL. Over the past decades, numerous additional studies have been conducted in which upper extremity joint angles were measured in (simulated) ADL tasks. In 2015, Korp, Richard, and Hawkins (2015) conducted a systematic review on functional ROMs in ADL for all upper and three lower extremity joints in the context of rehabilitation after burn injury. Per joint, they reported the tasks of upper and lower impairments of ROM with corresponding angles. Although this is valuable information, it does not provide full insight into the used ROMs of each specific ADL task and, therefore, does not allow individualized choices for required ROM based on function. Moreover, there is an impression that, for at least shoulder and elbow, additional data could have been discovered by conducting a literature search more specifically focusing on these joints. Therefore, the present review aimed to compile and synthesize data from literature on shoulder and elbow angles used by unimpaired participants performing ADL tasks.

Method

For this systematic review, the process described in 'Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews & Meta-Analysis (PRISMA)' was used (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, and Altman, 2009). Ethics Committee(s) approval is 'Not Applicable' as the present study is a systematic review.

Databases and search strategy

A computerized literature search was conducted including the databases of PubMed, Cochrane, Scopus, CINAHL, and PEDro. Combinations of the following keywords and free text words were used: ADL; upper extremity; and ROM. Additionally, the words function, shoulder, and elbow were searched. The searches in the different databases were conducted from December 2014 to February 2015 (Appendix 1 for MeSH terms and number of retrieved studies per database). Furthermore, references of the retrieved studies were manually screened by two authors (AMO, LJM) and experts in the field were consulted.

Inclusion criteria and process of selection

The title and abstract were screened independently by two authors (AMO, LJM) focusing on unimpaired participants (investigated as the primary study group or control group of a randomized controlled trial (RCT)) performing ADL tasks in which shoulder and elbow angles were measured. Discrepancies were resolved with a discussion between the two reviewers and, in the event of uncertainty, the study was included for full text screening. The full text of potentially relevant studies was screened based on the more specific predefined inclusion criteria: 1) unimpaired participants performed ADL tasks without restriction of brace or splint; and 2) shoulder (thoraco-humeral) and/or elbow angles were measured continuously and the maximal angles per joint and per movement direction were reported per task.

Assessment of quality of reviewed studies

The present review concerned cross-sectional observational studies. For this type of study, unlike RCTs or other clinical studies, no standard scales or checklists to assess quality or control for confounding variables were available (Sanderson, Tatt, and Higgins, 2007; Zeng et al., 2015). To be able to include quality assessment of studies, the recommendations of Sanderson, Tatt, and Higgins (2007) were followed to assess the risk of bias (ROB) using a self-

developed checklist covering the three most fundamental domains (i.e. participants, measurements of variables, and control of confounding). The categories included were: 1) representativeness of the study population; 2) hand dominance and prescription of the movement strategy; and 3) reliability of the methods used and definitions of measured angles. Methodological quality was appraised independently by two authors (AMO, LJM).

Data extraction

Data was extracted by one reviewer (AMO) regarding participant characteristics (number of participants, gender, age), methods (tracking system, number of ADL tasks that could be analyzed in this review, upper limb assessment), and the means (and standard deviations if reported in table or text) of joint angles of shoulder flexion, extension, abduction and adduction, and elbow flexion and extension. Graphically reported joint angles were extracted as accurately as possible and, if necessary, by enlarging the graph. A second reviewer (LJM) verified the extracted data.

Extraction of angles of shoulder motions

Although the unambiguous method to describe shoulder movements in 3D is in terms of plane of elevation (PoE) and angle of elevation (Doorenbosch, Harlaar, and Veeger, 2003; Wu et al., 2005), many studies described them in terms of flexion and extension as well as abduction and adduction. As in clinical practice this continues to be the most used description, therefore, in the present review, all reported shoulder movements were translated into the latter terminology. Angles of elevation in a PoE $\leq -45^\circ$ were translated in terms of shoulder extension. Similarly, angles of elevation in a PoE between 45° and 135° , between -45° and 45° , and $>135^\circ$ were translated in terms of shoulder flexion, abduction, or adduction, respectively (Figure 1A-C).

Extraction of angles of elbow motions

In the literature, elbow movements are described in terms of flexion and extension. However, discrepancies exist on the definition of 0° . In the present review, 0° was established according to the anatomical posture (Figure 2).

In the event of doubt regarding the reported movement direction, decisions on the translations were made

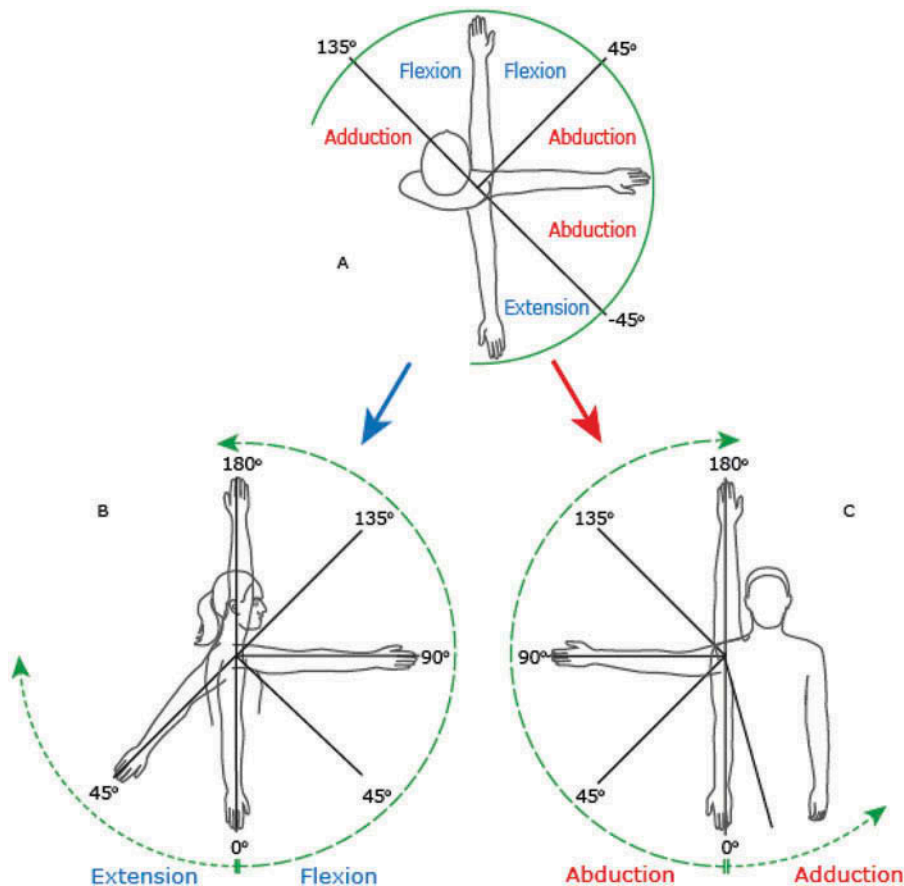


Figure 1. Movement directions of the shoulder. A: Transformation of planes of elevation (PoE) in shoulder extension ($\text{PoE} \leq -45^\circ$), flexion ($45^\circ < \text{PoE} \leq 135^\circ$), abduction ($-45^\circ < \text{PoE} \leq 45^\circ$) and adduction ($\text{PoE} > 135^\circ$). B: Angles of extension and flexion (sagittal view). C: Angles of abduction and adduction (frontal view).

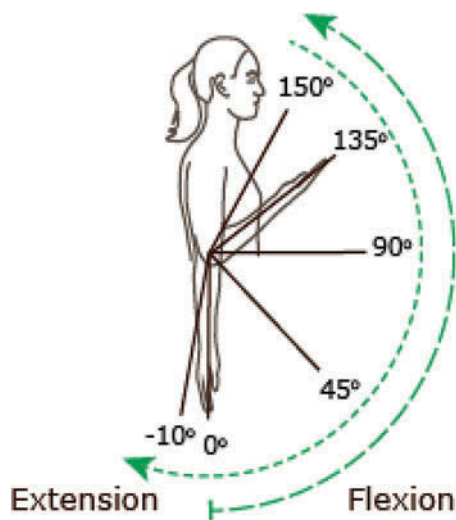


Figure 2. Movement directions of the elbow: angles of flexion and extension.

after the execution of the task and discussion between two researchers (AMO, LJM).

Outcomes

The primary outcome of interest was the required shoulder and/or elbow angle per movement direction while performing a specific ADL task. For all movement directions, this signified the largest measured angle per task except for elbow extension in which the smallest measured angle per task was the primary outcome of interest.

Data analysis and synthesis

For data analysis, tables organized per joint per movement direction were made, presenting an overview of all of the studies that measured required angles in ADL. Measured ADL tasks were clustered into two categories: 1) personal care and feeding tasks; or 2) daily, leisure, and work activities. If ADL tasks were simulated (i.e. merely touching a body part instead of performing the actual task) the tasks were listed under the most adequate category. Data synthesis was employed in order to generate an overview in figures showing the required angles per joint per movement direction per ADL task.

Results

The search strategy in the different databases resulted in a total of 583 potentially relevant studies (Figure 3). After screening the titles and abstracts, 543 were excluded. Full text screening of the remaining 40 studies meant that 27 studies could be included. Screening the reference lists of

these revealed a further nine, thus a total of 36 studies were included in the present review (Tables 1 and 2).

From the 36 included studies, three (Cooper et al., 1993; Lee et al., 2007; Muller-Rath et al., 2009) reported data of two participant groups (differing in either age or gender). Three other studies (Kasten et al., 2009; Raiss et al., 2007, 2010) described data of the same participants, therefore, these studies were considered as one study group. The same applied for both studies of Maier et al. (2014a) and Maier et al. (2014b). Hence, in total, the present review yielded data on 36 study groups (Tables 1 and 2).

Risk of bias

The outcomes of the ROB assessment (Table 1) indicated that the representability of participants in four study groups was good (i.e. low ROB). In 28 study groups, this ROB was considered moderate either due to a small number of participants (<20) and/or the age and/or gender was not representative for the conclusions that were drawn. For instance, a conclusion was drawn for ‘adults’ even though the (vast) majority of participants were male and/or the range of ages indicated only young adults. For four study groups, the ROB on representability of participants was high. The ROB on study confounders (i.e. the performance of the ADL task with the dominant hand using a self-selected movement strategy) was low in approximately 16 of the study groups and moderate in 18. In two study groups, this ROB was considered high as tasks were performed with the non-dominant hand, and the movement strategy was instructed for parts of the ADL tasks or they needed to be performed as quickly as possible. In almost all of the study groups, reliability of the methods used and definitions of measured angles were judged to be good (i.e. low ROB).

Study and participant characteristics

The number of participants per study group varied between three and 59 with less than 20 participants in 25 study groups. The majority of the study groups consisted of adults (Table 2). The measurement of angles was performed with optical 3D tracking systems in all of the studies except for Morrey, Askew, and Chao (1981) who measured with an electro-goniometer. The number of analyzed ADL tasks per study group that could be included ranged from 1 to 18. In 26 study groups, upper extremity kinematics were measured while the ADL tasks were performed with the dominant upper limb, primarily the right upper limb. For eight groups, no information on dominance was

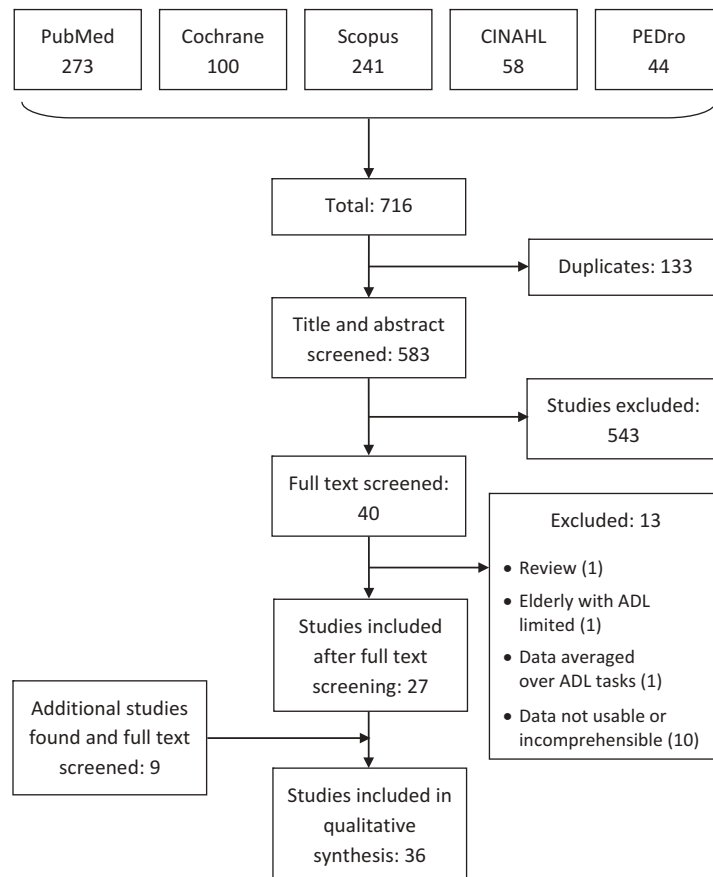


Figure 3. Flowchart of search strategy showing databases searched and number of papers retrieved from each database, papers rejected and papers reviewed.

provided and either left, right, or both upper limbs were studied (Table 2).

ADL tasks analyzed

Shoulder and elbow angles were analyzed for 66 different (simulated) ADL tasks of which 40 focused on personal care, seven on feeding, and 26 on a wide variety of daily, leisure, and work activities. Only 16 out of the 66 (24%) ADL tasks were analyzed in four or more study groups. The remaining tasks were studied in only one, two, or three study groups.

Concerning tasks studied in four or more study groups, the results of tasks performed in different study groups were generally quite similar (Appendix 2A-F). However, a number of significant differences were also determined. If outlier angles were not likely while performing that specific task, the ROB was used to decide whether or not these data points could be influenced by a confounder and, therefore, excluded for further analysis. This was the case for eight data points (see footnote of Appendix 2C, E, F).

Not all tasks were analyzed for all shoulder and elbow movement directions. For the shoulder, the

required angles of flexion, extension, abduction, and adduction were analyzed in 30, 10, 23, and 4 study groups, respectively (Appendix 2A-D). Concerning the elbow, required flexion angles were analyzed in 26 study groups and extension in 21 (Appendix 2E-F).

Joint angles required in ADL

Shoulder and elbow angles per (simulated) ADL task used by unimpaired participants are exhibited in Figure 4 A-D.

Shoulder angles

Shoulder flexion angles $<25^\circ$ were not found for any of the ADL tasks, and angles of $>45^\circ$ were extracted in 34 of the 39 ADL tasks (Figure 4A). For nine tasks, angles between 90° and 135° were determined. The latter primarily involved tasks of personal care whereby the participant's hand needed to be placed on the upper body or head but also comprised typing on a keyboard, turning a key, and turning a page. A maximal flexion angle of 142° was measured for 'reaching above shoulder level to a shelf'. Shoulder extension angles

Table 1. Quality assessment (i.e. risk of bias) of the 36 included studies.

Year	Authors	Study group	A) ROB representability of participants	B) ROB study confounders	C) ROB measurements
1981	Morrey et al.	Adults + Elderly	+/-	+	+/-
1990	Safaei-Rad et al.	Male	+/-	+	+
1993	Cooper et al.	Male	+/-	+	+
		Female	+/-	+	+
2003	King et al.	Female	+	+/-	+
2003	Palmieri et al.	Children	+/-	+/-	+
2004	Mosqueda et al.	Children	+/-	+/-	+
2005	Magermans et al.	Female	+	+/-	+
2006	Henmi et al.	Adults	+/-	+/-	+
2007	Lee et al.	Adults	+/-	+	+
		Elderly	+/-	+	+
2007	Petuskey et al.	Children	+/-	+/-	+
2007/9/10	Raiss et al./Kasten et al./ Raiss et al.	Children + Adults	-	+	+
2008	van Andel et al.	Adults	+/-	+/-	+/-
2008	Carey et al.	Adults	+/-	+/-	+
2008	Sheikhzadeh et al.	Adults	+/-	+/-	+
2009	Muller Rath et al.	Male	+/-	+	+
		Female	+/-	+	+
2010	Aizawa et al.	Adults	+/-	+	+
2010	Murgia et al.	Adults	+/-	+	+
2010	Ramirez-Garcia et al.	Adults	+/-	+	+
2010	Reid et al.	Children	+/-	+	+
2010	Sinha et al.	Adults	+	+/-	+
2011	Hall et al.	Elderly	+/-	+	+/-
2011	Masjedi et al.	Adults	+/-	+/-	+/-
2011	Murphy et al.	Adults + Elderly	+/-	+	+
2011	Sardelli et al.	Adults	+/-	+/-	+
2012	Karner et al.	Adults	-	+/-	+
2012	Namdari et al.	Adults	+/-	+/-	+
2014	Artiheiro et al.	Adults	-	+/-	+
2014	Bergsma et al.	Adults	+/-	+	+
2014	Kim et al.	Adults	+	+/-	+
2014	Klotz et al.	Children	-	-	+
2014	Lobo-Prat et al.	Male	+/-	+/-	+
2014a/14b	Maier et al./Maier et al.	Adults + Elderly	+/-	+/-	+
2014	Major et al.	Adults	+/-	-	+

ROB: Risk of Bias; +: Risk of Bias is low; +/-: Risk of Bias is moderate; -: Risk of Bias is high. A) Risk of Bias representability of participants. Low: ≥ 20 participants and good representability on both age and gender. Moderate: ≥ 20 participants and no representability on age and/or gender/ < 20 participants and no representability on age or gender; High: < 20 participants and no representability on both age and gender. B) Risk of Bias study confounders. Low: dominant hand used and self-chosen movement strategy. Moderate: data dominant and non-dominant mixed or dominance not mentioned or prescription of movement strategy. High: data dominant and non-dominant mixed, or hand(s) and/or dominance not mentioned and prescription on movement strategy. C) Risk of Bias measurements. Low: reliability 3D measures good and definition of all measured angles given. Moderate: reliability 3D measures unknown or definition of (part of the) measured angles unclear. High: reliability 3D measures unknown and definition of all measured angles unclear.

were extracted for only 11 different ADL tasks. In eight of these tasks involving personal care, angles $> 40^\circ$ were found (Figure 4A). Abduction angles $> 45^\circ$ were ascertained in 15 of the 28 ADL tasks that included this movement direction (Figure 4B) while participants were able to perform all eating and drinking tasks with $< 45^\circ$. The greatest abduction angles of approximately 125° were required for 'placing the hand behind the head' and 'combing hair'. Adduction was only measured in four ADL tasks. The largest reported angle was for 'washing the contralateral axilla' (116°) (Figure 4B).

Elbow angles

The performance of many ADL tasks required a high degree of elbow flexion (Figure 4C). From the 45 tasks studied, only two tasks required a flexion angle $< 45^\circ$, and six required an angle between 45° and 90° . From the remaining 37 tasks, 16 needed a flexion angle of $\geq 135^\circ$. These latter mainly comprised tasks needed for

personal care and feeding, though the largest angle was determined for 'using a telephone'. For 28 tasks, elbow extension was performed. During task performance, an angle of $< 20^\circ$ was required for completing reaching tasks, touching one's own shoes or toes, opening a door, and turning a steering wheel (Figure 4D). Hyperextension of the elbow was not measured during any task.

Discussion

This systematic review presents the shoulder and elbow joint angles that are used by unimpaired participants to perform a total of 66 different ADL tasks and demonstrates that, in order to be able to perform ADL full ROM is critical in the elbow but is less significant in the shoulder.

The results for elbow flexion clearly indicated that many ADL tasks required angles from 130° up to 150° . It should be noted that these maximal angles were needed in basic ADL tasks of personal care, for instance, hair care

Table 2. Study and participant characteristics of the 36 studies reviewed.

Year	Reference	Authors	State, Country	N	Gender: %male	Participant characteristics			Tracking system	Number of ADL tasks*	Upper Limb	Method
						Age (years)						
						Mean	SD	Range				
1981		Morrey et al.	Minnesota, USA	33	45			21-75	Triaxial electrogonio meter	15	D-L,R	
1990		Safaei-Rad et al.	Canada	10	100			20-29	n.m.	3	D-R	
1993		Cooper et al.	Canada	10	100			18-50	UM ² AS	3	D-R	
				9	0			18-50	UM ² AS	3	D-R	
2003		King et al.	Ohio, USA	59	0	27.5	9.9	20-50	M.A.C.	2	D-R	
2003		Palmieri et al.	California, USA	49	n.m.			5-18	ExpertVision	2	L,R	
2004		Mosqueda et al.	California, USA	51	n.m.	11.3		5-18	ExpertVision	3	L,R	
2005		Magermans et al.	The Netherlands	24	0	36.8	11.8		Flock of Birds	6	R	
2006		Henmi et al.	Japan	5	40	23		20-28	Vicon	3	L,R	
2007		Lee et al.	Korea	16	100	26.9	2.6		M.A.C.	3	D	
2007		Petuskey et al.	California, USA	12	50	67.9	4.8		M.A.C.	3	D	
2007/2009/2010		Raiss et al./ Kasten et al./ Raiss et al.	Germany	28	n.m.	25	15	9-12 13-54	M.A.C. Vicon	5 10	L,R D-R	
2008		van Andel et al.	The Netherlands	10	60	28.5	5.7		Optotrak	4	D-R	
2008		Carey et al.	Florida, USA	10	60	28	7.4		Vicon	3 out of 4	D-R	
2008		Sheikhzadeh et al.	New York, USA	8	75	32		25-40	Motion Monitor	8	D	
2009		Muller Rath et al.	Germany	8	100	25.5	2.9		Vicon	2	D-L,R	
				8	0	26.8	2.7		Vicon	2	D-L,R	
2010		Aizawa et al.	Japan	20	50	23	5	18-34	FASTRAK	16	D-R	
2010		Murgia et al.	UK	6	n.m.	32.5	10.7		Vicon	1	D	
2010		Ramirez-Garcia et al.	Mexico	5	40			24-32	APAS	5	D-R	
2010		Reid et al.	Perth, Australia	10	50	10.5	1.2		n.m.	3	D	
2010		Sinha et al.	UK	20	50	33.3		17-60	Polemus 3 Space Fastrak	18	n.m.	
2011		Hall et al.	Canada	13	69			66-93†	Vicon	6	D-R	
2011		Masjedi et al.	UK	12	83	43	15.8	41-78	Vicon	12	R	
2011		Murphy et al.	Sweden	19	57	53			M.A.C.	1	D-R	
2011		Sardelli et al.	Salt Lake City, USA	25	56	34	10		Vicon	17	D	
2012		Kamer et al.	Austria	15	73	24.1	1.5		Vicon	3 out of 4	D-R	
2012		Namdari et al.	Pennsylvania, USA	20	90	29.2	1.9	26-34	Lukotronic	6 out of 10	D-L,R	
2014		Artlheiro et al.	Brazil	11	18	24.1	3.7		FASTRAK	1	D-R	
2014		Bergsma et al.	Netherlands	8	63	49.9	9.8		Vicon	2 out of 4	D-R	
2014		Kim et al.	Korea	32	53	25.3	2.4		Vicon	1	D-L,R	
2014		Klotz et al.	Germany	17	65	13		9-17	Vicon	5 out of 6	ND	
2014		Lobo-Prat et al.	Spain	3	100	n.m.			BTS SMART-D	1	L	
2014a/2014b		Maier et al./ Maier et al.	Germany	10	50	64.2	7		Vicon	4	D-R	
2014		Major et al.	Chicago, USA	6	50	35	11		M.A.C.	1 out of 5	ND	

*: Number of ADL tasks that could be analyzed in this review; †: Age range of patients and control participants; n.m.: not mentioned; M.A.C.: Motion Analysis Corporation; L: Left; R: Right; D: Dominant; ND: Non Dominant.

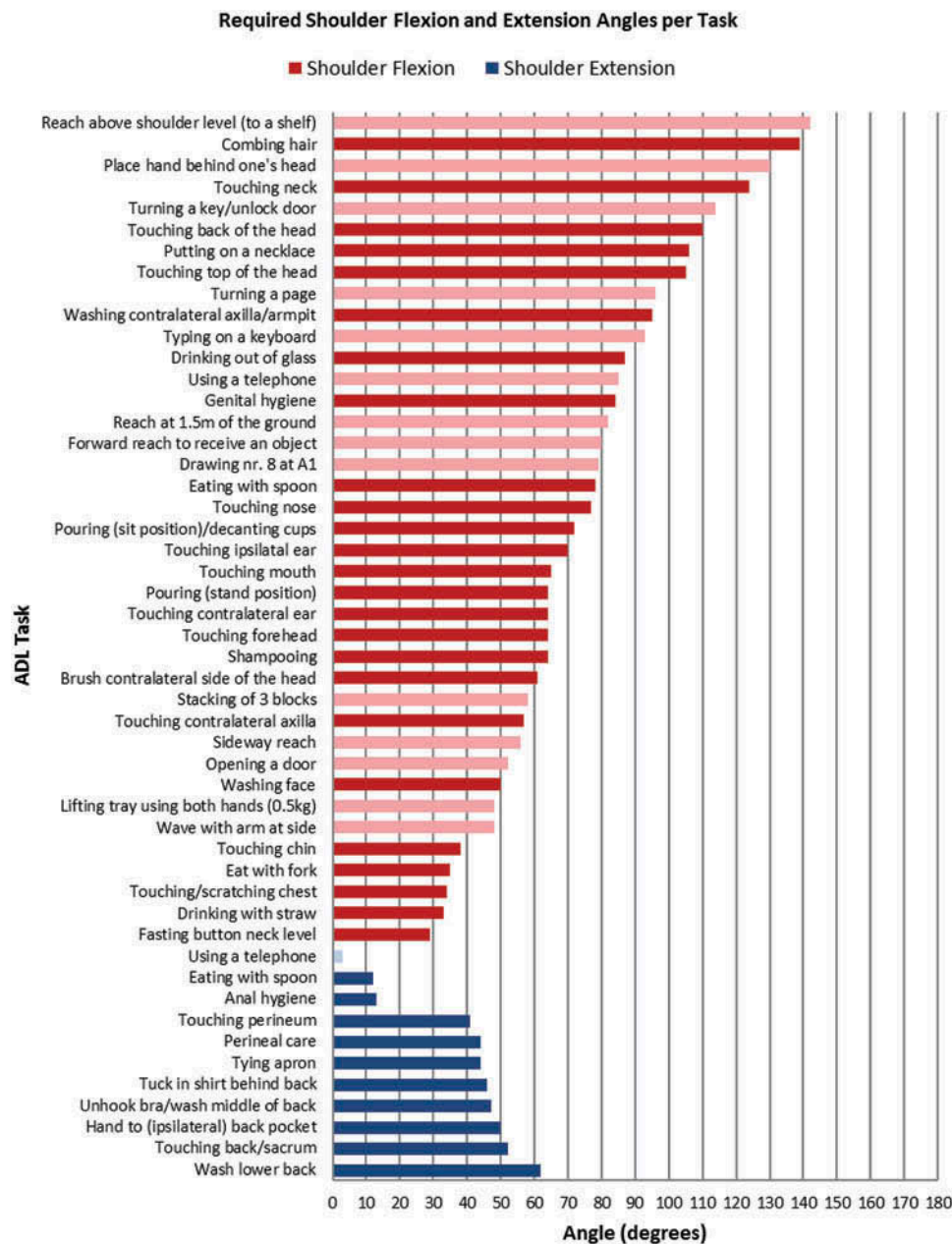


Figure 4(A). Shoulder and elbow angles per (simulated) ADL task used by unimpaired participants. Dark red and dark blue bars represent personal care and feeding tasks. Light red and light blue bars represent daily, leisure, and work activities. A: Shoulder flexion and extension. B: Shoulder abduction and adduction. C: Elbow flexion. D: Elbow extension.

and washing the face as well as in eating or drinking. The finding of the necessity of full elbow flexion in personal care and feeding tasks is in accordance with the conclusion of Ramanathan et al. (2000) and Klotz et al. (2013). However, in those studies, the maximal angles per separate task were not reported. Maximal elbow extension was not often necessary, although angles of 0–20° were required for tasks such as reaching and touching one's own toe, which represents putting on shoes and socks. Therefore, from our function-oriented synthesis, it can be concluded that elbow motion from 0° to 150° is required

for ADL which is more than the generally used reference of 30°–130° (Morrey, Askew, and Chao, 1981). A comparison with the results concerning elbow motion presented in the function-oriented review of Korp, Richard, and Hawkins (2015) in the context of burn contractures is severely impaired as only a minimal number of studies on elbow motion were included, and no overview of results per task was provided.

Results of the shoulder were different compared to the elbow as, in order to perform ADL tasks, full shoulder motion proved to only be necessary in some

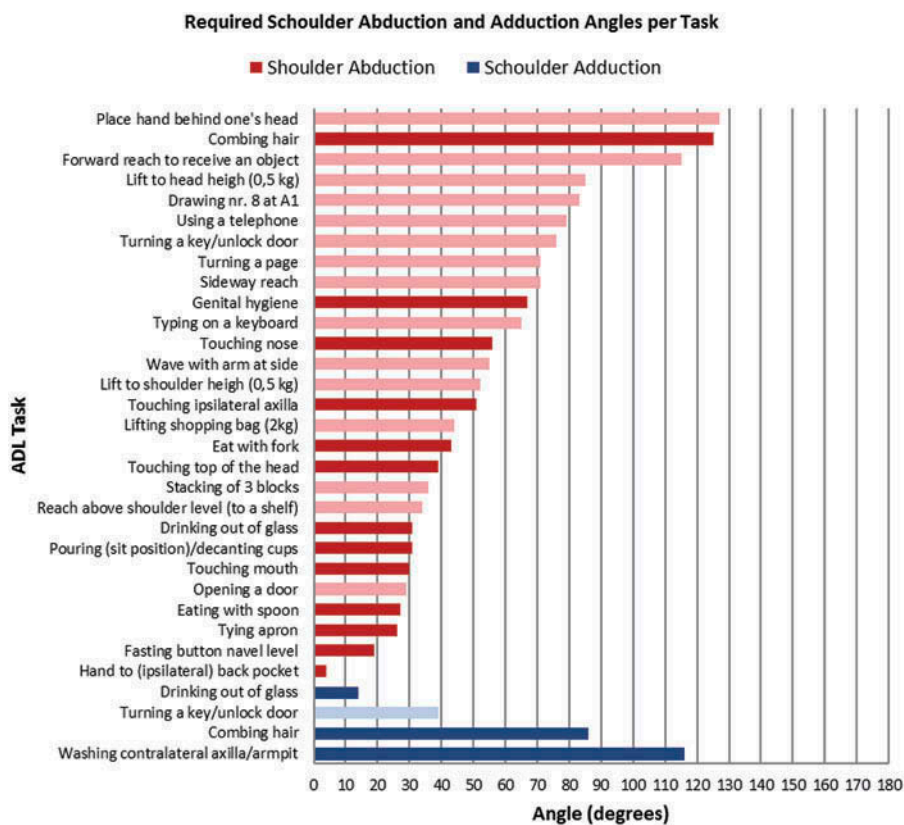


Figure 4(B). Continued.

of the movement directions. For both shoulder flexion and abduction, unimpaired participants only used approximately 130° of the maximally possible 180°. The only reported exception was a shoulder flexion angle of 142° in reaching toward a high shelf. On the contrary, up to 62° shoulder extension, which is considered full ROM (Magee, 2008), was found in tasks comprising personal care activities such as perineal hygiene and washing the lower back. Full shoulder adduction ROM was also needed in ADL, however, this movement direction was only minimally represented in the evaluated tasks. Korp, Richard, and Hawkins (2015) concluded that upper limits of 150° and 90° were needed in ADL for shoulder flexion and abduction, respectively. However, both values referred to the study of Koch et al. (1994), and it was uncertain how these values were determined.

The selection of ADL tasks varied among studies. Several explicitly motivated their choice of tasks, referring to: function assessment scales or tests (Aizawa et al., 2010; Lobo-Prat et al., 2014; Magermans, Chadwick, Veeger, and van der Helm, 2005; Major et al., 2014; Murgia, Kyberd, and Barnhill, 2010; Namdari et al., 2012; Reid et al., 2010; van Andel et al., 2008); surveys of patient groups (Carey, Jason

Highsmith, Maitland, and Dubey, 2008; Karner, Reichenfeller, and Gfoehler, 2014); consultation with the clinical staff (Karner, Reichenfeller, and Gfoehler, 2014; Magermans, Chadwick, Veeger, and van der Helm, 2005); and/or on (some) task(s) selected in earlier studies or pilot testing (Aizawa et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2014; King, Thomas, and Rice, 2003; Masjedi, Lovell, and Johnson, 2011; Murphy, Willén, and Sunnerhagen, 2011; Ramirez-Garcia, Leija, and Munoz, 2010; Sardelli, Tashjian, and MacWilliams, 2011). Others did not justify their choices.

In the current review, all reported tasks were clustered into two categories (i.e. basic daily activities involving personal care and feeding, as well as other activities involving housework, communication, and transportation). Being able to perform basic daily activities is essential for independent living and should, therefore, receive special attention in research and also be a primary therapeutic aim. The use of more categories might be beneficial, however, deciding on how many and which categories would be optimal was beyond the scope of this study.

The results showed that, although the required angles during basic ADL were often measured, dressing tasks were not systematically studied. The possible

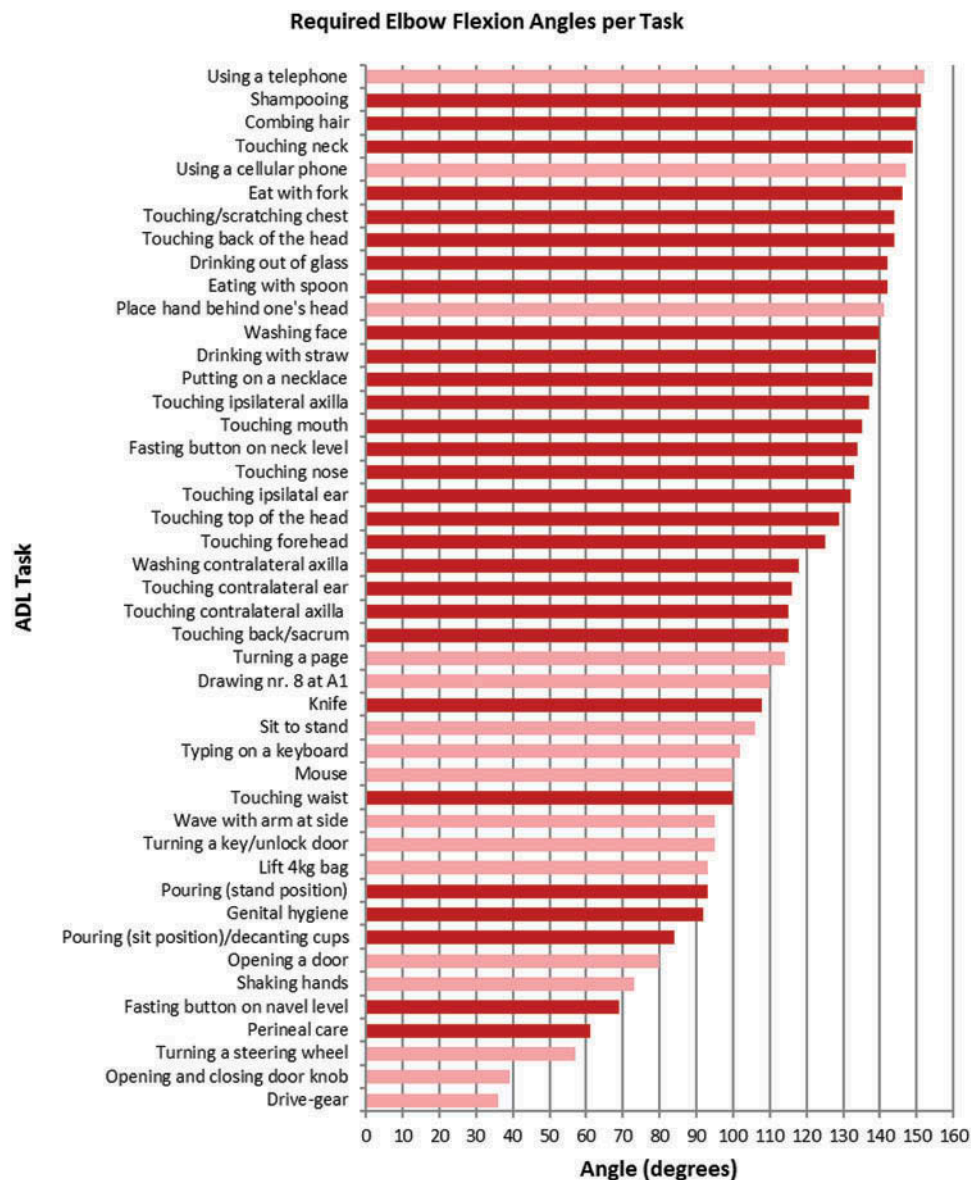


Figure 4(C). Continued.

reason for this is that angles are not detectable with 3D markers during dressing. Measurement systems independent of 3D markers can provide additional insight into dressing tasks as, for instance, 'putting on a coat' was shown to require large shoulder angles in community-dwelling seniors (Green, Boger, and Mihailidis, 2011). For other ADL tasks involving shoulder and elbow motion, more tasks could be included as well. For example, housekeeping was not measured at all. Transportation was examined solely by Anglin and Wyss (2000), however, these results could not be included in this review as only angles corresponding to the peak external moment were reported and not the angles needed to complete tasks. The development of an extensive list of basic ADL tasks and a list of ADL

tasks based on a clinical perspective as well as from a patient perspective is strongly recommended.

In the present review, separate analyses were not feasible per age group, gender, or hand dominance of the participants. However, task execution can be influenced by these factors (Barnes, Van Steyn, and Fischer, 2001). Regarding age, only one study (Lee et al., 2007) included adults and the elderly. Results indicated similar elbow flexion angles in both groups but lower shoulder flexion angles in the elderly. Unfortunately, the male-female ratio also differed significantly between the age groups thereby limiting conclusions based solely on age. Concerning gender, separate male and female groups were present in two studies (Cooper et al., 1993; Muller-Rath et al., 2009) which concluded that differences between genders should be taken

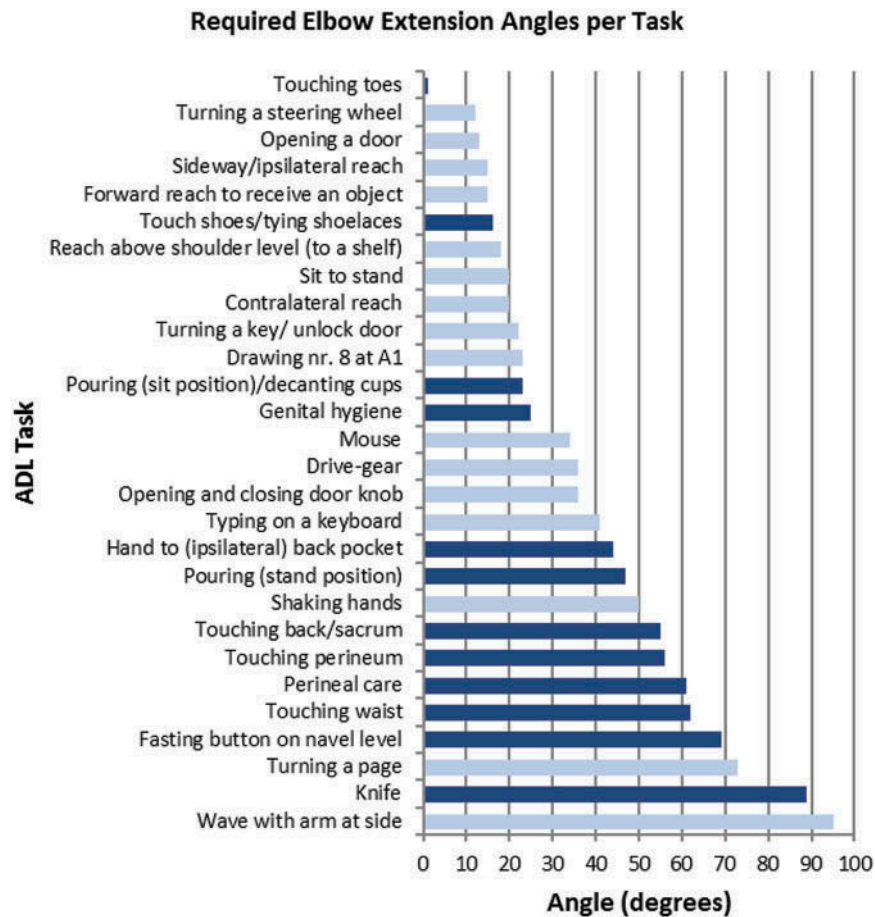


Figure 4(D). Continued.

into account as the averaged movement performance differed during the tasks. Whether these differences could be attributed to gender alone was uncertain as both groups involved fewer than ten participants, no standard deviations per group were provided, and no statistical analyses were conducted. Regarding hand dominance, in four studies (Henmi, Yonenobu, Masatomi, and Oda, 2006; Mosqueda et al., 2004; Palmieri et al., 2003; Petuskey et al., 2007), participants simultaneously performed tasks with both hands or in succession, however, none of the studies systematically compared the results. Therefore, although extensive attention is paid in the literature to age or gender differences regarding required shoulder and elbow ROM (Barnes, Van Steyn, and Fischer, 2001; Doriot and Wang, 2006; Medeiros, de Araujo, and de Araujo, 2013; Stathokostas, McDonald, Little, and Paterson, 2013), reliable information on differences in task execution is insufficient.

Limitations of the study

Although the results of the present review are noteworthy, caution is necessary when applying them to

clinical practice. First, even though 66 ADL tasks were analyzed, still not all daily activities were assessed. Therefore, there may be tasks that require larger angles than those shown in this review.

Second, the synthesis of results focussed on the maximal angle per task. This angle may not be representative for each individual during the execution of tasks due to postural variabilities and variations such as body or upper limb length. Hence, some individuals will need larger joint angles in ADL and some may be able to perform daily tasks with somewhat smaller angles compared to the average. Despite such individual variabilities, the conclusion remains that many personal care and feeding tasks require extensive elbow flexion.

Third, the methodological quality was not optimal for all of the included studies but, overall, a low to moderate ROB was determined. Therefore, it is not believed that this has had consequences for the overall outcome of this review.

Fourth, for tasks that were studied in more than one reviewed study group, it was decided to use the highest value for Figure 4A–D as it was opined that this maximal value gave an indication of the joint angle required

to complete tasks in all potential movement patterns as measured by the different individual studies. However, it could be argued that this choice led to a skewing of the results. The possibility of a full synthesis with forest plots was discussed as well but, due to the limited available data (group means plus SD) per movement direction per task (Appendix 2A-F), this was not possible.

Finally, in the present review, all shoulder movement data were translated from ISB terms to terms of flexion, extension, abduction, and adduction as it was suggested that this yielded the most beneficial information for the physical and occupational therapy practice. Consequently, for daily activities in which the plane of elevation angle was approximately 45°, the movement direction of that specific task would change from flexion to abduction or vice versa if this angle was a few degrees less or more. For instance, a PoE of 46° for pouring water into a glass (Aizawa et al., 2010) was described as flexion but would be described as abduction if this angle was 44°. However, as it involved only a few tasks, there is confidence that this translation has not influenced the primary conclusions. In addition, it was initially planned to include shoulder rotation movements in this review, however, it became apparent that results would be incomparable due to the different methods used to analyze rotation. A number of studies employed the ISB axial rotation definition (Doorenbosch, Harlaar, and Veeger, 2003; Wu et al., 2005) while others used the definition of the non-singular axial rotation (Masuda, Ishida, Cao, and Morita, 2008) or reported rotation data without mentioning the used method. Furthermore, the amount of humeral rotation needed to complete tasks depends on the position of the arm in space (Namdari et al., 2012). The current recommendation is that the method of 3D measuring for rotation must be described in detail in future research.

Future directions

First, for use in physical and occupational therapy practice, tables or figures with functional ROM should be developed per ADL category, age group, and eventually gender and hand dominance. Therefore, further research should focus on expanding the amount and diversity of tasks and being aware of the differences of the participants' characteristics. Second, additional research is required on how often and for how long especially large angles are used by unimpaired participants in ADL tasks during the day. As mentioned in the introduction, when functional ROM cannot be recovered, compensatory movements in other components of the coordinated joint system will be indispensable for accomplishing ADL tasks (de Groot et al., 2011; Mell, Childress, and Hughes, 2005; Trehan et al., 2015; Veeger

et al., 2006). Such movements pose a risk for overuse problems. The magnitude of this risk depends on how often, for how long, and at which angle these compensatory movements are necessary during the day. Third, an impaired ROM cannot only hamper ADL but can also have an impact on patients' perceived (social) participation (Bartoszek et al., 2015; Fischer et al., 2014). To optimize and tailor mobility interventions, more research is needed on the correlation between ROM impairment, functioning, participation, and quality of life. Furthermore, inclusion and evaluation of patients' goals of treatment is crucial.

Implications for physiotherapy practice

Shoulder and elbow angles needed to perform daily activities by unimpaired participants have been investigated in many well-performed studies. Full ROM was critical in the elbow to be able to perform ADL but was less important in the shoulder when performing 66 (simulated) tasks. These data should be used to assess impairments on the individual level and to establish goals in physical and occupational therapy both in terms of function and prevention of secondary conditions due to overuse of compensatory movements.

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Declaration of interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest. The authors alone are responsible for the content and writing of the article.

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Appendix 1: MeSH terms and number of retrieved studies per database

PubMed:

Search: ("*upper extremity*"[MeSH Terms] OR "*elbow*"[Title] OR "*shoulder*"[Title]) AND ("*range of motion*"[MeSH Terms] OR "*motion*"[Title] OR "*range of motion*"[Title/abstract]) AND ("*activities of daily living*"[MeSH Terms] OR "*activities of daily living*"[Title/Abstract]).

Search resulted in 273 studies.

Cochrane:

Advanced search on title, abstract and keywords: *Range of motion* AND (*activities of daily living*) OR (*daily activities*) OR (*daily living*) AND (*upper extremity*) OR (*elbow*) OR (*shoulder*).

Search resulted in 100 studies.

Scopus:

Search: TITLE-ABS-KEY ('*Activities of Daily Living*' AND '*Range of Motion*' AND '*Upper Extremity*').

Search resulted in 241 studies.

CINAHL:

Advanced search on: '*Activities of Daily Living*' AND '*Range of Motion*' AND '*Upper Extremity*' without selecting a field.

Search resulted in 58 studies.

PEDro:

Simple search on: '*activities of daily living, range of motion*'.

Search resulted in 44 studies.

Required angle	Major et al. (2014)	Masjedi et al (2011)	Mosqueda et al (2004)	Muller-Rath et al (2009) Female	Muller-Rath et al (2009) Male	Muraglia et al (2010)	Murphy et al (2013)	Namdari et al (2012)	Palmieri et al (2003)	Petuskey et al (2007)	Reid et al (2010)	Safae-Rad (1990)	Sheikhzadeh et al (2008) *	van Andel et al (2008)
Combing hair								108 (3)						
Brush contralateral side of the head		61												
Shampooing														
Washing face														
Putting on a necklice														
Fasting button neck level														
Washing contralateral axilla/armpit								95 (2)						
Genital hygiene													105 (9)	
Touching top of the head				83 (14)						85 (17)			64 (7)	
Touching forehead													62 (3)	
Touching contralateral ear													65 (5)	
Touching ipsilateral ear														
Touching nose														
Touching chin													38 (4)	
Touching back of the head													110 (10)	
Touching neck													124 (13)	
Touching contralateral axilla		44											54 (9)	57
Touching/scratching chest												35(12)		
Eat with fork												36(14)		
Eating with spoon														
Pouring (sit position)/decanting cups	67	57									38			
Pouring (stand position)		31												
Drinking out of glass		38					52 (5)					43 (16)		63
Drinking with straw														
Touching mouth														
Reach above shoulder level (to a shelf)														
Reach at 1.5m of the ground			139 (11)					121 (2)	134 (28)	142 (10)				
Forward reach to receive an object		80								32 (17)	66			
Sideway reach					20 \$	56 \$				28 \$				
Place hand behind one's head		45			130	130								
Using a telephone														
Turning a key/unlock door														
Turning a page														
Opening a door														
Wave with arm at side														
Drawing nr. 8 at A1														
Stacking of 3 blocks														
Lifting tray using both hands (0.5kg)		48												
Typing on a keyboard														
Needed range														

*: data changed to positive values; f: at going phase mug to mouth; #: not reported in Kasten et al (2009); \$: reaching at shoulder height; ||: reaching at table height; #: calculated out of dataset.

Appendix 2B. Shoulder extension angles (degrees) per (simulated) ADL tasks performed by unimpaired participants.

	Required angle	Aizawa et al (2010)	Hall et al (2011)	Kasten et al (2009), Raiss et al (2007), Raiss et al (2010)	Maier et al (2014a), Maier et al (2014b)	Masjedi et al (2011)	Mosqueda et al (2004)	Namdari et al (2012)	Palmieri et al (2003)	Petuskey et al (2007)	van Andel et al (2008)
Personal care and feeding											
Unhook bra/wash middle of back	47							47 (2)			
Tuck in shirt behind back	46							46 (2)			
Tying apron	44				44						
Wash lower back	62					62					
Perineal care	44		44								
Anal hygiene	13			13 *							
Hand to (ipsilateral) back pocket	50						49 (8)		50 (8)	47 (11)	48
Touching back/sacrum	52	52 (12)									
Touching perineum	41	41 (8)									
Eating with spoon	12			12							
Daily, leisure and work activities											
Using a telephone	3			3							
Needed range	3 - 62										

*: not reported in Kasten et al (2009).



Required angle	Masjedi et al (2011)	Mosqueda et al (2004)	Muller-Rath et al (2009) Female	Muller-Rath et al (2009) Male	Murphy et al (2011)	Namdar et al (2012)	Palmieri et al (2003)	Petuskey et al (2007)	Reid et al (2010)	Safae-Rad (1990)	van Andel et al (2008)
Personal care and feeding											100
Combing hair	125										
Fasting button navel level	19										
Tying apron	26										
Genital hygiene	67										
Hand to (ipsilateral) back pocket	4	4 (8)					4 (8)	2 (5)			
Touching top of the head	39	39 (13)					36 (13)				
Touching nose	56										
Touching ipsilateral axilla	51										
Eat with fork	43									19(6) 22(7)	
Eating with spoon	27										
Pouring (sit position)/decanting cups	31										
Drinking out of glass	31				30 (10)					31 (9)	
Touching mouth	30										30
Daily, leisure and work activities											
Reach above shoulder level (to a shelf)	34	32 (11)					32 (12)	34 (9)			
Forward reach to receive an object	115							5 (10)	49 †		
Sideway reach	71		68 †	68 †					71 †		
Place hand behind one's head	127		51	46							
Using a telephone	79										
Turning a key/unlock door	76										
Turning a page	71										
Opening a door	29										
Wave with arm at side	55										55 (10)
Drawing nr. 8 at A1	83										
Stacking of 3 blocks	36										
Lifting shopping bag (2kg)	44	44									
Lift to shoulder height (0,5 kg)	52	52									
Lift to head height (0,5 kg)	85	85									
Typing on a keyboard	65										
Needed range	4 - 127										

*: not reported in Kasten et al (2009); †: reaching at shoulder height; ‡: reaching at table height; §: left out for further analysis; ||: taking book from shelf.

Appendix 2D. Shoulder adduction angles (degrees) per (simulated) ADL tasks performed by unimpaired participants.

	Required angle	Artalheiro et al (2014)	Klotz et al (2014)	Maier et al (2014a), Maier et al (2014b)	Namdari et al (2012)
Personal care and feeding					
Combing hair	86				86 (3)
Washing contralateral axilla/armpit	116			37	116 (2)
Drinking out of glass	14	14 *			
Daily, leisure and work activities					
Turning a key/unlock door	39		39		
Needed range	14-116				

*: at going phase mug to mouth.

Appendix 2E: Elbow flexion angles (degrees) per (simulated) ADL tasks performed by unimpaired participants.

Required angle	Alizawa et al (2010)	Artiñheiro et al (2014)	Carey et al (2008)	Cooper et al (1993) Female	Cooper et al (1993) Male	Hemmi et al (2006)	Kasten et al (2009), Raiss et al (2010)	Karner et al (2012)	Kim et al (2014)	Klotz et al (2014)	Lee et al (2007) Adult	Lee et al (2007) Elderly	Magermans et al (2005)
Personal care and feeding													
150 Combing hair	119 (8)					151 (9)	150	141					136 (15)
151 Shampooing						140 (5)							
140 Washing face	128 (6)												
138 Putting on a necklace	138 (6)												
134 Fastening button on neck level	134 (7)												
69 Fastening button on navel level	69 (19)												
118 Washing contralateral axilla													118 (9) + 61 (20)
61 Perineal care													
92 Genital hygiene							92				121 (22)	129 (2)	
129 Touching top of the head													
125 Touching forehead	124 (7)												
116 Touching contralateral ear	116 (8)												
132 Touching ipsilateral ear	132 (5)												
144 Touching back of the head										133			
133 Touching nose													
149 Touching neck													
144 Touching/scratching chest								132					
115 Touching back/sacrum	115 (9)												
100 Touching waist													
137 Touching ipsilateral axilla	137 (7)												
115 Touching contralateral axilla	100 (10)												
146 Eat with fork	123 (8)			122	114	146 (5)	142			125			132 (8)
142 Eating with spoon				126	116								
108 Knife													
84 Pouring (sit position)/decanting cups							68			79			
93 Pouring (stand position)	93 (7)												
142 Drinking out of glass	115 (5)	135 *	123	136	126		142		120 (4)	129			
139 Drinking with straw								139					
135 Touching mouth	130 (5)										103 (41)	130 (0)	

(Continued)

Appendix 2E: (Continued).

	Alizawa et al (2010)	Artiñheiro et al (2014)	Carey et al (2008)	Cooper et al (1993) Female	Cooper et al (1993) Male	Hemmi et al (2006)	Kasten et al (2009), Raiss et al (2007), Raiss et al (2010)	Karner et al (2012)	Kim et al (2014)	Klotz et al (2014)	Lee et al (2007) Adult	Lee et al (2007) Elderly	Magermans et al (2005)
Daily, leisure and work activities													
Place hand behind one's head	141												
Using a telephone	152					152							
Using a cellular phone	147												
Opening a door	80		66 (14)										
Opening and closing door knob	39						95						
Turning a key/unlock door	95												
Sit to stand	106												
Turning a page	114						94						
Drive-gear	36												
Turning a steering wheel	57		40										
Shaking hands	73												
Wave with arm at side	95												
Drawing nr. 8 at A1	110						110						
Lift 4kg bag	93												93 (24)
Mouse	100												
Typing on a keyboard	102						102						
Needed range	36 - 152												

Required angle	Major et al (2014)	Morrey et al (1981)	Mosqueda et al (2004)	Muller-Rath et al (2009) Female	Muller-Rath et al (2009) Male	Murgia et al (2010)	Petuskey et al (2007)	Ramirez-Garcia et al (2010)	Reid et al (2010)	Safae-Rad (1990)	Sardelli et al (2011)	Sinha et al (2010)	van Andel et al (2008)
Personal care and feeding													
Combing hair	150												122
Shampooing	151												
Washing face	140												
Putting on a necklace	138												
Fasting button on neck level	134												
Fasting button on navel level	69												
Washing contralateral axilla	118												
Perineal care	61												
Genital hygiene	92												
Touching top of the head	129	119 (6)	110 (9)				110 (7)				117	114 (20)	
Touching forehead	125											125 (19)	
Touching contralateral ear	116												
Touching ipsilateral ear	132												
Touching back of the head	144	144 (7)									143 (6)	137 (17)	
Touching nose	133												
Touching neck	149	135 (5)									149 (5)	147 (18)	
Touching/scratching chest	144	120 (8)									144 (5)	139 (24)	
Touching back/sacrum	115												
Touching waist	100	100 (13)										62 (15)	
Touching ipsilateral axilla	137												
Touching contralateral axilla	115									122 (4)	128	110	115
Eat with fork	146	128								123 (5)			
Eating with spoon	142												
Knife	108	107									108		
Pouring (sit position)/decanting cups	84	58									84	62	
Pouring (stand position)	93												
Drinking out of glass	142	130						76 (10)					
Drinking with straw	139							135 (3)					
Touching mouth	135								135			132 (15)	

(Continued)

Appendix 2F: Elbow extension angles (degrees) per (simulated) ADL tasks performed by unimpaired participants.

Required angle	Alzawa et al (2010)	Bergsma et al (2014)	Carey et al (2008)	Kasten et al (2009), Raiss et al (2007), Raiss et al (2010)	Klotz et al (2014)	Lee et al (2007) Adult	Lee et al (2007) Elderly	Lobo-Prat et al (2014)	Magermans et al (2005)	Morrey et al (1981)	Mosqueda et al (2004)
Personal care and feeding											
Fasting button on navel level	69 (19)								61 (20)		
Perineal care											
Genital hygiene				25							
Hand to (ipsilateral) back pocket										16 (6)	66 (17)
Touch shoes/tying shoelaces										100 (13)	
Touching waist										70 (12)	
Touching back/sacrum											
Touching perineum	56 (22)										
Touching toes	1										
Knife										89	
Pouring (sit position)/decanting cups				23	74					36	
Pouring (stand position)	93 (7)										
Daily, leisure and work activities											
Reach above shoulder level (to a shelf)									39 (18) *		22 (8)
Forward reach to receive an object						16 (10) †	15 (9) †	59 †			
Sideway/ipsilateral reach		24									
Contralateral reach		20									24
Opening a door			13								
Opening and closing door knob											
Turning a key/unlock door				22							
Sit to stand										20	
Turning a page				20 §						78	
Drive-gear											
Turning a steering wheel			12								
Shaking hands											
Wave with arm at side											
Drawing nr. 8 at A1				23							
Mouse											
Typing on a keyboard				41							

	Muller-Rath et al (2009) Female	Muller-Rath et al (2009) Male	Murgia et al (2010)	Palmieri et al (2003)	Petuskey et al (2007)	Ramirez-Garcia et al (2010)	Reid et al (2010)	Sardelli et al (2011)	Sinha et al (2010)	van Andel et al (2008)
Required angle										
Personal care and feeding										
Fasting button on navel level	69									
Perineal care	61									
Genital hygiene	25			66 (19)	63 (21)			27 (7)	62 (15) 55 (23)	44
Hand to (ipsilateral) back pocket	44									
Touch shoes/tying shoelaces	16									
Touching waist	62									
Touching back/sacrum	55							102		
Touching perineum	56								1 (11)	
Touching toes	1									
Knife	89							99		
Pouring (sit position)/decanting cups	23					47		68	27	
Pouring (stand position)	47									
Daily, leisure and work activities										
Reach above shoulder level (to a shelf)	18			23 (10)	18 (6)					
Forward reach to receive an object	15				49 (25)		21 †			
Sideway/ipsilateral reach	15	26 †	26 †				15 †			
Contralateral reach	20									
Opening a door	13					28		29		
Opening and closing door knob	36								36	
Turning a key/unlock door	22							24		
Sit to stand	20							86	73	
Turning a page	73								36 (25)	
Drive-gear	36								24	
Turning a steering wheel	12									
Shaking hands	50									
Wave with arm at side	95				95 (16)					
Drawing nr. 8 at A1	23									
Mouse	34									
Typing on a keyboard	41							67	34 (15)	
								87	41 (15)	

*: performed by 8/24 participants; †: reaching at shoulder height; ‡: reaching at table height; §: left out for further analysis.