



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

Journal:	<i>Journal of Sports Sciences</i>
Manuscript ID:	RJSP-2014-0064.R3
Manuscript Type:	Original Manuscript
Keywords:	Running, Sports bras, breast support, Females, Kinematics

SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

Review Only

MAGNITUDE OF MULTIPLANAR BREAST KINEMATICS DIFFERS DEPENDING UPON RUN DISTANCE

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

1
2
3 31 the effect of breast biomechanics on sports performance (Boschma, Smith, & Lawson, 1995;
4 32 White, Scurr, & Smith, 2009).

5
6
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.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
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.

1
2
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.

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
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**

44
45
46 86 Following institutional ethical approval, ten female volunteers (experienced treadmill
47 87 and outdoor runners currently training ≥ 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
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

94 breasts. Participants were required to fit either of the cross-graded bra sizes of 34D and
95 32DD.

96 Participants performed two five kilometre treadmill runs on separate days, 24 to 72
97 hours apart; once in a low breast support (everyday t-shirt bra) and once in a high breast
98 support (Shock Absorber, B4490 sports bra) (Figure 1). Participants selected a comfortable
99 running speed, which they felt they could maintain for the duration of the run, this ranged
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
101 speed remained constant throughout all run trials. Participants wore the same footwear and
102 lower body clothing for all trials.

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

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

109 ----- INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE -----

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

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

1
2
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.).
7
8
9

10
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).
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

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).
39
40
41
42
43
44
45

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.
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 155 **RESULTS**
4

5
6 156 Relative breast range of motion
7

8
9 157 The magnitude of relative multiplanar breast range of motion in the low breast
10 158 support, during the five kilometre run is presented in figure 3. Percentage increases in
11 159 multiplanar breast range of motion were reported from the first two minutes to the second
12 160 kilometre interval (13.1 minutes of running). After this time point no further percentage
13 161 increases were reported in either the anteroposterior or mediolateral range of motion.
14 162 However, the superioinferior breast range of motion continued to increase, with significant
15 163 increases ($p < .05$) reported between two minutes of running to the first, fourth, and fifth
16 164 kilometres. The greatest percentage increase in multiplanar breast range of motion from the
17 165 first two minutes was reported at the fifth kilometre (32.7 minutes of running) in the
18 166 superioinferior direction (23%). However, the greatest change in multiplanar breast range of
19 167 motion, between two consecutive distance intervals, was reported in the superioinferior breast
20 168 range of motion between the first two minutes of running and first kilometre interval (14%).
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

29
30 169 ----- INSERT FIGURE 3 HERE -----
31

32 170 The magnitude of relative multiplanar breast range of motion in the high breast
33 171 support, during the five kilometre run is presented in figure 4. A similar pattern is reported
34 172 when participants wore the high breast support, whereby percentage increases were reported
35 173 in multiplanar breast range of motion from the first two minutes of running up until the
36 174 second kilometre interval (13.1 minutes of running). However, percentage increases were
37 175 reported to increase further in the mediolateral range of motion until the third kilometre (19.6
38 176 minutes of running), and until the fifth kilometre in the superioinferior breast range of
39 177 motion.
40
41
42
43
44
45

46
47 178 ----- INSERT FIGURE 4 HERE -----
48

49 179 Significant ($p < .05$) increases were reported from two minutes of running to first and
50 180 fifth kilometre intervals in anteroposterior range of motion, to the fourth and fifth kilometre
51 181 intervals in the mediolateral range of motion, and to the third, fourth, and fifth kilometre
52 182 intervals in the superioinferior breast range of motion. The greatest relative percentage
53 183 increase in multiplanar breast range of motion from the first two minutes was reported at the
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
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
8 188 (20%).

9
10
11 189 Relative breast velocity

12
13
14
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.

27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36 202 ----- INSERT FIGURE 5 HERE -----

37
38
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.

45
46
47
48
49 209 ----- INSERT FIGURE 6 HERE -----

50
51
52 210 The greatest percentage increases in peak anteroposterior and mediolateral velocity,
53 211 between two consecutive distance intervals, were reported between the first two minutes (322
54 212 m) and first kilometre interval (6.6 minutes of running), however, this was reported between

1
2
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).

5
6
7 215 Relative breast acceleration

8
9
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.

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25 224 ----- INSERT FIGURE 7 HERE -----

26
27
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.

33
34
35
36
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 (5th 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.

47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54 240 ----- INSERT FIGURE 8 HERE -----

55
56
57 241 **DISCUSSION**

1
2
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.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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.

39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
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
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 274 running). Based upon the steep increases in breast kinematics within the first kilometre of
4
5 275 running, it is recommended that breast biomechanics protocols should examine breast
6
7 276 kinematics over at least one kilometre (approximately seven minutes of running at an average
8
9 277 speed of 9 km.hr⁻¹), and where possible up to 13 minutes of running to obtain a more
10
11 278 representative measure of breast kinematics for exercising females.

12
13 279 Another potential explanation for the increases in breast kinematics is the influence of
14
15 280 increased skin and body temperature on the breast tissue. The participants completed the five
16
17 281 kilometre run in a biomechanics laboratory, at an ambient temperature of 19°C. Though the
18
19 282 high breast support incorporates wicking fabrics, designed to draw moisture away from the
20
21 283 body, the increased material thickness and skin coverage may have heightened the thermal
22
23 284 insulation of this bra, which may have increased the local skin and breast temperature more
24
25 285 than the low breast support. It is proposed that a gradual increase in the temperature of the
26
27 286 breast tissue could have led to the adipose tissue in the breast reaching its melting point and
28
29 287 transitioning from a semi-solid state to a liquid state (Schmidt-Nielson, 1946), resulting in a
30
31 288 more malleable tissue. This potential change in the adipose tissue within the breast could
32
33 289 explain the significant increases in breast kinematics throughout the five kilometre run.

34
35 290 The potential decline in the support performance of the two breast support garments
36
37 291 may provide further explanation for the reported increases in multiplanar breast kinematics
38
39 292 throughout the five kilometre run. Increased skin temperatures and any sweat absorbed by the
40
41 293 bra during the five kilometre run may have influenced the mechanical properties of the
42
43 294 fabrics (Ayres, White, Hedger, & Scurr, 2013) such as elasticity, recovery and strength.
44
45 295 Ayres et al., (2013) reported significant increases in the mass of two sports bras following 20
46
47 296 minutes of exercise, likely due to the accumulation of unevaporated sweat. Within the current
48
49 297 study, the high breast support contained polyester, polyamide and elastane, whereas the low
50
51 298 breast support incorporated only polyamide and elastane Lycra. The blending of intelligent
52
53 299 fibres ensures the sports bra contains diverse mechanical properties, with polyester known for
54
55 300 its strength and elastic-recovery properties, making it the single most commonly used fibre
56
57 301 for sportswear (Shishoo, 2008). It is proposed that the low breast support may be subjected to
58
59 302 greater stretch rate over time without polyester fibres incorporated into this bra. However, the
60
303 high breast support (sports bra) may have gained more mass than the low support due to its
304
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

1
2
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.

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
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.

30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
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,

1
2
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**

18
19
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⁻¹). 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.

34 361 **REFERENCES**

- 35
36
37
38
39 362 Ayres, B., White, J., Hedger, W., & Scurr, J. (2013). Female upper body and breast skin
40 363 temperature and thermal comfort following exercise. *Ergonomics*, 56(7), 1194-1202.
- 41
42
43
44 364 Boschma, A.C., Smith, G.A., & Lawson, L. (1995). Breast support for the active woman:
45 365 relationship to 3D kinematics of running [Masters dissertation]. Corvallis, Oregon: Oregon
46 366 State University.

- 1
2
3 367 Bowles, K-A., Steele, J., & Munroe, B. (2008). What are the breast support choices of
4 368 Australian females during female activities? *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 42, 670-67.
- 5
6
7 369 Bowles, K-A., & Steele, J.R. Does inadequate breast support pose an injury risk? *Australian*
8 370 *Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport and the Third National Sports Injury*
9 371 *Prevention Conference*, Canberra, Australia, 25-28 October, 2003. *Journal of Science and*
10 372 *Medicine in Sport*, 2003; 6(4):S67.
- 11
12
13
14
15 373 Brown, N., White, J., Brasher, A., & Scurr, J. (2014). An investigation into breast support
16 374 and sports bra use in female runners of the 2012 London Marathon. *Journal of Sports*
17 375 *Sciences*, 32(9), 801-809.
- 18
19
20
21 376 Department of Health. Physical activity recommendations 2011, retrieved 15th September
22 377 2011, <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/07/physical-activity-guidelines>
- 23
24
25
26 378 Gefen, A., & Dilmoney, B. (2007). Mechanics of the normal women's breast. *Technology*
27 379 *Health Care*, 15, 259-271.
- 28
29
30 380 Haake, S., & Scurr, J. (2010). A dynamic model of the breast during exercise. *International*
31 381 *Sports Engineering Association*, 12, 189-197.
- 32
33
34
35 382 Hardin, E., Van Den Bogert, A., & Hamill, J. (2004). Kinematic adaptations during running:
36 383 Effects of footwear, surface, and duration. *Medicine and Science in Sport Exercise*, 36(5),
37 384 838-844.
- 38
39
40
41 385 Lawson, L., & Lorentzen, D. (1990). Selected sports bras: Comparisons of comfort and
42 386 support. *Clothing and Textile Research Journal*, 8, 55-60.
- 43
44
45 387 Lorentzen, D., & Lawson, L. (1987). Selected sports bras: A biomechanical analysis of
46 388 breast. *Physiology in Sports Medicine*, 15, 128-139.
- 47
48
49
50 389 Mason, B.R., Page, K., & Fallon, K. (1999). An analysis of the movement and discomfort of
51 390 the female breast during exercise and the effects of the breast support in three case studies.
52 391 *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport*, 2, 134-144.
- 53
54
55
56 392 McGhee, D., Steele, J., & Power, B. (2007). Does deep water running reduce exercise
57 393 induced breast discomfort? *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 41, 879-883.
- 58
59
60

- 1
2
3 394 McGhee, D., Steele, J., Zealey, W., & Takacs, G. (2012). Bra-breast forces generated in
4 395 women with large breasts while standing and during treadmill running: Implications for
5 396 sports bra design. *Applied Ergonomics*, 44(1), 112-118.
- 8
9 397 Mills, C., Loveridge, A., Milligan, A., Risius, D., & Scurr, J. (2014). Can axes conventions of
10 398 the trunk reference frame influence breast displacement calculation during running? *Journal*
11 399 *of Biomechanics*, 47(2), 575-578.
- 14
15 400 Page, K., & Steele, J.R. (1999). Breast motion and sports brassiere design, Implications for
16 401 future research. *Journal of Sports Medicine*, 4, 205-211.
- 19
20 402 Parsons, K. (2014). *Human Thermal Environments* (3rd ed.). CRC Press, Taylor & Francis
21 403 Group, Boca Raton, USA
- 24
25 404 Schmidt-Nielson, K. (1946). Melting points of human fats as related to their location in the
26 405 body. *Acta Physiologica Scandinavica*, 12(2-3), 123-129.
- 28
29 406 Scurr, J., White, J., & Hedger, W. (2009). Breast displacement in three dimensions during
30 407 walking and running gait cycles. *Journal of Applied Biomechanics*, 25, 322-329.
- 33
34 408 Scurr, J.C., White, J.L., & Hedger, W. (2010). The effect of breast support on the kinematics
35 409 of the breast during the running gait cycle. *Journal of Sports Sciences*, 28(10), 1103-1109.
- 37
38 410 Scurr, J.C., White, J.L., & Hedger, W. (2011). Supported and unsupported breast
39 411 displacement in three dimensions across treadmill activity levels. *Journal of Sports Sciences*,
40 412 29(1), 55-61.
- 43
44 413 Starr, C., Branson, D., Shehab, R., Ownby, S., & Swinney, J. (2005). Biomechanical analysis
45 414 of a prototype sports bra. *Journal of Textile Applied Technology and Management*, 4, 1-14.
- 48
49 415 Taylor, N., & Groeller, H. (2008). *Physiological bases of human performance during work*
50 416 *and exercise*. Churchill Livingstone, Elsevier, Philadelphia, USA.
- 52
53 417 White, J., Scurr, J., & Smith, N. (2009). The effect of breast support on kinetics during over-
54 418 ground running performance. *Ergonomics*, 52, 492-498.
- 56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 419 White, J., & Scurr, J. (2012). Evaluation of the bra fitting criteria for bra selection and fitting
4 420 in the UK. *Ergonomics*, 55(6), 704-711.
5
6
7 421 Williams, K.R., & Cavanagh, P.R. (1987). Relationship between distance running mechanics,
8 422 running economy, and performance. *Journal of Applied Physiology*, 63(3), 1236-1245.
9
10
11 423 Williams, K.R., Snow, R., Agruss, C. (1991). Changes in distance running kinematics with
12 424 fatigue. *International Journal of Sports Biomechanics*. 7, 138-162.
13
14
15
16 425 Zeni, Jr. J.A., Richards, J.G., & Higginson, J.S. (2008). Two simple methods for determining
17 426 gait events during treadmill and over ground walking using kinematic data. *Gait and Posture*,
18 427 7, 710-714.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

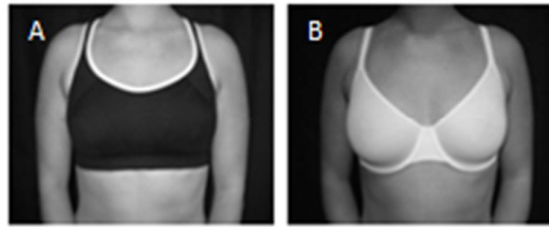


Figure 1 (A) High support condition sports bra: B4490, Shock Absorber level 4 support, made from 57% polyester, 34% polyamide, and 9% elastane. (B) Low support conditions everyday bra: Marks and Spencer Seamfree Plain Under wired T-Shirt Bra, non-padded, made from 88% polyamide and 12% elastane lycra.

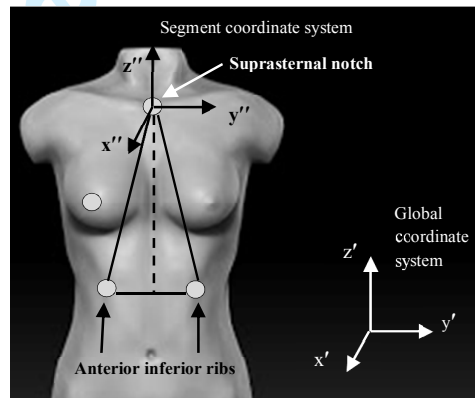


Figure 2 Marker locations, axes and coordinate systems for the global coordinate system (x' , y' , z') and segment coordinate system (x'' , y'' , z'').

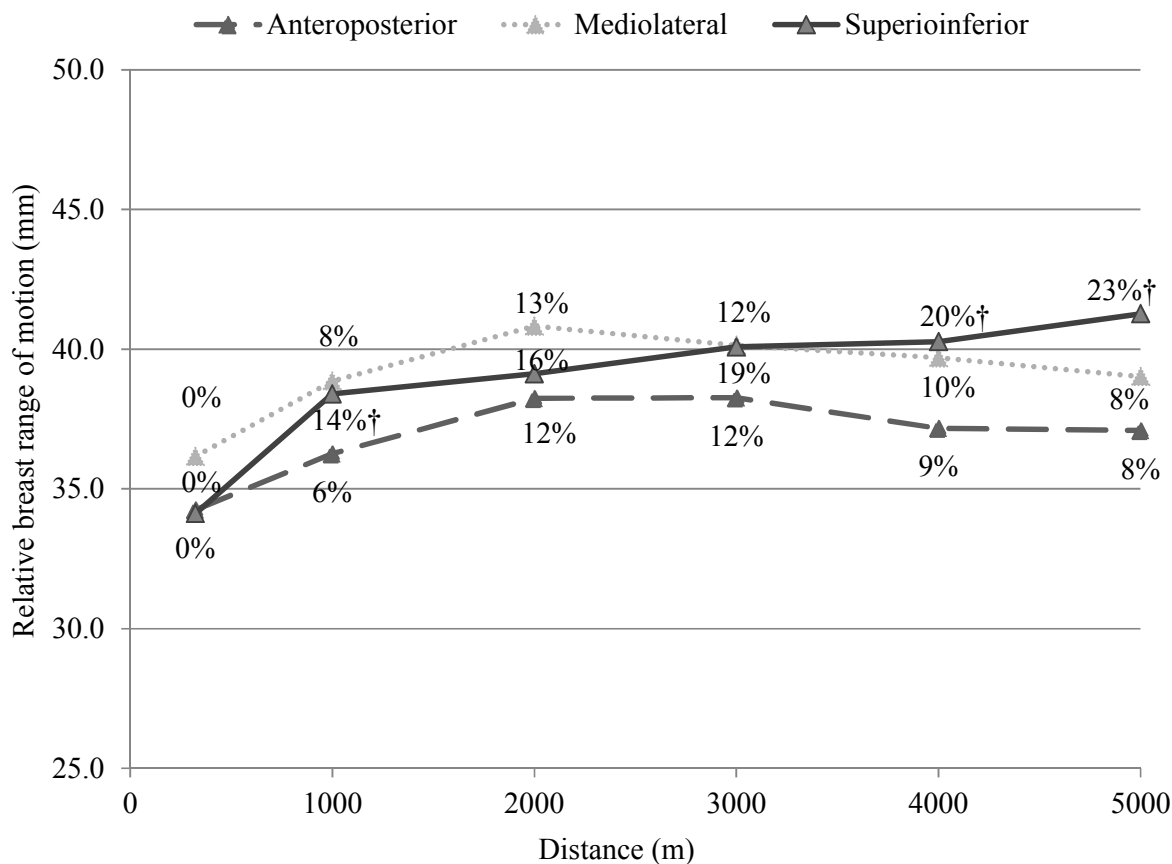


Figure 3. Mean multiplanar breast range of motion (mm) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached 322 m ± 64 m) to each consecutive distance interval in a low breast support.

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

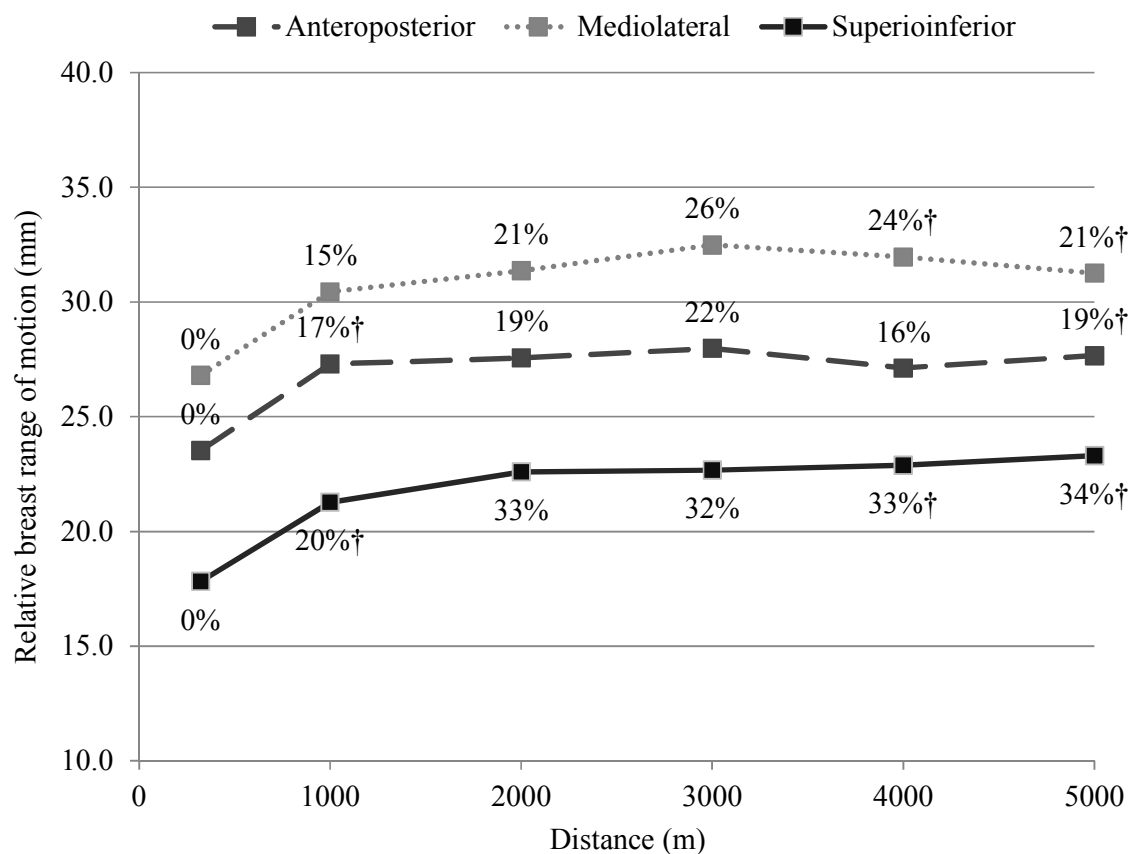


Figure 4. Mean multiplanar breast range of motion (mm) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached 322 m \pm 64 m) to each consecutive distance interval in a high breast support.

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

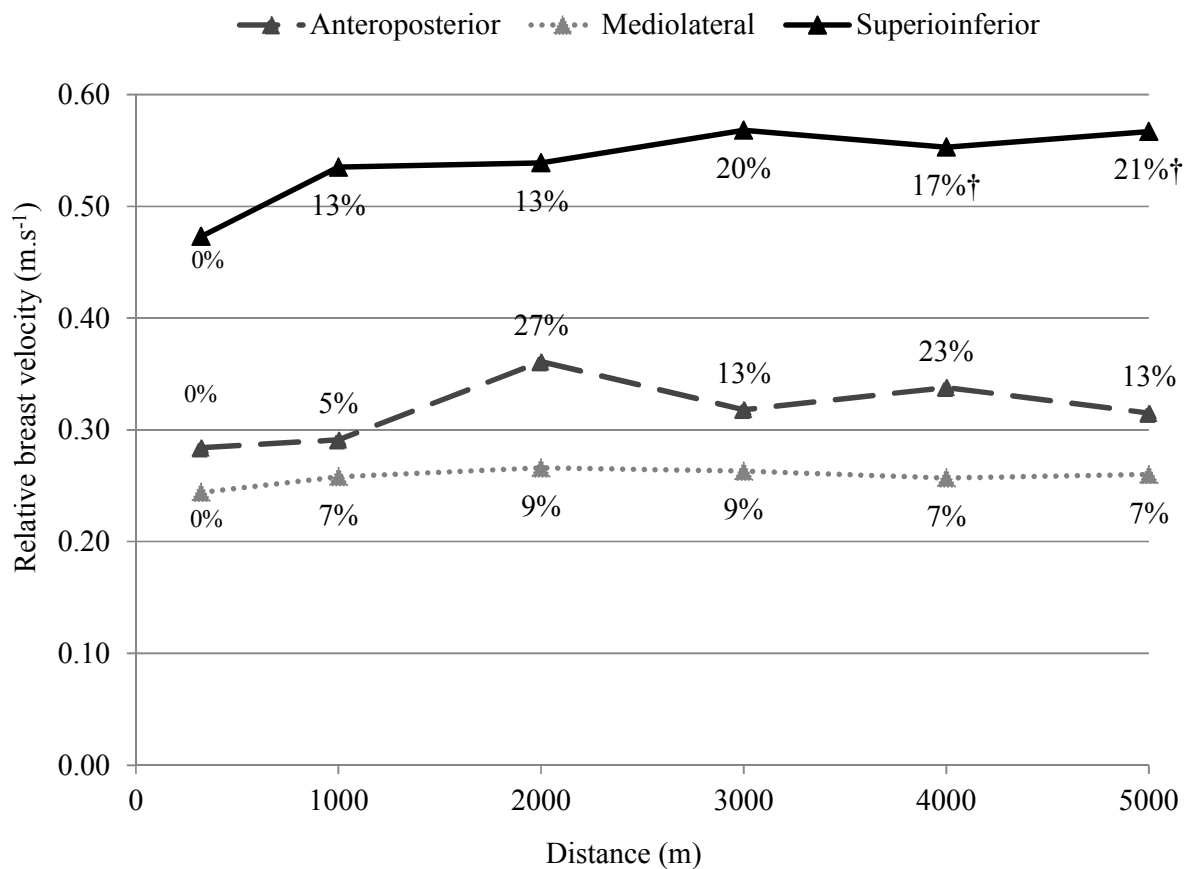


Figure 5. Mean peak multiplanar breast velocity ($\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached $322 \text{ m} \pm 64 \text{ m}$) to each consecutive distance interval in a low breast support.

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

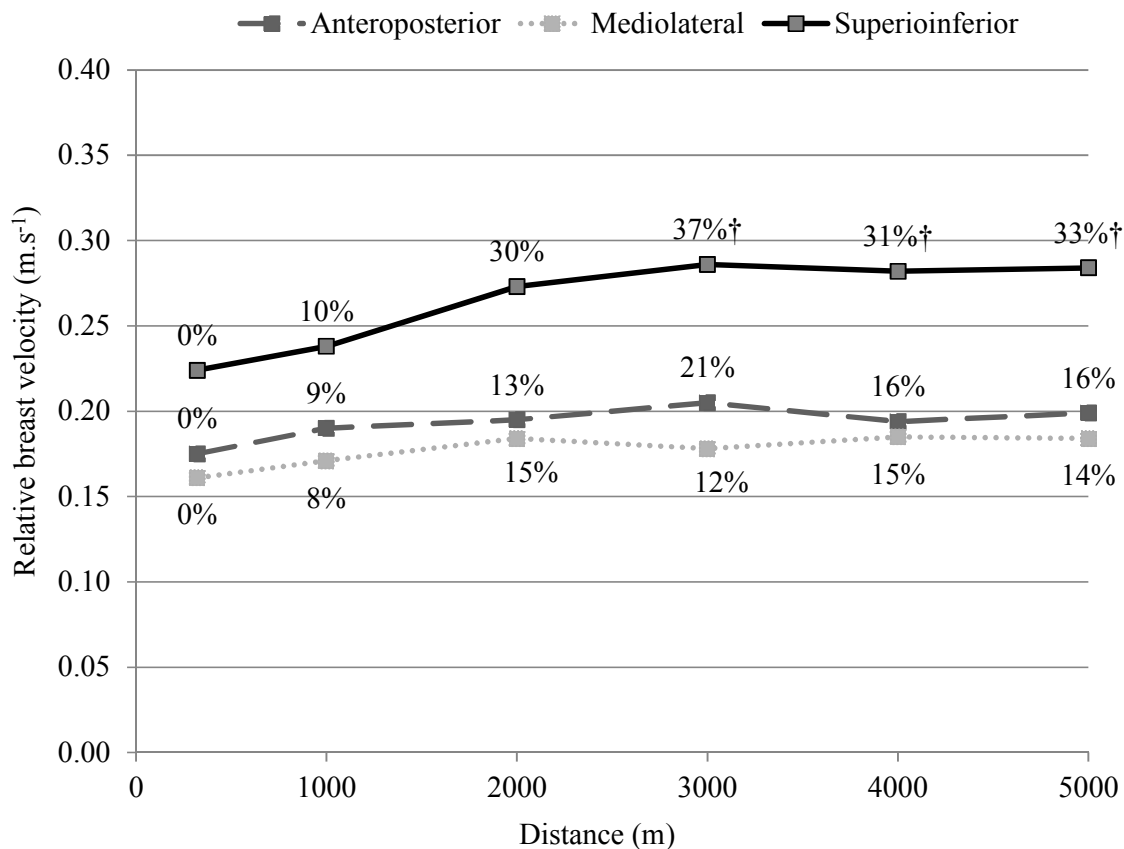


Figure 6. Mean peak multiplanar breast velocity ($\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached $322 \text{ m} \pm 64 \text{ m}$) to each consecutive distance interval in a high breast support.

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

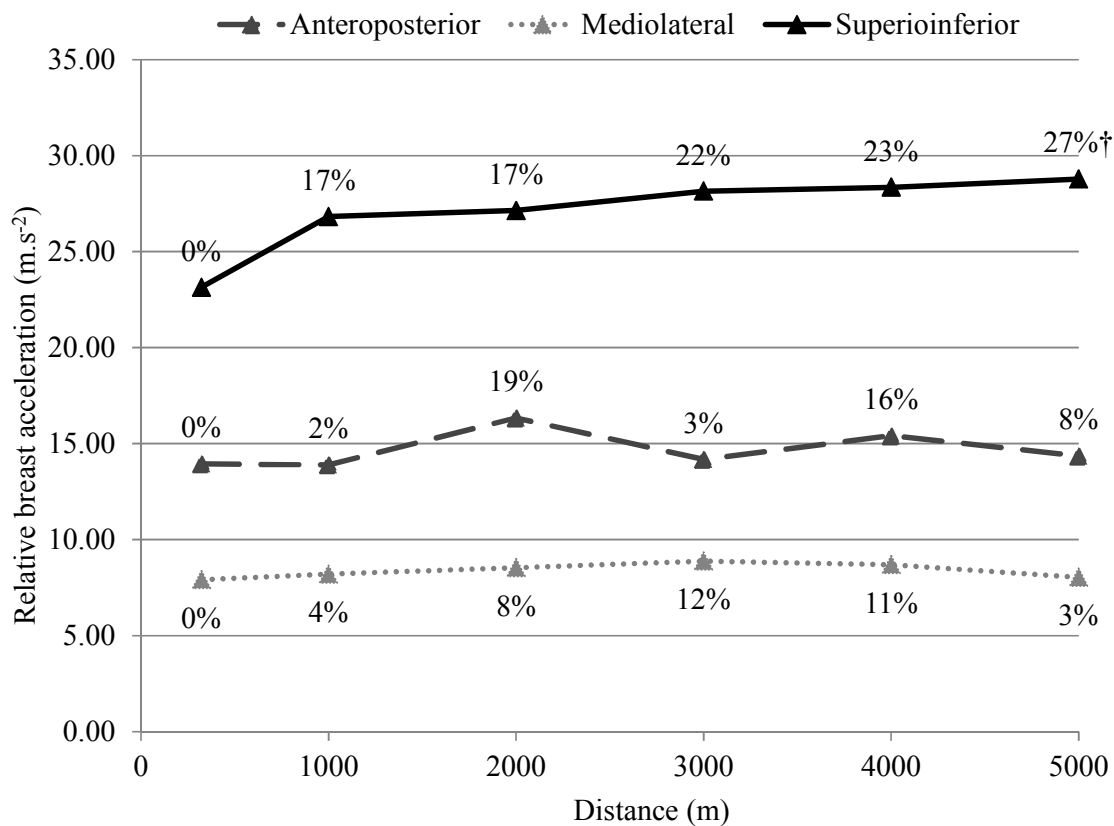


Figure 7. Mean peak multiplanar breast acceleration (m.s^{-2}) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached $322 \text{ m} \pm 64 \text{ m}$) to each consecutive distance interval in a low breast support.

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

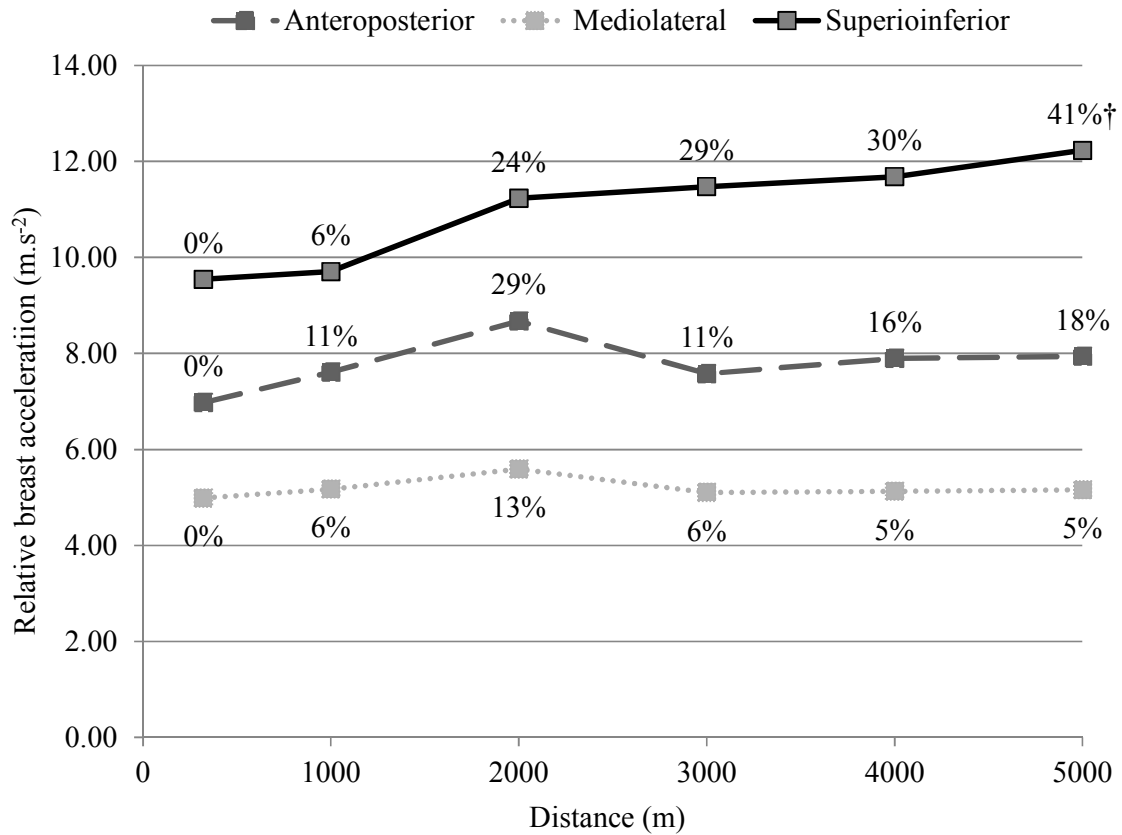


Figure 8. Mean peak multiplanar breast acceleration ($\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-2}$) during the five kilometre run, and percentage increases from the first two minutes of running (average distance reached $322 \text{ m} \pm 64 \text{ m}$) to each consecutive distance interval in a high breast support.

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