Where are we Walking? An Introduction to a JPOSNA Year-Long Series on Gait Analysis in Pediatric Orthopaedics

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A detailed, thoughtful examination of a patient’s gait is an important aspect of the care of most patients in orthopaedics. Many times, an appropriate visual inspection of gait can reveal the most important pathologies seen in a general pediatric orthopaedic practice. However, some conditions, such as cerebral palsy (CP), often present with significant gait complexities and multiple impairments that negatively affect patient mobility. The use of advanced, instrumented gait and motion analysis has become an essential piece of high-quality care of children with CP.

We are excited to kick off a series of articles on gait analysis with this edition of JPOSNA. In this series, a group of gait experts will present principles and tips to improve the evaluation of gait in patients with CP. A wide variety of cases will be presented, from the most straightforward simple gait abnormality to those with complex impairments affecting multiple levels of pathophysiology and abnormal biomechanics. Cases will include clinical information, physical examination data, pertinent radiographs, links to gait videos, and motion analysis data. Dr. Hank Chambers will present practical questions to additional experts in the field of CP who will share their views on the application of gait analysis and how it impacts the care of their patients.

This edition features a fantastic article from the group at the Shriners Hospital in Sacramento, CA, where they will give an amazing overview of practical tips and tools (including smartphone applications) to perform comprehensive visual gait analysis without a gait laboratory. We hope you all enjoy the series!