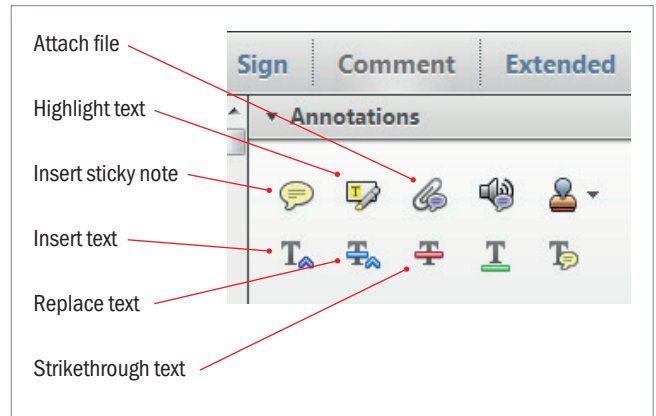


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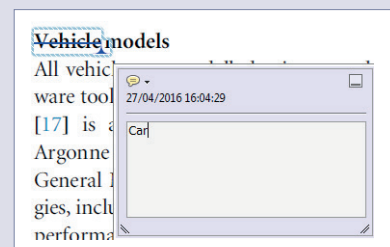


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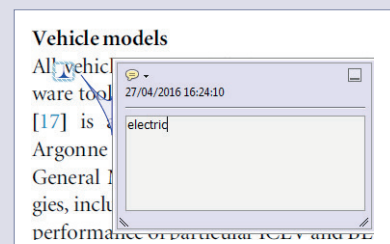
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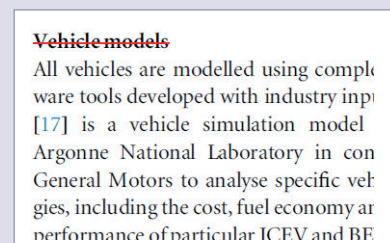
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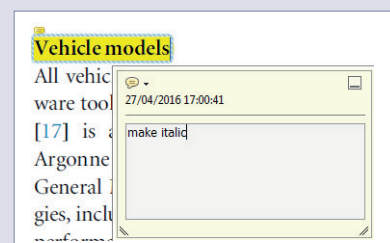
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Page 11

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PAPER

Effects of prefabricated and custom-made foot orthoses on skin temperature of the foot soles after running

RECEIVED
5 October 2018REVISED
12 April 2019ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION
25 April 2019

PUBLISHED

AQ2

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Keywords: insoles, infrared thermography, intense run, foot, sport

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Abstract

AQ4 Foot orthoses are increasingly used by runners despite the controversy about whether its use can reduce the risk of overuse injuries. Some authors have found modifications in plantar pressures with the use of foot orthoses, which could produce changes in surface skin temperature of the foot soles. The aim of the study was to analyse the effects of custom-made and prefabricated foot orthoses on skin temperature of different regions of both foot soles after running. Twenty-four participants carried out a maximal aerobic speed test as a pre-test, and three running tests at the laboratory wearing different foot orthoses conditions (control, prefabricated and custom-made) previously randomized. Skin temperature of four regions of interest of the foot soles was assessed before, immediately after and ten minutes after running. The use of prefabricated and custom-made foot orthoses did not produce changes on skin temperature of the foot soles neither in absolute temperatures ($p > 0.05$), nor in temperature variations: between immediately after and before running ($p > 0.05$), and between ten minutes after and immediately after running ($p > 0.05$). Otherwise, there were found higher values with no insoles than with prefabricated foot orthoses, 10 min after running in relation to before running, in forefoot [Mean (standard deviation): 5.6 (2.4) versus 3.7 (2.7) °C; $p = 0.02$; Effect Size (ESd) = 0.72], midfoot [3.7 (1.5) versus 2.7 (1.5) °C; $p = 0.03$; ESd = 0.65] and rearfoot [4.18 (2.05) versus 2.9 (1.82) °C; $p = 0.02$; ESd = 0.64]. In conclusion, the use of foot orthoses, in general, do not affect the surface skin temperature of the foot soles after an intense run.

1. Introduction

Running is one of the most practised physical activities because of the physical, social and mental benefits (Saragiotto *et al* 2014) and its low cost and ease of implementation (Ooms *et al* 2013, Hespanhol Junior *et al* 2015). However, there is a high frequency of lower limb overuse injuries associated to this activity (van Gent *et al* 2007, Ferber *et al* 2009, Fields *et al* 2010, Daoud *et al* 2012), between 19% and 79% depending on injury definition, study population and follow-up periods (Hoeberigs 1992). This kind of injury occurs when forces, below the detrimental acute threshold, are applied to a biological structure (bones, tendons or muscles) in a repetitive manner (van der Worp *et al* 2015). Overuse injuries aetiology is diverse and multifactorial (Saragiotto *et al* 2014) but it has been determined some risk factors that affect injury incidence. These factors are classified as intrinsic or non-modifiable (such as age, sex, previous injuries, the range of movement, muscular weakness and foot type) and/or extrinsic or modifiable (such as running technique, training errors, training surface and footwear) (Taunton *et al* 2002, Chang *et al* 2012). Therefore, in order to reduce injury risk, some prevention systems and ergonomic aids have been developed, such as improving running technique, improving flexibility or the use of foot orthoses (Johnston *et al* 2003, Fields *et al* 2010, Chang *et al* 2012, Murphy *et al* 2013).

Foot orthoses are defined as a tool that facilitates, stabilizes or improves the range of motion and functional capacity of the ankle and foot areas (Hirschmüller *et al* 2011). Foot orthoses can be classified according to various criteria: stiffness, adaptation, objective and manufacturing method, within which it can find prefabricated,

customised and custom-made foot orthoses (Burns *et al* 2007, Crabtree *et al* 2009). Although there has been a high increment in the use of insoles during running, there is still controversy about whether their use can reduce the risk of overuse injuries and may influence in biomechanic parameters in runners (Hume *et al* 2008, Fields *et al* 2010). In this sense, some authors found changes in plantar pressure in some regions by using prefabricated and custom-made foot orthoses (Burns *et al* 2006, Mickle *et al* 2011, Lucas-Cuevas *et al* 2014). In a previous study performed in our research group (Lucas-Cuevas *et al* 2014), it were found reductions in plantar loadings in different areas, such as hallux, toes, midfoot and heel, using prefabricated and custom made foot orthoses compared to not wearing foot orthoses.

Yavuz *et al* (2014) observed a positive correlation between triaxial contact loads and skin temperature during the gait. So, it is possible to hypothesize that the increment or reduction of plantar pressure and friction in different foot regions might influence skin temperature of foot soles. In this sense, infrared thermography (IRT) might be a useful tool to asses if the use of foot orthoses induces changes in skin temperature.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to analyse the effects of custom-made and prefabricated foot orthoses on skin temperature of different regions of both foot soles after running. We hypothesize that the use of foot orthoses will produce lower increments of the skin temperature of the foot soles after running, specially with custom-made foot orthoses in the forefoot and rearfoot regions.

2. Methods

2.1. Participants

Twenty four volunteer recreational runners, 18 males and six females, participated in this study with the following characteristics expressed as mean (standard deviation): age 35 (5) years, body mass 71.4 (12.5) kg, height 1.75 (0.07) m, training volume 37.5 (12.8) km/week, maximal aerobic speed (MAS) 4.36 (0.51) m s⁻¹. Inclusion criteria included: (1) be able to run 10 km between 40 and 50 min for men, and between 50 and 60 min for women; (2) no history of lower extremity injuries within the last year; (3) no previous use of foot orthoses; and (4) training volume of at least 15 km/week. Seven runners had the left feet, and seventeen the right feet, as preferred according to their response to the question 'If you would shoot a ball on a target, which leg would you use to shoot the ball?' (van Melick *et al* 2017). Participants signed an informed consent before participation. The study procedures complied with the Declaration of Helsinki and were approved by the university's ethics committee (approval number H1427706182089).

2.2. Test conditions and insole customisation

IRT of the foot soles was measured under three different foot orthoses conditions: (1) control condition, using the original training footwear (CFO); (2) prefabricated foot orthoses (Technoped running, Herbitas), that were chosen only according to the runner's foot size, specially design for running and bought in a sport shop (PFO); and (3) custom-made foot orthoses (Podiatech OPCT[®] Run, Sidas), fabricated by a podiatrist from a 3D representation of the participant's feet, specially design for running (CMFO) (table 1). For the customisation of CMFO participants were asked to stand on a pair of silicon vacuum bags in order to reproduce plantar print of the participant's feet (Printlab2 platform, Podiatech, Voiron, France). A plaster mould was built based on the foot print and the 3D foot orthoses personalised to the athlete's feet were created through a thermo-welding process.


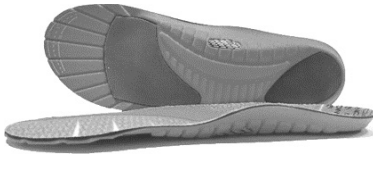

2.3. Protocol

Participants performed a pretest and three laboratory tests on different days, with different foot orthoses conditions randomly assigned (control, prefabricated foot orthoses and custom-made foot orthoses) and after a week of adaptation to each condition. To carry out this adaptation, participants were asked to wear the foot orthoses during the full day for the first two days and, for training, just during the warm-up and the cool down. From the third day, if they did not report discomfort, they wore the foot orthoses during the entire training. In the pretest, they performed a 5 min maximal effort run on a 400 m track to determine their individual maximal aerobic speed (Berthon *et al* 1997, García-Pérez *et al* 2013). The second, third and fourth tests were performed at the laboratory with custom-made insoles, prefabricated insoles and with no insoles (order randomized). In these sessions, participants carried out a running test on a treadmill (Excite Run 700, TechnogymSpA, Gambettola, Italy) with 1% of slope. The runners wore their own running training shoes in every test (Lewinson *et al* 2016). During these tests, participants warmed-up for 10 min at 60% of their MAS and run for 20 min at 80% of their MAS.

2.4. Thermographic measurements and analysis

Skin temperature was measured with an infrared camera (Flir E60bx, Wilsonville, Oregon, USA) with a resolution of 320 × 240 pixels, with noise equivalent temperature difference (NETD) < 0.05 °C, and measurement uncertainty of ±2 °C or 2%. Measurements were performed at laboratory tests in three different moments: (1)

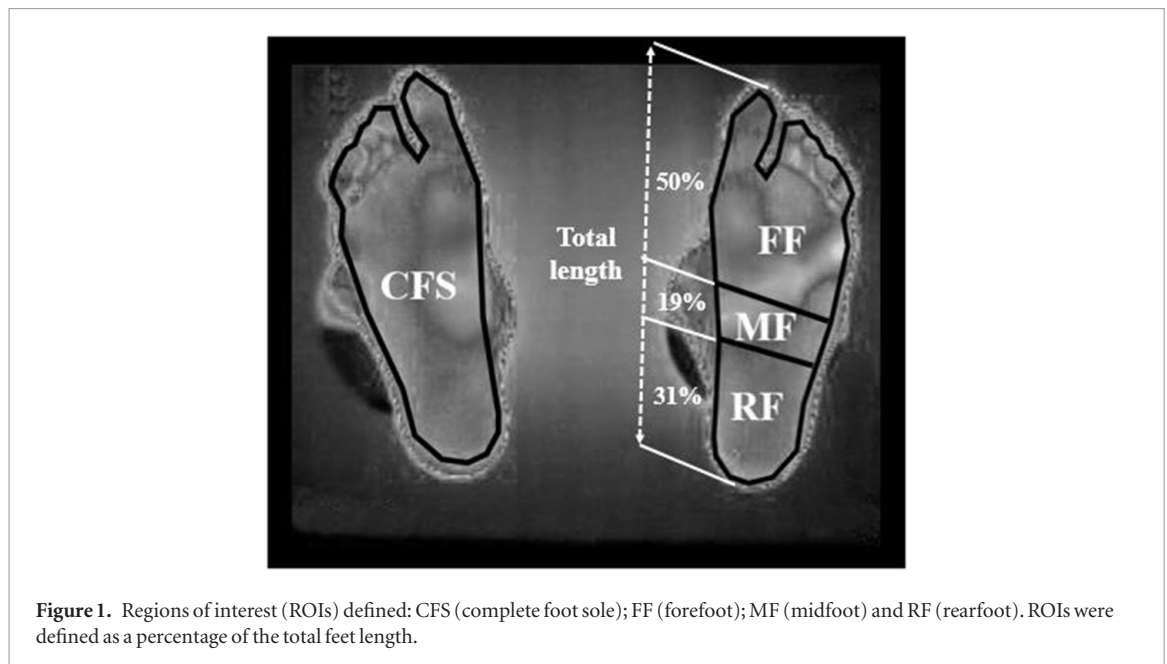
Table 1. Properties of the foot orthoses studied.

Control condition	Prefabricated foot orthoses	Custom-made foot orthoses
 <p>Runner's training footwear</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Top layer:</i> anti-slip fabric Drytech – <i>Middle and lower layer:</i> antibacterial AirFoam – <i>Forefoot and rearfoot reinforcement:</i> polyurethane foam, hardness 15–25° – <i>Extra support under medial arch:</i> Techno-carbon, 10 cm long and 3.5 cm high 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Top layer:</i> Podiamic 160 micro-perforated polyethylene + ethyl-vinyl acetate (EVA), 2.5 mm thick – <i>Forefoot insert:</i> Synthetic Viscotene®, 2.5 mm thick – <i>Rearfoot insert:</i> Podiaflex® 0.9 mm thick – <i>Rearfoot reinforcement:</i> polyester resin Transflux®, 1.0 mm thick – <i>Sole reinforcement:</i> Polyester resin Transflux®, 1.0 mm thick

before running, after 10 min of adaptation of the room environment; (2) immediately after running; (3) 10 min after the running test. Prior to the first thermographic measurement, participants remained barefoot, sat down with the legs in a horizontal way in order to achieve a correct adaptation of the feet soles to the room temperature (Gil-Calvo *et al* 2017).

The images were taken from a distance of 1 m and the camera objective was kept parallel to the feet soles. Infrared camera was turned up 10 min before the measurements in order to ensure its electronic stabilization. Air temperature [22.9 (1.3) °C] and relative humidity [44.4 (11.7)%] were controlled using an air conditioning unit and monitored with a weather station (Digital thermos-hygrometer, TFA Dostmann, Wertheim-Reicholzheim, Germany). This data was introduced into the camera set up for every thermographic measurement, as well as reflected temperature, which was measured according to the standard method ISO 18434-1:2008 (ISO 18434-1 2008). Calibration of the camera was checked before the study using a black body (BX-500 IR Infrared Calibrator, CEM, Shenzhen, China). There were no electronic devices, lights or air flow lit in the room, and only the participant and the thermographer were present during the measurement. Moreover, TISEM checklist was used with the aim to corroborate that all-important thermographic aspects of the protocol were taken into account (Moreira *et al* 2017). In this sense, factors that could affect skin temperature were controlled, such as avoiding tobacco, alcohol, medicines, coffee or tea consumption 12 h before the test, avoiding heavy meals 2 h before the test, avoid creams or sprays on the skin surface of the foot soles, and avoid therapeutic treatments on the regions measured within the last 24 h. Participants were also asked to wear the same clothes and socks for each laboratory test and had to come to the laboratory at the same period of time on each test. In addition, the three sessions were carried out on the same day of the week and in the same time slot in order to avoid the effects of the circadian rhythm on surface skin temperature.

Four regions of interest (ROIs) were defined and analysed in both foot soles: (1) Complete foot sole (2) Forefoot (50% of the anterior part of the foot soles); (3) Midfoot (19% of the middle region of the foot soles); (4) Rearfoot (31% of the posterior region of the foot soles) (Priego Quesada *et al* 2015a, Gil-Calvo *et al* 2017) (figure 1). These percentages of the definition of the ROIs were as a proportion of the total feet length (Priego Quesada *et al* 2015a, Gil-Calvo *et al* 2017) and were defined in a copy of the image using the software ImageJ (v.1.52a, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA). To ensure the accuracy in the definition of the image, it was worked with two computer screens, in one with the image visualization with the ROIs defined with the ImageJ; in the other screen was reproduced the same areas with the thermography software when absolute mean temperature of each ROI was computed (ThermacamResearcher Pro 2.10 software, FLIR, Wilsonville, Oregon, USA). All this procedure was performed by the same researcher to ensure the consistency. All images were processed using an emissivity factor of 0.98 to obtain skin surface temperatures (Steketee 1973). Following temperature variations were calculated (Vargas *et al* 2009): ΔT (difference between the temperature immediately after and before the running test, expressed in °C), ΔT_{10} (difference between the temperature 10 min after and before the running test, expressed in °C), and ΔT_{after} (difference between temperature 10 min after and immediately after the running test, expressed in °C). Finally, absolute values of thermal symmetry (difference between both feet) were calculated.



2.5. Statistical analysis

Data were analysed using SPSS Statistics 20.0 (IBM Armonk, New York, USA). Normality was confirmed by the Shapiro-Wilk test ($p > 0.05$) for absolute temperatures and temperature variations, but not for thermal symmetry ($p < 0.05$). Non-parametric Friedman test were performed to assess the differences between foot orthoses conditions in thermal symmetry. Repeated measures ANOVAs were performed to assess the differences between ROIs in absolute temperatures and temperature variations. In complete foot sole analysis two factors (moment and foot orthoses), and in the forefoot, midfoot and rearfoot analysis were used three factors (moment, ROI, foot orthoses). A Bonferroni correction were done in pair comparisons as a post-hoc test, with a significance level $\alpha = 0.05$. Data are expressed as mean (standard deviation (SD)). Moreover, Cohen's d effect size (ESd) were calculated to classify pair differences as small (ESd 0.2–0.5); moderate (ESd 0.5–0.8); or large ($ESd > 0.8$) (Cohen 1988).

3. Results

Table 2 presents the comparisons between dominant and non-dominant absolute temperatures and temperature variations of the different ROIs studied. In absolute temperatures were found differences with a small effect size between contralateral ROIs in complete foot soles [31.6 (1.5) °C versus 31.7 (1.5) °C; $p = 0.01$; $ESd = 0.07$] and midfoot [32.0 (1.2) °C versus 32.1 (1.2) °C; $p = 0.03$; $ESd = 0.08$] 10 min after running. These results were not reproduced in temperature variations, where no significant differences between both feet were found in any ROI analysed ($p > 0.05$). Because the effect size was small and was not observed in skin temperature variations, we consider the mean data of both feet in the results. Finally, no differences were observed between foot orthoses on absolute values of thermal symmetry ($p > 0.05$). Values and participants' distribution of thermal symmetry are presented in the table 3.

In absolute temperatures, no significant differences were found between foot orthoses in any of the ROIs analysed at any moment studied ($p > 0.05$) (table 4). The results showed the highest temperatures immediately after running [34.3 (1.1) °C], the lowest before running [27.6 (2.2) °C], and 10 min after running [31.7 (1.5) °C] were lower than immediately after, but higher than before running.

In ΔT and ΔT_{after} , no differences were found between conditions in any region of interest ($p > 0.05$). Nevertheless, in ΔT_{10} , there were found higher values with no insoles than with prefabricated foot orthoses, with a moderate effect size, in forefoot [5.6 (2.4) versus 3.7 (2.7) °C; $p = 0.02$; $ESd = 0.72$], in midfoot [3.7 (1.5) versus 2.7 (1.5) °C; $p = 0.03$; $ESd = 0.65$] and in rearfoot [4.18 (2.05) versus 2.9 (1.82) °C; $p = 0.02$; $ESd = 0.64$]. However, these results were no reproduced in complete foot soles, where no differences were found between conditions in any temperature variation ($p > 0.05$) (figure 2).

4. Discussion

The objective of the present study was to analyse the effects of custom-made and prefabricated foot orthoses on skin temperature of different regions of both foot soles in running. Thermographic results of the different

Table 2. Comparison (mean (SD)) of the absolute temperatures and the temperature variations between the dominant and non-dominant ROIs of the foot soles.

ROI/pie	Complete foot sole						Forefoot			Midfoot			Rearfoot			
	Dom		Non-Dom		p value	p value	Dom		Non-Dom		p value	Dom		Non-Dom		p value
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)			Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)						
Absolute temperatures																
Before running (°C)	27.6 (2.2)	27.7 (2.2)	0.29	27.1 (2.5)	27.2 (2.6)	0.15	29.0 (1.9)	28.9 (1.9)	0.47	27.7 (2.0)	27.7 (2.1)	0.95				
Immediately after running (°C)	34.2 (1.1)	34.3 (1.0)	0.19	34.4 (1.1)	34.5 (1.0)	0.37	34.6 (1.1)	34.6 (1.0)	0.61	33.8 (1.2)	33.8 (1.2)	0.37				
10 min after running (°C)	31.6 (1.5)	31.7 (1.5)	*0.01	31.8 (1.6)	31.9 (1.7)	0.13	32.0 (1.2)	32.1 (1.2)	*0.03	31.2 (1.6)	31.2 (1.8)	0.78				
Temperature variations																
ΔT (°C)	6.7 (2.1)	6.7 (2.1)	0.96	7.3 (2.6)	7.3 (2.6)	0.59	5.6 (1.7)	5.7 (1.7)	0.38	6.1 (2.00)	6.2 (2.0)	0.61				
ΔT_{10} (°C)	4.0 (2.1)	4.1 (2.1)	0.7	4.7 (2.6)	4.7 (2.7)	0.79	3.0 (1.8)	3.2 (1.7)	0.3	3.5 (2.0)	3.5 (2.3)	0.83				
ΔT_{after} (°C)	-2.6 (1.3)	-2.6 (1.2)	0.75	-2.6 (1.5)	-2.6 (1.5)	0.63	-2.6 (1.1)	-2.5 (1.1)	0.14	-2.6 (1.4)	-2.6 (1.7)	0.78				

Table 3. Mean, standard deviation (SD), median and interquartile range (IQR) of Absolute skin temperature symmetry of the total days measurements (N = 72) in the four ROIs (complete foot sole, forefoot, midfoot and rearfoot) at the three measurement moments (before, immediately after and 10 min after running).

Parameter	Absolute skin temperature symmetry (°C)											
	Before running				Immediately after running				10 min after running			
	Complete Foot Sole	Forefoot	Midfoot	Rearfoot	Complete Foot Sole	Forefoot	Midfoot	Rearfoot	Complete Foot Sole	Forefoot	Midfoot	Rearfoot
Mean (SD)	0.4 (0.4)	0.5 (0.4)	0.3 (0.3)	0.4 (0.6)	0.3 (0.3)	0.3 (0.3)	0.3 (0.2)	0.3 (0.3)	0.2 (0.2)	0.3 (0.3)	0.2 (0.2)	0.3 (0.3)
Median	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
IQR	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3

Table 4. Effects of foot orthoses: control (CFO); prefabricated (PFO); custom-made (CMFO), on absolute temperatures in complete foot sole (CFS), forefoot (FF), midfoot (MF) and rearfoot (RF). No significant differences found ($p > 0.05$).

Moment	Variable/condition (°C)	CFO	PFO	CMFO	<i>p</i> value
		Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	
Before running	CFS	27.3 (1.7)	28.1 (2.3)	27.5 (2.4)	$p > 0.05$
	FF	26.4 (1.9)	27.9 (2.8)	27.0 (2.6)	
	MF	28.6 (1.5)	29.2 (1.9)	29.0 (2.2)	
	RF	27.3 (1.7)	28.1 (2.2)	27.6 (2.2)	
Immediately after running	CFS	34.3 (1.1)	34.3 (0.9)	34.2 (1.1)	
	FF	34.5 (1.2)	34.4 (0.8)	34.4 (1.1)	
	MF	34.7 (1.2)	34.5 (0.8)	34.5 (1.2)	
	RF	33.9 (1.2)	33.9 (1.0)	33.7 (1.3)	
10 min after running	CFS	31.8 (1.4)	31.6 (1.3)	31.5 (1.7)	
	FF	32.0 (1.7)	31.7 (1.4)	31.8 (1.8)	
	MF	32.3 (1.1)	31.9 (1.0)	31.9 (1.4)	
	RF	31.5 (1.3)	31.0 (1.4)	31.1 (1.9)	

regions of the foot soles showed that the use of prefabricated and custom-made foot orthoses seems not to change the skin temperature of the foot soles after an intense run. Moreover, results showed higher ΔT_{10} values (skin temperature difference between 10 min after running and before running) in the forefoot, midfoot and rearfoot in control condition than with the use of prefabricated foot orthoses.

The human body is thermally symmetric in basal conditions (at rest), and differences greater than 0.5 °C between dominant and non-dominant sides could imply physiological dysfunctions in the locomotor system (Niu *et al* 2001, Hildebrandt *et al* 2010, Vardasca *et al* 2012, Fernández-Cuevas *et al* 2015). As it has been explained, the participants in this study were healthy runners, without injuries in lower extremities in the last year, which explains that there was thermal symmetry between contralateral regions at rest in most of them (Niu *et al* 2001, Hildebrandt *et al* 2010, Vardasca *et al* 2012, Fernández-Cuevas *et al* 2015). After exercise, no asymmetries of skin temperature between contralateral regions has been found in cyclic sports such as cycling and rowing (Chudecka *et al* 2015, Trecroci *et al* 2018). However, there is a lack of information about the effect of running on skin temperature of contralateral regions, and specifically in foot soles. Looking absolute thermal symmetry values (table 3), percentage of participants that had a asymmetry higher than 0.5 °C was lower than before running. Then, it can be hypothesized that exercise could reduce asymmetry because it can be masked by the thermophysiological mechanisms (e.g. sweating and skin blood flow).

In relation to the effects of foot orthoses, no differences were observed in absolute temperatures among the different conditions (control, prefabricated and custom-made foot orthoses). Likewise, no significant differences were found in ΔT and in ΔT_{after} , among the different conditions studied. These results refuse the initial hypothesis, in which it was proposed that the use of foot orthoses would produce smaller increases in the surface skin temperature of the foot soles, specially with the use of custom-made insoles in forefoot and rearfoot regions. Several studies found changes in plantar pressure redistribution with the use of foot orthoses during running (Burns *et al* 2006, Mickle *et al* 2011, Salles and Gyi 2013, Lucas-Cuevas *et al* 2014). Specifically, Lucas-Cuevas *et al* (2014) found reductions of plantar loadings in hallux, toes, midfoot and heel, using the same foot orthoses as in the present study (both prefabricated and custom-made). Nevertheless, there is a lack of studies that measured the effects of foot orthoses in surface skin temperature of foot soles. Yavuz *et al* (2014) found a relationship between triaxial plantar loads and skin temperature of the foot soles. However, it is important to mention that this relationship was moderate (Yavuz *et al* 2014). In the same line, although Priego Quesada *et al* (2015a) tried to establish the relationship between skin temperature and plantar pressure during running, plantar pressure was measured statically, and dynamic measurements are necessary. In addition, no relationships were observed before and after running between plantar pressure and IRT (Priego Quesada *et al* 2015a). Therefore, more investigation about the relationship between plantar pressure and IRT is needed. Assuming that the use of foot orthosis produced differences in plantar pressure between the conditions of the present study, the results would not support this relationship between both variables. However, it is pure speculation because plantar pressure was not measured in the present study.

Nevertheless, if it is not assumed that the use of foot orthoses could be affected by plantar pressures, the lack of differences within the different conditions could be also explained because of the week of adaptation to each condition prior to the laboratory test, which may have greatly reduced the effects of foot orthoses at kinetic and kinematic levels. In addition, surface skin temperature has a multifactorial dependence (Priego Quesada *et al* 2017), so it is possible that the use of foot orthoses was no large enough to not be neutralized by other factors

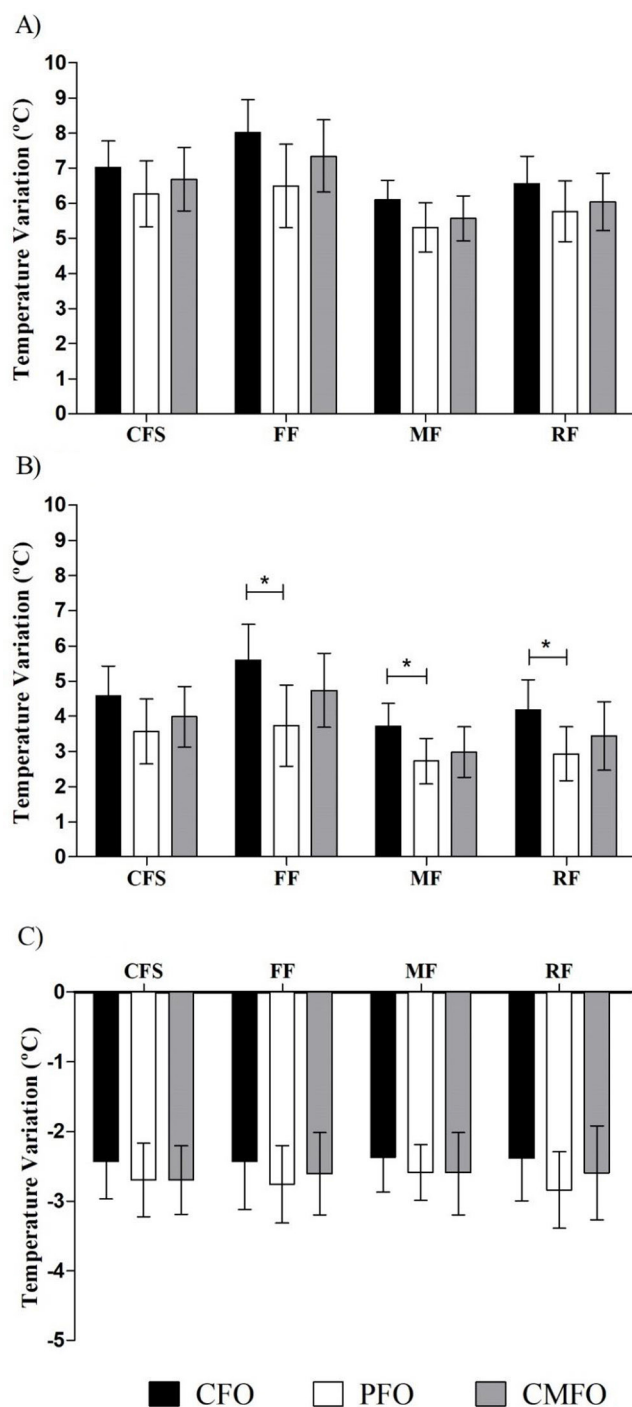


Figure 2. Effects of foot orthoses: control (CFO); prefabricated (PFO); custom-made (CMFO), on temperature variations in complete foot sole (CFS), forefoot (FF), midfoot (MF) and rearfoot (RF). *Significant differences among conditions $p < 0.05$.

such as the mechanical effect of running, the mechanisms of heat dissipation (specially sweat evaporation) or the increase of blood flow, among others.

There was a small rise in temperature, ΔT_{10} , when using prefabricated foot orthoses compared with no insoles, but not in comparison with wearing custom-made foot orthoses or between custom-made and no insoles conditions in forefoot, midfoot and rearfoot. These results were not reproduced in complete foot soles. This difference could be due to a higher initial temperature before running or a lower temperature 10 min after running. However, the lack of differences in absolute skin temperatures among conditions at the different moments makes it difficult to interpret the reason for this difference. If the difference is due to a higher initial temperature, although not significant, it could be the result of chance because, at that measurement moment, the conditions and the protocol were the same for all the tests. This possible chance could be supported by the non-reproduction of the results in the other temperature variations studied, and because of the great variability and low reproducibility of feet skin temperature (Zaproudina *et al* 2008, Gil-Calvo *et al* 2017). If the difference was due to a lower

temperature of 10 min after running, other interpretations could be performed. Firstly, these small rise with prefabricated foot orthoses could be explained by the composition of the prefabricated foot orthoses materials, which could produce better breathability of the foot soles in comparison to training footwear and custom-made foot orthoses materials. In addition, the first layer of the foot orthoses was not controlled and, the prefabricated one, could generate less friction, and even being less thick, allowing greater freedom of the foot inside the shoe. In this way, it could favour the increase of blood flow in the feet and, also, the heat dissipation mechanisms. However, it is also possible to interpret that sweat was accumulated in the prefabricated foot orthosis due to lower breathability of the materials, and when footwear was taken off, skin temperature decreased more quickly due to the greater evaporation of the moisture generated (Priego Quesada *et al* 2015b, Shimazaki and Murata 2015, West *et al* 2019). These explanations should be addressed by future studies.

In relation with thermal behaviour, as we can see in the results, foot soles temperature was similar at the beginning of each condition, which might show that 10 min sit down with legs extended of thermal adaptation to laboratory conditions, is enough to achieve a good adaptation of the foot soles (Marins *et al* 2014, Priego Quesada *et al* 2015a, Sillero-Quintana *et al* 2015, Staffa *et al* 2016). It can also be seen that immediately after running, foot soles temperature is higher in every condition. This increments of temperature (greater than 10 °C in some cases), could be explained by different reasons. First of all, aerobic physical activity could produce peripheral vasodilation with the aim to dissipate core temperature, which leads to an increase of skin temperature (Kenney and Johnson 1992, Merla *et al* 2010, Charkoudian 2010). This fact is also linked to the mechanical effect of the race on the foot soles, and also, the environment generated inside the footwear, which are factors that, in general, increase the temperature of the feet (Shimazaki and Murata 2015, West *et al* 2019). Finally, 10 min after running, feet soles temperature is lower than immediately after running but higher than at the beginning. So, 10 min seems not to be enough to recover basal temperature of the foot soles after running 30 min, and this fact should be taken into account in further research.

The main limitations of the study were the speculative explanation of the results, since the moisture vapour transmitted by the different materials of the foot orthoses and footwear and plantar pressure of the foot soles were not measured. In addition, this technique does not allow to measure thermal behaviour of the foot soles in real time, which could give extra information about the skin temperature during running. Further research should measure the effects of foot orthoses in populations with pathologies on the foot soles. Some considerations were taken into account in order to improve the consistency of the ROIs analysis (e.g. all analysis were performed by the same researcher or the use of an image software to define the length proportion of each ROI). However, it is important to consider that it is unknown the intra-operator or inter-operator reproducibility in the ROIs defined, which should be considered to analyse by future work. Moreover, a large number of ROIs should be measured in order to have more specific information from areas with special thermal behaviour, such as Hallux or toes. Finally, it would be interesting to measure plantar pressures during running in the same sample and correlate the results in order to avoid speculation in the interpretation of the results.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, the use of foot orthoses, in general, do not affect the surface skin temperature of the foot soles after an intense run. Although not using foot orthoses produces a higher increment of foot soles temperature 10 min after running, in relation with before running, than wearing prefabricated foot soles, it is necessary future research to know if this result is reproducible and not a result of a chance.

AQ5 Acknowledgments

This research has been supported by the Spanish Government: ‘Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad, Subdirección General de Proyectos de Investigación, Convocatoria de Proyectos I + D “Excelencia”, Subprograma de Generación de Conocimiento (2013)’. Project reference: DEP2013-48420-P.

AQ6 Ms Irene Jimenez Perez’s work has been funded with a doctoral fellowship (FPU) received from the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest concerning the content of this paper.

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