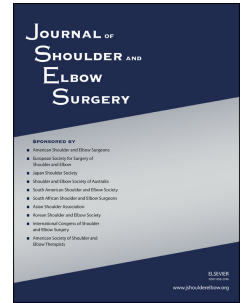


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## Normalization of the Constant score in the Spanish population

Run head title: Normal values of the Constant score

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## 1 **Abstract**

2 *Background:* Normal Constant score values for healthy shoulders can vary between  
3 regions and change over the years as life expectancy increases and physical condition  
4 improves. Spain's population is one of the healthiest and has one of the highest life  
5 expectancies in the world, which could be reflected in its normal Constant score values.  
6 The purpose of this study is finding the normal Constant score values in the Spanish  
7 population.

8 *Methods:* Cross-sectional study completed between 2023-2024, including subjects older  
9 than 18 years of age without any previous or ongoing shoulder condition. Constant score  
10 was taken for both shoulders of every subject. A stratified analysis of total and subtotal  
11 scores was performed, grouping subjects by age and sex.

12 *Results:* A total of 505 subjects and 1010 shoulders were included, with a mean age of  
13  $52.3 \pm 18.6$  years and men/women ratio of 39.6%/60.4%. Five groups were formed  
14 according to age: 18-30 years-old (18.4%), 31-45 years-old (16.4%), 46-60 years-old  
15 (29.8%), 61-75 years-old (23.7%), and over 75 years-old (11.7%). Each of these groups  
16 were divided in two groups according to sex, making a total of 10 groups. Mean Constant  
17 score was  $88.9 \pm 10.9$ , the group of men between 18-30 years-old having the highest mean  
18 score ( $99.2 \pm 3.0$ ) and the group of women over 75 years-old having the lowest mean  
19 score ( $75.3 \pm 8.8$ ). A statistically significant inverse correlation was found between total  
20 score and age ( $r = -.47$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Total score was also significantly lower in the women  
21 ( $84.5 \pm 8.2$  vs  $92.6 \pm 8.5$ ,  $p < .001$ ). The decrease in mobility ( $r = -.45$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and  
22 strength ( $r = -.40$ ,  $p < .001$ ), and the difference in strength between the men and the  
23 women ( $10.6 \pm 3.8$  vs  $6.0 \pm 2.0$ ,  $p < .001$ ) were the main underlying causes of the  
24 difference in total Constant score between groups.

25 *Conclusion:* Normal values of the Spanish version of the Constant score in healthy  
26 shoulders of the Spanish population decrease with age and are lower in women, the main  
27 differences being found in shoulder mobility and strength. Global scores found in this  
28 population are higher than those previously published for English, American, and Swiss  
29 populations.

30 **Level of evidence:** Basic Science Study; Validation of Outcome Instrument

31 **Keywords:** Constant score, Constant-Murley score, Normalization, Normal, Spain,  
32 Spanish.

33

34

35 The Constant score (CS) is a shoulder function measurement tool developed by  
36 Christopher Constant while he was working on his university thesis in 1986.<sup>2</sup> On this  
37 scale, 0 points would correspond to a completely disabled and painful shoulder, and 100  
38 points to a healthy shoulder. However, it is important to address the limitations of the  
39 original idea that a score of 100 points universally represents a healthy shoulder.  
40 Physiological differences across different population groups- due to factors such as age  
41 and sex- will inevitably influence the maximum score that individuals can achieve. Thus  
42 a reduction in score does not necessarily indicate a "sick shoulder", but rather reflects  
43 these physiological variations. Therefore, for accurate interpretation of the CS and any  
44 score influenced by intra- and inter-population physiological changes, it is essential to  
45 know the normal values of the scale in different populations groups without shoulder  
46 pathology. Some authors prefer comparing the CS of the diseased shoulder with the  
47 contralateral side; however, bilateral shoulder pathology limit this approach.

48 Constant determined the score differences in the population he analyzed. However,  
49 geographical and temporal differences can be quite significant, particularly with recent  
50 increases in life expectancy and active aging observed in the past decade. The most recent  
51 projections estimate that Spain will be the most aged country in the world by the year  
52 2050, when 15.7 million people will be over 65 years old (31.4% of the population,  
53 compared to the current 19.6%), and 5.8 million people will be over 80 years old (11.6%  
54 of the population, compared to the current 6%). Consequently, the normal values  
55 obtained by Constant over 30 years ago in the Irish population might differ significantly  
56 from those observed today in Spain, a country with the fifth-highest life expectancy in  
57 the world,<sup>12</sup> and the third-highest healthy life expectancy.<sup>14</sup> We believe that functional  
58 scores have unique standard results in each population and cannot be directly transposed  
59 between different countries.

60 To determine reference values of a scale in a population, the first step is the translation,  
61 cross cultural adaptation, and validation of the scale. This process has recently been  
62 performed for the Constant scale in Spanish,<sup>8</sup> and now we aim to determine normal  
63 Constant scores in a large Spanish population and to verify whether values originally  
64 established by Constant<sup>2</sup> correspond to shoulder function in a contemporary population.  
65 Our hypothesis is that the results for normal shoulders in the Spanish population will vary  
66 with sex and age and will differ from the values originally calculated by Constant.

67

## 68 **Materials and methods**

69 Cross-sectional study analyzing Constant score values in healthy individuals. After  
70 obtaining approval from the institutional review board “ethics committee for clinical  
71 research” of our center (internal code: 21/008-E), participants were recruited randomly in  
72 the outpatient department of a tertiary hospital in the city of Madrid, Spain, between  
73 March 2022 and October 2023. Patients who visited the outpatient department (outpatient

74 clinics, hospital) for problems other than shoulder were included and also healthy  
75 volunteers from the local population. We chose the city of Madrid as representative of  
76 Spain because its population pyramid and distribution (age and sex) are similar (**Figure**  
77 **1**).

78 Inclusion criteria were healthy Spanish volunteers older than 18 years old (skeletal  
79 maturity), who met the requirement of not having any previous shoulder pathology or  
80 surgical intervention, in addition to having sufficient cognitive capacity to perform the  
81 requested maneuvers adequately and to answer the questions included in the scale. As  
82 previously pointed out by Yian,<sup>15</sup> Constant's original definition of a normal shoulder<sup>2</sup>  
83 (painless shoulder and the patient is able to do all the activities he wishes) was considered.  
84 Exclusion criteria were: 1) diagnosed pathology (musculoskeletal or neurological) or  
85 surgeries (cervical or thoracic) that may limit shoulder function, therefore, a thorough  
86 history was taken, and physical examination performed for each patient to exclude any  
87 shoulder pathology, 2) previous shoulder surgery, 3) cognitive deficit that hinders or  
88 complicates the execution of the requested maneuvers or answering the questions  
89 included in the scale.

90 To exclude patients who may have been mistakenly coded as normal, the following  
91 additional exclusion criteria were included: denial of a normal and healthy shoulder,  
92 subjective experience of less than complete shoulder function without abnormalities,  
93 obtaining less than 90° of active forward flexion or abduction, obtaining less than 20° of  
94 active external rotation, achieving less than 1.5 kg of abduction force<sup>15</sup>, and finally,  
95 having insufficient data for a complete evaluation.

96 The Spanish version of the CMS adapted and validated into Spanish<sup>8</sup> was employed. The  
97 Constant scale was administered by evaluators who were all specifically trained in  
98 conducting this scale. Additionally, although the validated version of the scale has

99 supplementary data with explanation and Figures (see supplementary data online at  
100 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jse.2023.01.032>. Appendix 1), to minimize interobserver  
101 variability in measurements, an example of the evaluation process with the Constant scale  
102 was recorded on video by one of the main investigators and used as a guide for the rest  
103 of the evaluators. To establish the score, four sections will be considered according to the  
104 original scale and validated version. Joint balance was measured using a digital  
105 goniometer and a Lafayette Hand-Held Dynamometer model 01165 (Lafayette  
106 Instrument, Lafayette, IN, USA) was used to measure force.

107 Researchers used REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture), software that allows the  
108 design of databases for clinical trials and translational research and complies with all legal  
109 requirements regarding data security and protection. The data collected and recorded  
110 included demographic variables: educational level (primary, secondary, tertiary), type of  
111 employment (manual worker, office worker, homemaker, retired, unemployed, student),  
112 handedness (right-handed/left-handed), relevant history, and the CS with every item.

### 113 *Statistical analysis*

114 The sample size was calculated based on a previous study in the Spanish population to  
115 determine reference values for strength according to age and gender.<sup>1</sup> Using data from a  
116 pilot study, the authors calculated the sample size required for the 2-tailed finite  
117 population study with different power values to detect statistically significant differences  
118 similar to those observed in the pilot study at a p-value <.05 using the following formula:  
119  $n = N\sigma^2 Z^2 (N-1)e^2 + \sigma^2 Z^2$  where n was the sample size, “N” was the size of the universal  
120 population, “Z” was the upper .025 percentage point of the standard normal distribution,  
121 “e” was the desired power, and “σ” was the standard deviation. According to this formula,  
122 401 patients were necessary. Patients were divided after recruitment into the most relevant

123 population strata by sex and age (a total of 10 strata resulting from the combination of  
124 male/female and 18-30/30-45/45-60/60-75/>75 years).

125 Statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS (version 23.0; IBM Corp., Armonk,  
126 NY, USA). Descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation, minimum, maximum, and  
127 95% confidence interval) were calculated for the whole sample and for each age and sex  
128 group. A mixed regression analysis model was used to assess the effect of age, gender,  
129 and shoulder side (left or right) on the Constant score. For hypothesis testing on variables  
130 with two groups, the Student's t-test was used, and for variables with more than two  
131 groups, the ANOVA test. For non-parametric variables, the Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-  
132 Wallis tests were used instead. A p-value  $<.05$  was considered statistically significant.

133

## 134 **Results**

### 135 *Demographic results*

136 A total of 505 healthy subjects were recruited randomly for this study and both shoulders  
137 were included. This yielded assessments for 1010 normal shoulders with 305 (60%)  
138 females. The mean age of the entire cohort was  $52 \pm 18.57$  (range 20-93). Demographic  
139 data are summarized in **Table 1**.

### 140 *Global Constant score*

141 The mean Constant score was  $88.9 \pm 10.9$  (100 points maximum). Distribution of  
142 Constant score by age group and sex for left and right shoulders is summarized in **Table**  
143 **2**. Both men and women showed a sharp fall in Constant score around the sixth decade  
144 (**Figure 2**).

145 The correlation analysis between age and total score demonstrated a moderately inverse  
146 association between the two, with a Pearson correlation coefficient of  $-.47$  ( $p < .001$ ).

147 **Figure 3** represents the scatter plot of the correlation between both variables.

148 The global Constant score also varied significantly based on other demographic and  
149 epidemiological variables, such as gender, presence of diabetes mellitus, attained  
150 educational level, and employment. However, no significant differences between  
151 dominant-side and nondominant-side Constant scores were found (**Table 3**).

#### 152 *Range of motion*

153 The average score for the “mobility” section in the Constant scale was  $37.39 \pm 3.68$  points  
154 (40 points maximum). The correlation analysis between age and mobility score  
155 demonstrated a moderately inverse association between the two, with a Pearson  
156 correlation coefficient of  $-0.446$  ( $p < .001$ ). A decrease in shoulder flexion ( $r = -0.386$ ),  
157 abduction ( $r = -0.373$ ), external rotation ( $r = -0.401$ ), and internal rotation ( $r = -0.372$ ) with  
158 age was also demonstrated ( $p < .001$ ). There were no significant differences between men  
159 and women in terms of score in the “mobility” section ( $37.52 \pm 3.25$  vs  $37.31 \pm 3.92$ ,  $p =$   
160  $.3836$ ).

161 The analysis of the different ranges of motion, stratified by age, sex, and side, is  
162 summarized in **Table 4**.

#### 163 *Strength*

164 Regarding strength measurements, the mean score in this section was  $16.08 \pm 5.93$  points  
165 (25 points maximum), with a mean value of  $7.8 \pm 3.7$  kg. **Table 5** summarizes mean  
166 exerted force in kilograms, according to sex, age, and side.

167 There was a decline in strength with age, which was more pronounced after age 60 ( $r = -$   
168  $.3955$ ;  $p < .001$ ). There were also significant differences between men and women, in the  
169 strength section of the Constant score ( $23.4 \pm 13.1$  vs  $13.1 \pm 4.4$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and in measured  
170 force ( $10.6 \pm 3.8$  kg vs  $6.0 \pm 2.0$  kg,  $p < .001$ ). The correlation between strength loss and  
171 age was much higher in men ( $r = -0.6486$ ,  $p < .001$ ) than in women ( $r = -0.4886$ ,  $p < .001$ ).

## 173 **Discussion**

### 174 *Relevance of the study*

175 Although normative data scores are essential for researchers and clinicians to facilitate  
176 interpretation of outcomes, using these values from a population with different  
177 characteristics to the one we are studying is meaningless. No reference values for the  
178 Spanish population have been previously provided, however geographical and temporal  
179 differences can be so significant (especially in the country with the fifth highest life  
180 expectancy at birth and with the seventh highest healthy life expectancy)<sup>16</sup> that using  
181 reference values from a different population could bias the results. Indeed, this work was  
182 conceived when, after conducting several research works related to shoulder problems in  
183 the Spanish population, we observed that, especially in the elderly population, the  
184 adjusted Constant score calculated with historically proposed normative data originally  
185 described by Constant in 1986 increased our Constant score in some cases above the  
186 maximum possible. This point has been previously noted by other authors during  
187 normalization of the scale.<sup>7</sup> The results of the present study may be used to define adjusted  
188 or normative values when using the Constant score to define shoulder outcomes in the  
189 Spanish population.

### 190 *Previous normalization scores*

191 The normalization process of the Constant scale was first conducted by Constant in  
192 1986.<sup>2,3</sup> To address this issue, he measured the shoulders of 900 patients in an orthopedic  
193 outpatient clinic and in-patient population of a geriatric hospital. In 2003, Grassi et al<sup>5</sup>  
194 calculated the reference values in 563 patients for an Italian population and later in 2005,  
195 normal values for the Swiss population<sup>15</sup> with measurements in 1620 clinical patients and  
196 a control group of 115 healthy volunteers, and (measurements) for the Chicago population  
197 (Illinois, United States) in 441 patients who attended a sports medicine clinic<sup>7</sup> were

198 published. In 2007, Walton et al<sup>13</sup> and in 2009, Tavakkolizadeh<sup>10</sup> report gender specific  
199 Constant score values for a London population in 108 and 270 healthy subjects  
200 respectively. Finally in 2022 Gahlot et al<sup>4</sup> report references values for the Indian  
201 population in 248 patients aged 18 to 78 years. **Table 6** summarizes comparison of the  
202 mean reference Constant scores between the current study and the previous in different  
203 demographic populations.

204 Many of the previously mentioned studies that have conducted normalization of the  
205 Constant scale for different populations were methodologically flawed due to the use of  
206 scales not previously validated for their population and the use of non-standardized  
207 methods for measuring strength.<sup>3,5,7,13,15</sup> Others were methodologically flawed due to the  
208 absence of a clear definition of the study population,<sup>5</sup> or conducting the study in a biased  
209 entry population.<sup>7</sup> Finally, in other cases, the exclusion criteria were not strict enough to  
210 prevent the inclusion of pathological shoulders allowing the physician, rather than the  
211 patient, to decide if the shoulders were normal, which is inconsistent with the definition  
212 below of a “normal” shoulder provided by Constant, or including patients with shoulder  
213 pain.<sup>7,13</sup>

#### 214 *Methodology*

215 Before proceeding with normalization of the Constant scale, we conducted the  
216 transcultural adaptation and validation of the test to standardize the procedure and reduce  
217 biases.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, the sample size calculation was based on previous investigation<sup>1</sup> of  
218 determining variations in shoulder strength based on age and gender for the Spanish  
219 population through a pilot study that provided an estimate of the variability and  
220 dispersion, allowing the sample size calculation to be more accurate. Finally, strict  
221 exclusion criteria to rule out any volunteers with shoulder morbidities, pain, loss of  
222 movement, or any limitation of activities of daily living were included. We adopt

223 Constant's definition of a "healthy shoulder", where no shoulder pain is admitted;  
224 however, perhaps this should be a point of discussion to consider. As previously  
225 mentioned, people are living longer and more active lives, it is challenging in any geriatric  
226 population to find a shoulder without pain (15 points in the Constant scale), excluding  
227 many patients, especially those older than 75, with mild pain that did not affect the  
228 performance of any of the patients' activities and did not even require the use of  
229 analgesics. Therefore, perhaps we should redefine Mr. Constant's concept of a "healthy  
230 shoulder" for the current population because otherwise, we may exclude many patients  
231 from that "normality". Soldatis et al<sup>9</sup> performed outcome measures (Rowe, ASES,  
232 UCLA, Constant-Murley, and SST) on 190 healthy collegiate athletes to determine the  
233 presence and severity of shoulder symptoms in a normal population similar to an active-  
234 duty military population. They showed that significant shoulder symptoms existed in this  
235 normal population and increased with shoulder dominance. They discovered that 46% of  
236 all shoulders showed some degree of pain, equating to a less than perfect score.

237 After the present work we propose the following definition: "a healthy shoulder is one  
238 that allows the patient to perform all the activities they want to and either does not present  
239 pain, or presents mild levels that do not require the use of analgesics, the patient themselves  
240 considering their shoulder to be 'normal'." With this definition, unlike Constant's, the  
241 patient does not have to score 35 points in the subjective evaluation and may obtain a  
242 lower score (between 30-35). Finally, the present work identified a population with a  
243 manageable size that could be representative of the population profile. The city of Madrid,  
244 and the healthcare area studied exhibited this profile with very similar sex and age  
245 distribution (population pyramid).<sup>17,18</sup>

246

247 *Global Constant score*

248 Previous research has assumed that achieving a perfect score indicates normalcy. Our  
249 results illustrate that outcome scores deviate from a perfect score even in a young, active  
250 population with no shoulder symptoms or pathology with an average global Constant  
251 score not reaching 100 points in any age group, which is similar to findings of other  
252 researchers.<sup>6,7,15</sup> This highlights the importance of gathering additional demographic  
253 information when interpreting scores.

254 This study shows the clear relationship between age and decreasing Constant score for  
255 the Spanish population. This agrees with similar findings in previous studies of different  
256 populations,<sup>3,5,7,11,15</sup> which originally noted an initial increase and maintenance of  
257 shoulder function and strength with age, followed by a dramatic and steady decline in  
258 women aged over 40 years and men aged over 60 years. Similarly, Grassi et al<sup>5</sup> observed  
259 a decreasing trend beginning at 50 years of age for men and 30 for women, and Katolik<sup>7</sup>  
260 also noted a decrease in global Constant score and strength at 70 years. We observe a  
261 deterioration in Constant scores and strength in slightly older male and female patients  
262 (>75 years). The abovementioned characteristics of healthy life expectancy in our country  
263 probably play a role in this regard. Previous studies on the normalization process justify  
264 the overall decrease in Constant score mainly due to the decrease in strength. However,  
265 in our study, the item that contributed the most to the overall score decrease with age was  
266 range of motion, followed by strength (r -.4465 vs -.3955; p<.001).

267 The results of our study, like a previous study,<sup>6</sup> demonstrate the difference between  
268 genders (females have lower global Constant score) which confirms the need to generate  
269 reference norms stratified by both characteristics: age and sex. Interestingly, as in  
270 Constant's study<sup>2</sup>, Yian's study,<sup>15</sup> and as per Hardy et al,<sup>6</sup> we did not detect significant  
271 differences in overall scores between dominant and nondominant sides.

272 The present study has important limitations. The sample size, although much higher than  
273 previously reported, was relatively small. Another limitation of the present study is the  
274 potential for selection bias, and the fact that most of the patients in this study were accrued  
275 from health centers, hospitals, and specialist centers. However, despite these constraints  
276 as explained previously, the data reasonably reflects the target population. Finally, the  
277 definition of a non-pathologic shoulder was based on patient perception as the cost of  
278 MRI or ultrasound to conclusively exclude shoulder pathology in all the subjects would  
279 have been non-viable.

280

### 281 **Conclusion**

282 Using Constant's original normal values for the calculation of the relative Constant score  
283 can overestimate shoulder function. The Constant score in the Spanish population  
284 decreases over the years due to decline in strength, but above all, due to decreased  
285 mobility. The influence of demographic and temporal variables on Constant scores  
286 emphasizes the importance of comparing a patient's function with reference scores from  
287 a similar population sample.

288

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347 [0aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=86cfe3e2be73a210VgnVCM1000000b205a0aRCRD](https://www.madrid.es/portales/munimadrid/es/Inicio/El-Ayuntamiento/Estadistica/Publicaciones/Piramides-de-la-Poblacion-por-Sexo-y-Edad/?vgnextfmt=default&vgnextoid=787e6be8717b7310VgnVCM1000000b205a0aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=86cfe3e2be73a210VgnVCM1000000b205a0aRCRD)
- 348

349 **Figure and Table legends**

350 **Figure 1.** Population pyramid (age and sex distribution) of the Community of Madrid

351 (green) and National total (red). Source: <https://www.ine.es/covid/piramides.htm#>

352 **Figure 2.** Representation of the mean Constant scores, stratified by age, sex, and side.

353 **Figure 3.** Scatter plot showing age and Constant score correlation.

354 **Table 1.** Demographic data of the entire cohort.

355 **Table 2.** Distribution of Constant score by age and sex groups and for left and right  
356 shoulders.

357 **Table 3.** Comparative analysis of the global Constant score according to demographic  
358 variables.

359 **Table 4.** Distribution of range of motion by age and sex groups and for left and right  
360 shoulders.

361 **Table 5.** Distribution of exerted abduction force in kilograms by age and sex groups, and  
362 for left and right shoulders.

363 **Table 6.** Constant score comparison between published normalized data in every age  
364 group.

<b>Sex, male / female</b>	39.6 (200) / 60.4 (305)
<b>Age, years**</b>	52.31 ± 18.57
<b>Age groups*</b>	
18 – 30	18.4 (93)
31 – 45	16.4 (83)
46 – 60	29.8 (150)
61 – 75	23.7 (120)
>75	11.6 (59)
<b>Handedness*</b>	
<i>right-handed / left-handed</i>	93.7 (473) / 6.3 (32)
<b>Educational level*</b>	
Primary	25.3 (128)
Secondary	26 (131)
Tertiary	48.7 (246)
<b>Employment*</b>	
Manual worker	31 (157)
Office worker	26.8 (135)
Homemaker/housewife	5.9 (30)
Retired	21.6 (109)
Unemployed	4.2 (21)
Student	10.5 (53)

\*Qualitative variables are expressed as “percentage (n° of subjects)”. \*\*Quantitative variables are expressed by “mean ± standard deviation.”

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>	
	<i>Right</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Left</i>
18 – 30	99.16 ± 3.02	99.16 ± 3.08	90.14 ± 5.01	90.15 ± 4.10
31 – 45	95.42 ± 5.32	96.37 ± 5.15	87.38 ± 6.15	87.54 ± 5.64
46 – 60	91.96 ± 10.47	93.51 ± 7.12	84.33 ± 8.37	84.57 ± 8.42
61 – 75	90.32 ± 7.64	91.03 ± 8.16	81.74 ± 6.63	81.98 ± 7.03
>75	84.75 ± 7.60	82.99 ± 8.13	75.41 ± 9.58	75.23 ± 8.14

Results are expressed as “mean ± standard deviation”

	Constant score	p value
<b>Sex, male / female</b>	92.6 ± 8.5 / 84.5 ± 8.2	< .0001
<b>Side, right / left</b>	87.6 ± 9.4 / 87.9 ± 9.1	.6033
<b>Handedness, right / left</b>	87.5 ± 9.3 / 90.5 ± 7.0	.0140
<b>Dominant shoulder, yes / no</b>	87.6 ± 9.3 / 87.9 ± 9.1	.6864
<b>Diabetes, yes / no</b>	84.5 ± 9.3 / 88.1 ± 9.1	.0001
<b>Hypothyroidism, yes / no</b>	86.8 ± 6.9 / 87.8 ± 9.3	.3408
<b>Highest level of Education</b>		
Primary	82.7 ± 10.9	
Secondary	87.6 ± 8.6	< .0001
Tertiary	90.2 ± 7.2	
<b>Employment</b>		
Manual labor	87.7 ± 10.2	
Office work	89.7 ± 7.0	
Domestic work	82.9 ± 8.2	< .0001
Retiree	83.5 ± 9.3	
Unemployment	85.1 ± 8.4	
Student	94.8 ± 5.2	

Total Constant scores are expressed as “mean ± standard deviation” for each group. Student “t” was used to test variables with two groups. sANOVA was used for variables with more than two groups, except for the “Employment” variable, in which the Kruskal Wallis test was used since the Levene’s test showed asymmetry of variances between groups in this variable.

Age group	Male				Female			
	Right		Left		Right		Left	
	F	A	F	A	F	A	F	A
18 – 30	172 ± 10	171 ± 9	171 ± 10	10 ± 1	173 ± 9	170 ± 11	174 ± 9	172 ± 10
	ER 10 ± 0	IR 9.8 ± 1	ER 10 ± 0	IR 9.9 ± 0.5	ER 10.0 ± 0.3	IR 9.9 ± 0.4	ER 9.9 ± 0.4	IR 10.0 ± 0.3
31 – 45	166 ± 11	162 ± 12	165 ± 10	159 ± 14	166 ± 13	164 ± 13	168 ± 10	164 ± 16
	ER 9.8 ± 0.6	IR 9.2 ± 1	ER 9.9 ± 0.4	IR 9.6 ± 0.8	ER 9.7 ± 0.9	IR 9.6 ± 0.8	ER 9.8 ± 0.6	IR 9.8 ± 0.7
46 – 60	165 ± 14	159 ± 17	165 ± 12	159 ± 16	163 ± 17	159 ± 20	161 ± 17	160 ± 19
	ER 9.4 ± 1.4	IR 8.8 ± 1.2	ER 9.5 ± 1.1	IR 9.3 ± 1.2	ER 9.3 ± 1.4	IR 9.0 ± 1.5	ER 9.3 ± 1.1	IR 9.4 ± 1.2
61 – 75	165 ± 13	161 ± 18	163 ± 13	159 ± 16	161 ± 14	157 ± 18	159 ± 17	157 ± 21
	ER 9.4 ± 1.4	IR 8.4 ± 1.4	ER 9.3 ± 1.3	IR 9.2 ± 1.2	ER 8.9 ± 1.7	IR 8.7 ± 1.4	ER 9.2 ± 1.4	IR 9.1 ± 1.3
> 75	155 ± 13	147 ± 15	156 ± 11	147 ± 16	152 ± 16	145 ± 22	148 ± 17	144 ± 20
	ER 8.7 ± 1.3	IR 8.4 ± 1.3	ER 8.4 ± 1.1	IR 8.7 ± 1.2	ER 7.9 ± 1.9	IR 8.2 ± 1.6	ER 7.6 ± 1.9	IR 8.9 ± 1.4

F: flexion. A: abduction. ER: external rotation. IR: internal rotation.

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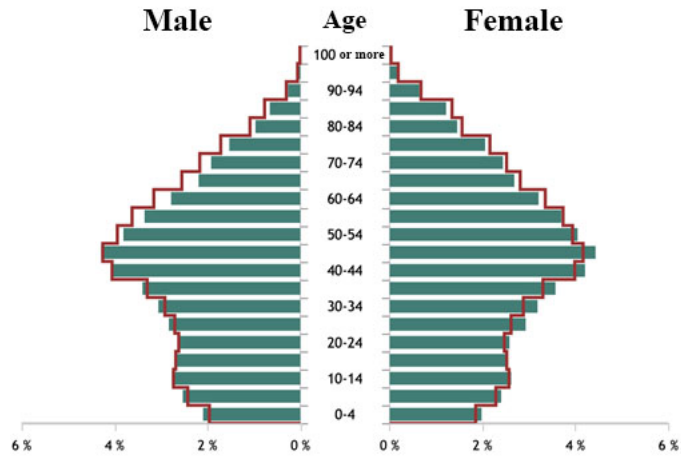
All measurements are expressed as “mean  $\pm$  standard deviation”. Flexion and abduction are expressed in degrees of range of motion, while rotations (since they were evaluated functionally and quantitatively) are expressed as a score from 0 to 10 according to the functional gestures described in the Constant score.

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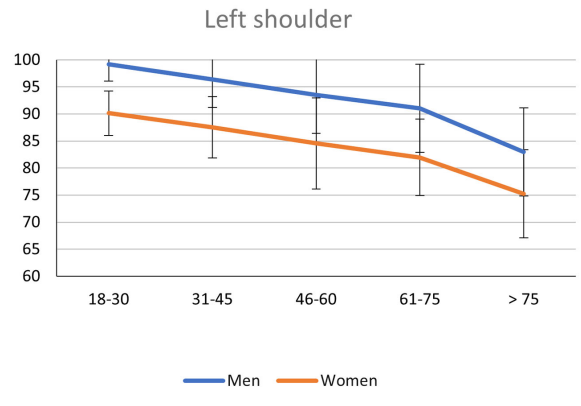
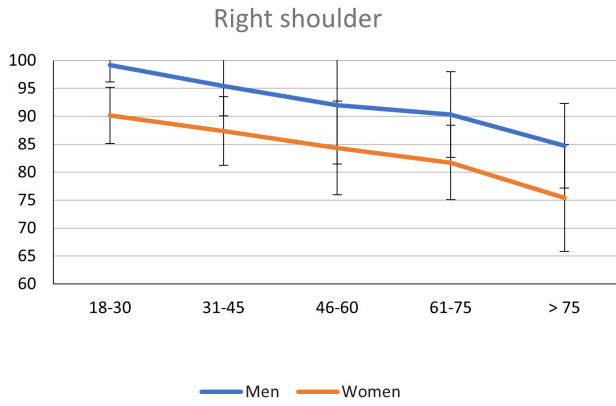
<b>Age group</b>	<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>	
	<i>Right</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Left</i>
18 – 30	14.7 ± 3.4	14.3 ± 3.0	7.4 ± 2.0	7.2 ± 1.9
31 – 45	12.3 ± 3.4	12.3 ± 3.3	6.7 ± 1.6	6.5 ± 1.8
46 – 60	10.4 ± 3.3	10.5 ± 3.2	6.1 ± 1.8	6.0 ± 1.9
61 – 75	9.2 ± 2.9	9.1 ± 2.7	5.7 ± 1.6	5.1 ± 1.6
> 75	7.0 ± 2.0	6.6 ± 2.3	4.0 ± 1.2	4.0 ± 1.2

Results are expressed as “mean ± standard deviation” in kilograms

Age group	Male						Female					
	Constant <sup>x</sup>	Yian <sup>x</sup>	Katolik <sup>x</sup>	Tavak. <sup>x</sup>	Gahlot <sup>x</sup>	Lopiz	Constant <sup>x</sup>	Yian <sup>x</sup>	Katolik <sup>x</sup>	Tavak. <sup>x</sup>	Gahlot <sup>x</sup>	Lopiz
18-30	98	94	95	94	87	99	97	85	88	85	86	90
31-40	93	94	95	94	87	97	90	86	87	85	84	88
41-50	92	93	96	94	87	95	80	85	86	86	82	86
51-60	90	91	94	92	85	92	73	83	84	86	82	84
61-70	83	90	92	91	84	91	70	82	83	83	81	83
71-80	75	86	88	78	81	88	69	81	81	80	75	76
>80	75	86	88	78	81	81	69	81	81	80	75	76



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