

CT Evaluation and Study: Anthropometric Measurement of Knee Joint in Asian Population

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Abstract- Published studies have shown variation in sizes and angles of various anthropometric measurement namely tibial torsion, proximal femur geometry, distal femur and proximal tibia dimensions etc. This is an anthropometric study of proximal tibia and distal femur to identify variations in the subset of Indian population undergoing total knee replacement.

Femur:-

1. Mean AP length 69.92 (SD 4.7).
2. Mean ML width 70.46 (SD 5.8).
3. Mean aspect ratio (ML / AP) was 0.97 (SD 0.18).

Similarly, Tibia:-

1. Mean AP length 43.16 (SD 3.7).
2. Mean ML width 66.92 (SD 5.33).

Material and methods: We studied the morphology of 28 knee joints by c.t. scan in the Department of Orthopaedics, Joint Replacement Unit, Apollo hospitals, Chennai between October 2011 to December 2012.

Results : Measurements of tibial sections in both AP(43.16) and ML(66.92) dimensions, seem to be lower when compared to average measurements of other studies. There was no significant difference in aspect ratio seen in genders. Femoral sizes were ML (70.46) and AP(69.62) divided into subgroup in 5mm increments (Table VIII), the aspect ratio seen to be closer to the overall cohort with no significant variation.

Discussion : The ML width of femur was found to be 70.46 (SD 5.8). It was significantly greater than (P < 0.01) in female than in male. The tibial medial lateral diameter was 66.92 (SD 5.33) and anterior posterior diameter was 43.16 (SD 3.71)

Conclusion : The measured dimensions were smaller as compared to Caucasian population

Index Terms- anthropometry ,knee,c.t.scan ,India,Caucasian

I. INTRODUCTION

Anthropometry (Greek word anthropos "man" and metron "measure") refers to the measurement of the human individual. It has been used for identification, for the purposes of understanding human physical variations, in palaeoanthropology and in various attempts to correlate physical with racial and psychological traits.

Today, anthropometry plays an important role in industrial design, clothing design, ergonomics and architecture. Statistical data about the distribution of body dimensions in the population are used to optimize size and shape of the various products manufactured in bulk for the population at large.

Additionally changes in life-styles, nutrition and ethnic composition of populations lead to changes in the distribution of body dimensions (e.g. the obesity epidemic the current concern of an obesity epidemic in developed world), these justifies periodic updating of anthropometric data collections and understand the variations seen in size, shape, features etc., an important consideration especially for products that are designed for global consumption. There is increasing evidence to suggest, today, that the premise "one size fits all" is untrue and it is essential to factor the morphologic variations in tailoring products across races and ethnic communities, and require regular updating of anthropometric data collections.

Caucasian population has been known to have higher morphometric values^(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9).

Following Table -1. Shows the variations reported between Caucasian population and Asian population and Indian population.

PARAMETERS	INDIAN POPULATION (mm)	ASIAN POPULATION (mm)	CAUCASIAN POPULATION (mm)

Femoral ML canal width, 20mm above the lesser trochanter	36.78 Rawal et al ⁽¹⁰⁾	-	51.5 Noble et al ⁽¹¹⁾
ML canal width at the isthmus as 12mm	9.02 Rawal et al ⁽¹⁰⁾	10.5 Mahaisavariya et al ⁽¹²⁾	12 Noble et al ⁽¹¹⁾
Distal Femoral (MLwidth)	-	65.0 Ewe et al ⁽¹³⁾	88.6 Terzidis et al ⁽⁹⁾
Distal Femoral AP Diameter	61 Vaidya et al ⁽¹⁴⁾	59.9 Ewe et al ⁽¹³⁾	58.7 Terzidis et al ⁽⁹⁾
Tibial Torsion (Degree)	21.6 Mullaji et al ⁽¹⁵⁾	-	38.9 Hovinga et al ⁽⁷⁾
Coronal bowing of femur (Degree)	8.15 Rawal et al ⁽¹⁰⁾	5.75 Mahaisavariya et al ⁽¹²⁾	9 Noble et al ⁽¹¹⁾

A difference of 16.8% was found in the femoral head offset between Indian and Swiss populations⁽¹⁰⁾.

Only few publications have focused at anthropometric measurements in Indian population (Vaidya et al⁽¹⁴⁾, Rawal et al⁽¹⁰⁾, Siwach et al⁽¹⁶⁾, Mullaji et al⁽¹⁵⁾, Mullaji et al⁽³⁷⁾). In rest of the Asian subcontinent and Middle-East again, some authors have reported differences (Cheng et al⁽¹⁾, Chaichankul et al⁽²⁾, Ewe et al⁽¹³⁾, Mahaisavariya et al⁽¹²⁾). The region of interest revisiting the subject has been given to the increasing number of Total Knee Replacements being performed today. The currently available implants have been designed on data obtained from Caucasian studies and some issues with regard to size and design have been reported by the surgeons in the Asian belt.

Published studies have used different measurement like Vernier calipers^(14,16), Ultrasonography^(8,18), CT scan^(14,10,19,20), MRI^(2,21). This study was based on measurements obtained from CT scan being performed for patients awaiting total knee replacement surgery. In addition, the source of these dimensional measurements have ranged from X-ray, CT scan, MRI to cadaveric bones, intraoperative. Each of these techniques may have a potential fallacy. CT scan on the other hand, is non-invasive method and enables much more precise measurements with digital scale. Also it is a reproducible technique.

Most dimensional measurements of knee joints had been done with respect to cadaveric and intra operative measurements. CT scan measurements are bone-specific and gives accurate values of required dimensions so that it can provide a reliable, reproducible database for further studies, sizing and manufacture of implants.

II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims: 1. To Study anthropometrically knee joint

2. Compare differences in measurements in males and female.

OBJECTIVES : 1.To study the anthropometric data of a population group from within the region (India) and to compare it with the published reports of the other regional ethnic groups namely Chinese, Japanese and the Caucasians.

III. MATERIAL AND METHODS

We studied the morphology of knee joints in the Department of Orthopaedics, Joint Replacement Unit, Apollo hospitals, Chennai between October 2011 to December 2012.

Inclusion criteria:

- 1 All patients undergoing Total Knee Arthroplasty.
- 2 Age more than 40 years.

Exclusion criteria:

1. Previous fracture or bony surgery to knee, arthroscopy excluded
2. Any epiphysio-metaphyseal disease
3. Any bone tumor near knee joint
4. Any congenital abnormality affecting knee joint

Subjects and Method:

A total of 28 patients with osteoarthritis awaiting T.K.R (Total Knee Replacement) surgery having age > 40years underwent CT scan. All CT scan were performed by making patient supine in an extended position with their patella facing towards the ceiling so that similar images can be collected. CT scan machines used were 64-MDCT AQUILLION and 320-MDCT AQUILLION (MD-MultiDetector) giving 0.5mm thickness slices.

All patients were demonstrated and instructed to keep their lower limbs in extended and neutral position through out the CT scan duration.

After making the position, name, age, sex, were entered in each CT scan.

The image selected for distal femur is one at transepicondylar level showing most prominent epicondyles⁽¹³⁾.

Following image shows the measurements of femoral medial lateral (fML), femoral medial condyle anterior-posterior (fMAP), femoral lateral condyle anterior-posterior diameter (fLAP).



Figure - 7: Showing measurement at transepicondylar level. The horizontal line is the distance between most prominent points over epicondyles and called as fML (medial-lateral) diameter. Another vertical line starting from most anterior point on medial condyle to most posterior point in medial condyle is called as fMAP (medial condyle anterior-posterior) diameter. The vertical line starting from most anterior point on lateral condyle to most posterior point in lateral condyle is called as fLAP (lateral condyle anterior-posterior) diameter.

Following image shows measurement of overall anterior-posterior (fAP) diameter of femur.



Figure-8: The oblique line starting from most prominent point in between both condyles and the lower most in between both condyles crossing obliquely on fML diameter is fAP(Anterior-posterior).

The basis for choosing tibia measurement was referred to the transepicondylar⁽²⁾ axis of the distal femur. Following image shows measurement of tibial medial- lateral dimension (tML).



Figure-9: The horizontal line is the distance between most prominent points referring to the transepicondylar axis of femur called as tML (medial-lateral) diameter.

Following image shows measurement of tibia anterior-posterior diameter (tAP).

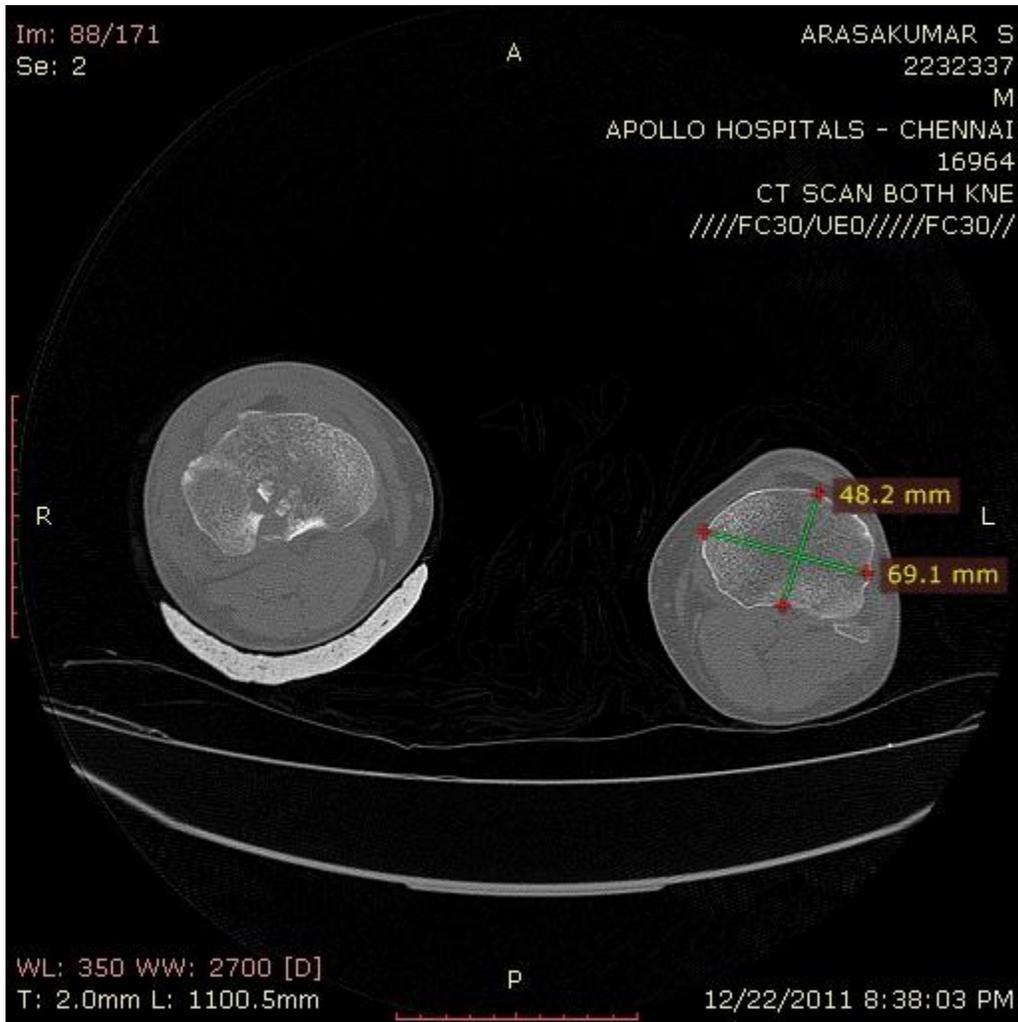


Figure-10: The vertical line bisecting tML diameter is called as tAP (Anterior-posterior).

Following image shows measurement of tibial medial condyle antero-posterior (tMAP), tibial lateral condyle anterior-posterior (tLAP).



Figure-11: The vertical line starting from most anterior point on medial condyle to most posterior point in medial condyle is called as tMAP (medial condyle anterior-posterior) diameter. The vertical line starting from most anterior point on lateral condyle to most posterior point in lateral condyle is called as tLAP (lateral condyle anterior-posterior) diameter.

All measurements were recorded in millimeters using the DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine) imaging software manually with the help of radiology technicians and implant engineers.

IV. STATISTICAL DATA ANALYSIS

We used standard SPSS-14.0 version (Statistical Product and Service Solutions) software and t-test, ANOVA to analyse our data. Following tables shows the analysed parameters.

Table – I. Average values of the tibia morphology measurement (mm).

Parameters	Male	Female	Combined
tML	72.18 ± 4.35	64.43 ± 3.7	66.92 ± 5.33
tAP	46.60 ± 2.35	41.53 ± 3.07	43.16 ± 3.71
tML /tAP	1.56 ± 0.12	1.57 ± 0.11	1.57 ± 0.11

± - Stands for Standard Deviation.

Table – II. Average values of the tibia morphology measurement (mm).

	N	MIN	MAX	MEAN	S.D
tMAP	28	34	50.80	43.58	3.33

t LAP	28	35.10	51.30	42.41	4.18
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Table –III. Average values of the femur morphology measurement (mm).

Parameters	Male	Female	Combined
fML	76.86 ± 4.84	67.42 ± 3.09	70.46 ± 5.8
fAP	73.55 ± 3.42	67.75 ± 4.18	69.62 ± 4.7
fML /fAP	1.04 ± 0.07	0.94 ± 0.21	0.97 ± 0.18

± - Stands for Standard Deviation.

Table – IV. Average values of the femur morphology measurement (mm).

	N	MIN	MAX	MEAN	S.D
fMAP	28	47.60	60.80	52.97	3.4
f LAP	28	50.80	62.20	55.10	3.57

Table – V. Aspect ratio comparison of femur of current available implants.

Company Name	Scorpio	Genesis II	Nex gen	PFC
Aspect ratio	1.11	1.17	1.23	1.07
	1.11	1.14	1.21	1.07
	1.10	1.13	1.17	1.06
	1.12	1.12	1.18	1.08
	1.09	1.12	1.17	1.09
	1.11	1.11	1.17	1.05
	1.10	1.10	1.14	1.05
	1.1	1.06	1.11	-
	Range	1.09 - 1.12	1.06 - 1.17	1.11 - 1.23

Table –VI. Aspect ratio comparison of tibia of current available implants.

Company name	Scorpio	Genesis II	Nex gen	PFC
Aspect ratio	1.5	1.42	1.45	1.48
	1.5	1.42	1.51	1.48
	1.5	1.41	1.43	1.48
	1.51	1.42	1.60	1.51
	1.51	1.42	1.48	1.49
	1.50	1.42	1.60	1.50
	1.51	1.44	1.51	1.50
	-	1.44	1.67	-
	-	-	1.56	-
Range	1.50 – 1.51	1.41 – 1.44	1.43 – 1.67	1.48 – 1.51

Table –VII. Aspect ratio comparison in males and females.

Range	Femur	Tibia
Female	0.85 – 1.1	1.33 – 1.80
Male	0.91 – 1.12	1.35 – 1.78

There is no statistical significant difference between aspect ratio in females and males. (using t-tests)

Table –VIII. Medial – Lateral Variations.
We divided our femoral data on the basis of anterior-posterior diameter (AP) into three groups .

	Group I (AP 61-65)		Group II (AP 65.1-70)		Group III (AP >70)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Mean ML		66.39		67.19	77.09	69.98
SD		3.02		2.28	5.13	5.41
n		5	1	11	8	3
95% of CI		66.62 – 70.15		65.66 -68.72	72.79 – 81.38	56.53 – 83.43
Aspect Ratio		1.04 ± 0.04		0.89 ± 0.28	1.03 ± 0.07	0.93 ± 0.06

± - Stands for Standard Deviation.

Base of AP = mean of FAPL (left side) and FAPR (right side).

CI-Confidential Intervals.

V. OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

The study involved a total of 28 adult patients (19 females and 9 males) who were subjected to CT scan preoperatively. The CT scan measurements were taken from 64 MDCT AQUILLION and 320 MDCT AQUILLION machines.

Measurements of tibial sections in both AP and ML dimensions seem to be lower when compared to average measurements of other studies. There was no significant difference in aspect ratio seen in genders.

Ethnic femoral sizes were divided into subgroup in 5mm increments (Table VIII), the aspect ratio seen to be closer to the overall cohort with no significant variation.

VI. DISCUSSION

This is the study done to measure AP (Anterior Posterior) and ML (Medial Lateral) dimensions of distal femur and proximal tibia in knee joint.

Various studies in Caucasian and Asian population suggested the anthropometric variations. The measurements of our study were more representative of the distal femur, as it took into consideration the distance between the most anterior and the most posterior points, in addition to the length of the lateral condyle.

Following table shows measurements on distal femur in various studies

Study	fML	fAP	AR	fMAP	fLAP
Mensch et al ⁽²⁹⁾	76.8 ± 7.2				
Berger et al ⁽⁵⁾	80.2 ± 4.1	64.1	1.24	64.1± 3.0	63.0
Trezidis et al ⁽⁹⁾	88.6 ± 4.2	58.7	1.50	58.7 ± 4.1	58.5 ± 4.0
Ewe et al ⁽¹³⁾	65.0 ± 5.0	59.9 ± 4.8	1.09 ± 0.07	-	-
Chaichankul et al ⁽²⁾	64.06 ± 6.3	45.43 ± 4.5	1.41 ± 0.12	-	-
Cheng et al ⁽¹⁾	71.0 ± 3.0	64.1 ± 2.7	1.11±0.02	51.1 ± 3.3	50.7 ± 4.0
Our study	70.46 ± 5.8	69.62 ± 4.7	0.97 ± 0.18	52.97 ± 3.4	55.10 ± 3.5

± - Stands for Standard Deviation.

The ML width of femur was found to be 70.46 (SD 5.8). It was significantly greater than ($P < 0.01$) in female than in male. It is the most frequently measured anatomic parameter of the distal femur. However, there is great variability between studies regarding the definition of measuring points as well as the measurement techniques and the type of sample. As a result, any comparison would provide unreliable conclusions. We measured the bicondylar width of the femur according to the definition of Farrally and Moore which is the maximum distance across the condyles in the transverse plane⁽¹⁷⁾. They reported an average of

83.1mm in Caucasian femur which is similar to another Caucasian study⁽⁹⁾ 83.9mm (SD 0.63) our value seems to be similar to other Asian studies.

The mean medial condyle diameter of femur was 52.97 mm (SD 3.4) and mean lateral condyle diameter was 55.10 (SD 3.5) which were lower than Caucasian studies namely **Berger et al**⁽⁵⁾, **Terzidis et al**⁽⁹⁾, but seems close to Chinese study **Cheng et al**⁽¹⁾. The aspect ratio of our study was 0.97 (0.18) which seems to be much less than Caucasian^(29,5,9) and other Asian studies^(13,1,2).

Following table shows measurements on proximal tibia in various studies

Study	tML	tAP	AR	tMAP	tLAP
Mensch et al ⁽²⁹⁾	74.9 ± 6.1	48.9	1.53	48.9 ± 4.3	45.3 ± 3.7
Uehera et al ⁽²⁵⁾	74.3 ± 6.6	48.3 ± 5.4	1.53	-	-
Kwak et al ⁽³⁾	71.9 ± 5.6	45.7 ± 3.8	1.57	-	-
Cheng et al ⁽¹⁾	73.0 ± 4.6	48.8 ± 3.4	1.49	-	-
Our study	66.92 ± 5.3	43.16 ± 3.7	1.57 ± 0.11	43.58 ± 3.33	42.41 ± 4.1

± - Stands for Standard Deviation.

The tibial medial lateral diameter was 66.92 (SD 5.33) and anterior posterior diameter was 43.16 (SD 3.71) which seems to be smaller than Caucasian study **Mensch et al**⁽²⁹⁾ and other Asian studies^(1,3,25). The aspect ratio was 1.57 (0.11) which seems to be similar to the other studies.

In Caucasian and diverse ethnic Asian population groups, various studies^(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9) addresses the anthropometric measurement. This study is focused on measurements of distal femur and proximal tibia. Different methods have been employed^(14,10,2,19,20,18,21) to measure actual sizes. They range from plain X-rays, cadaveric measurements to CT scan and MRI measurements.

Seedhom et al⁽³⁴⁾ in their study concluded that the measurements were more precise at the level of epicondyles. Identification of exact epicondylar points with the help of CT scans is precise. Hence, we performed our measurements on CT section availability of CT slices (0.5mm thickness from 64 MDCT and 320 MDCT AQUILLION) enable identification of widest points which use feel minimal inherent error possible in plain X-ray and clinical measurements.

The measurements were derived from CT scans done as part of evaluation of patients undergoing Total Knee Replacement Surgery. Method of measurement necessitate identification of most anterior and most posterior points and similarly most medial and most lateral points, which is more precise on well-performed CT scan, the reason being that it is possible to approximate the measurement upto two decimal with the help of

digital scale. This enables a more accurate measurement with minimal error.

The values in the finding of this study is of importance clinically in surgical treatment of arthritic knee of prosthetic joints. Surgeons in this part of the world have time and again mentioned and pointed out to the difficulties in obtaining proper sized implant. Most of the currently available designs have been manufactured in accordance to the sizes with respect to Caucasian database. This accounts for difficulties faced by the surgeons in this continent. The findings of this study closely confess to finding reported in studies by other authors^(1,2,13). Aspect ratio seems definitely smaller especially in females when compared to Caucasians. The clinical implication of the same is overhang of prosthesis at time of surgery and its implications. Availability of more intermediate size is one solution offered today's its stands to reason. This enables a more precise execution of the surgical procedure with respect to component sizing thereby avoiding implant overhang beyond bone margins and better restoration of flexion and extension gaps.

Recent studies have shown that gender differences of distal femur morphometry depend on other morphometric measurements of femur, such as the femur length and width⁽³⁵⁾. In the study by **Dargel et al**⁽³⁶⁾ 2011, when gender differences were corrected for differences in femur length, medial-lateral dimensions of knees were still significantly larger in men than in women; however matched paired analysis did not prove those differences to be consistent.

There are instances of extreme outlines with significant morphologic variation seen in some patients. Hence probably the use of these values in various ethnic subgroups during manufacture of implants would be a solution to the concern of performing surgeons.

VII. CONCLUSION

Variations exist in anthropometric measurements of distal femur and proximal tibia when compared with Caucasian database. It was also observed in this study, our size resemble close to that have been reported by **Cheng et al**⁽¹⁾, **Chaichankul et al**⁽²⁾, **Ewe et al**⁽¹³⁾.

Females have smaller aspect ratio and dimension as compared to males of similar age. One advantage of this study has been the precise measurement of broadest dimension based on CT scan. It is fair to assume that these measurements are close to the true values. A further study with a larger cohort of cases with same methodology could be helpful in establishing a regional anthropometric database for ethnic Indians.

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