

## THE MULLIGAN CONCEPT

Clinical Application of Mulligan's MWM and Taping Techniques of the Ankle



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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the principles and indications of Mulligan's Mobilization with Movement as applied to the ankle joint.
2. Demonstrate proper hand placement, patient positioning, and movement patterns for ankle MWM techniques
- 3. Integrate ankle MWM into a comprehensive rehabilitation program to improve dorsiflexion, function, and return-to-play outcomes

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

*To comply with professional board and accreditation standards, I declare that I do not have a financial interest in products or services discussed in my presentation.*

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## WHAT IS MWM?

“MWM” mobilization with movement

Application of a passive accessory glide (force) followed by active or passive physiological movement; typically done in weight bearing.

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## MWM PRINCIPLES

- Identify painful &/or restricted movement
- Mobilize in the *direction* that turns off pain
- Use minimum *force* necessary
- *Sustain* glide without restricting movement
- Perform sufficient *repetitions*
- Apply *overpressure*
- *Teach* self-MWMs
- *Tape* to sustain positional corrections

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## MULLIGAN'S THEORETICAL MODEL

- Minor articular “positional faults” occur due to trauma, muscle imbalances, and/or degenerative changes.
- MWM's correct positional faults allowing pain-free movement or function to occur.

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## LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS

- Textbooks focus on anterior talofibular ligaments and calcaneal fibular ligaments
- Treatment focused on ligaments secondary to objective findings of pain with passive plantarflexion and inversion
- **MULLIGAN FEELS THIS IS WRONG!**

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## MULLIGAN THEORY

Mulligan feels lateral ankle sprain is a joint problem related to fibula and tibia positioning and NOT extra-articular problem associated with ATFL

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## MULLIGAN THEORY

Mulligan Theory: Fibula positioned anteriorly relative to tibia ("Positional Fault")  
When fibula repositioned dorsally and cranially passive PF and Inv is **PAINFREE**

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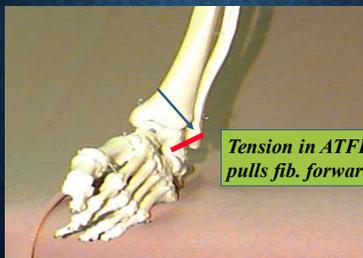
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## A.T.F. LIGAMENT WITH INVERSION



Tension in ATFL  
pulls fib. forward

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## LATERAL ANKLE SPRAINS

- Objective Test: **PAIN** with passive Plantarflexion(PF) and Inversion (INV)
- Mulligan Theory: Fibula positioned anteriorly relative to tibia ("Positional Fault") when repositioned passive PF and Inv is **PAINFREE**

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## LATERAL ANKLE INJURIES

In lateral ankle injuries prime injury occurs between tibia and fibula

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## TAPING

- Traditional taping restricts motion secondary to DF/EV foot
- Traditional taping does not allow for PF/INV and unable to move ankle and decrease swelling
- Traditional taping “useless”

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## TAPING

Mulligan Taping for Acute Lateral Ankle Sprains

**MWM IMMEDIATELY!**

**TAPE IMMEDIATELY!**



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## ANKLE SPRAIN - DISTAL FIBULA MWM REFERENCE

- Kavanagh J. (1999) Is there a positional fault at the tibiofibular joint in patients with acute or chronic ankle sprains compared to normals. *Manual Therapy*, 4(1), 19-24.
- Results indicated a significantly greater amount of movement per unit force after ankle sprains.

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**ANKLE SPRAIN - DISTAL FIBULA MWM REFERENCE**

- Hubbard T, Hertel J, Sherbondy P. (2006) Fibular position in individuals with self-reported chronic ankle instability. Journal of Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy, 36(1) 3-9.
- Conclusion: Fibula positioned more anteriorly in relation to tibia in CAI than control group

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**ANKLE SPRAIN - DISTAL FIBULA MWM REFERENCE**

- Hubbard T., Hertel J. (2008). Anterior positional fault of the fibula after subacute lateral ankle sprain. Manual Therapy, 13(1): 63-67.
- Results: 82% (n=11) of ankle sprains had anteriorly positioned fibula as well as direct correlation between amount of swelling and anterior position

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**INVERSION ANKLE SPRAIN REFERENCE**

- Moiler K.,Hall T., Robinson K. (2006). The Role of Fibula tape in the prevention of ankle injury in basketball: a pilot study. JOSPT, Sept.
- Results: 443 basketball exposures resulted in 11 ankle injuries. All injuries occurred in subjects with a history of previous ankle sprains. Significantly less ankle injuries were sustained by members of the fibula repositioning taping (FRT) condition compared to the control group
- Conclusion: study provided preliminary data regarding the prophylactic effects of FRT on ankle injuries in basketball players

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