

1 **Open Source, Open Science: Development of OpenLESS as the Automated Landing Error**
2 **Scoring System**

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5 Jeffrey A. Turner PT, DPT,^{1,2} Elaine T. Reiche ATC,^{1,2} Matthew T. Hartshorne PT, DPT,^{1,2,3}

6 Connor C. Lee,¹ Joanna M. Blodgett PhD,^{4,5} and Darin A. Padua PhD, ATC,¹

7
8 jeffrey.turner@unc.edu, reicheel@unc.edu, hartmatt@unc.edu, cle3@unc.edu,

9 joanna.blodgett@ucl.ac.uk, dpadua@email.unc.edu

10 ¹ *Department of Exercise and Sport Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA*

11
12 ² *Human Movement Science Curriculum, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA*

13
14 ³ *Banner Sports Medicine High Performance Center, Scottsdale, AZ, USA*

15
16 ⁴ *Institute of Sport Exercise and Health, Division of Surgery and Interventional Sciences, Faculty of*
17 *Medical Sciences, University College London, United Kingdom*

18
19 ⁵ *University College London Hospitals, National Institute for Health and Care Research Biomedical*
20 *Research Centre, United Kingdom*

21
22 Corresponding author

23 Name: Jeffrey A. Turner

24 Email: Jeffrey.Turner@unc.edu

25 Address: 3 Casabelle Court, Durham NC 27713

26 Phone: 425-772-8524

27 Twitter: @JeffreyATurner

28

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Online First

1 **Open Source, Open Science: Development of OpenLESS as the Automated Landing Error**

2 **Scoring System**

3 Context: The Open Landing Error Scoring System (OpenLESS) is a novel tool for automating
4 the LESS to assess lower extremity movement quality during a jump-landing task. With the
5 growing use of clinical measures to monitor outcomes and limited time during clinical visits,
6 there is a need for automated systems. OpenLESS is an open-source tool that uses a markerless
7 motion capture system to automate the LESS using 3D kinematics.

8 Objective: To describe the development of OpenLESS, examine its validity against expert rater
9 LESS scores in healthy and clinical cohorts, and assess its intersession reliability in an athlete
10 cohort.

11 Design: Cross-Sectional

12 Participants: 92 total adult participants from three distinct cohorts: a healthy university student
13 cohort (12 males, 14 females; age=23.0±3.8 years; height=171.9±8.3 cm; mass=75.4±18.9 kg), a
14 post-anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction (ACLR) cohort (8 males, 19 females;
15 age=21.4±5.7 years, height=173.5±12.5 cm; mass=73.9±13.1 kg; median 33 months post-
16 surgery), and a field-based athlete cohort (39 females; age=25.0±4.7 years, height=165.0±7.1
17 cm; mass=63.5±8.6 kg).

18 Main Outcome Measure(s): The OpenLESS software interprets movement quality from
19 kinematics captured by markerless motion capture. Validity and reliability were assessed using
20 intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC), standard error of measure (SEM), and minimal
21 detectable change (MDC).

22 Results: OpenLESS agreed well with expert rater LESS scores for healthy (ICC_{2,k}=0.79) and
23 clinically relevant, post-ACLR cohorts (ICC_{2,k}=0.88). The automated OpenLESS system reduced

24 scoring time, processing all 353 trials in under 25 minutes compared to the 35 hours (~6 minutes
25 per trial) required for expert rater scoring. When tested outside laboratory conditions, OpenLESS
26 showed excellent reliability across repeated sessions ($ICC_{2,k} > 0.89$), with a SEM of 0.98 errors
27 and MDC of 2.72 errors.

28 Conclusion: OpenLESS is a promising, efficient tool for automated jump-landing assessment,
29 demonstrating good validity in healthy and post-ACLR populations, and excellent field
30 reliability, addressing the need for objective movement analysis.

31 Keywords: Landing Error Scoring System, markerless motion capture, movement assessment,
32 clinical motion analysis, anterior cruciate ligament

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35 Key Points

- 36 • OpenLESS accurately detected jump-landing initial contact and toe-off events
37 ($ICC > 0.99$) using markerless motion capture, validating its use as an alternative to
38 laboratory-based force plate measurements.
- 39 • The automated scoring system showed good agreement with expert raters in healthy
40 ($ICC = 0.79$) and post-anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction ($ICC = 0.88$) populations.
- 41 • OpenLESS demonstrated good to excellent test-retest reliability ($ICC = 0.89$) across
42 multiple testing sessions, with minimal score variation, supporting its utility for
43 longitudinal movement assessment.

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46 Functional movement screening is a well-established component for assessing lower extremity
47 injury risk in clinical and athletic populations.¹⁻³ The National Athletic Trainers' Association's
48 position statement and American Physical Therapy Association's practice guidelines have
49 recommended applying movement quality assessments to identify individuals with heightened
50 injury risk, enabling the implementation of targeted prevention strategies such as strength
51 training, flexibility exercises, and movement retraining.^{2,4} While laboratory-based optical 3-
52 dimensional (3D) motion capture systems are considered the gold standard for quantifying
53 biomechanical risk factors,⁵ their substantial time and financial (up to \$150,000 per system)
54 requirements render them impractical for large-scale injury risk screening programs.⁶ As such,
55 there is a growing need for efficient, field-based functional assessment tools that can be readily
56 deployed to identify high-risk movement patterns within clinical and athletic populations.
57 The Landing Error Scoring System (LESS) has become a widely accepted clinical tool for
58 evaluating jump-landing mechanics.^{3,7-9} Initially developed to screen 'at-risk' individuals for non-
59 contact injuries, video is used to capture jump-landings and subsequently graded on 17 criteria
60 over three jump-landing trials.⁸ A maximal score of 19 errors can be reached for exceptionally
61 poor performances, with a score of <5 errors considered to be good (i.e., low risk). The LESS has
62 been validated against 3D motion capture,^{8,10,11} and high LESS scores have been associated with
63 movement patterns linked to larger injury risk, such as anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries,
64 including smaller flexion at the hip and knee, larger knee valgus, internal rotation moments, and
65 elevated anterior tibial shear forces upon landing from a jump.^{8,11,12} Supporting its clinical
66 relevance, prospective studies have shown that youth soccer athletes who perform better (fewer
67 errors) on the LESS have a lower risk of ACL injury.⁹

68 Building upon this foundation, Mauntel et al.¹³ subsequently developed an automated grading
69 system for an expanded LESS version, utilizing a depth camera and Kinect sensor (Microsoft
70 Corp, Redmond, WA) with proprietary machine learning algorithms to calculate the relevant
71 kinematic variables. This automated system reliably estimated kinematics during drop vertical
72 jump assessments¹³ and demonstrated moderate agreement against the gold standard 3D motion
73 capture approach.¹⁴ Advancements in deep learning computer vision and markerless motion
74 capture have enabled further efforts to automate LESS scoring.¹⁵ While this prior work
75 demonstrated the feasibility of machine learning-based LESS assessment, the proprietary nature
76 of the underlying code and methods limited broader accessibility. In contrast, open-source
77 solutions leveraging frameworks like OpenPose¹⁶ and HRNet¹⁷ offer a more scalable path to
78 bringing efficient, automated movement quality assessments into clinical practice.⁵
79 Given the growing emphasis on efficient, cost-effective assessment tools within clinical practice,
80 automating the LESS represents a promising avenue to expand the utility and accessibility of this
81 validated movement quality screening.^{3,7} Prior efforts to automate LESS scoring have
82 demonstrated the technical feasibility of this approach,¹³⁻¹⁵ but the proprietary nature of these
83 systems has limited their widespread adoption. In contrast, open-source frameworks leveraging
84 markerless motion capture, such as OpenCap (Stanford University, USA),^{6,18} offer a more
85 scalable path to integrating automated LESS assessments into clinical and athletic settings.
86 The primary aim of the present study was to develop and evaluate the validity and reliability of
87 OpenLESS, an automated scoring system for the LESS utilizing open-source software and low-
88 cost markerless motion capture (OpenCap). To demonstrate the clinical utility of this approach,
89 OpenLESS was validated against expert rater scores in healthy and post anterior cruciate
90 ligament reconstruction (ACLR) populations, with intersession reliability examined in an

91 amateur athlete cohort. We hypothesized that the automated scoring software (Supplemental File
92 1) using markerless motion capture would be a valid and reliable version of the LESS.

93 **METHODS**

94 **Design**

95 This secondary analysis included three different cohorts from repeated measures and cross-
96 sectional observational studies to assess the measurement properties of an automated pipeline for
97 scoring the LESS using a portable, low-cost, markerless motion capture system. To assess
98 validity, we compared OpenLESS scores to expert rater LESS scores in a healthy cohort and a
99 post-ACLR cohort. Reliability of OpenLESS was assessed in a field-based athlete cohort across
100 up to four visits over a month. This study followed the Strengthening the Reporting of
101 Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) guidelines,¹⁹ ensuring comprehensive
102 reporting and transparency (Figure 1).

103 **Participants**

104 Participants across all cohorts were adults and provided written informed consent. The healthy
105 cohort consisted of 26 university students (12 males, 14 females) with no history of lower
106 extremity surgery or injuries in the last 6 months, approved by the University of XXX's
107 Institutional Review Board (IRB: XXX). The post-ACLR cohort included 27 individuals (8
108 males, 19 females) 6-72 months post-ACLR surgery, approved by the University of XXX (IRB
109 XXX). Both healthy and post-ACLR participants completed a single session in the biomechanics
110 laboratory, where they performed the LESS jump-landing while their movements were recorded
111 using a markerless motion capture system.

112 The field-based athlete cohort comprised 39 females (18 amateur soccer players, 10 university
113 athletes from ball and non-ball sports, and 11 recreational weightlifters) with no current lower

114 extremity injuries, approved by University XXX (REC Project ID: XXX). Athlete participants
115 were assessed outside a laboratory environment in a variety of spaces (soccer pitch [grass],
116 athletic field [turf], and an indoor recreation center) across up to four consecutive sessions. Each
117 athlete was tested in the same environment for all sessions, during which they performed the
118 LESS jump-landing while their movements were recorded using a markerless motion capture
119 system. To be included in analysis, participants needed to attend at least two of the four potential
120 sessions, which could be non-consecutive.

121 **Testing Procedures**

122 *The Task: LESS Jump-Landing*

123 All cohorts' participants performed the double-leg jump-landing rebound task under markerless
124 motion capture, referred to as the jump-landing task (Figure 2).⁸ Participants jumped from a 30
125 cm box to a landing spot 50% of their height in front, landed, and then performed a maximal
126 vertical jump. After verbal instruction, up to three practice trials were allowed, followed by the
127 real trials, with three successful trials collected for analysis. Trial success was determined if the
128 participant (1) jumped and landed correctly, (2) jumped vertically during the maximal jump, and
129 (3) completed the task without losing balance. Participants wore their preferred footwear and the
130 validation cohorts were required to wear tight-fitting clothing, whereas the field-based athlete
131 cohort were allowed to wear their usual exercise clothing.²⁰

132 The area of interest for scoring the movement quality with the LESS was the first landing of the
133 jump-landing task.^{8,13} The first landing was defined as the stance phase bounded by the moment
134 of initial foot contact with the ground to take off (i.e., toe off). The stance phase was divided into
135 a braking phase and a propulsion phase. The braking phase was defined as the time interval from
136 the feet contacting the ground (Figure 2A) to the lowest point of the braking phase before

137 upward movement (identified by peak knee flexion; Figure 2B). The propulsion phase was
138 defined as the time interval from the lowest point of the braking phase before upward movement
139 (Figure 2B) to the feet taking off the ground (Figure 2C). The lowest point of the braking phase
140 before upward movement (Figure 2B) was considered as the transition from eccentric to
141 concentric movement.²¹

142 *Expert Rater LESS Grading*

143 The original LESS evaluated 17 specific movement characteristics during the jump-landing task,
144 with items scored at initial ground contact (Figure 2A), during the braking phase (Figure 2A to
145 2B), and at peak knee flexion (Figure 2B).^{8,9} Each item is scored dichotomously (0 or 1) or
146 categorically (0, 1, or 2) based on the presence or absence of movement errors where an error
147 from either limb results in error for that item, with a total possible score ranging from 0 to 19
148 errors. The scoring criteria include the assessment of sagittal and frontal plane positioning of the
149 trunk, hips, and knees, and additional items for overall movement quality and symmetry.^{8,9} The
150 LESS has demonstrated good interrater ($ICC_{2,k} = 0.84$, $SEM = 0.71$) and intersession ($ICC_{2,k} =$
151 0.81 , $SEM = 0.81$) reliability, with higher scores indicating more aberrant movement patterns
152 that may increase injury risk.^{8,10} We used a modified version of the LESS, expanded to 19 items
153 by Mauntel et al.¹³ to include two additional asymmetrical landing characteristics, who
154 demonstrated strong agreement between an automated grading tool and expert raters.
155 Two expert clinicians (a licensed physical therapist and athletic trainer, each with >10 years of
156 orthopedic and sports medicine experience) independently scored the jump-landing trials. Both
157 raters completed standardized training and reliability testing using a 60-trial test set developed by
158 the original LESS author, demonstrating excellent interrater reliability ($ICC > 0.9$).⁸ The physical
159 therapist assessed the healthy cohort, and the athletic trainer assessed the ACLR cohort.

160 *The System: OpenCap Markerless Motion Capture*

161 The 3D kinematics of the trunk and lower extremities were collected using two smartphones
162 (iPhone 12 SE, Apple Inc., Cupertino, CA, USA) running OpenCap v0.3 (Stanford, USA)
163 markerless motion capture software.²² OpenCap has been validated against optoelectronic 3D
164 motion capture systems.^{6,18,23} The smartphones were positioned at a standardized distance of 3
165 meters from the landing area, 1.5 meters off the ground, and at 45° angles to the target area
166 (Figure 3). We followed OpenCap's best practice guidelines⁶ for smartphone setup, calibration
167 with a 720x540 mm checkerboard, and the recording of a static trial. Markerless motion capture
168 was sampled at 60 Hz for the post-ACLR and field-based athlete cohorts and 240 Hz for the
169 healthy cohort using the default pose estimation algorithm (HRnet)¹⁷ via OpenCap's cloud-based
170 software (v0.3).⁶ Two additional smartphones were used in the post-ACLR and healthy
171 validation cohorts to record the sagittal and frontal plane camera views for expert rater LESS
172 grading.⁸ Further technical details can be found in the development and validation paper by
173 Uhlrich et al.⁶

174 Vertical ground reaction forces (vGRF) were collected on a subsample of 12 participants within
175 the post-ACLR cohort for validating event timing. The vGRF data was sampled at a frequency of
176 2400 Hz from two embedded force plates (FP406020, Bertec Corp) and synchronized to the
177 timing of the markerless motion capture system. The force plates were set up with a cartesian
178 coordinate system with axes defined as z-axis vertical, x-axis anterior-posterior, and y-axis
179 medial-lateral. Before each participant began their jump-landing trials, the force plates were
180 zeroed, and their mass was recorded while they stood equally on both force plates.

181 *The Pipeline: OpenLESS Automated Scoring*

182 After recording jump-landing trials, raw trial data were automatically uploaded and processed
183 over the cloud via OpenCap's web interface. OpenCap's automated processing suite included
184 data extraction, pose estimation, time synchronization, and 3D anatomical marker set derivation.⁶
185 The 3D kinematics are then computed from the derived marker trajectories using inverse
186 kinematics^{24,25} and a musculoskeletal model with biomechanical constraints.^{6,26,27} The resulting
187 musculoskeletal model included 33 degrees of freedom with 15 used in our analysis – 3 for the
188 trunk, 3 per hip, 1 per knee, and 2 per ankle.^{6,26,27} The final outputs of interest from the
189 automated cloud processing included the marker (.trc) files containing 3D anatomical marker
190 trajectories and motion (.mot) files containing 3D joint angles.
191 A custom Python (v.3.10.12) pipeline, OpenLESS, was developed for reading, signal processing,
192 and extracting kinematic variables of interest from OpenCap, then algorithmically scoring the
193 LESS based on jump-landing movement quality (Figure 4). OpenLESS Python script is provided
194 in the Supplemental File 1. Before entry into the OpenLESS pipeline, each trial OpenCap video
195 recording was inspected for completeness of the entirety of movement, and kinematic waveforms
196 were assessed for biological plausibility. Trials were removed if there were any errors in cloud
197 processing, pose estimation, and/or if the trial exuded excessive noise outside of
198 expectation.^{6,18,23}
199 After determining eligibility, the marker trajectory and kinematic data were entered into the
200 custom OpenLESS pipeline, which performed the following steps: (1) marker trajectories and
201 kinematics were filtered with a 4th order, 12 Hz low-pass Butterworth filter; (2) stance phase
202 was identified by determining key events for initial ground contact and rebound jump take-off;
203 (3) initial ground contact was identified as the first global minimum of the great toe marker
204 trajectory in the vertical axis (y-axis); (4) rebound jump take-off was identified as the second

205 global minimum of the great toe marker trajectory in the vertical axis; (5) a quality control step
206 was incorporated, wherein the automatically detected key events outlining the contact phase
207 were plotted for manual inspection to ensure accuracy before proceeding with grading; (6) the
208 lowest point of the braking phase before upward movement was determined by the frame where
209 knee flexion angle was at its peak; and (7) 3D marker trajectories and joint angles at both initial
210 contact and the lowest point of the braking phase were extracted.

211 The OpenLESS then uses the joint trajectories and kinematics at the event times of interest
212 (Figure 2A to 2B) to score each item of the expanded 19-item LESS (22 possible errors) based
213 on clinically- and literature-informed cut-offs.^{3,8,9,12,13,28-30} Identical to the expert rater LESS, an
214 error present on either limb results in an error for that associated LESS item. The two additional
215 OpenLESS items capture asymmetric foot landing and weight shift patterns, recently identified
216 as clinically relevant movement characteristics.^{13,29} Technical details for scoring each LESS item
217 are made available in Supplemental File 2. Data cleaning, processing, and LESS scoring were
218 performed in Python (v3.10.12) using the SciPy (v1.5.4), *pandas* (v2.2.2), and *NumPy* (v2.0)
219 packages.

220 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

221 Statistical analyses were conducted using R Statistical Software (v4.4.1, R Core Team 2024).
222 The normality of LESS scores was evaluated through visual inspection of histograms and
223 quantile-quantile plots. Descriptive statistics are presented as mean \pm standard deviation or
224 median [interquartile range, IQR] if not normally distributed. Expert-rater LESS and automated
225 OpenLESS scores were calculated as the mean score across all successful jump-landing trials
226 within each participant.

227 Intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated
228 using the *psych* package (v2.6.4.26) to evaluate concurrent validity and reliability.^{31,32} A two-way
229 random-effects model for an absolute agreement based on single ratings (ICC_{2,1}) was used for
230 event timing, and average ratings (ICC_{2,k}) were used for LESS scores. For reliability, a linear
231 mixed-effects model was used to calculate ICC_{2,k}, optimizing the use of available information
232 while accounting for variability across time points. ICC values were interpreted according to
233 established guidelines: poor (0.0-0.5), moderate (0.5-0.75), good (0.75-0.9), and excellent (0.9-
234 1.0).³²

235 To further assess the validity of OpenLESS derived scores compared to expert-rater LESS
236 scores, Pearson's correlation coefficient (R) and Bland-Altman limits of agreement (LoA) were
237 computed using the *stats* (v4.2.3) and *blandr* (v0.5.1) packages.³¹ Pearson correlations were
238 categorized as per Portney and Watkins:³² ≤ 0.25 (little/no), 0.25-0.50 (low/fair), 0.50-0.75
239 (moderate/good), and ≥ 0.75 (strong) relationship.

240 Reliability measurement error was quantified using the standard error of measurement (SEM),
241 calculated as $SEM = SD\sqrt{1 - ICC}$, where SD represents the pooled standard deviation of test
242 and retest scores.³¹ The minimal detectable change (MDC) was calculated as $MDC = 1.96 \times$
243 $\sqrt{2} \times SEM$.³¹ The SEM and MDC were expressed in the units of the measure (number of LESS
244 errors).

245 RESULTS

246 The healthy cohort used in the validation arm consisted of 26 individuals (12 males, 14 females;
247 age = 23.0 ± 3.8 years, height = 171.9 ± 8.3 cm; mass = 75.4 ± 18.9 kg). The post-ACLR cohort
248 used in the validation arm consisted of 27 individuals (8 males, 19 females; age = 21.4 ± 5.7
249 years, height = 173.5 ± 12.5 cm; mass = 73.9 ± 13.1 kg) that were 6-72 months post ACLR

250 surgery (median: 33.0 [IQR: 50.5] months post-op; International Knee Documentation
251 Committee [IKDC] = 83.2 ± 14.3). The field-based athlete cohort used in the reliability arm
252 consisted of 39 recreationally athletic females (18 amateur soccer players, 10 university athletes
253 from ball and non-ball sports, 11 recreational weightlifters; age = 25.0 ± 4.7 years, height =
254 165.0 ± 7.1 cm; mass = 63.5 ± 8.6 kg).

255 A small percentage of OpenCap-recorded trials (5.2%; 33/639) could not be processed through
256 the OpenLESS pipeline due to factors such as excessive noise in the kinematic data, incomplete
257 capture of the jump-landing movement, or failure to detect key events. However, since all
258 participants contributed multiple trials and their LESS scores were averaged within individuals
259 for validity and reliability analyses ($ICC_{2,k}$), this was unlikely to have impacted our study's
260 findings.

261 **Event Detection**

262 The OpenLESS event detection pipeline, utilizing OpenCap kinematics and trajectories,
263 demonstrated excellent validity in identifying initial ground contact and toe-off events when
264 compared to force-plate measurements across 98 jump-landing trials ($ICC_{2,1} > 0.99$, $p < 0.001$,
265 Supplemental File 3).

266 **Criterion Validity**

267 Analysis of the healthy, college-aged cohort revealed good agreement between expert rater
268 assessment and the automated OpenLESS pipeline for total LESS scores ($ICC_{2,k} = 0.79$, $p <$
269 0.001 , Table 1). Box-whisker plots are presented in Figure 5A to display the range of values from
270 both LESS scoring methods (Expert and OpenLESS). The Bland-Altman analysis (Figure 5C)
271 estimated a mean bias of 0.35 (95% CI: -0.05, 0.75) indicating a small but non-significant
272 systematic difference between the two methods ($t = 1.80$, $p = 0.08$). The LoA ranged from -1.59

273 (95% CI: -2.29, -0.90) to 2.30 (95% CI: 1.60, 2.99), representing that 95% of the differences
274 between measurements fell within this range.
275 Good agreement was observed in the clinically relevant post-ACLR cohort ($ICC_{2,k} = 0.88, p <$
276 0.001 , Table 1). Box-whisker plots are presented in Figure 5B to display the range of values from
277 both LESS scoring methods (Expert and OpenLESS). In the Bland-Altman analysis (Figure 5D),
278 a significant ($t = 4.06, p < 0.001$), directionally similar systematic bias was observed in the post-
279 ACLR cohort, where OpenLESS consistently scored lower than the expert rater with a mean bias
280 of 1.51 errors (95% CI: 0.74, 2.27). The LoA ranged from -2.28 (95% CI: -3.60, -0.96) to 5.30
281 (95% CI: 3.97, 6.62).

282 The automated OpenLESS pipeline completed grading for all 353 validation trials (242 healthy,
283 119 post-ACLR) in under 25 minutes. This included batch downloading motion data from
284 OpenCap's web platform, organizing files, processing them through the automated pipeline, and
285 performing a manual quality check of event time plots before finalizing LESS scores. In contrast,
286 expert rater grading required 5 to 7 minutes per trial, totaling over 35 hours to complete all 353
287 validation trials.

288 **Intersession Reliability**

289 A repeated measures assessment of the OpenLESS score was conducted across four visits, with
290 17 participants attending all four visits, 19 attending three, and 3 attending two visits. Mean
291 OpenLESS scores demonstrated minimal variation, ranging from 5.35 errors at visit one, 5.12 at
292 visit two, 5.87 at visit three, and 5.00 at visit four (Figure 6). OpenLESS demonstrated good to
293 excellent intersession reliability ($ICC_{2,k} = 0.89, p < 0.001$, Table 2). Measurement error metrics
294 indicated an SEM of 0.98 and an MDC of 2.72 OpenLESS errors.

295 **DISCUSSION**

296 This study developed and validated OpenLESS (Supplemental File 1), an automated scoring
297 system for the LESS that leverages markerless motion capture technology to enhance the
298 efficiency and scalability of movement quality assessment. OpenLESS demonstrated good
299 agreement with expert raters across healthy and post-ACLR cohorts while showing excellent
300 intersession reliability in a field-based athletic cohort. The kinematic-based event detection
301 algorithm for identifying the landing phase also showed excellent validity against gold-standard
302 force plate measurements. Across all cohorts, participant heights ranged from 153 to 192 cm and
303 weights from 52 to 99 kg, offering insight into OpenLESS's applicability across diverse body
304 sizes. Building upon previous efforts to automate movement quality assessments,^{2,3} OpenLESS
305 provides clinicians and researchers with an efficient, accessible tool for capturing and grading
306 jump-landing mechanics.

307 A fundamental validation step for the OpenLESS pipeline was establishing the accuracy of its
308 event detection algorithm, which processes markerless motion data from OpenCap to identify
309 key jump-landing events (initial contact and toe-off). We compared OpenLESS's automated
310 event detection against gold-standard force plate measurements in 98 trials from 12 post-ACLR
311 participants. The analysis revealed near-perfect agreement ($ICC_{2,1} > 0.99$) between OpenLESS
312 and force plate event timing, validating our approach to automated event detection using
313 markerless motion capture data. This high level of agreement demonstrates that OpenLESS can
314 reliably identify key biomechanical events without requiring specialized laboratory equipment.
315 OpenLESS demonstrated good agreement with expert raters in both healthy and post-ACLR
316 cohorts, though with a consistent, systematic bias toward slightly lower scores, particularly in the
317 post-ACLR group. Our observed healthy cohort bias (-0.3 errors) contrasts with earlier
318 automated systems, such as Mauntel et al.'s depth camera approach, which demonstrated higher

319 scores (+1.2 errors) compared to expert raters.¹³ These differences likely reflect technological
320 advances, as OpenLESS utilizes dual high-speed smartphone cameras rather than single-
321 perspective depth sensing.¹⁴ The presence of bias likely reflects differences between algorithmic
322 and human movement quality assessment thresholds, a pattern commonly observed in automated
323 kinematic analysis systems.³³ Notably, the agreement between OpenLESS and expert raters
324 ($ICC_{2,k} = 0.79-0.88$) closely parallels the documented interrater reliability among expert raters
325 themselves ($ICC = 0.81-0.93$), suggesting that OpenLESS's scoring variability falls within
326 acceptable clinical limits.^{8,10,34} This reliability is particularly significant given that small sample
327 sizes often constrain biomechanical studies investigating injury risk and surgical outcomes due to
328 resource limitations.³⁵ The automated nature of OpenLESS could help address these constraints
329 by enabling larger-scale assessments while maintaining measurement consistency.

330 OpenLESS demonstrated robust scoring consistency across multiple testing environments,
331 including an outdoor soccer pitch (grass), athletic field (turf), and indoor recreation center,
332 validating its utility for movement quality assessment beyond traditional laboratory settings.
333 Score stability was evident across visits with acceptable measurement error.^{10,31} This temporal
334 stability is essential for monitoring interventions and rehabilitation progress, where reliable
335 baseline measurements enable detection of meaningful change.³⁶ While traditional LESS scoring
336 can be subject to rater variability,¹⁰ OpenLESS achieves high intersession reliability ($ICC_{2,k} =$
337 0.89), enhancing precision for longitudinal and post-intervention assessments. This precision
338 aligns with the growing emphasis on evidence-based injury prevention protocols.¹⁻⁴ The minimal
339 measurement error further establishes OpenLESS for use in clinical trials and rehabilitation,
340 where repeated assessments are essential for evaluating improvements and the effectiveness of
341 intervention programs.

342 The assessment of OpenLESS's measurement properties across three distinct participant
343 populations demonstrates its robust clinical utility and versatility in real-world settings, directly
344 addressing critical needs in lower extremity injury risk prevention and intervention.¹⁻⁴ Unlike
345 traditional research that prioritizes internal validity through strict inclusion/exclusion criteria,³⁶
346 our approach deliberately embraced ecological validity by testing diverse populations and
347 environments. We validated OpenLESS not only in healthy individuals but also in people post-
348 ACLR, providing evidence of its effectiveness in clinically relevant populations. Our reliability
349 testing further emphasized real-world applicability by conducting assessments outside laboratory
350 environments and allowing participants to wear their typical exercise footwear and clothing—
351 conditions known to challenge markerless motion capture systems but essential for clinical
352 implementation.^{5,37}

353 OpenCap, the foundation of our system, has proven its versatility across multiple applications,
354 from analyzing gait in neurological disorders³⁸ to assessing lower extremity kinematics during
355 cycling³⁹ and evaluating whole-body movement during dynamic balance tasks.⁴⁰ By building
356 OpenLESS as an open-source tool on this established platform, we provide researchers and
357 clinicians with an adaptable framework that can be customized for various dynamic activities
358 and populations, while maintaining measurement precision in real-world conditions. This
359 accessibility directly responds to the documented need for reliable movement assessment tools
360 that can be deployed beyond laboratory settings.^{13,37} The combination of OpenCap and
361 OpenLESS creates new opportunities for larger-scale studies and widespread clinical
362 implementation of sophisticated biomechanical analysis,^{6,37,41} potentially transforming how we
363 approach movement screening and injury prevention across diverse populations.

364 While previous approaches have employed machine learning to predict LESS total scores based
365 on expert grader patterns,¹⁵ OpenLESS takes a fundamentally different approach. Rather than
366 replicating human scoring patterns, OpenLESS directly processes motion capture data to
367 evaluate LESS items using categorical criteria, aligning with the original LESS development
368 methodology.^{8,9} This transparent approach, combined with accessible source code, addresses the
369 implementation limitations often encountered with proprietary assessment tools.

370 Biomechanical injury risk assessments have faced criticism for their narrow focus.⁴² Injury risk,
371 both primary and secondary, involves multiple factors beyond physical function and performance
372 metrics.^{43,44} Therefore, OpenLESS should be integrated within comprehensive biopsychosocial
373 assessments for complete performance characterization.⁴⁵ While OpenLESS effectively identifies
374 aberrant movement patterns consistent with the original LESS,^{8,9} such as less hip and knee
375 flexion during landing, several limitations warrant consideration.

376 OpenLESS demonstrated a small systematic bias toward lower scores than expert raters, with a
377 greater bias observed in the post-ACLR cohort. A post-hoc analysis of item-level errors in this
378 cohort revealed high agreement for sagittal plane movements but moderate agreement for medial
379 knee (valgus) errors, with OpenLESS detecting fewer errors than the expert rater at initial
380 contact (23 vs. 10 errors, Cohen's $\kappa = 0.41$) and lowest center of mass (43 vs. 27 errors, Cohen's
381 $\kappa = 0.42$). These discrepancies may stem from differences in scoring criteria, markerless motion
382 capture limitations in frontal and transverse plane estimations, or potential rater bias due to lack
383 of blinding. Additionally, the MDC across sessions was slightly larger for OpenLESS (2.72
384 errors) compared to the intersession MDC reported by Hanzliková and Hébert-Losier's
385 systematic review of expert rater LESS grading (2.25 errors),¹⁰ though this comparison should be

386 interpreted cautiously due to the difference in sample sizes between our study ($n = 39$) and the
387 prior reliability study ($n = 13$).

388 Beyond measurement considerations, several methodological limitations should be noted. The
389 use of different sampling frequencies across cohorts (240 Hz for laboratory-based and 60 Hz for
390 field-based testing) due to varying internet connectivity conditions may have influenced motion
391 capture quality, though this impact was not directly assessed. While our validity cohorts included
392 both male and female participants, the reliability analyses were conducted exclusively in female
393 athletes, limiting the generalizability of the reliability findings across the sexes. Additionally, we
394 were unable to assess OpenLESS validity in the field-based cohort due to the absence of standard
395 LESS camera views required for expert rating. Although we anticipate similar agreement given
396 that only background conditions and sampling frequency differed from laboratory testing, this
397 assumption requires verification. Nevertheless, the field-based cohort's data remains valuable,
398 demonstrating OpenLESS's capacity for longitudinal monitoring in real-world settings. These
399 findings lay the groundwork for expanded validation studies examining OpenLESS performance
400 across diverse clinical and athletic populations in field-based settings.

401 Future development should continue leveraging open-source tools like OpenCap to enhance
402 accessibility and automate additional clinical and return-to-activity assessments, including
403 cutting movement assessment scores and single-leg LESS variations. Priority areas for future
404 research include validating OpenLESS in other clinically relevant populations and expanding
405 validation studies to larger healthy cohorts, with a particular focus on intervention
406 responsiveness. Encouraging open-source tools not only increases accessibility but also
407 empowers clinicians and researchers of all experience levels to utilize and adapt these methods
408 for diverse clinical and research applications.

409 **CONCLUSION**

410 OpenLESS provides a comprehensive, automated pipeline for jump-landing assessment,
411 encompassing data processing, event detection, and standardized LESS scoring based on
412 established operational definitions. The system demonstrates robust reliability and clinical utility
413 across diverse settings, offering time-efficient movement quality assessment without specialized
414 laboratory equipment. Initial validation in healthy college-aged and post-ACLR populations
415 supports OpenLESS as a promising tool for democratizing evidence-based injury risk screening.
416 By reducing barriers to implementation while maintaining measurement precision, OpenLESS
417 advances the field toward more accessible, standardized biomechanical assessment.

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549 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

550

551 Figure 1. STROBE Flow Diagram

552

553 Figure 2. LESS Jump-Landing Task. The figure was adapted from Turner et al.³⁰ with
554 permission.

555

556 Figure 3. OpenCap Markerless Motion Capture and Force Plate Setup

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558 Figure 4. OpenLESS Automated Landing Error Scoring System Pipeline

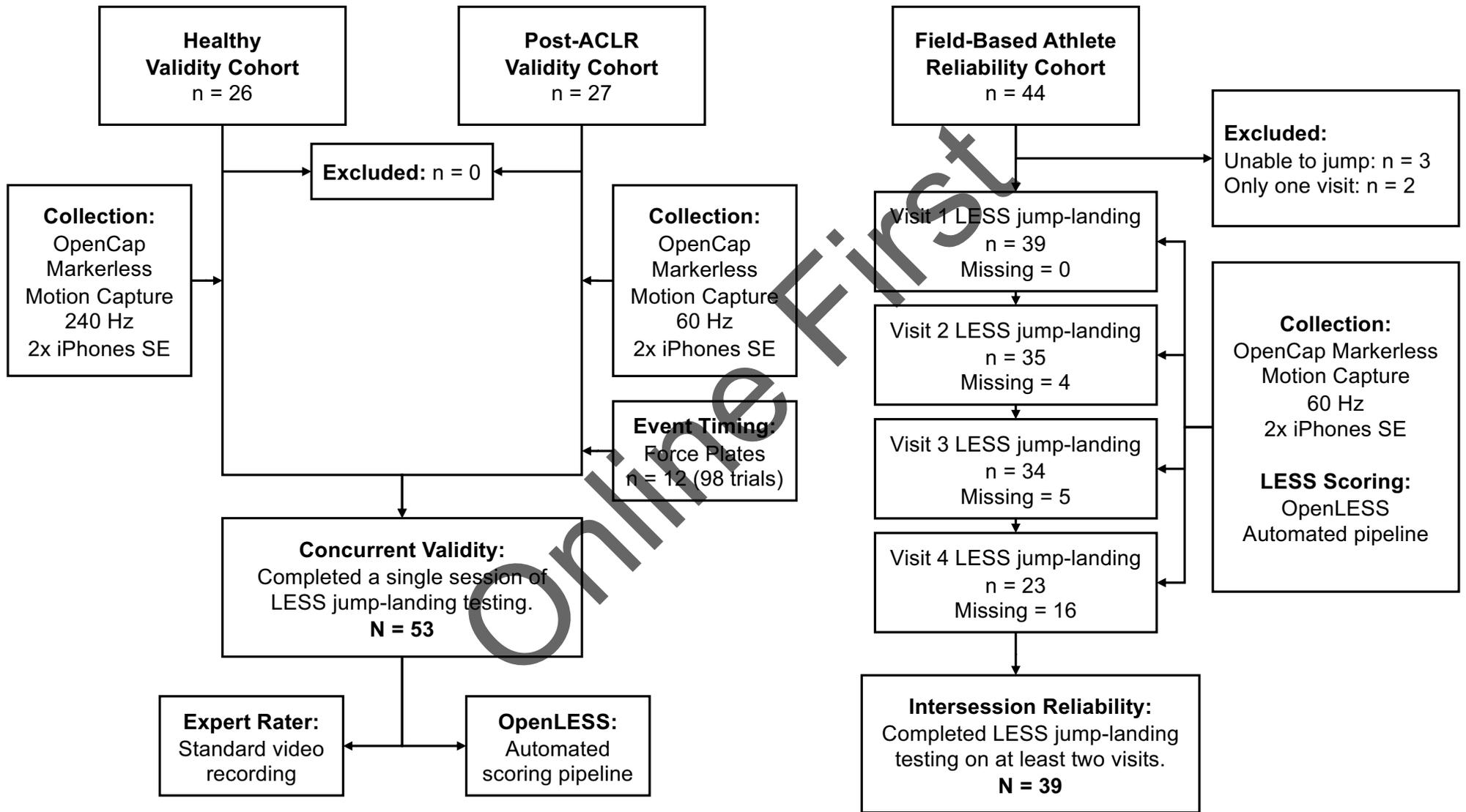
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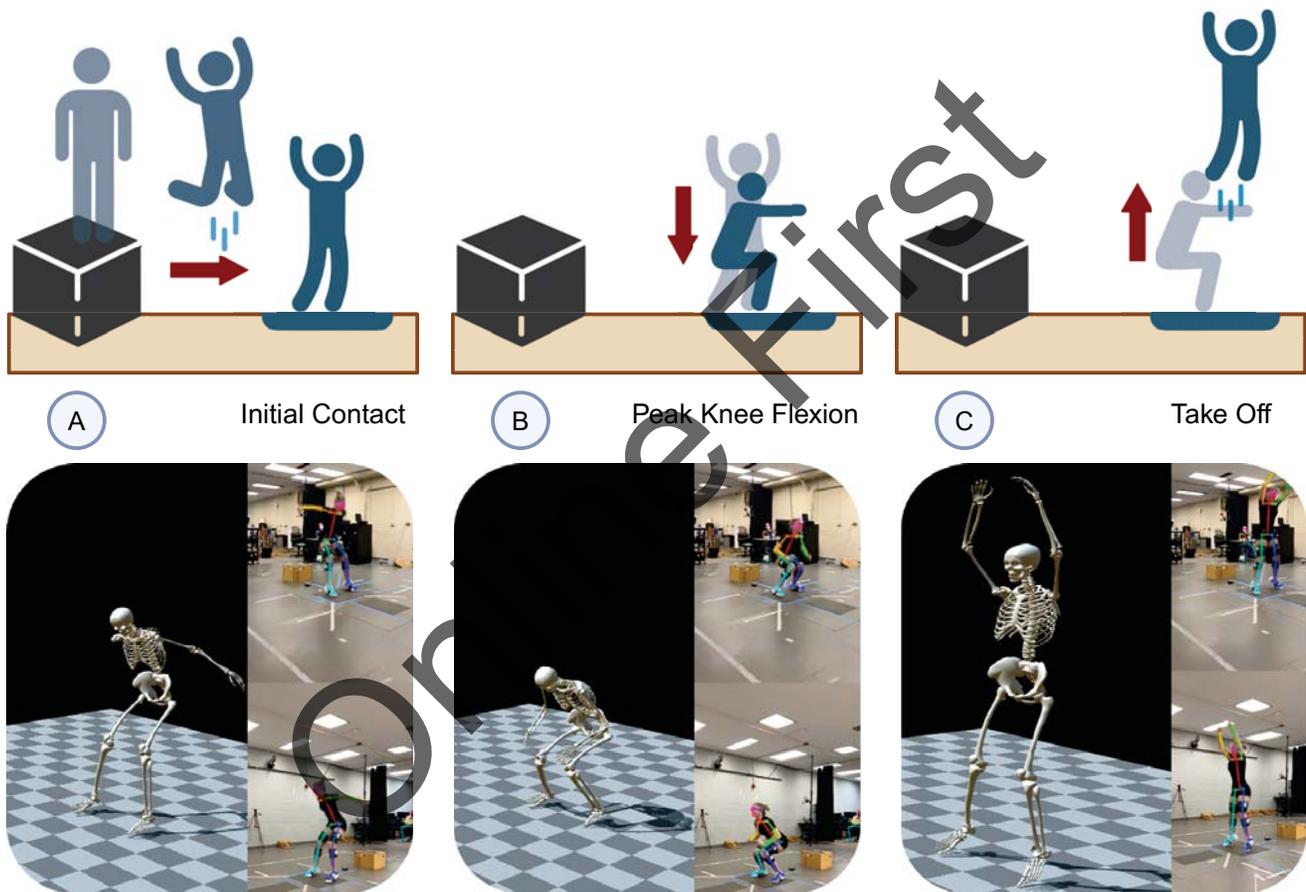
560 Figure 5. (A) Healthy cohort box and whisker plot of LESS scores by both methods. (B) Post-
561 ACLR cohort box and whisker plot of LESS scores by both methods. (C) Healthy cohort Bland-
562 Altman plot of OpenLESS compared to expert rater. (D) Post-ACLR cohort Bland-Altman plot
563 of OpenLESS compared to expert rater. The x-axis “Means” refers to the mean score from the
564 two rating systems (OpenLESS and expert). The y-axis “Differences” refers to the difference in
565 score between the two rating systems, i.e., expert rater minus OpenLESS. Mean bias is
566 represented by the central dashed line, whereas the upper and lower dashed lines represent the
567 upper and lower limits of agreement. 95% confidence intervals are indicated by the shaded
568 regions surrounding mean bias and the limits of agreement.

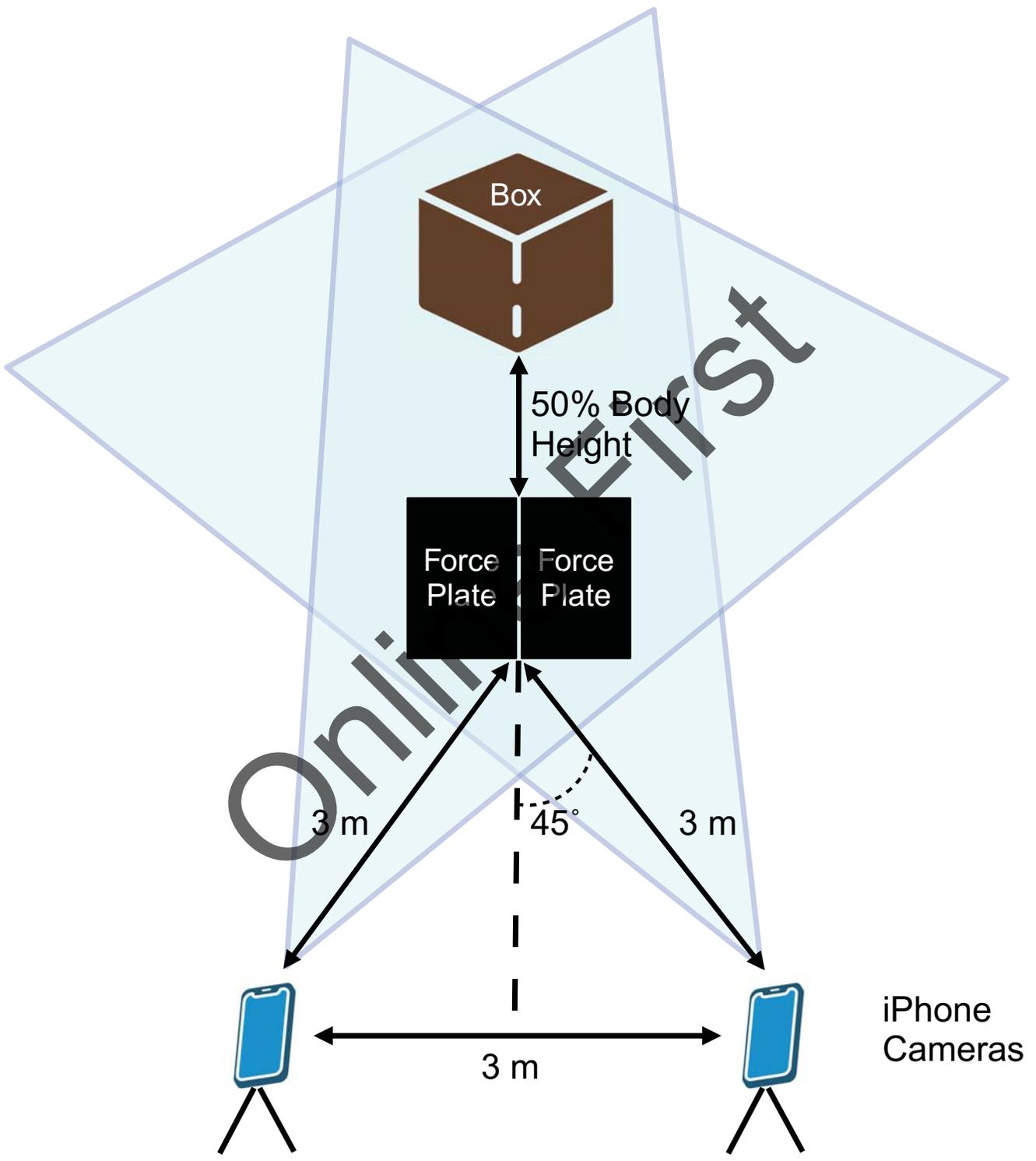
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570 Figure 6. Field-Based Athlete Cohort LESS scores graded by OpenLESS. Box and whisker plots
571 with jittered athlete LESS scores across the four repeated visits.

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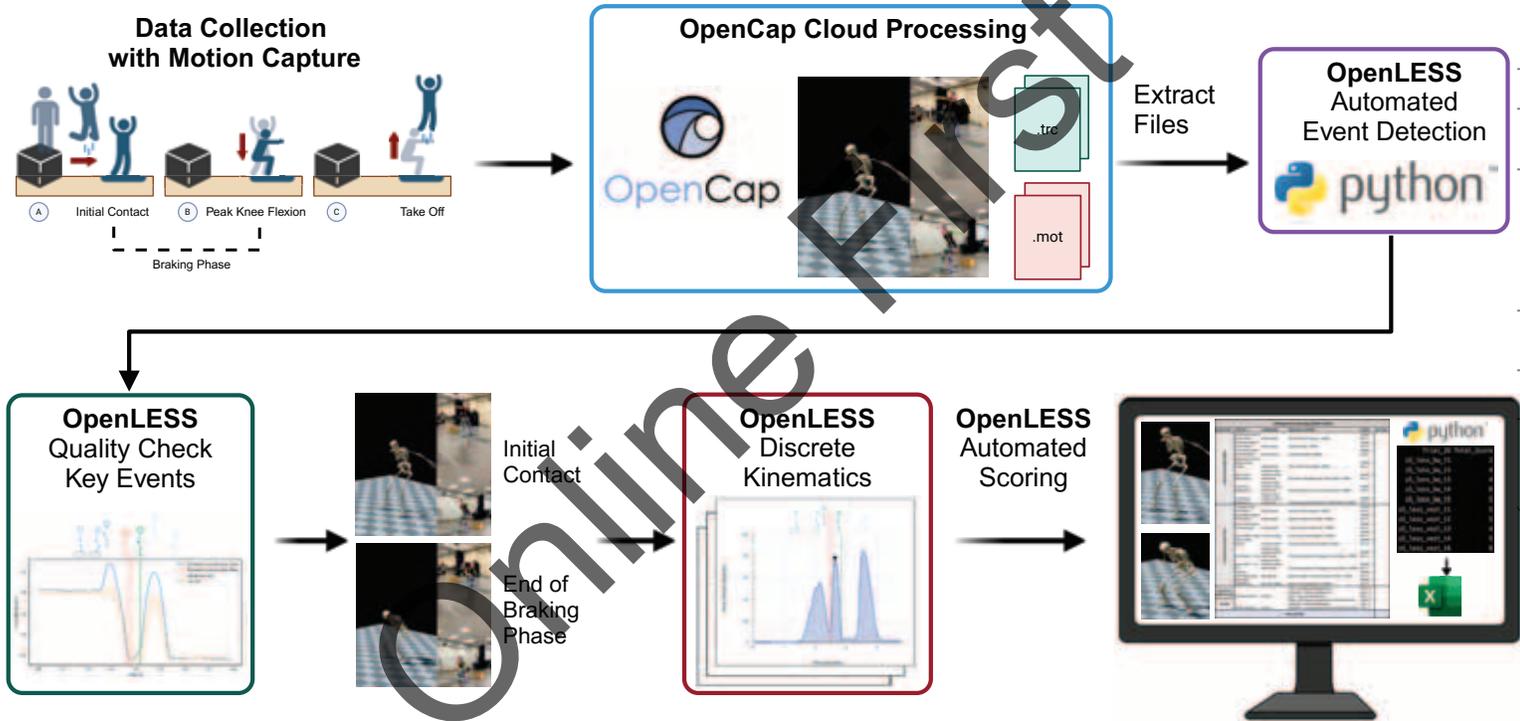


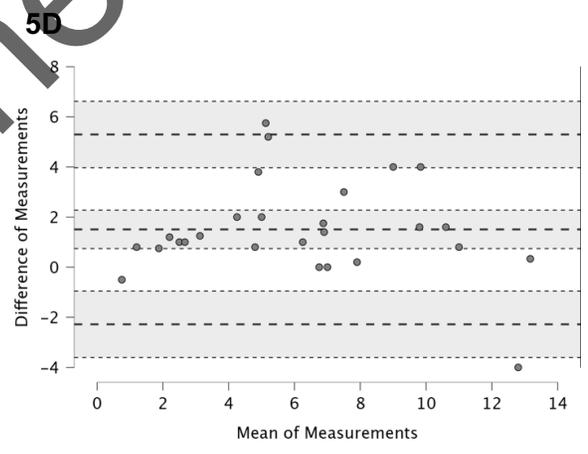
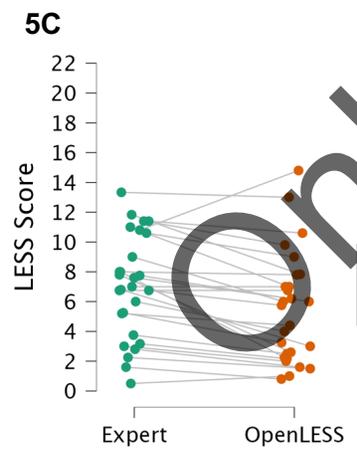
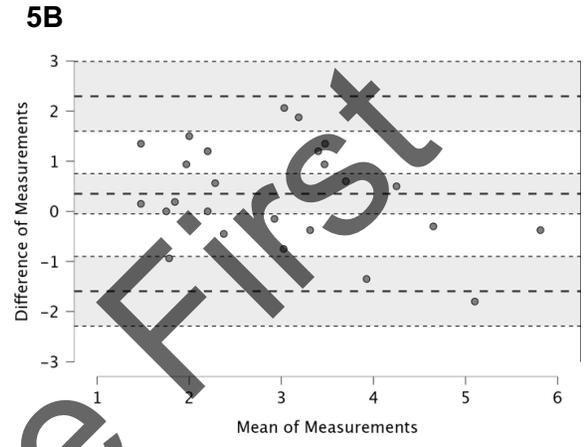
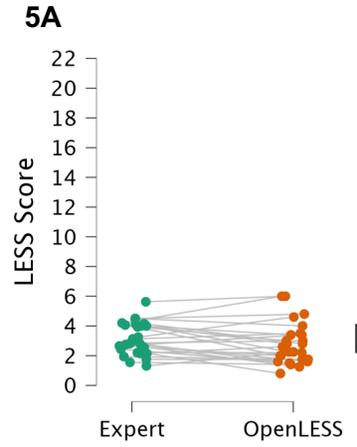




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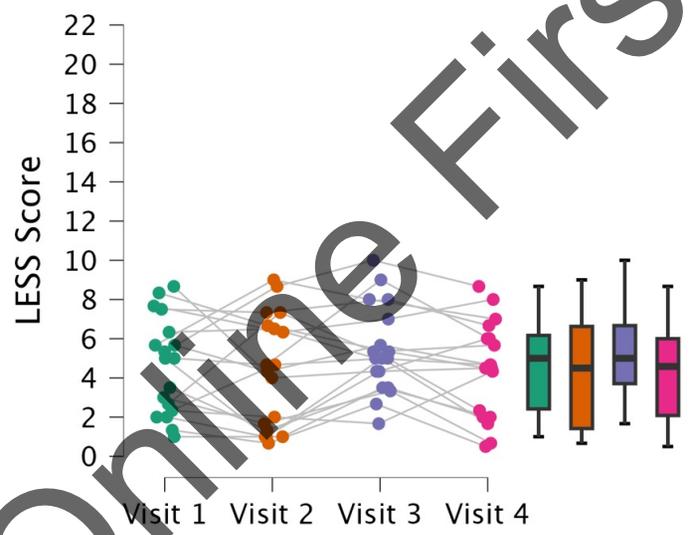


Table 1. Criterion Validity of OpenLESS in Healthy and Post-ACLR Cohorts

Cohort	Rater	Participants	Mean (SD)	ICC _{2,k}	
				Value (95% CI)	R
Healthy Validation Cohort	OpenLESS	26	2.78 (1.38)	0.79 [†] (0.55, 0.91)	0.70 [†]
	Expert		3.13 (1.09)		
Post-ACLR Validation Cohort	OpenLESS	27	5.50 (3.47)	0.88 [†] (0.55, 0.96)	0.86 [†]
	Expert		7.01 (3.71)		

Notes: Averaged composite LESS scores computed from automated OpenLESS compared against an expert rater in a healthy (12 males and 14 females) and post-ACLR (8 males and 19 females) sample. Criterion validity was calculated using a linear mixed-effects model with the ICC function in the *psych* package (v2.6.4.26).

Confidence interval, CI; intraclass correlation coefficient, ICC; Landing Error Scoring System, LESS. Pearson's correlation coefficient, R.

[†] Statistically significant *p*-value <.05.

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Table 2. Intersession Reliability of OpenLESS in Field-Based Athlete Cohort

Cohort	Session	Participants	Mean (SD)	ICC _{2,k}		
				Value (95% CI)	SEM	MDC
Athlete Reliability Cohort	Visit 1	39	5.35 (2.84)			
	Visit 2	35	5.12 (3.20)	0.89 [†]	0.98	2.72
	Visit 3	34	5.87 (2.44)	(0.81, 0.93)		
	Visit 4	23	5.00 (2.65)			

Notes: Averaged composite LESS scores computed from automated OpenLESS from up to 4 visits (each 7 days apart) in 39 female athletes, all athletes contributed at least two visits. Intersession reliability was calculated using a linear mixed-effects model with the ICC function in the *psych* package (v2.6.4.26).

Confidence interval, CI; intraclass correlation coefficient, ICC; Landing Error Scoring System, LESS; minimal detectable change, MDC; standard error of measurement, SEM.

[†] Statistically significant *p*-value <.05.

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Angle	Distal Segment	Proximal Segment	Plane
Trunk Flexion	Pelvis	Thigh	Sagittal
Hip Flexion	Thigh	Pelvis	Sagittal
Knee Flexion	Lower leg	Thigh	Sagittal
Ankle Flexion	Foot	Lower Leg	Sagittal
Lateral Trunk Flexion	Trunk	World	Frontal
Hip Adduction	Thigh	Pelvis	Frontal
Knee Valgus	Lower Leg	Thigh	Frontal
Trunk Rotation	Trunk	World	Transverse
Foot Rotation	Foot	World	Transverse

	OPENCAP INPUTS	DEFINITIONS
INITIAL CONTACT		
Knee Flexion	Knee angle	Less than 30° of knee flexion at initial contact
Hip Flexion	Hip flexion	Less than 30° of hip flexion at initial contact
Trunk Flexion	Lumbar extension ¹	Less than 10° of trunk flexion at initial contact ($> -10^\circ$) ¹
Ankle PF	Toe Coordinates Heel Coordinates	Heel contact at initial contact Heel lands at same time or prior to toes
Asymmetrical Timing	Time	One foot lands at least ≥ 34 ms before the other initial contact
Asymmetrical Heel-Toe	Ankle PF results	One foot lands heel-to-toe and the other lands toe-to-heel at initial contact Ankle PF right \neq left
Lateral Trunk Flexion	Lumbar bending	Greater than 5° lateral bending to either side
Knee Valgus	Hip rotation Hip adduction ¹	If any of the following conditions occur at initial contact: - Hip rotation $> 8^\circ$ and hip adduction $> -1^\circ$ - OR - Hip adduction $> 1^\circ$
Wide Stance Width	Hip adduction ¹	Greater than 12° of hip abduction at initial contact ($< -12^\circ$) ¹
Narrow Stance Width	Hip adduction ¹	Greater than 0° of hip adduction at initial contact ($> 0^\circ$) ¹
Foot Inward Rotation	Subtalar angle	Greater than 10° of foot rotation inward ($> 10^\circ$)
Foot Outward Rotation	Subtalar angle	Greater than 15 degrees of foot rotation outward ($< -15^\circ$)
MAXIMUM POSITION		
Knee Flexion	Knee angle	Less than 65° of maximum knee flexion
Hip Flexion	Hip flexion	Less than 45° degrees of maximum hip flexion
Trunk Flexion	Lumbar extension	Less than 10° degrees of difference between initial contact and maximum position trunk flexion ($< 10^\circ$) ¹
Knee Valgus	Hip rotation Hip adduction ¹	If any of the following conditions occur at max position: - Hip rotation $> 8^\circ$ and hip adduction $> -1^\circ$ - OR - Hip adduction $> 1^\circ$
Asymmetrical Loading	Hip adduction ¹	Greater than 5.1 degree ² difference in maximum hip adduction between right and left legs
Sagittal Plane Joint Displacement	Max position knee, hip, and trunk results	Soft (0) = No errors for knee, hip, and trunk flexion max position Average (1) = $< 55^\circ$ max knee flexion OR $< 73^\circ$ max hip flexion Stiff (2) = Error present for knee, hip, or trunk flexion max position
Overall Impression	Max position knee, hip, trunk, valgus, and initial contact valgus results.	Excellent (0) = No errors for knee, hip, and trunk flexion max position AND no error for knee valgus max position

		<p>Average (1) = All others that do not class as Excellent or Poor</p> <p>Poor (2) = Errors for knee flexion OR hip flexion OR trunk flexion max position AND error for either knee valgus at initial contact OR knee valgus max position</p>
TOTAL SCORE³		Summation of all errors

¹These values are inverted in OpenCap. The pipeline handles the OpenCap values in their original directionality.

² Mean absolute error for drop jump kinematics was 5.1° (2.3°, 8.6°). Ulrich et al. 2022.

³ For averaging across repeated trials we recommend two approaches 1) simple approach would be to average the errors for each item across a minimum of 3 trials, or 2) an error within an item occurs if most trials for an individual input was an error (e.g., ≥2 had errors out of 3 trials with knee flexion initial contact would have a final score of 1 error). Both approaches appear to represent the construct of movement errors similarly according to Hanzlikova et al. 2020.

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Supplemental File 3. Jump Landing Key Event Detection with OpenCap Markerless Motion Capture

Jump Landing Event Time	Method	Mean (SD)	ICC (2,1)	
			Value	P value
Initial Ground Contact (seconds)	Force Plate	6.745 (4.475)	0.999	<.001
	OpenCap	6.775 (4.511)		
Toe-Off (seconds)	Force Plate	7.365 (4.524)	0.999	<.001
	OpenCap	7.277 (4.552)		

Notes: 12 post-ACLR subjects (6 males and 6 females), 98 trials comparing force plate and OpenCap derived key event times. Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction, ACLR; Intraclass Correlation Coefficient, ICC; Standard Deviation, SD.

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