"The Role of Baseline Vestibular Ocular Motor Performance as a Predictor of Prolonged Recovery After Concussion in Collegiate Athletes"

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PROJECT SUMMARY

The Vestibular Ocular Motor Screen (VOMS) measures vestibular oculomotor function by provoking symptoms related to a sport related concussion following injury. The use of the VOMS for the evaluation of sport related concussion has been well-established. The prognostic ability of the pre-injury (baseline) VOMS has yet to be determined to identify those at-risk for a prolonged recovery following injury. This study will determine the relationship between the presence of baseline VOMS symptoms and days until symptom resolution after a sport related concussion in collegiate athletes. We hypothesize that healthy collegiate athletes who experience symptoms during a baseline VOMS will take longer to achieve symptom resolution following a sport related concussion when compared to athletes who do not endorse symptoms.

IMPACT ON THE ATHLETIC TRAINING PROFESSION

This study will help athletic trainers identify individuals at risk for a prolonged recovery (> 14 days) after concussion and help athletic trainers gain a deeper understanding of the factors that may influence concussion recovery.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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Claire Akard is a second-year student in the Master of Science in Athletic Training program at the University of Virginia. She received her B.A. in French and the Classics from the University of Virginia and has been involved in research in the UVA Concussion Lab for the last three years. Her current research interests include the vestibular and visual system responses to concussion. Claire recently won the 2024 NATA Student Writing Contest for Original Research.