

Studies

ICAROS GmbH Martinsried, Germany 2024

Study Results Overview





ICAROS Pro / Health

- **Motivation Boost**: ICAROS encourages continued sports activity post-rehabilitation.
- **Muscle Activation**: Similar to plank variations with instability devices.
- **Muscle Stimulation**: Doubled compared to regular kneeling plank.
- **Calorie Burn**: Increased by 30% compared to regular kneeling plank.
- **©** Enjoyable Experience: Participants find the exercise enjoyable.
- **Improved Muscle Functionality:** A substantial 25.8% increase.
- * Enhanced Stability: Significant 1.4% improvement post-training.
- A Reduced Back Pain: Most participants experienced a decrease in back pain frequency

Study Results Overview





ICAROS Cloud

- Cardiopulmonary Enhancement: Improved compared to training on a mat.
- ☑ Trunk Strength Increase: 15.85% boost after five weeks.
- Higher Energy Metabolism: 5% higher than mat training.
- **Increased Lactate Concentration:** 7% higher post-Cloud training.
- (Line 2) More Fun: Training on the Cloud is perceived as more enjoyable.
- **\display Higher Willingness to Train:** Despite being more demanding, participants show a greater willingness to train on the Cloud.
- **Strength Improvement:** Significant increase in trunk strength with ICAROS App.

Inhalt



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Introduction



PLANK POSITION & CORE ACTIVATION

The ICAROS Pro device is thought for an assisted, global core training, offering a wide range of training modalities keeping safety and effectiveness as main aim.

ICAROS enables users to train core and other body districts at the same time using the "plank position "(also known as " bridge ") as base which is known to be one of the most important and effective exercises in core conditioning.

Short and long leverage plank, side plank, and some other classical core exercise, like the "bird-dog", can be performed on ICAROS with several variation possibilities.

The adjustable structure enables the therapist or the trainer to find out the optimal set up for every case and allow the precise repeatability of the exercise.



Kneeling plank on ICAROS Pro



Long leverage plank on ICAROS Pro



Bird dog on ICAROS Pro

Introduction



PLANK POSITION & CORE ACTIVATION

The difficulty level of the exercise can be selected regulating the range of motion and the reactivity level of the equipment, offering also the possibility to have a high performing unstable surface maintaining a very high safety standard. Enabling even subjects with a low training experience to execute this kind of exercises.

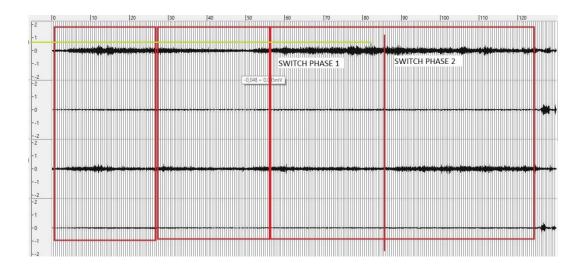
By many trials conducted in order to understand which type of plank is more effective, it was actually demonstrated that planking on an instable surface gives a greater core activation than a stabile plank. Furthermore the evidence shows also that the most effective core activation is given from those exercises where also other distal muscle groups are involved (e.g. shoulder). At our advice it's to note that all the described core activating situation are obtained with exercise that require a good fitness and experience level when performed in the traditional way.

With ICAROS, it is possible to get all these effects in a safe, controlled and measurable way, so that the exercises are suitable also for subjects with conditions (e.g. Low Back Pain syndrome) as therapy (rehab), or in all core instability situations as prevention (prehab).

The machine structure allows to separate the movements on the sagittal and frontal planes as the combined sum of both them, granting a really high quality of the repeatability of the base motions and providing the optimal conditions for the motor learning and core strengthening process.

Many important details as the possibility to switch continually and with flow from a plank position (front) to another (side), or to check and regulate the scapula's position have a fundamental role in developing core stability with efficacy, precision and in global synergy with the whole body.

On ICAROS Pro, as we tested with a sEMG (a 4 channels device from OT BioLab measuring the extensor spinaes and the external obliques)) all these crucial points were confirmed. The maximal core muscle activation was registered during the transition between the front plank (or front bridge) and the side plank (or side bridge) position.



Introduction



CORE TRAINING EFFECTS

In the last decades the role of the core in injury prevention and rehabilitation was supported by several trials and practice-based evidence.

The effects of such a training are not only effective, in the spine and trunk districts, in decreasing pain and increasing active range of motion in patients with chronic low back pain [18], but it promotes and improves the global coordination and joints movement precision, and of course spine stability.

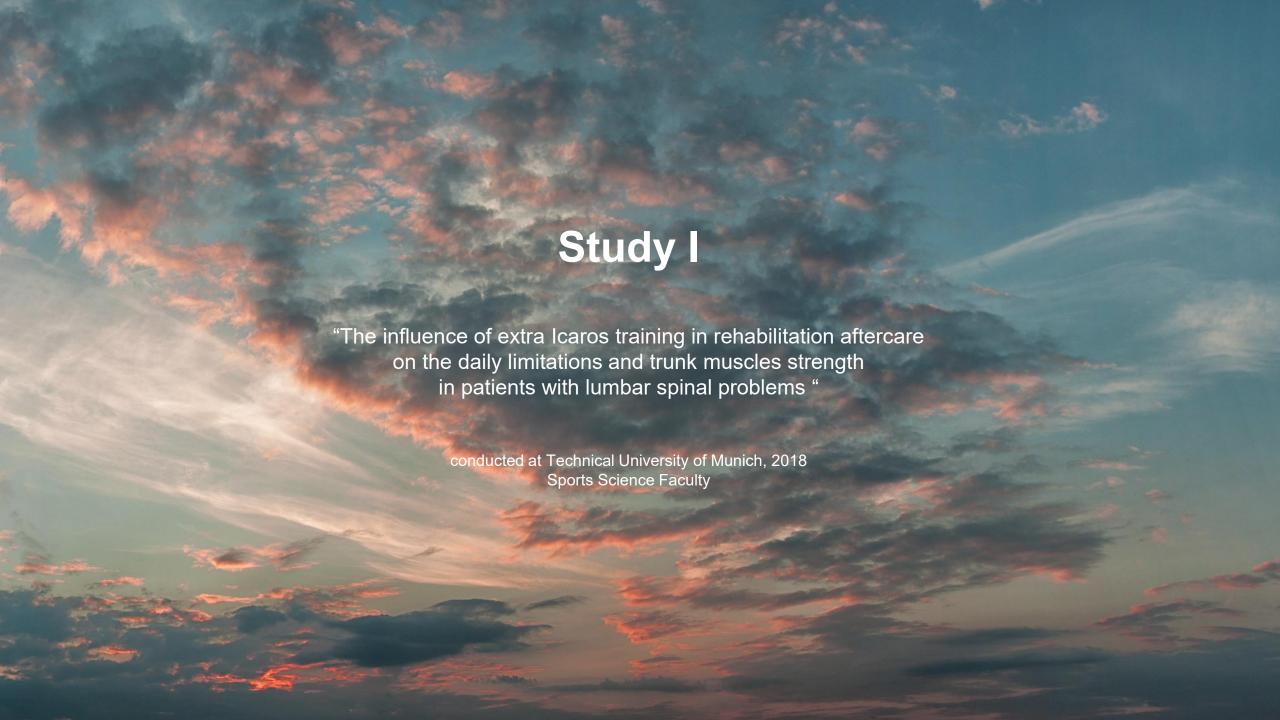
The effects of a three days training on ICAROS was tested internally, using the Corehab platform, a validated medical device on four subjects with different level of training and no injuries (age 27-51).

The global score is given by three different percentage scores:

- Precision (%): ability to reach the target angle at the exact moment.
- Stability (%): ability to maintain balance.
- Accuracy (%): ability to avoid compensations.

The internal pilot trial indicate that every subject improved his global coordination abilities.

Subject	Score Trial1 %	Score Trial2 %	Difference %	Mean %
De I	83	86	+3	
Da I	77	82	+5	
J I	85	93	+8	
11	72	78	+6	
LI	80	82	+2	
ΜI	82	89	+7	
			31	5,166





Question:

"Does additional exercise with the Icaros have a positive effect on the subjective experience of daily limitations or strength parameters of the trunk muscles in patients with lumbar spinal problems?"

Procedure:

- 42 lumbar spinal problems patients in aftercare
- 26 at pre-test
- 12 appointments
- 20 at post test

Test Subjects:

Intervention group (n=9)
Control group (n=11)





Metholodogy- Test

Oswestry Disability Questionnaire (Osthus et al., 2006)

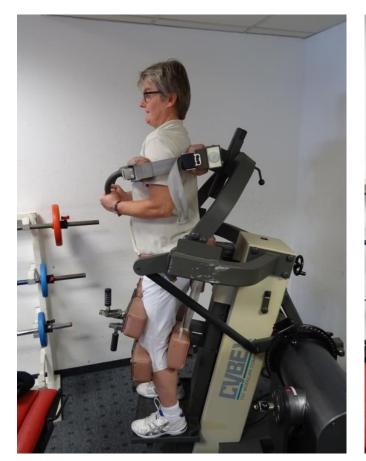
10-minute warm-up on the ergometer

Isokinetic reading:

5 times at 60°/s 15 times at 90°/s

Isometric reading:

60°, 45°, 30° flexion Ratio of extensors: flexors

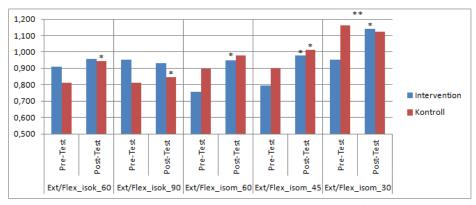


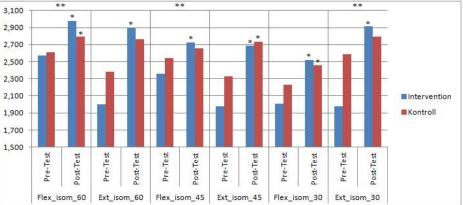


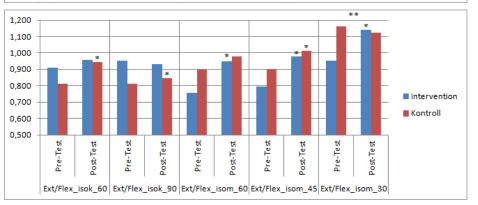


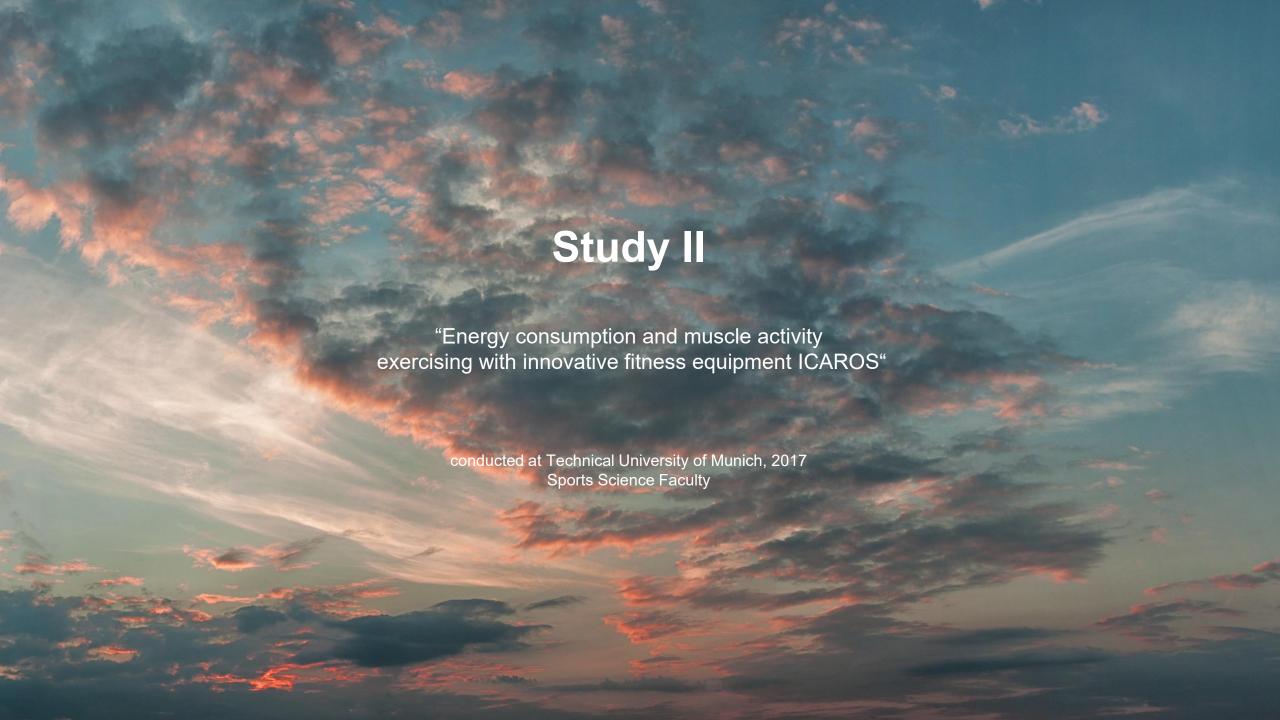
Results

- Isokinetic strength ratio not significantly improved Expectation of pain? (Al-Obaidi, 2000)
- All other parameters improved more than in the control group
- Isometric flexion at 60° and 45° significantly more improved than in the control group
- Isometric extension and strength ratio at 30° flexion significantly more improved than in the control group
- The motivational nature of ICAROS is positive for the continuation of sports activity after rehabilitation
- Usage also for shoulder problems or neurological disorders?
- Further studies are being conducted











Question 1:

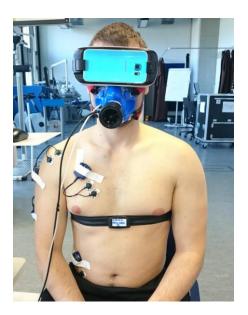
"How high is the calorie consumption during exercising with ICAROS training?"





Question 2:

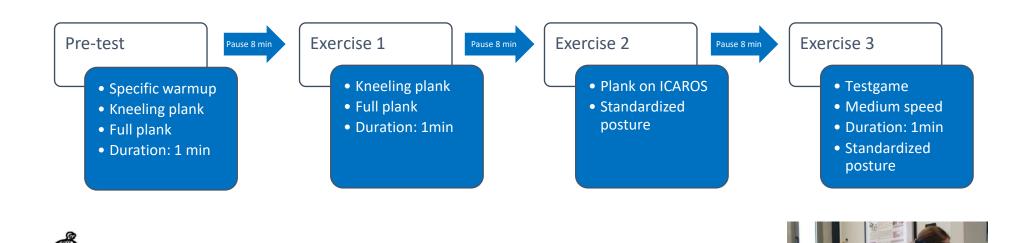
"How intense is the muscle activation during exercising with ICAROS training equipment?"







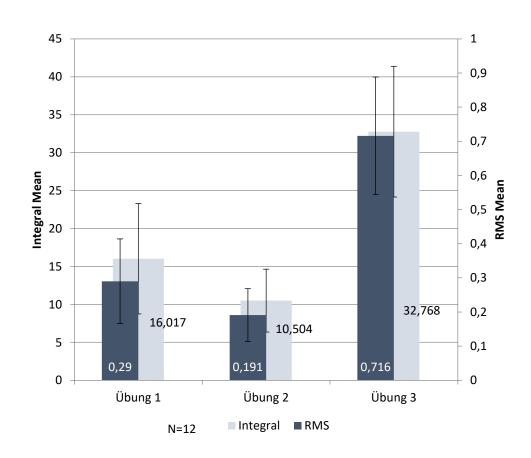
Metholodogy:



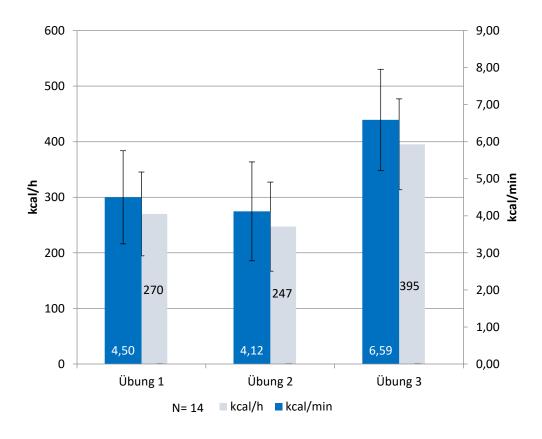


Results

The muscle stimulation **doubled** compared to regular kneeling plank

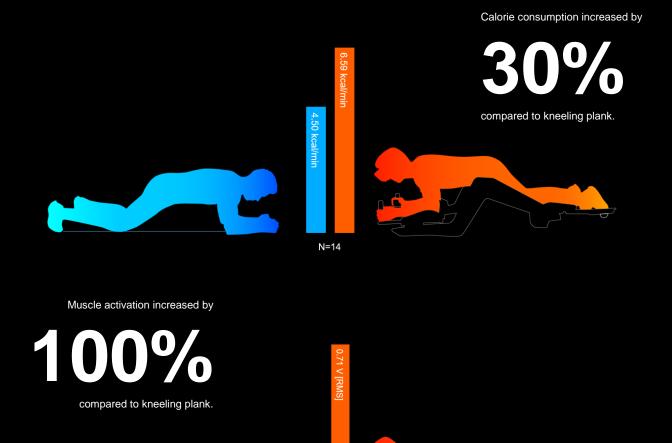


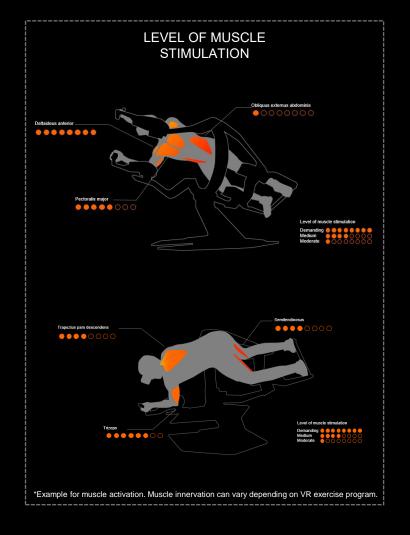
Calorie consumption **increased by 30%** compared to regular kneeling plank



ICAROS Workout Efficacy





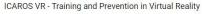






https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODcs1JU2W9Q





2.095 Aufrufe





ICAROS VR - Training and Prevention in Virtual Reality







Study Objectives:

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of a fully immersive virtual reality (VR)-based training system on cardiovascular and muscular parameters of young adults.

Subjects:

- 33 male participants (mean age 23.90 [SD 4.58] years)
- BMI <25 kg/m2
- Height between 170 and 190 cm

Methods:

A cross-sectional analysis of muscle activity (surface electromyography), heart rate, perceived rate of exhaustion (RPE), cybersickness symptoms, perceived workload, and physical activity enjoyment (PACES) in 33 participants performing two 5-minute flights on a new training device.







Methodology - Test

Questionnaires:

Simulator Sickness Questionnaire (SSQ)

Physical Activity Enjoyment Scale (PACES)

Borg Scale

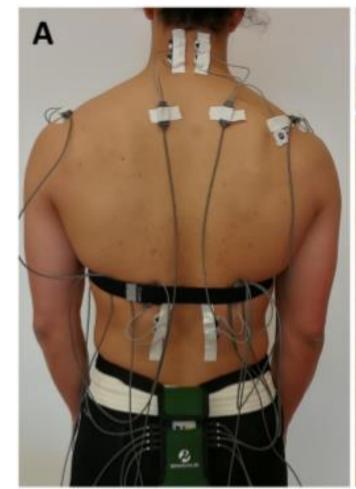
NASA Task Load Index (NASA-TLX)

Heart Rate Monitor:

Participant heart rates were measured continuously using the RS800 heart rate monitor (Polar Electro).

Muscle Activity:

Muscle activity was measured based on sEMG using the TeleMyo 2400T G2 (Noraxon USA).



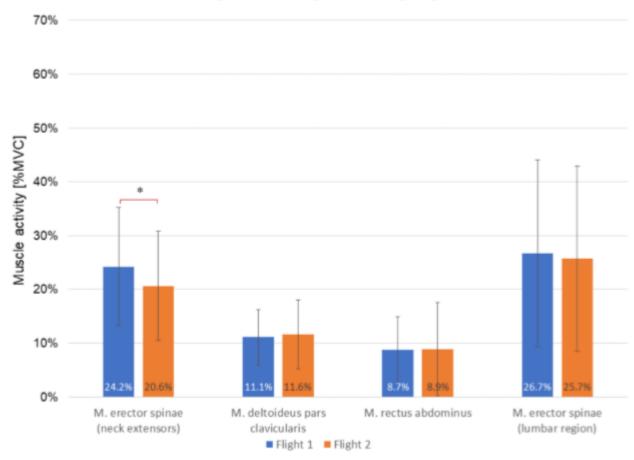




Findings

- Dorsal muscle chain activity (neck extensors and lumbar region of m. erector spinae) shows higher levels of activation, with values reaching or crossing the 30% threshold in some cases.
- Participants position on the ICAROS device resembles the well-established plank exercise. The only difference is the device's shin holders, which provide additional support for user.
- The similarity between the average muscle activations seems to indicate the potential reliability of the ICAROS VR system. Being able to reproduce the physiological muscle activation in a consecutive flight suggests that familiarization effects do not reduce muscle activity straight away.
- Improved intermuscular coordination from reintroducing and sustaining body balance on the device after pitch and roll movements could explain why the significantly smaller range of motion did not correspond to significantly lower muscle activation during the second flight.



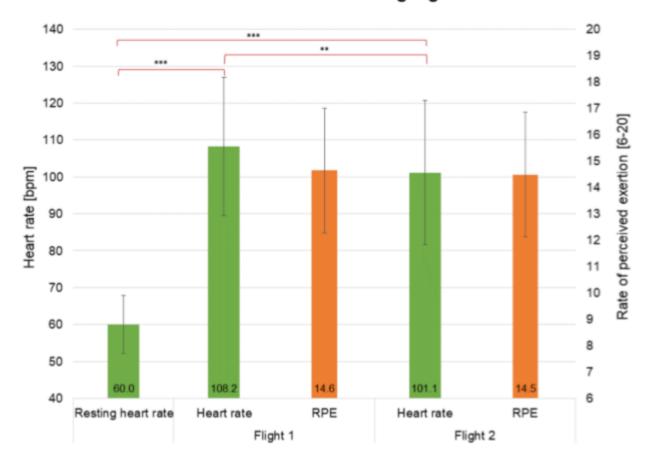




Results

- The lower back's muscle activation corresponds to plank variations with instability devices
- Fully immersive VR training systems can contribute to muscle-strengthening activities
- ICAROS can provide improved muscle strength, especially for the dorsal muscle chain. Differentiated muscle activation can be achieved requiring the user to spend more time in a pitch down position, thereby shifting the body's center of gravity on the pitch axis
- Training on Icaros provides a moderate cardiovascular activity (108 bpm ± 18.69)
- The ICAROS exercise is perceived as a moderate to vigorous activity (RPE 14.6 [SD 1.82])
- The exercise is perceived as an enjoyable experience (PACES 3.74 [SD 0.16])

Heart rate and RPE during flights





Study IV

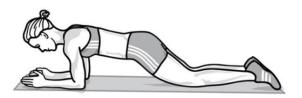


Aim

To compare differences between exercising on the ICAROS Cloud and exercising on a mat in terms of cardiopulmonary and metabolic parameters.

Findings

- Training on the ICAROS Cloud leads to an increase in cardiopulmonary and metabolic parameters compared to training on a training mat.
- The energy expenditure on the ICAROS Cloud is about 5% higher than on training on a mat.
- The lactate concentration after training on the ICAROS Cloud is 7 % higher than training on the mat. Similarly, the heart rate is also about 1 % higher on The ICAROS Cloud.
- Exercising on the ICAROS Cloud is more fun than exercising on a training mat.
- The findings clearly show that despite the tendency to be more demanding, there is a higher willingness to train on the ICAROS Cloud than the mat.





Study IV



Methods

- Cross Sectional examination of exercising on the cloud vs exercising on a training mat.
- ICAROS Cloud and Training Mat are the independent variables
- All participants performed both the trainings ordered randomly and the below mentioned variables were measured.

Subjects

Participants	Mean Age	Mean Height	Mean Weight
N = 16 (5 females, 11 males)	24 ± 1.5 years	176 ± 6.8 cm	71.3 ± 10.3 kg

Independent Variables	Dependent Variables (Measured Variables)	
 ICAROS Cloud – Unstable training surface Training Mat – Stable training surface 	 Energy Expenditure Heart Rate (HR) Lactate Concentration (MetaMax 3B Spirometer) Rate of Perceived Extraction (RPE) PACES Questionnaire 	





Study Design

Tasks	Duration	Content	Data Collection
1. Warm-up	1. 5 minutes	Bicycle Ergometer	Resting Lactate & HR
2. Exercise - Mat	2. 12 minutes	2. Exercise Execution	2. HR, Spirometry, RPE
3. Break	3. 30 minutes	3. Sitting	3. Lactate & HR (0, 1, 3 & 5 min)
4. Warm-up	4. 5 minutes	4. Bicycle Ergometer	4. Resting Lactate & HR
5. Exercise - Cloud	5. 12 minutes	5. Exercise Execution	5. HR, Spirometry, RPE
6. End of Load	6. 5 minutes	6. Sitting	6. Lactate & HR (0, 1, 3 & 5 min)

Study IV

RESULTS

Energy Expenditure (kcal/17min)

Energy expenditure within the exercise time and five-minute post load was about 5% higher for exercising on the ICAROS Cloud compared to exercising on the training mat albeit the effect size being small (Wilcoxon Test (p. = 0.005/ d.= 0.9/ 95% CI [1.5; 6.4])).

· Mean values:

ICAROS Cloud: 83 ± 15 kcal /17 min
Training Mat: 79 ±16 kcal / 17 min

· Heart Rate (bpm)

T-tests for dependent samples also reveal no significance (p. = 0.209/95% CI [-1.7; 7.1]).

Mean values :

ICAROS Cloud: 156 ± 16 bpm
 Training Mat : 154 ± 18 bpm

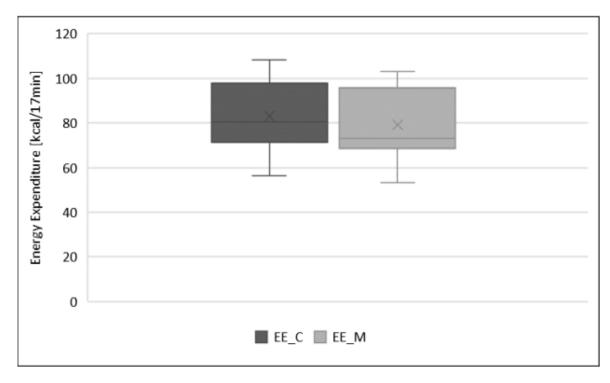
· Lactate Concentration (mmol/l)

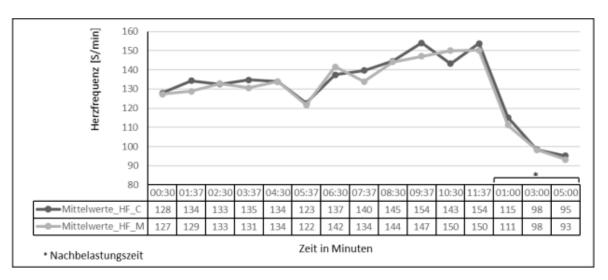
Lactate concentration in the blood is more while exercising on the ICAROS Cloud (T-test (p. = 0.314/ 95% CI [-0.4; 1.2])).

Mean values :

ICAROS Cloud: 5.8 ± 1.9 mmol/l
 Training Mat : 5.4 ± 2.1 mmol/l







Study IV

RESULTS

Rate of Perceived Exertion (Borg Scale)

- The t-test for dependent samples does not show significance (p. = 0.909/95% CI [- 0.7; 0.6])
- · Mean values:

ICAROS Cloud: 12.9 ± 1.7
 Training Mat : 12.9 ± 2.0

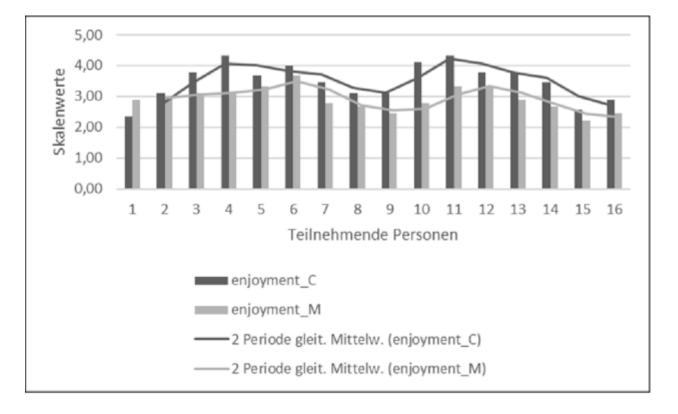
• PACES Questionnaire

- Training on the ICAROS CLOUD is significantly better than training on the training mat in terms of fun factor(T-test (p. = 0.000/95% CI [0.3; 0.8]), with Cohen's d = 1.2.
- Mean Values :

ICAROS Cloud: 3.5 ± 0.6
 Training Mat : 2.9 ± 0.4



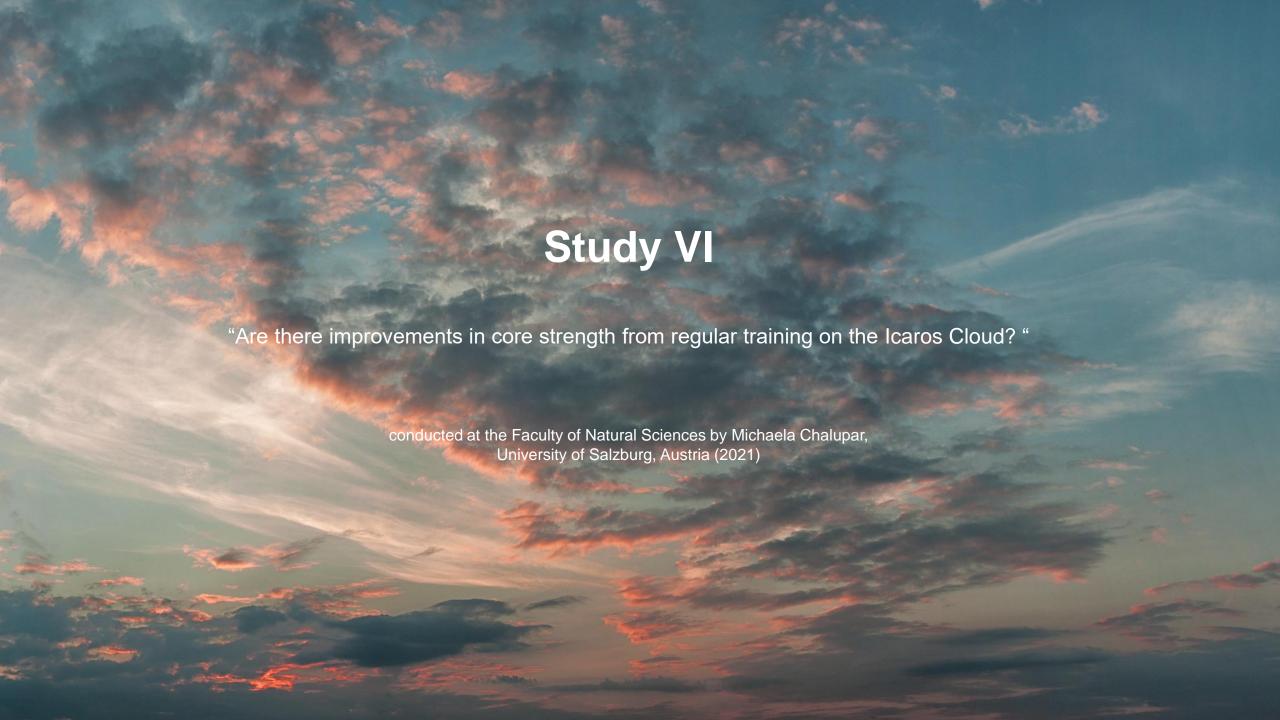
	Mean ± standard	Paired differences				
	deviation Mean value		Standard deviation of the mean	95% confidence interval of the difference		
			ule illeali	At	Upper	Sig. (2- sideways
PPE CLOUD	120+17	02574	4 22225	60006	64002)
RPE_CLOUD	12,9 ± 1,7	-,03571	1,22835	-,69026	,61883	,909
RPE_MATTE	12,9 ± 2,0					





Conclusions

- Training on the ICAROS Cloud leads to an increase in cardiopulmonary and metabolic parameters compared to training on a training mat as is evident in the absolute values of all the measured variables even though the differences were not significant.
- The energy metabolism on the ICAROS Cloud is about 5% higher than on training on a mat. Since the trainings on both the ICAROS Cloud and Mat mirror each other, the higher calorie consumption can directly be attributed to the effectiveness of ICAROS Cloud.
- The lactate concentration after training on the ICAROS Cloud is 7 % higher than training on the mat. Similarly, the heart rate is also about 1 % higher on The ICAROS Cloud.
- In terms of 'fun factor', there is a clear and significant difference between training on the Cloud and on the mat as it is more fun to train on the ICAROS Cloud.
- The findings show that despite the tendency to be more demanding, there is a higher willingness to train on the ICAROS Cloud than the mat. This would also imply a higher willingness to train on the ICAROS Cloud and therefore a potential to increase the intensity as well as the quantity of training sessions.



Study V



<u>Aim</u>

To investigate whether training on the ICAROS Cloud leads to improvements in:

- Trunk strength
- Fun
- Experiencing flow state

Findings

- Five weeks of training on the ICAROS Cloud resulted in a 15.85% increase in trunk strength between the pre and posts tests.
- Participants had fun while training on the ICAROS Cloud (mean rating ,m =8.11 out of 10)
- It was found that the participants were extremely absorbed in the game and training events and that all of them felt that time passed very quickly during the training on the Cloud.

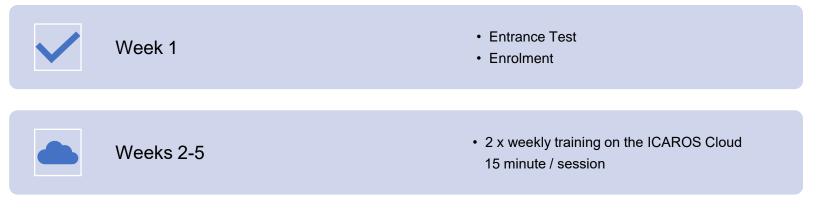


Study V

Methods

Participant Demographics	Measured Variables	
Number of participants, N = 9	Trunk strength: Time	
	Rate of Perceived Exertion (RPE) / Borg Scale	
Mean Age = 13 years	State of Flow	
Sex : Females	Fun Factor	

Study Design







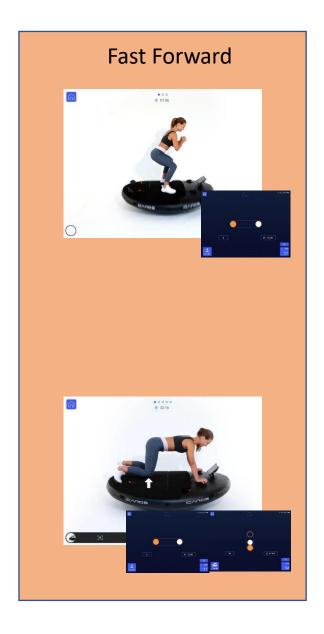
Setup of the pre and post test for the measurement of trunk muscle load-bearing capacity



Training Programs used on the ICAROS Cloud





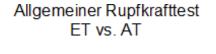


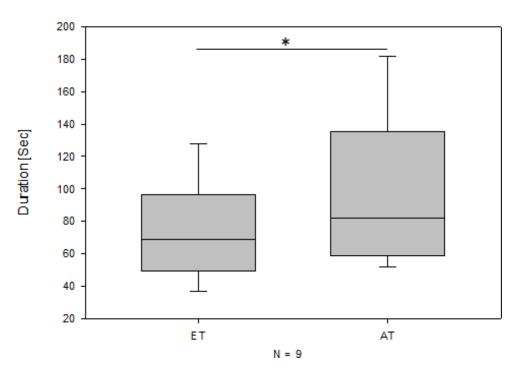




Pre-Test Time vs Post-Test Time

- Measure of Trunk Strength & Stability
- All students improved significantly in the plank position (+15.85%) suggesting improved core strength and stability.
- Using Wilcoxon signed-rank test, a significant difference (P = 0.039), (α = 0.05; β = 0.8) was found after five weeks of core training on the ICAROS Cloud.
- Median Values :
 - Pre-Test Time = 69.00 seconds
 - Post-Test Time = 82.00 seconds





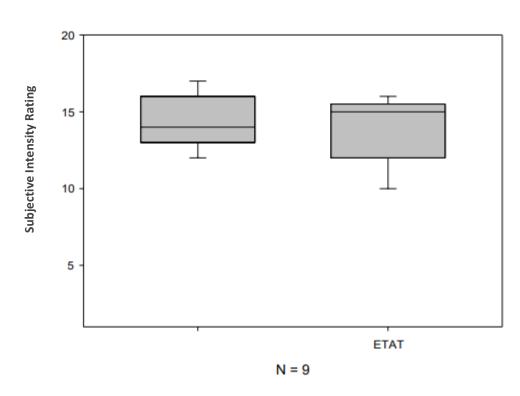


Results

BORG Pre- Test vs Borg Post-Test

- Subjective evaluation of training intensity.
- Using a paired t-test, no significant difference (P = 0.401; α = 0.05; β = 0.8) was found.
- Mean values :
 - Pre-Test = 14.556 ± 1.74
 - Post-Test = 14.00 ± 2.34





Study V



Results

Core Training

- The analysis using Spearman correlation and linear regression showed an improvement in core training.
- The range of the positive correlation coefficients of all 9 test persons was between r = 0.106 and 0.927. The mean value of the correlation coefficients was 0.551 with a standard deviation of 0.301

Fast Forward training

Squats

There was a measurable improvement in the number of squats per training session with a mean positive correlation of 0.555.

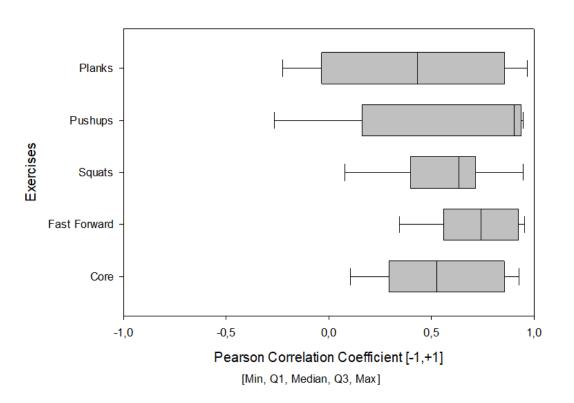
Push-ups

The number of push-ups per training session increased at a mean positive correlation of 0.620.

<u>Planks</u>

The mean positive correlation of 0.473 was measured for the plank push ups per training session

Box Plots (Mean of N = 9)





Conclusions

- Training on the ICAROS Cloud using training programs from the ICAROS App leads to a significant increase (p = 0.039) in trunk strength in all the participants (+15.85 %).
- 90 % of the participants stated that they would like to continue using the ICAROS Cloud and would recommend it to others.
- The mean fun factor value as rated by the participants was 8.11 out 10, underlining that training on the ICAROS Cloud is very highly enjoyable.
- It was also observed that the test subjects were extremely absorbed during training sessions due to the gamified nature of training using the ICAROS Cloud.
- The overall conclusion of this study is that core strength is greatly improved by regular training on the ICAROS Cloud. In addition, the fun and flow factor of training on the Cloud is very high seemingly due to the gamified nature of training modalities in the ICAROS App.



Studie VII

"Exergame-basied flight simulation and therapeutic exercising with unspecific acute lower back pain syndrome"

Vorstudie und Pilotstudie Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln, 2023

Studie V – Study Design



Goal

Examination of the Effectiveness of Exergame-Based Back Training in an Unstable Plank Position Regarding:

- Improvement of Acute Back Pain
- Pain Perception
- Movement Functionality
- Overall Well-being

Results

- Both older and younger healthy participants showed **positive adaptation and familiarity** with the device after just four days.
- The functionality of the back muscles in participants with back pain improved after a six-week intervention.
- The participants reported **increased well-being** over the course, indicating a reduction in acute back pain through the ICAROS Health.





Studie V – Study Design



1. Pre Study

Young subjects: n=6, ager: 22 ± 2, no back pain
 Older subjects: n=4, age: 57 ± 8, no back pain

2. Pilot Study

Control group: n=6, age: 35 ± 13, acute back pain
 Intervention group: n= 4, age: 47 ± 14, acute back pain

3. Research question:

Can exergame-based back training on the ICAROS Health contribute to the improvement of acute back pain?



4. Literature:

- Debska et al. 2019, Feodoroff et al. 2019, Maclyntre et al. 2023:
- Successful Implementation of Plank Exercises and Gamification in Back Pain Management



Studie V - Vorstudie



Pre Study

Young subjects: n=6, ager: 22 ± 2, **no** back pain
 Older subjects: n=4, age: 57 ± 8, **no** back pain

Results of the Pre Study

- · Younger participants achieved better results from the beginning.
- Older participants showed an overall consistent improvement over the four days, although they took longer to adapt to the device.
- Both groups demonstrated a positive adaptation and familiarity with the device after four days.
- Conclusion: Four days are sufficient as an adaptation period.

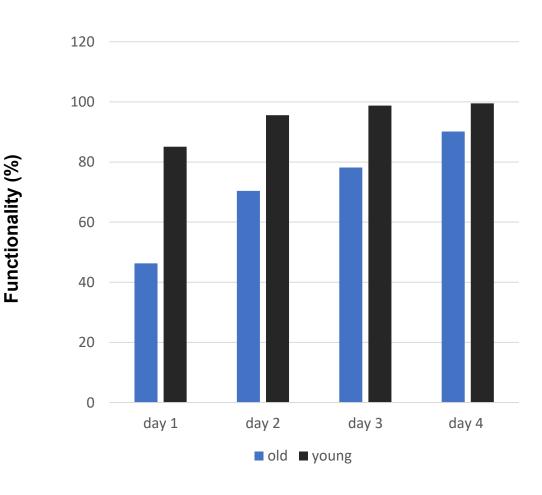


Fig.: Functionality (%) on the ICAROS Health at healthy subjects



Results of the Pilot Study

- Increase in well-being to "very good"
- Improvement in back muscle-controlled functionality from 67.73% to 92.95% during the course of training

Methods of the Pilot Study

Intervention

- · Tablet-based exercising
- Duration: 6 weeks

Training sessions On the ICAROS Health

- 20 min Exergaming
- 10 min Core-Stabilisation

Sessions per week

- Week 1: 4x
- Weeks 2-4: 2x

Parameters

- Pain perception (NRS)
- Movement functionality
- Well-being (WHO 5)
- Fingertip-to-Floor Distance

Studie V – Pilot Study



Pilot Study

• Control group: n=6, age: 35 ± 13, **acute** back pain

• Intervention group: n= 4, age: 47 ± 14, **acute** back pain

Conducting a six-week ICAROS Health-intervention



Measurement of **well-being** using the WHO 5-questionnaire

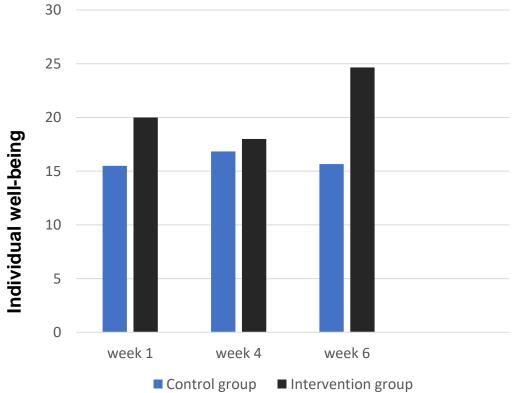


Fig.: Change in well-being during the intervention (very good well-being from 19 points)

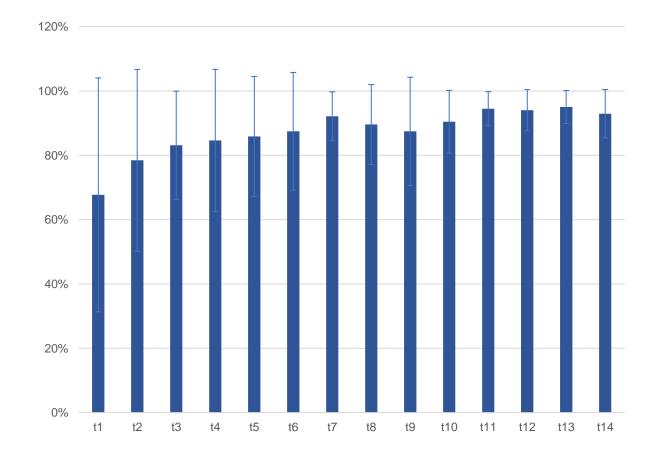
Studie V – Pilot Study



Pilot Study

- Control group: n=6, Age: 35 ± 13, acute back pain
- Intervention group: n=4, 2 female, 2 male, Age: 47 ± 14, acute back pain
- Completion of a six-week ICAROS Health intervention

Changes in back muscle-controlled functionality. Progress during a 6-week ICAROS Health intervention. Patients with acute back pain (n=4), 14 training sessions.







Aim

To investigate the effectiveness of training with an ICAROS PRO device and ICAROS AIM training software in Virtual Reality in terms of :

- Body Composition
- Muscle Function
- · Muscle thickness
- Acceptance of participants

Findings

- 80 % of the participants wanted to continue training after the study, signifying that there is a high acceptance to ICAROS VR training.
- Reactivity of the participants increased significantly by 16.4 % from 43.0% before training to 59.4 % after training.
- Muscle functionality was found to significantly increase after training by 25.8%.
- Stability of the participants increased after training by 1.4%, which was also found to be a highly significant improvement (p < 0.001).
- All participants except one reported decrease in the frequency of back pain because of ICAROS VR training.







Methods

Subjects

Total number of participants : 36

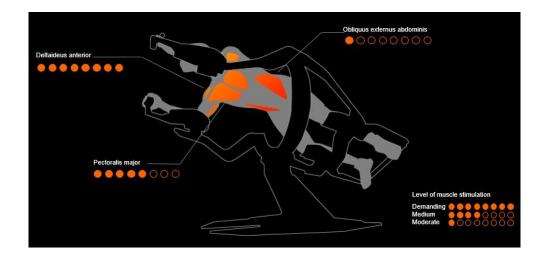
• Age group : 26 – 65

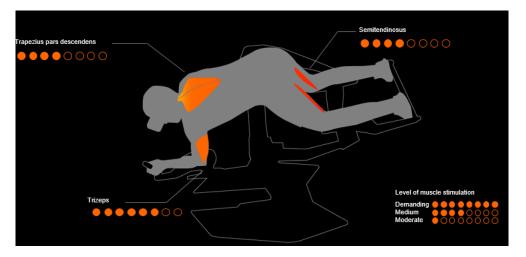
Exclusion Criteria

Medically diagnosed chronic low back pain, severe musculoskeletal injury in the last six months, pacemakers, defibrillators and age under 18 years.

Measured Variables

- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Bio-Electrical Impedance Analysis (BIA) was used to determine body composition. BIACORPUS RX4000 was used to measure:
 - Resistance
 - Reactance
 - Phase Angle
- Biering- Sørensen test & McGil Test : Isometric Strength
- Muscle Thickness of external abdominis, obliquus internus abdominis and upper back (rhomboideus muscle) was measured using Sonoscape E2 sonography device from Fuji.





Study Design

Pre-Test

- BIA Measurements
- Sonography
- Muscle Reactivity, functionality & Stability tests
- Questionnaire

Training (6 weeks)

- 3 sessions / week
- 10 minutes / session using ICAROS AIM Software
- Muscle Reactivity, functionality & Stability tests / week

Post Test

- BIA Measurements
- Sonography
- Questionnaire
- Muscle Reactivity, functionality & Stability tests

Follow Up

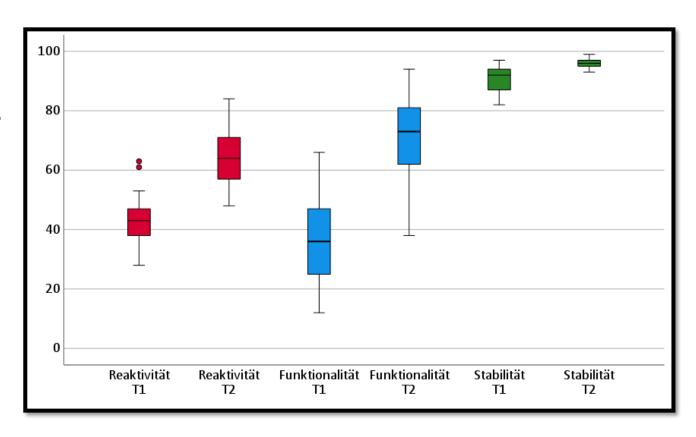
Questionnaire



Results

The measurements of muscle functions show highly significant increases across variables:

- Muscle reactivity increased significantly from 43.0 % to 59.4 % by 16.4 % between pre and post training.
 - (t-test paired, t=14.5; p<0.001; d=2.42)
- Muscle functionality shows a significant increase from 37.7 % to 63.3 % and has increased by 25.8 % after training.
 - (t-Test paired; t=15.9; p<0.001; d=2.64).
- Stability shows a significant increase of 1.4 % from the initial measurement of 93.2 % to the final value of 94.6 %.
 - (t-test paired; t=8.4; p<0.001; d=1.40)



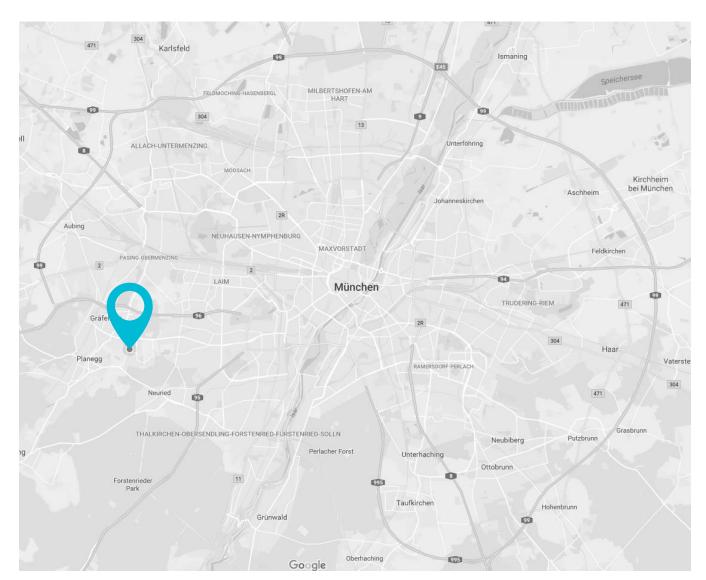


Conclusions

- In congruence with the findings reported by previous studies, 80 % of the participants wanted to continue training with ICAROS after the study, signifying that there is a high acceptance to ICAROS VR training.
- Six weeks of training with ICAROS Pro and ICAROS AIM software was found to improve muscle functionality by 25.8%.
- Training on the ICAROS Pro using the ICAROS AIM software increased the reactivity of the participants significantly by 16.4 %, from 43.0% before training to 59.4 % after training.
- Additionally, VR training using proprietary ICAROS hardware and software significantly improved the stability of the participants by 1.4% (p < 0.0001).
- Regarding questions about mobility, six participants stated that the training led to an improvement of their complaints in five cases, and one person experienced a change in the localisation of the complaints.
- VR training using ICAROS hardware and software led to decrease in back pain frequency in all the participants except one, which goes in line with the results of previous studies conducted on ICAROS.

About ICAROS







ICAROS GmbH

Competencies:

Hard- and Software Development Design and Engineering Virtual- and Augmented Reality Michael Schmidt Johannes Scholl

CEO:

Facts & Figures:

Founded: 2015 Location: Munich Staff: 20

Our Mission: ACTIVE VR