To determine the reliability of gait parameters measured by the manual overground walk test while ‘OFF’ and ‘ON’ dopaminergic medication in individuals with PD. To date, no study has examined the correlation of gait parameters calculated from an overground timed walk test compared to the parameters measured by a computerized walkway. It was hypothesized that an overground timed walk test would be highly correlated with gait parameters measured by a computerized walkway when testing while ‘OFF’ and ‘ON’ dopaminergic medication.

**Abstract**

**Objectives:** To study the reliability of an overground walk test in individuals with Parkinson’s disease (PD).

**Methods:** Thirty individuals (21 Males) with PD were studied. Their mean age was 68.90 ± 9.28 years. The average time since diagnosis was 8.75 ± 5.68 years. The reliability of the manual overground walk test was studied while ‘OFF’ and ‘ON’ dopaminergic medication when the subjects walked at their self-selected, usual speed overground compared to walking on a computerized walkway.

**Results:** During ‘OFF’ medication testing, correlations between the overground walk test and the instrumented measures for gait speed, cadence, and stride length were .93 (p<.0005), .57 (p=.001) and .94 (p<.0005), respectively. During ‘ON’ medication testing, the correlations were .92 (p<.0005), .75 (p<.0005), and .93 (p<.0005), respectively.

**Conclusions:** Gait speed and stride length obtained by the overground walk test were highly correlated with those obtained by the electronic walkway. The overground walk test is a quick, simple and inexpensive gait evaluation for individuals with PD. The method is sufficiently reliable to be used clinically in this population during different medication cycles.