REFERENCES


--------------------------------------

COMMENTARY

The determination of the thickness of the Achilles tendon (AT) is an important tool to monitor the course of an acute or chronic inflammation. A major problem is the inter-individual variation in thickness measurement made by different investigators. The authors show a new way to detect AT thickness by use of an automatic identification method using grey value analysis of an ultrasound image, originally developed for the detection of the intima thickness in artery walls. Compared with the so-called “manual technique”, based primarily on the experience of an investigator, the new method shows a clearly reduced inter- as well as intra-individual observer variability of AT thickness measurement. Therefore, this new method seems to be a suitable instrument for the measurement of this important clinical marker.

Klaus-Michael Braumann
University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany; braumann@uni-hamburg.de