Comparison of Four ActiGraph Accelerometers during Walking and Running

DINESH JOHN, BRIAN TYO, and DAVID R. BASSETT
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

ABSTRACT

JOHN, D., B. TYO, and D. R. BASSETT. Comparison of Four ActiGraph Accelerometers during Walking and Running. Med. Sci. Sports Exerc., Vol. 42, No. 2, pp. 368–374, 2010. Currently, researchers can use the ActiGraph 7164 or one of three different versions of the ActiGraph GT1M to objectively measure physical activity. Purpose: To determine whether differences exist between activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and the three versions of the GT1M at given walking and running speeds. Methods: Ten male participants (23.6 ± 2.7 yr) completed treadmill walking and running at 10 different speeds (3-min stages) while wearing the ActiGraph 7164 and the latest GT1M (GT1M-V3) or the GT1M version one (GT1M-V1) and the GT1M version two (GT1M-V2). Participants walked at 3, 5, and 7 km h⁻¹ followed by running at 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 km h⁻¹. The accelerometers were worn on an elastic belt around the waist over the left and right sides of the hip. Testing was performed on different days using a counterbalanced within-subjects design to account for potential differences attributable to accelerometer placement. At each speed, a one-way repeated-measures ANOVA was used to examine differences between activity counts in counts per minute (cpm). Post hoc pairwise comparisons with Bonferroni adjustments were used where appropriate. Results: There were no statistically significant differences between activity counts at any given walking or running speed (P < 0.05). At all running speeds, activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and GT1M-V2 displayed the lowest and highest values, respectively. Output from all accelerometers peaked at 14 km h⁻¹ (mean range = 8974 ± 677 to 9412 ± 982 cpm) and then gradually declined at higher speeds. The mean difference score at peak output between the ActiGraph 7164 and GT1M-V2 was 439 ± 565 cpm. Conclusions: There were no statistically significant differences between outputs from all the accelerometers, indicating that researchers can select any of the four ActiGraph accelerometers in doing research. Key Words: ACCELEROMETRY, ACTIVITY COUNTS, OBJECTIVE MONITORING, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical activity monitors that sense body accelerations, commonly known as “accelerometers,” are often used to assess physical activity and energy expenditure. In 1961, Cavagna et al. (4) built one of the earliest accelerometers to study human movement, consisting of strain gauges that sensed accelerations in the forward, lateral, and vertical directions. As compared to the strain gauge sensors used by Cavagna et al. (4), current physical activity monitors have technologically advanced piezoelectric, piezoresistive, and capacitive sensors (5,23). Of the commercially available accelerometers, those manufactured by ActiGraph (Pensacola, FL) are commonly used in physical activity research. ActiGraph introduced the piezoelectric 7164 activity monitor in the 1990s. Since its introduction, the ActiGraph 7164 has been used extensively by researchers in laboratory and field-based studies to derive energy expenditure prediction equations and establish cut points to distinguish among light, moderate, and vigorous activities (3,7,9,11,14,16,20,24). These cut points, in turn, have been used in several intervention studies and also in a national surveillance study in the United States (7,9,21). ActiGraph discontinued the 7164 and replaced it with the capacitive GT1M in the early 2000s. With technological advancements, the GT1M was further remodeled to be smaller. As a result of repeated modifications, currently there are two different models (ActiGraph 7164 and GT1M) and three different versions of the GT1M model being used in research today.

Both the ActiGraph 7164 and GT1M models have a built-in single-axis (vertical) accelerometer. The main technological difference between the two devices is in the type of accelerometer they contain. The ActiGraph 7164 uses a cantilever beam sensor, whereas the GT1M uses a Micro-Electro-Mechanical System (MEMS) capacitive accelerometer. In addition, the ActiGraph 7164 has a lower sampling frequency (10 vs 30 Hz) and memory capacity (64 kb vs 1 Mb) compared with the GT1M (5,22). Physical differences between the accelerometers are described in the Methods section. All four monitors provide output in the form of activity counts. Activity counts are raw accelerations filtered, digitized, and integrated over a given sampling period.
ActiGraph claims that only a negligible difference in activity counts exists when comparing intermodel or interversion activity counts (John Schneider, ActiGraph Vice President for research and development, personal communication, February 2008). However, studies that compared activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M have shown varying results (6,10,18). A study by Fudge et al. (10) compared activity counts from several objective monitors including the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M on endurance-trained male participants who performed an exercise protocol comprising walking and running at various speeds. Although the researchers did not test for statistical differences between mean activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M, they found that the ActiGraph 7164 had a substantially lower peak activity counts compared with the GT1M (approximately 10,000 vs 16,000 cpm). In 2007, Corder et al. (6) examined differences between the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M in free-living Indian adolescents. Although the investigators reported that the GT1M recorded 9% lower activity counts compared with the ActiGraph 7164, there were no statistical differences between the two accelerometers (6). However, contrary to the free-living condition, Corder et al. observed a significant difference between the accelerometers during mechanical spin testing at a frequency of 3 Hz in the same study (6). A more recent study by Rothney et al. (18) used an orbital mechanical shaker to compare activity counts from three ActiGraph accelerometer models, that is, the ActiGraph 7164, the GT1M, and a rarely used intermediate ActiGraph 71256 model. While examining the activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M at different frequencies, these researchers found no significant differences between activity counts from the two devices (18).

Although methodologically different, a few inconsistencies between findings from the aforementioned studies can be observed. A peak output of 10,000 cpm for the ActiGraph 7164 was consistently seen by both Fudge et al. and Rothney et al. However, the peak GT1M activity counts observed by Fudge et al. were much higher (around 16,000 cpm) compared with the findings by Rothney et al. (approximately 9200 cpm).

Although the study by Rothney et al. showed no statistical differences between activity counts obtained from the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M during mechanical shaker testing, it is important to document whether this holds true during human walking and running trials. In addition, it has not been established that activity counts from the three versions of the GT1M are comparable to each other or to those from the ActiGraph 7164. This information is needed to allow researchers to use multiple models and versions of ActiGraph accelerometers in a single study and allow direct comparisons of findings from studies that have used one or all of the aforementioned ActiGraph accelerometers. Thus, the purpose of our study was to determine whether counts obtained from the ActiGraph 7164 and the three versions of the GT1M were different from each other at various walking and running speeds.

**Methods**

**Instrumentation.** The ActiGraph 7164 (37.8 g, 5.1 x 4.1 x 1.5 cm) is lighter and smaller than the GT1M version one (GT1M-V1; 40.2 g, 5.1 x 4.1 x 1.8 cm) but is larger and heavier than the GT1M version two (GT1M-V2; 26.7 g, 4.0 x 3.9 x 1.8 cm). The GT1M-V3 is physically identical to the GT1M-V2, except for the absence of a marker button available on the GT1M-V2. Previous studies have shown excellent intramodel reliability (average ICC for ActiGraph 7164: r = 0.98, 95% confidence interval = 0.97–0.98, P < 0.001; GT1M: r = 0.94, P < 0.05) among ActiGraph accelerometers at various running and walking speeds (3,16,19). Thus, data on all participants were collected using a single accelerometer of each model/version.

Before data collection, the ActiGraph 7164 used in this study was calibrated by the manufacturer at a reference gain factor of 0.60 g s⁻¹ at a midscale voltage of 127 cpm (associated with zero acceleration) on the analog/digital (A/D) conversion scale. This was done to minimize the systematic error that could be attributable to the device (15). After the completion of data collection, the unit was returned to the manufacturer to verify that there were no changes in calibration, thus ensuring consistent calibration of the device during the data collection. Unlike the ActiGraph 7164, the GT1M does not require calibration after it leaves the factory. This is primarily because the latter is a MEMS accelerometer that uses solid-state circuitry, that is, it has a low number of individual components. Another feature that reduces error is the firmware digital filter in the GT1M compared with a more error-prone hardware digital filter in the ActiGraph 7164. The piezoelectric MEMS devices also have low temperature–related drifts in sensitivity (25).

**Participants.** Ten endurance-trained male participants (23.6 ± 2.8 yr), all able to run 1 mile in less than 5 min, were recruited from the University of Tennessee and the surrounding community. The rationale for the above selection criterion will be explained later. A health history questionnaire was used to screen for the presence of any contraindications to exercise, and participants were not included in the study if any contraindications were present. All participants provided written informed consent and had previous experience with treadmill running. The experimental protocol was approved by the University of Tennessee’s Institutional Review Board. Participants’ characteristics are shown in Table 1.

**Testing protocol.** Before testing, the participants’ height and weight were measured using a stadiometer and a physician’s scale, respectively. All participants did two trials of an incremental treadmill (Q65 Series 90; Quinton, Vaerloese, Denmark) exercise protocol each separated by at least 2 d. The exercise protocol is explained later. During the first exercise test, participants wore an elastic belt

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secured with the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M-V3 around the waist such that the accelerometers were located on the anterior axillary line above the left and right sides of the hip, respectively. During the second test, the exercise protocol was performed wearing a similar belt secured with the GT1M-V1 and GT1M-V2 on the anterior axillary line above the left and right sides of the hip, respectively. A within-subjects counterbalanced design with respect to accelerometer placement was used to avoid confounding due to left/right side placement effects. All accelerometers were initialized and synchronized to a digital timer before being worn by the participants.

The exercise protocol consisted of a brief warm-up, followed by 3-min stages consisting of level walking and running. Participants first completed the walking stages continuously at 3, 5, and 7 km h\(^{-1}\). Participants then ran at 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 km h\(^{-1}\). A 2-min break was given between walking and running stages. In addition, participants were allowed to take a 3- to 5-min recovery break between running stages if desired. Speed during walking and running was monitored at the beginning of each stage using a tachometer (Shimpo DT 107; Nidec-Shimpo America Corporation, Itasca, IL). Data were downloaded using the Actilife 3.5.0, software (ActiGraph, Fort Walton Beach, FL). Data from the last 2 min of each stage were averaged and used to represent 1-min activity counts.

The protocol used in this study was previously used by Fudge et al. (10) to predict \(\dot{V}_O_2\) using accelerometry and HR during fast running up to world-record marathon pace. Those investigators recruited endurance-trained participants with an average peak \(\dot{V}_O_2\) of 60.3 ± 4.2 mL·kg\(^{-1}\)·min\(^{-1}\). Although we did not intend to measure \(\dot{V}_O_2\), we desired participants with a similar fitness level as those in the study of Fudge et al. Therefore, we predicted the equivalent 1-mile run time using a \(\dot{V}_O_2\) value of 60.3 mL·kg\(^{-1}\)·min\(^{-1}\) and used it as a selection criterion to ensure that participants would be able to complete the exercise protocol in this study (8,10). The predicted time of 4 min 56 s was rounded off to 5 min, and participants were included in the study only if they could run 1 mile in less than 5 min.

**Data analysis.** Statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS version 17 for windows (SPSS, Chicago, IL). One-way repeated-measures ANOVA at each speed were performed to determine whether activity counts obtained from the four accelerometers at various speeds were statistically different from each other. If the ANOVA revealed significant differences, post hoc pairwise comparisons with Bonferroni adjustments were used to identify the differences. In addition, Bland–Altman plots were used to examine the agreement between activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and each of the three GT1Ms. Limits of agreement were set at ±2 SD of the difference scores. For these comparisons, activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 were chosen as the true value because this accelerometer has been used to establish energy expenditure equations and cut points for physical activity (light, moderate, and vigorous) (3,7,9,11,14,16,20,24). In addition, the ActiGraph 7164 was also selected for use in the 2003–2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (21).

**RESULTS**

Two participants were unable to complete the exercise protocol during trial 1. This resulted in two missing data points for the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M-V3 at 20 km h\(^{-1}\). ANOVA revealed significant intermonitor differences between activity counts during walking at 3 and 5 km h\(^{-1}\) only \((P < 0.05)\). However, these significant differences disappeared when Bonferroni adjustments were applied during the post hoc comparisons. Activity counts from all accelerometers increased linearly with increasing speed during the walking stages and are depicted in Figure 1. The maximum mean difference (138 ± 247 cpm) between any two accelerometers while walking was observed between the GT1M-V2 and the ActiGraph 7164 at 5 km h\(^{-1}\).

Figure 2 shows that during the running stages, activity counts from all the accelerometers rose curvilinearly, peaking at 14 km h\(^{-1}\) (ActiGraph 7164 = 8974 ± 677 cpm, GT1M-V1 = 9306 ± 1117 cpm, GT1M-V2 = 9413 ± 982 cpm, GT1M-V3 = 9170 ± 971 cpm) followed by a curvilinear decrease in activity counts. At all running speeds, activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M-V2 were lowest and highest, respectively. The maximum mean difference (680 ± 628 cpm) between any two accelerometers while running was observed between the ActiGraph 7164 and GT1M-V2 at 18 km h\(^{-1}\). With increasing running

![Image](http://www.acsm-msse.org)
Comparison with previous studies. Before the current study, only three studies have compared activity counts between ActiGraph accelerometers (6,10,18). Among these, Rothney et al. used a mechanical shaker and Corder et al. examined activity counts in free-living adolescents. On the basis of descriptions and photographs of the devices and via personal communication, we

speeds, percent differences between activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M-V2 showed an increasing trend (2.5% at 8 km h⁻¹ to 8.3% at 20 km h⁻¹).

Figure 3 displays Bland–Altman plots that show the agreement between the ActiGraph 7164 and the three GT1Ms. This analysis provides additional evidence to support the results of the ANOVA that there were no significant differences between the activity counts obtained from all four devices. It can be seen that the 95% limits of agreement between the ActiGraph 7164 and all three GT1Ms are narrow and range between 724 and 1357 cpm.

DISCUSSION

The major finding of this study was that the mean activity counts obtained from the ActiGraph 7164, GT1M-V1, GT1M-V2, and GT1M-V3 were not significantly different from one another. The current study was the first to compare activity counts obtained from four ActiGraph accelerometers at various walking and running speeds.

From our findings, it can be inferred that researchers interested in measuring physical activity or energy expenditure during running or walking could use any of the aforementioned ActiGraph accelerometers in a single study. They could also draw direct comparisons with other investigations that used one or all of these devices. An example of this inference can be seen in Table 2, where we quantified energy expenditure with the regression equations of Freedson et al. (9) and Crouter et al. (7) during walking at 5 km h⁻¹ and running at 10 km h⁻¹ using mean activity counts from all four devices. At a given speed, the predicted MET values using activity counts from all four accelerometers for a particular method (Freedson or Crouter) were within 0.2 METs of each other. On the basis of Table 2, we can conclude that predicted energy expenditures from all four accelerometers used in our study are very close to each other.
TABLE 2. Energy expenditure derived from accelerometer counts obtained at a walking (5 km h\(^{-1}\)) and running speed (10 km h\(^{-1}\)) using the regression equations of Freedson et al, and Crouter et al.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Freedson (METs)</th>
<th>Crouter (METs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 km h(^{-1})</td>
<td>7164</td>
<td>4.1 ± 0.3</td>
<td>6.7 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V1</td>
<td>4.3 ± 0.3</td>
<td>6.8 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V2</td>
<td>4.1 ± 0.5</td>
<td>6.6 ± 0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V3</td>
<td>4.3 ± 0.3</td>
<td>6.8 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 km h(^{-1})</td>
<td>7164</td>
<td>8.4 ± 0.6</td>
<td>9.8 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V1</td>
<td>8.6 ± 0.8</td>
<td>9.8 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V2</td>
<td>8.6 ± 0.7</td>
<td>9.9 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V3</td>
<td>8.6 ± 0.8</td>
<td>9.8 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are mean ± SD.

determined that Rothney et al. and Corder et al. compared the ActiGraph 7164 to the GT1M-V1, whereas Fudge et al. compared the ActiGraph 7164 to the GT1M-V2. This part of the discussion compares intermodel and GT1M inter-version peak activity counts from the studies of Rothney et al., Fudge et al., and the current study.

Similar to the study of Rothney et al. (18), the current study did not find statistically significant differences in activity counts obtained from the ActiGraph 7164 and all three versions of the GT1M (6). Rothney et al. used a mechanical orbital shaker to record activity counts from accelerometers placed at a fixed radius of 4.6 cm within the shaker while they were oscillated at increasing frequencies. This experiment is comparable to human locomotion at varying speeds because vertical displacement of the center of mass during walking lies between 2.7 ± 0.5 and 4.8 ± 0.9 cm (17). The ActiGraph 7164 activity counts observed by Rothney et al. (18) and Fudge et al. (10) and those observed in the current study were relatively uniform, peaking between 9000 and 10,000 cpm. On the other hand, GT1M activity counts in the current study and that of Rothney et al. (18) peaked between 9200 and 9500 cpm compared with approximately 16,000 cpm in the study of Fudge et al. (10). Fudge et al. observed very large differences (ranging from 6000 to 9000 cpm) between activity counts from the ActiGraph 7164 and the GT1M at speeds faster than 16 km h\(^{-1}\). Although there was a similar trend in the current study, the differences were much smaller, ranging between 237 and 612 cpm. Thus, the GT1M activity counts recorded by Fudge et al. differed greatly both from the ActiGraph 7164 activity counts recorded in all three studies and from the GT1M activity counts recorded in our study and that of Rothney et al. (18).

Rothney et al. (18) reported small intermodel discrepancies between the GT1M and the ActiGraph 7164 that were of similar magnitude to those in the current study. ActiGraph states that the GT1M records marginally higher counts than the ActiGraph 7164 (especially at higher oscillation frequencies) because of a greater sampling rate than the ActiGraph 7164 (30 vs 10 Hz; John Schneider, ActiGraph Vice President for research and development, personal communication, February 2008). However, it is interesting to note that unlike the current study and that of Fudge et al. (10), Rothney et al. (18) recorded lower activity counts using the GT1M compared with the ActiGraph 7164. In addition, Rothney et al. (18) found that the GT1M is less sensitive at the lower end of the acceleration spectrum compared with the ActiGraph 7164. This means that the GT1M may fail to record activity counts during certain very low intensity activities and thereby underestimate energy expenditure during these activities.

There were large differences (ranging from 638 cpm at 3 km h\(^{-1}\) to 8494 cpm at 20 km h\(^{-1}\)) between average activity counts from the GT1M-V2 used by Fudge et al. and all three versions of the GT1M used in our study. Because the participants in both studies were highly trained runners, we consider it very unlikely that differences in running biomechanics caused the large discrepancy in GT1M activity counts between these studies. Thus, an alternative explanation would be inconsistencies between the two GT1M-V2 accelerometers used in these studies. We try to explore this possibility in the next paragraph.

All ActiGraph GT1M accelerometers have a band-pass filtering range of 0.25–2.5 Hz and can measure accelerations with a maximum amplitude of 2.0g. According to ActiGraph, accelerations at the hip during normal human motion mostly fall within these parameters, and the bandpass filter should help eliminate extraneous accelerations that are not due to human movement (e.g., vibration artifacts). The peaking of GT1M activity counts at around 9300 cpm as observed by the current study and that of Rothney et al. (18) can be attributed to the device’s amplitude and band-pass filtering limitations. However, the GT1M-V2 used by Fudge et al. seems to have had a wider band-pass filtering and/or amplitude range, thereby recording much higher activity counts than in the current study and that of Rothney et al. If this discrepancy is due to the manufacturing process, it is possible that there are several flawed GT1Ms (all three versions) being used in research because unlike the ActiGraph 7164, MEMS devices such as the GT1M do not need user calibration and are mass produced using batch fabrication techniques.

When contacted, ActiGraph was unable to provide an explanation for the high activity counts observed by Fudge et al., and the company stated that there were no manufacturing inconsistencies concerning the GT1M-V2. This is contrary to findings of Fudge et al. Thus, when using the GT1M, investigators need to verify that their accelerometer provides similar activity counts to those reported in other studies.

"Leveling-off"/"plateau" phenomenon. ActiGraph accelerometers exhibit a phenomenon where activity counts reach a peak at a particular running speed or frequency (mechanical shaking) and do not increase in response to further speed/frequency increments (3,10,16,18). Researchers have termed this as a "leveling-off" or "plateau" phenomenon and have attributed it to amplitude and band-pass filtering limitations (1–3,10,12,18,19).

To accurately estimate energy expenditure, an accelerometer must demonstrate an increase (linear, curvilinear, exponential, etc.) in activity counts with increasing exercise...
intensity because energy expenditure regression equations are based on the theory that activity counts increase with increasing intensity of exercise. The practical implications of the undesirable leveling-off/plateau phenomenon can be seen in Figure 4, which displays the calculated energy expenditure for all walking and running speeds using the prediction equation of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the two-regression model of Crouter et al. (7), and the regression equation of Freedson et al. (9). Because there were no significant differences between activity counts from all four accelerometers in our study, we calculated energy expenditure using data obtained from the GT1M-V3. It can be seen that the regression equations of both Freedson et al. and Crouter et al. underpredict METs at the higher running speeds compared with the prediction equation of the ACSM. In fact, one would not be able to distinguish running from all four accelerometers in our study, we calculated energy expenditure using data obtained from the GT1M-V3. It can be seen that the regression equations of both Freedson et al. and Crouter et al. underpredict METs at the higher running speeds compared with the prediction equation of the ACSM. In fact, one would not be able to distinguish running speed reached 16 km h⁻¹, and this can be attributed to the ability of the device to measure accelerations with amplitudes between 2.85g and 5.0g (upper body acceleration range) at frequencies up to 10 Hz (12,13). In the same study, the Actiheart activity monitor, which has a uniaxial accelerometer with a wider band-pass filtering width (1–7 Hz) and a higher upper limit for amplitude (2.5g) compared with the GT1M, peaked at approximately 18–20 km h⁻¹.

**ActiGraph GT1M-V4 and GT3X.** ActiGraph released a new dual-axis (vertical and horizontal) GT1M in 2008 and a triaxial activity monitor called the GT3X in early 2009. We are unsure of how these monitors would behave compared with the ActiGraph uniaxial accelerometers. Both new devices have a single solid-state accelerometer that records accelerations in more than just the vertical axis, and they have a higher amplitude range (2.5g). However, the band-pass filtering width of these new monitors is the same as the previous uniaxial monitors. Another difference between the old uniaxial GT1M and the new monitors is that the newer ones have 12-bit A/D signal converters instead of 8-bit A/D signal converters. Additional research is needed to establish whether the newly introduced dual-axis and triaxial ActiGraph accelerometers are susceptible to the problem of premature peaking and the inverted-U phenomenon. Studies are also needed to examine the comparability of these new accelerometers to the older uniaxial devices.

**Strengths and limitations.** Our study has several strengths and limitations. A strength of the study was that we conducted human trials to identify differences between accelerometers. Our protocol and participant characteristics were similar to previous research, which allowed us to draw direct comparisons with the same. In addition, we compared multiple ActiGraph models as compared with just two models in most other comparison studies. We used a single unit to represent each accelerometer model and version to eliminate possible errors attributable to interdevice variability. This could be viewed as a weakness if the ActiGraph 7164 was found to be in calibration at the end of the study or if the GT1Ms produced activity counts that differed from those seen in previous studies. However, this was not an issue because the ActiGraph 7164 was found to be in calibration at the end of the study, and activity counts from the GT1Ms were comparable to those observed in other studies. In terms of weaknesses, we had a relatively small sample size (N = 10). However, previous research studies have used comparable sample sizes to examine intermodel differences (3,10). We collected data on only two accelerometers during one trial.

**CONCLUSIONS**

In summary, all four ActiGraph accelerometers examined in this study behave similarly during walking and running, and their activity counts are comparable to each other. Our study shows that physical activity researchers can use different models or versions of ActiGraph accelerometers in the same study. However, researchers using the GT1Ms should ensure that their GT1M provides activity counts similar to those reported in other studies.
Although ActiGraph accelerometers fail to record additional activity counts when running speed increases to faster than 10 km h⁻¹, it must be kept in mind that most physical activity researchers do not use these devices to estimate minute-by-minute energy expenditure for short running bouts at speeds faster than 10 km h⁻¹. Rather, they typically only use them to record the total number of minutes spent in light- (<3 METs), moderate- (3–6 METs), or vigorous-intensity (>6 METs) physical activity. Fortunately, ActiGraph accelerometers correctly classify running as vigorous physical activity despite underestimating energy expenditure. These devices are widely used in physical activity research because they are easy to use, have low participant burden, allow extended periods of recording, and help identify the intensity and duration of activity.

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