



## Objectives

Define center of gravity, and explain the basis for its location in the human body.

- 2. Estimate the location of the center of gravity of individuals in any position.
- 3. State the principles of equilibrium, and explain and demonstrate applications of each.
- 4. Discuss the factors that affect the stability and energy cost of the erect posture.
- 5. Explain the effects that the postural adaptations have on static and dynamic postures.
- 6. Explain the value of both anticipatory and compensatory postural adjustments.

# Center of Gravity (C of G)

• The "balance point" of the body.

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- The point where the weight of the body acts.
- The point where all forces acting on the body equal zero:
  - Linear forces must be balanced.
  - Torques must be balanced.



Fig 14.1

# **CENTER OF GRAVITY**

- The location of the C of G remains fixed as long as the body does not change shape.
- If an object's shape or position changes, the location of the C of G changes.



Fig 14.3

# **CENTER OF GRAVITY**

 As one changes the relationship of the body segments to each other, the C of G may even be located outside the body.

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Fig 14.4

### Placement of the Center of Gravity

#### in Humans

- The location of the C of G of a human in standing position varies with body build, age, and sex.
- Female's CG is  $\sim 55\%$  of standing height
- Male's CG is ~ 57% of standing height
- In quiet standing, the C of G can be considered almost directly over center of pressure.
- Center of pressure point at which the force vector for ground reaction force is applied.

### Stability and Equilibrium

- All objects at rest are in equilibrium.
- All forces acting on them are balanced.
- The sum of all linear forces equals zero.
- The sum of all torques equals zero.
- However, all objects at rest are not equally stable.

#### **STABILITY** There are 3 types of equilibrium an object can be in



- A Stable equilibrium -Returns to equilibrium position when slightly displaced.
- B Unstable equilibrium- Neither returns to same equilibrium or stays in place when displaced slightly.
- C Neutral equilibrium- Remains in displaced position when disturbed.

# **Stable Equilibrium**

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 Occurs when an object is placed in such a fashion that an effort to disturb it would require its C of G to be raised.



Fig 14.5a

# Unstable Equilibrium

 When a slight disturbance will drop the objects' C of G to a lower point.

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# **Neutral Equilibrium**

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 When a object's C of G is neither raised nor lowered when it is disturbed.

Humans spend most of their time adjusting body positions for the type of equilibrium best suited to the task.



#### Mobility

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- Often in sport, it is necessary to alter stability intentionally to become mobile.
- Ability to start, stop, or change direction quickly depends on manipulating the stability of the body.





Fig 14.14