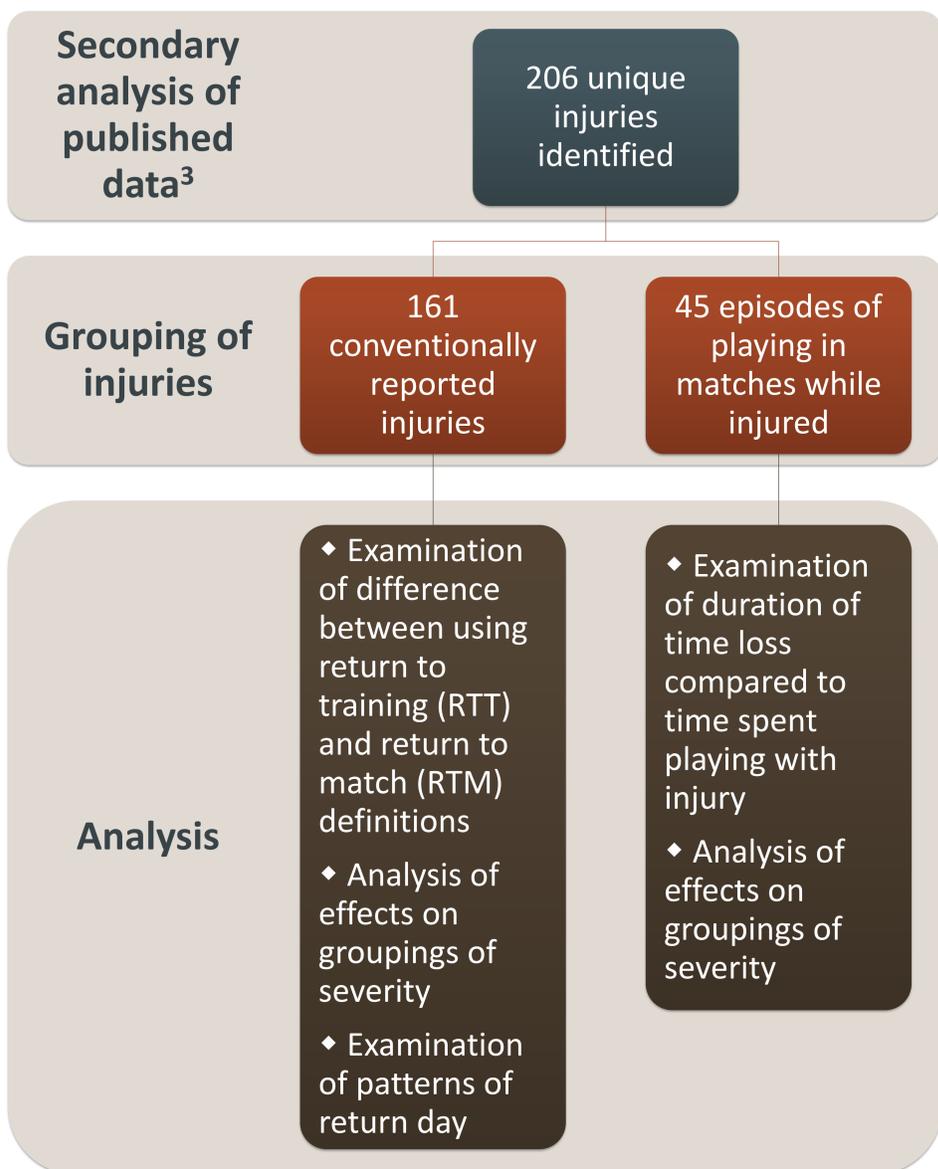


Evaluating influences on classifications of severity for injuries in professional football

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INTRODUCTION: According to consensus definitions for football surveillance¹, injury severity is classified from 'slight' to 'career ending', based on the number of days absence from participation. Recovery from injury has been highlighted as potentially influencing measures of injury severity². This study examined whether different definitions of return to participation (RTP), and playing in matches while injured, affect groupings of injury severity with injuries recorded in English professional football.

METHODS:



RESULTS:

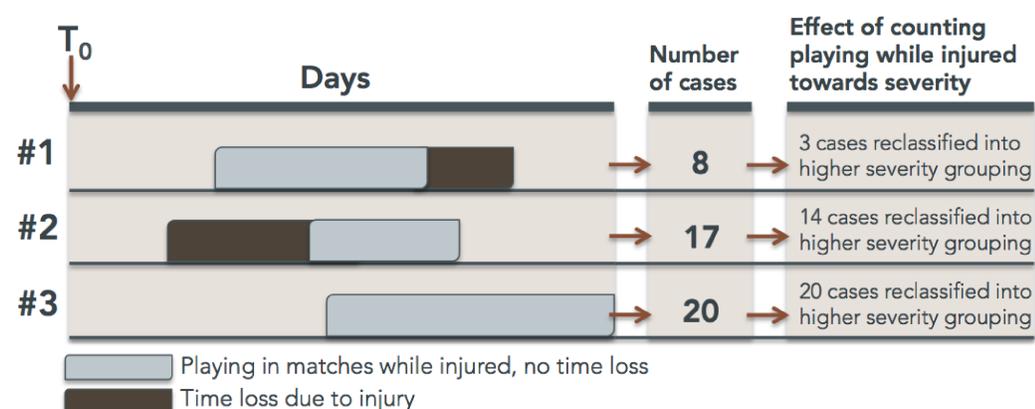


Figure 1: Playing in matches while injured can impact on groupings of injury severity

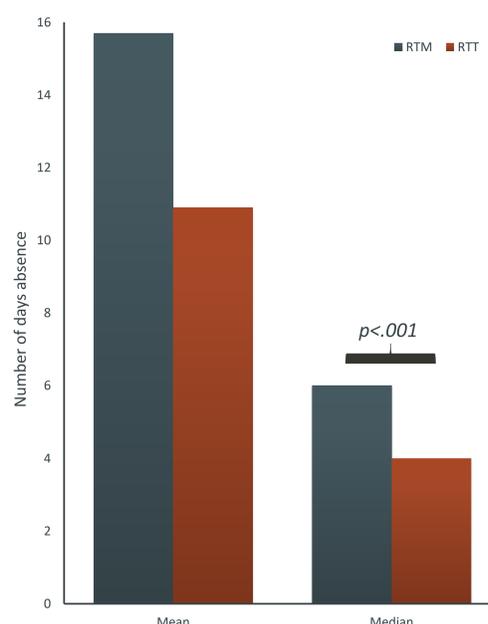


Figure 2: Duration of absence is shorter when using a RTT definition than RTM

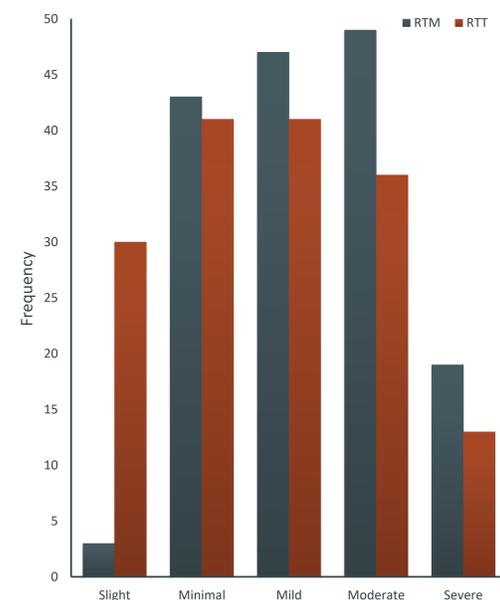


Figure 3: Groupings of injury severity are dependent on definition of RTP

KEY FINDINGS: Recorded days absence is higher for RTM than RTT. RTP occurred on a Thursday or Friday in more than 50% of cases, in preparation for a Saturday game.

CONCLUSIONS:

- ◆ When measured in days, football injury severity is directly influenced by definitions of RTP
- ◆ Pain or injury symptoms do not contribute towards current severity classifications, yet often precede or follow a period of absence
- ◆ Expressions of injury severity in football should encompass more than just absence from participation

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