Variations in gait across the menstrual cycle

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Recent research has demonstrated that ovulation in women may be better described as unadvertised instead of concealed. If others could ascertain cues that a woman is fertile, their behavior toward that woman may change. We investigated what differences, if any, exist between women who are fertile and women who are not. In this experiment, women not using hormonal birth control, as well as women using hormonal birth control, were invited to participate in a motion capture study. Women not using hormonal birth control came into the lab at both the follicular stage and the luteal stage of their menstrual cycle. Simple movements, such as walking, were recorded with point light displays and categorized by group. Using a jackknife procedure, mathematical differences were found between naturally cycling women at their follicular and luteal phases, as well as between women in their follicular stage and women using hormonal birth control.