

EFEITOS DO PERCENTUAL DE GORDURA CORPORAL NOS PARÂMETROS DE INTENSIDADE DURANTE UM TESTE INCREMENTAL BASEADO EM CORRIDAMarcelo da Silva Marques¹, Whendel Mesquita do Nascimento²**RESUMO**

O objetivo deste estudo foi avaliar a influência do percentual de gordura corporal (% GC) nos parâmetros de intensidade durante um exercício de corrida. Quatorze indivíduos do sexo masculino (20,5 ± 1,6 anos; 74,7 ± 13,3 kg; 172,1 ± 6,4 cm) foram divididos em dois grupos: Grupo 1 (% GC <12%; n = 7; 7,3 ± 4,0% GC) e Grupo 2 (% GC > 12%; n = 7; 25,6 ± 6,7% GC). Um teste progressivo em esteira foi realizado para determinar: captação máxima de oxigênio (VO₂ máx); Velocidade máxima (V_{máx}); Frequência cardíaca máxima (FC_{máx}); Limiar anaeróbico (LAn) e os parâmetros de intensidade de velocidade em Δ25 (vΔ25), Δ50 (vΔ50) e Δ75 (vΔ75). O %GC foi maior no Grupo 2 (p<0,001). O grupo 1 apresentou valores mais altos para todos os parâmetros de velocidade [vVO₂ máx (p=0,002); v25 (p=0,016); v50 (p=0,004); v75 (p=0,002); V_{máx} (p=0,002) e para o VO₂ máx (p=0,045) quando comparado ao grupo 2. Valores mais altos de %GC parecem prejudicar os parâmetros de intensidade utilizados para a prescrição de exercícios de velocidade para adultos jovens.

Palavras-chave: Exercício físico. Corrida em Esteira. Indicadores de velocidade.

1 - Universidade de São Paulo-USP, São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil.

2 - Divisão de Biotecnologia do Centro de Apoio Multidisciplinar-UFAM, Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil.

E-mail dos autores:
marcelomarques@usp.br
whendelmesquita@ufam.edu.br

ABSTRACT

Effects of body fat percentage on intensity parameters during a running based incremental test

The aim of this study was to evaluate the influence of body fat percentage (BF%) on intensity parameters during a running based exercise. Fourteen male subjects (20.5 ± 1.6 years; 74.7 ± 13.3 kg; 172.1 ± 6.4 cm) were divided in two groups: Group 1 (BF% < 12%; n = 7; 7.3 ± 4.0 BF%) and Group 2 (BF% > 12%; n = 7; 25.6 ± 6.7 BF%). A progressive treadmill test was performed to determine: Maximal Oxygen Uptake (VO₂ max); Maximal Velocity (V_{max}); Maximal Heart Rate (HR_{max}); Anaerobic Threshold (AnT) and the velocity intensity parameters at Δ25 (vΔ25), Δ50 (vΔ50) and Δ75 (vΔ75). The BF% was higher in Group 2 (p<0.001). Group 1 presented higher values for all velocity parameters [vVO₂ max (p=0.002); vΔ25 (p=0.016); vΔ50 (p=0.004); vΔ75 (p=0.002); V_{max} (p=0.002) and for VO₂ max (p=0.045) when compared to group 2. Higher values of BF% seem to impair intensity parameters of velocity to exercise prescription in young adults.

Key words: Physical exercise. Treadmill running. Velocity indicators.

Autor Correspondente:

Whendel Mesquita do Nascimento.

whendelmesquita@ufam.edu.br

Divisão de Biotecnologia do Centro de Apoio Multidisciplinar-UFAM.

Av. General Rodrigo Octávio Jordão Ramos, 3000.

Coroado I, Campus Universitário, Setor Sul, Bloco G.

Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil.

CEP: 69077.000.

INTRODUCTION

During physical exercise practice, an increasing demand for energy provided by the oxidation of the substrates and removal of metabolic byproducts is expected (Hunter et al., 2018).

These dynamics occurs mainly in actives tissue, given the greater blood supply directed to these regions (Richard et al., 2004). Thus, some factors as the effort intensity and body composition can modulate this energetic demand.

In this sense, the effects of physical exercise on Body Fat Percentage (BF%) were already been extensively explored and well documented (Keating et al., 2017; Oliveira et al., 2017).

However, investigations concerning about the influence of BF% on exercise performance and intensity does not appear well established. Still, considering the worldwide prevalence of obesity has nearly to tripled since 1975 (World Health Organization, 2016), it is also important to understand the impact of BF% on performance and intensity during physical exercises.

Some recent studies investigate the effects of BF% in performance with different approaches to analyzing those possible impacts on oxygen consumption (Amani et al., 2010; Mondal e Mishra, 2017; Sharma, Kamal e Chawla, 2016) and cardiorespiratory fitness (Laxmi, Udaya, Shankar, 2014; Prabhu, Padmanabha e Doddamani, 2013) during physical exercise.

Highlighting the negative effect of BF% on physical performance, Mondal, Mishra (2017) analyzed the correlation between maximal oxygen uptake (VO₂ max) and BF% in 54 young adults (18-25 years) in a treadmill incremental test. The authors reported strong negative correlation ($r = -0.76$, $p < 0.001$) between BF% and VO₂ max. In this sense, Coen et al., (2013) suggested that the BF% impairments on physical performance might be explained by a lower muscle oxidation capacity, influencing the efficiency of the degradation systems of the energy substrates, limiting energy obtainment and the fewer need of oxygen consumption by adipose tissue.

In a research conducted by Laxmi, Udaya e Shankar (2014), one hundred male subjects were submitted to an incremental treadmill test aiming to study the relation between body mass index (BMI) and VO₂ max. The results presented a significant negative

correlation between BMI and VO₂ max ($r = -0.48$, $p < 0.001$) and the authors advise that low cardiorespiratory fitness in young adults with increased body fat could be a factor for developing cardiovascular comorbidities later in middle age. Despite the investigations cited above, there is a lack of studies specifically designed to understand the effects of BF% on exercise intensity parameters.

Besides the BF%, might be important to know and control the intensity of the proposed exercise, mainly to prescribe efficiently (Hall et al., 2004; Mendes, Silva, Reis, 2012).

Among the different intensity parameters reported in the literature, VO₂ max and Anaerobic Threshold (AnT) have been proposed as variables of exercise prescription.

The VO₂ max is defined as the point at the increase in oxygen consumption does not accompany the increase in effort intensity (Denadai, 1995). AnT is based on the prediction of high blood lactate levels, according to the intensity of the effort, thus indicating a greater use of the glycolytic pathway for ATP resynthesis (Wasserman, Mcilroy, 1964).

With the evolution of research concerning about this parameters, new proposals emerged from VO₂ max and AnT. Therefore, velocity parameters at $\Delta 25$ ($v\Delta 25$), $\Delta 50$ ($v\Delta 50$) and $\Delta 75$ ($v\Delta 75$) became to be used as indicators of intensity for high-intensity exercises mainly because they are close to the maximum voluntary effort (Laffite et al., 2003).

Billat, Hamard, Koralsztejn (2002) established that $v\Delta 25$ is the velocity in the midpoint between $v\Delta 50$ and the velocity associated with AnT ($vAnT$); $v\Delta 50$ is the velocity in the midpoint between $vAnT$ and the velocity associated to VO₂ max (vVO_2 max); and the $v\Delta 75$ is the velocity in the midpoint between $v\Delta 50$ and vVO_2 max.

Despite the extensive use of these velocity parameters to exercise prescription, a few investigations have analyzed the effects of BF% no these parameters.

Thus, considering the applicability of intensity indicators to exercise prescription in different individuals, the aim of this study is to evaluate the influence of BF% on the intensity parameters for physical exercise prescription in young adults.

We hypothesized that the BF% would impair the velocity intensity parameters. However, due to the absence of data concerning BF% effects on intensity velocity

parameters, this hypothesis is proposed considering the impairments on oxygen consumption and cardiorespiratory fitness cited above.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Participants

Fourteen male subjects were recruited for this study (20.5 ± 1.6 years; 74.7 ± 13.3 kg; 172.1 ± 6.4 cm).

They were undergraduate students from the Faculty of Physical Education and Physiotherapy of Federal University of Amazonas. Eligibility requirement included the following: young adult, male gender, classified as sedentary or lightly active according to International Physical Activity Questionnaire. Exclusion criteria were diagnosed or self-reported medical conditions that contraindicate participation in exercise protocol or limited body movement.

The first contact with the subjects was made personally and before taking part, all individuals were informed about the procedures, responsibilities, benefits, possible risks and eventual discomforts from their participation in this study. All procedures were in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Declaration of Helsinki, and the study was approved by the Ethics Committee for Research with Human Beings (CAAE: 50906015.2.0000.502). The participants' were requested to sign an Informed Consent term and anonymity and confidentiality were assured.

Procedures

Each participant was invited to visit the laboratory just one time. First, anthropometric measurement and body composition evaluation test were conducted. Therefore, they were divided into two groups according to body fat percentage (BF%). Group 1 ($n = 7$) with an BF% $< 12\%$ and group 2 ($n = 7$) with an BF% $> 12\%$ (Esmat, 2010).

After that, to measure the VO_{2max} and determine the intensity variables, the subjects were submitted to a progressive treadmill test. The room where the procedures took place had a constant temperature (~ 24 C) and humidity ($\sim 50\%$) during the measurement and all subjects completed all measurement procedures.

In the laboratory, the height (in cm with a precision of 1mm) was measured with a compact wall stadiometer (E210, WISO, SC, Brazil) according to the International Society of Advanced of Kinenanthropy. Body composition was assessed by Air Displacement Plethysmography technology (BOD POD, Life Measurement Instruments, CA, USA). The variable considered for this study was BF% and it was calculated from the body density. All operational procedures were conducted according to the equipment manufacturer.

The VO_{2max} of the subjects was measured by a progressive treadmill (Movement® RT350) test adapted from Bruce, Kusumi, Hosmer (1973). The gases were collected through the spirometer VO2000 (MedGraphics®, MN, USA) and this was calibrated before each test. The test consisted of 5 minutes of initial warm up at 5 km/hr followed by an increment of 1km/hr per minute until the maximum voluntary effort. Exhaustion was confirmed by the following criteria: (1) respiratory ratio exchange ratio greater than 1.15 or (2) the presence of a plateau in oxygen consumption [maintenance of VO_{2} values (oscillations of ± 2 ml/min/kg) despite the increase in exercise intensity]. Data were collected breath by breath.

The maximal velocity (V_{max}) was considered the higher velocity achieved at the last completed stage. Throughout the test, the heart rate (HR) was recorded via a strapped Polar Wearlink coded (Polar® T31) and the maximal HR (HR_{max}) was determined at the end of the test. The AnT was determined by the V-Slope method as suggested elsewhere (Beaver; Wasserman; Whipp, 1986). Further, the parameters of velocity ($v_{\Delta 25}$, $v_{\Delta 50}$, $v_{\Delta 75}$) were determined and the VO_{2} was estimated for each velocity variable. The subjects were verbally encouraged during all tests.

Statistical Analysis

The normality of the data distribution was verified using the Shapiro-Wilk test. An independent t-test was applied to compare all variables between groups with a 95% of confidence interval.

The Cohen's d was calculated as an effect size indicator and was classified according to the criteria suggested by Batterham, Hopkins (2006). Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 24 (Chicago, IL, USA) and the level of significance was set at 5% ($p < 0.05$).

RESULTS

Table 1 presents descriptive statistics to characterize the sample in the age, anthropometric variables and body

composition by groups. Participants were young adults (20.5 ± 1.5 years) with a higher BF% for Group 2 when compared to Group 1 ($p < 0.001$; $d = 3.3$; very large).

Table 1 - General and body composition characteristics by group of the study sample.

	Group 1	Group 2
Age (years)	20.8 ± 2	20.2 ± 1
Height (cm)	168.7 ± 5.7	175.1 ± 5.6
Body Fat (%)	$7.3 \pm 4.0^*$	25.6 ± 6.7
Body Mass (kg)	65.6 ± 7.9	82.7 ± 13.0

Note: values are mean \pm standard deviation; * = $p < 0.001$

Table 2 presents the mean values, standard deviation, p-value and confidence intervals of the incremental test. All subjects attained at least one of the VO_2 max test endpoints. No significant differences were 2.0 ; large); $v\Delta 25$ ($d = 1.4$; large); $v\Delta 50$ ($d = 1.8$; large) $v\Delta 75$ ($d = 2.0$; large) and V_{max} ($d = 2.0$; large).

Observed between the groups for the variables VT, vVT , $VO_2 \Delta 25$, $VO_2 \Delta 50$, $VO_2 \Delta 75$ and HRmax ($p > 0.05$ for all comparisons). On the other hand, group 1 presented higher values in VO_2 max ($d = 1.1$; moderate), vVO_2 max ($d =$

Table 2 - Physiological and velocity parameters during maximal exercise test by groups.

	Group 1	Group 2	p Value	CI _{95%}
VT (ml.kg.min ⁻¹)	35.41 ± 7.80	30.58 ± 6.37	0.210	-3.0 – 12.7
vVT (km/h)	11.86 ± 1.06	10.63 ± 1.30	0.069	-0.1 – 2.5
VO_{2max} (ml.kg.min ⁻¹)	$45.75 \pm 5.64^*$	37.99 ± 7.58	0.045	0.2 – 15.3
vVO_{2max} (km/h)	$14.71 \pm 0.75^*$	12.75 ± 1.16	0.002	0.8 – 3.0
$VO_2\Delta 25$ (ml.kg.min ⁻¹)	34.42 ± 7.69	31.24 ± 6.64	0.406	-4.8 – 11.1
$v\Delta 25$ (km/h)	$12.57 \pm 0.85^*$	11.16 ± 1.10	0.016	0.3 – 2.5
$VO_2\Delta 50$ (ml.kg.min ⁻¹)	36.48 ± 5.63	32.87 ± 6.71	0.284	-3.3 – 10.5
$v\Delta 50$ (km/h)	$13.29 \pm 0.69^*$	11.69 ± 0.99	0.004	0.6 – 2.5
$VO_2\Delta 75$ (ml.kg.min ⁻¹)	37.41 ± 3.83	33.44 ± 6.86	0.200	-2.3 – 10.3
$v\Delta 75$ (km/h)	$14 \pm 0.66^*$	12.22 ± 1.02	0.002	0.8 – 2.7
HRmax (bpm)	193 ± 9.36	189.12 ± 1.59	0.502	-8.2 – 16.0
V_{max} (km/h)	$14.71 \pm 0.75^*$	12.75 ± 1.16	0.002	0.8 – 3.0

Legend: VT: Ventilatory Threshold; vVT : Velocity at ventilatory threshold; VO_{2max} : maximal oxygen consumption; vVO_{2max} : velocity at VO_{2max} ; $VO_2\Delta 25$: Oxygen Consumption Between $\Delta 50$ and LAn; $v\Delta 25$: Velocity between $vLAn$ and $v\Delta 50$; $VO_2\Delta 50$: Oxygen consumption between LAn and VO_2 max; $v\Delta 50$: Velocity between $vLAn$: and vVO_{2max} ; $VO_2\Delta 75$: Oxygen consumption between $\Delta 50$ and VO_{2max} ; $v\Delta 75$: Velocity between $v\Delta 50$ and vVO_{2max} ; HRmáx: Maximal Heart Rate; V_{max} : Maximal Velocity; CI = confidence interval; * = statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

DISCUSSION

The impact of physical exercise on BF% has been extensively studied. However, in the opposite direction, there is an absence of evidence regarding the effects of BF% on exercise performance, namely velocity intensity parameters.

Thus, the aim of this study was to evaluate the influence of BF% on the intensity parameters for physical exercise prescription in young adults. The main finds of this study were that $\dot{V}O_2$ max and the velocity values in the proposed parameters ($v\Delta 25$, $v\Delta 50$, $v\Delta 75$) were significantly lower for subjects with BF% > 12, with higher effects on $v\Delta 75$, $v\dot{V}O_2$ max, $V_{m\acute{a}x}$.

Among the velocity parameters utilized to exercise prescription, the velocity obtained at $\Delta 25$, $\Delta 50$ e $\Delta 75$ has received increasing attention from the scientific community, probably because they are supramaximal intensity parameters obtained between VT and $\dot{V}O_2$ max (Beaver, Wasserman, Whipp, 1986; Billat, Hamard, Koralsztejn, 2002).

Further, the specific literature describes positive correlations between effort time in this intensity range and delay in recuperation post-exercise (Hughson et al., 2000), which can be explained for the increase of oxygen deficit during efforts in this intensity range (Schaun et al., 2018).

Thus, considering that this delay in post effort recuperation can promote an increase in post-exercise oxygen consumption, unleashing higher utilization of lipid metabolism to return to homeostasis and ATP resynthesis (Schaun et al., 2018; Schleppenbach et al., 2017; Tucker, Angadi, Gaesser, 2016), the utilization of this training strategy becomes interesting to exercise prescription to subjects with high levels body composition index.

In a study, Nikbakht (2011) applied an exercise test battery (60 m sprints, medicine ball put, vertical jump, standing board jump, and Harvard step test) with the objective to assess the physical conditioning of active university students with different somatotypes. The authors reported a negative correlation between body composition and physical performance in all proposed tests. These results corroborate the finds of an earlier study (Sadhan, Koley, Sandhu, 2007), when investigating the influence of body composition on physical conditioning in 99 male students, found a negative correlation between $\dot{V}O_2$ max and BF%.

Concerning to O_2 consumption, the results reported in specific literature seem consistent, with authors reporting negative effects of BF% on this parameter (Browning et al., 2017; Nikbakht, 2011; Sadhan, Koley, Sandhu, 2007).

The results in the present go, partially, in the opposite direction, indicating no significant differences in the rates at which O_2 consumption values were obtained at $\Delta 25$, $\Delta 50$ and $\Delta 75$ which are the intensity parameters used in exercise prescription proposed by Billat Hamard, Koralsztejn, (2002) with only $\dot{V}O_2$ max presenting significant differences.

It is important to highlight that the differences between this study and the studies cited above might be explained by some factors as the sample analyzed and methods applied to determine the BF%. The subjects involved in the study of Browning et al., (2017) were females after gastric surgery.

On Nikbakht (2011) study, the individuals were males stratified by somatotypes. The study conducted by Sadhan, Koley, Sandhu (2007) involved both sexes in the analysis. Lastly, none of these studies determine the BF% by plethysmography, which is recognized as a method of high accuracy when compared to other methods (Fields, Goran, Mccrory, 2002).

Specifically, with similar subjects, we found only two studies (Amani et al., 2010; Sharma, Kamal, Chawla, 2016) with health adults' subjects. The study conducted by Amani et al., (2010) had physically active young adults which were submitted to an incremental maximal test. In this study, the authors reported negative correlations between BF% and oxygen consumption. Afterward, these results were corroborated by Sharma, Kamal and Chawla (2016) which evaluated 30 university subjects and found negative correlations for the same reported above parameters.

BF% effect is not limited only to physical fitness, but it might be a determinant factor for others physical performances. Dawes et al., (2016) submitted 76 policemen to different physical tasks and observed that those with higher values of BF% reached inferior results, thus presenting lower physical performance. In this sense, others studies reported that BF% caused impairment in firemen physical performance (Williford et al., 1996) and BF% negatively affect aerobic performance and strength in military force men

with military equipment (Ricciardi, Deuster, Talbot, 2007).

Our study presented some limitations that are important to highlight. Analyse only young and healthy men subjects probably limit the inferences and the external validity of the conclusions. Appropriated caution is needed to generalize the study results to groups of different sex and health status. Our small sample size could be also addressed as a limitation.

Thus, we suggest the applicability of velocity parameters to physical exercise prescription can be an interesting parameter to subjects with different body composition index. Further, utilize velocity parameters to dosage the exercise intensity prescription presents advantages as easy application, efficient training load prediction and can provide immediate results, what can be important to subjects motivation exercise practice (Mann, Ivey, Sayers, 2015).

Furthermore, probably these advantages can be responsible for the increased utilization of velocity parameters in exercise prescription to develop the sportive performance (González-Badillo et al., 2015; González-Badillo, Sánchez-Medina, 2010; Mann, Ivey, Sayers, 2015; Ramirez et al., 2015).

CONCLUSIONS

Considering that subjects with higher BF% reached lowers velocity indicators, we conclude that the BF% directly impairs the intensity indicators to exercise prescription.

As a practical application for exercise prescription based on velocity indicators used in this study, those values allow us to infer that BF% must be considered when professionals are analyzing the indicators to planning exercise prescription.

Moreover, determine the BF% is important to interpret treadmill exercise and avoid underestimate results.

A suggestion for future studies, analyze the effects of exercise practice at the proposed intensity parameters ($v\Delta 25$, $v\Delta 50$, $v\Delta 75$) in the reduction of BF% could add new finds to the body of knowledge concerning about health promotion.

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