



Research Article

Volume 2 Issue 1 - July 2017 DOI: 10.19080/IJOPRS.2017.02.555577

Int J Pul & Res Sci

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Influence of Aerobic Exercise Training on Bone Mineral Status among Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Patients



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Submission: February 16, 2017; Published: July 14, 2017

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Abstract

Background: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) characterized with abnormal bone mineral status with high risk for fracture and poor pulmonary function. Aerobic exercise was proved to improve bone mineral density (BMD) and bone geometry.

Objective: The aim of this study was to measure the impact of aerobic exercise on bone mineral status among COPD patients. Methods: Eighty patients with COPD involved in this study who were enrolled in two equal groups: group (A) received 3 sessions of treadmill aerobic exercise training every week for 6 months, while group (B) was considered as a control group who received no training intervention.

Results: The mean values of bone marrow density (BMD) of the femoral neck, lumbar spine & total hip were improved significantly in group (A) at the end of the study, but group (B) had non-significant changes. However, the differences between mean value of the investigated parameters in both groups were significant at the end of the study (p<0.05).

Conclusion: Aerobic exercise is an effective treatment policy to improve bone mineral status in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients.

Keywords: Aerobic exercise training; Bone mineral density; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Abbreviations: COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; BMD: Bone Marrow Density; EDTA: Ethylene Diamine Tetra Acetic acid; PTH: Parathyroid Hormone

Introduction

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is an incomplete reversible progressive disorder due to its pathological manifestations [1-3] one of the extra-pulmonary manifestations is skeletal muscle dysfunction which affects patients with COPD more than health subjects by two to five folds [4-6], the decline in bone mineral density (BMD) was found to be correlated with the decline in the lung functions [7]. Moreover, about 6-70% of COPD patients affected with osteoporosis according to the severity of illness [8]. The strength of the handgrip strength was found to be closely related to body lean mass, percentage of fat, fat mass composition and BMD [9].

Globally, COPD is a prevalent disorder [10] with high risk of osteoporosis along with high economic burden of the disease medical care [8-12]. COPD is the third cause of death in

America [13]. By 2030 it is expected to have 9 million subject die from COPD every year [14,15]. Currently COPD is the 5th leading cause of death and 3rd economic burden of disease care [16,17].

About 10% drug-related complications and 141,000 of USA hospital stays were related to corticosteroids in 2004 [18]. In addition, corticosteroids-induced osteoporosis via bone formation suppression and enhanced bone resorption [19] which is usually associated with intake of moderate or high doses of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) [20]. Long-term low-dose ICS use increases the rate of bone marrow density (BMD) loss in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [21-23].

The regular pharmacological agents for osteoporosis have high cost and unlimited side-effects specially with long term intake which limit their use [24,25], these side-effects of the

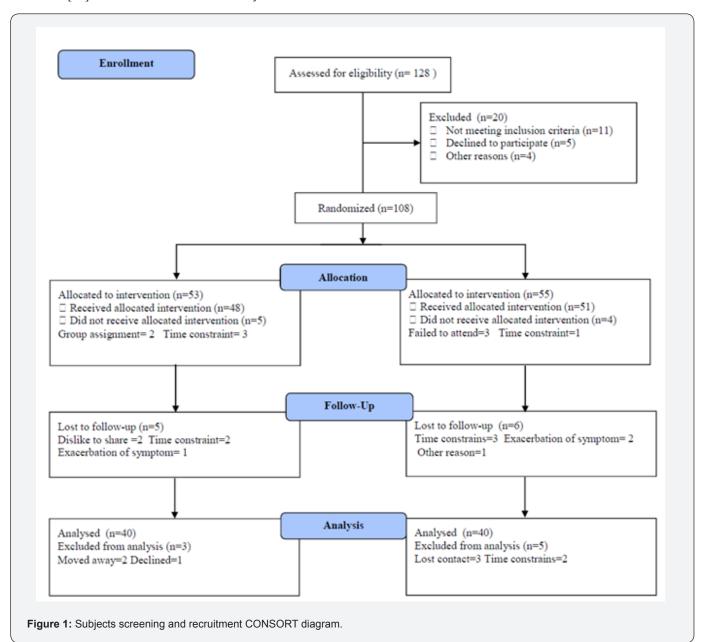
pharmacological therapy forced the medical care members to the non-pharmacological treatment for COPD [26]. Weight bearing exercises of moderate to high intensity have a good role in maintenance of bone mineral status among adult populations [27], therefore exercise training is widely accepted treatment strategy for osteoporosis prevention [28]. The purpose of this study was to measure the impact of aerobic exercise on BMD among COPD patients.

Materials and methods

Subjects

Eighty patients with moderate severity of COPD according to GOLD [29] were enrolled in this study. Patients with

exacerbations in the last 4 weeks were either rescheduled or excluded; their age ranged from 36 to 57 years. Exclusion criteria included smokers, hepatic disorders, cardiac disorders, renal disorders, diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders. Participants were enrolled in two equal groups, the first group (A) received their traditional treatment in addition to treadmill aerobic exercises, while the second group (B) was considered as a control group and received only their traditional treatment for six months. The CONSORT diagram clearly outline the screening details and phases of randomization phases (Figure 1). Informed consent was signed by all participants. This study was approved by the Scientific Research Ethical Committee, Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences at King University.



Measurements

Overnight fasting venous blood samples were added to Ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA), and centrifuged for 10 min at 1000 ×g. Samples stored at – 80 °C until analysis. Parathyroid hormone (PTH) and serum blood calcium were measured with an Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA) (Diagnostics Systems Laboratories, Inc., Webster, TX). However, measurements of BMD of total hip, lumbar spine and the femoral neck were taken by Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry ((DXA) GE Lunar Prodigy enCORE software version 8.80, GE Medical Systems, Madison WI).

Procedures

Participants were randomly included into two equal groups as following:

Table 1: Participants baseline characteristics in both groups.

a. Group (A) received treadmill aerobic exercise training

with a five minutes warming-up phase done on the treadmill (Track master 400E, gas fitness system, England) with low load, actual training time was thirty minutes with an intensity of 70--80% of HRmax and finally five minutes of cooling down that was done in the form of running or walking [30].

b. Group (B) was considered as a control group and received no training intervention for six months.

Statistical analysis

SPSS (Chicago, IL, USA) version 17 was used in statistical analysis, where the investigated parameters of both groups obtained before and at the end of the study were compared. However, comparison between the investigated parameters of both groups done using independent "t". All data were expressed as the mean \pm SD (P<0.05).

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	Mean ± SD		P value		
	Group (A)	Group (B)			
Age (year)	48.37 ± 4.62	46.91± 4.58	0.564		
Gender ratio (male/female)	26/14	25/15	0.371		
BMI (kg/m²)	22.16 ± 3.49	21.42 ± 3.51	0.253		
FVC (L)	2.81 ± 0.78	2.95 ± 0.84	0.218		
FEV1 (L)	1.62 ± 0.67	1.44 ± 0.63	0.063		
FEV1/FVC (%)	48.65 ± 6.24	50.13 ± 7.11	0.127		

MVV (L/minute) 51.28 ± 8.16 53.42 ± 9.38 0.352

BMI: Body Mass Index; FVC: Forced Vital Capacity; FEV1: Forced Expiratory volume in the First Second; FEV1/FVC: Ratio between Forced Expiratory Volume in the First Second and Forced Vital Capacity; MVV: Maximum Voluntary Ventilation.

Results

The baseline characteristics of all participants are shown in Table 1. Most participants (65 %) were men. Forty participants were assigned to the aerobic exercise group (n = 40; 26 males and 14 females), while the resistance exercise group (n = 40; 25 males and 15 females). None of the baseline characteristics differed significantly between the two groups is listed in Table 1.

the femoral neck, lumbar spine & total hip were improved significantly in group (A) at the end of the study (Table 2), but group (B) had non-significant changes (Table 3). However, the differences between mean values of the investigated parameters in both groups were significant at the end of the study (Table 4). These results confirm that aerobic exercise is appropriate to modulate handgrip strength and bone mineral density in patients with COPD.

The mean values of bone marrow density (BMD) of

Table 2: Mean value and significance of the investigated parameters in group (A) before and at the end of the study.

	Mean ±SD		T-value	P value
	Before	After	1-value	P value
Serum Calcium (ng/dl)	7.86 ±2.13	9.87 ± 2.51*	7.74	0.007*
Parathyroid Hormone (ng/dl)	13.95 ± 3.12	10.33 ± 2.74*	7.31	0.002*
Total hip BMD (g/cm²)	0.916 ± 0.128	1.23± 0.141*	6.412	0.015*
Lumbar spine BMD (g/ cm²)	1.087 ± 0.232	1.294± 0.246*	8.351	0.009*
Femoral neck BMD (g/ cm²)	0.794 ± 0.176	0.973 ± 0.181*	8.52	0.011*
Hand grip strength (mmHg)	145.64 + 10.71	176.85+ 9.63*	8.52	0.006*

BMD: Bone Marrow Density; (*) indicates a significant difference between the two groups, P < 0.05.

Table 3: Mean value and significance of the investigated parameters in group (B) before and at the end of the study.

	Mean ± SD		T-value	P value
	Before	After	1-value	r value
Serum Calcium (ng/dl)	7.57 ±1.64	7.39±1.22	0.81	0.315
Parathyroid Hormone (ng/dl)	13.78 ± 3.22	13.94 ± 3.31	0.92	0.472
Total hip BMD (g/cm ²)				
	0.923 ± 0.131	0.918 ± 0.130	0.987	0.168
Lumbar spine BMD (g/ cm²)	1.117 ± 0.217	1.094 ± 0.213	0.843	0.516
Femoral neck BMD (g/ cm²)	0.821 ± 0.183	0.765 ± 0.174	0.756	0.317
Hand grip strength (mmHg)	146.24 + 10.92	142.15 + 10.36	1.37	0.165

BMD: Bone Marrow Density

Table 4: Mean value and significance of the investigated parameters in group (A) and group (B) at the end of the study.

	Mean ± SD		m .1 .	n .1 .
	Group (A)	Group (B)	T-value	P value
Serum Calcium (ng/dl)	9.87 ± 2.51*	7.39±1.22	5.41	0.025*
Parathyroid Hormone (ng/dl)	10.33 ± 2.74*	13.94 ± 3.31	5.73	0.017*
Total hip BMD (g/cm²)	1.23± 0.141*	0.918 ± 0.130	6.115	0.013*
Lumbar spine BMD (g/ cm²)	1.294± 0.246*	1.094 ± 0.213	8.351	0.005*
Femoral neck BMD (g/ cm²)	0.973 ± 0.181*	0.765 ± 0.174	8.52	0.007*
Hand grip strength (mmHg)	176.85+ 9.63*	142.15 + 10.36	6.82	0.016*

BMD: Bone Marrow Density; (*) indicates a significant difference between the two groups, P < 0.05.

Discussion

The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) recommended regular weight-bearing to preserve bone mass [31]. However, Greendale and colleagues stated that exercise can prevent osteoporosis [32]. Therefore, this study was designed to measure the impact of aerobic exercise on bone mineral status among COPD patients. The main finding of our study indicated that aerobic exercise training improves bone mineral status among patients with COPD. These findings approved by Lester et al. [33] stated that only long term exercise training for a period more than 6 months was enough to improve bone mineral density [33]. Also, Nordstrom et al. [34] reported that BMD improved among athletes who participate in weightbearing activities [34]. While Bonaiuti [35] and colleague's recommended walking exercise for prevention and treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women [35]. However, Hind et al. [36] reported that BMD improve in cystic fibrosis children after 6 months of regular weight-bearing exercise [36]. While, Remes et al. [37] said that exercise is essential for middle-aged men to have peak bone mass [37]. Also, Lin et al. stated that weight-bearing exercise had a greater positive effect on BMD

than the non-weight-bearing exercise [38]. Moreover, Douchi et al. [39] confirmed that strength training significantly increased BMD of lumbar spine in postmenopausal women [39].

The possible mechanism by which exercise maintains the skeletal integrity are: changes in the biochemical structure of the blood by altering the level of its component which has a role in the integrity of normal skeletal and mechanical load of the exercise which can modify and increase bone mass [40]. The increase in bone mineral density after exercise may be due to increase in serum calcium associated with decreased parathyroid hormone following exercise training [41].

The present study has important limitations and strengths. The supervised nature of the study is a point of strength as it limit the need to rely on activity questionnaires or to have a dubiety regarding compliance and adherence of participants in training. Moreover, the study was randomized; hence, we can ensure adherence to the general population. While, the possibility of findings generalization may be limited by the small sample size in both groups. Finally, based on the present study findings, treadmill walking exercise training is an effective

treatment policy to modulate bone mineral status in COPD patients. Further researches are needed to explore the impact of exercise training upon quality of life and other biochemical parameters among COPD patients.

Conclusion

Aerobic exercise is an effective treatment policy to improve BMD in patients with COPD.

Acknowledgment

This project was funded by the Deanship of Scientific Research (DSR) at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, under grant no. (G-56-142-34). The authors, therefore, acknowledge with thanks DSR for technical and financial support.

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DOI: 10.19080/IJOPRS.2017.02.555577

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