



Chapter 17

Nutrition for Sport

REHSCI 1215 Exercise Physiology

Nutrition for Sport - Outline

- Classification of nutrients
- Water and electrolyte balance
- Nutrition and athletic performance



Classification of Nutrients

Carbohydrate (CHO)

Fat (lipid)

Protein

Vitamins

Minerals

Water



Classification of Nutrients

Recommended macronutrient balance

- Carbohydrate: 55-60% of daily kilocalories
- Fat: <35% (<10% saturated)
- Protein: 10-15%**



Intake based on g/kg body weight to support training & goals

- CHO: 3-12 g/kg of body weight
- Protein: 1.2-1.7 g/kg of body weight**

**studies suggest higher



Classification of Nutrients

- Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA)
 - Outdated—not bad, just insufficient
 - Estimated safe, adequate dietary intakes & minimum vitamin/mineral requirements
- Daily Recommended Intake (DRI)
 - Current standard
 - Intakes grouped by nutrient function, classification

Carbohydrates

Molecular composition

- Monosaccharide
- Disaccharide
- Polysaccharide

Functions in body

- Energy source
- Regulation of fat & protein metabolism

Consumption and storage

- Excess CHO stored as glycogen
- Glycogen stores determined by dietary CHO intake

Carbohydrates

- Determinants of glycogen replacement
 - CHO intake
 - Exercise type
 - eccentric → ↓ glycogen synthesis
- Glycogen maintenance
 - CHO: 3 - 12 g/kg body weight/day to maintain glycogen stores
 - Athletes: hunger often insufficient drive for CHO consumption
 - Insufficient CHO intake → heavy, tired feeling



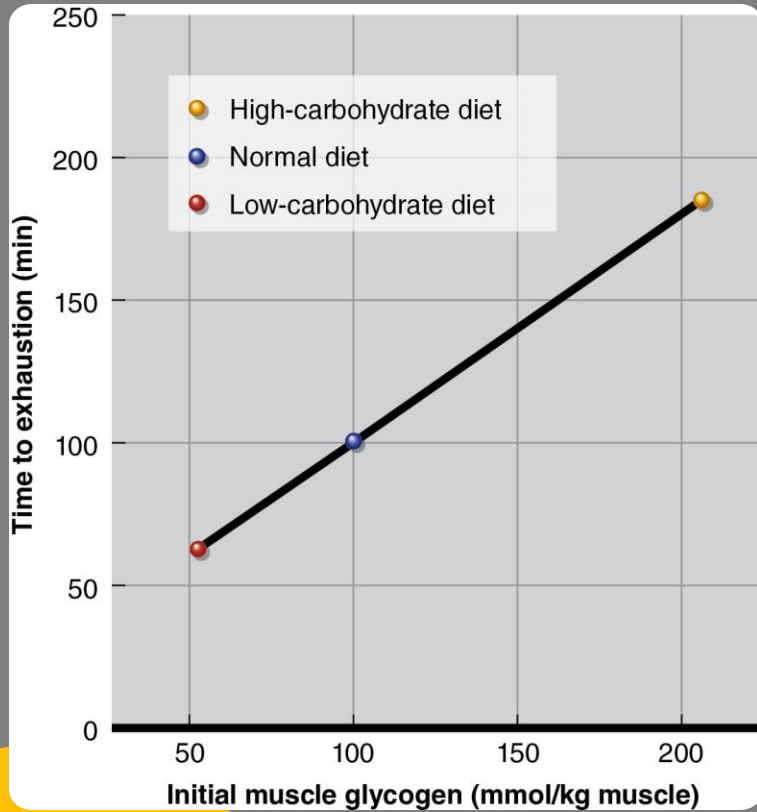


Fig. 17.2. Relationship between pre-exercise muscle glycogen content and exercise time to exhaustion

Glycemic Index (GI):

- Food categorized by glycemic (blood sugar) response
- High GI (GI >70): sport drinks, jellybeans, baked/fried potatoes, corn flakes, pretzels
- Moderate GI (GI 56-70): pastry, pita bread, white rice, bananas, soda, ice cream
- Low GI (GI ≤55): spaghetti, legumes, milk, apples, pears, peanuts, peanut M&M's, yogurt
- Fat + high GI = lower GI





Carbohydrate

- CHO factors that ↑ exercise time to fatigue
 - CHO loading: 1-3 days prior
 - Normoglycemia, low-GI pre-exercise snack
 - CHO feedings during exercise
- CHO factors that ↓ exercise time to fatigue
 - No CHO loading- lower glycogen stores*
 - Hypoglycemia, high-GI pre-exercise snack
 - No CHO feeding during exercise

**fat adaptation*

Carbohydrates & Exercise

- CHO during exercise
 - Does not trigger hypoglycemia
 - Improved muscle permeability to glucose?
 - Insulin-binding sites altered during exercise?
- CHO intake after exercise essential
 - Glycogen resynthesis high <2 h after exercise
 - Protein + CHO intake enhances glycogen stores
 - Stimulates muscle tissue repair





Fat

Fat is essential for body function

Total fat <35% of total daily kilocalories (0 trans fat)

Saturated fat <10% total daily kilocalories

Cholesterol <300 mg/day



Protein



- Essential for body function
 - Cell structure, growth, repair, maintenance
- 20 amino acids: essential & nonessential
 - Necessary for human growth & metabolism
 - Complete vs incomplete proteins
- Protein consumption
 - 15% of total daily kilocalories
 - ~0.8 g/kg body weight/day is the RDA



Protein Requirements for Athletes

- Endurance & Strength Athletes: 1.4 – 1.8g/kg body weight
- Endurance training: protein possible fuel substrate
- Strength training: protein needed for building/repairing muscle





Protein Intake & Resistance Training

To increase muscle mass = rate of protein synthesis > rate of protein degradation

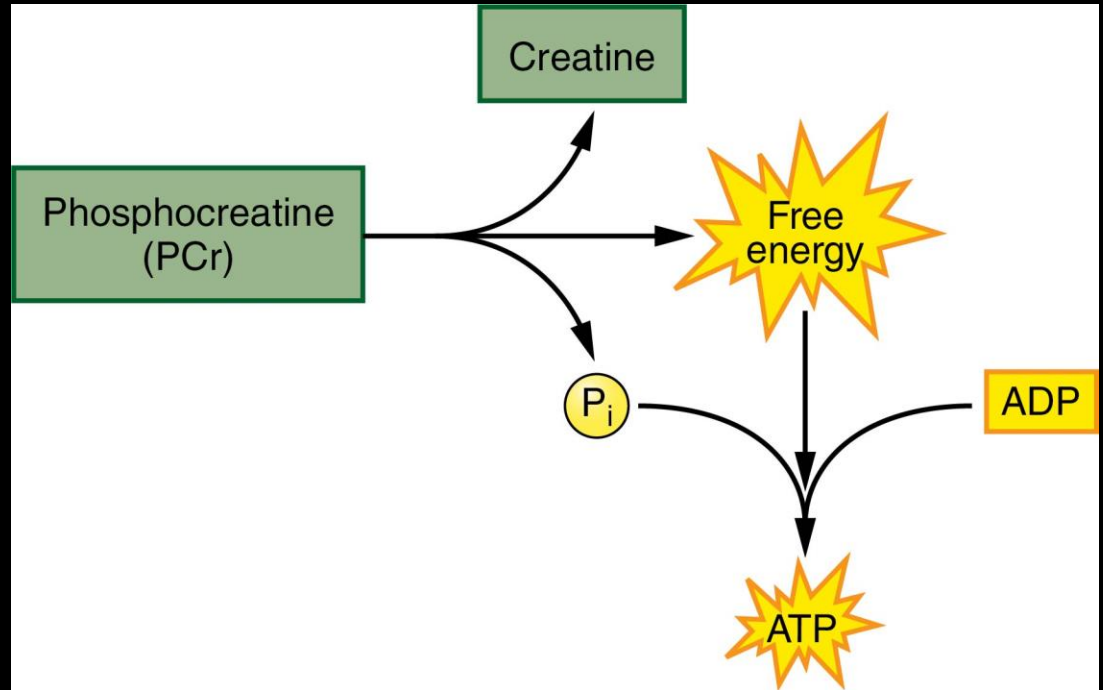
Resistance training & protein consumption can independently promote protein synthesis

- Peak muscle protein synthesis correlates w/ peak leucine concentration
 - Trigger for stimulating protein synthesis
 - High-quality dairy protein contains all essential aa & high in leucine

Protein consumption 1-2 hours post-ex is important

Phosphocreatine

- Phosphocreatine (PCr) is an essential substrate within ATP-PCr energy metabolism
- 98% of Phosphocreatine stored in muscles
- Remember that the ATP-PCr system is mainly utilized for short-duration, high-intensity exercise (Approx. 6-30 sec)
- Can increase our muscles PCr stores with supplementation!



Creatine Supplementation

- Benefits:
 - Increase Maximal Strength
 - Increase Power
 - Increase in Lean Body Mass

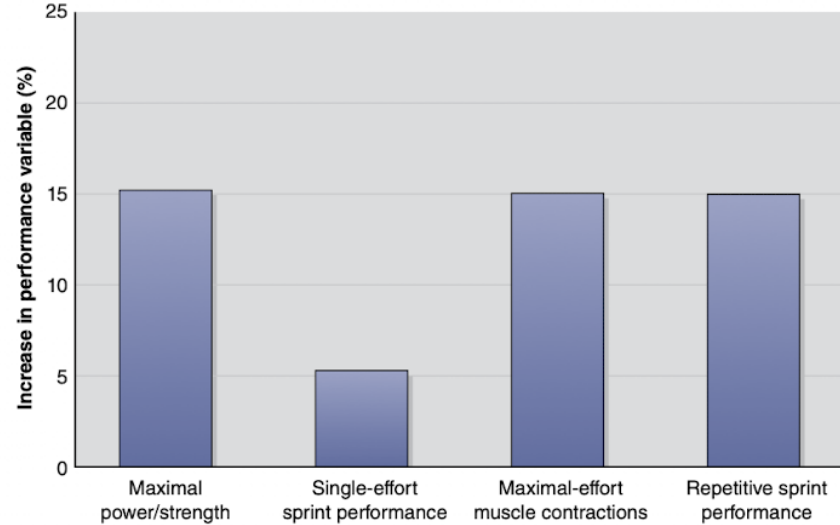


FIGURE 11.4 Approximate changes in performance variables following creatine supplementation (149).



Creatine Supplementation Regime

- Loading Phase :
 - 20-25 g daily for 5 days OR 2g daily for 30 days
- Maintenance Phase :
 - 2g daily
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Cap out saturation of 150-160mmol/kg of BW

Vitamins

Small, essential organic molecules

- Enable use of other ingested nutrients
- Act as catalysts in chemical reactions

Fat soluble vs water soluble

- Fat soluble stored, possible toxic accumulations (A,D,E,K)
- Water soluble excreted, toxicity difficult to reach



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Vitamins



- B-complex vitamins (12+ total)
 - Essential for cellular metabolism, ATP production
- Vitamin C
 - Important for collagen maintenance, antioxidant
 - Adrenal hormone synthesis, iron absorption
- Vitamin E
 - Stored in muscle and fat
 - Potent antioxidant





Minerals

Inorganic substances needed for cellular function

Calcium- 40% of mineral content of body
Bone density, nerve & muscle function
Disease: osteopenia, osteoporosis

Phosphorus- 22% of mineral content of body
Bound to calcium in bones
Provides strength & rigidity
Important for metabolism, cell membranes, buffers



Minerals

Iron- micromineral

- Critical for hemoglobin, myoglobin (O_2 transport)
- Deficiency \rightarrow anemia

Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, Magnesium- electrolytes

- Na^+ , Cl^- found primarily in interstitial fluid & plasma
- K^+ in intracellular fluid
- Need for nerve impulses, cardiac rhythm, fluid & pH balance



Water & Electrolyte Balance

- 50% - 60% of total body weight is water weight
 - Fat-free mass 73% water, fat mass 10% water
 - 2/3 of body water intracellular, 1/3 extracellular
 - 1-6% body-weight loss in sweat common for athletes
 - 9-12% loss possibly fatal
- Medium for transportation, diffusion
- Temperature regulation
- Blood pressure maintenance



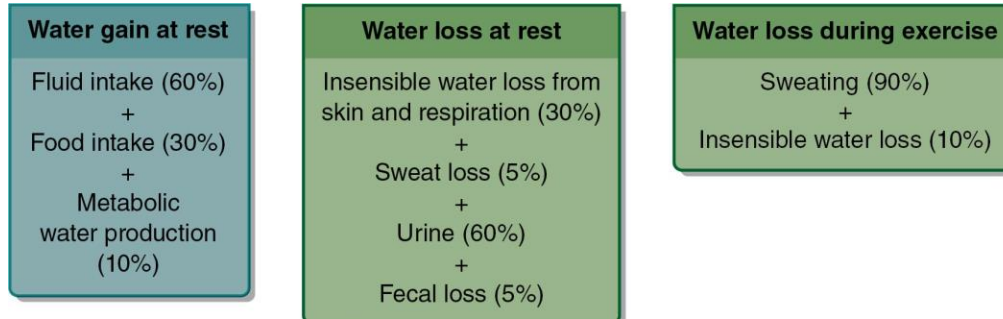


Fig. 17.6. Sources of body water gains & losses at rest & during exercise

Volume of sweat produced during exercise is determined by:

- Environmental temperature
- Humidity
- Air velocity
- Body size
- Metabolic rate

Dehydration Impairs Exercise Performance

↑ temperature → ↑ sweat loss → ↓ performance

↓ plasma volume → ↓ cardiovascular function

↓ plasma volume → ↓ thermoregulatory function



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Water and Electrolyte Balance

- Electrolyte loss in sweat
 - Elevated rates of sweating contain large amounts of Na^+ & Cl^-

- Electrolyte loss in urine

Kidneys regulate electrolyte excretion

↓ urine production = ↓ electrolyte excretion



Water and Electrolyte Balance

- Thirst
 - Regulated by osmoreceptors in hypothalamus (high blood osmolality)
 - Thirst not well calibrated to hydration levels
 - 24-48 h to completely rehydrate

- Benefits of fluids during exercise
 - Minimize dehydration & water loss
 - Maintain performance & cardiovascular function



Water and Electrolyte Balance



- Hyponatremia
 - Serum Na^+ <135 mmol/L
 - Excessive Na^+ loss + excessive rehydration
 - Relatively rare (e.g., ultramarathoners)
- Symptoms
 - Mild: bloating/puffiness, nausea/vomiting, headache
 - More severe: cerebral edema, cognitive or central nervous system dysfunction, seizures, pulmonary edema, coma, death



Fluid Replacement Guidelines

- Before (2 hrs): 400-600 ml (14-22 oz) of fluid
- During: intake to stay within 2% of pre-exercise body weight
- After: replacement of all fluid losses; salty snack
- Exercise > 1hr: drinks with CHO (4-8%) & Na⁺ (0.5-0.7 g/L)



The Endurance Athlete's Diet



- Maximal glycogen stores → ↑ performance
- Carbohydrate (glycogen) loading
 - Training tapered during week before event
 - Days 6-4 before event: normal CHO diet
 - Days 3-1 before event: high CHO diet
 - Muscle glycogen stores doubled



The Endurance Athlete's Diet

Pre-competition meal 2 h before competition

- 200-500 kcal
- Mostly CHO:
 - Cereal, milk, juice, toast

Post-competition meal within 2 hours

- 2:1 CHO:Protein





Sport Drinks

Composition of sport drinks

Water + energy (CHO) + electrolytes

CHO concentration: energy delivery

↑ CHO content slows gastric emptying

Most drinks have 6-8 g CHO/100 ml fluid

- Glucose and glucose polymers
- 30-60 g CHO per hour of competition



Sport Drinks

- Na^+ concentration aids rehydration
 - $\text{Na}^+ \rightarrow \uparrow$ thirst and palatability
 - Na^+ retention promotes water retention

- Palatability
 - Light flavor, no strong aftertaste



Summary

- CHO: primary fuel source for most athletes
- Fat < 35% of total calories
- Protein 1.2 - 2.0 g/kg BW
- Dehydration impairs exercise performance by altering variety of physiological functions
- Sport drinks can reduce dehydration & provide energy