Scientific Abstracts

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EFFECTS OF ORIGINAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS IN PATIENTS WITH FIBROMYALGIA SYNDROME

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Background: Rehabilitation programs are recommended in the treatment of fibromyalgia syndrome (FM). Whole-body vibration (WBV) is a neuromuscular training method that has quickly gained in popularity in health and fitness centers. However, limited data are available about the benefits of WBV on physical function.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of a training program with the Vibrosphere® in fibromyalgia patients. The Vibrosphere® is a hemispherical balance device with a vibrating platform. We have assessed the tolerance of the Vibrosphere® training sessions and which consequences it had on physical function and Quality of Life in fibromyalgia patients.

Methods: Ten women with FM (48 ± 10 years, 64 ± 16 kg) were included in this study. They attended twice weekly specific training on the Vibrosphere® (20-30 Hz in steps of 5 Hz, exercise duration: 30 seconds, and total working time: 12 minutes) for 6 weeks. Outcome measures were recorded before and after treatment by means of the Chair Rising Test, a static endurance test, a One Leg Balance Test, a measurement of 24 h energy expenditure and specific questionnaires (Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire, Fatigue Severity Scale, Borg Scale, Visual Analogue Scale, Tampa Scale for Kinesiophobia, Short-form 36 items Health Survey, Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale).

Results: Benefits of aerobic rehabilitation in fibromyalgia patients have been documented previously [1]. In our study, physical functions (Chair Rising Test, endurance test, One Leg Balance test and 24 h energy expenditure) improved significantly (p<0.05) in patients with FM at the end of the training program. Questionnaire scores showed amelioration in Quality of Life and that the patients were favorable to benefit from additional training sessions.

Conclusion: This preliminary study showed that the Vibrosphere® training program was effective and the balance and physical functions in FM patients improved. Further studies are needed to confirm these results.

References: [1] Maquet D, Croisier JL, Demoulin C, Faymonville M, Crielaard JM. Value of aerobic rehabilitation in the management of fibromyalgia. Rev Med Liege. 2006;61:109-16.

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