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The Benefits of Therapeutic Exercise During Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation: Literatures Review

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American Cancer Society Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity for Cancer Survivors

Achieve and maintain a healthy weight

 If overweight or obese, limit consumption of high-calorie foods and beverages and increase physical activity to promote weight loss

Rock, C. L., Doyle, C., Demark-Wahnefried, W., Meyerhardt, J., Courneya, K. S., Schwartz, A. L., Bandera, E. V., Hamilton, K. K., Grant, B., McCullough, M., Byers, T., & Gansler, T. (2012). Nutrition and physical activity guidelines for cancer survivors. *CA: a cancer journal for clinicians*, *62*(4), 243–274.

Engage in regular physical activity

- Avoid inactivity and return to normal daily activities as soon as possible following diagnosis.
- Aim to exercise at least 150 minutes per week.
- Include strength training exercises at least 2 days per week.

FATIGUE



Figure 1. Theoretical model of prehabilitation in people undergoing HSCT (figure is adapted from Hulzebos and Van Meeteren, 2015).





- Fatigue is a symptom associated with decreased physical function, as one of the most common complications of HSCT patients
 - 41% of patients had severe fatigue within five years of transplant
- Physiology affects psychology

 Anxiety, worry and other mental disorders
- Affecting patients' quality of life (QOL) and recovery progress

Liang, Y., Zhou, M., Wang, F., & Wu, Z. (2018). Exercise for physical fitness, fatigue and quality of life of patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. Japanese journal of clinical oncology, 48(12), 1046–1057.



Benefits of Exercise for Transplant Patients

• Improve physical fitness

(3)

- Enhance cardiorespiratory function
- Weight control
- Maintain muscle mass
- Reduce the risk of osteoporosis

Reduce fatigue Reduce nausea Reduce the risk of developing anxiety or depression Improve self-esteem Improve quality of life

Benefits of Exercise for Transplant Patients

- post-HSCT leg extension torque and peak VO2 were strongly associated with each of their pre-HSCT variables
 - the higher the physical function before HSCT, the higher the physical function after HSCT
 - maximizing physical capacity before HSCT could lead to better functional outcomes, as well as reduce the length of hospital stay and mortality risk.

Ishikawa, A., Otaka, Y., Kamisako, M., Suzuki, T., Miyata, C., Tsuji, T., Matsumoto, H., Kato, J., Mori, T., Okamoto, S., & Liu, M. (2019). Factors affecting lower limb muscle strength and cardiopulmonary fitness after allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. *Supportive care in cancer : official journal of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer*, *27*(5), 1793–1800.



Fig. 1 Comparison of leg extension torque (a) and peak oxygen consumption (VO_2) (b) pre- and post-hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT)

The post-HSCT values of both variables significantly decreased compared to the pre-HSCT values. Error bars indicate standard deviation



Exercise on Survival of Transplant Patients



Wiskemann, J., Kleindienst, N., Kuehl, R., Dreger, P., Schwerdtfeger, R., & Bohus, M. (2015). Effects of physical exercise on survival after allogeneic stem cell transplantation. *International journal of cancer*, *137*(11), 2749–2756.

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Exercise: Aerobic Exercise

component	Aerobic
Frequency	3-7x/week
Intensity	60%-80% of max HR, or 40%-60% of HR reserve or oxygen uptake service
Mode	Walking or stationary bike
Duration	Start with 5-20 minutes depending on exercise tolerance Goal is 20-60 minutes of continuous exercise
Progression	Duration > frequency > intensity > mode
Patient monitor	HR, BP, O_2 sat, RPE and pain

Exercises: Strength Training

KMUH

component	Strength training
Frequency	At least 2-3x/week
Intensity	40%-60% of 1RM or 6-12 repetitions
Mode	 8-10 dynamic exercise, functional task training, weight machines or free weights, TheraBand resistance Target muscle: major muscle group, concentric and eccentric contractions in supine, sitting and standing
Duration	Start with 1 set of 8-12 repetitions Goal is 1-3 sets of 8-15 repetitions
Progression	Frequency > intensity Add TheraBand only if no additional hematologic or orthopedic precautions are present
Patient monitor	HR, BP, O_2 sat, RPE, DOE and pain



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THANK YOU





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