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Editorial

Does brain functional connectivity contribute to musculoskeletal injury?

In the first of this month's featured articles, Deikfuss and colleagues report work linking stronger cerebellar connections between the cortex and the cerebellar regions for balance and coordination in individuals less likely to suffer ACL injuries. In the second feature article, Flatt and Howells describe the effects of varying training load on heart rate variability and running performance on Olympic rugby sevens athletes. In the third of the featured articles this month, Bartholomae, Moore, Ward and Kressler, in a randomised controlled trial, report similar impacts of stair stepping in males and females on post-prandial glucose responses.

This month's sports medicine section is lead off with a cohort study from Fitzgerald, Beckmans, Joyce and Mills examining sleep and training load associations with illness in Australian Football athletes. Dixson and co-workers report a prospective study of risk factors for metatarsal stress fractures in military recruits. Carvalhias, Araujo, Jorge and Bo outline relationships between disordered eating patterns and urinary continence in female athletes. Docking's group suggest that a previous history of tendon symptoms is a stronger predictor of self-reported symptoms than ultrasound tissue characterisation. In the final article in this section, Pihl and colleagues question the clinical importance of mechanical knee symptoms as an indication for arthroscopy.

In the first of the reports in this month's sports injury section, Lenton and colleagues suggest that primarily hip borne loads do not alter biomechanical risk factors for overuse injuries in military personnel. Lagas' group suggest that targeted neuromuscular training is no better than regular training in reducing knee loading in adolescent males. In the final article in the section, Lystad and co-workers report the incidence, costs and temporal trends in sports injury related hospitalisations in Australian children.

McDonald and colleagues lead off this month's physical activity section with a study suggesting that maternal physical activity does not ameliorate the effect of a mother's BMI on infant macrosomia. Cheung's group report a quasi-experimental study examining an elementary school based program designed to increase physical activity opportunities. Verheggen and co-workers describe the impact of repeated prolonged walking in both lean and overweight individuals. Sandercock and Cohen outline the trends in muscular fitness in English 10-year-olds.

In the first article in this month in the sport and exercise science section, Souron's team report the effect of active versus local vibration on knee extensor stiffness and muscle performance in young males. Clark and colleagues describe an improved measurement of walking and running speeds using a low cost laser system. Coakley's group describe the relationship between body mass and run times in predicting loaded march performance irrespective of sex. Using a demographics and employment characteristics overview approach the challenges facing the Australian high performance and sports science workforce are detailed by Dwyer and co-workers. Shen's team, in a systematic review and meta-analysis, outline the relationship between caffeine and endurance athletic time trial events. In the final article in this section, Blagrove's group describe the impact of depth jumps as a post activation performance enhancement technique in junior endurance runners.

The February 2019 issue continues to explore a range of areas of interest to both clinicians and researchers in the sport sciences and exercise medicine fields.

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