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Title: Activation of respiratory muscles during respiratory muscle training

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Body: Introduction Respiratory muscle training (RMT) is applied by athletes and in patients with respiratory muscle dysfunction. Yet it is unknown which respiratory muscle groups are mainly activated by RMT. Objective This study aimed at evaluating three RMT methods (Inspiratory Threshold Loading [POWERbreathe] (ITL), Targeted Resistive Breathing [RespiFit S] (TRB), Normocapnic Hyperpnoea [SpiroTiger] (NH)) with regard to their electromyographic (EMG) activation of three specific inspiratory muscle groups (M. sternocleidomastoideus (EMGsterno), 2nd intercostal parasternal muscles (EMGpara), Diaphragm (EMGdi)) in healthy subjects. Methods EMG recordings were analyzed as their RootMeanSquare (RMS) at the end of each randomized training session and normalized using the peak EMG recorded during maximum inspiratory maneuvers (Sniff nasal pressure: SnPna, maximal inspiratory mouth occlusion pressure: Plmax) and expressed as EMG%max. Main Results 41 subjects were included. Recordings for EMGsterno and EMGpara were higher in ITL and NH than for TRB (p<0.05). EMGdi was higher applying ITL compared to TRB or NH (p<0.05).

	EMGsterno	EMGpara	EMGdi	р	
	RMS	RMS	RMS		
Plmax	269±131±	83±96	68±43	Sterno vs Di: p<0.001	Sterno vs Para: p<0.001
SnPna	324±110	82±64	65±31	Sterno vs Di: p<0.001	Sterno vs Para: p<0.001
	%max	%max	%max		
ITL	59±21	46±28	47±21	Sterno vs Di: p<0.05	Sterno vs Para: p<0.05
TRB	25±21	23±17	24±10	-	
NH	54±28	45±25	34±15	Sterno vs Di: p<0.001	Sterno vs Para: p<0.001

Effects of respiratory muscle training on muscle activation

Conclusion ITL, TRB and NH differ in their activation of inspiratory respiratory muscles. Whereas all methods mainly stimulate accessory respiratory muscles, diaphragm activation was predominantly increased by ITL.