

# The Effect of Different Exercise Modes on Bone Density in Middle-aged and Older Men: A Systematic Review\*

PP303



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

Kate A. Bolam<sup>1</sup>, Jannique G.Z. van Uffelen<sup>1,2</sup>, Dennis R. Taaffe<sup>1,3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Human Movement Studies, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia; <sup>2</sup> Institute of Sport, Exercise & Active Living, Victoria University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia; <sup>3</sup> School of Environmental and Life Sciences, The University of Newcastle, Ourimbah, NSW, Australia; <sup>4</sup> Edith Cowan University Health and Wellness Institute, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup, WA, Australia

## Purpose

1) To review and summarize the findings of exercise trials examining the effect of **weight-bearing** and **resistance-based exercise** modalities on **bone mineral density** (BMD) of the hip and lumbar spine in middle-aged and older **men**; 2) To assess the study quality of these trials.

## Methods

### LITERATURE SEARCH (August 2012)

PubMed, EMBASE, CENTRAL (Cochrane Central Register of controlled trials), PEDro and SPORTDiscus

### INCLUSION CRITERIA

**Design:** randomized controlled trials or controlled trials

**Population:** men aged 45+ years. Studies including men and women in which results for men were reported separately were eligible for inclusion

**Intervention:** any exercise protocol involving resistance training, impact-loading exercise, weight-bearing exercise or a combination

**Outcome:** lumbar spine, total hip, trochanter, femoral neck or Ward's triangle BMD by DXA

### QUALITY RATING LIST

7-item Delphi methodological quality rating list with score from 0-100%; higher score indicating better quality

Records identified through database searching = 4859

Duplicates removed by EndNote = 1753

Abstracts screened = 3106

Full text papers assessed for eligibility = 42

Papers identified as eligible = 9

Additional papers identified through reference lists of selected papers = 0

9 papers, describing 8 interventions, included in qualitative synthesis

## Results

**Study Quality:** 5 of the 8 trials had a quality rating score of less than 50%, indicating relatively low methodological quality

**Population:** men aged 50-79 years old. Sample sizes ranged from 11-147 participants

**Intervention:** duration ranged from 3 months to 4 years

- walking (n=2)
- resistance training (n=3)
- resistance training + walking (n=1)
- resistance training + impact-loading activities (jumping & leaping) (n=1)
- resistance training + Tai Chi (n=1)

### Outcome:

- 6 trials, 2 with a quality score >50%, showed a positive effect on BMD of hip or lumbar spine
- 2 trials, quality score of 43% and 78%, showed no significant effect on BMD of hip and/or lumbar spine
- only 2 studies reported adverse events and these were only of a minor nature



## Conclusions

- Resistance training alone, or in combination with impact-loading activities, is safe and may assist in the prevention of osteoporosis in middle-aged and older men
- Additional high-quality randomized controlled trials are required to establish evidence-based guidelines for the optimal exercise prescription to prevent osteoporosis in this population

## Take home message

**Regular resistance training and impact-loading activities (jumping) should be considered as a strategy to prevent osteoporosis in middle-aged and older men**

\*Bolam, KA., van Uffelen, JG., Taaffe, DR. The effect of physical exercise on bone density of middle-aged and older men: A systematic review. *Osteoporos Int.* Mar 2013 [Epub ahead of print]

Please contact  
Kate A Bolam  
k.bolam@uq.edu.au  
Stockholm, Sweden