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# Optimising Power To Weight Ratio Without Compromising Nutrition

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# With The End In Mind



Dietary considerations to achieve high quality weight loss recognising the dynamic energy balance





### Power To Weight Ratio: What Is In It For The Athlete?

- Determinant of performance:
  - Where athletes work against gravity, e.g. running
- High power to weight ratio:
  - More power with every action
  - Run, swim and cycle faster and more efficiently
  - 0.45 kg excess weight requires ~ 2 watts to pull up a hill
  - 3 kg of fat =  $\sim$  3 sec/km on a climb
    - $\downarrow$  4.5 kg  $\rightarrow$  climbing 7-10 % faster









### Changing Power to Weight Ratio



#### **To improve power to weight ratio:**

- $\mathbf{O}$   $\uparrow$  power output while keeping their weight constant
- $\bigcirc$  keep the power output constant while  $\downarrow$  weight
- $\bigcirc$   $\uparrow$  power output while also  $\downarrow$  weight





#### Weight Loss Is Not Simple





Just increase energy expenditure and/or reduce energy intake







# Getting It Wrong

- Energy availability (EA) = Energy intake (EI) exercise energy expenditure (EEE) in relation to fat-free mass (FFM)
- Energy expenditure associated with prescribed training load is already committed
- Energy mismatch (i.e., initial energy deficit)  $\rightarrow$  adjustment in expenditure on the non-exercise body functions

Short Period (5 days) of EA <30 kcal/kg FFM/day = Severe Endocrine and Metabolic Alterations

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### Classification on Energy Availability

			High EA: healthy weight gain or weight maintenance Adequate energy for physiological functions
	> 45 kcal/kg FFM/d	Optimal Energy Availability	Subclinical LEA: tolerated for short periods during well- constructed weight-loss program Clinical LEA: health implications with impairment of body systems including training adaptation and performance
	30 kcal/kg FFM/d	Minimum Required for Health Borderline Energy Deficient	
	20 kcal/kg FFM/d	Moderately Energy Deficient	
	10 kcal/kg FFM/d	Severely Energy Deficient	

Severe energy restriction to decrease weight will negatively affect performance and health



maintenance

THE SRO YOGHURT FROM SCIENCE TO PERFORMANCE

#### Achieving **HEALTHY** Body Weight

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- O Minimises health risks and promotes good eating habits
- O Allowing for optimal training and performance
- Consideration for genetic makeup
- O Appropriate for age and physical development
- Maintained without constant dieting or restriction
- **O** Regain some weight during off-season











6%

# Getting It Right: Fat Mass vs Lean Body Mass



Hypocaloric dieting  $\rightarrow \downarrow$  fat mass and  $\downarrow$  lean body mass O How to minimise  $\downarrow$  lean body mass while maximising fat loss 0

#### **High Quality Weight Loss**

Diet-induced weight loss with slow ratio of skeletal muscle to 0

fat mass loss

Minimum healthy body fat 0

# 14% Individualised and Structured







#### Lean Body Mass

- O Metabolic function
- Muscle protein synthesis (MPS) vs muscle protein breakdown (MPB)

• Effects of :

- Fasting  $\rightarrow \downarrow$  muscle protein synthesis +  $\uparrow$  muscle protein breakdown
- Essential amino acids  $\rightarrow \uparrow$  muscle protein synthesis
- Leucine  $\rightarrow \uparrow$  muscle protein synthesis
- Protein  $\rightarrow \uparrow$  insulin  $\rightarrow \downarrow$  muscle protein breakdown
- Energy restriction  $\rightarrow \downarrow$  muscle protein synthesis
- Resistance exercise (and aerobic exercise)  $\rightarrow \uparrow$  MPS and  $\uparrow$ MPB
  - $\rightarrow$  Sensitises skeletal muscle to anabolic effects of protein
  - $\rightarrow$  synergistic rise in MPS  $\rightarrow$  gain of  $\$  lean body mass





# Energy Restriction & Lean Body Mass

• Energy restriction  $\rightarrow$  cell is forced to prioritise energy demands  $\rightarrow \downarrow$  muscle protein synthesis

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- Meta-analysis: ~25% of mass lost during weight loss during energy restriction is *fat free mass*
- Muscle protein synthesis response may adapt to more prolonged weight loss

#### Weight Loss: Phases Instead of as a Continuous Process

- Early phase (days to a few weeks): rapid weight loss with more pronounced lean body mass loss
- Plateau is reached as weight loss progresses
- Adaptations to new "steady-state" as weight loss progresses





#### Every-Other-Day Feeding Caloric Restriction Interventions

12 healthy males, 18–50 years old, physical activity >3 but <6 days per week

Caloric restriction (33 %) on 3 alternate days / week for 6 weeks

 $\bigcirc$   $\downarrow$  body weight by 4.4% (0.9 kg/week)

- $\mathbf{O} \downarrow \text{fat mass by } 15.1\%$
- $\bigcirc$   $\downarrow$  lean body mass by 2.91%
- total body water (69% of total body weight loss) extracellular ↑ intracellular ↓
- Significantly  $\downarrow$  daily micronutrient intake to 90% of RDA values

 $\rightarrow$  micronutrient supplement should also be considered





#### Energy Restrictions: Two Groups Weight Lifters



Normal diet: 3 000 – 3 500 calories per day Restrict energy intake with 40 % for two weeks



Group 2: 2.3 g protein/kg/day (~ 36% of total calories) Both groups lost the same amount of fat



Lost more total weight Lost an average of 1.5 k g muscle mass







#### Caloric Restriction & Protein Manipulation

- 40% energy restricted diet
- Relatively trained but overweight young men
- Resistance exercise + high intensity interval training program (6 days/week)
  - $\rightarrow$  1.2 g protein/kg/day  $\rightarrow$  maintained lean body mass and -3.5  $\pm$  1.4 kg fat mass in 4 weeks
  - $\rightarrow$  2.4 g protein/kg/day  $\rightarrow$  gained lean body mass and -4.8 ± 1.6 kg fat mass in 4 weeks

(Longland et al., 2016)

#### Lean body mass loss could be avoided by $\uparrow$ protein intake







#### Protein: How Much? What? When?

- Protein during weight loss in athletes
  - 📫 1.6–2.4 g protein/kg/day
- Energy balance:
  - ~0.24 g protein/kg at each meal
- Weight maintenance or weight gain:
  - $\sim$ 0.3–0.4 g protein/kg per meal



Mixed meals or energy deficit / weight loss:





Higher protein intakes and slower rates of weight loss promote LBM retention during energy restriction





#### Protein: How Much? What? When?

- Higher-quality proteins  $\rightarrow$  potent stimulators of MPS  $\rightarrow$  *leucine*
- Young male novice weight lifters: Energy balance + nonfat milk following resistance exercise (12 w)
  - $\rightarrow$  greater gains in LBM and greater  $\downarrow$  in FM compared to soy protein

Hartman et al., 2007

• Meta-analyses:  $\uparrow$  dairy consumption during energy restriction  $\rightarrow$  superior LBM retention and FM loss

Abargouei et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2012





#### Protein: How Much? What? When?





#### Throughout the day

 $\rightarrow$  20 g protein every 3 hours



#### After exercise

Essential amino acids (EAAs) ↓ muscle protein

breakdown

■ Endurance athletes → ↑ mitochondrial proteins

During exercise

Not necessary if sufficient daily protein

#### Before sleep

Stimulate MPS and improved overnight protein

balance  $\rightarrow$  40 g protein





#### Something Needs To Give: Carbohydrate Manipulation

**C** Low CHO ( $\leq$  35–40% energy)  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  weight and fat loss

 $\rightarrow$  Associated with greater FFM loss

 $\rightarrow$  Influence on sports performance and training ability

CHO: important in maintaining athletic performance

 $\sim$ 5–7 g/kg/day for modest (likely aerobic) exercise ( $\sim$ 1 hr/day)

Ouring dietary energy restriction with high protein intake  $\rightarrow$  3g CHO/kg/day







#### In Summary : Quality Weight Loss

- O Dynamic energy balance approach to predict weight loss based on dietary and exercise changes
- Moderate energy deficit (-500 kcal)
- Higher protein intake when energy is restricted: ~1.8–2.7 g/kg/d (or ~2.3–3.1 g/kg/FFM)
  - post-exercise consumption ~0.25–0.3g/kg
- high leucine content and rapid digestion kinetics (i.e. whey protein or skimmed milk)
- Time food intake around exercise and throughout the day
- O Monitor consumption of energy dense beverages







# END THANK YOU