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Blood Flow Restriction & Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

Safely Maintain & Build Muscle Mass TO IMPROVE Function





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Notes & References:
www.edlecara.com/neurocon2020


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OBJECTIVE

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OBJECTIVE

INTRODUCE THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF USING BFR WITH SCI PATIENTS TO HELP IMPROVE MUSCLE MASS, STRENGTH AND AEROBIC CAPACITY



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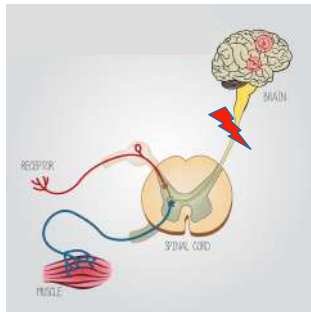


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Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

“Neurological Disorders that temporarily or permanently disrupt the propagation of action potentials along the spinal cord, resulting in motor dysfunction, paralysis, autonomic disorders, and other symptoms that impact daily activities and quality of life”



Kawanishi CY, Gregorio M. Physical activity, quality of life, and functional autonomy of adults with spinal cord injuries. *Adapt Phys Activ Q* 2013;30:317-337.

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INCOMPLETE SPINAL CORD INJURIES (iSCIs)



1. National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center. Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Facts and Figures at a Glance. 2016 SCI Data Sheet.
2. Roberts TT, Leonard GR, Cepela DJ. Classifications In Brief: American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) Impairment Scale. Clin Orthop Relat Res 2017;475:1499-1504.

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INCOMPLETE SPINAL CORD INJURIES (iSCIs)

- Approximately 67% of all SCI's since 2010¹
- Characterized by **residual sensory or motor function** at or above the most caudal regions of spinal cord²
- Lower Limb Function **varies** widely
- **MUSCLE ATROPHY!**



1. National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center. Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Facts and Figures at a Glance. 2016 SCI Data Sheet.
2. Roberts TT, Leonard GR, Cepela DJ. Classifications In Brief: American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) Impairment Scale. Clin Orthop Relat Res 2017;475:1499-1504.

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**CASE STUDY
MICHAEL MATHIEU**

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DISUSE ATROPHY POST INJURY CAN BE SIGNIFICANT!!

↓ MPS 27-31% + ↓ STRENGTH 30%

ANABOLIC RESISTANCE

Significant **atrophy** of type II fibers after only **5 days (!!)** of detraining after a 90-day resistance protocol

Jespersen JG, Nedergaard A, Andersen LL, Schjerling P & Andersen JL (2011). Myostatin expression during human muscle hypertrophy and subsequent atrophy: increased myostatin with detraining. Scand J Med Sci Sports 21,215-223.

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MUSCLE ANATOMY & FUNCTION

MUSCLE IMPORTANCE

Physical – Generates force and power; Drives movement; Enables function/activity

Metabolic – Primary site of insulin mediated glucose disposal; Largest reservoir of glycogen

Resilience – Strength, mobility and endurance to reduce frailty



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**MUSCLE MASS
SIMPLE EQUATION**

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MUST MAINTAIN POSITIVE PROTEIN BALANCE

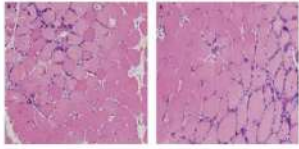


MPS – Muscle Protein Synthesis (**Muscular Stress** + AA's)
MPB – Muscle Protein Breakdown
NPB – Net Protein Balance

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MUSCLE PROTEIN BREAKDOWN (MPB)



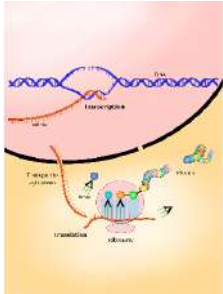
- Constant state of protein turnover
- Important metabolic component of **muscle remodeling**
- **adaptation** to training
- Higher in fasted state

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MUSCLE PROTEIN SYNTHESIS

- About 1.2% turnover per day
- After eating increases
- During resistance training, MPS suppressed
- Proteolysis (protein → AA's)



Schoenfeld, B. J. (2013a). Is there a minimum intensity threshold for resistance training-induced hypertrophic adaptations? *Sports Med*, 43(12), 1279-1288. doi:10.1007/s40279-013-0088-z

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MUSCLE PROTEIN SYNTHESIS

- After workout, MPS x **3-5x** for **48 hours**
- Enhanced **translational efficiency**
- Repeated bouts over time with sufficient recovery and AA's results in **++NPB**
- Hormones play a role in **increasing or decreasing translational initiation**




Schoenfeld, B. J. (2010). The mechanisms of muscle hypertrophy and their application to resistance training. *Journal of strength and conditioning research*, 24(10), 2857-2872.

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ADEQUATE MUSCULAR STRESS + ADEQUATE AMINO'S



= Positive Protein Balance

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What IS **TYPICAL** adequate Muscular Stress?

Muscles must be subjected to substantially increased load

ACSM Recommends: HIT (> 70% 1RM)

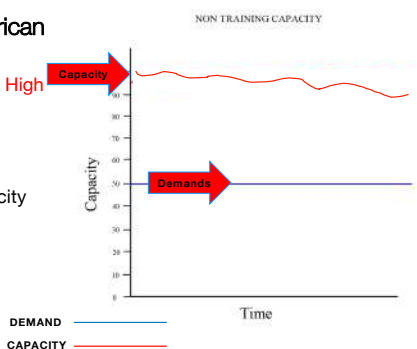
Meyer, R. A. (2006). Does blood flow restriction enhance hypertrophic signaling in skeletal muscle? J Appl Physiol (1985). 100(5): 1443-1444.

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Typical American

- Not Training At A **High Enough** Intensity
- **Low** Demands
- **Decreased** Capacity over time
- **Sarcopenia**



Capacity

Time

NON TRAINING CAPACITY

DEMAND

CAPACITY

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INCOMPLETE SPINAL CORD INJURIES (iSCIs)

PROBLEMS

- Injury related **motor impairment**
- Limits exercise **intensity**

SOLUTION

- Exercise Program promoting **maximal** muscular adaptations to **light-intensity exercise**



Kozlowski AJ, Heinemann AW. Using individual growth curve models to predict recovery and activities of daily living after spinal cord injury: An SCIRehab project study. Arch Phys Med Rehabil 2013;94(4 suppl):S154-164 e151-154

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BFR TRAINING AS A SOLUTION

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NORMAL EXERCISE BLOOD FLOW



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WHAT IS BLOOD FLOW RESTRICTION TRAINING?

BFR is the brief and intermittent occlusion of arterial and venous blood flow using a tourniquet while at rest or exercising. Using this technique, you can exercise using significantly less weight and still achieve significant gains in muscle strength and size.



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“

IMPORTANTLY, RESEARCH SUGGESTS THAT LOW LOAD RESISTANCE EXERCISE (20-30% 1 RM) AND LOW LOAD AEROBIC EXERCISE (<70 M/MIN WALK TRAINING), WHICH WOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO CAUSE CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN MUSCULAR QUANTITY OR QUALITY UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, WHEN COMBINED WITH PBFRT PRODUCED AN EXAGGERATED RESPONSE FOR MAXIMIZING MUSCLE STRENGTH AND HYPERTROPHY.” (GLYSZ ET AL. 2016)

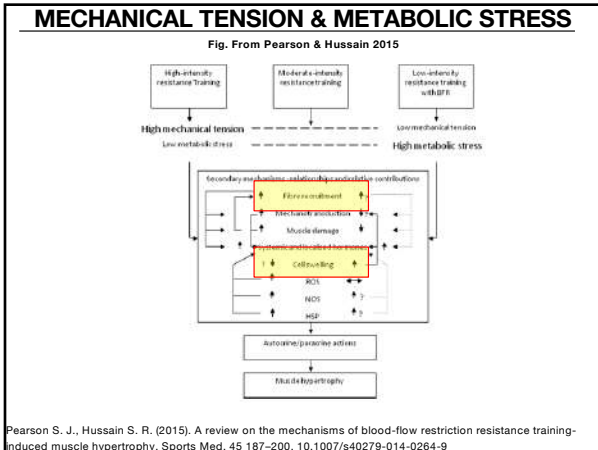
+ OVER 820+ PUBLISHED ARTICLES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS!

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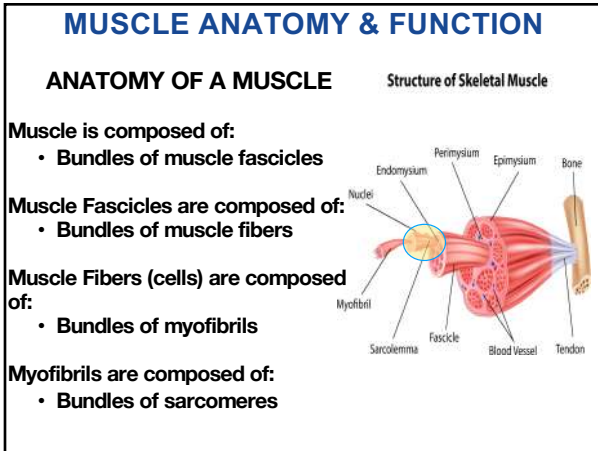
POSSIBLE MECHANISMS



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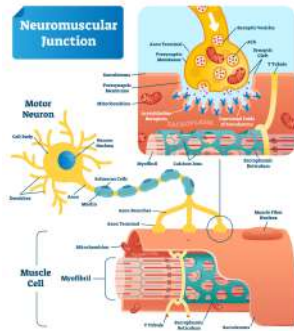
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MOTOR UNIT

Motor nerve connects the **central nervous system** to the **muscles**

Motor Unit = **a motor neuron** and all the **muscle fibers** that motor neuron innervates



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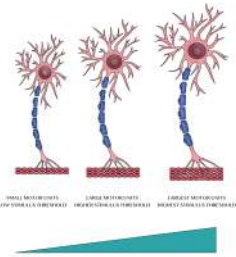
MOTOR UNIT CLASSIFICATION

Low or high threshold

Small Motor Unit = **Low** Stimulus threshold

Large Motor Unit = **Higher** stimulus threshold

Largest motor units = **Highest stimulus** threshold



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The Henneman Size Principal

- Muscle Fiber recruitment follows the **size principal**
- Smaller, slower units **recruited early**
- Progressively larger, **higher-threshold motor units** as force demands **increase**

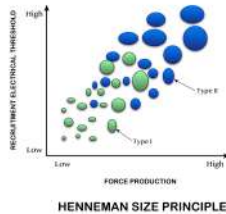


Image Adopted from Schoenfeld, Brad, *Science and Development of Muscle Hypertrophy* 2018

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Muscle Fiber Recruitment

- Limit O₂ to working muscle
- Switch from aerobic to anaerobic metabolism
- Exercise Acidosis is created faster (metabolites)
- FATIGUE FASTER
- Size Principal

RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL TYPE II MUSCLE

1. No cuff pressure - metabolic clearance is good
 2. No pressure - less efficient clearance of metabolic byproducts - fatigue of fibers
 3. No metabolic byproducts - type II fiber recruitment
 4. Muscle fibers being fatigued more quickly - failure to continue exercise

Jessee MB, et al. (2018) Mechanisms of Blood Flow Restriction Training: The New Testament. Techortho. 00.00.1-

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MECHANICAL TENSION & METABOLIC STRESS

Fig. From Pearson & Hussain 2015

Pearson S. J., Hussain S. R. (2015). A review on the mechanisms of blood-flow restriction resistance training-induced muscle hypertrophy. Sports Med. 45 187–200. 10.1007/s40279-014-0264-9

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Cellular Swelling

Similar to a water balloon that continues to fill with water and is at risk of bursting, cells may behave the same way to reinforce their structure to avoid apoptosis (cell death)

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LOCAL MUSCLE CELL SWELLING AND METABOLITES

A No pressure = no restriction = no effects in blood flow

B Pressure = flow restricted = distal blood pooling

C Pooling = hydrostatic and osmotic gradients, driving fluid into the muscle cells, and signaling regulators of protein balance

Legend:
 - Deflated cuff (blue)
 - Inflated cuff (green)
 - Arterial blood flow (up arrow)
 - Venous blood flow (down arrow)
 - Muscle fiber (red)
 - Fluid pressure (down arrow)

Jessee MB, et al. (2018) Mechanisms of Blood Flow Restriction Training: The New Testament. Techortho. 00.00.1-8.

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Mammalian Target of Rapamycin Complex (mTORC1)

Signaling Pathway responsible for protein synthesis

Serves as a switch to turn cell growth on or off

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Cellular Swelling

Cell swelling has been shown to increase protein synthesis and suppress proteolysis. (Haussinger 1993, 1996)

Schliess et al. (2006) further linked cellular hydration to mTORC1.

1. Haussinger D, Roth E, Lang F, Gerok W. Cellular hydration state: an important determinant of protein catabolism in health and disease. *Lancet* (1993); 341: 1330-1332.

2. Haussinger D. The role of cellular hydration in the regulation of cell function. *Biochem J* 1996;313(Pt3):697-710

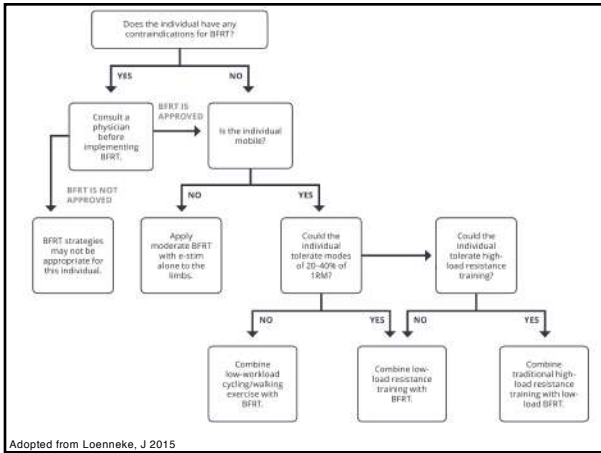
3. Schliess, F., Richter, L., vom Dahl, S., & Haussinger, D. (2006). Cell hydration and mTOR-dependent signalling. *Acta Physiol (Oxf)*, 187(1-2), 223-229.

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BFR PROTOCOLS

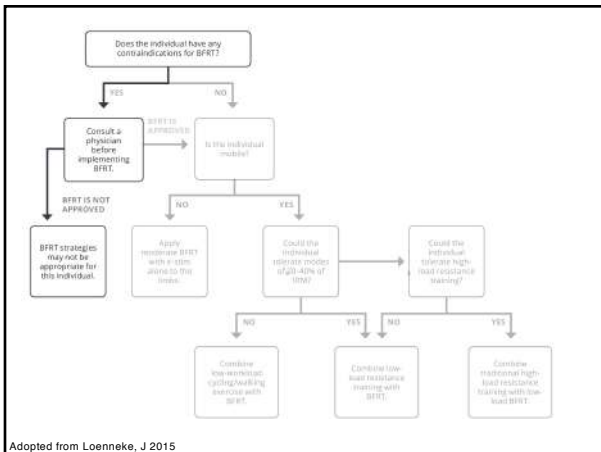
CELLULAR SWELLING WITH NEMS

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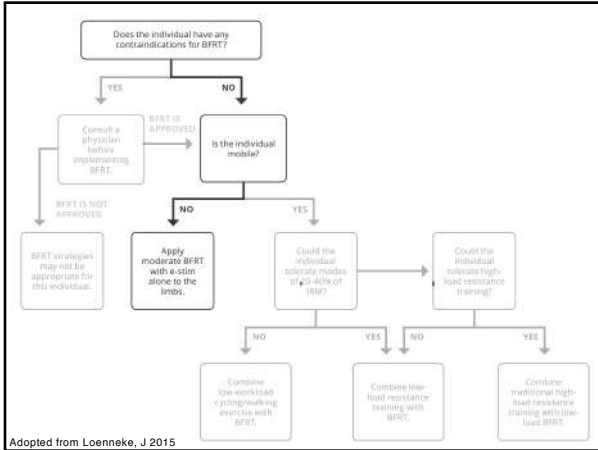
Adopted from Loenneke, J 2015

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Adopted from Loenneke, J 2015

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PROTOCOL #1

Cellular Swelling Protocol with NEMS

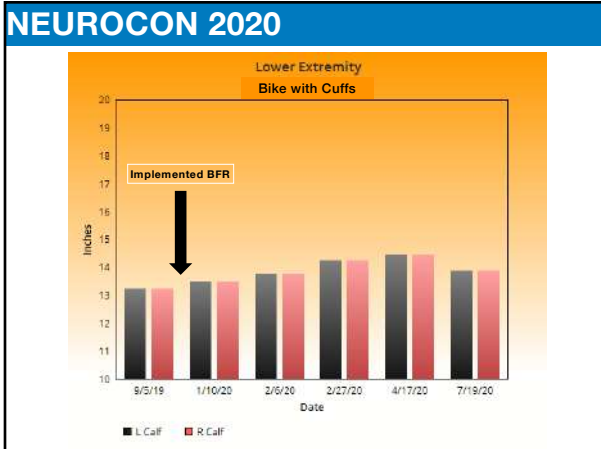
5 Minutes on at 80% LOP LE
3 Minutes Rest
X 5 Cycles

Goal: Maintain & Build Muscle Mass

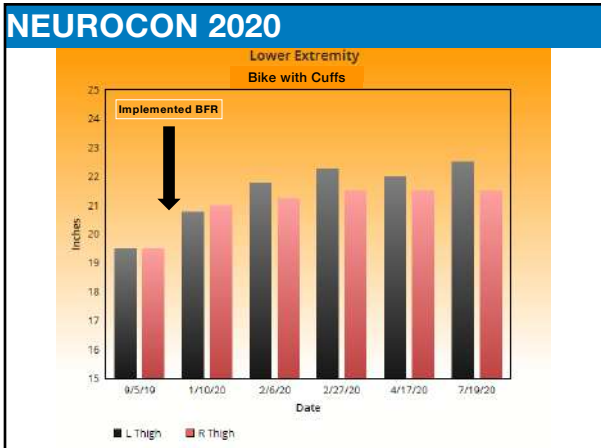
****Can be upper or lower body**



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PROTOCOL #2
Aerobic Capacity Training

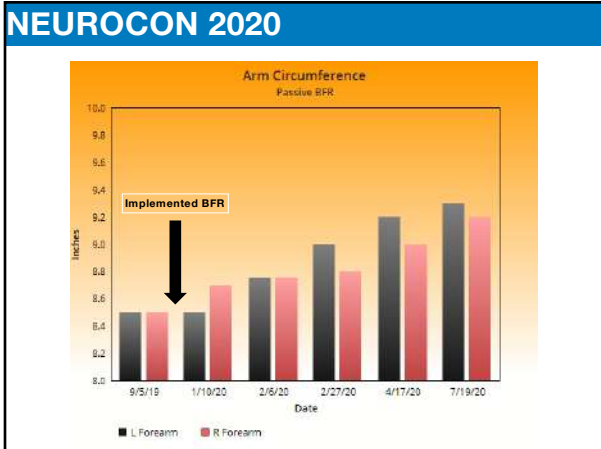
5-20 Minutes on at 60% LOP LE

Goal: **Improve Aerobic Capacity**
Strength/size

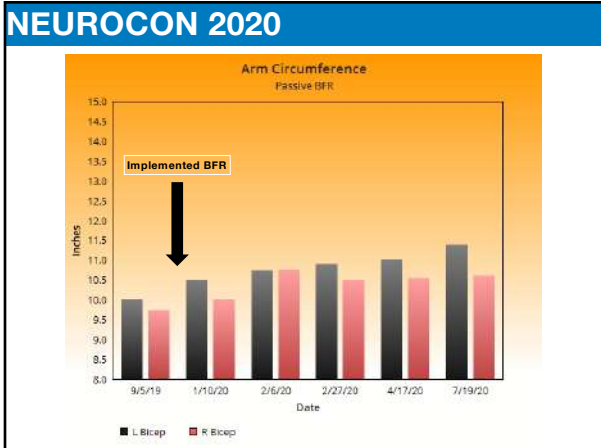
Use Heart Rate as Guide



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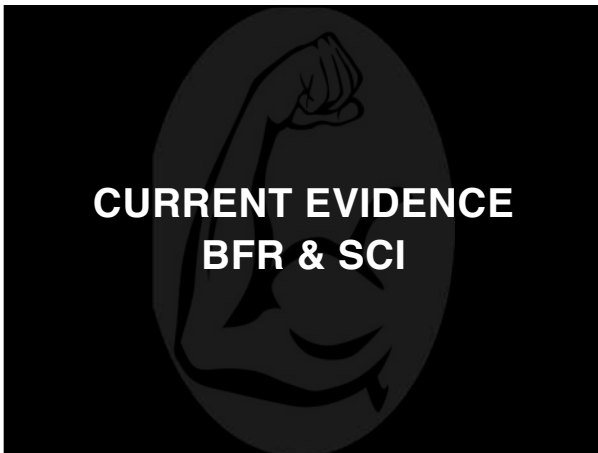
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<p>AM WORKOUT</p> <p>Stretching with BFR Cuffs on UE</p> <p>Cellular Swelling Protocol</p> <p>5 minutes on 3 minutes free flow</p> <p>5 rounds</p> 	<p>PM WORKOUT</p> <p>Cycle</p> <p>15-20 minutes</p> <p>30% - 45% Heart Rate Reserve</p> 
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**CURRENT EVIDENCE
BFR & SCI**



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RESEARCHER CONCLUSIONS

- BFR exercise can be **performed safely** and tolerated well
- No **additional** cardiovascular strain compared with traditional resistance exercise
- Increases in **local blood volume** and osmotic pressure gradients favoring **cell swelling**

Abstract

The Feasibility of Blood Flow Restriction Exercise in Patients With Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury

Jon Stavres, PhD, Tyler J. Singer, MS, Amber Brochetti, DPT, Martin Kilbane, PT, DPT, CCS, Robert Klose, DO, John McDaniel, PhD

Background: Blood flow restriction (BFR) exercise, which allows low-intensity resistance training to elicit similar adaptations to high-intensity resistance training, may be a viable option for patients with incomplete spinal cord injury (SCI). However, the feasibility and safety of BFR exercise in this population, and potential adverse effects on neurophysiological, hemodynamic, and cellular responses, are not well understood.

Objective: To determine the feasibility and safety of BFR exercise in the SCI population, and potential adverse effects on neurophysiological, hemodynamic, and cellular responses.

Design: Randomized controlled trial.

Setting: Outpatient physical therapy clinic.

Participants: Ten patients with incomplete SCI (C5-C8) were recruited.

Interventions: Participants were randomized to either a BFR or control group. The BFR group performed a 15-minute resistance training session with BFR cuffs on the upper extremities. The control group performed a 15-minute resistance training session without BFR cuffs.

Main Results: Both groups completed the 15-minute resistance training session. The BFR group showed significantly greater increases in local blood volume and osmotic pressure gradients compared to the control group. There were no significant differences in cardiovascular strain between the two groups.

Conclusions: BFR exercise can be performed safely and tolerated well in patients with incomplete SCI. BFR exercise increases local blood volume and osmotic pressure gradients, favoring cell swelling.

Stavres, J., Singer, T. J., Brochetti, A., Kilbane, M. J., Brose, S. W., & McDaniel, J. (2018). The Feasibility of Blood Flow Restriction Exercise in Patients With Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury. *PM & R: the journal of injury, function, and rehabilitation*, 10(12), 1368–1379. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmrj.2018.05.013>

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PowerPoint Notes & Learn More About BFR

www.edlecara.com/neurocon2020
Free 2 Hour Training

Resources for tools and learning

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Former Director of Education, RockTape
Former VP Sports Science, 24 Hour Fitness
