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Comparison of High-Intensity vs. High-Volume Resistance Training on the BDNF Response to Exercise

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22 **Abstract**

23 This study compared the acute and chronic response of circulating plasma brain-derived
24 neurotrophic factor (BDNF) to high-intensity low-volume (HI) and low-intensity high volume
25 (HV) resistance training. Twenty experienced resistance trained men (23.5 ± 2.6 y, 1.79 ± 0.05 m,
26 75.7 ± 13.8 kg) volunteered for this study. Prior to the resistance training program (PRE),
27 participants performed an acute bout of exercise using either the HI (3-5 reps; 90% of one
28 repetition maximum [1RM]) or HV (10-12 reps; 70% 1RM) training paradigm. The acute
29 exercise protocol was repeated following 7-weeks of training (POST). Blood samples were
30 obtained at rest (BL), immediately- (IP), 30-min (30P) and 60-min (60P) post exercise at PRE
31 and POST. A 3-way repeated measure ANOVA was used to analyze acute changes in BDNF
32 concentrations during HI and HV resistance exercise, and the effect of 7-weeks of training. No
33 training x time x group interaction in BDNF was noted ($p=0.994$). Significant main effects for
34 training ($p=0.050$) and time ($p<0.001$) in BDNF were observed. Significant elevations in BDNF
35 concentrations were seen from BL at IP ($p=0.001$), 30P ($p<0.001$), and 60P ($p<0.001$) in both HI
36 and HV combined during PRE and POST. BDNF concentrations were also observed to increase
37 from PRE to POST when collapsed across groups and time. No significant group x training
38 interaction ($p=0.342$), training ($p=0.105$), or group ($p=0.238$) effect were noted in the BDNF
39 area under the curve response. Results indicate that BDNF concentrations are increased after an
40 acute bout of resistance exercise, regardless of training paradigm, and are further increased
41 during a 7-week training program in experienced lifters.

42 **Key Words:** Neurotrophin, resistance exercise, muscle, training status

43

44 **New and Noteworthy**

45 There have been a number of investigations examining the BDNF response to exercise, however
46 our understanding of changes in the BDNF response to resistance training has been primarily
47 limited to frail, older adults. This is the first study that has compared two different resistance
48 training paradigms in experienced, resistance trained adults and have demonstrated that training,
49 independent of resistance training paradigm, can modify the BDNF response to an acute bout of
50 resistance exercise.

51

52 Introduction

53 Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) is a neurotrophin of the nerve-growth factor
54 protein family, whose downstream effects are mediated through tropomyosin-related kinase
55 (Trk) receptors (38). BDNF is present throughout the nervous system, and a crucial mediator in
56 the formation of neuronal circuits throughout the brain where it promotes neuronal survival,
57 neurite outgrowth, and synaptogenesis (12). BDNF associated adaptations to hippocampal
58 architecture have been associated with positive changes in memory and learning (11, 30, 31, 41)
59 and has been reported to ameliorate the response to stressful stimuli (20, 22). Despite its notable
60 role in the central nervous system, expression of BDNF and its high affinity receptor TrkB are
61 broad, being found in skeletal muscle, cardiac, liver, and adipose cells (26). While its role in the
62 skeletal muscle is less clear, increased expression of skeletal muscle BDNF has been shown to
63 increase fat oxidation in an AMP-activated protein kinase-dependent mechanism (28). However,
64 BDNF synthesized in the skeletal muscle does not appear to contribute to systemic circulating
65 levels, but rather acts in a paracrine or autocrine fashion (28). Preliminary data indicates that the
66 brain is the primary source, providing approximately 80%, of circulating plasma BDNF in
67 response to exercise (34).

68 Elevations in circulating BDNF concentrations have been demonstrated following an
69 acute bout of both aerobic and resistance exercise (13, 27, 35, 43). A 4-fold increase in resting
70 BDNF secretion rates ($58 \text{ ng} \cdot 100\text{g}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ to $206 \text{ ng} \cdot 100\text{g}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$) were reported following three
71 months of endurance training at $\sim 65\%$ of $\text{VO}_{2\text{max}}$ (37). In addition, increases in circulating
72 BDNF concentrations observed during exercise and in the recovery period appear to be
73 associated with both duration and intensity of exercise (4, 13, 27, 35, 37). Ferris and colleagues
74 (13) demonstrated that 30 minutes of cycling at 10% above subjects' ventilatory threshold

75 resulted in higher concentrations of BDNF than when cycling at 20% below. However, the total
76 amount of work performed was greater during the higher intensity protocol. In addition, Cho and
77 colleagues (4) reported greater elevations in circulating BDNF concentrations during a maximal
78 aerobic capacity test with greater duration of exercise. These data suggest that the greater
79 volume, or the combination of greater volume and/or higher intensity, may have provided the
80 stimulus for a greater BDNF response to exercise.

81 The vast majority of research investigating the BDNF response to physical activity has
82 primarily examined endurance exercise. The BDNF response during resistance exercise has not
83 been studied to the same extent. In a limited number of investigations, some investigators have
84 reported no change in the acute BDNF response to resistance exercise (18, 35), while others have
85 suggested that training can augment the BDNF response to resistance exercise in previously
86 untrained college-aged men (43). Most of the studies examining the BDNF response to resistance
87 training have been performed in older and frail adults. These studies have generally reported that
88 limited resistance training (3 times per week for 10 - 12 weeks) may be sufficient to increase
89 BDNF concentrations in older adults (5, 15, 31). The majority of these studies have examined
90 serum BDNF, which includes platelets that store and release BDNF in response to exercise. In
91 consideration that plasma is free of platelets, and BDNF turnover in the plasma is approximately
92 6 minutes (33), changes in plasma BDNF would be more indicative of an acute response to a
93 training stress. Furthermore, ~60-80% of plasma BDNF is thought to be produced in the brain
94 (34). To the best of our knowledge no studies have been performed on the plasma BDNF
95 response to resistance training in experienced, resistance trained men. Thus, the primary purpose
96 of this investigation was to compare the acute BDNF response to two common resistance
97 training paradigms before and following 7-weeks of training in experienced, resistance trained

98 adults. We hypothesize that resistance exercise will increase BDNF concentrations to both
99 training protocols. In addition, we further hypothesize that 7-weeks of training will augment the
100 BDNF response to exercise.

101 **Methods**

102 *Experimental Design*

103 Prior to the onset of the study, all participants were required to complete a 2-week preparatory
104 base resistance training program. Subsequently, participants were then randomly assigned to one
105 of two training groups: a high intensity, low-volume training group (HI; $n = 10$; 22.6 ± 2.3 years;
106 87.0 ± 15.1 kg; 1.80 ± 0.05 m; $15.9 \pm 7.2\%$ body fat) or a high-volume, moderate intensity
107 training group (HV; $n = 10$; 24.5 ± 2.6 years; 89.5 ± 12.9 kg; 1.66 ± 0.34 m; $20.6 \pm 6.0\%$ body
108 fat). All groups completed an 8-week resistance training program using a 4-day split routine.
109 Blood samples were collected during the first training session of week 1 (PRE) and week 8
110 (POST). These visits constituted the acute training protocols, during which, participants
111 performed the HI (3-5 reps; 90% of one repetition maximum [1RM]) or HV (10-12reps; 70%
112 1RM) training paradigm.

113 *Participants*

114 Twenty physically active, resistance-trained men agreed to participate in this study.
115 Following an explanation of all procedures, risks, and benefits, each participant provided his
116 informed consent to participate in the study. This investigation was approved by the New
117 England Institutional Review Board, and all procedures were in accordance with the ethical
118 standards of the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments. All participants were free
119 of any physical limitations (determined by medical history questionnaire and PAR-Q) and had

120 been regularly participating (at the time of recruitment) in resistance training for a minimum of 2
121 years (5.7 ± 2.2 years).

122 Prior to the present investigation, all participants described their training habits to be
123 different from the present training regimen in terms of exercise order and groupings.
124 Approximately 82% of the participants described their normal repetition range to be either lower
125 (VOL = 77%) or higher (INT = 87%) than what they were assigned to in the study, with about
126 43% typically using a 6–10 RM range and another 21% using an alternating (or pyramid)
127 structure for specific multiple joint structural and assistance exercises. Additionally, 50% of the
128 participants reported using either longer (VOL = 54%) or shorter (INT = 47%) rest periods,
129 while approximately 29% did not track their rest times previously. The remaining participants
130 employed a similar training scheme (i.e., intensity, volume, and rest) to what they were assigned
131 to in the study.

132 *Preparatory Phase of Training*

133 All participants completed a preparatory resistance training protocol during the 2 weeks
134 prior to the training intervention (see Table 1). This phase encompassed a total of six workouts:
135 four workouts (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) during the first week and two workouts
136 (Monday and Tuesday) during the second week. The purpose of the preparatory training program
137 was to instruct proper lifting technique, familiarize participants with all exercises, and ensure the
138 participants initiated the study with a comparable training base. In comparison to the training
139 intervention groups, the exercises (and their order) were identical but the volume (6–8 RM) and
140 rest intervals (1–2 min) differed. Participants were instructed not to participate in any other form
141 of physical activity throughout the duration of the study.

142 *Anthropometric Assessments*

143 Anthropometric measurements for all participants were conducted approximately 24 h
144 prior to all strength measures. Height (± 0.1 cm) and body mass (± 0.1 kg) were determined using
145 a Health-o-Meter Professional scale (Model 500 KL, Pelstar, Alsip, IL) with the participants
146 standing barefoot, with feet together, and in their normal daily attire. Body fat percentage was
147 determined using whole body-dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scans (Prodigy TM;
148 Lunar Corporation, Madison, WI). All measurements were performed by the same certified
149 radiological technician using standardized subject positioning procedures.

150 *Strength Testing*

151 To determine appropriate training load for both HI and HV, strength in the bench press
152 and squat exercises was assessed. Participants were scheduled for testing at a standard time of
153 day. A general warm up consisting of riding a cycle ergometer for 5 min at a self-selected
154 resistance preceded strength testing. Standardized procedures, as previously described (19) were
155 used for the 1RM barbell bench press and barbell back squat, respectively. Subjects performed
156 two warm-up sets at 40-60% and 60-80% of his perceived 1RM, respectively, before performing
157 3-4 subsequent trials to determine the 1RM. A 3-5 minute rest period was provided between each
158 trial. For all other exercises, the 1RM was assessed using a prediction formula based on the
159 number of repetitions performed to volitional fatigue using a given weight (3). Trials not meeting
160 the range of motion criteria for each exercise or using improper technique were discarded.

161 *Resistance Training Intervention*

162 Participants reported to the Human Performance Lab (HPL) four times per week, at the
163 same time of day, to complete their assigned training program (see Table 1). Both groups

164 performed the same exercise routine but differed in the intensity of exercise, number of
165 repetitions performed and rest interval between sets. Specifically, the HI training program
166 required participants to perform four sets of 3–5 repetitions with 90% of their 1RM, with 3-min
167 rest period between sets, while the HV group performed four sets of 10–12 repetitions with 70%
168 of their 1RM, with a 1-min rest period between sets. During the resistance training program the
169 load was increased for participants (regardless of group) when the required number of repetitions
170 (for a particular exercise) were achieved on two consecutive workouts. On average three to four
171 participants were being trained by study personnel at one time during the course of the resistance
172 training program. All study personnel were certified strength and conditioning specialists.

173 ***Insert Table 1 Here***

174 *Blood Sampling*

175 Blood samples were obtained at four time points: baseline (BL), immediately post-
176 exercise (IP), 30 minutes post-exercise (30P), and 60 minutes post-exercise (60P). Participants
177 reported to the Human Performance Lab (HPL) 3 hours post-prandial, at a standardized time of
178 day consistent with their normal training schedule. All blood samples at POST were taken at the
179 same time of day as PRE to avoid the confounding influence of diurnal variations. All blood
180 samples were obtained using a Teflon cannula placed in a superficial forearm vein using a three-
181 way stopcock with a male luer lock adapter and plastic syringe. The cannula was maintained
182 patent using an isotonic saline solution (Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA). Blood
183 samples at BL were obtained following a 15-minute equilibration period. Participants were
184 instructed to lie in a supine position for 15 min prior to the 30P and 60P blood draws.

185 All blood samples were collected into a Vacutainer® tube containing no containing
186 K₂EDTA. The Vacutainer® tube was kept cold throughout processing in an attempt to reduce the
187 variations in BDNF concentrations during processing. A small aliquot of whole blood from the
188 tube was removed and used for determination of hematocrit and hemoglobin concentrations. The
189 blood was centrifuged at 3,000×g for 15 minutes. The resulting plasma was placed into micro-
190 centrifuge tubes and frozen at -80°C for later analysis.

191 *Blood Analyses*

192 Hematocrit concentrations were analyzed from whole blood via microcentrifugation
193 (CritSpin, Westwood, MA, USA) and microcapillary techniques. Hemoglobin concentrations
194 were analyzed from whole blood using an automated analyzer (HemoCue, Cypress, CA, USA).
195 Coefficient of variation for each assay was 1.53% for hematocrit and 0.55% for hemoglobin.
196 Plasma volume shifts were calculated using the formula established by Dill & Costill (9).

197 Multiplex ELISA was used to quantitate plasma BDNF concentrations using MAGPIX®
198 (Luminex, Austin, TX, USA) and a commercially available kit (EMD Millipore, Billerica, MA,
199 USA) according to manufacturer's guidelines. To eliminate inter-assay variance, all samples
200 were analyzed in duplicate by a single technician. The coefficient of variation for BDNF was
201 7.84%.

202 *Nutrient Intake and Dietary Analysis*

203 Participants were instructed to maintain their normal kilocaloric intake habits throughout
204 the investigation. Kilocaloric and macronutrient intake were monitored via weekly food diaries.
205 Consequently, all participants were required to record all food and beverage intake over the
206 course of 3 days (two weekdays and one weekend day) during the initial and final week of

207 (weeks 1 and 8) of the training program. The FoodWorks Dietary Analysis software version 13
208 (The Nutrition Company, Long Valley, NJ) was used to analyze dietary recalls.

209

210 *Statistical Analysis*

211 Prior to hypothesis testing, the Shapiro-Wilk test was used to evaluate the assumption of
212 normality for dependent variables. As our data was not normally distributed we opted to log-
213 transform BDNF measurements (using the natural logarithm). To examine group and training
214 differences in the BDNF response to exercise before and following the 7-week training program,
215 a three-way [training (PRE, POST) x time (BL, IP, 30P, 60P) x group (HI, HV)] repeated
216 measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed. The effect of training on AUC
217 measures, calculated using the trapezoidal methods, was examined using a two-way [training
218 (PRE, POST) x group (HI, HV)] repeated measures ANOVA. In the event of a significant
219 interaction or main effect, Bonferroni post-hoc tests were performed. Interpretations of effect
220 size were evaluated (6) at the following levels: small effect (0.01-0.058), medium effect (0.059-
221 0.137), and large effect (>0.138). For all analyses a criterion alpha level of $p \leq 0.05$ was used to
222 determine statistical significance, and statistical software (SPSS V.21.0, Chicago, IL) was used.
223 All data are reported as mean \pm SD.

224 **Results**

225 The effect of these different training paradigms on strength and anthropometric changes
226 have been reported elsewhere (25). For the purposes of this study, no differences were noted at
227 PRE between the groups in the 1RM squat ($p=0.694$), 1RM bench press ($p=0.934$) body mass
228 ($p=0.715$), lean body mass ($p=0.611$), or percent body fat ($p=0.136$). Relative energy intake did

229 not change significantly over the course of the investigation for HI (PRE: 38.2 ± 11.1 kCal·kg⁻¹;
230 POST: 31.1 ± 5.3 kCal·kg⁻¹) or HV (PRE: 31.7 ± 7.0 kCal·kg⁻¹; POST: 29.2 ± 8.1 kCal·kg⁻¹).

231 Changes in plasma BDNF concentrations during PRE and POST are depicted in Fig 1.
232 No training x time x group interaction for plasma BDNF concentration was noted (F=0.026,
233 p=0.994, $\eta^2=0.002$). However, significant main effects for training (F=4.434, p=0.050, $\eta^2=0.207$)
234 and time (F=14.233, p<0.001, $\eta^2=0.456$) were identified. When collapsed across group and
235 training, the acute exercise protocol resulted in significant elevations in BDNF concentrations
236 from BL at IP (p=0.001), 30P (p<0.001), and 60P (p<0.001). Circulating BDNF concentrations,
237 when collapsed across group and time, were significantly elevated (p=0.050) from PRE to POST.
238 AUC analysis revealed no significant training x group interaction (F=0.956, p=0.342, $\eta^2=0.053$)
239 in the BDNF response between HI and HV (see Fig 2). In addition, no main effect for training
240 (F=2.938, p=0.105, $\eta^2=0.147$) or group (F=1.499, p=0.238, $\eta^2=0.081$) were noted for the BDNF
241 AUC response.

242 (Insert Fig 1 and 2 here)

243 Relative to BL, plasma volume shifts were not significantly different between the two
244 groups at PRE (p=0.741) or POST (p=0.332). At PRE plasma volume decreased at IP, $-8.8 \pm$
245 8.6% ; increased at 30P $5.2 \pm 7.7\%$; and increased at 60P, $4.7 \pm 6.4\%$. At POST plasma volume
246 decreased at IP, $-11.9 \pm 5.3\%$; increased at 30P, $3.2 \pm 4.0\%$; and increased at 60P, $5.8 \pm 10.4\%$.
247 Blood variables were not corrected for plasma volume shifts due to the importance of molar
248 exposure at the tissue receptor level.

249

250

251 Discussion

252 The primary objectives of this study were to characterize and determine if the BDNF
253 response was different between HI and HV resistance exercise and training. The major findings
254 of this study indicated that BDNF concentrations were significantly elevated following HI and
255 HV resistance exercise in experienced, resistance trained men. In addition, seven weeks of
256 resistance training appears to increase circulating BDNF concentrations in response to the
257 exercise protocol, but did not change resting concentration. This appears to be the first study to
258 compare two commonly used resistance training paradigms on the BDNF response in trained
259 men.

260 Previous research on the acute BDNF response to resistance exercise has primarily
261 utilized untrained individuals, and the results have been inconclusive (7, 18, 35, 43). Similar to
262 the present study, Yarrow and colleagues (43) reported that resistance training can augment the
263 BDNF response to exercise, but not change resting concentrations. Other studies, using
264 previously untrained or recreationally trained participants of similar age were unable to
265 demonstrate any change in the BDNF response to an acute resistance exercise session (7, 18).
266 These differences may be related to the duration or volume of exercise. Correia and colleagues
267 (7) did not observe any change in BDNF concentrations following five sets of 10 repetitions in
268 the isokinetic knee extension exercise, ($60^{\circ} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1}$). Similarly, Goekint et al. (18) used an exercise
269 protocol of three sets of 10 repetitions (80% 1RM) in six different exercises (a total of 18 sets
270 performed), and reported no change in the BDNF response to the exercise stimulus. However,
271 these exercises were all performed with exercise machines. In contrast, the participants in the
272 present study performed four sets of six exercises (a total of 24 sets) using free weight, multi-
273 joint structural movement exercises that recruited a larger muscle mass than the exercises used in

274 the previously mentioned studies. Exercises that recruit a greater amount of muscle mass are
275 associated with a greater endocrine and biochemical response compared to single-joint or
276 confined movement exercises that recruit a smaller muscle mass (23). The difference in
277 musculature recruited may provide a plausible rationale for the difference in the present study
278 and those of Corriea et al. (7) and Goekint et al. (18). It is also possible that a threshold stimulus
279 of volume performed, muscle mass activated, and/or duration of activity is necessary to stimulate
280 a resistance exercise-induced BDNF response.

281 The relationship of BDNF and resistance training has generally been examined in elderly
282 or clinically relevant populations (14-16, 24, 36, 39). Previous research from our laboratory (16)
283 and others (14, 24, 36, 39) have shown that resistance training does not significantly change
284 resting BDNF concentrations. Recently Forti and colleagues (15) reported a significant increase
285 in resting BDNF concentrations in elderly men (> 65 y) who participated in a 3-day per week,
286 12-week mixed, low intensity (60 repetitions at 20% of 1RM, and 10-20 repetitions at 40% of
287 1RM with no rest) resistance training program. However, in that same study no changes were
288 noted in resting BDNF concentrations in elderly men performing low intensity (1 set of 80-100
289 repetitions at 20% of 1RM) or higher intensity (2 sets of 10-15 repetitions at 80% of 1RM with
290 1-min rest between sets) training programs. In addition, no changes were noted in elderly women
291 who participated in all three training programs. Walsh and colleagues (42) reported that 8 weeks
292 of resistance training in older adults (60 – 77 years) was unable to change either resting or the
293 exercise response of BDNF. The ability of resistance training to elevate resting BDNF
294 concentrations may be a function of both age and training status. Younger, and more experienced
295 resistance trained adults appear to not be as sensitive as an older, untrained population to
296 stimulate changes in resting BDNF. However, we observed a significant effect of training on

297 circulating BDNF, supported by the strong effect sizes observed in the temporal ($\eta^2=0.207$) and
298 AUC ($\eta^2=0.147$) responses. These results are in accordance with Yarrow and colleagues (37),
299 who demonstrated 5 weeks of resistance training was able to alter the BDNF response in
300 untrained men.

301 Increases in circulating BDNF in response to metabolic challenges are suggested to have
302 a role in regulating peripheral energy metabolism within the brain and in peripheral neurons (26).
303 Elevations in circulating concentrations of BDNF resulting from an elevation in metabolic stress
304 does provide support for a duration/volume threshold stimulus (13, 17, 34). Previous research
305 has shown cortisol concentrations to be inversely related to BDNF (2, 21). We have previously
306 reported the cortisol response of the current study (25). The cortisol response at POST was
307 attenuated in HV but not in HI. Although the attenuated cortisol response of HV may explain the
308 increase in circulating plasma BDNF at POST, the similar cortisol response between PRE and
309 POST for HI does not provide support. Therefore, it does not appear that cortisol influenced
310 changes in the BDNF response observed in this study. Additional research is necessary to
311 provide further insight to the mechanism governing BDNF changes to training.

312 The role of circulating BDNF is ambiguous. Much of our present understanding focuses
313 on BDNF's role as a neurotrophin in the brain (40), however, its role in modulating peripheral
314 neurogenesis is less understood. Current evidence indicates plasma BDNF is a proxy marker of
315 BDNF production in the brain (34), however BDNF can also be synthesized peripherally (40).
316 The importance of the resistance training induced increase in BDNF has been suggested to be
317 related to improvements in cognitive function, memory and mood (1, 8, 10). Further research is
318 still needed to delineate the potential physiological role that BDNF has in the neuromuscular
319 system, especially in apparently healthy, trained individuals.

320 Conclusions

321 This investigation appears to be the first study to explore the BDNF response to different
322 resistance training paradigms in experienced, resistance trained men. The results of this study
323 demonstrate that the BDNF response is significantly elevated following both the high intensity
324 and high volume training protocols, with no differences between the protocols. In addition, 7-
325 weeks of training did appear to increase the BDNF response to exercise. Future research appears
326 warranted in examining the potential role that elevated BDNF concentrations may have on
327 neuromuscular adaptations.

328

329 **Conflicts of Interest**

330 No funding was received for the purposes of this study. The authors declare no conflicts

331 of interest.

332

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465

466 **Figure Legends**

467 Figure 1. Temporal circulating brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) concentrations at rest
468 (BL), immediately after (IP), 30 minutes after (30P), and 60 minutes after (60P) either a high-
469 intensity, low volume (HI; light line with triangles) or low-intensity, high volume (HV; dark line
470 with squares) resistance exercise protocol before (PRE; A) and after (POST; B) 7 weeks of
471 resistance training. Data are presented at mean \pm SD. * = Significant difference compared to BL
472 when groups are collapsed across group and training session. # = Significant difference at POST
473 as compared to PRE when collapsed across time and group.

474 Figure 2. Area under the curve (AUC) of plasma BDNF before (PRE) and after (POST) 7 weeks
475 of either a high-intensity, low volume (HI) or low-intensity, high volume (HV) resistance
476 training program.

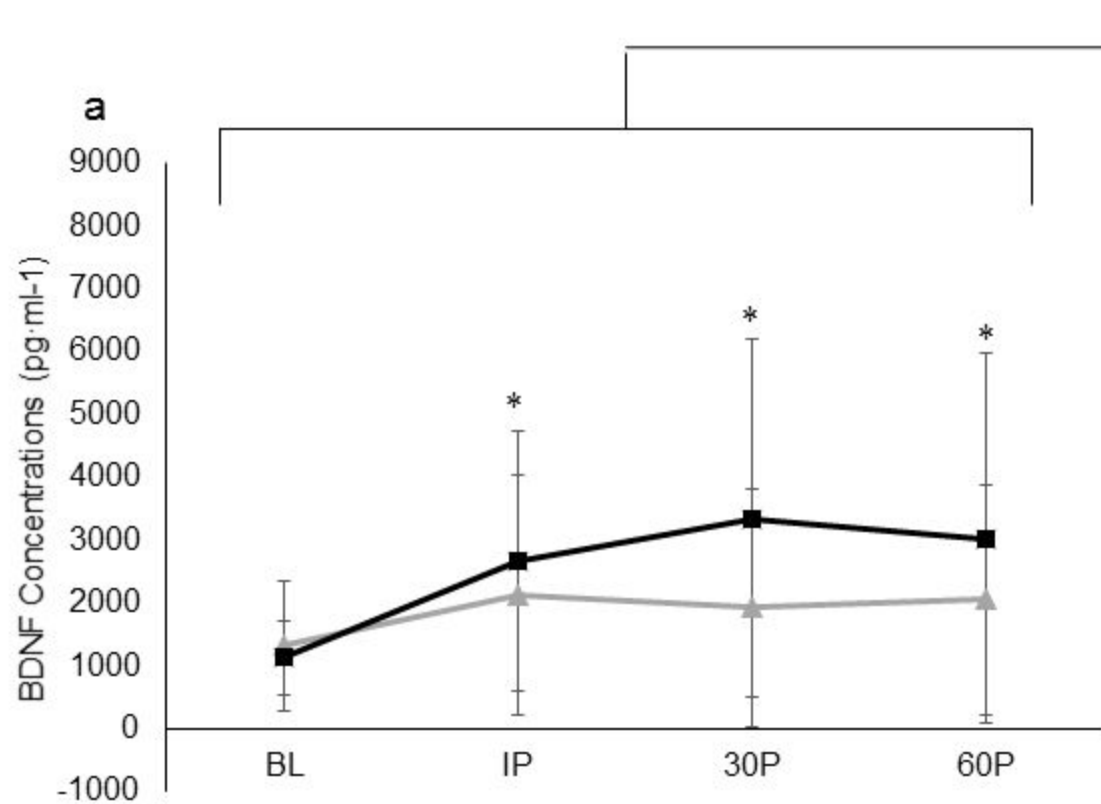
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Table 1 Resistance training program

Program variable	Preparatory phase both groups	High Volume (HV)	High Intensity (HI)
<u>Exercise prescription</u>			
Training duration	2 weeks	8-weeks	8-weeks
Training intensity	80-85% 1RM	70% 1RM	90% 1RM
Training volume	4 sets x 6-8 repetitions	4 sets x 10-12 repetitions	4 sets x 3-5 repetitions
Rest time	1-2 minutes	1 minute	3 minutes
Exercises			
<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2</u>	<u>Day 3</u>	<u>Day 4</u>
Back squats	Bench press	Back squats	Bench press
Deadlifts	Incline bench press	Deadlifts	Incline bench press
Leg press	Dumbbell flys	Barbell lunge	Incline dumbbell flys
Lat pull downs	Seated shoulder press	Seated row	Seated shoulder press
Barbell bent-over rows	Lateral dumbbell raise	Dumbbell pullover	Lateral dumbbell raise
Barbell biceps curls	Triceps extension	Dumbbell biceps curl	Triceps extension

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7 Weeks of Resistance Training

