



## THE EFFECT OF 8-WEEK EXERCISE PROGRAM ON SOME HEMATOLOGICAL PARAMETERS IN OBESE CHILDREN

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### Abstract:

The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of eight weeks exercise program on some hematological parameters in obese and overweight children. A total of 44 boys aged 14-16 were included in the study. The obese group was divided into two groups as 22, and overweight group 22. Body mass index (BMI) values were used to determine obesity in the formation of groups. The children who participated in the study were selected activities according to the branches which lasted 60 minutes in 3 days a week for 3 weeks and the walking program was increased. Blood samples taken at rest and at the end of the study; WBC (leukocyte), RBC (erythrocyte), hemoglobin (HGB), hematocrit (HCT), platelet (PLT), mean platelet volume (MPV) and platelet distribution width (PDW) levels were analyzed. SPSS 22.0 statistical program (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois, USA) was used for the statistical analysis of the data. Independent Samples T test for comparison of binary groups; Paired Samples T tests were used to analyze the difference between pre-test and post-test groups. At the end of the exercise, statistically significant differences were found in body weight, MCV, MPV and PDW values between the pre-test and post-test of the measured values of obese subjects ( $p < 0.05$ ). The body weight, BMI, RBC, HGB, HCT, MPV and PDW values of the overweight group were statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). There was no significant difference between the groups in obese and overweight groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). As a result, it can be said that the obese and overweight group caused changes in hematological parameters and the overweight group was more likely to be affected by the exercise than the obese group.

**Keywords:** effect of 8-week exercise program, hematological parameters, obese children

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## 1. Introduction

Obesity, which is a health problem worldwide, has an epidemic effect also affects the age group of children (WHO, 2000). It is well known that obesity is associated with many diseases in the short and long term and in the majority of adult obese patients, the onset of this condition extends to childhood (Mo-suwan et al. 2000). Physical inactivity is the most important reason for the development of obesity. Conducting jobs with less energy in modern societies, especially spending more time in front of television in the childhood causes the body to accumulate this energy, which it cannot use. As the human organism remains stationary, its physical activity capacity is reduced and it loses its fitness. The muscles are weakened and the function of the joints is reduced and the obesity starts with weight gain due to insufficient use of energy sources (Taras at al., 1989; Buchowski at al. 1996).

Physical activity is an important function of living systems and affects many systems simultaneously (Yılmaz at al., 2016; Mahmood at al. 2017; Pancar at al. 2016; Özer at al, 2017; Pancar at al. 2018). Many systems are affected by exercise diversity and practices (Özdal 2015; Özdal, 2016), also affect biochemical parameters (Gencer at al. 2018; Çınar at al. 2017; Çınar at al. 2017; Selçuk at al. 2018; Pancar at al, 2017; Pancar at al, 2018). It is also known that biochemical levels vary depending on the type, severity and duration of the exercise (Akmakçı and Pular, 2008; Pancar at al. 2018). In addition to these, the importance of childhood is emphasized in many studies and it has been suggested to be done in every age group to individuals with activity play form (Pancar at al, 2017; Alıncak, 2016; Alıncak at al. 2016; Alıncak, 2017; Bilgiç at al. 2016).

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Selection of Subjects

The study included 44 boys, between the ages of 14-16, divided into two groups: one an obese group consisting of 22 boys, and the other, an overweight group also consisting of 22 boys. In order to determine obesity and to form the groups, Body Mass Index (BMI), which is calculated by dividing the individual's body weight (kg) by the square of his height (m) ( $BMI=kg/m^2$ ), was used. The subjects participating in the study were informed about the physical activity program and the laboratory tests that would be performed. Informed consent forms and written confirmation for participation in the study were obtained from the parents of the children that were included in the study.

### 2.2. Experimental Design

The children who participated in the study were included in a three-day-a-week program for 8 weeks. This consisted of 60 minutes of selected active sports and games and a walk that gradually increased in duration. In the plasma blood samples taken at the beginning and at the end of the study, Body weight, WBC (leukocytes), RBC

(erythrocytes), HGB (hemoglobin), HCT (hematocrit), PLT (platelet), MPV (mean platelet volume) and PDW (platelet distribution width) levels were determined.

### 2.3. Procedure

The children who participated in the study were included in a three-day-a-week program for 8 weeks. This consisted of 60 minutes of selected sports games and a walk that gradually increased in duration. The physical activity program was prepared by considering the age and condition of children to achieve a heart rate during vigorous activity of between 120-140 (Pancar, 2018).

	1.day	2.day	3.day
1.week	30 min. walk	45 min. walk	60 min. walk
2.week	30 min. walk	45 min. walk	60 min. walk
3.week	15 min. warming/ 15 dk basketball	15 min. warming/ 20 dk basketball	15 min. warming/ 25 dk basketball
4.week	15 min. warming/ 15 dk basketball	15 min. warming/ 20 dk basketball	15 min. warming/ 25 dk basketball
5.week	15 min. warming/ 30 dk football	15 min. warming/ 5 dk football	15 min. warming/ 60 dk football
6.week	15 min. warming/ 30 dk football	15 min. warming/ 5 dk football	15 min. warming/ 60 dk football
7.week	45 min. walk	60 min. walk	75 min. walk
8.week	45 min. walk	60 min. walk	75 min. walk

### 2.4. Blood Testing Procedure

Venous fasting blood samples from the right arm were obtained from the children that participated in the study between 9:00-10:30 am at the Central Laboratory of the pediatric hospital, one day before and one day after the eight -week physical activity program.

### 2.5. Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis of the data obtained in the study was performed using SPSS package program SPSS 22.0 statistics software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois, USA). The Independent Samples T test was used to compare the two groups and the Paired Samples T test was used to analyze the difference between the pre-tests and post-tests of the groups.

## 3. Results

Statistical analysis of pre-test and post-test values of the obese and overweight groups were given in tables.

**Table 1:** Analysis of the values measured in obese subjects (n=22)  
 between pre and post-tests

		Mean	Std. Dev.	t	p
Weight	Pre-test	79,47	9,636	8,216	0,001
	Post-test	76,55	8,993		
BMI	Pre-test	28,75	2,147	1,325	0,212
	Post-test	27,85	3,154		
WBC	Pre-test	7,642	1,721	0,075	0,942
	Post-test	7,599	2,404		
RBC	Pre-test	4,972	,9271	0,132	0,898
	Post-test	4,936	,4108		
HGB	Pre-test	13,28	,8980	0,987	0,345
	Post-test	13,86	1,700		
HCT	Pre-test	39,86	7,391	-0,883	0,396
	Post-test	41,74	2,929		
MCV	Pre-test	80,48	5,908	-3,557	0,004
	Post-test	84,46	7,361		
PLT	Pre-test	276,7	74,87	-1,202	0,255
	Post-test	303,3	82,41		
MPV	Pre-test	9,450	1,108	5,100	0,001
	Post-test	7,343	1,329		
PDW	Pre-test	14,62	5,376	-2,440	0,033
	Post-test	18,27	4,274		

When the pre-test and post-test values of obese children were examined, it was determined that the exercise program changed the body weight, MCV, MPV and PDW values and it was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 2:** Analysis of the values measured in overweight subjects (n=22)  
 between pre and post-tests

		Mean	Std. Dev.	t	p
Weight	Pre-test	69,90	4,851	9,771	0,001
	Post-test	66,81	4,618		
BMI	Pre-test	26,36	,2443	8,810	0,001
	Post-test	25,22	,4345		
WBC	Pre-test	7,529	2,194	1,094	0,292
	Post-test	7,000	2,080		
RBC	Pre-test	4,704	,2888	7,517	0,001
	Post-test	5,206	,2705		
HGB	Pre-test	13,39	1,065	4,678	0,001
	Post-test	14,43	,8550		
HCT	Pre-test	40,25	1,966	4,344	0,001
	Post-test	42,52	2,720		
MCV	Pre-test	81,74	4,325	-1,208	0,247
	Post-test	83,88	6,032		
PLT	Pre-test	289,0	78,61	0,945	0,361
	Post-test	273,1	72,39		
MPV	Pre-test	9,466	1,648	4,974	0,001

	Post-test	7,301	,8957		
PDW	Pre-test	16,46	4,458	-2,132	0,050
	Post-test	18,67	3,189		

The body weight, BMI, RBC, HGB, HCT, MPV and PDW values of overweight children were statistically significant ( $p < 0,05$ ). No significant value was found in intergroup analysis of obese and overweight groups. ( $p > 0,05$ ).

#### 4. Conclusion and Discussion

In this study, which investigated the effects of eight week exercise program on some hematological parameters in obese and weight-limiting boys, it was found that the obese group changed the body weight, MCV, MPV and PDW values and it was found statistically significant. The body weight, BMI, RBC, HGB, HCT, MPV and PDW values of the overweight group were found to be statistically significant. Studies have shown that there may be changes in hematological parameters depending on the type, severity and duration of the exercises. In hematological values during and after intense exercise, there may be changes due to differences such as training status, sex, age of persons (Tuzcuoğulları at al. 2017), environmental conditions and nutrition (Çınar at al.2016). It is emphasized in the studies that hematological changes in athletes due to long-term exercises (Beydağı at al. 1994; Beydağı at al. 1993). Leukocytes (WBC) are active units of the body's protection system and have the task of protecting the body against microorganisms. When the researches on hematological studies are examined, the researchers; WBC levels in individuals who do sports and do not, short-term and long-term exercise in individuals, different branches of WBC levels in the results of the study found no significant (Yeh at al. 2006; Banfi at al. 2006; Ergün at al. 2006). In our study, no significant difference was found in terms of WBC levels in both obese and overweight groups.

In studies on the effects of exercise on RBC values; in girls who do exercise and not (Arslan at al. 1997); young men who do sports and do not (Baltacı at al., 1998); also found that RBC (erythrocyte) levels were found to be higher in the groups who exercise physical activity in favor of the groups who exercise (Moğulkoç at al., 1997). In our study, RBC values were found to be high in the overweight group in the posttest and this was statistically significant ( $p < 0,05$ ). Erythrocytes are the cells that carry oxygen from the lungs with the help of the iron contained in the blood and carry the carbon dioxide accumulated in the tissues by carrying them to the lung. The most important function of erythrocytes is to carry hemoglobin from oxygen to tissues (Özdal at al. 2017; Gannong, 1995; Tahhan at al. 2018). Erythrocytes form the majority of shaped elements. The shape of the erythrocytes corresponds to the main task of gas reception efficiency, since a plate bounded by two concave surfaces is considered to be most suitable for gas diffusion (Dane, 2002).

In our study, HGB and HTC values did not change in the obese group, it is observed that the overweight group has increased. It is thought that this increase is due

to exercise exercises. In previous studies, it was observed that hemoglobin and hematocrit values were decreased in athletes who applied intensive exercise program (Büyükyazı, at al. 2002) in high-intensity interval studies (Green at al. 1991) during short periods of campus (Mashiko at al. 2004). When the hemoglobin amount is examined, it is seen that there is a difference of up to 20% in normal conditions according to race, age, gender, nutrition status, individual characteristics, environment (from sea level to height and lowness), and also by means of muscular work, mental state, seasons, barometric pressure, life and life style also emphasized that decreases and increases according to diseases (Yılmaz, 2000). In our study, MPV and PDW values of obese and overweight groups were found to be significant. This change was thought to result from the exercise and the physical difference of the group. These cells form the blood clotting proteins and are the cells that help to clot and stop bleeding by stopping bleeding. In the studies; after chronic aerobic exercise (Ünal, 1998), after chronic exercise applied to sedentary subjects (Büyükyazı at al. 2002), no significant difference was found in the values of coagulation proteins.

In conclusion, it can be said that the exercise program which is made in eight weeks caused a change in some hematological parameters of the obese and overweight group, and that the overweight group was more affected than the obese group and it was more affected by the exercise.

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