# A NEW DEVICE TO ESTIMATE VO $_{2}$ DURING CYCLING ON INCLINES BY ACCELEROMETRY AND BAROMETRY 

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Purpose: Recently, cycling exercise has been highlighted for health promotion for across young to older generations; however, there have been few devices to estimate energy expenditure during cycling in the field including inclines. We have already developed the calorimeter (JD-Mate, Kissei Comtec, Matsumoto) to estimate energy expenditure $\left(\mathrm{VO}_{2}, \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{min}\right)$ during walking on inclines from the equation of $\mathrm{VO}_{2}=\mathrm{aVM}+\mathrm{bHu}+\mathrm{cHd}$, where $\mathrm{VM}(\mathrm{G})$ is a vector norm of 3 dimensional accelerations measured with a tri-axial accelerometer, and Hu and $\mathrm{Hd}(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{min})$ are uphill and downhill speeds, respectively, measured with a barometer. Based on these results, in the present study, we newly determined the values of $\mathrm{a}, \mathrm{b}$, and c in order to estimate energy expenditure during cycling on inclines.
Methods: First, we had 5 male and 2 female adults ( $28-57 \mathrm{yr}$ ) perform cycling trials on the level ground at the speeds of $5,10,15,25 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$ for 5 min during which period we measured VM with the above calorimeter and $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ with a portable respiratory gas analyzer (Metamax 3B, Cortex, Leipzig) and determined the value of a. Second, we had 8 male and 1 female adults ( $25-57 \mathrm{yr}$ ) performed 2 cycling trials at subjective slow and fast speeds on the incline; 1150m horizontal distance and 62 m altitude distance, by the protocol of 5 -min rest at the highest altitude, downhill cycling to the lowest altitude, 5 -min rest at the lowest altitude, and uphill cycling to the highest altitude in that order, and then, we determined the values of b and c from VM and $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ measured during the trials. Finally, to validate the precision of the equation, we had 5 male and 2 female adults ( $28-57 \mathrm{yr}$ ) perform cycling on the outdoor course composed of level, uphill, and downhill roads; 2,500m horizontal distance and 15 m altitude distance, and the compared $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ estimated from the equation and $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ measured with the respiratory gas analyzer during the trial.
Results: The values that we determined are $\mathrm{a}=0.129 \pm 0.027$ (mean $\pm \mathrm{SE}, \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{G}$ ), $\mathrm{b}=1.534 \pm 0.357$ $(\mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{min}(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{min}))$, and $\mathrm{c}=0.311 \pm 0.097(\mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{min}(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{min}))$. The $\mathrm{eVO}_{2}$ estimated by the equation; $\mathrm{eVO}_{2}=0.129 \mathrm{VM}+1.534 \mathrm{Hu}+0.311 \mathrm{Hd}$, was highly correlated with $\mathrm{mVO}_{2}$ measured with the respiratory gas analyzer ( $\mathrm{r}=0.923, \mathrm{P}<0.0001$ ) with a regression equation of $\mathrm{eVO}_{2}=0.994$ $\mathrm{mVO}_{2}$ with a mean difference of $0.17 \pm 4.36$ (mean $\pm \mathrm{SD}$ ) over the range of $0.0-25.9 \mathrm{ml} / \mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{min}$
$\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ by Bland-Altman analysis.
Conclusions: We have successfully determined the equation to estimate $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ precisely during cycling exercise on outdoor roads including inclines using the calorimeter.

Key words: cycling exercise, inclines, outdoor, calorimeter, $\mathrm{VO}_{2}$ estimation

