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PEAK AEROBIC CAPACITY AND SLEEP QUALITY IN MIDDLE-AGED AND OLDER PEOPLE

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It has been suggested that sleep quality deteriorates with advanced aging; however, it remained unknown how it links with age-associated decline of peak aerobic capacity (VO_{2peak}). This study was conducted to assess this issue.

We recruited 33 middle-aged older people (62 ± 8 (SD) yr) and randomly divided them into two groups; the interval walking training (IWT) group (5 males and 11 females) to perform IWT repeating >5 sets of fast ($>70\%$ VO_{2peak}) and slow ($<40\%$ VO_{2peak}) walking 3 min each, >4 days/week, for 5 months from June to November, during which period energy expenditure was measured with a tri-axial accelerometer (JD-Mate, Kissei Comtec), and the control (CNT) group (5 males and 12 females) to keep sedentary life as before. Before and after training, we measured VO_{2peak} by graded walking test and sleep quality with the contactless sleep sensor (HSL-101, Omron Healthcare).

We found that the frequency and the duration of sleep interruption were inversely correlated with VO_{2peak} before ($R^2=0.149$, $P=0.026$ and $R^2=0.162$, $P=0.020$, respectively) and after ($R^2=0.228$, $P=0.005$ and $R^2=0.263$, $P=0.002$, respectively) training when the values were pooled across all subjects in both groups. Similarly, the sleep quality, calculated from sleeping time/ lying time on bed, was positively correlated with VO_{2peak} before and after training, respectively ($R^2=0.176$, $P=0.015$ and $R^2=0.257$, $P=0.003$, respectively). Moreover, we found that the sleep quality increased after training in IWT ($P=0.001$) with a marginal increase in VO_{2peak} ($P<0.091$), whereas it remained unchanged in CNT with no increase in VO_{2peak} (both, $P>0.505$).

Thus, VO_{2peak} was associated with sleep quality which was improved by IWT for 5 months with increasing VO_{2peak} in middle-aged and older people.

Key words: aging, peak aerobic capacity, sleep quality, contactless sleep sensor, interval walking training