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Reviews

# Physical activity correlates in people living with HIV/AIDS: a systematic review of 45 studies

Davy Vancampfort ☑, James Mugisha, Justin Richards, Marc De Hert, Michel Probst & Brendon Stubbs Pages 1618-1629 | Received 15 Aug 2016, Accepted 10 Mar 2017, Published online: 22 Mar 2017

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Abstract

**Purpose:** Understanding barriers and facilitators of physical activity participation in persons living with HIV/AIDS is an essential first step in order to devise effective interventions. The present review provides a systematic quantitative review of the physical activity correlates in people with HIV/AIDS.

Methods: Major electronic databases were searched till August 2016. Keywords included "physical activity" or "exercise" or "sports" and "AIDS" or "HIV".

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In this article

Abstract

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Methods

Results

Discussion

Disclosure statement

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of physical activity were consistently associated with older age (6/10 studies), a lower educational level (6/7), a lower number of CD4 cells/µl (7/11), exposure to antiviral therapy (4/6), and the presence of lipodystrophy (4/4). Other important barriers were the presence of bodily pain (2/2), depression (3/3), and opportunistic infections (3/4). Facilitators were a higher cardiorespiratory fitness level (3/3), a higher self-efficacy (2/2), more perceived benefits (2/2), and a better health motivation (3/3).

**Conclusions:** The current review has elucidated that participation in physical activity by people with HIV/AIDS is associated with a range of complex factors which should be considered in rehabilitation programs.

Implications for Rehabilitation

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- Health care professionals should consider HIV-related bodily pain and feelings of depression when assisting people living with HIV in inititiating and maintaining an active lifestyle.
- Interventions to improve self-efficacy and motivation, and to help people living with HIV in understanding the benefits of exercise, may encourage greater participation.

Q Keywords: Physical activity exercise physiotherapy AIDS HIV









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