

THE IMPACT OF EXERCISE ON CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: MOLECULAR SIGNALLING PATHWAY AND CARDIAC ADAPTATIONS

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this review is to describe the impact of endurance and strength physical training on the cardiovascular system by reviewing the molecular signalling pathways, which plays a key role in different muscle adaptations, and the cardiac changes in terms of metabolic and cardiac remodelling, and hemodynamics. In response to endurance-exercise, multiple signalling pathways, including Ca^{2+} -dependent pathways, reactive oxygen species (ROS), AMP-dependent protein kinase (AMPK), and mitogen activated protein kinases (p38 MAPK), are involved in the regulation of peroxisome-proliferator-activated receptor- γ coactivator-1 α (PGC-1 α), which controls the mitochondrial biogenesis. Strength training increases the insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1) which initiates the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3-k)-(AKT)-(mTOR) signalling cascade, resulting in the synthesis of proteins and the muscle hypertrophy. In addition to the well-documented changes in skeletal muscle, a critical component of the response to exercise training is the dynamic cardiac remodelling, which is classified as either pathological or physiological depending on triggers.

Keywords: sports cardiology, exercise physiology, sports medicine

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Introduction

There is proof that exercise can improve muscular endurance, strength, and body composition, both in the general public and athletes [1]. While, physical activity lowers the risk of cardiovascular illnesses in the general population [2], it aims to result in better performance in sport activities in athletes. However, sport activities can be very different, ranging from long distance runners to heavy weightlifters. Clearly, training in athletes should be tailored according to the type of sport, aiming to increase predominantly either muscle resistance or strength. Thus, exercise can be classified into two major categories, endurance and strength, that trigger different responses on the cardiovascular system.

Endurance training is usually performed against a little load sustained for a prolonged time frame while strength training involves movement of the musculature of the body against an opposing force, known as resistance, for a short duration [3]. Thus, strength training is also known as resistance training [4]. Pure strength and endurance training, however, are uncommon and elite sports rarely consist of only one type of exercise. For example, rowing consists of applied strength training but has endurance training elements too. Although most activities combine endurance and strength training (concurrent exercise), this review will focus on the phenotypic shift in muscle induced by endurance and strength exercises and their influence on physiology and hemodynamics.

Exercise-induced muscle signalling pathways

Muscle adaptation happens through a complicated network of various biochemical pathways that are uniquely activated during functional training [5]. When subjected to physiological triggers, such as during exercise training, skeletal muscle responds by remodelling in order to meet the additional demands that are imposed by the stimulus. This modification is performed by extracellular stimuli that enter the cells, engage with receptors on the cell membrane, and activate intracellular signalling pathways. These pathways affect gene transcription and protein synthesis, which triggers muscle remodelling [6].

Although some pathways can be activated irrespective of the kind of exercise, different types of exercises result in different muscle signalling pathways [7] with endurance training and strength training predominantly affecting the capacity for substrate consumption and muscle growth, respectively [8] [9]. In particular, endurance training causes improved capillarization, energy metabolism, mitochondrial biosynthesis, and the conversion of fast-to-slow fibre type, while strength training causes the biosynthesis of contractile and structural proteins, which results in muscle hypertrophy and improved contraction force generation [10] [11]. Prior to, during, and following endurance- and resistance-based exercise, endogenous and exogenous substrate availability can modify the transcriptional activity of a subset of metabolic and myogenic genes as well as the control of signalling pathways that stimulate mitochondrial and myofibrillar protein synthesis [12]. Many

56 researchers examined the requirements behind "endurance-based" or "strength-based" activity and provided
57 interesting data on the unique adaptations in accordance with the specific training (Figure 1.).

58 **Endurance training**

59 AMP-dependent protein kinase (AMPK) and mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK), as well as
60 Ca²⁺-dependent pathways and reactive oxygen species (ROS), play a part in controlling skeletal muscle
61 mitochondrial biogenesis, angiogenesis, production of cell contractile proteins, and other adaptations [13]. The
62 final receptor involved in the activation of mitochondrial biogenesis and angiogenesis is peroxisome-
63 proliferator-activated receptor- γ coactivator-1 α (PGC-1 α) and current findings indicate a crucial role for p38
64 MAPK in PGC-1 α regulation [14]. However, the signalling network is much more complex, with multiple
65 regulatory events and several cross-interactions.

66 ***Reactive oxygen species (ROS)***

67 Muscles produce ROS in different ways (e.g., NADPH oxidases, xanthine oxidases, mitochondria),
68 which modulate several signalling pathways, including AMPK and MAPK, as a result of physical exercise,
69 which affects several physiological changes. Increasing glucose uptake, mitochondriogenesis, and hypertrophy
70 are outcomes of these pathways in skeletal muscle after physical exercise [15]. A change in the redox
71 relationship in working muscles is caused by increased levels of ROS [16]. During eccentric contractions or
72 highly intensive exercise, ROS can act as intracellular messengers by activating redox-sensitive transcription
73 factors and signalling cascades.

74 There is evidence that the PGC-1 expression and metabolic adaptation brought on by endurance
75 exercise in skeletal muscle are significantly influenced by ROS [17]. Most studies point toward hydrogen
76 peroxide (H₂O₂), a non-radical ROS, considered a crucial signalling molecule for metabolic changes in skeletal
77 muscle, and it has been shown that PGC-1 overexpression requires the H₂O₂ generated by contracting skeletal
78 muscle cells [18]. Furthermore, the observation that H₂O₂ administration decreased cellular ATP levels,
79 activated AMPK, and elevated PGC-1 mRNA suggested that H₂O₂ can stimulate PGC-1 production via AMPK
80 [19]. In contrast, exercise-induced elevation of PGC-1 has been suppressed along with decreased
81 phosphorylation of p38 MAPK by pharmacological suppression of xanthine oxidase using allopurinol [20],
82 supporting the hypothesis that in vivo contraction-induced activation of p38 MAPK and consequent modulation
83 of PGC-1 expression are mediated by ROS.

84 ***Signalling modulated by Ca²⁺ and calmodulin***

85 Contractions of skeletal muscles cause the Ca²⁺/calmodulin-dependent protein kinases to become active
86 (CAMK). In particular, CAMKII, the main CAMK isoform, is phosphorylated (activated) by endurance
87 training, while CAMKK is in control of muscle tissue contraction-induced activation of AMPK [21] [22].
88 Because exercise regulates p38 MAPK and AMPK activation, respectively (see below), CAMKII and CAMKK
89 may operate as upstream kinases in the control of PGC-1.

90 ***AMP-dependent protein kinase (AMPK)***

91 A crucial regulator of the metabolism of skeletal muscle, AMPK serves as an intracellular sensor of
92 ATP utilisation. Active AMPK includes three subunits: α , β , and γ . There are several isoforms of each AMPK
93 subunit. The majority of AMPK activation brought on by vigorous exercise is accounted for by the subtypes
94 $\alpha 2/\beta 2/\gamma 3$ [23]. The interaction of these subunits with the nucleotides (AMP, ADP and ATP) provides AMPK
95 with the capacity to determine the condition of cellular energy. Repeated muscular contractions and exercise
96 greatly activate AMPK in skeletal muscle due to its function as a cellular energy sensor.

97 During energy stress, the concentration of intracellular AMP increases (i.e., ATP/AMP ratio lowers) as
98 a sign of decreased energy and 5'-AMP binds to two domains of the γ subunits which activates AMPK. Hence,
99 when the AMP level in the muscle rises during contraction, the activating effect progresses. As a result, ATP-
100 producing catabolic activities are promoted, while ATP-consuming anabolic processes are inhibited [24].
101 Eventually, as a metabolic sensor, AMPK controls PGC-1 expression and stimulates mitochondrial biogenesis in
102 skeletal muscle [25].

103 *Mitogene activated protein kinases (p38 MAPK)*

104 The protein kinases are activated by different forms of exercise. Among these kinases, p38 MAPK is
105 most likely involved in the control of PGC-1 through transcription factors that bind to the PGC-1 promoter [26]
106 and is essentially required for the regulation of PGC-1 brought on by endurance exercise. In this context, it has
107 been shown that PGC-1 gene expression and skeletal muscle adaptability are facilitated by contractile activity-
108 induced activation of the p38 MAPK pathway [27]. Of note, while the p38 γ MAPK/PGC-1 α regulatory axis is
109 necessary for the exercise-induced angiogenesis and mitochondrial biogenesis, it has no role on fiber type
110 transformation [15].

111 *Peroxisome-proliferator-activated receptor- γ coactivator-1 α (PGC-1 α)*

112 Increased mitochondrial content and functional exercise capacity are two features of endurance training
113 adaptation that are recapitulated by overexpressing PGC-1 α in skeletal muscle. As a result, PGC-1 α is
114 considered the “master regulator of mitochondrial biogenesis” and is a crucial element of the adaptations
115 brought on by exercising with endurance training [28]. In reaction to metabolic stress, both p38 MAPK and
116 AMPK are activated, investigations in cell culture and in vitro have shown that they may directly phosphorylate
117 and activate PGC-1 [15]. PGC-1 α is a transcriptional coactivator and a fundamental regulator of mitochondrial
118 biogenesis in muscle and It has been defined that acute endurance exercise led to a 54% increase in nuclear
119 PGC-1 α protein [24], [28].

120 **Strength Training**

121 Strength training causes neuromuscular adaptations that improve muscle strength and power, increase
122 in muscle cross sectional area, and changes in connective tissue stiffness. Mechanotransduction involves
123 converting a mechanical signal into a biochemical event and can activate this pathway, which is crucial to the
124 hypertrophic process because it coordinates the molecular foundation for both protein production and
125 degradation [29].

126 In order to control rates of protein synthesis and/or breakdown and, over a lengthy period of time
127 (weeks to months), muscular hypertrophy, strength exercise increases the activity of the phosphatidylinositol 3-
128 kinase (PI3-k)-(AKT)-(mTOR) signalling cascade [12] resulting in the synthesis of proteins and the
129 development of muscle [9]. A sequential activation cascade is initiated by a rise in insulin-like growth factor
130 (IGF-1) or its splice variant mechano growth factor (MGF). Following this rise, AKT (Protein kinase B)
131 activates two distinct pathways:

- 132 - mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR);
- 133 - glycogen synthase kinase-3 β (GSK3 β),

134 both of which are essential for skeletal muscle growth [5], [6].

135 ***Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR)***

136 Mammalian target of rapamycin complex 1 (mTORC1) is a kinase that when activated causes cell
137 growth and proliferation through phosphorylation cascades [30]. Two physically and functionally different
138 complexes known as the mammalian target of rapamycin complex 1 (mTORC1) and the mammalian target of
139 rapamycin complex 2 (mTORC2) are formed by the mTOR protein.

140 When hypophosphorylated, the eIF4E-binding protein 1 (4EBP1) attaches to eIF4E (Eukaryotic
141 translation initiation factor 4E) to block it from interacting with eIF4G (Eukaryotic translation initiation factor
142 4G), which would otherwise assist in enhancing ribosome recruitment to mRNAs. Hence, it has the ability to
143 inhibit the initiation of mRNA translation. When mTORC1 is activated by AKT, protein synthesis is promoted
144 by direct phosphorylation of 4E-BP1 and Ribosomal protein S6 kinase beta-1 (S6K1) [31]. By phosphorylating
145 4E-BP1 at multiple sites, mTORC1 promotes its dissociation from eIF4E allowing the formation of the eIF4F
146 (Eukaryotic initiation factor 4F) complex and the initiation of cap-dependent translation [32].

147 ***Glycogen synthase kinase-3 beta (GSK3 β)***

148 AKT is associated with an alternative pathway, running concurrently with mTOR, that induces
149 hypertrophy via phosphorylating GSK-3 β [33]. When GSK3 β is phosphorylated, eIF2B (Eukaryotic translation
150 initiation factor 2B) activity is reduced, facilitating the translation initiation process [34]. In particular, studies
151 have demonstrated that strength training enhances GSK-3 β phosphorylation, which blocks eIF2B, both
152 immediately and three hours after, confirming the notion that this pathway is involved in the stimulation of
153 protein synthesis brought on by strength training [5], [6], [35].

154 **Link between endurance and strength exercise**

155 The cross-talk between the two signalling pathways (endurance and strength training) is based on the
156 tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) signalling and in particular on two TSC proteins (TSC1 and TSC2) that form
157 a functional complex and inhibit phosphorylation of S6K1 and 4EBP1. In particular, TSC2 is a GTPase-
158 activating protein (GAP) toward Ras homolog enriched in the brain (RHEB). The GTP-bound form of RHEB

159 stimulates cell growth and proliferation within the cell because it functions as an activator for mTORC1. TSC2
160 enhances the intrinsic GTPase activity of the GTP-binding protein RHEB, facilitating RHEB's conversion to its
161 GDP-bound inactive state [36], [37]. Thus, TSC2 would operate as a RHEB GAP to inhibit RHEB GTP from
162 activating mTORC1.

163 TSC2 is also influenced by AMPK which phosphorylates TSC2 at two locations, which is the proposed
164 mechanism by which it inhibits TOR and, consequently, protein synthesis and muscle hypertrophy [38], [39].
165 This is supposed to increase the GAP activity, transforming the GTP-bound form into the GDP-bound form that
166 no longer activates mTOR [39]. Furthermore, AKT phosphorylates TSC2 in response to mitogen stimulation,
167 which lowers RHEB GAP activity and increases RHEB-GTP levels and, as a result, mTOR kinase activity [40].

168 While strength training triggers the activation of AKT, which specifically reduces the inhibitory effects
169 of the TSC on mTOR, thus activating mTOR in response to growth stimuli [37], on the other hand aerobic
170 exercise AMPK decreases protein synthesis via lowering mTORC1 activity [5], [7].

171 **The impact of exercise on cardiac adaptations**

172 **Metabolic remodelling (Figure 2.)**

173 In addition to the alterations in skeletal muscle that are well-documented, an essential part of the
174 response to exercise training is the dynamic cardiac remodelling needed to match peripheral demand with an
175 adequate cardiac output. During exercise and the first few hours following exercise, the heart's ability to use
176 glucose through glycolysis is diminished. Genes that are important for metabolic remodelling, transcription, cell
177 division, differentiation, proliferation, and contraction appear to be regulated by changes in metabolism brought
178 on by phosphofructokinase (PFK). To activate transcriptional pathways directing heart development and
179 hypertrophy, exercise-induced alterations in PFK activity are required. PFK activity in the myocardium is
180 controlled by exercise, and the consequent changes in metabolism are sufficient to trigger a transcriptional
181 pathway that affects exercise-induced cardiac development [41].

182 Declines in PFK activity appear to be particularly critical for directing the exercise gene program by
183 upregulating Cited4 levels and downregulating Cebpb expression, as well as for coordinating glucose-derived
184 carbon for anabolic activities. Additionally, the metabolic periodicity brought on by exercise may affect
185 mitochondrial dynamics and support the maintenance of healthy mitochondrial pools. Lower intensity exercise
186 appears to promote myocardial glucose catabolism, but relatively high intensity, sustained exercise may
187 decrease myocardial glucose catabolism, start mitochondrial fission, and improve mitochondrial function [42].

188 **Cardiac remodeling (Figure 3.)**

189 The geometrical pattern of the left ventricle is categorised based on LV mass and relative wall
190 thickness ($RWT = (2 \times \text{posterior wall thickness}) / (\text{LV internal diameter at end-diastole})$). Individuals with
191 normal LV mass may have either normal geometry ($RWT < 0.42$) or concentric remodeling ($RWT > 0.42$). An
192 increased LV mass identifies subjects with left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) and according to the RWT they
193 can be divided into concentric ($RWT > 0.42$) or eccentric ($RWT < 0.42$) LVH [43], [44].

194 Left ventricular morphology can change during life time due to changes in myocardial wall thickness
195 and/or left ventricular dimensions. Eventually, LVH (i.e., increased myocardial mass) may develop. According
196 to the triggers, this process can be classified as either physiological or pathological [42].

197 Mechanical stress and neurohumoral stimulation are the two main factors that cause cardiac
198 hypertrophy. These factors influence a number of cellular processes, involving sarcomere construction, protein
199 synthesis, gene expression, and cell metabolism, which eventually trigger and sustain the hypertrophic process
200 [45], [46], [47].

201 ***Physiological cardiac remodeling***

202 Physiological LVH is characterised by normal cardiac anatomical structure and architecture, with
203 normal or increased contractility [48]. Exercise triggers a growth program without inducing the fetal-gene
204 program, which is different from pathological remodelling. It also causes an increase in energy metabolic
205 capacity that can meet the higher energy needs induced by continuous activity. The latter regimen keeps the
206 heart function within normal limits [49].

207 In sports with high-dynamic and low-static demand (for instance, tennis) LVH is mostly eccentric,
208 while high-static demand sports, like weightlifting, induce mostly concentric LVH. In activities like cycling that
209 require both high-dynamic and high-static demands, the hypertrophy is balanced and mixed [50], [51]. These
210 morphological changes could be reversed after a detraining period from one to three weeks [52] but the return to
211 a full “normal” heart dimension is still unclear [53].

212 In some cases, the morphology of an athlete's heart may resemble the one in people with hypertrophic
213 cardiomyopathy. Given that hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a frequent reason for sudden mortality in athletes,
214 differentiating this condition from the normal athlete's heart is of paramount importance, however there are
215 significant challenges, in particular in subjects with LV wall thickness of 13-15 mm, who represent a grey zone.
216 In this subset, several features can be considered to support the diagnosis of an athlete's heart, including LV
217 cavity >55 mm, normal LV filling pattern, decrease wall thickness with deconditioning, max VO₂ >45
218 ml/Kg/min [54].

219 ***Pathological cardiac remodelling***

220 The pathological hypertrophic remodeling differs from the physiological LVH in its transcriptional
221 markers [55]. The expression of genes involved in fuel metabolism and bioenergetics is reprogrammed in a
222 recognized way during the development of pathological cardiac hypertrophy and in the failing heart. Expression
223 of nuclear and mitochondrial genes implicated in several mitochondrial energy transduction and respiratory
224 pathways is downregulated, and the capacity to burn the major fuel (fatty acids) is decreased [56]. The
225 cardiomyocyte starts a growth program as a reaction to hypertension or pressure overload that is defined by the
226 activation of a “fetal” gene program that includes altered sarcomere isoform gene expression and enhanced
227 natriuretic peptide production [49]. The coordination between the growth of the cardiomyocytes and
228 angiogenesis in the heart is dysregulated during the the progression of heart failure from adaptive cardiac

229 hypertrophy, and angiogenesis is necessary for the anatomical and functional development of the heart [48],
230 [57].

231 Several forms of overloads to the left ventricle may be brought on by cardiovascular disorders.
232 Whereas volume overload is frequent in individuals with mitral regurgitation, aortic regurgitation, dilated
233 cardiomyopathy, and chronic coronary artery disease, pressure overload is typical in cases of arterial
234 hypertension and aortic stenosis. Typically, cardiac conditions such myocardial infarction and dilated
235 cardiomyopathy coexist with ventricular dilatation and an increase in cardiomyocyte length which leads to the
236 development of pathological eccentric hypertrophy [48]. In contrast, pathological concentric hypertrophy
237 typically arises in conditions like hypertension or aortic stenosis where cardiomyocytes ordinarily thicken more
238 than they lengthen [48], [58].

239 **Changes in hemodynamics**

240 Every type of exercise has a different hemodynamic impact, which triggers separate cardiac adaptation
241 (Table 1).

242 **Endurance exercises**

243 The body responds to aerobic exercise by increasing oxygen uptake (VO₂), heart rate, cardiac output,
244 and stroke volume, which peaks initially before plateauing. At rest, skilled endurance athletes' cardiac output
245 can range between 5 and 6 liters per minute and up to 40 liters per minute during maximal exertion [59]. Along
246 with an increase in cardiac output, blood pressure also rises, but not as much as it would during strength
247 training. As a result, the heart of an endurance athlete must adjust to both volume and pressure overload.
248 Because volume load plays a major role in endurance training, the heart grows eccentrically after exercise [60],
249 with new sarcomeres sequentially added to those that already exist. As a result, the inner diameter of the left
250 ventricle increases and the wall thickness increases as well [61].

251 Endurance exercise also reduces blood pressure at rest with a more pronounced effect on hypertensive
252 compared with normotensive individuals [62]. Wide pulse pressure (rising systolic blood pressure, coupled with
253 a decline in diastolic blood pressure) and a little rise in mean pressure are the results of decreasing peripheral
254 vascular resistance [63].

255 **Strength exercises**

256 Compared to athletes with endurance training, strength athletes have different cardiovascular
257 adaptations. Elite level resistance exercise is linked to abrupt and strong pressure reactions which translates into
258 a markedly elevated systolic and diastolic blood pressure, with little effect on the stroke volume and only a
259 slight increase in heart rate [64]. During a strength exercise VO₂ barely increases; however, with a higher
260 workload the increases in the intrathoracic pressure due to the Valsalva manoeuvre results in lower venous
261 return and low cardiac output. To sustain cardiac output and blood pressure, a reflex increase in heart rate and
262 vasoconstriction, respectively, occurs [63].

263 In weightlifting athletes, due to the elevated afterload, high intraventricular pressure is required to open
264 the aortic valve, which may cause an abrupt elevation in blood pressure [65]. High afterload and intraventricular
265 pressure during the ejection phase enhance myocardial wall stress, which is the principal trigger of cardiac
266 hypertrophy in the pressure-overloaded heart [66]. The concentric LVH that occurs in the heart of a resistance-
267 trained athlete in response to a rapid, intense pressure overload may occasionally be accompanied by an
268 enlargement of the left ventricular diameter [67].

269 **Ageing heart and the effects of exercise**

270 It is well known that physical activity prevents or delays chronic diseases [68]. Compared to other
271 recognized components of cardiovascular disease risk, capacity for exercise is a more accurate predictor of
272 death in males [69]. Furthermore, in patients with postinfarction heart failure, exercise intensity was a key
273 determinant in reversing LV remodeling and enhancing quality of life, endothelial function, and aerobic
274 capacity [70]. In individuals with heart failure who are clinically stable, aerobic exercise training, particularly
275 long-term (6 months) length, reverses left ventricular remodelling which was evaluated using the ejection
276 fraction (EF), end-diastolic volume (EDV), and end-systolic volume (ESV). Strength training in contrast did not
277 alter or exacerbate ventricular remodelling, whether it was done alone or in conjunction with aerobic exercise
278 [71].

281 **CONCLUSIONS**

282 In this article we have reviewed the effects of different forms of exercise on the cardiovascular system
283 by evaluating the molecular signalling pathways, which are crucial for muscle adaptations. Adaptation to
284 endurance exercises mainly occurs through PGC-1 α , which regulates mitochondrial biogenesis, and is regulated
285 by biochemical processes such as Ca²⁺-dependent pathways, reactive oxygen species (ROS), AMP-dependent
286 protein kinase (AMPK), and mitogen activated protein kinases (p38 MAPK). Strength training, on the other
287 hand, raises levels of insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1), which starts the PI3-k-(AKT)-(mTOR) signalling
288 cascade.

289 Furthermore, we described the changes in the metabolism, geometric pattern, and cardiac
290 hemodynamics induced by different types of physical training. Endurance training via volume overload
291 combined with pressure load induces eccentric LVH, in contrast to the strength exercise that mainly induces
292 pressure load on the heart causing concentric LVH. There is still a “grey area” in differentiating between
293 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and athlete’s heart which could be solved by thorough investigation of LV cavity,
294 LV filling pattern and wall thickness after deconditioning.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

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518 1. Figure 1. Simplified molecular signalling pathways involved in endurance and strength exercise
519 training.

520 4EBP1 – Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E-binding protein 1; AKT – Protein kinase B; AMP –
521 Adenosine monophosphate; AMPK - 5' AMP-activated protein kinase; ATP – Adenosine triphosphate;
522 CAMKII - Ca²⁺/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II; CAMKK - Ca²⁺/calmodulin-dependent

protein kinase kinase; eIF2 – Eukaryotic initiation factor 2; eIF2B – Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2B; eIF4E – Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E; eIF4G – Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4G; eIF4F – Eukaryotic initiation factor 4F; IGF-1 – Insulin-like growth factor; GSK3 β – Glycogen synthase kinase-3 β ; MGF – Mechano growth factor; mTORC1 - Mammalian target of rapamycin complex 1; p38 γ MAPK – p38 Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase; PGC-1 α – Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma coactivator 1-alpha; PI3K - Phosphoinositide 3-kinases; RHEB GDP - Ras homolog enriched in brain in its Guanosine Diphosphate-bound form; RHEB GTP - Ras homolog enriched in brain in its Guanosine Triphosphate-bound form; ROS - Reactive oxygen species; S6K1 - Ribosomal protein S6 kinase beta-1; TSC1 - Tuberous sclerosis complex 1; TSC2 - Tuberous sclerosis complex 2.

2. Figure 2. Cardiac remodelling from a metabocentric perspective.

BCAAs (Branched-chain amino acids); C/EBPB (CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein beta) is a transcription factor, participating in cell proliferation, differentiation and development; Cited4 (CBP/p300-Interacting transactivator with E (glutamic acid)/D (aspartic acid)-rich-carboxyl terminal domain); KLF15 (Krüppel-like factor 15) is a critical transcriptional regulator of BCAA metabolism; it inhibits mTOR(mammalian target of rapamycin) activity; PFK – Phosphofructokinase.

3. Figure 3. Left ventricular geometrical patterns of cardiac remodelling.

Left ventricular mass index = LVM (left ventricular mass)/body surface area; Relative wall thickness = 2 x posterior wall thickness / LV internal diameter at end-diastole

Abbreviations

4EBP1 = Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E-binding protein 1;

AKT = Protein kinase B;

AMP = Adenosine monophosphate;

AMPK - 5' = AMP-activated protein kinase;

ATP = Adenosine triphosphate;

CAMKII = Ca²⁺/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II;

CAMKK = Ca²⁺/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase kinase;

eIF2 = Eukaryotic initiation factor 2;

eIF2B = Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2B;

eIF4E = Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E;

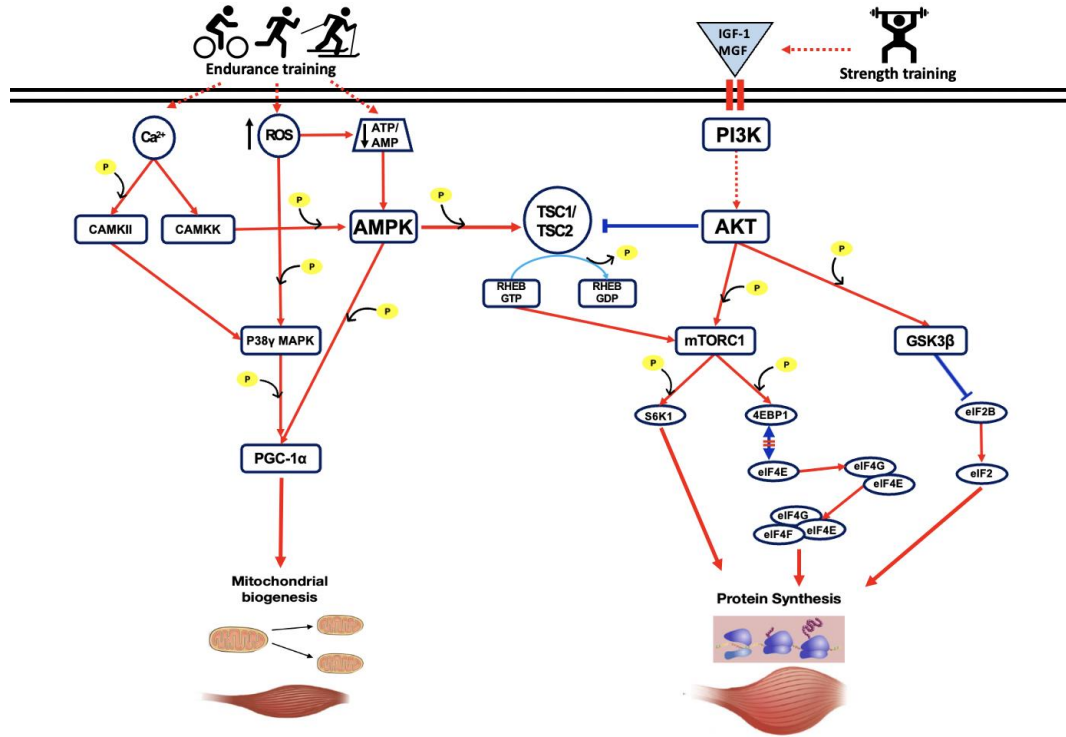
eIF4G = Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4G;

- 554 eIF4F = Eukaryotic initiation factor 4F;
- 555 IGF-1 = Insulin-like growth factor;
- 556 GSK3 β = Glycogen synthase kinase-3 β ;
- 557 MGF = Mechano growth factor;
- 558 mTORC1 = Mammalian target of rapamycin complex 1;
- 559 p38 γ MAPK = p38 Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase;
- 560 PGC-1 α = Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma coactivator 1-alpha; PI3K =
561 Phosphoinositide 3-kinases;
- 562 RHEB GDP = Ras homolog enriched in brain in its Guanosine Diphosphate-bound form;
- 563 RHEB GTP = Ras homolog enriched in brain in its Guanosine Triphosphate-bound form;
- 564 ROS = Reactive oxygen species;
- 565 S6K1 = Ribosomal protein S6 kinase beta-1;
- 566 TSC1 = Tuberous sclerosis complex 1;
- 567 TSC2 = Tuberous sclerosis complex 2.
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Figure 1. Simplified molecular signalling pathways involved in endurance and strength exercise training

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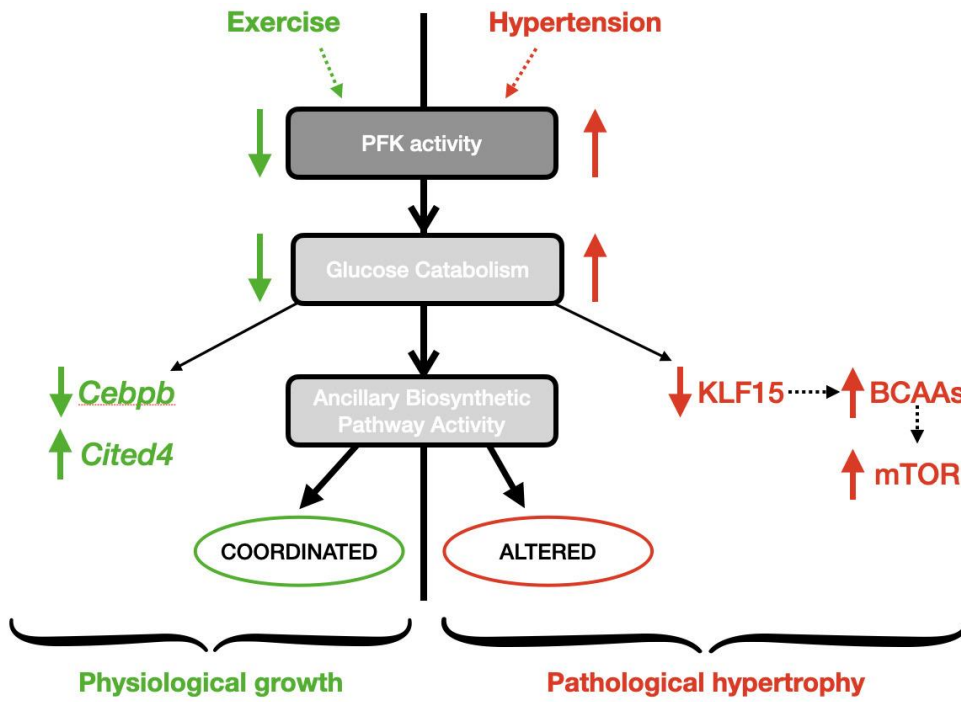


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Figure 2. Cardiac remodelling from a metabocentric perspective

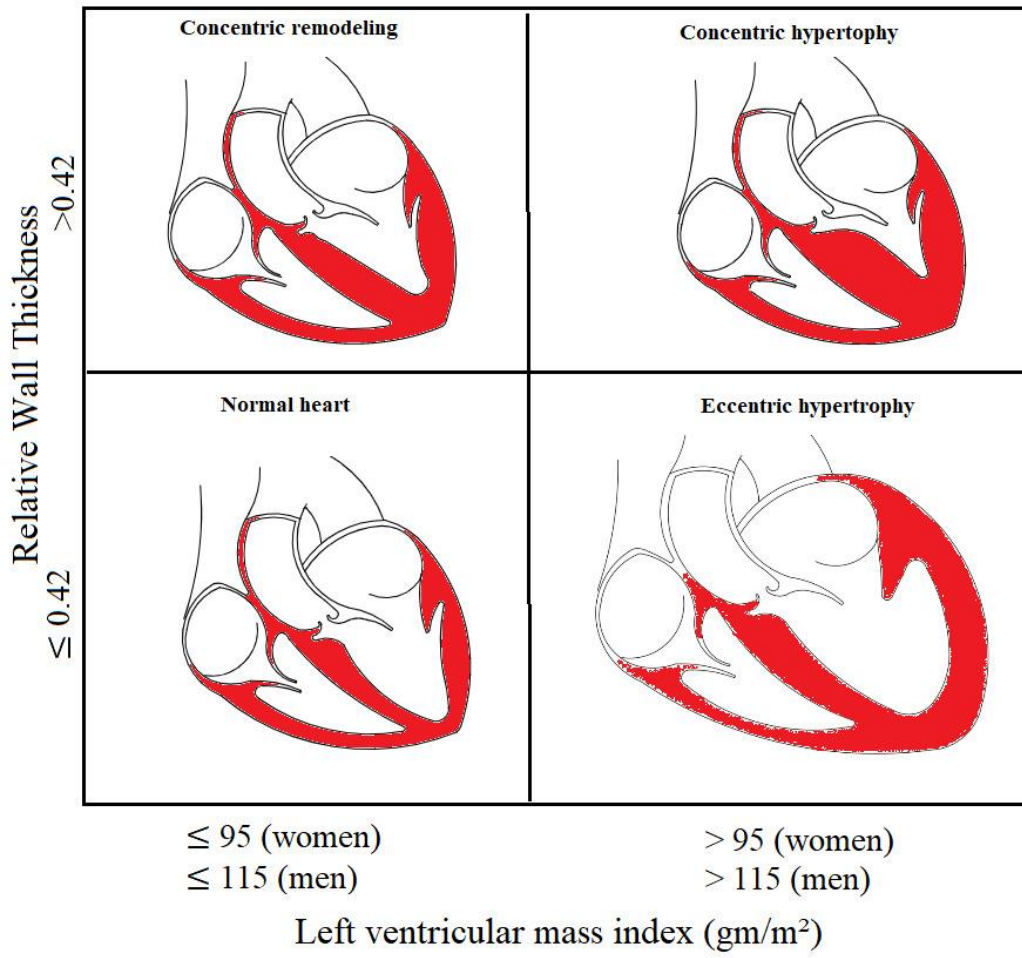


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Figure 3. Left ventricular geometrical patterns of cardiac remodelling



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Table 1. Hemodynamic response to different types of training

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	Endurance exercise	Strength exercise	Comments
VO ₂ max	increase	increase/stable	Endurance exercise increases the body's ability to absorb oxygen (VO ₂), in contrast VO ₂ rarely rises during a strength training session.
Resting heart rate	decrease	stable	As long as cardiac output at rest doesn't change, the rise in stroke volume is followed by a commensurate decline in heart rate.
Stroke volume	increase	stable	The LV end-diastolic volume is increased with endurance training, which results in an increase of the stroke volume.
Maximal cardiac output	increase	stable	With a maximum exercise effort, the rise in SV causes a considerable increase in cardiac output.
Systolic BP (rest)	Decrease or stable	stable	Systolic and diastolic BP increases during resistance exercise, but not endurance. Blood pressure of people with arterial hypertension drops toward normal as they exercise more, regardless of type of the exercise. This is brought on by a decrease in the artery's overall peripheral resistance as well as an improvement in flexibility of smooth muscles of blood vessels.
Diastolic BP (rest)	Decrease or stable	stable	
LV hypertrophy	Asymmetric	Symmetric	Strength training mostly causes concentric LVH, whereas endurance training primarily causes eccentric LVH. Balanced and mixed hypertrophy is seen in concurrent exercise demands.

Overload state	Volume > pressure	Pressure > volume	Endurance exercise induces volume overload on the heart, while strength exercise induces pressure overload and volume overload
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582 *(Modified from [63])*

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