

Determination of Atherosclerosis markers changes after HIIT and ginger consumption in response to acute exercise in overweight women

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received on: 24/05/2016

Revised on: 13/06/2016

Accepted on: 06/07/2016

Available online: 28/07/2016

Key words:

Training, Inflammatory

Cytokines, Exercise, Ginger.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of ten weeks of high intensity interval training (HIIT) with ginger supplementation on the systemic inflammatory response to acute HIIT exercise. Twenty four sedentary overweight women randomly assigned into three groups' including HIIT + ginger (n=8), HIIT + placebo (n=8) and ginger (n=8). Sixteen women performed ten weeks of HIIT while the supplement consuming groups daily took 3 gm. of ginger pills and the HIIT + placebo group took placebo. Serum samples were collected at rest and immediately post-acute exercise, before and after the training. Two-way repeated measures ANOVA, paired t test, one-way ANOVA and post hoc Bonferroni were used to analyze data. Results indicated that three groups similarly affect the Monocyte Chemo tactic protein-1 (MCP-1) and Interlukine-10 (IL-10) changes in response to acute exercise ($p>0.05$) whereas significant increase in intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1) in HIIT + placebo group in comparison with HIIT + ginger group ($p=0.02$) in second acute exercise was observed. The combination of HIIT and ginger consumption may induce a modest inflammatory attenuation of atherosclerosis factors in response to acute exercise and improvement in Vo_{2max} and PBF results rather than ginger and training alone, in young sedentary overweight women.

INTRODUCTION

Scientific documents agree the hypothesis that functions of inflammation in the initiation, progression and plaque rupture of the acute coronary disease, atherosclerosis (Libby *et al.*, 2002). In this phenomena, a variety of inflammatory biomarkers have been identified, some of them act as primary markers in the first stages of progression. Adhesion and attraction of monocytes to intima is the role of inter cellular adhesion molecule-1(ICAM-1) a vascular cell adhesion molecule which can independently predict cardiovascular diseases (CVD)(Ridker *et al.*, 1998) and monocyte chemotactic protein-1

(MCP-1) an inflammatory chemokine, respectively (Ribeiro *et al.*, 2012). It seems that some of athero-protective agents are present in the lesion to attenuate the inflammatory cascade. Interlukine-10 (IL-10) is one of the key anti-inflammatory cytokines, a polytropic interleukin, which acts in suppression of many inflammatory factors expression such as ICAM-1 and MCP-1 through inhibition of nuclear factor- κ B activity (NF- κ B) (Talanian *et al.*, 2007). However, available evidence suggests that concentration of ICAM-1, MCP-1and IL-10 can be modulating by pro inflammatory conditions (Vrousgos, 2015), exercise training (Ribeiro *et al.*, 2012) or after coupling with some of natural ingredients of herbs as seen by ginger (Wang *et al.*, 2013).

Among non-pharmacological strategies in improving cardiovascular diseases, exercise training and herbal medicine has been considered effective. Ginger a well-known spice plant has been used to treat cardiovascular disorders (atherosclerosis) (Nicoll and Henein, 2009).

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It has been earlier reported that the anti-inflammatory action of the main component of ginger (gingerols or shogaol) is by inhibition of prostaglandin and leukotriene biosynthesis through suppression of 5-lipoxygenase or prostaglandin synthesis. Additionally, they can also inhibit synthesis of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-1, TNF- α , and IL-8 (Verma *et al.*, 2004). Pan *et al.* (2008) showed that in macrophages, 6-shogaol can down-regulate inflammatory inducible nitric oxide synthesis (iNOS) and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) gene expression (Pan *et al.*, 2008). It has been earlier reported that ginger induced positive effects on ICAM-1 and MCP-1 production in vitro (Wang *et al.*, 2013) and some of inflammatory markers in vivo (Fatehi *et al.*, 2005). Exercise training, the other therapeutic approach, accounts for modulating inflammation (Sallam and Laher, 2015). In this context, chronic treadmill running (Simpson *et al.*, 2006), low to moderate aerobic protocols (Abd El-Kader *et al.*, 2013) could improve the inflammation. In addition, strenuous physical activities are associated with an inflammatory response involving the activation of adhesion molecules (Nielsen and Lyberg, 2004) and chemokines (Smith *et al.*, 2007). Currently, the high intensity interval trainings (HIIT) were outspread, because of, lesser training volume, making it a time-efficient approach with increased health benefits compared with continuous aerobic exercise training (Fatehi *et al.*, 2005) and it has also been reported as “more enjoyable” than continuous moderate-intensity exercise in healthy young subjects (Bartlett *et al.*, 2014).

Moreover, counteractive effects of acute and chronic exercise especially with high intensity interval protocols concurrently, on mentioned selective atherosclerotic indices have not been investigated before. The aim of the present study was to assess the effects of 10 weeks of HIIT and ginger consumption as two non-pharmacological therapeutic methods, on serum ICAM-1, MCP-1 and IL-10 concentration responses to an acute exercise in overweight women.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study design

Thirty overweight young women (aged 20-30 years and body mass index $>25 \text{ kg/m}^2$) volunteered to participate in this randomized, placebo-controlled study. The Ethics Committee of Birjand University of Medical Sciences (Iran) has approved the study proposal. After explaining the purpose, possible risks and discomforts of study to the participants, and gathering their written informed consent, subjects were randomly assigned to three groups of ten, according to age, body mass index (BMI), maximal oxygen consumption (Vo_2max), namely, HIIT + ginger, HIIT + placebo and Ginger. At the end of program, 2 persons in each group didn't complete the procedure so eliminated from study. Before inclusion in the study, an echocardiography examination was conducted for each subject to confirm the cardiac structural and functional health. Exclusion criteria included physical exercise more than 1 time a week, $\text{BMI} < 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$, smoking, having history of neurological, cardiovascular, respiratory, diabetes,

musculoskeletal diseases, use of medication and supplementation with ginger or anti-oxidants and multivitamins. Subjects were weighed while nude, using calibrated precision weighing scales (TCM, China) both before and after the protocol. Percent body fat was determined using Jackson-Pollock 3 Site Skin fold procedure with caliper (Yagami, Japan, EIYOKEN-Type, PAT 376843) (Jackson *et al.*, 1985). Vo_2max was conducted using the Bruce protocol one week before and after the study design (Wilmore and Costill, 2005). The schematic illustration of the experimental design is shown in Fig 1.

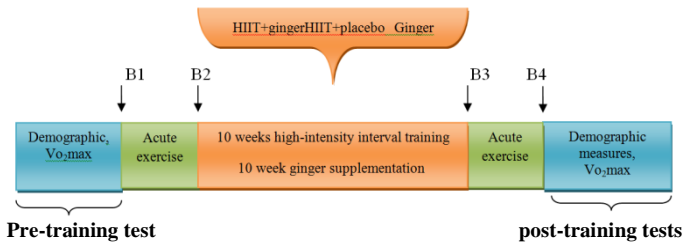


Fig 1: Schematic Illustration of the Experimental Design. B1: blood sampling at pre-exercise, pre-training; B2: blood sampling at post-exercise, pre-training; B3: blood sampling at pre-exercise, post-training; B4: blood sampling at post-exercise, post-training.

The supplement intake procedure

Participants in the HIIT + ginger and Ginger groups received Ginger tablets (namely Vomigan Dineh Iran Co., 3 grams daily), while the HIIT + placebo group received placebo tablets (Gram flour) produced in Dineh Iran Company, for 10 weeks.

The high intensity interval training protocol

The HIIT protocol was implemented for 10 weeks-3 sessions per week and 30 sessions in total. The HIIT was as follow: 30 s maximal effort sprint within a 20-m distance (40 m maximal shuttle run test) (Buchan *et al.*, 2011) (Fig 2) at 8 o'clock in the morning. Participants were instructed to sprint maximally for a period of 30 s, following 30 s active rest, and repeat this procedure a further three times, which equated to 2 min of maximal effort sprinting interspersed with 2 min recovery. In order to increase the training progression, after each two weeks, one rep was added (from 4 reps in 1th to 8 reps in 10th week) (Buchan *et al.*, 2011). Each training session consisted of 5-10 min warm-up and cool-down. Maximum heart rate (HR_{max}) ($220 - \text{age}$) was used to determine training intensity, which was above 90% HR_{max} in all the stages, evaluated conclusively for each subject so all subjects carried a Pollar Telemetry (made in Finland). In contrast, subjects in ginger group performed no training during protocol.

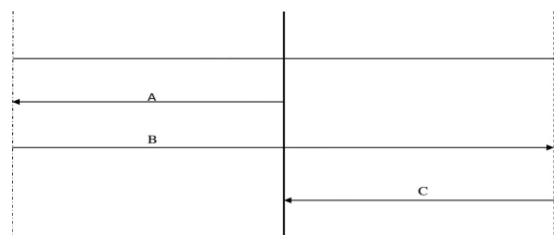


Fig. 2: Course outline showing distance and direction taken by participants, during the 30 s HIIT protocol. A = 10 m, B = 20 m, C = 10 m.

The acute exercise protocol

The acute exercise trial was started with a brief warm-up (cycling at 50 W for 5 min) followed immediately by the acute HIIT protocol (4×30-s all-out cycling at a constant load corresponding to 0.075 kg/kg body mass i.e., Wingate tests) separated by 4 min of active rest on an electronically braked ergometer (Monark, 894E, Sweden) (Little *et al.*, 2011) Heart rate was collected during exercise using telemetry (Pollar, Finland). Changes in plasma volume were calculated as described by Dill and Costill (1974). Then; the indices were corrected for changes in plasma volume.

Biochemical analyzing

One day before and 72 hrs after the last training session, subjects arrived in the laboratory after 10-12 hrs fasting, Blood samples (~10 mL) were drawn from a superficial vein in the forearm, using standard vein puncture techniques immediately before and after the acute exercise on ergometer while subjects were in their follicular phase of menstruation (from the first to midpoint of the phase) (Sijie *et al.*, 2012). Samples were then centrifuged at 3000r min⁻¹ for 15 min at 4°C. Following centrifugation, serum was stored at -80 C for later analysis. Samples were analyzed for serum ICAM-1 (Kazabayo, China), MCP-1(Kazabayo, China) and IL-10 (Diacclone, France) concentration. The intraassay coefficient of variation for variables were as follow: ICAM-1 <8%, MCP-1 <8%, and IL-10=3.5%.

The statistical analyzing

The SPSS software (v.16) was employed for data analysis at a significance level of 0.05. The normality of the study variable was assessed by conducting the Kolmogorov-Smirnov

test. Moreover the paired-samples t test was conducted for assessing pretest-posttest within-group variations (Changes in Vo₂max and PBF), while changes in the serum ICAM-1, MCP-1 and IL-10 mean were assessed using two-way repeated measures ANOVA, where the within factor was acute exercise (pre-exercise vs. post-exercise) and the between factor was training status (HIIT + ginger vs. HIIT + placebo vs. ginger). For the data that showed a significant interaction effect, Bonferroni post hoc test and one way ANOVA, were used to locate the differences.

RESULTS

The mean ± standard deviations of pretest values of the subject's characteristics in three groups are shown in table1 and 2. There were no significant differences in baseline levels of all variables among groups, as determined by 1-way ANOVA test (table 1 and 2).

Alterations in physiological and body composition variables following training

As shown in table 2, there was significant difference in training induced increase in Vo₂max between groups. The Post Hoc test, Bonferroni, showed significant differences between HIIT + ginger and Ginger ($P= 0.000$), HIIT+ placebo and Ginger groups ($P= 0.000$). On the other hand, paired-t test confirmed significant increase of Vo₂max in HIIT + ginger and HIIT + placebo compared to pre-test (table2). In addition, PBF decreased significantly only in HIIT+ Ginger group with significant difference between three groups (table2). The Bonferroni test, showed significant decrease in HIIT + ginger compared to Ginger group ($P=0.01$).

Table 1: Comparison of the Personal Characteristics of each group at baseline.

Variable	Groups			P value (One-Way Anova)
	HIIT+ginger (mean±SD)	HIIT+placebo (mean±SD)	Ginger (mean±SD)	
Age (year)	21.87±3.39	22.37±3.24	21.62±1.76	0.87
Height (m)	1.61±0.07	1.60±0.08	1.59±0.06	0.94
Weight (kg)	74.19±11.53	72.24±6.86	64.91±3.60	0.07
BMI (kg/m ²)	28.68±2.60	28.42±2.40	26.06±1.68	0.06
PBF (%)	52.89±4.55	50.50±10.38	43.61±5.90	0.11
Vo ₂ max (ml.kg.min)	34.38±4.89	33.59±3.16	36.28±1.29	0.74

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; ANOVA, analysis of variance; PBF, percent body fat; Vo₂max, maximum oxygen consumption.

Table 2: The Results Of Between-and Within-Group Comparisons Regarding the Level of Maximal Oxygen Consumption and Percent Body Fat Indices.

Variables	Groups	Pre-training (mean ± SD)	Post-training (mean ± SD)	PValue (Paired-t test)	Mean Differences (mean ± SD)	P Value (One-Way ANOVA)
Vo ₂ max (ml.kg ⁻¹ .min ⁻¹)	HIIT+ginger	34.38±4.89	46.64±3.08 ^a	0.002	-1.22E1±7.34	0.000 ^b
	HIIT+placebo	33.58±3.16	47.08±5.30 ^a	0.000	-1.19E1±4.29	
	Ginger	36.28±1.29	36.07±1.92	0.12	-2.61±4.27	
Percent body fat (%)	HIIT+ginger	52.89±4.55	46.21±4.50 ^a	0.04	6.67±4.76	0.005 ^b
	HIIT+placebo	50.50±10.38	41.30±8.01	0.19	4.20±8.29	
	Ginger	43.61±5.90	46.25±1.87	0.19	-2.36±5.17	

^aThe result of paired- t test for within-group comparison is significant at $P<0.05$. ^bThe result of one way ANOVA for between-group comparison is significant at $P<0.05$.

Table 3: Participants Biochemical Markers in Different Stages of Protocol (Mean ± SD).

Groups	Measuring Time		ICAM-1 (Mean ± SD)	MCP-1 (Mean ± SD)	IL-10 (Mean ± SD)
HIIT + ginger	Pre-train	Pre-exercise	9028.23±2452.08	103.96±64.01	3.58±1.12
		Post-exercise	9781.33±2525.62	81.54±47.42	4.44±1.49
	Post-train	Pre-exercise	7287.87±1156.45	43.88±24.56	2.61±1.63
		Post-exercise	7362.99±1676.56	53.40±23.79	2.73±2.12
HIIT + placebo	Pre-train	Pre-exercise	7578.42±540.32	53.79±17.48	2.12±0.42
		Post-exercise	9047.91±1289.03 ^a	48.57±19.85	4.52±1.69
	Post-train	Pre-exercise	8785.15±643.92	29.81±14.25	3.39±1.80
		Post-exercise	10603.37±1131.71 ^a	59.16±36.23 ^a	2.78±1.77 ^a
Ginger	Pre-train	Pre-exercise	7018.12±1531.67	61.96±30.58	2.12±0.42
		Post-exercise	8394.59±430.66 ^a	43.32±15.55	2.86±1.50
	Post-train	Pre-exercise	6727.82±2246.19	51.95±16.79	2.33±1.30
		Post-exercise	7586.08±1167.91	69.67±16.82 ^a	1.82±1.34
Pre-test <i>P</i> -value (one-way ANOVA)			0.07	0.06	0.06

Abbreviations: HIIT, High intensity interval training; ICAM-1, Intercellular adhesion molecule-1; MCP-1, Monocyte chemoattractant protein-1; IL-10, Interleukin-10.
^aSignificant Difference Compared to Pre-exercise at *P*<0.05.

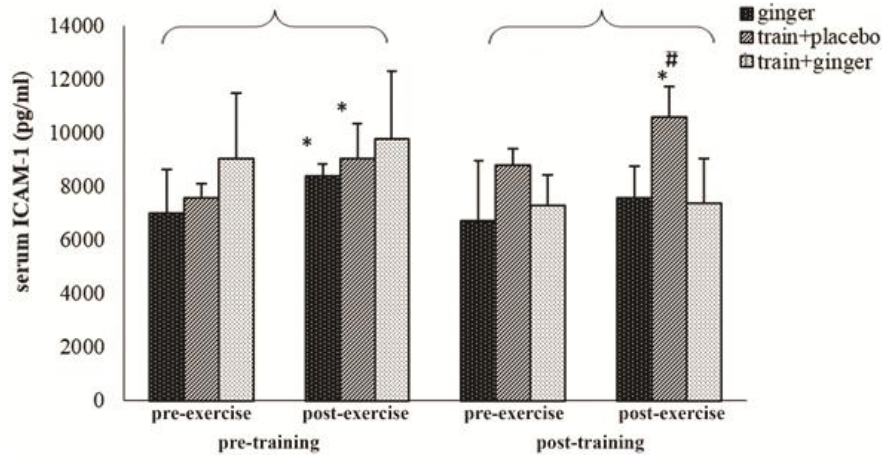


Fig. 3A:

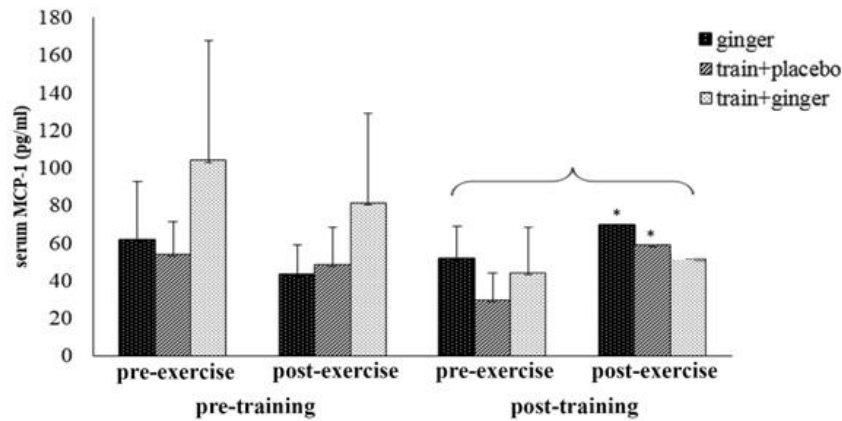


Fig. 3B:

Effects of training and ginger on the serum inflammatory markers in response to acute exercise

Two way repeated measure ANOVA and one way ANOVA test results are as follows:

As shown in table 3, serum ICAM-1 increased following the first (*P*=0.04), (*P*=0.04) and second (*P*=0.23), (*P*<0.001) acute exercise in ginger and HIIT + placebo groups respectively.

In addition, serum ICAM-1 insignificantly increased following the first (*P*=0.48) and second (*P*=0.23) acute exercise in HIIT + ginger group. The one way ANOVA showed no significant difference between three groups in serum ICAM-1 in response to the first acute exercise (*P*=0.76) but showed significant increase in HIIT + placebo group in comparison with HIIT + ginger group in response to second acute exercise (*P*=0.02) (Figure 3A).

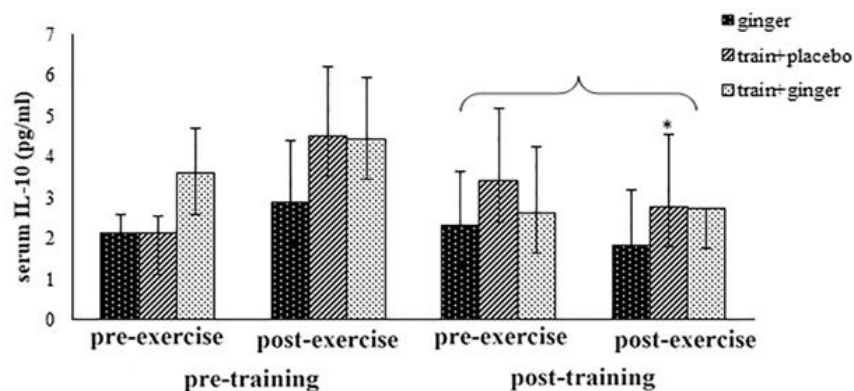


Fig. 3C:

Fig. 3: The effects of training and ginger on the serum (A) ICAM-1, (B) MCP-1, (C) IL-10 in response to an acute exercise session. * $P < 0.05$ Difference from pre-post exercise. # $P < 0.05$ difference between groups.

Moreover, serum MCP-1 showed no significant difference in response to the first ($P=0.13$), ($P=0.57$) and significant increase in response to second ($P=0.01$), ($P=0.01$) acute exercise in ginger and HIIT + placebo groups respectively. Also, there was no significant difference in serum MCP-1 in response to the first ($P=0.22$) and second acute exercise in HIIT+ ginger group ($P=0.06$). One way ANOVA showed no significant difference between three groups in serum MCP-1 in response to the first ($P=0.6$) and second ($P=0.07$) acute exercises. (Figure 3B)

Serum IL-10 insignificantly increased in response to first ($P=0.21$), and insignificant decrease in response to second ($P=0.32$) acute exercise protocol in ginger group. In the other group, no significant change in serum IL-10 in response to the first ($P=0.7$) and significant decrease in response to second acute exercise in HIIT + placebo group ($P=0.02$) was shown. Also, insignificant increase in response to first ($P=0.2$) and insignificant increase in response to second ($P=0.74$) acute exercise in HIIT + ginger group ($P=0.74$). One way ANOVA showed no significant difference between three groups in serum IL-10 in response to the first ($P=0.4$) and second acute exercise ($P=0.32$). (Figure 3C)

DISCUSSION

The aim of this study was 2-fold. First, we sought to examine the effect of 10 weeks of short-term high-intensity interval training (40-m maximal Shuttle run) induced changes in serum ICAM-1, MCP-1 and IL-10 levels following an acute high-intensity interval exercise challenge performed at the same absolute intensities as those undertaken prior to training. Second, since ginger is an anti-inflammatory plant, we aimed to determine if ginger consumption together with repeated acute exercise exposure (i.e., training) or alone, affects the serum inflammatory markers response to an acute exercise stress. The important findings of the study were that in overweight females, a 10 wk HIIT regimen together with ginger could attenuate serum ICAM-1 more than two other groups in response to acute exercise, moreover an improved PBF and VO_2max was also observed. No significant difference in serum MCP-1 and IL-10 between groups

were detected. The use of ICAM-1 as a biomarker of endothelial dysfunction that can independently predict cardiovascular diseases (CVD) has been documented previously (Ridker *et al.*, 1998). In the present study, we observed an insignificant reduction in serum ICAM-1 in response to acute exercise after ginger and HIIT + ginger compared to HIIT + placebo. In other words, probably ginger affect to some extent in an anti-inflammatory way. It has been documented that 6-shogaol, the active element in ginger, decrease the ICAM-1 gene expression transcription (Pan *et al.*, 2008). Tonjes *et al.* (2007) in their study on 20 subjects, with natural glucose tolerance, after four weeks of severe aerobic exercises observed an insignificant change in their ICAM-1, although in another 20 individuals with glucose tolerance complication, a significant decrease was observed. Two other studies, also, have reported improvement of ICAM-1 in subjects with metabolic complication and type II diabetes due to aerobic exercises (Roberts *et al.*, 2004, Zoppini *et al.*, 2006). In all these studies pre-test ICAM-1 values were 2-3 times more than those of the present study. It is obvious that the subjects in these studies were suffering from different disorders; but the subjects in the present study were healthy. Very few studies have dealt with the combined effect of exercises and ginger consumption on inflammatory indices. Ayaz *et al.* (2012) has mentioned plasma decrease values of IL-6 and CRP as a result of physical exercises together with ginger consumption. Atashak *et al.* (2011) studied the effect of a ten-week progressive resistance exercises, accompanied by ginger consumption, on inflammatory indices in the obese men. Resistance exercises performing 50%-75% 1RM, by itself or together with ginger supplement led to a significant decrease in TC. But, the indices LDL, HDL, and TG did not significantly change. Black *et al.* (2011) and Mashhadi *et al.* (2013) too, did not find a combined effect of ginger and physical activity on inflammatory indices, like CRP and IL-6. On the other hand, present researchers couldn't observe the positive effects of training combined with ginger on MCP-1 and IL-10, while three groups affect similarly. This is in agreement with Connolley *et al.* (2004) who showed that the mRNA level of IL-10 was not affected after cycle ergometer workout at any time point.

Zwetsloot *et al.* (2014) studied the effect of one severe activity session and a two-week HIIT on an ergometer (i.e. 6 HIIT sessions with 6-12 sixty _ second intervals and 75 seconds of active recovery) corresponding to 100% Vo_2max on 8 active men. Their serum samples were assessed after the first session and the end of the sixth. However, a two-week HIIT did not cause a change in the inflammatory response to one exercise session with respect to serum IL-10 and MCP-1. While, Reihmane *et al.* (2012) showed significant increase in MCP-1 and no change in ICAM-1 immediately after an acute sub maximal cycle exercise (70% reserved heart rate, for 1hr) in 7 elite and 10 amatory athletes. The mechanism interfere with causes change in ICAM-1 and MCP-1 after acute exercise might be due to increased pro inflammatory markers such as IL-6 and TNF- α and shear stress during acute exercise that activates endothelium and monocytes, both of which may release MCP-1. The difference in participant's physical fitness in Reihmane *et al.* (2012) study and present paper may be the cause of discrepancy. In a study by Leggat *et al.* (2012), 2 weeks of high intensity interval training (10 intervals, 4 min, 89.5% maximum heart rate) decreased MCP-1 significantly while no change was observed in serum IL-10 and ICAM-1 in 12 obese and overweight men, and their Vo_2max improved significantly. In both of aforementioned studies, participants were men whereas women took part in the present study. It has been said that in female participants the menstrual cycle itself affect the immune system. In the luteal phase, the concentration of leukocyte and lymphocyte subsets tend to be higher at rest and also after exercise, a statistically significant different pattern of gene regulation is found, with particularly an up regulation of pro-inflammatory genes compared to the follicular phase (Northoff *et al.*, 2008). Since our participants were in their follicular phase, maybe the pro inflammatory subsets showed lesser, so the training and exercise couldn't influence effectively, and it can be a cause of discrepancy. Significant decrease in PBF after 10 weeks of HIIT + Ginger is the other finding of study. In addition, PBF significantly decreased in Ginger + HIIT rather than Ginger or HIIT + placebo, which means the combination of training and Ginger consumption result in maximum favorable results in PBF. This is in agreement with some studies (Tjonna *et al.*, 2007). It is interesting that the training duration in afore mentioned investigations were longer >10 wks than present study, while this paper demonstrated the effects of HIIT in improvement of PBF in shorter period in overweight women. On the other hand, Astorino *et al.* (2013) and Keating *et al.* (2014) reported no change in PBF after 12 weeks of HIIT training in overweight men and women. Probably, the kind of trainings applied in these two papers (exercise on ergo meter) vs. present research (40-m shuttle-run) accounts for differences in body composition results. Moreover, in training groups, Vo_2max improved almost equivocally, which emphasis on the effective role of training variable. This is in agreement with results of some studies (Astorino *et al.*, 2013, Helgerud *et al.*, 2007). It should be explained that increase in exercise capacity along with exercise intensity is related to near relationship between stroke volume and training intensity. Stroke volume augment parallel to exercise

intensity, regarding maximum stroke volume is near to Vo_2max (Zwetsloot *et al.*, 2014), so HIIT is a drastic method to improve Vo_2max . It has been documented that increase in Vo_2max is related to decrease in percent body fat in young people (Sadhan *et al.*, 2007). In the same way, improved Vo_2max was accompanied by low percent body fat in Ginger + HIIT group, in present study. As a whole, we can suggest that an acute HIIT exercise session mimics the inflammatory status similar to inflammatory chronic disease in body by increasing inflammatory and anti-inflammatory markers, while such mentioned HIIT training for 10 weeks in combination with ginger intake can ameliorate to some extent the selective inflammatory markers. Probably if there was a control group we could conclude more precisely. A number of factors such as individual genetic variability, different exercise protocols, the heterogeneous nature of HIIT itself, and other lifestyle factors influence the effects observed in different papers. The training period was to some extent long, and it is likely to have changed parameters independent of training, and also concerning low number of samples, not including the control group in the present study, future studies should consider introducing a control group with more number of samples and if greater health benefits can be achieved over a longer training periods or if lower doses of ginger could be effective.

CONCLUSION

These findings demonstrate that high intensity interval training is a time efficient means for improving inflammatory status, physical fitness and body composition. Ginger has effective anti-inflammatory impacts on inflammatory markers especially in combination with training. Probably, athletes who take part in acute severe sports can benefit from HIIT to decrease their body inflammatory spectrum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the Dineh Iran Company for giving ginger and placebo tablets and Birjand University for supporting this study which is a part of a PhD thesis.

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How to cite this article:

Afzalpour MS, Nayebifar SH, Kazemi T, Abtahi-Eivary S-H, Mogharnasi M. Determination of Atherosclerosis markers changes after HIIT and ginger consumption in response to acute exercise in overweight women. *J App Pharm Sci*, 2016; 6 (07): 078-084.