

SCIENZE MOTORIE

Infectious problems in athletes

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Infectious problems in athletes : an overview

Infection conditions constitute a significant proportion of those problems that hinder athlete-recreational or elite, who enjoys training exercising , competing or performing.



Infectious disease related with Immunity system

- **Infectious are strongly related to the Immunity system**
- **Sport activity represents a prevention for Cardio V disease , but has an impact also to the Immunity system**
 - **An inadequate training can have a negative effect on the immunological system**

Effects of Sport activity in Immunological system

EXERCISE

GH \uparrow , Catecolamins \uparrow

Cortisol \uparrow

Stress

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graph TD; EXERCISE --> GH[GH↑, Catecolamins ↑]; EXERCISE --> Cortisol[Cortisol↑]; GH --> Stress[Stress]; Cortisol --> Stress; Stress --> Microtrauma[Muscles microtraumat events (Citochine, macrofagi)]; Stress --> Energy[Decrease of energy (glicogen)];
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**Muscles microtraumat events
(Citochine, macrofagi)**

**Decrease of energy
(glicogen)**

Immunological system



Immunological system

Immune system is a collection of biological process within an organism that protects against disease

Cellular Immunity

Lymphocytes T,B

Humoral Immunity

Effects of Sport activity in Immunological system

Strongly related to the quality and
quantity of the exercise

Linfocities



After 45 min intense physical activity



CD8-S increase 20%

Natural killer cells increase(6 vv)

Immunity and moderate physical activity

The risk of infection decrease with the level of physical activity

Moderate activity is associated with a decrease of a risk of infection (IgA level, nutrition and pshycological effects)

Regular exercise determine an increasae of IgA level in saliva

Immunity and High level of exercise

The positive effect of exercise is not recognizable in intense sport activity(runners are mainly exposure)

Generally during intense training it has been described a more common tendency to the infectious

A temporary immunodeficiency is present

Infectious episodes in runners before and after Los Angeles marathon. J Sport Med 1990 ;30:316-28

Does exercise predispose to the infections?

Pedersen and Bruungsgaard (1995)

Intense exercise reduces the lymphocytes in blood and the function of the natural killer mainly responsible for viricidal and antitumor activity .

Secretory(mucosal) is also impaired and these changes create a window of opportunity over a period of an hour or two for pathogenic microorganism

Physical activity and infectious



Moderate amount of exercise
may be protective?



The impact of infectious disease on exercise capacity

Evaluation by VO2 max

US Military Academy

An investigation on Aerobic capacity after athlete has contracted infectious mononucleosis

➤ The authors found no differences among the groups analyzed regarding the VO2 max . This support the hypothesis that if one is afebrile is possible to begin an aerobic program soon .

Infectious disease in athletes

- Upper pulmonary tract
- Gastrointestinal tract
- Pulmonary and Cardiac infectious
 - Urinary tract infectious
 - Skin infectious
 - Viral infectious

The sport medicine physician plays an important role in recognizing, appropriately treating, designing prevention strategies for , and making return-to-activity decisions for athletes who have infectious

Effects of exercise during an infectious

- Exercise during mild infectious have no effect
- Viremia increase with high level of exercise

Treatment

Antisthamines

Degongestants

Expettorant

Vitamin and mineral support

Special considerations in athletes

Susceptibility of infection increase during precompetition phases and during the immediate post competitions .

Symptoms

- fever
- skin rash
- headache
- nausea
- cough
- conjunctivitis

How to follow-up

- A return to exercise is guided by cessation of **fever (14 days)**
- If systemic symptoms, particularly fever and raised HR are present, the rest from exercise is paramount .
- The initial stages of resumption of exercise, moderate aerobic exercise is recommended to stimulate the immune response .
 - As the patient tolerate this exercise, the duration and intensity may be increased, until full return to normal training occurs.

Upper Pulmonary Tract Infectious

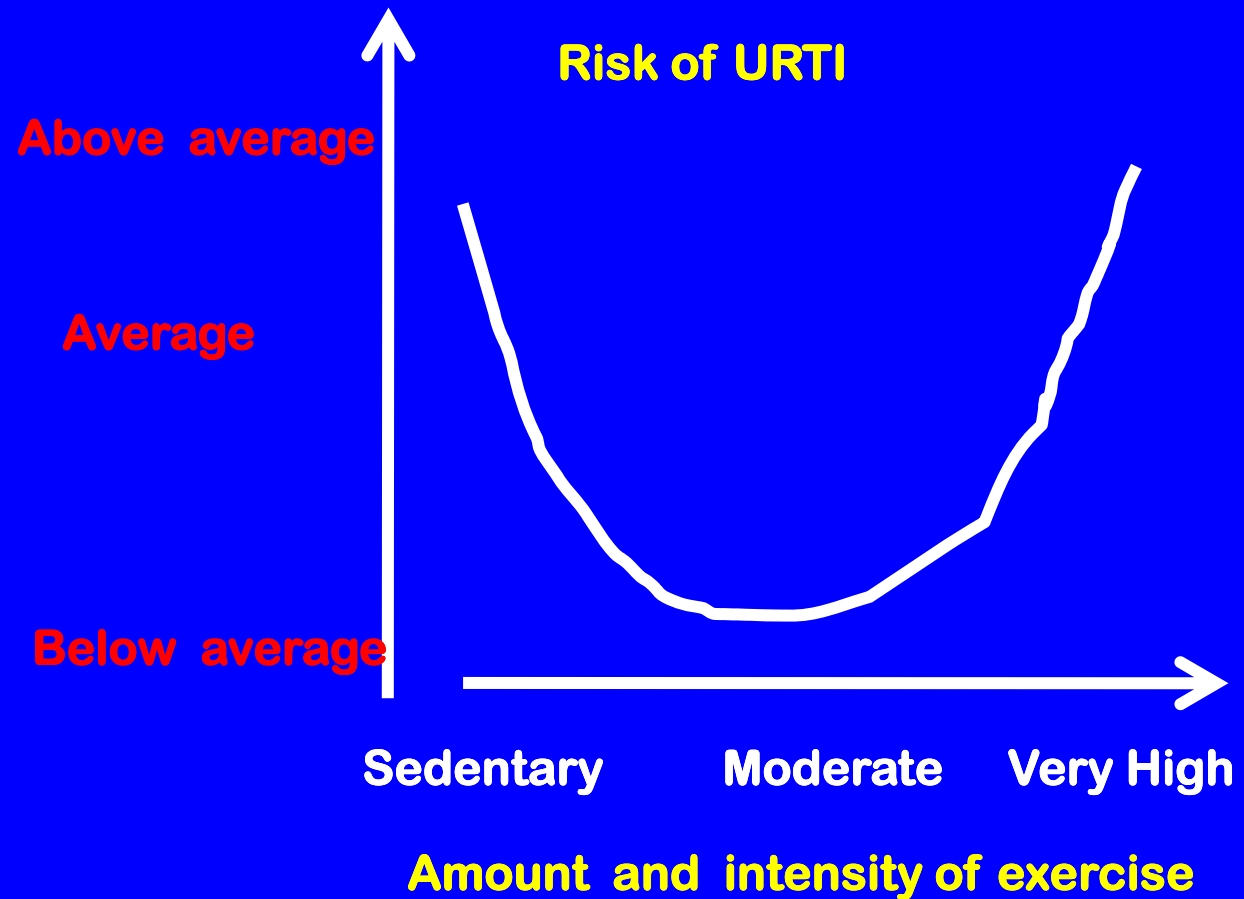
General considerations

- This is the most common site of infectious in humans
- Transmission by droplet inhalation and saliva
 - Virus
- The incidence increase in certain sports(particularly water sport)

URTI and sport

Several links have been demonstrated among exercise, immune system and infectious.

High level of sport is related with an increase in susceptibility of infectious, conversely **moderate activity** has been accompanied to anecdotal episodes



Pharyngitis

Etiology : **Viral**

(Adenovirus, Enterovirus, Coxsackie, Herpes virus, EBV, HIV)

Bacterial: (Streptococcus,, Chlamydia)

Non Bacterial: Mycoplasma

It could be associated with otitis media, sinusitis and pneumonia

Sinusitis

Sinusitis is a very common infection, accounting approximately 4,6% .

Anatomical anomalies and allergies represent the substrate to induce the sinusitis for the reduction of the clearance of the foreign material

Etiology

The most common organisms involved are aerobic bacteria

**Streptococcus, Hemophilus
Influentiae, Branhamella catharralis**

Otitis externa

Otitis externa or "swimmer ear" is an infection of the external ear canal frequently affecting individuals involved in sports with repetitive water exposure or mechanical trauma .

The most commonly isolated organisms are Gram-negative (**Pseudomonas Aeruginosa**)

Symptoms of Otitis externa

The typical presenting complains for otitis externa are **otalgia , pruritus and purulent discharge**

Conjunctivitis

Conjunctival inflammation may be due to allergies, toxic insult, or infection

Viral or bacterial

The most commonly involved bacterial organisms are

staphylococcus aureus epidermidis

Mononucleosis (EBV)

In industrialized countries around 50% of EBV infectious occur prior to adolescence .

In lower socioeconomic groups and developing countries , EBV sieropositive rates approach 90% by the age of 10 years .

Mononucleosis (EBV)

Herpes viridae family

Transmission with contact and infectious of oropharyngeal cells or B lymphocytes .

After an incubation of 30-50 days the symptoms appear

Complications in Mononucleosis

Splenic : rupture

Haematologic : aplastic anemia ,
haemolytic

Neurologic : encephalitis

Respiratory : URTI

Cardiac : Disturbance of conduction

Renal : GNF

Gastrointestinal : Hepatitis

Crucial period of EBV infectious

**The acute phase of this illness resolves
over 3 weeks period .**

**After this period the athletes can
gradually increase the activity**

**To reach preillness level of fitness and
competitiveness , however the athletes
may require 2-3 months**



Urinary tract infectious

Urinary tract infectious

Predisposing factors

- Decrease of natural barriers

Increase exposure to colonization of the periuretral area with pathogenic organism.

- In women the menopausal period decrease the resistance to contamination

Urinary tract infectious

Predisposing factors

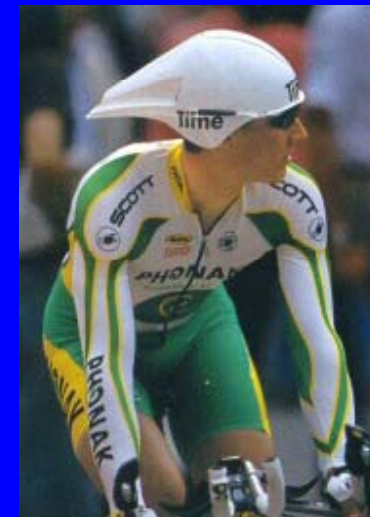
- Dehydration
- Obstruction
- Prostatic Hypertrophy
 - Trauma

Urinary tract infectious

- Cystitis
- Epididymitis
- Urethritis
- Prostatitis
- Pyelonephritis

Sport specific risk for UTI

Bicy-related genitourinary problems and often the bacterial infectious is associated with the fungal infectious



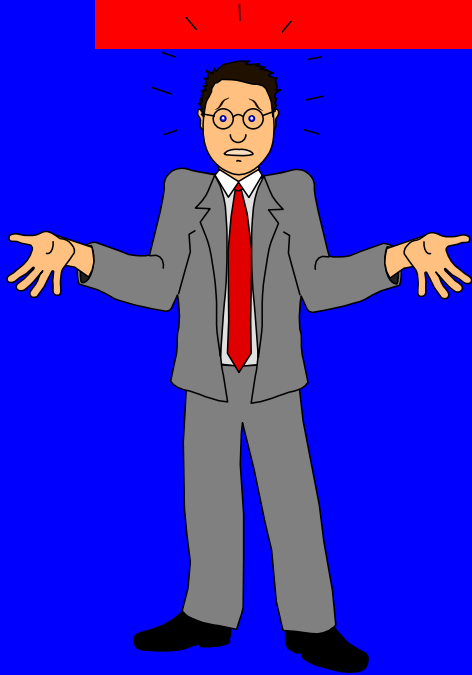
Sport specific risk for UTI

Athletes with **Spinal Cord Injuries**
because there is a genitourinary
reflux

Marathon and ultramarathon



Return to participation



Athletes should be afebrile for 24 -48 hours .

Hydration must to be take care