Systematic review and meta-analysis of protein intake to support muscle mass and function in healthy adults

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Supplementary Table 2 – GRADE evidence profile rating for lean body mass changes in studies testing additional dietary protein intervention in healthy subjects.

			Certainty a	ssessment			Effect				
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance		
Overall	effects of inge	sting add	itional protein o	n lean or muscl	e mass gain						
66	randomised trials	serious a,b	not serious	not serious ^c	not serious ^d	publication bias strongly suspected °	SMD 0.22 SD higher (0.15 higher to 0.29 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE	CRITICAL		
Overall effects of ingesting additional protein and RE on lean or muscle mass gain in studies reporting protein ingestion											
51	randomised trials	serious f,g	not serious h	not serious	not serious	publication bias strongly suspected ⁱ	SMD 0.19 SD higher (0.11 higher to 0.28 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ MODERATE	CRITICAL		
Lean Body Mass gain by protein ingestion and RE - Ingestion of <1.2g of protein/kg/day											
4	randomised trials	serious j	not serious	not serious	serious ^k	none	SMD 0.14 lower (0.56 lower to 0.27 higher)	⊕⊖⊖ VERY LOW	IMPORTANT		
Lean Bo	dy Mass gain	by protei	n ingestion and l	RE - Ingestion	of 1.2 - 1.59g of	protein/kg/day					
24	randomised trials	serious a,i	not serious	not serious	not serious	none ⁱ	SMD 0.17 higher (0.06 higher to 0.28 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL		
Lean Body Mass gain by protein ingestion and RE - Ingestion of 1.6g of protein/kg/day or higher											
23	randomised trials	serious f,l	not serious	not serious	not serious	none i	SMD 0.29 SD higher (0.13 higher to 0.45 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL		

Lean body or muscle mass gain with protein supplementation and without resistance exercise

			Certainty a	ssessment			Effect		
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance
6	randomised trials	serious 1	not serious	not serious	serious ^k	none	SMD 0.21 higher (0.05 lower to 0.48 higher)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ Low	CRITICAL
Lean bo	ody or muscle	mass gain	with protein su	pplementation	and resistance	exercise			
62	randomised trials	serious a.g	not serious	not serious	not serious	none °	SMD 0.22 SD higher (0.14 higher to 0.3 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Lean Bo	ody Mass by A	ge by RE	- < 65 years old					I	
48	randomised trials	serious f,p	not serious	not serious	not serious	none ⁱ	SMD 0.25 SD higher (0.16 higher to 0.35 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	IMPORTAN
Lean Bo	ody Mass by A	ge by RE	-> 65 years old						
14	randomised trials	serious m	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.13 SD higher (0.00 lower to 0.28 higher)	ФФСО	IMPORTAN'
Lean Bo	dy Mass gain	by protei	n ingestion and	RE - Ingestion	of 1.2 - 1.59g of	protein/kg/day <	65 years old	l d	
15	randomised trials	serious a.g	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.15 SD higher (0.02 lower to 0.31 higher)	ФФОО	IMPORTANT
Lean Bo	ody Mass gain	by protei	n ingestion and l	RE - Ingestion	of 1.2 - 1.59g of	protein/kg/day≥	65 years ol	d	1
9	randomised trials	serious a.g	not serious	not serious	not serious k	none	SMD 0.20 SD higher (0.02 higher to 0.37 higher)	ФФОО	IMPORTAN'

 $Lean\ Body\ Mass\ gain\ by\ protein\ ingestion\ and\ RE\ -\ 1.6g\ of\ protein/kg/day\ or\ higher\ <65\ years\ old$

			Certainty a		Effect				
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance
23	randomised trials	serious a,g	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.30 SD higher (0.17 lower to 0.43 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	IMPORTANT

CI: Confidence interval; SMD: Standardised mean difference

Explanations

- a. At least 30% of the studies presented a potential unclear or high risk of bias for using no blinding or single-blinded study designs. b. Seven studies present a potential high or unclear risk of bias for randomization and allocation.
- c. Low heterogeneity
- d. Both intervention and place/control groups have >1200 subjects each.
- e. Taylor 2016 and Willoughby 2007 are outside CI 95% during visual funnel plot analysis
- f. At least 40% of the studies present a potential unclear or high risk of bias due to improper description of randomization and blinding of research subjects or staff
- g. Some studies present a potential high or unclear risk of bias for randomization and allocation.
- h. Overall heterogeneity is low. However, heterogeneity between subgroups comparison is significantly high.
- i. Taylor 2016 and Willoughby 2007 are outside CI 95% during visual funnel plot analysis. Both studies tested subjects <65 years old submitted to resistance exercise
- j. 40-50% of the studies show a potential high or unclear risk of bias for blinding of research subjects and staff.
- k. A low number of studies with less than 200 subjects in each treatment group.
- 1. Two studies present a potential high or unclear risk of bias for blinding of participants and research staff.
- m. At least 50% of the studies present a potentially unclear or high risk of bias for blinding of research participants and research staff.
- n. Two studies present a potential unclear or high risk for selection bias.
- o. Three studies a potential unclear risk for selection bias.
- p. Five studies present a potential high or unclear risk of bias for randomization and allocation.

Supplementary Table 3 - GRADE evidence profile rating for muscle strength changes in studies testing additional dietary protein intervention in healthy subjects.

			Certainty	assessment			Effect			
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance	
Bench P	ress strength	in protein	supplemented s	ubjects overall	effect					
34	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	none ^c	SMD 0.20 higher (0.06 higher to 0.34 higher)	ФФО LOW	CRITICAL	
Bench Press strength in protein supplemented subjects with RE										
33	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	none ^c	SMD 0.18 higher (0.04 higher to 0.32 higher)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ Low	CRITICAL	
Bench P	ress strength	in protein	supplemented s	ubjects in studi	ies reporting daily	protein ingestion	n with RE		 	
16	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.18 higher (0.07 lower to 0.42 higher)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ Low	IMPORTANT	
Bench P	ress strength	in protein	supplemented s	ubjects with R	E - Ingestion of 1	.2 - 1.59g of prote	in/kg/day			
14	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.17 higher (0.01 lower to 0.35 higher)	⊕⊕⊖ Low	IMPORTANT	
Bench P	Bench Press strength in protein supplemented subjects with RE - Ingestion of 1.6g of protein/kg/day or higher									
16	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.13 higher (0.15 lower to 0.41 higher)	ФФО Low	IMPORTANT	

Bench Press strength in protein supplemented subjects with RE by Age - $<\!65$ years old

			Certainty	assessment			Effect					
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance			
33	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.18 higher (0.03 higher to 0.33 higher)	ФФСО LOW	CRITICAL			
Lower body strength in protein supplemented subjects overall effect												
50	randomised trials	serious f	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	none ^g	SMD 0.20 higher (0.08 higher to 0.33 higher)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ Low	CRITICAL			
Lower b	ody strength	in protein	supplemented s	ubjects in studi	es reporting prot	ein ingestion with	RE					
42	randomised trials	serious f	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none ⁸	SMD 0.22 higher (0.08 higher to 0.35 higher)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ Low	CRITICAL			
Lower b	ody strength	in protein	supplemented s	ubjects with RI	E - Ingestion of <	1.2g of protein/kg	/day	I				
1	randomised trials	very serious h	not serious	not serious	serious ^e	none	SMD 0.16 lower (1.09 lower to 0.77 higher)	⊕⊖⊖ VERY LOW	IMPORTANT			
Lower b	ody strength	in protein	supplemented s	ubjects with RI	E - Ingestion of 1.	2 - 1.59g of protei	n/kg/day					
20	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.08 higher (0.10 lower to 0.27 higher)	ФФСО	IMPORTANT			
Lower b	ody strength	in protein	supplemented s	ubjects with RI	E - Ingestion of 1.	6g of protein or h	igher /kg/da	ny				
19	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.40 higher (0.19 higher to 0.56 higher)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ Low	IMPORTANT			

 $Lower\ body\ strength\ in\ protein\ supplemented\ subjects\ with\ RE\ -\ Ingestion\ of\ 1.6g\ of\ protein\ or\ higher\ /kg/day\ <65\ years\ old$

			Certainty	assessment			Effect		
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance
17	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.40 higher	⊕⊕○○ LOW	IMPORTANT
Lower b	oody strength i	in protein	supplemented s	ubjects - No res	sistance exercise p	orogram			
4	randomised trials	serious a	not serious	not serious	very serious ^e	none	SMD 0.14 higher (0.36 lower to 0.64 higher)	⊕⊖⊖ VERY LOW	CRITICAL

Lower body strength in protein supplemented subjects - Resistance exercise training

47	randomised trials	serious f	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.21 higher (0.08 higher to 0.34 higher)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ Low	CRITICAL
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35	randomised trials	serious f	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.19 higher (0.03 higher to 0.36 higher)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ Low	CRITICAL
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Lower body strength in protein supplemented subjects with RE by Age ->65 years old

12	randomised trials	serious a	serious ^d	not serious	not serious	none	higher (0.01 higher to 0.48	ФФСО LOW	CRITICAL
							higher)		ı

CI: Confidence interval; SMD: Standardised mean difference

Explanations

- a. At least 30% of the studies presented a potential unclear or high risk of bias using no blinding or single-blinded study designs.
- b. Heterogeneity 50 60%
- c. Funnel plots visual analysis shows Obradovic 2020, Vangsoe 2018 and Willoughby 2007 out of 95% CI lines
- d. Heterogeneity 40 50%
- e. Less than 300 subjects in the intervention or control/placebo group
- f. At least 40% of the studies presented a potential unclear or high risk of bias using no blinding or single-blinded study designs.
- g. Funnel plots visual analysis shows Aas 2020, Burke 2001 and Candow 2006 out of 95% CI lines h. At least 60% of the studies presented a potential unclear or high risk of bias using no blinding or single-blinded study designs.

Supplementary Table 4 – GRADE evidence profile rating for handgrip strength changes in studies testing additional dietary protein intervention in healthy subjects.

			Certainty a	ssessment	Effect								
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance				
Handgri	Handgrip Strength												
10	randomised trials	serious a,b	not serious	serious ^c	serious ^d	none	SMD 0.15 higher (0.03 lower to 0.32 higher)	⊕⊖⊖C VERY LOW	CRITICAL				

CI: Confidence interval; SMD: Standardised mean difference

Explanations

- a. At least 50% of the studies present a potentially unclear or high risk of performance and detection bias. b. Two studies present a potentially unclear risk of selection bias.
- c. Four studies with and six studies without resistance exercise training d. Less than 300 subjects in the intervention or control/placebo group

Supplementary Table 5 – GRADE evidence profile rating for physical testing performance changes in studies providing additional dietary protein to healthy subjects.

			Certainty a	ssessment			Effect						
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty	Importance				
Addition	nal protein an	d changes	in physical testi	ng performanc	e.								
16	randomised trials	serious a,b	very serious ^c	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.15 higher (0.00 higher to 0.29 higher)	⊕⊖⊖ VERY LOW	CRITICAL				
Addition	Additional protein and changes in physical testing performance in studies with no resistance exercise program												
5	randomised trials	serious a	very serious	not serious	serious ^d	none	SMD 0.09 higher (0.08 lower to 0.25 higher)	⊕⊖⊖ VERY LOW	CRITICAL				
Addition	nal protein an	d changes	in physical testi	ng performanc	e in studies wh	ere subjects were	submitted	to resistance exer	rise				
11	randomised trials	very serious c	very serious ^c	not serious	not serious	none	SMD 0.17 higher (0.03 lower to 0.37 higher)	⊕⊖⊖ VERY LOW	CRITICAL				

CI: Confidence interval; SMD: Standardized mean difference

Explanations

- a. At least 30% of the studies present a potentially unclear or right risk for blinding of research subjects and staff. b. Two studies present an unclear risk of bias for allocation and randomization c. Heterogeneity >50% d. Total number of subjects in the intervention or controls is < 300.

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