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Modulating exercise-induced hormesis: does less equal more?

Running title: Exercise-induced hormesis

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ABSTRACT

1 Hormesis encompasses the notion that low levels of stress stimulate or upregulate 2 existing cellular and molecular pathways that improve the capacity of cells and organisms to 3 withstand greater stress. This notion underlies much of what we know about how exercise 4 conditions the body and induces long-term adaptations. During exercise, the body is 5 exposed to various forms of stress, including thermal, metabolic, hypoxic, oxidative, and 6 mechanical stress. These stressors activate biochemical messengers, which in turn activate 7 various signaling pathways that regulate gene expression and adaptive responses. 8 Historically, antioxidant supplements, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and 9 cryotherapy have been favored to attenuate or counteract exercise-induced oxidative stress 10 and inflammation. However, reactive oxygen species and inflammatory mediators are key 11 signaling molecules in muscle, and such strategies may mitigate adaptations to exercise. 12 Conversely, withholding dietary carbohydrate and restricting muscle blood flow during 13 exercise may augment adaptations to exercise. In this review article, we combine, integrate, 14 and apply knowledge about the fundamental mechanisms of exercise adaptation. We also 15 critically evaluate the rationale for using interventions that target these mechanisms under 16 the overarching concept of hormesis. There is currently insufficient evidence to establish 17 whether these treatments exert dose-dependent effects on muscle adaptation. However, 18 there appears to be some dissociation between the biochemical/molecular effects and 19 functional/performance outcomes of some of these treatments. Although several of these 20 treatments influence common kinases, transcription factors and proteins, it remains to be 21 determined if these interventions complement or negate each other, and whether such 22 effects are strong enough to influence adaptations to exercise.

23 Key words: adaptation, stress, preconditioning.

25 INTRODUCTION

Hormesis refers to 'a process in which a low dose of a chemical agent or environmental 26 27 factor that is damaging at high doses induces an adaptive beneficial effect on the cell or organism' (127). The concept of hormesis first originated in the 16th century from the 28 29 musings of the Swiss physician and alchemist Paracelcus, who proposed that, "Solely the 30 dose determines that a thing is not a poison" (15). The term 'hormesis' itself was first coined 31 in 1943 by Southam and Ehrlich to explain their observation that a natural antibiotic in cedar 32 wood inhibited the growth of wood-decaying fungi but had the opposite effect at low doses 33 (204). Subsequently, the pioneering endocrinologist Hans Selve applied this notion to 34 understanding how biological systems respond to and tolerate environmental stress (194).

35 Hormesis encompasses the fundamental concepts of 'conditioning' and 'adaptation'. The 36 concept of conditioning was first recognized following observations that repeated, brief 37 hypoxic exposure markedly reduced damage to the heart during subsequent myocardial 38 infarction (141). We now accept that exposure to an agent conditions the system to respond 39 in some manner (22). The concept of adaptation was originally recognized following 40 experiments demonstrating that constant exposure of Escherichia coli to mutagens allowed 41 each bacterium to handle mutagens more efficiently and to develop resistance to 42 mutagenesis (184). Conditioning and adaptation are closely related, are considered to be 43 synonymous, and are often used interchangeably. In essence, conditioning/adaptation 44 captures the notion that low levels of stress stimulate or upregulate existing cellular and 45 molecular pathways that improve the capacity of cells and organisms to withstand greater 46 stress (22).

The notion of hormesis underlies much of what we know about how exercise conditions the body and induces long-term adaptation (32). However, hormesis was explicitly introduced into the lexicon of exercise physiology only relatively recently (175). On a gross population level, the dose–response nature of hormesis most likely explains why moderate levels of physical activity reduce the risk of illness and mortality, whereas excessive physical activity increases such risks (5, 103, 147).

53 During exercise, the body is exposed to various homeostatic perturbations, including thermal, metabolic, hypoxic, oxidative, and mechanical stress. These perturbations 54 stimulate the release of biochemical messengers such as reactive oxygen and nitrogen 55 species (RONS), Ca²⁺, growth factors, cytokines, and eicosanoids. These messengers then 56 57 activate signaling pathways including (but not limited to) various protein kinases, 58 phosphatases, and deacetylases, which in turn regulate the molecular machinery controlling 59 gene expression that elicits the appropriate adaptive responses (40). Through these 60 signaling pathways, acute production of RONS and inflammatory mediators can ultimately promote adaptations in skeletal muscle such as mitochondrial biogenesis and 61 62 remodeling/hypertrophy (53, 124, 125, 169, 197). Conversely, prolonged production of RONS and inflammatory mediators can activate proteolytic pathways, impede protein 63 64 synthesis, and overwhelm endogenous defense mechanisms, which cause adverse effects such as muscle atrophy/weakness (37, 56, 62, 106, 203, 206). This dichotomy between the 65 acute and chronic effects of certain physiological stimuli is important to consider within the 66 67 context of hormesis in skeletal muscle.

68 Historically, the perception that exercise-induced oxidative stress and inflammation 69 cause muscle fatigue and damage has provoked widespread interest in countermeasures 70 such as antioxidant supplements, NSAIDs, and cryotherapy (31, 236). However, advances in 71 our understanding of the role of RONS and inflammatory mediators in muscle adaptations 72 to exercise have generated debate about whether these strategies are actually beneficial— 73 at least in young healthy people (74, 162, 190). Antioxidant supplements and NSAIDs may 74 help to preserve or enhance muscle adaptations to exercise in older individuals with 75 impaired antioxidant defense systems or chronic low-grade inflammation (120, 228). By 76 contrast, in young people these interventions can attenuate exercise-induced increases in 77 insulin sensitivity (177) and muscle protein synthesis (229). The advantages or 78 disadvantages of these interventions may therefore vary between different exercising 79 populations. At the other end of the hormesis continuum, interest has also emerged in the 80 potential benefits of applying stress to skeletal muscle before, during, or after exercise to 81 stimulate greater adaptation. This stress can be applied by restricting carbohydrate intake, 82 occluding local blood supply using low-intensity isometric or eccentric contractions 83 (mechanical 'preloading'), or passively heating muscle.

Considering the increasing attention on strategies to enhance exercise performance and assist recovery, it is timely to debate the scientific rationale for using interventions such as cryotherapy, antioxidant supplements, NSAIDs, mechanical preloading, dietary carbohydrate restriction, heat stress, and blood flow restriction to modulate adaptations to exercise. The purpose of this review is to combine, integrate, and apply knowledge about how these interventions influence skeletal muscle adaptations to exercise under the overarching concept of hormesis.

91

92 INTERVENTIONS THAT ENHANCE EXERCISE-INDUCED HORMESIS

93 Restricting Dietary Carbohydrate Intake

94 Modulating skeletal muscle glycogen content by restricting dietary carbohydrate intake 95 between exercise sessions is a relatively recent strategy to enhance exercise-induced hormesis. Glycogen is an important substrate for oxidative phosphorylation in skeletal 96 97 muscle, and low muscle glycogen content is a key determinant of muscle fatigue (11, 94, 98 205). Accordingly, maximizing muscle glycogen content by carbohydrate loading before 99 exercise and delaying the rate at which glycogen content is depleted (by ingesting 100 carbohydrate during exercise) are common practices for athletes (21). Recent studies have 101 used various diet and/or exercise protocols to manipulate muscle glycogen content before 102 exercise sessions to determine whether changes in glycogen availability influence adaptive 103 responses [for review see (8, 69)]. There is growing evidence of beneficial effects on 104 metabolic and mitochondrial adaptations when exercising with low compared with normal 105 muscle glycogen content. This section briefly examines the putative mechanistic influence of 106 low muscle glycogen content and any potential for biphasic responses that support the 107 hormetic model of adaptation.

108 Training with low muscle glycogen content promotes metabolic adaptation. A primary 109 concept within the paradigm of nutrient-training interactions in skeletal muscle is that 110 substrate availability mediates the cellular response to contractile activity (32). However, 111 such a paradigm oversimplifies the complexity of how substrate availability modulates 112 adaptation. Hansen et al (65) first examined whether repeated bouts of exercise begun with 113 low muscle glycogen content induces greater metabolic stress and disruption to 114 homeostasis in skeletal muscle. They found that resting muscle glycogen content and citrate 115 synthase activity were higher in subjects who started half of their training sessions with low

116 glycogen versus those who always started training with normal glycogen. They concluded 117 that this was because glycogen depletion caused by the first session dictated that the 118 second session began with reduced muscle glycogen content. Although differences in the 119 distribution of the training stimulus may have influenced these findings, there seems little 120 doubt that the key factor promoting the adaptive response was training 'low'.

121 The metabolic flexibility of healthy skeletal muscle permits shifts in substrate oxidation 122 based on the availability of carbohydrates and fats [for review see (205)]. Consequently, 123 imposing the need for greater use of fat as a fuel likely explains much of the augmented 124 adaptation to exercise with low initial muscle glycogen content. The demand for ATP supply 125 during prolonged moderate- to high-intensity exercise is likely to also increase the 126 magnitude of the adaptive signal under low-glycogen conditions. In this regard, the 127 adenosine monophosphate activated protein kinase (AMPK) may be a focal point for regulating the cellular response to exercise with low initial muscle glycogen content, given 128 129 its role as an energy sensor (66, 67). AMPK contains a glycogen-binding domain on one of its 130 three subunits that causes it to colocalize with glycogen (66, 67, 128). AMPK also regulates 131 the activity of several signaling pathways including those that promote glucose transport, 132 fatty acid uptake, and mitochondrial biogenesis (66). The few studies that have quantified 133 AMPK phosphorylation or activity after exercise begun with low- compared with 134 normal/high-glycogen content have shown that the greater AMPK response in skeletal 135 muscle following exercise is associated with lower preexercise glycogen content (242, 249).

Several other putative mediators of skeletal muscle adaptations to endurance exercise are enhanced after exercise with low initial muscle glycogen content. The phosphorylation status and mRNA abundance of important regulators of mitochondrial biogenesis (e.g., 139 tumor suppressor p53 and peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor coactivator [PGC-1 α]) are more responsive to exercise with low compared with high initial muscle glycogen (9, 140 141 172). Similarly, mitochondrial enzyme activity increases after extended training periods 142 during which exercise is repeatedly begun with low muscle glycogen content (65, 140, 250). 143 Exercising with an initially low glycogen content also induces favorable metabolic responses, 144 including greater oxidation of triacylglycerol and net uptake of glucose and fatty acids into 145 skeletal muscle (75, 242, 250). Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor δ expression 146 increases in skeletal muscle after acute and chronic exercise (161), and likely plays an 147 important function in alterations in muscle substrate metabolism following exercise training 148 (17). Collectively, these findings suggest that manipulating carbohydrate availability before 149 and/or during exercise stimulates several of the molecular and metabolic responses that promote adaptations to training. 150

151 Adverse responses to low glycogen content. Low glycogen availability limits its use for 152 oxidative phosphorylation and may impair excitation-contraction coupling in muscle during exercise. Specifically, the reduction in Ca^{2+} release from the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) that 153 154 accompanies muscle fatigue is associated with depletion of intramyofibrillar glycogen content (144, 256). In support of this in situ evidence, exercise studies have shown that 155 depletion of muscle glycogen decreases Ca^{2+} release from the SR (50, 255). Importantly, SR 156 Ca^{2+} release remains suppressed when carbohydrate intake is restricted in the early (4 h) 157 postexercise recovery period. By contrast, resynthesis of muscle glycogen returns SR Ca²⁺ 158 159 release rates to the preexercise levels (50). Together with the potential to promote shifts 160 toward greater fat oxidation and inferior rates of carbohydrate oxidation, these responses 161 could explain, at least in part, why acute exercise intensity is lower and endurance

performance following chronic training does not improve when using the 'train low'paradigm (75, 140, 250).

164 The increase in metabolic stress in skeletal muscle during exercise starting with low glycogen content may also modulate protein turnover. In principle, higher AMPK activity 165 166 (resulting from low muscle glycogen content) could attenuate muscle protein synthesis by 167 inhibiting translation/elongation. Increased metabolic stress associated with low muscle 168 glycogen content may also exacerbate protein degradation (66, 72). Camera et al (23) 169 demonstrated that starting a bout of resistance exercise with low muscle glycogen content 170 neither promoted nor inhibited the myofibrillar protein synthesis. However, others have 171 reported that starting exercise with low muscle glycogen content increases the rates of 172 leucine oxidation and muscle protein degradation (13, 72). More research is needed to 173 determine the effects of training with low muscle glycogen content on protein turnover— 174 particularly during recovery between training sessions. Nevertheless, it is possible that 175 exercise starting with low compared with high muscle glycogen content may increase 176 muscle protein degradation.

177 Given the potential for conflicting beneficial and detrimental effects of training starting 178 with suboptimal glycogen content on skeletal muscle adaptations, a key question is: how 179 low should one go? If a biphasic response is dose dependent, one challenge is to titrate the 180 threshold for muscle glycogen content that might enhance the metabolic adaptations 181 without causing complications associated with fatigue or changes in the net protein balance 182 (Table 1). Perhaps the more pertinent question is not 'how low', but for 'how long' or 'how 183 often'. Although acute restriction of dietary carbohydrate provides a positive stimulus for metabolic adaptation, repeated depletion or long-term reduction in muscle glycogen 184

content may lead to overtraining (4). Therefore, the benefits of restricting carbohydrate
during exercise or training with low initial muscle glycogen content must be balanced
against the risk of fatigue.

188

189 Blood Flow-Restricted Exercise

190 In addition to nutritional interventions, it is also possible to enhance exercise-induced 191 hormesis through physical interventions. One such example is applying a pressure cuff to 192 the proximal regions of a limb during exercise. This practice first originated in Japan and was 193 initially termed 'Kaatsu' training, which means 'adding pressure' (187). The first research 194 published in English was a study by Shinohara et al (200), in which the combination of 195 moderate resistance (40% of maximum voluntary contraction) and tourniquet ischemia 196 resulted in a significant increase in strength (in contrast to no change in strength in the leg 197 that exercised without ischemia). This training method is now more frequently referred to 198 as 'blood flow-restricted exercise' (108). The basic physiological premise behind blood flow-199 restricted exercise is that it reduces blood flow and occludes the venous return from the 200 limb (blood pooling). This combination of stimuli increases tissue hypoxia and the 201 accumulation of metabolites, and thereby increases muscular stress during low-load 202 resistance exercise (209-211). Blood flow-restricted exercise induces muscle hypertrophy 203 and increases in muscle strength in the same range as traditional heavy-load strength 204 training. Importantly, blood flow-restricted exercise induces effects that are absent (or 205 minor) when low-load exercise is performed without blood flow restriction (108, 114).

206 Blood flow restriction results in several local and systemic responses that might 207 contribute to the enhanced hypertrophic stimulus when combined with low-load resistance 208 exercise [20-30% of 1 repetition maximum (RM)] (113, 240). In addition to metabolite 209 accumulation, the suggested mechanisms include increased recruitment of motor units 210 (rapid development of fatigue) (240), greater growth hormone secretion (215) and oxidative 211 stress (240), and muscle swelling (blood pooling) (110). Some of the mechanisms are 212 directly related, because metabolic accumulation causes rapid onset of fatigue (which 213 increases motor unit recruitment) and increases growth hormone secretion (215, 240). 214 Because it is difficult to separate these mechanisms, it remains unknown which of these 215 factors are most important. Nevertheless, combining blood flow restriction with low-load 216 resistance exercise increases the rate of muscle protein synthesis by activating similar 217 pathways to those activated after heavy-load strength training (e.g., mammalian target of 218 rapamycin [mTOR] signaling and MAPKs) (45, 47, 60, 239). Furthermore, low-load blood 219 flow-restricted exercise seems to induce a rapid and marked activation of satellite cells (239). Interestingly, this satellite cell activation appears to exceed that which occurs after 220 221 traditional heavy-load strength training (145). Satellite cell activation induced by blood flow-222 restricted exercise is accompanied by an increase in the number of myonuclei, which may 223 explain some of the muscle hypertrophy in response to blood flow-restricted exercise (18). 224 The 30–40% increase in cross-sectional area of both type I and II fibers after only seven sessions of low-load, blood flow-restricted exercise supports the hypertrophic potential of 225 226 this method (145). Others have also reported rapid hypertrophy in response to high-227 frequency $(2 \times / day)$, low-load, blood flow-restricted exercise over 1-3 weeks (1, 3).

228 High-frequency, low-load blood flow-restricted exercise is generally a safe and effective 229 training regimen because the low load induces less mechanical stress on muscle fibers than 230 heavy-load strength training. In addition to the benefits described above, some studies also 231 report no (or only minor) muscle damage and fast recovery after low-load, blood flow-232 restricted exercise (107, 112). However, the ischemia induced by blood flow restriction 233 might cause some muscle damage and prolonged recovery if certain thresholds are passed. 234 There are isolated reports of severe muscle damage resulting in rhabdomyolysis following 235 blood flow-restricted exercise (82). Sarcolemmal and myofibrillar disruption and slow 236 recovery of muscle function have also been reported after blood flow-restricted exercise in 237 other studies (33, 241). These contrasting findings probably reflect differences in the 238 training status of the study participants, degree of exhaustion, cuff pressure and size, and 239 exercise intensity/volume.

240 Signs of damage, such as sarcolemmal disruption, high blood creatine kinase [CK] activity, and long-lasting fatigue, and rhabdomyolysis have been reported after the first 241 242 session of low-load blood flow-restricted exercise (33, 82, 241), but rapid adaptation 243 thereafter is likely. Performing a fixed number of repetitions per set (e.g., 15–15–15 or 30– 244 15–15–15) causes little or no muscle damage (2, 111), but performing each set to failure 245 causes more severe damage (33, 82, 241). The size of the cuff and the occlusion pressure can vary greatly. It can also be difficult to control arterial blood flow and venous return 246 247 accurately (109). Collectively, these factors make it difficult to determine the optimal 248 guidelines for blood flow restriction in combination with low-load resistance exercise.

Although the stress on the exercising muscle during low-load blood flow-restricted exercise is not well described, some interesting observations have been reported. In a 251 volume-matched protocol, blood flow-restricted exercise increased the acute expression of 252 heat shock proteins (HSPs) in myofibrillar structures (33). Accumulation of small HSPs in 253 myofibrillar structures was more abundant in type I fibers, indicating that low-load, blood 254 flow-restricted exercise stresses type I fibers more than type II fibers, which contrasts with 255 heavy-load strength training (43). This finding suggests that the combination of low-load 256 resistance exercise and blood flow restriction preferentially stresses type I fibers. Provided 257 that the stress remains within the optimal range, over the long term, such exercise also 258 increases the hypertrophy of type I fibers. Importantly, in accordance with the hormesis 259 theory, the dose is essential because excessive pressure and/or exercise volume/intensity 260 may cause severe muscle damage, especially at the initiation of blood flow-restricted 261 exercise.

262 In summary, applying a pressure cuff to restrict blood flow to an exercising limb—and 263 thereby blocking venous return—increases the stress to the skeletal muscle during exercise. Blood flow restriction augments the effect of low-load resistance exercise on muscle 264 265 hypertrophy. An important theme that arises from our evaluation is that blood flow 266 restriction seems to shift muscular stress toward a more optimal range than that achieved 267 with low-load exercise performed in isolation. However, the large variation in the application of blood flow restriction and exercise protocols makes it difficult to suggest an 268 269 optimal protocol for low-load blood flow-restricted exercise at the present time. Acute 270 blood flow restriction during exercise induces metabolic/hypoxic stress that ultimately leads 271 to muscle hypertrophy. However, if used on a regular basis without sufficient recovery, 272 blood flow-restricted exercise could induce a chronic cycle of muscle degradation and 273 repair, which may impede rather than improve adaptations to training.

274

275 Application of Heat to Muscle

276 Applying heat to muscle is another physical intervention that may enhance exercise-277 induced hormesis. Historically, heat has been used to treat severe muscle injuries (104), 278 although it may also improve recovery from less severe exercise-induced muscle damage. 279 The fundamental benefit of using heat in the management of muscle injuries involves an 280 increase in local blood flow (191, 245), which likely serves to improve the supply of oxygen 281 and nutrients to assist tissue repair (52). The alternative concept of using heat to 282 'precondition' cells and tissues against other forms of stress was recognized around 20 years 283 ago. It was termed 'cross-tolerance' (248), and is a classic example of hormesis. It has 284 stimulated interest in the potential for heat preconditioning to protect myocardial tissue 285 against infarction (121) and skeletal muscle against atrophy (142). An increasing number of 286 studies have investigated the effects of heat application before or after various forms of 287 muscle injury on muscle regeneration and the associated mechanisms (Table 2).

Heat preconditioning. There is convincing evidence that heat stress assists recovery from muscle injury. Application of heat (41°C) before *in vitro* muscle contraction augments protein synthesis and expression of HSP72 in muscle cells (55, 247). In rats, heat preconditioning 12–48 h before muscle injury increases muscle fiber cross-sectional area and number of centrally nucleated fibers (96). This form of treatment also minimizes fiber degeneration (199) and mitochondrial damage (48) after injury, and assists in maintaining muscle mass during reloading after immobilization in rats (199). 295 Various mechanisms have been identified to explain these effects including: (i) an 296 increase in phosphocreatine content, which is associated with less necrosis (48, 181); (ii) 297 maintenance of reactive oxygen species-scavenging activity (199); (iii) increased expression 298 of myosin heavy chain protein and HSPs (193, 223); and (iv) more Pax7⁺ satellite cells (96) in 299 regenerating muscle. Heat preconditioning also reduces oxidative damage to muscle protein 300 (193) and infiltration of mononuclear inflammatory cells (96, 199, 223) after muscle injury in 301 rats. In addition to these studies on muscle injury, heat preconditioning increases the 302 activity of PGC-1 α and AMPK in C2C12 myotubes (84) and prevents muscle atrophy in 303 response to immobilization (192) and hindlimb unloading in rats (142).

304 Research on the effects of heat preconditioning on recovery from exercise-induced 305 muscle damage in humans has produced more variable findings. Some work indicates that heat stress before eccentric exercise can reduce muscle fatigue (77), promote faster 306 307 recovery of strength and range of motion, and alleviate muscle soreness (149, 183). Heat 308 preconditioning also increases the activation of Akt, mTOR, ribosomal protein S6, and 309 eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E-binding protein 1 (EIF4E-BP1) after resistance 310 exercise (90). In contrast with these studies, others have reported no benefits of heat preconditioning on the recovery of strength, range of motion, edema, or soreness after 311 312 eccentric exercise (86, 151).

Heat stress after muscle injury/exercise. Various animal studies have reported that applying heat after muscle injury increases muscle fiber cross-sectional area and number of centrally nucleated fibers (68, 71, 96, 154, 216). Consistent with the effects of heat preconditioning, these benefits of therapeutic heat treatment are conferred by upregulation of HSPs in muscle (71, 154). Heat application after muscle injury in rats also induces more rapid macrophage infiltration (216); expression of IGF-1 (216), MyoD, and myogenin (68),
calcineurin (154); and activity of Pax7⁺, MyoD⁺, and M-cadherin⁺ satellite cells (96, 154, 216).
Conversely, applying heat to muscle following injury reduces myeloperoxidase activity,
production of RONS, lipid peroxidation, and fibrosis in rats (25, 71, 216).

Relatively little is known about how applying heat to muscle after exercise influences acute recovery of muscle function. One study reported that, compared with passive recovery, hot water immersion (38°C for 14 min) after eccentric exercise improved the recovery of strength, but not that of muscle power, swelling, or soreness (231). The same group reported that hot water immersion did not help to maintain sprint or time trial performance over 5 days of high-intensity cycling (230).

No studies have investigated the effects of regular heat application on chronic muscle adaptations to training. However, evidence from a recent study on rats suggests some potential benefits of heat to enhance training adaptations. In this study, rats that were placed in a heat chamber at 41°C for 30 min immediately after treadmill running showed greater chronic increases in the activity of citrate synthase and 3-hydroxyacyl CoA dehydrogenase, and mitochondrial protein content in skeletal muscle after 3 weeks of training (5 days/week) (217).

The transcription factor heat shock factor-1 (HSF-1) and it downstream effectors, HSPs, are most likely central to the benefits of heat stress for healing of muscle injuries, as demonstrated in animal studies outline below. HSF-1 and HSPs may assist muscle regeneration by protecting muscle cells against oxidative damage, apoptosis, and ATP depletion (16, 87-89, 118). HSPs may also promote repair of muscle tissue by activating the signaling pathways involved in protein synthesis (e.g., Akt, p70S6 kinase, and ERK) (61) and 341 by regulating the activity of enzymes and transcription factors that can cause degeneration 342 and/or atrophy of muscle fibers (38, 49, 105, 195). Importantly, without HSF-1 and HSP70, 343 macrophage infiltration is delayed, and the expression of proinflammatory cytokines is 344 dysregulated in regenerating muscle tissue (98, 148, 196). Heat stress may also increase 345 muscle hypertrophy independently of HSPs by stimulating the expression of IGF-1, 346 myogenin, and Pax7 (166). Increased expression of IGF-1 in response to heat stress likely 347 complements the effects HSPs by orchestrating more efficient resolution of inflammation 348 following muscle injury (160).

This review is the first summary and critical evaluation of the effects of applying heat to muscle with the goal of promoting repair and growth of muscle. Acute heat stress increases the activities of HSPs, satellite cells, PGC-1 α , and AMPK, whereas it reduces oxidative damage in muscle after exercise/injury. Over the long term, these responses may augment training adaptations. Although the application of heat stress before or after muscle injury has shown promising results in muscle cell culture and animal studies, more work is required to establish whether these same benefits occur in humans.

356

357 Mechanical Preloading

A single bout of eccentric muscle contractions confers protection against subsequent bouts of muscle-damaging exercise. This response is referred to as the 'repeated-bout effect', and may last between 6 and 9 months (150). The repeated bout effect can also occur in the non-exercising contralateral limb, although the effect in the contralateral limb is smaller than that in the ipsilateral limb (73). 363 Recent interest has focused on trying to determine the minimum stimulus required to 364 elicit protection against muscle damage, which is typically characterized by prolonged 365 decreases (>1 d) in muscle function and delayed-onset muscle soreness (DOMS). Herein, we 366 refer to this approach to strength training and conditioning as 'mechanical preloading'. 367 Although this is a relatively new concept, it is a classic example of exercise-induced 368 hormesis, whereby mild mechanical preloading of skeletal muscle induces positive 369 adaptations. The first evidence for the benefits of mechanical preloading came from a study 370 demonstrating that low-intensity isometric contractions (performed at 10% of maximal 371 voluntary contraction strength) improved the recovery of strength by 50–60% and reduced 372 peak muscle soreness by 30% after subsequent eccentric exercise performed 2 days later 373 (101). These protective effects of mechanical pre-loading seem to last between 1 and 2 374 weeks (26).

375 Mode and intensity of contraction. The preloading effect does not appear to be specific to 376 the type of muscle contraction. Preloading with as few as two maximum voluntary isometric 377 contractions at a long muscle length (20° flexion) is sufficient to attenuate the loss of 378 strength and range of motion, DOMS, and swelling after eccentric exercise performed 2 379 days later (27). As evidence of a dose response, 10 maximal voluntary isometric contractions 380 at the same muscle length conferred even greater protective effects (27). The protective 381 effect conferred by two maximal isometric contractions appears to last only a maximum of 1 382 week (28). Compared with low-intensity eccentric contractions (10% maximum strength), 383 maximal isometric contractions performed at 20° flexion confer a greater degree of 384 protection against subsequent muscle damage (30). However, the protective effect of 385 maximal isometric contractions is less than that resulting from maximal eccentric

386 contractions (30). Four bouts of moderate-intensity eccentric exercise comprising eccentric 387 contractions at 40% of maximal voluntary isometric contraction, performed every 2 weeks, 388 confers a similar protective effect to one bout of maximal eccentric exercise (29). This 389 finding suggests that repeating submaximal eccentric exercise provides the same protection 390 as one bout of maximal eccentric exercise against the subsequent maximal eccentric 391 exercise. It remains to be determined whether regular lighter intensity eccentric 392 contractions (e.g., 10%) or maximal isometric contractions at a long muscle length increase 393 long-term muscle adaptations.

394 Integration of the findings of the small number of studies in this area shows that a few 395 eccentric contractions at low intensity or a few maximal isometric contractions at long 396 muscle length confer significant protection against subsequent muscle damage. In addition 397 to contracting muscles, this effect most likely also occurs in non-exercising muscles of the 398 contralateral limb. The mechanisms underpinning the effects of mechanical preloading on 399 muscle adaptation are currently unknown. Adaptation to maximal eccentric contractions 400 has been attributed to various factors, including neural changes (e.g., increased motor unit 401 recruitment/synchronization), remodeling of connective tissue, removal of weak fibers, and 402 longitudinal addition of sarcomeres (131). Light-intensity eccentric contractions and 403 isometric contractions do not cause any loss of strength or range of motion, muscle 404 swelling, or DOMS (27, 101). Without causing frank muscle damage, these types of 405 contractions may precondition skeletal muscle through other mechanisms. Such 406 mechanisms could include physical changes to the fascia and endomysium or metabolic alterations in ATP availability, intracellular [Ca²⁺], mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uptake, RONS signaling, 407

408 or proteolytic activity. Further research is warranted to examine these putative mechanisms409 in greater detail.

410 Because acute muscle damage resulting from mechanical preloading is minimal, it seems unlikely that long-term use of this form of preconditioning will increase the risk of 411 412 maladaptation to training. However, the protective effect of mechanical preloading may 413 diminish if it is used repeatedly because muscle probably adapts to such mechanical 414 stimulation. Consistent with this premise, any benefits of mechanical preloading are 415 probably relatively minor for resistance-trained individuals who regularly perform 416 submaximal eccentric contractions and maximal isometric contractions in their training 417 routines. Future studies in this area could investigate whether skeletal muscle 418 remodeling/hypertrophy is still induced effectively if no muscle damage is induced 419 throughout training.

420

421 INTERVENTIONS THAT DAMPEN EXERCISE-INDUCED HORMESIS

422 Antioxidant Supplementation

The notion of hormesis has been studied extensively in the context of oxidative stress and its opposing roles in skeletal muscle pathologies. It has also been examined as a potential stimulus for redox adaptations in skeletal muscle following endurance training. For the purposes of this review, the term 'oxidative stress' is defined as an imbalance between oxidants and antioxidants in favor of the oxidants, leading to a disruption of redox signaling and control and/or molecular damage (171). Davies et al (34) were the first to report that submaximal exercise to exhaustion increased the production of free radicals in rodent 430 skeletal muscle. Other more recent studies have also shown that exhaustive endurance 431 exercise increases oxidative stress in rat skeletal muscle (10, 91, 235). Although these 432 studies provide vital proof of principle, understanding precisely how RONS regulate skeletal muscle adaptations to endurance training is difficult—mainly because few training programs 433 434 regularly push individuals to exhaustion. Nevertheless, moderate- to high-intensity endurance exercise (70-85% of maximal oxygen uptake) is sufficient to increase oxidative 435 436 stress in rat skeletal muscle, as measured by changes in GSSG levels (237, 238, 254). 437 Moderate-intensity endurance cycling exercise is also sufficient to increase lipid 438 peroxidation, as measured by F₂-isoprostane content in skeletal muscle of humans (92). 439 Bailey et al (7) provided the first direct evidence in humans that exercise in the form of 440 maximal, single-leg knee extension increases intramuscular free radical accumulation.

441 Oxidative stress and mitochondrial biogenesis in skeletal muscle. Redox-sensitive kinases 442 activated during muscle contraction include AMPK, activating transcription factor-2 (ATF-2), 443 NFκB, and the MAP kinases p38 MAPK, JNK, and ERK (also called p44/42 MAPK) (53, 79, 185, 444 238). These kinases are all implicated in the regulation of mitochondrial biogenesis (83, 445 243)—at least partly through the transcriptional coactivator PGC-1 α , which is a key regulator of mitochondrial biogenesis (173, 244). Although RONS were first proposed to 446 447 regulate exercise-induced mitochondrial biogenesis over 30 years ago (34), it was Silveira et 448 al who first published clear evidence linking RONS with the regulation of contraction-449 induced mitochondrial biogenesis in rat muscle cells (201). Importantly, this group 450 demonstrated that antioxidants attenuated the increase in RONS production and PGC-1 α 451 mRNA expression (201). Hood et al (79) have since provided more direct evidence for the 452 role of RONS (and antioxidants) in regulating the expression of AMPK and PGC-1 α in skeletal

453 muscle cells. Other proteins such as upstream stimulatory factor 1 also play an important 454 role in regulating PGC-1 α activity in skeletal muscle (80).

455 Antioxidants and mitochondrial biogenesis. Research on the effects of antioxidants on 456 mitochondrial biogenesis has used vitamins C and E (alone or in combination), coenzyme 457 Q10, *N*-acetylcysteine, β -carotene and α -lipoic acid in rats (54, 70, 208, 234) and humans 458 (157, 163, 177, 251). Because of the large number of individual antioxidant supplements, a 459 comprehensive examination of each antioxidant is beyond the scope of the current review 460 (for review, see (120). This review is limited to evaluation of hormesis specifically in relation 461 to vitamins C and E because they are two of the most common antioxidant supplements 462 used alone or in combination by the general population (180) and in research (54, 70, 157, 463 177, 208, 234, 251). Given the role of RONS in stimulating mitochondrial biogenesis in 464 skeletal muscle (79, 201), many studies have investigated whether antioxidant supplements 465 prevent adaptations to endurance training. Some training studies have found that vitamin C 466 and/or vitamin E attenuates markers of mitochondrial biogenesis in muscle after training in 467 rats (54, 234) and humans (157, 177). By contrast, other studies have found no significant 468 effects of antioxidant supplements on markers of mitochondrial biogenesis (70, 208, 251, 469 253).

Despite this evidence for a reduction in cellular adaptations to endurance training with antioxidants (54, 157, 177, 234), no research has reported any change in maximum oxygen uptake or exercise performance—at least in humans (157, 178, 251). Animal studies have demonstrated that vitamin C supplementation reduces the improvements in exercise performance after 6 weeks of exercise training (54, 126). Differences in the metabolism of vitamin C in skeletal muscle between humans and rats may partially account for thesedifferences.

477 Despite strong evidence that endurance exercise increases oxidative stress in human skeletal muscle (7, 92, 254), it remains uncertain whether vitamin C and/or E 478 479 supplementation inhibits oxidative stress in human skeletal muscle during exercise. One 480 reason for this uncertainty is the lack of suitable markers of RONS production and oxidative 481 stress in skeletal muscle during exercise. Some studies have used plasma or blood to assess 482 oxidative stress (70, 157). However, this is problematic because the degree of systemic oxidative stress in plasma/blood may not reflect the extent of local oxidative stress in 483 484 skeletal muscle (235). Furthermore, other markers of oxidative stress (e.g., thiobarbituric 485 acid reactive substances (TBARS) or malondialdehyde) may not be specific or sensitive to 486 antioxidant supplementation (182, 252).

487 In addition to discrepancies between the effects of antioxidants in animals compared 488 with humans, there is also some disparity between the acute and chronic effects of 489 antioxidants. For example, several acute exercise studies show that inhibiting RONS derived 490 from xanthine oxidase with the xanthine oxidase inhibitor, allopurinol, inhibits the exercise-491 induced phosphorylation of redox-sensitive kinases such as p38 MAPK and ERK, which 492 regulate mitochondrial biogenesis in rats (53, 91, 238). However, long-term treatment with 493 allopurinol does not prevent the increases in skeletal muscle mitochondrial proteins or 494 antioxidant enzymes following endurance training in rats (238). One possible reason for this disparity is that stimuli other than RONS, such as cytosolic Ca²⁺ (130, 155), AMP (130), and 495 496 possibly NAD (51) also regulate mitochondrial biogenesis in skeletal muscle. Thus, although antioxidant supplements can inhibit RONS production in skeletal muscle, this may not 497

always attenuate mitochondrial biogenesis probably because of redundancies within thesepathways.

500 Antioxidants and skeletal muscle hypertrophy. There is substantial evidence linking oxidative 501 stress with muscle atrophy [for review see (170)]. Emerging evidence also implicates 502 oxidative stress in the regulation of skeletal muscle hypertrophy. A high daily oral dose of 503 vitamin C attenuates skeletal muscle hypertrophy and oxidative stress normally observed 504 following mechanical overload of the plantaris (119). Recent findings in rodents 505 demonstrate that the highly reactive oxidant, peroxynitrite regulates skeletal muscle 506 hypertrophy induced by overload (81). Peroxynitrite appears to operate by stimulating the release of intracellular Ca²⁺, which then activates mTOR to increase protein synthesis (119). 507

508 The few human studies to investigate the adaptations to resistance training combined 509 with antioxidant supplementation have reported variable findings. Two studies showed no 510 effect of vitamin C and E supplementation on improvements in skeletal muscle strength or 511 performance (14, 220). However, these studies used resistance training protocols that did 512 not induce skeletal muscle hypertrophy (14) or did not measure changes in lean muscle 513 mass (220). Paulsen et al (159) recently found that supplementation with vitamins C and E 514 attenuated the activities of several kinases involved in hypertrophy signaling, such as p70S6 515 kinase and the redox-sensitive kinases p38 MAPK and ERK 1/2 in skeletal muscle after 10 516 weeks of resistance training. In addition, supplementation attenuated bicep curl strength 517 following 10 weeks of training. By contrast, supplementation did not alter protein synthesis 518 or muscle hypertrophy following training (159). Thus, some evidence supports blunting of 519 the cell signaling pathways with antioxidant supplementation following resistance exercise, 520 although the effects on functional outcomes remain equivocal. More studies are required to

521 examine whether RONS regulate hypertrophy following resistance training in human 522 skeletal muscle and whether antioxidant supplementation influences these adaptations to 523 resistance exercise.

524 In summary, oxidative stress plays an important role in regulating the mitochondrial 525 content and perhaps contractile protein content of skeletal muscle. Some evidence shows 526 that supplementation with vitamins C and E can block acute increases in signaling pathways 527 that control mitochondrial biogenesis and hypertrophy. However, these acute responses do 528 not consistently translate to less mitochondrial biogenesis or muscle hypertrophy following 529 chronic exercise training because of the apparent redundancy in skeletal muscle. That is, 530 exercise training (either endurance or resistance) may induce mitochondrial biogenesis and 531 hypertrophy despite elevated concentrations of RONS-scavenging antioxidants. The weight 532 of current evidence suggests that vitamin C and E supplementation may dampen exercise-533 induced hormesis—at least at the cellular level. However, it remains uncertain whether 534 these responses influence exercise performance in the long term. Importantly, antioxidant 535 compounds have widely divergent properties, and this discussion of a specific class of 536 agents does not rule out the effects of other components on RONS activity/regulation, nor a 537 role for RONS in exercise-induced adaptation. The requirement for and efficacy of 538 antioxidant supplements may vary with age and health status. There are conflicting and 539 unresolved issues surrounding the influence of antioxidant supplementation on adaptations 540 to training that require further investigation.

541

542 NSAIDs

543 Similar to antioxidants, NSAIDs represent another pharmacological intervention that 544 may attenuate exercise-induced hormesis. NSAIDs are inhibitors of the cyclooxygenase (COX) pathway that converts free arachidonic acid to PGD_2 , PGE_2 , $PGF_{2\alpha}$, PGI_2 , and 545 546 thromboxane A₂ (42, 232). PGs are autocrine/paracrine lipid mediators that propagate the inflammatory response to tissue injury by increasing blood flow, vascular permeability, and 547 548 leukocyte chemotaxis (35). COX has two major isoforms. COX-1 is constitutively expressed, 549 and COX-2 expression is generally low but is highly inducible in response to injurious stimuli 550 (57, 139). Classical NSAIDs inhibit both COX-1 and COX-2 to varying degrees (36, 202). 551 Undesirable side effects associated with disruption of homeostatic COX-1 activity have led 552 to the development COX-2-specific inhibitors (coxibs) for treating pain and inflammation. 553 During postexercise recovery, the activities of COX-1 and COX-2 (24) and concentrations of 554 PGs (20, 93, 225, 227) increase transiently in skeletal muscle. Plasma PG concentrations also 555 increase after exercise (39, 123, 218). These responses point to important roles for the 556 COX/PG pathway in exercise adaptation. On the other hand, chronically elevated PG 557 concentrations are associated with—and may contribute directly to—muscle wasting in 558 states of chronic inflammation (97).

Effect of NSAIDs on acute muscle responses to exercise. Classical NSAIDs (e.g., ibuprofen and indomethacin) administered at over-the-counter doses effectively block the acute exerciseinduced increase in PG concentration in muscle (20, 135, 227) and plasma (123). Although not considered a classical NSAID, acetaminophen also appears to inhibit COX activity in muscle (227). Many studies have investigated the effect of NSAIDs on symptoms of exerciseinduced muscle damage, although the literature on the efficacy of NSAIDs for reducing muscle soreness and/or improving exercise recovery is contradictory. Given that NSAIDs are anti-inflammatory, it is surprising that studies to date have failed to observe any effect of NSAIDs on systemic (95, 167, 222) or intramuscular (158) leukocyte responses to exercise stress. Paradoxically, short-term NSAID treatment appears to increase plasma cytokine concentrations (e.g., IL-6 and monocyte chemotactic protein-1) (41, 59, 138, 146) and muscle COX-2 gene expression (19, 138) after exercise.

571 Together with a lack of a clear benefit of NSAIDs in reducing exercise-induced pain 572 and/or the acute inflammatory response in humans, various studies have shown potential 573 negative effects of NSAIDs in muscle after exercise. Oral ingestion of the nonselective 574 NSAIDs ibuprofen or acetaminophen blunts the increase in muscle protein synthesis during 575 postexercise recovery in young men (229). However, this effect was not replicated in a study 576 of patients with knee osteoarthritis who received ibuprofen (165). Another nonselective 577 NSAID (indomethacin) blocked the muscle satellite cell response to a 36 km run (117) and 578 maximal eccentric exercise (137) but did not alter muscle protein synthesis (138). Studies 579 have shown that COX-2-selective inhibitors do not influence muscle protein synthesis (19) or 580 satellite cell responses to exercise (158), suggesting that COX-1 rather than COX-2 may be 581 the primary isoform involved in human muscle responses to exercise.

The underlying mechanisms by which NSAIDs influence muscle adaptive responses to exercise remain unclear, but several recent studies have provided useful insights. Impaired satellite cell proliferation following maximal eccentric exercise with local indomethacin infusion (135) did not alter the expression of growth factors and extracellular matrix-related genes (138) or HSP (136) in muscle. Oral ibuprofen treatment blocked the normal increase in serum PG concentration during early postexercise recovery (0–3 h) (123), and suppressed phosphorylation of components of the ERK and mTOR signaling pathways in muscle (122). These data provide the first evidence that PGs contribute to contraction-induced signaling in human muscle and provide mechanistic support for a potentially detrimental effect of oral nonselective NSAIDs (122, 125). Interestingly, mass spectrometry profiling of serum samples collected throughout exercise recovery revealed suppression of both early proinflammatory and later anti-inflammatory/proresolving lipid mediator circuits in subjects receiving ibuprofen (123). Thus, NSAIDs may interfere with exercise recovery indirectly by delaying or preventing timely resolution of the inflammatory response (123, 233).

596 Chronic effects of NSAIDs on muscle exercise adaptation. Although nonselective NSAIDs may 597 attenuate acute responses to exercise in humans (122, 123, 137, 138, 227, 229), it remains 598 unclear whether these responses influence long-term adaptations to exercise. Oral 599 ibuprofen treatment (400 mg/day) did not influence muscle hypertrophy or strength 600 following 6 weeks of resistance training of the elbow flexors in young healthy men (99). 601 However, this dose of ibuprofen was only one-third that used in acute exercise studies (122, 602 123, 227, 229). By contrast, animal studies clearly show a deleterious effect of NSAID 603 treatment on long-term muscle regeneration and hypertrophy, and specifically implicate the 604 COX-2 isoform in this response (100, 124, 152, 198).

In older adult subjects, gains in skeletal muscle size and strength following 12 weeks of resistance training were greater in response to treatment with ibuprofen (1,200 mg/day) or acetaminophen (4 g/day) compared with a placebo treatment (224). Another study also revealed that ibuprofen augmented training-induced gains in muscle strength in elderly subjects but did not influence muscle mass and tended to reduce satellite cell numbers in muscle (164). By contrast, a lower dose of acetaminophen (1,000 mg/day) did not alter fatfree-mass or muscle strength in older men after a period of resistance exercise training (85). One mechanism through which NSAIDs may exert positive effects on muscle involves a reduction in chronic low-grade inflammation that occurs with aging, thereby blocking the pathway to muscle atrophy. NSAID treatment counteracts skeletal muscle wasting in animal models of chronic inflammatory disease including cancer cachexia (129, 202, 207), arthritis (56), and aging (176). Consistent with this hypothesis, older adults who received ibuprofen throughout 12 weeks of resistance training showed a chronic reduction in the expression of cytokine genes (e.g., IL-6, IL-10) and muscle ring finger 1 (MuRF-1) (226).

619 In summary, the COX/PG pathway appears to play an important role in acute exercise 620 recovery, and NSAIDs inhibit the seemingly beneficial acute muscle adaptive responses to 621 exercise (e.g., satellite cell proliferation and muscle protein synthesis). On the other hand, 622 chronic activation of the COX/PG pathway may exert negative effects on muscle mass, and 623 NSAID treatment may provide an effect countermeasure against such effects. In this review, 624 we have highlighted an apparent discrepancy between the opposing effects of NSAIDs in 625 different settings (e.g., acute versus chronic, young versus old subjects). The balance between PG species with differing bioactivity (e.g. PGF_{2a} versus PGE₂) (228) or differences in 626 627 the underlying nature of the inflammatory response (acute self-resolving versus chronic 628 nonresolving) (97, 122) may be important factors that influence the pharmacological actions 629 of NSAIDs.

630

631 Cryotherapy

632 Cryotherapy in the form of ice massage and application of crushed ice has long been a633 common treatment for soft tissue injuries (132). More recently, other forms of cryotherapy

such as cold water/ice baths and brief exposure to extreme cold air (-20 to -110°C) in 634 635 custom-made cryotherapy chambers have gained popularity as strategies to recover from 636 exercise. Traditionally, the physiological basis for using cryotherapy has been to relieve pain, 637 reduce tissue metabolism, and modify vascular responses to minimize edema (213). Acute 638 responses to primary muscle injury (e.g., necrosis and inflammation) can result in 639 'secondary injury' to healthy cells not damaged through the initial trauma (134). By reducing 640 the metabolic rate of tissues within and around the injury site, cryotherapy may protect the 641 healthy bystander cells from the ischemic environment in the immediate period after injury, 642 thereby reducing the risk of secondary cell injury or death (12). Some evidence from animal studies support this notion (133, 134, 156, 186). However, the effects of cryotherapy on 643 644 muscle inflammation in humans are currently unknown.

645 Effects of cryotherapy on inflammation and oxidative stress. Studies have focused on how 646 icing influences inflammation and oxidative stress in muscle following injury (Table 3). 647 Superfusing rats with cold saline (3–8°C) for 10 min to 6 h after muscle contusion injury 648 significantly reduced leukocyte rolling and adhesion to venules within damaged muscle for 649 up to 1 day after injury (102, 188, 189). These effects may be mediated by downregulation 650 of adhesion molecules on the surface of vessels and leukocytes in response to hypothermia 651 (63, 78). Immunohistochemical analysis of muscle tissue revealed that this cryotherapy 652 treatment decreased the number of neutrophils in muscle 1 day after injury (188, 189). In 653 support of these findings, others have observed that icing after muscle strain injury in rats 654 substantially reduced neutrophil activation in muscle, as indicated by lower 655 myeloperoxidase activity 1 day after injury (25). Icing also restricted the production of RONS 656 and lipid peroxidation at 1, 5, 10 and 15 days after injury in rats (25). Icing preserves the activity of Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase and Ca²⁺-ATPase enzymes and mitochondrial membrane permeability, and it reduces mitochondrial swelling in muscle 1 day after contusion injury in rats (174). Because none of these studies assessed muscle regeneration in the weeks following injury, it is difficult to establish whether restricting neutrophil invasion and activation through cryotherapy results in better healing of muscle injuries. In principle, a decrease in neutrophil infiltration into muscle as a result of icing is potentially beneficial because activated neutrophils can damage skeletal muscle fibers (143, 168).

664 Effects of cryotherapy on muscle regeneration. Other studies in rats have shown that icing causes greater fibrosis and impairs muscle regeneration after muscle contusion and crush 665 666 injuries. These effects are evident as early as 2 days after injury (76) and persist for up to 4 667 weeks (214). The potential mechanisms responsible for these effects include delayed 668 macrophage infiltration and mRNA expression of transforming growth factor- β 1 and IGF-1 in 669 muscle, together with a delay in (or absence of) satellite cell activation (76, 214). Impaired 670 muscle regeneration in response to icing may be attributed to the following sequence of 671 events. By restricting neutrophil infiltration, icing may slow the rate of phagocytosis of 672 necrotic muscle tissue in the first few hours after injury (219). Persistent necrosis may then 673 delay the entry of macrophages into muscle tissue in the first few days after injury (58). 674 Finally, by delaying macrophage infiltration, icing may reduce the capacity of these cells to 675 (a) produce essential growth factors and chemotactic agents (64, 115, 116, 212), and (b) 676 stimulate satellite cells to proliferate and differentiate (6, 221). The limited evidence that is 677 currently available therefore suggests that cryotherapy is detrimental for muscle 678 regeneration following injury.

679 *Effects of cryotherapy on training adaptations.* In addition to this research on acute muscle 680 injury, a smaller body of research has investigated the effects of regular cryotherapy on 681 muscle adaptations to exercise training. An early study demonstrated that, in rats regularly 682 immersed in cold water (4°C) for 5 min after exercise bouts, greater ultrastructural damage 683 to myofibrils was evident after 5 weeks of exhaustive running and 7 weeks of moderate 684 running (46). Fu et al proposed that, by masking pain, cold water immersion allowed the 685 rats to exercise at higher intensities the next day, which unexpectedly resulted in greater 686 muscle damage (46). Subsequently, several human studies have also reported that regular 687 cold water immersion after exercise attenuates muscle adaptations to training (44, 153, 179, 246). The mechanisms by which regular cold water immersion dampened training 688 689 adaptations in these studies are unknown. Hypothetically, a decrease in muscle blood flow 690 in response to cold water immersion might reduce angiogenesis and protein synthesis in 691 muscle during recovery from exercise. In turn, these responses may result in smaller gains in 692 muscular endurance and strength.

693 This review is the first critical evaluation of the short- and long-term effects of various 694 forms of cryotherapy on cellular responses in skeletal muscle. We have also outlined in 695 detail the putative mechanisms by which cryotherapy influences muscle repair and growth. 696 When applied acutely after exercise or muscle injury, cryotherapy may help to reduce 697 muscle soreness and minimize secondary tissue damage. However, by attenuating some key 698 inflammatory reactions (e.g., macrophage infiltration) in skeletal muscle, cryotherapy may 699 also block the production and release of important growth factors and the activity of 700 satellite cells, which are important mediators of muscle repair and adaptation. Therefore,

although cryotherapy offers some short-term benefits, these are possibly outweighed bylong-term detrimental effects.

703

704 PERSPECTIVES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

705 This is the first commentary to combine, summarize, and evaluate the efficacy of 706 various strategies to modulate exercise-induced hormesis. Some of these strategies (e.g., 707 antioxidant supplementation, treatment with NSAIDs, restriction of dietary carbohydrate 708 intake) have been the subject of scientific scrutiny and debate. By contrast, other strategies 709 such as cryotherapy, blood flow restriction, heat stress, and mechanical preloading have 710 received less critical attention. In this review, we have detailed the conceptual frameworks 711 for the use of such strategies, have integrated these details with the current knowledge 712 about the basic biochemical and molecular machinery that regulate muscle adaptations to 713 exercise, and have applied this information to assess the advantages and disadvantages of 714 each strategy for modulating exercise-induced hormesis.

715 Table 4 summarizes the mechanisms of action of treatments that modulate exercise-716 induced hormesis and describes some of the short- and long-term outcomes of these 717 treatments. A key finding from this review is that there appears to be some dissociation 718 between the biochemical/molecular effects and functional/performance outcomes of some 719 of these treatments (e.g., antioxidants, NSAIDs, restriction of dietary carbohydrate). 720 Conceivably, other signaling pathways that are less responsive to these treatments (or not 721 yet defined) may operate independently in the regulation of training adaptations. This 722 redundancy may promote fine-tuning of adaptive responses to exercise training (40). Few of the interventions described in this review have been adequately tested to determine if or how they exert dose-dependent effects on muscle adaptation. If such dose-dependent effects do occur, they are likely to be subject to highly complex regulatory mechanisms.

726 A common feature of hormesis is that exposure to one type of hormetic agent can 727 protect cells/organisms against more types of stress (127). This concept of 'cross tolerance' 728 may be applied to some of the interventions that we have discussed. Several of the 729 interventions influence common kinases, transcription factors, and proteins (see Table 4). 730 For example, AMPK, p38 MAPK, PGC-1 α , and HSP expression increases in response to heat 731 stress, carbohydrate restriction, and blood flow restriction, whereas the expression of most 732 of these factors decreases following antioxidant supplementation. Similarly, macrophage 733 infiltration, IGF-1, and Pax7 expression increases in response to heat stress, whereas these 734 factors are either blocked or activated more slowly after cryotherapy. It remains to be 735 determined whether these interventions complement or negate each other and whether 736 such effects are strong enough to alter terminal adaptive processes such as mitochondrial 737 biogenesis, substrate metabolism, or muscle repair/growth.

738 Several important questions have emerged from this review that warrant further 739 investigation. A primary issue relates to the threshold (i.e., dose, period of exposure) that 740 defines whether oxidative stress and inflammation are beneficial for or harmful to muscle 741 adaptations to exercise. This threshold would be difficult to titrate because it most likely 742 depends on the basal state of oxidative stress and inflammation at the start of exercise. In 743 turn, this basal state may depend on periodization of training and recovery, together with 744 age, health status, and diet. In addition, it is unclear whether undertaking different strategies simultaneously enhances or attenuates exercise-induced hormesis and which 745

746 combination of strategies might offer complementary or additive benefits. As highlighted in 747 our review, some interventions such as NSAIDs and antioxidants exert different effects in 748 young compared with older individuals and in trained compared with untrained individuals. 749 Finally, the efficacy of a given intervention may depend on the capacity to 'periodize' such 750 interventions during different phases of a training program. For example, during training to 751 promote muscle hypertrophy and strength, interventions such as cryotherapy and the use 752 of NSAIDs may dampen rather than enhance adaptation. However, during periods of regular 753 competition when recovery is a priority, these strategies may be appropriate to alleviate 754 muscle soreness and restrict secondary tissue injury.

In conclusion, exercise-induced adaptations in skeletal muscle are regulated through interactions between various mechanical, metabolic, and physiological stressors and complex cellular machinery. Undoubtedly, a large body of work is still required to provide greater clarity on the appropriate uses and applications of strategies to modify skeletal muscle phenotypes. Exercise-induced hormesis is an intriguing notion that awaits further exploration. To adapt a phrase from a well-known bard, to intervene or not intervene: that remains the question.

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Tables

Reference	Design	Δ %	Low glycogen	Findings
(242)	Acute	-82%	163 mmol·kg [−] ¹·dw	个AMPK activity
(9)	Acute	-75%	103 mmol·kg ⁻	个p53 phosphorylation
			¹ ·dw	个Mitochondrial mRNA
(172)	Acute	-65%	166 mmol∙kg [−] ¹∙dw	个Mitochondrial mRNA
(13)	Acute	-47%	167 mmol·kg ⁻ ¹·dw	↑Protein degradation
(72)	Acute −30% 290 mmol·kg ⁻ ¹ ·dw		个Leucine oxidation	
			ightarrowNet protein balance	
(23)	Acute	-52%	180 mmol·kg [−] ¹·dw	↔ Muscle protein synthesis
(255)	Acute	-69%	167 mmol·kg ⁻ ¹·dw	\downarrow SR Ca ²⁺ release rate
(50)	Acute	-68%	245 mmol∙kg [−] ¹∙dw	\downarrow SR Ca ²⁺ release rate
(65)	Chronic	-68%	210 mmol·kg ⁻¹	个Mitochondrial enzyme activity
(250)	Chronic	-50%	250 µmol∙g ⁻¹ ∙dw	个Mitochondrial enzymes
				个Fat oxidation

Table 1. Effects of glycogen concentration on physiological responses to exercisein human skeletal muscle.

dw, dry weight; SR, sarcoplasmic reticulum.

Reference	Study type	lies investigating the eff Treatment	Assessment period	Outcome variables	
(48)	Rats; Hot water @ 42.5°C ischemia Duration: 20 min Timing: 12 h preinjury		1.5 h postinjury	Electron microscopy, PCr, ATP, HSP72	
(199)	Rats; downhill running	Heat chamber at 42°C Duration: 60 min Timing: 48 h preinjury	1, 2, 3, and 7 d postinjury	ROS production and scavenging, HSP72, histology	
(223)	Rats; downhill running	Hot water @ 43°C; Duration: 20 min Timing: 48 h preinjury	2 h and 2 d postinjury	Histology, Akt, p70S6K, ERK1/2, JNK, HSP72, HSP25, MHC	
(96)	Rats; cardiotoxin injury	Heat chamber at 41°C Duration: 60 min Timing: 24 h preinjury or 0 h postinjury	1, 3, 7, 14, and 28 d postinjury	Muscle mass, central nucleated fibers, fiber CSA, HSP72, Pax7	
(25)	Rats; acute strain injury	Infrared lamp Duration: 5 min Timing: 30 min and 2×/day postinjury	1, 5, 10, and 15 d postinjury	Lipid peroxidation, antioxidant enzymes myeloperoxidase	
(154)	Rats; cardiotoxin injury	Hot water @ 42°C Duration: 30 min Timing: 48 h postinjury and then every second day	7 and 15 d postinjury	Fiber CSA, myonuclei Pax7, M-Cadherin, MyoD, HSP72, calcineurin	
(71)	Rats; tenotomy	Heat chamber @ 40.5–41°C Duration: 30 min Timing: 24 h preinjury; 1–6 d postinjury	7 d postinjury	Muscle mass, histology, fiber CSA, HSP72, collagen, TGF β1, MMP-2, MMP-9, TIMP	
(216)	Rats; acute crush injury	Hot pack @ 42°C Duration: 20 min Timing: 5 min postinjury	6 and 12 h; 1–7, 14, and 28 d postinjury	Central nucleated fibers Fiber CSA, macrophages TGF-β1, IGF-1, Pax7, collagen	
(68)	Rats; acute crush injury	Hot pack @ 42°C; Duration: 20 min Timing: 5 min postinjury	12 h; 1–5, 7, 14, and 28 d postinjury	MyoD, myogenin, PCNA Pax7	

(217)	Mice;	Heat chamber @	30 min	АМРК, АСС, р38
	acute	41°C	postexercise	MAPK, CaMKII, Akt,
	treadmill	Duration: 30 min		mTOR
	running	Timing: Immediately		p70S6K
		postexercise		

Abbreviations: PCr, phosphocreatine; MHC, myosin heavy chain; PCNA, proliferating cells nuclear antigen; ROS, reactive oxygen species; CaMK, calmodulin-dependent protein kinase; CSA, cross-sectional area; Akt, protein kinase B; MMP, matrix metalloproteinase; TIMP, tissue inhibitor of matrix metalloproteinase. See Figure 1 for details of other abbreviations.

Reference	Study Treatment		Assessment	Outcome variables		
	type		period			
(214)	Rat;	Topical icing	6 and 12 h;	Central nucleated fibers		
	acute	Duration: 20 min	1–7, 14,	Fiber CSA, macrophage ,		
	crush	duration	and 28 d	TGF-β1, IGF-1, Pax7,		
	injury	Timing: 5 min	postinjury	collagen		
		postinjury				
(25)	Rat;	Topical icing	1, 5, 10,	Lipid peroxidation		
	acute	Duration: 5 min	and 15 d	Antioxidant enzymes		
	crush	Timing: 30 min and	postinjury	Myeloperoxidase		
	injury	2×/d postinjury				
(174)	Rat;	Topical icing	1 d	Lipid peroxidation		
	acute	Duration: 5 min	postinjury	Antioxidant enzymes		
	contusion	Timing: Immediately		Myeloperoxidase		
	injury	and 6 h postinjury		Na ⁺ -K ⁺ ATPase, Ca ²⁺ ATPase		
				Lactate dehydrogenase		
(76)	Rat;	Topical icing	1, 2, and 6	Neutrophil infiltration		
	acute	Duration: 5 min;	h; 1, 2, 5,	Macrophage infiltration		
	contusion	intermittently for 1 h	and 7 d	Desmin ⁺ myoblasts		
	injury	Timing: Immediately	postinjury			
		postinjury or 24 h				
		postinjury				
(102)	Rat;	Cold saline (3°C)	15 min	Leukocyte rolling and		
	acute	infusion	postinjury	adhesion		
	contusion	Duration: 10 min				
	injury	Timing: 5 min				
		postinjury				
(189)	Rat;	Cold saline (8°C)	1 h	Edema, microvascular		
	acute	infusion	postinjury	perfusion, leukocyte		
	contusion	Duration: 20 min		rolling/adhesion		
	injury	Timing: ~20 min		Neutrophils and		
		postinjury		macrophages		
(188)	Rat;	Cold saline (8°C)	1 d	Edema, microvascular		
	acute	infusion	postinjury	perfusion, leukocyte		
	contusion	Duration: 6 h		rolling/adhesion		
	injury	Timing: ~20 min		Neutrophils and		
		postinjury		macrophages		
				Desmin expression		

CSA, cross-sectional area; TGF, transforming growth factor

	Treatments that dampen hormesis			Treatments that enhance hormesis					
	Cryotherapy	NSAIDs	Antioxidant supplement		Carbohyo restrictio		Heat stress		Blood flow restriction
Physiological rationale	Analgesia ↓ Muscle blood flow ↓ Inflammation ↑ Hydrostatic pressure	Analgesia ↓ Inflammation	↓ Oxidative stress		↑ Metabolic stress		↓ Muscle breakdown		 ↑ Metabolic stress ↑ Oxidative stress ↑ Blood pooling
Cells and signalling molecules upregulated	TGF-β	IL-6 MCP-1 Cyclooxygenase 2			AMPK ACC p53 PGC-1α CS	SDH HAD COXIV PDK4	Macrophages HSPs MyoD Myogenin mTOR	CS PGC-1α p38 MAPK p70S6K	Pax7 AMPK MAPK HSPs
Cells and signalling molecules downregulated	Neutrophils Macrophages IGF-1 Pax7	Prostaglandins ERK/RSK/MNK p70S6K/rpS6 Leukotrienes Resolving mediators	p38 MAPK ERK AMPK IL-6 NFκB	PGC-1α Tfam COX SOD			Macrophages NFĸB AMPK ACC		
Acute effects	↓ Soreness	Soreness? ↔ Inflammation ↓ Protein synthesis ↓ Satellite cells			↓ SR Ca ²⁺ rate ↑ Proteir breakdov	ı	 ↓ Loss of stren ↓ Soreness* ↓ Swelling ↑ Range of mo 	-	↑ Loss of strength ↑ Soreness ↑ Swelling
Chronic effects	↓ Fibre CSA ↑ Fibrosis ↓ Strength	Young healthy ↔ muscle mass?	↓ Antioxidant enzymes		enzymes 1		 ↑ Mitochondrial enzymes ↑ Respiratory chain protein content 		↑ Hypertrophy

Table 4. Summary of physiological and molecular responses, acute and chronic adaptations to treatments that enhance or dampen exercise-induced hormesis in skeletal muscle.

\leftrightarrow strength?	↔ Performance
Elderly	
↑ muscle mass	
↑ strength	

Abbreviations: TGF, transforming growth factor; MCP, monocyte chemotactic protein; AMPK, adenosine monophosphate activated protein kinase; ACC, acetyl-CoA-carboxylase; PGC, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor coactivator; CS, citrate synthase; SDH, succinate dehydrogenase; HAD, hydroxyacyl-CoA-dehydrogenase; COX, cytochrome oxidase; PDK, pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase; HSP, heat shock protein; Pax, paired box protein; mTOR; mammalian target of rapamycin; Mnk, MAPK-interacting kinase; RSK, p90 ribosomal S6 kinase; rpS6, ribosomal S6 kinase; Tfam, mitochondrial transcription factor A; SOD, superoxide dismutase; CSA, cross-sectional area. ↔ no change. * conflicting evidence for an increase/decrease or no change.