

Author Year; Country Score Research Design Total Sample Size	Methods	Outcome
Wadsworth et al. 2012; Australia PEDro=4 RCT N=14	<p><b>Population:</b> 14 adults with recent complete SCI (C3-T1; mean (SD) age: 32(16), range 18-73.</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Abdominal binder (AB) on/off while seated in an upright wheelchair, with three repeated measures at 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months after commencing daily use of an upright wheelchair.</p> <p><b>Outcome measures:</b> Forced vital capacity, forced expiratory volume, peak expiratory flow, max inspiratory and expiratory pressures, mean arterial pressure (MAP), max sustained vowel time, sound pressure level.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No statistically significant improvement in mean arterial pressure (MAP) with use of the abdominal binder.</li> <li>Variable responses: MAP greater with the AB at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> time points; MAP was less with the AB at the 2<sup>nd</sup> time point.</li> <li>Measures of supine and seated blood pressure were taken (allowing diagnosis of OH) but this was not a key outcome. 7 occasions of OH found across subjects as indicated by systolic blood pressure changes; 4 had OH regardless of AB application and 3 had OH without the AB only.</li> </ol>
Hopman et al. 1998a; The Netherlands PEDro=5 RCT N=9	<p><b>Population:</b> 9 males, 5 with tetraplegia, 4 with paraplegia; 8 complete, 1 incomplete.</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> 5 discontinuous submaximal arm ergometer exercise tests on different days at 20, 40 and 60% of maximum power output while: 1) sitting, 2) supine, 3) sitting plus an anti-G suit, 4) sitting plus stockings and abdominal binder, and 5) sitting plus FES of the leg muscles.</p> <p><b>Outcome measures:</b> Oxygen uptake (VO<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide output, respiratory parameters, HR, BP, stroke volume, cardiac output.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both FES and anti-G suit increased BP in subjects with tetraplegia whereas binders and stockings reduced HR in those with tetraplegia</li> <li>The interventions did not improve BP responses in subjects with paraplegia however FES and anti-G suit lowered HR.</li> </ol>
Hopman et al. 1998b; USA PEDro=4 RCT N=9	<p><b>Population:</b> same subjects as above study.</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> 5 conditions as above except at maximal power output.</p> <p><b>Outcome Measures:</b> VO<sub>2</sub>, carbon dioxide output, respiratory parameters, HR, BP, stroke volume, cardiac output.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The supine posture increased peak VO<sub>2</sub> in subjects with tetraplegia, but reduced HR in subjects with paraplegia compared to sitting.</li> <li>The relatively low pressure generated by stockings and bindings did not improve the venous system or cardiovascular responses during exercise. The positive circulatory benefits from FES and the anti-G suite observed in submaximal exercise (Hopman et al. 1998a) was not found for maximal exercise.</li> </ol>
Helmi et al. 2013; The Netherlands Case report N=1	<p><b>Population:</b> 61-year-old male with C3/C4 traumatic SCI with symptoms of presyncope as a result of severe OH after 60° head-up tilt.</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> inflatable external leg compression (ELC); minimal ELC pressure to prevent OH (15 mmHg) found via tolerability test then applied in different positions (supine, 45°, and 60° head-up tilt).</p> <p><b>Outcome measures:</b> external leg compression (ELC) pressure, mean arterial pressure (MAP), cardiac index, stroke volume index, heart rate, perfusion index (PI), peripheral tissue oxygen saturation (StO).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 28% decrease in MAP when pressure decreased to 7 mmHg, below this level, dizziness rapidly occurred.</li> <li>With the application of ELC 15 mmHg pressure during 45° and 60° head-up tilt: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stroke volume index and heart rate were maintained with no presyncopal symptoms.</li> <li>global and peripheral perfusion parameters improved.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

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Rimaud et al. 2012; France Pre-post N=9	<p><b>Population:</b> 9 SCI men (8 were highly-trained athletes who competed regularly at the national or international level); Level of lesion: &gt;T6 (n=4), &lt;T6 (n=5); age in yrs: 34±12 years; range 24-53; duration of injury: 10±10 years; range 2-34.</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Two maximal wheelchair exercise tests with and without graduated compression stockings (GCS).</p> <p><b>Outcome measures:</b> Heart rate variability (HRV): high frequency (HF), low frequency (LF), and LF/HF ratio; Norepinephrine (NOR) and epinephrine (EPI); BP, heart rate, max power output, oxygen uptake, stroke volume, cardiac output.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase in sympathetic activity and decrease in parasympathetic activity after maximal exercise in subjects when wearing GCS as shown by the increase in LF and decrease in HF components; results further supported by an enhanced sympathetic activity at rest in SCI, as demonstrated by a significant increase in noradrenergic response when wearing GCS.</li> <li>2. When wearing GCS: LF increased significantly and HF<sub>post</sub> decreased significantly leading to an enhanced LF/HF ratio and a significant increase in resting NOR.</li> </ol>
Rimaud et al. 2008; France Pre-post N=9	<p><b>Population:</b> 9 men with chronic traumatic SCI, were divided into 2 groups: high paraplegia with lesion levels between T4 and T6 (n = 4), and low paraplegia with lesion levels between T10 and L1 (n = 5)</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> 2 plethysmography tests: with and without graduated compression knee-length stockings (GCS) at rest.</p> <p><b>Outcome Measures:</b> venous capacitance (VC); venous outflow (VO); heart rate; blood pressure.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No significant difference in HR or BP for either group or either treatment.</li> <li>2. In both groups, VC values were lower with GCS than without.</li> <li>3. VC and VO did not differ significantly with or without GCS.</li> </ol>
Krassioukov & Harkema 2006; Canada Prospective controlled trial N=20	<p><b>Population:</b> 6 subjects with complete tetraplegia; 5 with complete paraplegia; AIS A; 9 able-bodied controls.</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> With and without harness for locomotor training during supine, sitting and standing (within subject analysis).</p> <p><b>Outcomes measures:</b> BP and HR.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Orthostatic stress significantly decreased arterial BP only in individuals with cervical SCI.</li> <li>2. Harness application had no effect on cardiovascular parameters in able-bodied individuals, whereas diastolic BP was significantly increased in those with SCI.</li> <li>3. Orthostatic changes in cervical SCI when sitting were ameliorated by harness application. However, while standing with harness, individuals with cervical SCI still developed OH.</li> </ol>
Kerk et al. 1995; USA Prospective controlled trial N=6	<p><b>Population:</b> Chronic complete paraplegia.</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Crossover design: with and without an abdominal binder.</p> <p><b>Outcome Measures:</b> BP, HR, VO<sub>2</sub>max, respiratory parameters, and wheelchair propulsion.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5/6 subjects demonstrated a mean increase of 31% in forced vital capacity with binder compared to without, which was not significant but this may be because the sixth subject showed an 18% decrease in forced vital capacity when wearing the binder.</li> <li>2. BP, HR, VO<sub>2</sub>max increased significantly with increased exercise intensity and during maximal exercise, but these variables were not significantly affected by the use of the binder.</li> </ol>