Does Increased Exercise or Physical Activity Alter Ad-Libitum Daily Energy Intake or Macronutrient Composition in Healthy Adults? A Systematic Review

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Abstract

**Background:** The magnitude of the negative energy balance induced by exercise may be reduced due to compensatory increases in energy intake.

**Objective:** To address the question: Does increased exercise or physical activity alter ad-libitum daily energy intake or macronutrient composition in healthy adults?

**Data Sources:** PubMed and Embase were searched (January 1990–January 2013) for studies that presented data on energy and/or macronutrient intake by level of exercise, physical activity or change in response to exercise. Ninety-nine articles (103 studies) were included.

**Study Eligibility Criteria:** Primary source articles published in English in peer-reviewed journals. Articles that presented data on energy and/or macronutrient intake by level of exercise or physical activity or changes in energy or macronutrient intake in response to acute exercise or exercise training in healthy (non-athlete) adults (mean age 18–64 years).

**Study Appraisal and Synthesis Methods:** Articles were grouped by study design: cross-sectional, acute/short term, non-randomized, and randomized trials. Considerable heterogeneity existed within study groups for several important study parameters, therefore a meta-analysis was considered inappropriate. Results were synthesized and presented by study design.

**Results:** No effect of physical activity, exercise or exercise training on energy intake was shown in 59% of cross-sectional studies (n = 17), 69% of acute (n = 40), 50% of short-term (n = 10), 92% of non-randomized (n = 12) and 75% of randomized trials (n = 24). Ninety-four percent of acute, 57% of short-term, 100% of non-randomized and 74% of randomized trials found no effect of exercise on macronutrient intake. Forty-six percent of cross-sectional trials found lower fat intake with increased physical activity.

**Limitations:** The literature is limited by the lack of adequately powered trials of sufficient duration, which have prescribed and measured exercise energy expenditure, or employed adequate assessment methods for energy and macronutrient intake.

**Conclusions:** We found no consistent evidence that increased physical activity or exercise effects energy or macronutrient intake.

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Introduction

Data from the 2009–2010 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) suggest that 68.8% of those age ≥20 years are overweight (Body Mass Index [BMI] ≥25 kg/m²) while 33.7% are obese (BMI ≥30 kg/m²) [1] with approximately 51% of US adults predicted to be obese by 2030 Finkelstein [2]. Medical expenditures associated with the treatment of obesity and obesity related conditions are estimated at greater than $147 billion annually [2]. Data from the NHANES (2003–2008) indicated that among adults (18–54 years) approximately 75% of women and 54% of men expressed a desire to lose weight while...
61% of women and 39% of men were actively pursuing weight control [3].

Exercise is recommended for weight management by several governmental agencies and professional organizations including the Association for the Study of Obesity [4], the Institute of Medicine [5], the U.S. Federal guidelines on physical activity [6], Healthy People 2020 [7] and the American College of Sports Medicine [8]. Compared with weight loss induced by energy restriction, weight loss achieved by exercise is composed predominantly of fat mass, while fat-free mass is preserved [9–11] and resting metabolic rate (RMR) is generally unchanged [12,13], or slightly increased [14,15], factors that may be associated with improved long term weight loss maintenance. However, several reports have demonstrated that the accumulated energy balance induced by an exercise intervention alone produces less of a negative energy balance than theoretically predicted for the imposed level of exercise-induced energy expenditure [16–18]. The energy balance induced by exercise training may be reduced due to compensatory changes in energy intake, non-exercise physical activity, or both [19–21]; thereby reducing the magnitude of observed weight loss. Although several narrative reviews regarding the impact of exercise on energy intake and appetite hormones have been conducted [22–29], we are aware of only one systematic review/meta-analysis on this topic. Schubert et al. [30] recently published a meta-analysis on the effect of acute exercise on subsequent energy intake that included only studies that assessed energy intake for ≤24 hours post-exercise in healthy (lean and/or obese), non-smoking individuals. To date, no systematic reviews on the effect of exercise and energy and macronutrient intake have been conducted that evaluated both the effects of acute exercise and exercise training and have included data from studies utilizing a variety of designs, e.g. cross-sectional, acute/crossover, non-randomized and randomized trials. Therefore, the aim of this systematic review was to identify and evaluate studies that have employed a variety of designs to assess the impact of both acute exercise and exercise training on energy and macronutrient intake. Results of this review will clarify our understanding of the association between exercise and energy intake and identify both exercise parameters including mode, frequency, intensity and duration and participant characteristics including age, gender, body weight, activity level that may impact this association. Such information will be useful for the design of weight management trials utilizing exercise, the potential identification of groups of participants for whom exercise may be most effective, and to identify areas for future investigation.

Methods

This systematic review was performed and reported in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines [31,32].

Objectives

The objective of this systematic review was to address the question:

Does increased exercise or physical activity alter ad-libitum daily energy intake or macronutrient composition in healthy adults?

Eligibility Criteria

Primary source articles published in English in peer-reviewed journals were eligible for inclusion in this systematic review if data were presented on energy and/or macronutrient intake by level of exercise or physical activity or changes in energy or macronutrient intake in response to acute exercise or exercise training. Specific eligibility criteria included:

**Types of studies:** Cross-sectional, acute/short-term (exercise duration ranging from a single 30-min exercise bout to daily exercise over 14 days), and both non-randomized and randomized trials. **Types of participants:** Healthy adults (age 18–65 years). **Types of exercise interventions:** Aerobic and resistance exercise. **Types of outcome measures:** No restrictions were placed on the assessment methods for the primary outcome (energy/macronutrient intake). **Other criteria:** There were no restrictions on the length of interventions or the types of comparisons. We included cross-sectional comparisons between participants differing by level of exercise or physical activity and longitudinal pre/post within group changes vs. non-exercise control or vs. a different level of exercise. Articles were excluded if they provided no data on energy or macronutrient intake by level of exercise or physical activity, manipulated or controlled energy intake, or were conducted in non-recreational athletes or individuals with chronic disease(s).

Information Sources

Studies were identified by searching electronic data bases, related article reference lists, and consulting with experts in the field. The search was applied to PubMed (1990–present) and adapted for Embase (1990–present). The last search was conducted on January 4, 2013. The search was developed as a collaborative effort of the research team in consultation with a Kansas University reference librarian and conducted by a co-author (SDH). No attempts were made to contact study investigators or sponsors to acquire any information missing from the published article.

Search Strategy

We used the following search terms in PubMed and Embase to identify potential articles with abstracts for review: exercise[ti], ab (abstract) OR "physical activity"[ti,ab] OR "energy expenditure"[ti,ab] OR "resistance training"[ti,ab] OR “strength training”[ti,ab] AND (diets[ti,ab] OR diet[ti,ab] OR dieting[-ti,ab] OR "energy intake"[ti,ab] OR "energy restriction"[ti,ab] OR "nutrient composition"[ti,ab] OR "appetite"[ti,ab]). Additional search terms were applied to eliminate case reports and studies involving participants with chronic disease, and to retrieve studies published in English and conducted in adults (age 18–63 years). Word truncation and the use of wildcards allowed for variations in spelling and word endings.

Study Selection

Retrieved abstracts were independently assessed for eligibility for inclusion in the review by 2 investigators and coded as ‘yes’, ‘no’ or ‘maybe.’ All investigators who participated in eligibility assessments were trained regarding study inclusion/exclusion criteria and completed practice eligibility assessments on 50 test abstracts prior to actual coding. Eligibility assessments on the practice abstracts were reviewed by the primary author (JED) and any coding problems were discussed. Disagreements regarding eligibility for inclusion were resolved via development of consensus among all co-authors. Full text articles for abstracts coded as ‘yes’ or ‘maybe’ were retrieved and reviewed by 2 independent co-authors prior to inclusion in the review. An excel spread sheet was developed and used to track eligibility status.

Data Collection

Extracted data was entered into the University of Kansas secure, REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture, Version
Risk of Bias in Individual Studies

Risk of bias for randomized trials was independently evaluated by two authors using the Cochrane risk of bias tool [34]. Risk of bias was assessed in the following domains: selection bias, performance bias, attrition bias, reporting bias, and other bias. A third reviewer resolved any discrepancies in bias coding. Studies were not excluded on the basis of risk of bias.

Synthesis of Results

Articles were grouped by study design: cross-sectional, acute/short-term, non-randomized, and randomized trials. Considerable heterogeneity existed within study groups for several important study parameters. These parameters included: 1) participant characteristics (age, gender, BMI), 2) physical activity assessment methods (questionnaires, pedometers, accelerometers), 3) exercise prescriptions (mode, frequency, intensity, duration), 4) comparison groups (interventions: pre vs. post-exercise, exercise vs. non-exercise control, varying amounts), 5) intervention length, and 6) energy and macronutrient assessment methods (food frequency questionnaire, weighed and un-weighed food records, direct observation weigh and measure technique). A meta-analysis was therefore considered inappropriate. Results based on the extracted data were instead synthesized and presented grouped by study design.

Results

The initial database search plus hand searching identified 4,668 unique records of which 4,490 were excluded based on review of title and abstract. Full-text articles for the remaining 178 citations were reviewed of which 79 articles did not satisfy our inclusion criteria and were excluded. Thus 99 articles representing 101 studies were included in the review (Figure 1).

Cross-Sectional Studies

The 17 cross-sectional studies identified comprised ~17% of the total number of studies included in this review (Table 1).

Cross-Sectional Studies: Study Characteristics

Sample size. Median (range) sample size for studies that included both men and women was 447 (14–921) for men and 428 (10–1483) for women. In studies that included only men or women the median sample size for men was 137 (one study) and women was 60 (21–38,876).

Comparisons. Seven studies compared 2 groups (active vs. sedentary) [14,35–40]. Six studies compared 3 groups [41–46] while 3 studies compared physical activity over 4 or more groups [47–49]. One study reported the correlation between physical activity level and energy intake [50].

Physical activity assessment. Seven studies (~41%) employed a physical activity questionnaire [14,35,37,41,42,44,45], 5 studies (~29%) used a single item self-report or self-report physical activity rating scale [36,38,39,47,49], and one study used a physical activity diary[46]. Two studies used objective assessments of physical activity (accelerometers/pedometers) [43,50] while 2 studies recruited participants based on their self-reported participation in recreational aerobic sports [40,49].

Energy/Macronutrient intake assessment. Food frequency questionnaires were used in 6 studies [35–37,44,45,49] while 4 studies used non-weighed 3-day food records [38,41–43]. One [48], 4 [39,40] and 7-day [47] non-weighed food records, 3 [46] and 7-day weigh and measure food records [14] and repeated 24-hour recalls were also employed in 2 studies [47,50].

Cross-Sectional Studies: Participant Characteristics

Age. The median (range) age across the 15 studies that reported age was 42 (18–60) years.

Gender. Nine studies included both men and women [35–39,42,47,49], 8 studies included women only [14,41,43–46,48,50] while one study included only men [40].

BMI. The median (range) BMI across 13 studies that reported BMI was 24.8 (21.3–30.9) kg/m².

Minority representation. In the 3 of 17 studies (18%) that provided data, minority representation ranged from 5% [44] to 24% [49] of the total sample.

Cross-Sectional Studies: Results

Energy intake. Seven of 17 (41%) cross-sectional studies indicated significantly higher absolute (kcal/day) [35,39–41,49] or relative (kcal/kg/day) energy intake [38,50] in active compared with less active groups. There were no apparent differences in either basic study design parameters including sample size, assessment methods for both energy intake and physical activity, the number and type of comparison groups, or participant characteristics such as age, gender or BMI between studies that did and did not report a significant association between physical activity and energy intake.

Macronutrient intake. Thirteen of 17 studies presented data on the intake of one or more macronutrients (fat, carbohydrate, protein). All 13 studies included data on fat intake. Six studies (46%) reported either lower absolute (grams) [36,42] or relative fat intake (% total energy intake) [14,36,37,39,42,49] in groups with higher levels of physical activity while 7 studies (54%) that reported fat intake by activity level failed to find a significant association [35,38,40,44,45,47,50]. Eleven studies provided data on both carbohydrate and protein intake. Two studies (18%) reported higher carbohydrate intake in active groups [36,39], while 9 studies (82%) found no association between the level of physical activity and carbohydrate intake [14,35,37,38,40,42,47,49,50]. Relative protein intake was higher (2 studies) [36,37], lower (one study) [35] or not different (8 studies) [14,38–40,42,47,49,50] between groups reporting higher vs. lower levels of physical activity.

Acute Studies

The 40 acute studies comprised ~40% of the total studies identified for this review (Table 2). All acute studies employed cross-over designs, which compared energy intake assessed over a time frame of 24 hours or less following an acute exercise bout.

Acute Studies: Study Characteristics

Sample size. The median (range) sample size across the 40 acute studies was 12 (7–65).

Exercise intensity/duration. The median (range) exercise intensity was 70% (60–75%) of HRMax, and 70% (30–75%) of maximal oxygen uptake. Five studies did not provide information on exercise intensity. The median (range) exercise duration was 4.14.5) data base [33]. A REDCap data extraction form was developed, pilot tested on a sample of 10 studies (at least 2 studies of each of the 4 study designs included in this review), and revised accordingly. Relevant data were extracted from each manuscript by one author and verified by a second author. Disagreements were resolved by group discussion. Data extracted from each article included basic study information (design, sample size, groups compared, exercise or physical activity groups/intervention(s), participant characteristics (age, gender, BMI, minority status), energy and macronutrient assessment method, and results.

Does Exercise Affect Dietary Intake
50 min (3–90 min). Four acute studies dosed exercise by level of energy expenditure [51–54].

**Energy intake assessment.** Single ad-libitum test meals with energy intake assessed by the weigh and measure technique were utilized in the majority (25/40, 63%) of acute studies. Multiple ad-libitum meals [52,55–58], a combination of ad-libitum meal plus energy intake over the rest of the day by recall [54,59–62], diet recalls alone [63], and the consumption of specific food items, e.g. sandwiches [64], pasta salad [65] or cookies and chips [66] were also utilized.

**Interval between end of exercise and energy intake assessment.** Eleven acute trials assessed energy intake over the entire exercise day [52,54–63]. In the remaining 29 acute studies, energy intake was assessed on one occasion with a median (range) of 30 minutes (immediate-330 min) post-exercise.

**Acute Studies: Participant Characteristics**

**Age.** The median (range) age across the 36 studies that reported age was 23 (20.1–50) years.

**Gender.** Six studies included both men and women [64–68], 15 included women only [52–54,62,63,69–76] and 19 studies included only men [51,55–61,77–86].

**BMI.** The median (range) BMI across 39 studies that reported BMI was 22.9 (19.8–37.2) kg/m². Five of 40 studies (~13%) included overweight or obese participants [53,66,72,73,85,86].

**Minority status.** No studies described the racial or ethnic composition of the study sample or reported post-exercise energy intake by race or ethnicity.

**Participant activity level.** Participants recruited for the majority of acute studies (24/40–60%) were physically active and/or aerobically fit [51,52,54–60,65,67,70,71,74,76,77,79–84]. Eleven studies (~28%) recruited sedentary or moderately active participants [33,62,63,66,68,69,73,75,85,86] while 5 studies (~13%) did not describe baseline participant physical activity [61,64,72,78].

**Acute Studies: Results**

**Energy intake.** Nine of 40 acute studies (~23%) [52,62,64,65,67,68,70,83,84] reported a significant increase in absolute energy intake (~80 to 470 kcal/day) following exercise compared with non-exercise control while 27 studies (~68%) found no difference in absolute energy intake between exercise and control conditions [51,53–56,61,63,64,66,69,72–77,79–82]. Four studies (10%) reported a significant decrease in absolute energy intake (~125 to 240 kcal/day) following exercise compared with non-exercise control [75,78,85,86]. Fifteen studies (~38%) reported a significant decrease in relative energy intake (energy intake - exercise energy expenditure) following exercise compared with control [51–53,55,57–59,63,68,70,71,76,79,84–86]; 5 of those studies also reported significant increases in absolute energy intake [52,65,68,70,84] suggesting only partial compensation in energy intake following acute exercise.
### Table 1. Cross-sectional/Correlational Studies.

| Study                        | Participants                                                                 | Activity/Exercise Assessment                                                                 | Comparison Group(s) | Dietary Assessment                                                                 | Results                                                                 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Butterworth et al. (1994)    | 34 women: Age = 29.7 (5.5); BMI = NR; % Fat = 22.7 (6.4) from skinfolds       | Portable accelerometer 1 random day each wk over a 10 wk period. VO2 max on a treadmill.       | NA: Correlational study          | EI per kg body weight was significantly correlated with energy expenditure. No significant correlations were found between nutrient intake/1,000 kcal and either VO2 max or mean 24-hour energy expenditure (kcal/day) |
| Camoes et al. (2008)         | Total Sample (1483 women & 921 men); Age = range: 18–92; BMI = range: 25.2–27.0 | EPIPorto PA questionnaire: included, occupational, domestic and leisure-time activities.       | Sedentary: Less than 10% of EE at a moderate or high intensity level (4 METs) during occupational activities, leisure time or throughout the day. Active: All others. | Validated semi-quantitative food-frequency questionnaire assessing dietary intake over the previous year. | There were no significant differences in daily nutrient intake by activity group for women. Active men had significantly higher daily EI and lower PRO intake as a percent of EI than sedentary men. |
| D’Angelo et al. (2010)       | 51 women in a university required course: Age = NR; BMI = NR                  | International PA Questionnaire.                                                               | 3 groups based on percentiles: Group 1 (n = 17) = 1st to 32nd % ile (0 min/wk); Group 2 (n = 17) = 33rd to 65th % ile = 95 (35.6) min/wk; Group 3 (n = 17) = 66th to 100th % ile = 231.7 (85.9) min/wk | 3-day food record (2 weekdays/1 weekend day) | EI was significantly higher in group 3 compared to the 2 other groups. |
| Duvgineaud et al. (2007)     | 362 women: Age = 51.4 (12.9); BMI = 24.13 (5.5); 485 men: Age = 50.2 (13.3); BMI = 25.4 (3.1) | Flemish PA Computerized Questionnaire.                                                         | 3 groups based on hrs/wk of sports participation: 0 (n = 129), <3.5 (n = 157), ≥3.5 (n = 199). | 3-day food record (2 week days/1 weekend day) | No significant between group differences for energy, PRO or CHO intake. Fat intake (kcal/day and % EI) was significantly lower in the group reporting ≥3.5 hrs/wk of sport participation vs. the 0 hrs/wk group. |
| Eaton et al. (1995)          | Total Sample (1206 women & 798 men); Minorities = 9.3%; Age = 37.4 (5.7); BMI = 26.1 (5.7) | “At least once a week, do you engage in any regular activity such as brisk walking, jogging, bicycling, etc., long enough to work up a sweat?” | No = sedentary, Yes and did 1–3 times/wk = moderately active. Yes and did 4–7/wk = very active. | Willett Food Frequency Questionnaire | No significant difference in EI between activity groups. The more active groups had higher intakes of PRO and CHO. Total fat, saturated fat, and the percentage of kcals from fat and saturated fat were lower in the active groups. |
| Gilliat-Wemberly et al. (2001) | 32 women: Active (n = 18); Age = 42 (3); BMI = 21.6 (1.6); Sedentary (n = 14); Age = 42 (4); BMI = 22.8 (2.4) | Self-report. Active: Minimum of 6 hrs/wk and have maintained this level of activity for a minimum of 5 years. Sedentary: Exercise <2 hrs/wk and maintained this lifestyle for a least 5 years. | 7-day food record – calibrated scales used to weigh food. | Active women had significantly lower fat intake as a % of total kcal compared to their sedentary counterparts. No between group differences in EI or in PRO, CHO, fat, alcohol, caffeine, fiber (grams/day). |
| Hornbuckle et al. (2005)     | 69 women: Age = 51.4 (5.4); BMI = 30.9 (6.8)                                | 7-day pedometer                                                                          | <5000 steps/day; 5000–7499 steps/day; >7500 steps/day | 3-day food record | No significant difference in EI between groups. |
| Jago et al. (2005)           | Total Sample (722 women & 469 men; Minorities = 24%); Age = 29.7 (5.1); BMI = 27.3 (6.7) | Compared to other people your age and sex, how would you rate your PA outside of work during the past year? | 1 = Physically inactive; 2 = Moderately active; 3: Very active | Youth/Adolescent Food Frequency Questionnaire (YAF) | There was a significant difference in total EI across the five activity groups after controlling for BMI, age, income, ethnicity, gender, and ethnicity by gender interaction terms. Pairwise comparisons indicated that this difference was significant between groups 2 and 3. There was also a significant difference in the percentage of EI from fat by activity level with group 2 consuming a larger proportion of energy from fat than group 4. No significant between group differences in either PRO or CHO consumption. |
| Study                  | Participants | Activity/Exercise Assessment | Comparison Group(s) | Dietary Assessment | Results                                                                 |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lake et al. (2009)    | Total Sample (29 women; 44 men): Age = 18 (1.0); BMI = NR; Convenience sample of college students studying sport (24 men, 8 women) or non-sport (20 men, 21 women) subjects. | PA component of the "Youth NEWS" (Neighbourhood Environment Walkability Survey) | Sport vs. non-sport students and categories of time spent in sedentary pursuits (homework, TV, DVD etc.) | The European Prospective Investigation of Cancer food frequency questionnaire. Assessed dietary intake over the past year. | Sport students had a significantly lower intake of fat and a significantly higher percentage energy from protein compared to the non-sports students. Sedentary behaviors were significantly associated with less healthy eating patterns. Higher total EI, higher fat percentage energy from fat and lower CHO intakes were significantly associated with more time spent watching DVDs on weekends. |
| Lee et al. (2010)     | 39,876 women (Minorities = ~5%) | College Alumni Health Study PA Questionnaire. | 3 Groups: 1) < 7.5 MET-hrs/wk equivalent to < 150 min/wk of moderate- intensity PA; 2) 7.5 to < 21 MET-hrs/wk; 3) ≥ 21 MET-hrs/wk. (equivalent to ≥ 420 min/wk moderate-intensity activity. | Willett Food Frequency Questionnaire. | No significant between group differences for EI, fat intake, or servings of fruits and vegetables by activity group. |
| Lissner et al. (1997) | 361 women: Age by activity group: Sedentary = 50.4 (6.3); Somewhat Active = 48.1 (6.4); More Active = 48.9 (5.1); BMI by activity group: Sedentary = 25.7 (5.3); Somewhat Active = 24.3 (3.9); More active = 23.2 (3.3) | Gothenburg PA Questionnaire | 3 Groups: Sedentary = almost inactive; Somewhat active = engaged in at least 4 hrs. of activity/wk; More active = greater than 4 hrs/wk. | Food frequency questionnaire | No significant between group differences for EI or fat intake (g/day and % total EI) |
| Matthews et al. (1997) | Total Sample (494 women, 425 men): Age: Women = 48.4 (10.6); Men = 49.8 (10.2); BMI: Women = 28.1 (5.9); Men = 27.8 (4.4) | Questionnaire: “Do you exercise on a regular basis?” and if yes asked about frequency (times/wk), duration (min/session) and mode. If no answer assumed they engaged in no explicit leisure time PA. | Inactive = 0 to 29 min/wk.; Active = 30 min or more/wk; Active sub-categories: > 30 to 60 min/wk; 61 to 120 min/wk; ≥ 121 min/wk | 7-day or 24-hour diet recalls. | No significant difference in EI or macronutrient intake between the 4 activity groups. |
| Mulligan et al. (1990) | 21 women: Non-runners (n = 5); Moderately active runners (n = 9); Very active runners (n = 7); Age by activity group: Non-runners = 30.6 (5.6); Moderately active runners = 37.2 (4.2); Very active runners = 29.8 (8.0) | Activity diary over 2 months and VO₂ max. | Non-runners: distance/wk = 0; VO₂ max = 41.7 (8) ml/kg/min; Moderately active runners: 39.5 miles/wk.; VO₂ max = 39.5 (10.1) ml/kg/min; Very active runners: 54.4 miles/wk.; VO₂ max = 66.8 (7.5) ml/kg/min | Weigh and measure diet record collected over 24 hrs on 3 random consecutive days each wk over 2 months. | No significant between group differences in EI. |
Table 1. Cont.

| Study                  | Participants | Activity/Exercise Assessment | Comparison Group(s) | Dietary Assessment | Results                                                                 |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Perry et al. (1992)    | 70 women: Distance runners (n = 19); Recreational joggers (n = 19); Aerobic dancers (n = 17); Inactive controls (n = 15). | Recruited by activity level. | Long distance runners: Averaged at least 26 mi/wk, mean = 40 mi/wk; Recreational joggers: Averaged at least 6 mi/wk, mean = 16 mi/wk.; Aerobic dancers: Taught at least 6 aerobic dance classes/wk, mean = 9.4 hrs/wk.; Inactive controls: Exercised less than one time/wk and not on a regular basis. | One-day food record | EI was not significantly different between groups. |
| Rintala et al. (2010)  | 16 twin pairs (7 monozygous, 9 dizygous; 11 male and 5 female pairs): Age = 60 (range 50–74); BMI: Inactive = 26.7 (1.5); Active = 21.5 (6.4) | Questionnaire: 3 structured questions; mean duration of one activity session with five response alternatives, monthly frequency of activity with six response alternatives and activity intensity based on the following question: “Is your PA during leisure time about as strenuous on average as: (i) walking, (ii) alternately walking and jogging, (iii) jogging, (iv) running?” | Active/inactive co-twins discordant for PA over a 32 year period. Inactive co-twins averaged 8.8 MET-hrs/day less activity than their active co-twin. | Food diary: 3 week days and 2 weekend days | No significant difference in absolute EI (kcal/day) between active and inactive co-twin. REI (kcal/kg) was significantly higher in active vs. inactive co-twins. No significant difference between active and inactive co-twins for either absolute (g/d) or relative intake (%EI) of PRO, CHO or fat. |
| Van Pelt et al. (2001) | 137 men: Young sedentary (YS): n=32; Old sedentary (OS): n = 34; Young active (YA) : n = 39; Old active (OA): n = 32. Age: YS = 26 (1); OS = 62 (1); YA = 27 (1); OA = 63 (1). BMI: YS = 24.2 (0.7); OS = 26.7 (0.7); YA = 22.7 (0.4); OA = 23.5 (0.3) | Recruited by activity level. | Active: Local runners and triathletes who placed in the top 25% of their age divisions in either 10-km running events or triathlon competitions. Sedentary: Performed no regular PA. | Food diary over 4 consecutive days (3 weekdays and 1 weekend day) | EI (kcal/day) was significantly higher in the YA vs. the YS but did not differ by activity level in older men. No significant between group differences for macronutrient intake (%fat, CHO or PRO) in either the young or old group. |
| Van Wallenghen et al. (2007) | Total Sample (15 women, 14 men): Age: Sedentary = 26.0 (1.0); Active = 23.0 (1.0). BMI: Sedentary = 23.5 (0.8); Active = 23.1 (0.7) | Habitual PA including both planned exercise (jogging, cycling, etc.) and daily living-type activities (housework, yard work, etc.) was determined by self-reported time (min/wk) spent participating in moderate and vigorous PA. | Active = active subjects spent ≥150 min/wk engaged in moderate and/or vigorous PA for ≥2 years. | Self-reported 4-day food intake record. | EI (kcal/day) was significantly higher in the active group. The % energy from fat was lower in the active group, % energy from CHO was higher in the active group. No between group differences in % energy from PRO. |

Note: Values are means (standard deviation) unless otherwise noted. Abbreviations: PA = Physical Activity; CHO = carbohydrate; EE = energy expenditure; EI = energy intake; NR = not reported; NA = not applicable; PRO = protein; REI = relative energy intake; MET = Metabolic equivalent of task; kcal = kilocalories; KJ = kilojoules; hrs = hours; min = minutes; wk = week. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0083498.t001
### Table 2. Acute and Short-Term Studies.

| Study                   | Participants                              | Intervention                                                                 | Meals                                                                 | Results: Exercise                                                                 | Results: Diet                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Balaguera-Cortez et al. (2011) [77] | 10 men: Age = 21.3 (1.4); BMI = 23.7 (2); VO2 max = 58.1 (7.3) ml/kg/min | 45 min aerobic: Treadmill at 70% of VO2 peak; 45 min RT: 3 sets of 12 reps of 8 different exercises; Control: 45 min rest; experiment started at 7 AM, 45 min exercise, 30 min rest, followed by assessment of EI. | Buffet-type breakfast, foods and drinks for 30 min and instructed to eat ad libitum and to satiation. | Total weight lifted = 14,432 (3,551) kg. Aerobic exercise was at 71 (7%) VO2 peak, and EEEx was 2818 (418) kJ for the 45 min. Estimated EEEx from the RT trial was 1,350 kJ for 45 min. Control EE was 256 kJ for 45 min. | No significant effect of trial on total EI, or CHO, fat, or protein both in grams and as a percent of total EI. Also no differences between trials in solid food or drink consumption as a % of total EI. |
| Deighton et al. (2012) [81] | 12 men: Age = 23.0 (3.0); BMI = 22.9 (2.1); VO2 max = 57.9 (9.7) ml/kg/min | Control: 60 min rest; Exercise: 60 min treadmill run at 70% max VO2 performed either in a fasted (8 AM) or fed (12 PM) state. | Standardized breakfast served at 9:30 AM. Buffet meal offered at 1:30 and 5:30 PM. | Net EEEx fed trial = 3247 (423) kJ; Net EEEx fasted trial = 3234 (435) kJ | No significant differences in EI between trials resulting in a negative energy balance in the exercise trials relative to control after accounting for differences in EEEx. |
| Erdman et al. (2007) [64] | 5 women, 2 men: Age = 24.4 (0.6); BMI = 21.4 (0.8); Activity level/fitness = NR | Low intensity exercise: 30 min at 50 W (60 rpm). Higher intensity exercise: 30 min at 100 W (60 rpm). Control: 45 min rest. | Sandwiches consisting of bread, butter and ham (2.73 kcal/g, energy percent: 44.4% carbohydrate, 16.2% protein and 39.4% fat). Test meal offered 15 min post exercise. | EEEx low intensity = 85.6 Kcal; EEEx higher intensity = 171.2 Kcal | Food (g) and EI (kcal) were not different after either intensity compared to the control. |
| Erdman et al. (2007) [64] | 3 women, 4 men: Age = 24.8 (0.7); BMI = 22.1 (NR); Activity level/fitness = NR | Cycle ergometer exercise (60 rpm) for 30, 60, 120 min at 50 W. | Same as above | EEEx 30 min = 85.6 Kcal; EEEx 60 min = 171.2 Kcal; EEEx 120 min = 342.4 Kcal | EI and food intake after the 30 and 60 min exercise bouts was not different from controls. EI and food intake following the 120 min bout were significantly greater than control. |
| Farah et al. (2010) [96] | 10 men: Age = 35 (6); BMI = 28.2 (2.4); VO2 max = 43.0 (6.4) ml/kg/min | 3–4 day trials: Control: No exercise on days 1–3. EX-1: One exercise session on day 3; treadmill walking, 50% VO2 max. EX-3: exercise sessions on each day 1–3 at 50% VO2max. | Reported to metabolic suite on the morning of day 4. Presented with ad lib buffet style breakfast and lunch. | Net EEEx = 2.98 (0.11) MJ in EX-1 and 8.92 (0.30) MJ in EX-3. | There were no differences between trials in energy, fat, carbohydrate, or protein intakes at breakfast, but energy, carbohydrate, and protein intakes at lunch were significantly higher in EX-3 than in both CON and EX-1. |
| Finlayson et al. (2009) [69] | 24 women: Age = 24.0 (6.1); BMI = 22.3 (2.9); Activity level/fitness = NR | Control: 50 min sitting. Exercise: 50 min cycle ergometer at 70% of maximum HR. | Test meal offered 40 min post trial. | Estimated EEEx = 189.3 (13) kcal. | El was not different between exercise and control conditions. |
| George & Morganstein (2003) [73] | 24 sedentary women (12 normal and 12 overweight): Age = 35 (8); BMI = 22 (1) Normal weight; 28 (1) overweight | Exercise = walking on a treadmill at 60% of max HR for 60 min. Non-exercise = sedentary activities for 60 min. | Ad libitum lunch at the university cafeteria. Test meal offered approximately 30 min post trial. | Estimated EEEx = 150–200 kcal depending on body weight. | El was not different between exercise and control in either normal or overweight women. |
| Study | Participants | Intervention | Meals | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|-------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------------------|---------------|
| Harris et al. (2008) [61] | 80 sedentary men: Age = 30 (8); BMI = range 22–29; 5 groups: 1) normal weight, low-restraint, non-dieting; 2) normal weight, high-restraint, non-dieting; 3) overweight, low-restraint, non-dieting; 4) overweight, high-restraint, non-dieting; and 5) overweight, high-restraint, dieting. | Control: 60 min rest. Exercise: 60 min treadmill exercise at 60-65% age-predicted max HR. | Ad libitum lunch at the university cafeteria. Other EI over 12 hrs post exercise was assessed by diet recall conducted by phone. Test meal offered approximately 15 min post trial. | EEEEx = NR | Exercise had no significant impact on post exercise EI in any study group. |
| Imbeault et al. (1997) [51] | 11 men: Age = 24.4 (3.3); BMI = 23.3 (2.3); VO2 max = 56.7(5.0) ml/kg/min | Control: seated for the same duration as the low intensity exercise condition. Low intensity exercise: Treadmill walking at 35% VO2 max, duration to reach EEEEx of ~2050 kJ. High intensity exercise: Treadmill running at 75% VO2 max to reach EEEEx of ~2050 kJ. | Buffet meal 15 min post trial. | EEEEx low intensity = 2054 (45) kJ. EEEEx high intensity = 2022 (38) kJ. | There were no significant between group differences for absolute EI. Relative EI (EI minus net EEEEx) was significantly lower for high intensity exercise than both control and low intensity exercise. |
| Jokisch et al. (2012) [78] | 20 men; 10 active (exercise ≥150 min/wk); 10 inactive (exercise ≤60 min/wk): Age = 21.2 (1.9); BMI = 23.4 (1.7) | Control: 45-min reading. Exercise; 45 min cycle ergometer at 65–75% of age predicted max HR to elicit EEEEx of approximately 450 Kcal. | Ad libitum buffet lunch. Test meal offered 60 min post trial. | EEEEx active = 456 (9) kcal/45 min. EEEEx inactive = 451 (12) kcal/45 min both estimate using American College of Sports Medicine equations for energy expenditure during leg cycling. | EI was significantly lower at the ad libitum meal following exercise as compared to control in the inactive group. There was no effect of exercise on EI in the active group. No difference in meal macronutrient intake was found. |
| Keim et al. (1990) [90] | 12 sedentary to moderately active women: Age = 30 (1); BMI = 27.7 (NR) | 4 days acclimatization to exercise and 14 days at the specified exercise level. 3 conditions: No exercise (NO-EX): subjects maintained usual daily activity. Moderate duration exercise (M-EX): achieve an energy expenditure 12.5% above baseline. Long duration exercise (L-EX): achieve an energy expenditure 25% above baseline. Participants were free-living. Required to report to a metabolic kitchen daily to consume breakfast, lunch, and dinner, to pick up lunch and snacks, and to perform prescribed exercise programs. | EEEEx goals for 12.5% and 25% above baseline were achieved with exercise at 72 (1%) of predicted VO2 max for both exercise groups. Duration of exercise ranged from 35–49 min in the M-EX group and 51–88 min in the L-EX group. | EEEEx goals for 12.5% and 25% above baseline were achieved with exercise at 72 (1%) of predicted VO2 max for both exercise groups. Duration of exercise ranged from 35–49 min in the M-EX group and 51–88 min in the L-EX group. | There were no significant increases in EI in both the M-EX (5%) and L-EX (8%) groups. Daily intake of carbohydrates, protein or fat averaged over the study period was not affected by exercise. |
| Study                  | Participants                                                                 | Intervention                                                                 | Meals                                                                 | Results: Exercise                                         | Results: Diet                                                                 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Keim et al. (1996)    | 15 weight reduced obese women, Aerobic exercise (n = 8); Age = 31 (2 SEM); BMI = 28.1 (1.6 SEM); Resistance exercise (n = 7); Age = 31 (3 SEM); BMI = 29.3 (2.0 SEM); Activity level/fitness = NR | 14 days Aerobic exercise: Supervised treadmill exercise 5 days/wk, 75% VO2 max. EEEx at 29% of RMR. Resistance exercise: Supervised, 1 set of 8 reps at 50-60% 1-RM. | All meals provided in a metabolic ward. | EEEx aerobic exercise = 354 kcal/session. EEEx resistance exercise = 96 kcal/session. | El during the intervention was not significantly different from a 3 wk. control period in either the aerobic or resistance training groups. El for both the aerobic and resistance training groups were not significantly different during the intervention period despite the higher levels of EEExs in the aerobic exercise group. |
| Kelly et al. (2012)   | 10 men: Age = 21.4 (1.3); BMI = 23.9 (2.1) Active                             | Control: 45 min rest. Exercise: 45 min treadmill running at 70% VO2 peak.     | Buffet breakfast offered 30 min post trial.                         | EEEx = 2949 (207) kJ.                                         | There was no significant difference in El or macronutrient composition between trials. Relative El (post-exercise El minus EEEx+EPOC) was significantly higher in control vs. the exercise trial. |
| King JA et al. (2010) | 14 men: Age = 21.9 (0.5 SEM); BMI = 23.4 (0.6 SEM); VO2 max = 55.9 (1.8) ml/kg/min | Control: 7 hrs rest. Exercise: 60 min subjectively paced walk on a level motorized treadmill. | Ad libitum buffet foods that were identical for each meal. Test meal offered 30 min and 4 hrs post trial. | EEEx = 7095 (113) kJ.                                       | El was not significantly different between the control and brisk walking trials. After adjusting for the energy expenditure of walking, there was an energy deficit of 1836 (130) kJ in the brisk walking trial compared with the control trial. No significant between trial differences absolute energy intake from fat, CHO or PRO. |
| King JA et al. (2010) | 9 men: Age = 22.2 (0.8); BMI = 23.6 (0.4); VO2 max = 60.5 (1.5) ml/kg/min    | Control: 8.5 hrs rest. Exercise: 90 min treadmill run at 68.8 (0.8)% of max VO2 followed by 8.5 hrs rest. | Ad libitum cold buffet offered at 2.5 and 9 hrs. Hot meal at 5.5 hrs. | EEEx differences in EI were different between Ex1 and Ex2 or Ex1 and R1 or Ex2 and R2. | No effect of trial on EI or macronutrient intake. After accounting for EEEx participants remained in energy deficit in the exercise as compared to the control trial. |
| King JA et al. (2011) | 12 men: Age = 23.4 (1); BMI = 22.8 (0.4); VO2 max = 57.3 (1.2) ml/kg/min      | Control: 7.5 hrs rest. Exercise: 90 min treadmill run at 70% VO2 max.        | Test meal at 2 and 4.75 hrs. Buffet meal at 8 hrs.                   | EEEx exercise minus rest) = 4715 (113) kJ.                     | No significant difference in EI or macronutrient intake between exercise and control. |
| King JA et al. (2011) | 14 active men: Age = 22 (0.5); BMI = 23.2 (0.6)                               | Control: 7.5 hrs rest. Exercise: Swimming ~ 6 ten min blocks at a moderate intensity (perceived exertion between 12 and 14). | Ad libitum buffet meal offered at 3 hrs (~12:00) and 7.5 hrs (~16:30) into the trial. | Net estimated EEEx (exercise minus resting) = 1921 (83) kJ.       | No significant difference in EI or macronutrient intake between swimming and control trials. |
| King NA et al. (1997) | 8 active men: Age = 26.0 (5.2); BMI = 22.4 (1.8)                              | Each condition was performed over 2 consecutive days. Control: No exercise (R1 and R2). Exercise (Ex1 and Ex 2): 2 session in one day of treadmill running at ~70% max HR for 50 min (100 min at 70% max HR). | Food and drink intake were monitored using a set of digital weighing scales and a self-record diary. | The combined EEEx for both Ex sessions was 1200 kcal.          | No significant differences in EI were noted between R1 and R2, Ex1 and Ex2 or Ex1 and R1 or Ex2 and R2. Also no differences between trials for PRO, FAT or CHO as a % of kcal intake. |
| Study                      | Participants | Intervention | Meals | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------------------|--------------|
| King NA et al. (1996)      | 13 women: Age = 22.6 (2.3); BMI = 21.9 (1.6); VO₂ max = 37.0 (3.0) ml/kg/min | Control: 50 min rest. Exercise: cycle ergometer, 50 min at 70% VO₂ max. | Ad libitum lunch containing either 7 high-fat foods or 7 low-fat foods. Test meal offered 15 min post trial. | EEEx was approximately 350 kcal at 73% VO₂ max. | El after exercise increased slightly (9%), however was not significant when compared to the rest condition. EI was increased when participants consumed the high-fat lunch as compared to the low-fat lunch for both the rest and exercise conditions. |
| King NA et al. (1995)      | 24 men; assigned to either a treadmill running (n = 12) or cycle ergometer (n = 12) study. Age = Run: 21.4 (3.4); BMI = Run: 22.9 (NR); Cycle: 22.8 (NR); VO₂ max Cycle = 49.3 (2.2) ml/kg/min; VO₂ max Run = 47.9 (8.2) | 4 test conditions for both the run and cycle groups. Control, high fat/low carb lunch options. Control, low fat/high carb lunch options. Exercise (70% VO₂ max), high fat/low carb lunch options. Exercise (70% VO₂ max), low fat/high carb lunch options. | Ad libitum test lunch. Ad libitum food provided for consumption on the rest of the day assessed by records. Test meal offered immediately post trial. | EEEx for both cycling and running was approximately 600 kcal over 45 min. | No significant main effect of exercise on EI; however, EI was higher when high fat/low carb food options were available. There was a significant main effect of exercise on relative energy intake (REI: test meal intake minus EEEx). REI was significantly suppressed in the low fat/high carb treatment but not the high fat/low carb treatment vs. control. |
| King NA et al. (1994)      | 11 active men: Age = (range 21–27); BMI = 24.2 (NR) | Control: Seated rest for 45 min. High intensity exercise: Cycle at 70% VO₂ max ~30 min (mean = 27 min). Low intensity Exercise: Cycle at 30% of VO₂ max for ~60 min (mean = 63 min). | Ad libitum test meal offered 15 min following completion of the trial. EI over the rest of the experimental day was assessed by food records. | EEEx high intensity = 340 (27.6) Kcals. EEEx low intensity = 359 (41.5) Kcals. | No significant difference in absolute EI or macronutrient intake at the test meal between the 3 treatments. Food diary data showed no significant difference between the 3 treatments for the remainder of the day. |
| King NA et al. (1994)      | 12 active men: Age = range (22–31); BMI = 23.2 (2.2) | Control: Seated rest for ~45 min. Short duration exercise: 26 min at 70% VO₂ max. Long duration exercise: 52 min at 70% VO₂ max. | Same as above | EEx short duration = 296 (38.4) kcal. EEEx long duration = 541 (52.2) kcal. | No significant difference in absolute EI or macronutrient intake at the test meal between the 3 treatments. Food diary data showed no significant difference between the 3 treatments for the remainder of the day. |
| Kissileff et al. (1990)    | 9 sedentary women: Age = 22.7 (4.9); BMI = 21.1 (1.8) | Control: 40 min rest. Strenuous exercise: 40 min at 90 watts on a cycle ergometer. Moderate exercise: 40 min at 30 watts on a cycle ergometer. | Test meal offered 15 min post trial. | EEEx strenuous exercise = 246.8 (24.3) Kcal. EEEx moderate exercise = 113.7 (36.7) kcal. | El was significantly reduced compared to control following strenuous but not moderate exercise. |
| Kissileff et al. (1990)    | 9 sedentary women: Age = 24.3 (4.9); BMI = 27.7 (0.9) | Same as above | Same as above | EEEx strenuous exercise = 237.2 (25.1) kcal. EEEx moderate exercise = 143.2 (33.3) kcal. | El was not significantly different across conditions. |
| Study                        | Participants                          | Intervention                                                | Meals                                                                                   | Results: Exercise                                                                 | Results: Diet                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Laan et al. (2010) [65]     | 10 men, 9 women: Age = 22.3 (2.5); BMI = 22.5 (1.8); VO2 max = 60.1 (22.5) ml/kg/min | Control: 35 min rest. Aerobic exercise: 35 min cycling at 70% HRR. Resistance exercise: 5 exercises, 3 sets at 70% 1 RM, 2 sets of 10 repetitions and a 3rd set to voluntary fatigue or 12 repetitions. | Test meal (large bowl of pasta salad) offered 30 min post trial. Estimated EEEx = 290 (7) kcal for aerobic and 80 (2) kcal for resistance exercise. | El was higher in both aerobic and resistance exercise trials compared with control. Relative EI (EI – EEEx) was lower in aerobic exercise compared with the resistance and control trials. |
| Larson-Meyer et al. (2012) [76] Runner sample | 9 women: Age = 23.7 (2.4); BMI = 19.8 (1.0); VO2 max = 49.7 (3.0) ml/kg/min | Control: 3 hrs rest. Exercise: 60 min treadmill run at 70% VO2 max. | Test meal offered 2 hrs post trial. EEEx = 483.1 (49.7) kcal. EI and macronutrient intake were not significantly different between exercise and control trials. REI was significantly lower following exercise vs. control. | El was not significantly different in exercise vs. control trials. PRO and fat intake was significantly higher following exercise vs. control. |
| Larson-Meyer et al. (2012) [76] Walker sample | 10 women: Age = 24.6 (6.9); BMI = 21.1 (3.4); VO2 max = 33.9 (3.7) ml/kg/min | Control: 3 hrs rest. Exercise: 60 min treadmill walk at 70% VO2 max. | Same as above EEEx = 324.6 (138.1) Kcal. | El was not significantly different in exercise vs. control trials. PRO and fat intake was significantly higher following exercise vs. control. |
| Lluch et al. (1998) [71]    | 12 women: Age = 21.7 (2.2); BMI = 22.6 (1.9); VO2 max = 41.0 (4.4) ml/kg/min | Rest- low fat: 50 min rest - low fat test meal. Rest-high fat: 50 min rest - high fat test meal. Exercise-low fat: 50 min cycle at 70% VO2 max-low fat test meal. Exercise-high fat: 50 min cycle at 70% VO2 max-low fat test meal. | Test meal (lunch) offered 20 min post trial. EEEx exercise-low fat trial = 425 (60) kcal. EEEx exercise-high fat trial = 422 (59) kcal. | Neither El at the test meal nor El during the rest of the day were significantly different between the exercise and rest conditions for either diet. When controlling for EEEx, exercise decreased relative EI by 43%. Therefore there was no energy compensation in response to exercise during the following lunch test meal. |
| Lluch et al. (2000) [70]    | 13 women unrestrained eaters: URE: Age = 22.6 (2.3); BMI = 21.9 (1.6); VO2 max = 37.0 (3.3) ml/kg/min. 12 women (restrained eaters: RE): Age = 21.7 (2.2); BMI = 22.6 (1.9); VO2 max = 41.0 (4.4) ml/kg/min | Same as above | Test meal (lunch) was offered immediately post trial. EEEx unrestrained eaters = 1455 (213) kJ. EEEx restrained eaters = 1772 (242) kJ. | There was a significant main effect of lunch type on El with El increased in both high fat conditions compared with low fat. The exercise by group interaction on El was not significant: URE increased El after exercise whereas in RE the El tended to decrease. When exercise induced EE was controlled for, there was a significant effect of lunch type, exercise and exercise by group interaction on relative El: exercise decreased relative El when compared to rest and this difference was higher in restrained compared to unrestrained eaters. |
### Table 2. Cont.

| Study                  | Participants | Intervention                                                                 | Meals                                                                 | Results: Exercise                                                                                                   | Results: Diet                                                                                       |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maraki et al. (2005)   | 12 sedentary women: Age = 28 (6.4); BMI = 21.3 (1.6) | Control: 60 min rest. Exercise: 60 min aerobic and muscle conditioning exercise classes. Each trial was done both in the morning (0815 to 0915) and in the evening (1915 to 2015). | Diet was assessed on each trial day by 24-hr diet record. Estimated EEEx exercise trial = 1233 (106.8) kJ. Estimated EEEx control trial = 234 (20.3) kJ. | No significant difference between the 4 trials in daily EI.                                                  |
| Martins et al. (2007) | 6 sedentary to active women, 6 sedentary to active men: Age = 25.9 (4.6); BMI = 22.0 (3.2) | Control: 60 min rest. Exercise: 60 min intermittent cycle ergometer exercise at 65% of each subject’s estimated max HR (2 min warming up +17 min exercise +3 min break +17 min exercise +3 min break +17 min exercise +2 min cooling down). Buffet test meal offered 1-hr post trial. | Estimated EE control session = 197 (37) kcal. Estimated EEEx = 492 (92) kcal. Absolute EI at the buffet meal was significantly higher in the exercise vs. the control trial. No significant differences were observed in the percentage of energy provided by either PRO, fat or CHO. REI was significantly lower following the exercise vs with control. |
| Melby et al. (2002)    | 13 women: Age = 23 (0.8); BMI = 21.6 (0.2); VO2 max = 39.6 (0.9) ml/kg/min | Control: ~76 min rest. Exercise: Cycle ergometer exercise at 65% VO2 peak to produce a net energy cost of ~500 kcal. Buffet meal offered 90 min post trial. | Net EEEx = 517 (6) kcal. No significant differences between control and exercise trials in EI or macronutrient intake either at the test meal or food consumed over the remainder of the day. |
| O’Donoghue et al. (2010) | 9 men: Age = 20.3; BMI = 22.4 (1.6); VO2 max = 58.8 (3.6) ml/kg/min | Control: 45 min rest. Exercise: 45 min treadmill running at 75% VO2 peak. Exercise was performed at 7 AM or 5 PM. Buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner were offered on trial days. | EEEx AM exercise = 2,831 (519) kJ. EEEx PM exercise = 2898 (570) kJ. No significant differences between trials in absolute EI or macronutrient intake. REI was significantly lower post exercise compared with control; i.e., REI during the breakfast was significantly lower after AM exercise than either PM exercise or control. REI during the evening period was significantly lower after PM exercise than for the control trial and tended to be lower than the AM exercise trial. However, over the total 26-hr period REI was similar between all trials. |
| Pomerleau et al. (2004) | 13 women: Age = 22.2 (2); BMI = 22.2 (4); VO2 max = 44.0 (4.7) ml/kg/min | Control: rest 75 min. Low intensity exercise = treadmill walking at 40% VO2 peak. High intensity exercise = treadmill walking at 70% VO2 peak. Duration to achieve EEEx of ~350 kcal at both exercise intensities. Buffet lunch offered 1-hr post trial. Afternoon snacks were provided. Participants returned at 5:30 PM for a dinner buffet-type meal and left with a second bag of snacks for the evening. | EEEx low intensity exercise = 350.6 (11.1) kcal. EEEx high intensity exercise = 358.6 (10.3) kcal. EI at lunchtime was significantly increased following high but not low intensity exercise compared to control. REI at lunchtime for both the high and low intensity exercise sessions was significantly lower than control. No significant between trial differences in total daily absolute or REI. |
| Study                          | Participants | Intervention                                                                 | Meals                                                                 | Results: Exercise                                                                 | Results: Diet                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stubbs et al. (2002) [89]     | 6 men: Age = 31 (5); BMI = 23.3 (2.4); VO₂ max = 39.5 (1.5 SEM) ml/kg/min | 9-day protocol with 3 conditions: Control: no additional exercise. Moderate exercise = 2×40 min sessions/day at 21.4 kJ/kg/day, cycle ergometer. High exercise = 3×40 min exercise session/day at 42.8 kJ/kg/day, cycle ergometer. Exercise performed on days 3–9. | On days 1–2 of the study subjects consumed a mandatory maintenance diet (estimated at 1.6×RMR). Throughout the subsequent 7 days they had ad libitum access to their normal daily diet. They weighed all food items and fluids on Portable Electronic Tape Recording Automated scales. | Total daily EE: Control = 11.7 MJ/day. Moderate exercise = 12.9 MJ/day. High exercise = 16.8 MJ/day. | There were no significant differences in total daily food, EI or macronutrient composition of the diet between treatments. |
| Stubbs et al. (2002) [87]     | 6 women: Age = 23.0 (0.6); BMI = 21.4 (1.0); VO₂ max = 33.4 (2.5) ml/kg/min | Same as above                                                                 | Same as above                                                                       | Total daily EE: EE control = 9.2 MJ/day. EEEx moderate exercise = 11.0 MJ/day. EEEx high exercise = 12.1 MJ/day. | EI was significantly higher in the high exercise treatment vs. control, but not different from the moderate exercise treatment. No significant between group differences for energy from protein; however, energy from both fat and CHO were significantly higher for the high exercise treatment vs. control. |
| Stubbs et al. (2004) [92]     | 6 men: Age = 23 (2.3); BMI = 22.2 (2.4); Activity level/fitness = NR         | 7-day whole room calorimeter protocol with 2 conditions: Sedentary: 2×40 min cycle ergometer sessions to increase daily energy expenditure to 1.4×RMR. Active: 3×40 min cycle ergometer sessions to increase daily energy expenditure to 1.8×RMR. | All meals provided. Food items were weighed before and after each meal.          | Sedentary daily EE = 9.75 MJ. Active daily EE = 12.77 MJ.                        | No significant differences in EI or macronutrient intake between treatments. |
| Schneider et al. (2009) [66]  | 43 sedentary women, 22 sedentary men: Age = 34.4 (10.8); BMI = 33.5 (5.5)  | Control: 3 min sitting. Active: 3 min step test, up and down a 17.5 cm bench at 92 steps/min. | Participants were offered two 800 kcal portions of cookies and chips (1600 kcal total) 10 min following the trial. | EEEx = NR                                                                       | No significant differences in EI between conditions. |
| Shorten et al. (2009) [84]    | 11 men: Age = 20.8 (2.1); BMI = 24.1 (2.3); VO₂ max = 53.8 (8.9) ml/kg/min | Control: 40 min rest. Exercise: 40 min treadmill running at 70% VO₂ peak. | Buffet breakfast offered ~30 min post trial.                                    | EEEx = 2375 (280) kJ                                                         | EI was significantly higher following exercise vs. control. No significant difference in REI between exercise and control. No significant difference for PRO, fat or CHO intake as percentage of total EI. |
| Study             | Participants                                                                 | Intervention                                                                 | Meals                                      | Results: Exercise                                                                 | Results: Diet                                                                 |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Staten et al.    | 10 men, 10 women: Age = NR; BMI = 22.1 (NR); VO2 max men = 47.3 (6.2) ml/kg/min; VO2 max women = 36.9 (6.0) ml/kg/min | 5 day protocol with 2 conditions: Sedentary: Usual daily activities. Active: 60 min of daily treadmill exercise at 70% VO2 max | All food obtained from a metabolic kitchen.                                       | EEEx for men = 669 (126) kcal/day.                                             | EEEx for women = 441 (92) kcal/day. Significant increase in EI for men, but not women, in the exercise vs. the sedentary condition. However, REI estimates indicated that both men and women were in negative caloric balance during the exercise period. |
| Tremblay et al.  | 9 men: Age = 28.3 (6.1); BMI = 23.9 (NR); VO2 max = 54.7 (6.6) ml/kg/min       | Control: 60 min rest. Exercise: 60 min treadmill walk at 55–60% VO2 max.     | EI over 48 hrs post trial was assessed when participants were offered low fat, high fat or mixed diet obtained from a metabolic kitchen. | EEEx = 2.8 (0.4) MJ                                                            | EI following exercise for both the low-fat and mixed-diet conditions were not different from control. However, when subjects ate the high-fat diet ad lib following exercise EI increased about 5.5 MJ/48 hr. |
| Tsolliou et al.  | 10 women: Age = 50.0 (8.5); BMI = 37.2 (6.5); Activity level/fitness = NR     | Control: 30 min sitting. Exercise: 29 min brisk walk indoors, under supervision at ~13 on the RPE scale. | Buffet dinner presented 1-hr post trial   | EEEx = NR                                                                        | Exercise HR was 123 (18) bests/min at an RPE of 14 (2). No significant difference in EI or macronutrient intake between trials. |
| Ueda et al.      | 10 men: Age = 23.4 (4.3); BMI = 22.5 (1.0); VO2 max = 45.9 (8.5) ml/kg/min     | Control: 30 min sitting. Exercise: 30 min recumbent cycle, moderate intensity (50% VO2 max). Exercise: 30 min recumbent cycle, high intensity (75% VO2 max). | Test meal offered 30 min post trial.     | EEEx = NR                                                                        | EI was significantly lower following both high and low intensity exercise vs. control. EI was not different between the moderate and high intensity trials. |
| Ueda et al.      | 14 men: 7 normal weight, 7 obese. Normal weight: Age = 22.4 (4.2); BMI = 22.4 (2.4); VO2 max = 46.6 (3.9) ml/kg/min. Obese: Age = 22.9 (3.4); BMI = 30.0 (3.1); VO2 max = 34.0 (6.3) ml/kg/min | Control: 60 min sitting. Exercise: 60 min cycle ergometer at 50% VO2 max. | Test meal offered 2 hrs post trial.       | EEEx = NR                                                                        | EI and REI was significantly lower following exercise vs control session. There were significant differences in EI and REI between normal weight and obese males, suggesting a greater energy deficit due to exercise in obese compared with normal weight men. |
| Unick et al.     | 19 sedentary women: Age = 28.5 (8.3); BMI = 32.5 (4.3)                       | Control: ~40 min rest. Exercise: Treadmill walk at 70–75% of age-predicted max HR with a duration to elicit EEEx of 3 kcal/kg body weight. | Buffet of a variety of snack foods offered 60 min post trial. | EE rest = 44.3 (8.9) kcal. EEEx = 353.6 (71.9) kcal.                             | EI was not significantly different between control and exercise trials. REI was significantly lower following the exercise vs control. |
| Vatansever-Ozen et al. | 10 men: Age = 20.1 (0.2); BMI = 23.0 (0.4); VO2 max = 62.7 (3.1) ml/kg/min | Control: 4- hrs rest. Exercise: 120 min total ~ 105 min at 50% max VO2 and 15 min at 70% max VO2. | Buffet meal offered 1-hr post trial.     | EEEx = 230 (20) kcal.                                                           | EI was not significantly different between trials. |
Macronutrient intake. Sixteen of the 40 acute studies (40%) reported data on macronutrient intake [54–58,60,66,72,76–79,82,84]. Fifteen studies showed no effect, while one study indicated significantly higher fat and protein intake following exercise compared with no-exercise control [76].

Effect of Study Parameters on Energy Intake

Exercise mode. Three studies provided information relative to the effect of exercise mode on post-exercise energy intake. Balaguer-Cortes et al. [77] reported no effect of either aerobic (treadmill) or resistance exercise while King et al. [56] showed no effect of swimming on absolute post-exercise energy intake. These results are in contrast to those of Laan et al. [65] who showed an increase in absolute post-exercise energy intake following both...
Exercise intensity. Six acute studies reported the effect of exercise intensity on post-exercise energy intake. Four studies found no effect of exercise intensity on absolute energy intake following exercise [51,60,64,85]; however, Imbeault et al. [51] reported a lower relative energy intake following high intensity exercise (75% VO₂ max) compared with low intensity exercise (35% VO₂ max) or non-exercise control. One study [52] showed a significant increase in absolute energy intake for high (70% VO₂ peak) but not low intensity exercise (40% VO₂ peak); however relative energy intake was lower in both the high and low intensity exercise groups compared with non-exercise controls. One study reported a significant decrease in absolute energy intake following strenuous (40 min/90 W cycle ergometer) but not moderate exercise (40 min/30 W cycle ergometer) in non-obese but not in obese women [75].

Exercise duration. Two studies evaluated the role of exercise duration on post-exercise energy intake with divergent results. King et al. [60] reported no effect of exercise duration on post-exercise energy intake; however, Erdman et al. [64] reported that absolute energy intake was not significantly greater than control following cycle ergometer exercise bouts of 30 and 60 min, but was significantly greater than control following 120 minutes of exercise.

Exercise time of day. Two studies evaluated the effect of the time of day of aerobic exercise on post-exercise energy intake [55,63]. Both studies found no significant difference in absolute post-exercise energy intake between exercise performed in the morning (7 and 8:15 AM) compared to the same exercise performed in the evening (5 and 7:15 PM). However, O’Donoghue et al. [55] showed that relative energy intake at breakfast was lower after morning exercise compared with afternoon exercise or control while relative energy intake at dinner was lower post-afternoon exercise compared with control.

Composition of test meals. Four studies evaluated the effect of the macronutrient composition of the test meal on post-exercise energy intake. Three studies found no significant differences in absolute post-exercise energy intake compared to rest between low or high fat test meals [70,71,74]. King et al. [59] found no difference in absolute post-exercise energy intake when either high fat/low carbohydrate or low fat/high carbohydrate test meals were presented; however, relative energy intake was significantly lower in the low fat/high carbohydrate, but not the high fat/low carbohydrate condition compared with control.

Time between the end of exercise and the presentation of the test meal. In the one acute study that investigated the effect of time between exercise and presentation of the test meal on energy intake, Verger et al. [67] showed that absolute energy intake increased as the time post-exercise that the test meals were presented increased (immediate to 120 min).

Effect of Participant Characteristics on Energy Intake

Age. No studies evaluated the effect of age on post-exercise energy intake. Studies were generally conducted in young adults with a median age of 23 years.

Gender. Although 6 studies included both men and women [64–68] the data were presented separately in only one study. Verger et al. [67] showed significant increases in absolute EI following exercise (2 hours of non-stop submaximal aerobic athletic activities) in both men and women.

Weight status. Three studies provided data on the effect of weight status on post-exercise energy intake [73,75,86]. George et al. [73] found non-significant differences in absolute post-exercise energy intake between normal and overweight women. Kissileff et al. [75] reported significant decreases in post-exercise energy intake in non-obese, but not obese women, while Ueda et al. [86] found larger energy deficits (i.e. decreased energy intake) induced by exercise in obese compared with normal weight men.

Weight/Diet/Dietary restraint. Three studies evaluated the effect of combinations of weight, dieting status or level of eating restraint on post-exercise energy intake. Harris et al. [61] found no differences in post-exercise energy intake in a sample of men across 3 groups: 1) normal weight/low dietary restraint/non-dieting; 2) normal weight/high dietary restraint/non-dieting; 3) overweight/low dietary restraint/non-dieting; 4) overweight/high dietary restraint/non-dieting; and 5) overweight/high dietary restraint/dieting. In a sample of normal weight young women, Luch et al. [70] found increased absolute post-exercise energy intake in women classified as unrestrained eaters and decreased energy intake in restrained eaters. Relative energy intake compared with rest was greater in restrained compared with unrestrained eaters. Visonia et al. [62] demonstrated a significant interaction between dieting/eating restraint status and study condition (exercise vs. control) on 12-hour energy intake in sample of women. The mean difference in 12-hour energy intake between the exercise and control day was significantly higher for the dieting-high restraint group compared with the non-dieting high restraint group.

Activity level. Two studies evaluated the effect of activity level on post-exercise energy intake. Jokisch et al. [78] showed a significant decrease in post-exercise energy intake compared with control in inactive but not in active men. Larson-Meyer et al. [76] found non-significant differences between post-exercise energy intake and control in a normal weight sample of both habitual walkers (≥3 days/wk for ≥60 min/day) and habitual runners (≥32 km/wk); however, relative post-exercise energy intake was significantly lower in runners compared with controls, but not in walkers vs. controls.

Short-Term Studies

The 10 short-term studies comprised ~9% of the total studies identified for this review (Table 2). These studies employed crossover designs that compared energy intake assessed over a time frame of 2–14 days during which participants engaged in exercise with energy intake during an equivalent period of no imposed exercise.

Short-Term Studies: Study Characteristics

Sample size. The median (range) sample size for the 10 short-term studies was 9.5 (6–20).

Trial length. The median (range) duration of short-term studies was 8 (2–14) days.

Exercise intensity/duration. One study prescribed exercise intensity at 70% of heart rate max (HRMax). Five studies prescribed intensity relative to VO₂ max (median [range] 60% [44–75%]). Three studies did not report exercise intensity relative to VO₂ or HRMax [19,87,88]. Eight of 10 short-term studies (80%) dosed exercise by energy expenditure; 3 relative to body weight [87–89], 3 relative to resting or baseline daily energy expenditure [90–92], and 2 to an absolute exercise energy expenditure goal [93,94]. Two studies prescribed exercised by time that ranged from 60 [93] to 100 min/day [94]. Prescriptions ranged from 21.4 [99] to 57.1 kJ/kg body weight [88], 1.4 to 1.8 times RMR [92], 12.5% [90] to 29% above baseline total energy expenditure [91] and net exercise energy expenditure from 2.8 [95] to 2.98 MJ/day [96].
Table 3. Non-Randomized Trials.

| Study                  | Participants | Trial Length | Exercise Prescription/ Intervention | Diet Assessment | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Andersson et al. (1991) [101] | 22 women: Age = 36 (1.4) years; BMI = 24.6 (0.3); VO₂ max = 33.9 (NR) ml/kg/min. 9 men: Age = 37 (2.4) years; BMI = 25.7 (0.4); VO₂ max = 42.0 (2.8) ml/kg/min | 12 wks | Supervised 60 min sessions of gym activity, 3 times/wk. Interval training - lighter intensity exercise (jogging, coordination, strength) with 3–5 min periods at 80% max work capacity. | Diet history at baseline, mid and end study. | EEx or other data on exercise adherence were NR | No significant change in EEx or other data on exercise adherence were NR |
| Bryant et al. (2012) [103] | Total sample (39 women & 19 men): Age = 35.6 (9.8) years; BMI = 31.8 (4.5); VO₂ max = 29.1 (5.7) ml/kg/min | 12 wks | Supervised sessions of cycle ergometer exercise, 5 days/wk at 70% VO₂ max for a duration designed to expend 500 kcal/session. | El intake was measured during probe days every 4 weeks. EEx was calculated by weighing food before and after consumption. | EEx or other data on exercise adherence were NR | No significantly change in EEx or other data on exercise adherence were NR |
| Caudwell et al. (2013) [104] | 72 women: Age = 40.6 (9.5); BMI = 31.8 (4.3); VO₂ max = 28.9 (NR) ml/kg/min. 35 men: Age = 41.3 (8.6) years; BMI = 30.5 (8.6); VO₂ max = 34.7 (NR) ml/kg/min | 12 wks | Supervised exercise 5 days/wk at 70% HR max with a duration designed to expend ~10.5 MJ/wk. Mode: choice of treadmill, cross-trainer, rowing or cycle ergometers. | Test meals in the lab at baseline and 12 wks. After an individualized fixed-energy breakfast (ad libitum on the first visit), participants were provided with a fixed-energy lunch, an ad libitum dinner meal, and a snack box for the evening. | Total EEx was 122.8 (20.9) MJ for men and 115.3 (15.1) MJ for women. NS. Average exercise session for men was 43 (8.7) min and 54 (10.2) min for women. | No significant change in EEx or other data on exercise adherence were NR |
| Di Blasio et al. (2012) [105] | 41 women (34 completed intervention). Completer data: Age = 55.9 (3.6); BMI = 26.9 (4.2); VO₂ max = 27.0 (5.0) ml/kg/min | 13 wks | Group walks, 4 days/wk. Month 1: 40 min at RPE 11 on 15 point scale. Month 2: 50 min/RPE 11. Month 3: 50 min/RPE 13. 2 of 4 sessions/wk were supervised. | 3–day food records (2 weekdays and 1 weekend day) collected at baseline and 13 wks. | Attendance at exercise sessions was 85 (10.8)%. No significant increase in total or PA EE (SenseWear Armband) between baseline and 13 wks. | No significant change in EEx or % of energy from fat, CHO or PRO. |
| Keytel et al. (2001) [106] | 19 women (non-randomized observation of 9 exerciser and 10 non-exercisers). Exercisers: Age = 58 (7) years; BMI = 25.1 (2.7); VO₂ max = 1.87 (0.42) L/min. Non-exercisers: Age = 55 (5) years; BMI = 26.6 (4.3); VO₂ max = 1.96 (0.42) L/min. | 8 wks | Exercise: New participants in a commercial walk/run exercise program; met 3 days/wk. Started walking 3 km and progressed to walk/jog between 3–6 km at 70–75% of age predicted max HR. Non-exercise: Volunteers recruited by media and investigator. Told no to make major lifestyle changes. | 1–24 hr recall at baseline and 2 at 8 wks. | No difference in total daily EE across 8 wks. in either the exercise or control group. Activity diary data indicated significantly greater levels of PA in exercise vs. control for sedentary, active and very active categories. | No significant change in EEx or % of energy from fat, CHO or PRO. |
| King et al. (2008) [18] | 35 total (25 women &10 men): Age = 39.6 (11) years; BMI = 31.8 (4.1); VO₂ max = 28.6 (5.7) ml/kg/min | 12 wks | Supervised exercise, 5 days/wk at 70% max HR, duration to expend ~500 kcal/session. Mode: cycle ergometer, stepper, rowing ergometer or treadmill. | Test meals (lunch/dinner) on 1 day at baseline and 12 wks. | Attendance at exercise sessions was 82%. EEx was 2333 kcal/wk. | No significant change in EEx or % of energy from fat, CHO or PRO. |
### Table 3. Cont.

| Study | Participants | Trial Length | Exercise Prescription/ Intervention | Diet Assessment | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Koulouri et al. (2006) [97] | 12 total (7 women & 5 men) active participants enrolled; 10 completers: Age = 28.3 (6.0) years; BMI = 22.3 (3.3). | 3 wks | 1 wk habitual activity followed by 2 wks of advice to increase walking by 2000 steps/day. | Daily food diaries over the 3 wk study period. | During the exercise period steps/day (pedometry) increased by 2, 677; EE (diary) increased 30 kJ/day, and EE (activPAL) increased 100 kJ/day. | No significant change in EI between baseline and the intervention period. |
| Manthou et al. (2010) [21] | 34 women: Age = 31.7 (8.1) years; BMI = 29.3 (4.3); VO2 max = 2.1 (0.38) L/min. | 8 wks | 150 min of supervised cycle ergometer exercise at 72–77% of age-predicted max HR in one of 2 patterns: 75 min 2 days/wk (n = 18) or 30 min 5 days/wk (n = 16). | 7-day weighed food record at baseline and 8 wks. | Compliance with exercise was 100%. EEEx = 30.2 (12.6 MJ) over the intervention. | EI increased significantly from baseline to 8 wks. No significant changes in energy from fat, CHO or PRO. Differences in EI or macronutrient intake between exercise patterns was not presented. |
| Martins et al. (2010) [98] | 22 total (Completer: 7 women & 8 men); Age = 36.9 (8.3) years; BMI = 31.3 (2.3); VO2 max = 32.9 (6.6) ml/kg/min. | 12 wks | Supervised treadmill walking or running 5 days/wk at 75% max HR to induce and energy deficit of 500 kcal/session. | 3-day food record (at least 1 weekend day) at baseline and 12 wks. | Average attendance at exercise sessions = 89 (5.9%). | No significant change in EI or macronutrient intake. |
| Snyder et al. (1997) [99] | 13 women (15 started); Age = 43 (11); BMI = 32.5 (8.0); VO2 max = 4.0 (4.6) ml/kg/min. | 32 wks | Walking (in and outdoors) 10 min bouts, 3 times/day, 5 days/wk. At 50–67% HR max. 3 of 5 sessions/wk were supervised. | 3-day food record at baseline and 32 wks; 24-hr. recalls at 11 and 22 wks. | Adherence to exercise = 82.6 (10%). Total estimated EEEx = 81843 (21014) kJ. | No significant change in EI or macronutrient intake. |
| Suzuki et al. (1998) [102] | 31 women: Age = 19.2 (0.2 SEM) years; BMI = 21.5 (1.2 SEM); VO2 max = 36.2 (1.1) ml/kg/min. | 12 wks | Supervised cycle ergometer exercise, 30 min/day, 5 days/wk at 40% VO2 max. | Daily weighed food records analyzed weekly. | EEEx = 117.3 (3.1 SEM) kcal/session. | No significant change in EI or macronutrient intake between baseline and the training period. |
| Westerterp et al. (1992) [100] | 32 total (16 women &16 men) sedentary participants enrolled: Age range = 28–41 years; BMI range = 19.4–26.4. 5 women and 4 men did not complete the intervention. | 44 wks | Supervised training (running), 4 sessions/wk. With increasing running time to 10–30 min, 20–60 min and 30–90 min/session after 8, 20 and 40 weeks respectively. Goal of running a half marathon. | 7-day weighed food records at baseline, 8, 20 and 40 wks. | Median PA index (daily EE/sleep EE) increased over the intervention. | No significant changes in or nutrient composition of the diet were detected. |

**Energy intake assessment.** Seven studies used weigh and measured meals provided by a metabolic kitchen [88,90–93,95,96] 3 used weigh and measure food records [87,89,94].

**Short-Term Studies: Participant Characteristics**

**Age.** The median (range) for age across all short-term studies was 28.3 (23–35) years.

**Gender.** Two studies (20%) included both men and women [88,93], 3 (30%) included women only [87,90,91] and 5 studies (50%) included only men [89,92,94–96].

**BMI.** The median (range) BMI was 23.5 (21.4–28.2) kg/m². Three of 10 studies (30%) had a mean sample BMI in the overweight category (i.e. ≥25 kg/m²) [90,91,96].

**Minority status.** No studies describe the racial or ethnic composition of the study sample or reported an association between exercise level and energy intake by race or ethnicity.

**Participant activity level.** Participants recruited for the majority of short-term studies (7/10 - 70%) were sedentary or moderately active [87–90,92,93,96]. Two studies (20%) recruited active participants [94,95] while one study (10%) did not describe baseline participant physical activity [91].

**Short-Term Studies: Results**

**Energy intake.** Five of 10 short-term studies (50%) reported increased absolute energy intake (~200–335 kcal/day) over periods of 2 to 14 days when exercise was imposed compared with a non-exercise control period [87,88,93,95,96]. Three studies that reported increased absolute energy intake showed relative energy intake at a level to maintain a negative energy balance during the exercise period [87,88,93]; however, Tremblay et al. [95] showed that participants achieved a positive energy balance when presented with a high fat diet.
Macronutrient intake. Seven of the 10 short-term studies (70%) reported macronutrient intake [87–90,92,94,96]. Four of 7 studies (57%) showed no effect of exercise on macronutrient intake [89,90,92,94]. Farah et al. [96] reported increased intake of carbohydrate and protein while Stubbs et al. [87] observed increased intake of carbohydrate and fat with exercise compared to control. Whybrow et al. [88] noted increased intake of carbohydrate, fat and protein with exercise vs. control in men but not in women.

Effect of Study Parameters on Energy Intake

Exercise mode. The one study that compared the effect of aerobic and resistance exercise reported no significant difference between exercise and control for short-term energy intake during either aerobic or resistance training [91].

Level of exercise energy expenditure. Four studies evaluated the effect of increased levels of exercise energy expenditure on short-term energy intake [87–90]. Levels of energy compared were 12.5% vs. 25% above baseline energy expenditure [90], 21.4 vs. 42.8 kJ/kg/day [87,89] and 28.6 vs. 57.1 kJ/kg/day [88]. Three studies observed no effect [87,89,90]. The study by Whybrow et al. [88] reported increased short-term energy intake associated with higher levels of exercise energy expenditure (57.1 vs. 28.6 kJ/kg/day) in men but not in women.

Exercise intensity. No studies evaluated the effect of exercise intensity on short-term energy intake.

Composition of test meals. The one study that compared the effect of the composition of test meals (mixed, high fat, low fat) on short-term energy intake noted increased energy intake when high fat, but not low or mixed fat meals were presented [95].

Effect of Participant Characteristics on Energy Intake

Age. No short-term studies evaluated the effect of age on post-exercise energy intake. Studies were generally conducted in young adults with a median age of 28.3 years.

Gender. Results from the two studies that evaluated gender differences in short-term energy intake with exercise reported that absolute energy intake increased in men but not in women [88,93]. Results from 2 separate studies that used identical exercise and energy intake protocols in samples of men [89] and women [87] found increased energy intake with exercise in women, but not in men.

Other participant characteristics. No studies evaluated the effect of weight, physical activity or level of dietary restraint on short-term changes in energy intake induced by exercise.

Non-Randomized Trials

The 12 non-randomized trials comprised ~12% of the total studies identified for this review (Table 3). Most trials (11/12) evaluated changes in energy intake in a single group (no control) assigned to complete a longitudinal exercise training program [18,21,97–103] while one study observed differences in energy intake between women who participated in an 8 week exercise program at a commercial exercise facility with a group of non-exercise volunteer controls [106].

Non-Randomized Trials: Study Characteristics

Sample size/completion rate. The median (range) sample size across the 12 non-randomized trials was 31 (10–107). The median (range) rate of trial completion in the 5 trials that provided data on this parameter was 83% (68–87%) of participants who started the intervention [97–100,105].

Trial length. The median (range) length of non-randomized trials was 12 (3–44) weeks.

Exercise mode. Six of 12 non-randomized trials involved laboratory based aerobic exercise conducted on cycle ergometers/rowers/stppers/treadmills [18,21,98,102–104]. Five trials employed indoor or outdoor walking [97,99,100,105,106] while one trial required participants to complete a combination of gym activities (jogging/coordination/resistance) [101].

Exercise supervision. All exercise sessions were supervised in 8 trials [18,21,98,100–104], partially supervised in 3 trials [99,105,106] and unsupervised in one trial [97].

Exercise prescription (frequency). The median (range) exercise frequency was 5 (2–5) days/week.

Exercise prescription (intensity). Three trials prescribed exercise duration as a percentage of maximal VO2 [101–103], 5 by percentage of HRMax [18,21,98,104,106], one by heart-rate-reserve [99] and one by ratings of perceived exertion [105]. The median (range) of intensity prescriptions were: 40% (40–80%) max VO2; 73% (70–75%) HRMax, 59–67% heart-rate-reserve; and perceived exertion 11–13 on a 15 point scale. Prescribed exercise intensity was not reported in 2 trials [97,100].

Exercise prescription (duration). Six trials prescribed exercise duration by time [21,99–102,105], 4 by level of exercise energy expenditure [18,98,103,104], one by walking distance [106] and one by pedometer steps/day [97]. The median (range) duration for the 6 trials prescribing exercise by time was 40 (30–60) min/day. All 4 studies prescribing exercise by energy expenditure assigned 500 kcal/exercise session. Prescribed walking distance was 3–6 km/day, and pedometer steps were to increase steps by 2,000 per day above baseline over 2 weeks.

Compliance with the exercise protocol. Seven studies presented data relative to participant compliance with the exercise protocol [18,21,97–99,104,105]. Five trials reported the percentage of exercise sessions attended (range 82–100%) [18,21,98,99,105], 1 reported the level of exercise energy expenditure (prescribed 10.5 MJ/wk; achieved 9.9 MJ/wk) [104] and one trial reported pedometer steps/day (prescribed 2,000; achieved 2,677 steps/day) [97].

Energy and macronutrient assessment. Five trials used non-weighed food records [97,98,100,101,105], 2 used weighed food records [21,102], 3 used test meals [18,103,104], 1 used 12 hour recall [106] and one used a combination of food records and 24-hour recalls [99]. Six studies assessed energy intake at baseline and end [18,21,98,101,104,105], 3 studies completed energy intake assessments at 4 time points [99,100,103], one study at 3 time points [106] while 2 studies collected daily estimates of energy intake over the course of the intervention [97,102].

Non-Randomized Trials: Participant Characteristics

Age. The median (range) age across all non-randomized trials was 36.9 (19.2–56) years.

Gender. Seven studies (58%) included both men and women [18,97,98,100,101,103,104] while 5 studies (42%) included women only [21,99,102,105,106].

BMI. The median (range) BMI was 29.3 (21.5–32.5) kg/m2. Five of 12 studies (42%) had a mean sample BMI in the overweight category (i.e. ≥25 kg/m2) [21,100,101,105,106], while the sample mean BMI was classified as obese (i.e. ≥30 kg/m2) in 5 trials [18,98,99,103,104] and normal weight (i.e. BMI<25 kg/m2) in 2 trials [97,102].

Minority status. No non-randomized trials described the racial or ethnic composition of the study sample or reported an association between exercise level and energy intake by race or ethnicity.

Participant activity level. Eleven of 12 non-randomized trials described inclusion criteria for level of baseline physical activity. Six trials were aimed at walking (i.e. ≥5000 steps/day) [18,97,98,100,101,104], 4 were aimed at increasing physical activity to normal levels [21,100,101,105], 3 were aimed at increasing physical activity to above normal levels [99,103,104], 1 was aimed at increasing physical activity to above levels of activity recorded in previous studies [97] and one was aimed at increasing physical activity to levels recorded in previous studies [102].

Does Exercise Affect Dietary Intake
### Table 4. Randomized Trials.

| Study                  | Participants | Length | Intervention/ Groups                                      | Diet Assessment | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Bales et al. (2012)    | 117 sedentary men and women in 3 groups: Aerobic training (AT) 19 men/20 women: Age = 53 (NR); BMI = 30.1 (NR); Resistance training (RT) 18 men/20 women: Age = 48.5 (NR); BMI = 30.4 (NR); Aerobic+Resistance training (AT/RT) 18 men/22 women: Age = 47 (NR); BMI = 30.2 (NR) | 8 mos | AT: Calorically equivalent to approximately 12 miles/wk at 65%–80% VO₂peak treadmill, elliptical and cycle ergometer. RT: 3 days/wk, 3 sets, 8–12 reps. RT program began with one set of each exercise during the first 2 wks., followed by two sets during weeks 3 and 4, and reaching the goal of 3 sets at week 5. AT/RT: Linear combination of both exercise prescriptions. | 2 EI assessment methods were used at baseline and end study: 1) Combination of 3-day food records (2 wk days/1 wk end day) and unannounced 24 hr. recall. (QDI) 2) Block Food Frequency Questionnaire (FFQ). | Adherence to exercise treatment: AT = 90.1%; RT = 82.9%; AT/RT = 83.3%/82.0% | FFD results: Significant decreases in absolute EI, and the intake of CHO, fat and PRO for both the AT and AT/RT groups. QDI results: Changes were non-significant; except a significant decreased in absolute fat intake for RT. When EI was expressed relative to body mass, results were similar, i.e., significant decreases EI for AT and AT/RT (FFQ results), with no change in RT. |
| Brandon & Elliott-Lloyd (2006) | 52 women: Exercise = 15 African American: Age = 34 (7.2); BMI = 34.4 (8.2); VO₂ max = 31.4 (5.2) ml/kg/min; 13 White: Age = 40.5 (7.1); BMI = 29.5 (5.7); VO₂ max = 32.3 (6.0) ml/kg/min. Control = 12 African American: Age = 36 (8.4); BMI = 33.0 (7.1); VO₂ max = 30.8 (4.3) ml/kg/min. 12 White: Age = 42 (9.7); BMI = 32.8 (7.3); VO₂ max = 32.3 (6.0) ml/kg/min | 2 wk run-in period, 16 wks at walking goal. Studied only women who were able to walk 3 miles/session after the 2 wk run-in period. | Control: No exercise. Exercise: Supervised brisk walking in groups, 3 days/wk, 3 miles/session, outdoors (indoor track or treadmill in bad weather). Self-paced intensity. Goal was to walk 3.5 mph pace. | 2-day food record (Sunday and Monday) at study wks. 1, 9 and 16. Exercise Adherence: African American = 86%; White = 90%. Pace: African American = 3.54 mph; White = 3.61 mph. Retention rate was higher in Whites (74%) vs. African American (45%) based on performance in the run-in period. | | | |
| Broeder et al. (1992)  | 64 men randomized. Control, n = 20; Endurance, n = 22; Resistance, n = 22. 47 men completed the study. Control n = 19; Age = 18–35; BMI = 25.3 (1.0); VO₂ max = 49.1 (2.2) ml/kg/min. Endurance, n = 15; Age = 18–35; BMI = 25.1 (1.1); VO₂ max = 49.6 (2.2) ml/kg/min. Resistance, n = 13; Age = 18–35; BMI = 25.5 (1.1); VO₂ max = 48.1 (1.5) ml/kg/min | 12 wks | Endurance training: Supervised walk/jog program, 4 days/wk progressed to 40 min at a minimum intensity of 70% VO₂max by wk 4. After wk 8, each person was exercising for 50 min at between 70% and 85% VO₂ max. Resistance training: Supervised free weights/ machines, 4 days/wk. (2 days upper and 2 days lower body), 3-sets, 11 exercises. 3-day food records at baseline, and wks 6, 7, and 12. Recording days randomly assigned but always included 2 week days and 1 weekend day. | Exercise groups each subject completed ≥90% of scheduled workout sessions. | No significant change in EI for any study group. No significant between group differences between the mid and post-treatment periods for the percentage of kcal derived from CHO, fat or PRO.
| Study                  | Participants                     | Length          | Intervention/ Groups | Diet Assessment Results: Exercise Results: Diet | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Bryner et al. (1997) [125] | 25 women randomized, 15 women completed study. Low intensity = 7 women: Age = 24.9 (4.6); BMI = 23.6 (NR); VO2 max = 36.2 (4.7) ml/kg/min. High intensity = 8 women: Age = 24.2 (6.0); BMI = 23.2 (NR); VO2 max = 29.2 (5.7) ml/kg/min | 16 wk trial, 12 wk active intervention. | Supervised walk/jog, 40–45 min/day, 4 days/wk at either low or high intensity. Low intensity: 60–70% max HR. High intensity: 80–90% max HR | 7-day food records, monthly. | Low intensity group: Exercise day/wk = 4.2 (0.47). Min/day = 46 (10.2); HR = 131.6 (7.6). High intensity group: Exercise day/wk = 3.9 (0.3); Min/day = 43 (9.3); HR = 162.8 (9.5) | No significant change in EI or CHO, fat or PRO intake for either group. |
| Cox et al. (2010) [124] | 116 women. Walk group (60 women): Age = 55.2 (4.8); BMI = 26.4 (3.5); VO2 max = 27.5 (4.1) L/min. Swim group (56 women): Age = 55.8 (4.5); BMI = 26.3 (3.0); VO2 max = 27.5 (4.2) L/min. 42 walk and 44 swim group completed 12 mos. assessments for a retention rate of 74%. | 12 mos | 6 mos. supervised and 6 mos. unsupervised exercise. Walk: 30 min/session, 3 days/wk at 60–70% HRR, on a track or around a park. Swimming: 30 min/session, 3 days/wk at 60–70% HRR. Unsupervised exercise at a venue of choice. Half of women received a behavioral intervention package to encourage adoption and adherence to exercise, the other half received standard exercise information of “usual care” | FFQ at baseline, 6 and 12 mos which assessed nutrient intake for the previous 3 mos. | Exercise min/wk. at 6 mos. Walk = 122 min/wk. Swim = 126 min/wk. Exercise min/wk at 12 mos. Walk = 116 min/wk.Swim = 117 min/wk. | EI was unchanged, with no significant group differences after 6 or 12 mos. |
| Cox et al. (2003) [129] | Light exercise (17 men): Age = NR; BMI = 29.7 (3.4); VO2 max = 2.4(range 2.2–2.6) L/min. Vigorous exercise (13 men): Age = NR; BMI = 30.5 (3.9); VO2 max = 2.6 (range 2.4–2.8) L/min. Mean age total sample = 42.4 (5.0). | 16 wks | Supervised exercise 30 min/session, 3 days/wk. Light exercise: Slow flexibility exercises 1 day/wk and stationary cycling (zero resistance) 2 days/wk. Vigorous exercise: Stationary cycling at 60%–70% HRR. | 3-day food records completed every 2 wks. | Exercise intensity: Light exercise = 18% HRR. Vigorous intensity = 76% HRR. EEEx ranged from 1,507 to 1,758 kJ/session. | No significant change in EI or % of energy from CHO, fat or PRO in either the light or vigorous exercise groups. |
| Church et al. (2009) [16] | 411 women. Control (94 women): Age = 57.2 (5.9); BMI = 32.2 (3.9); VO2 max = 15.7 (2.0) ml/kg/min. Exercise 4 kcal/kg/wk (KKW): 139 women: Age = 56.7 (6.4); VO2 max = 32.2 (4.1); VO2 max = 15.1 (2.2) ml/kg/min. Exercise 8 KKW (85 women): Age = 56.7 (6.4); VO2 max = 32.2 (4.1); VO2 max = 15.1 (2.2) ml/kg/min. Exercise 12 KKW (93 women): Age = 56.4 (6.3); BMI = 31.1 (3.6); VO2 max = 16.1 (2.8) ml/kg/min | 6 mos | Control: no exercise. Exercise groups: 3–4 sessions/wk. at 50% VO2 max designed to achieve EEEx of 4, 8 and 12 KKW. Exercise alternated between semi-recumbent cycle ergometers and treadmills. | EI at baseline and end study was assessed using the Food Intake and Analysis System semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire. | Exercise adherence: 4 KKW = 99.5%; 8 KKW = 99.3%; 12 KKW = 99.2%. Exercise min/wk: 4 KKW = 72.2 (12.4); 8 KKW = 136.3 (19.4); 12 KKW = 193 (31). Total EEEx completed (kcal): 4 KKW = 7932; 8 KKW = 15197; 12 KKW = 20560 | No significant between group differences in mean EI at either baseline or end study. For all groups the mean EI was significantly lower at end study compared to baseline. There were no between groups difference in baseline or follow-up in dietary PRO, fat and CHO intake. |
### Table 4. Cont.

| Study                        | Participants | Length | Intervention/Groups | Diet Assessment | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| **Donnelly et al. (2003)** [9] | 131 men/women randomized; 74 men/women completed the study (56.5%). Control = 15 men: BMI = 29.0 (3.0); VO₂ max = 39.5 (5.7) ml/kg/min. 18 women: BMI = 29.3 (2.3); VO₂ max = 32.4 (3.1) ml/kg/min. Exercise = 16 men: BMI = 29.7 (2.9); VO₂ max = 39.2 (5.2) ml/kg/min.25 women: BMI = 28.7 (3.2); VO₂ max = 32.8 (4.2) ml/kg/min. Sample age NR; recruited age range 17–35. | 16 mos | Control: no exercise. Exercise: supervised treadmill exercise, 5 days/wk. progressed from 20 min/session at baseline to 45 min/session at 6 mos. and intensity progressed from 60% HRR at baseline to 75% HRR at 6 mos. | Weight and measure over 2 wk periods at baseline, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 16 mos. of ad libitum eating at a university cafeteria. Food consumption outside the cafeteria (i.e. snacks) was assessed by multiple-pass 24-hr recalls. | Exercise adherence: Men = 90.3%; Women = 89.6%. EEE: Men = 667 (116) kcal/session. Women = 439 (88) kcal/session | Men: No significant between group differences at baseline or at 16 mos. for EI, fat (g), or CHO (g) intake. PRO intake (g) increased significantly in men in the exercise group vs control. No significant between group differences were observed for fat, CHO or PRO intake as a percentage of total EI. Women: No significant between group differences at baseline or 16 mos for EI or either absolute (g) or relative (% EI) intake of fat, CHO, or PRO. |
| **Donnelly et al. (2000)** [128] | 22 women. Continuous exercise (CON) = 11 women: Age = 54 (9); BMI = 30.1 (2.5); VO₂ max = 23.6 (2.8) ml/kg/min. Intermittent exercise (INT) = 11 women: Age = 49 (8); BMI = 32.2 (5.1); VO₂ max = 22.9 (4.1) ml/kg/min | 18 mos | Supervised exercise. CON = 30 min/day, 3 days/wk., at 60–70% max VO₂. INT = Brisk walk at approximately 50–60% HRR, 2 times/day, 15 min/session, 5 days/wk. at their home or worksite. | EI and macronutrient intake measured with 3-day food records (2 wk days, 1 wk end day) at 9, 12, and 15 mos. 24-hr recalls were collected at 3, 6, 12, and 15 mos. | Exercise adherence: CON = 90.1 (2.3)%; INT = 90.3 (9.1)%; Supervision: CON = 100%; INT = 17.9 (4.8)%. Weekly EEE: CON = 2235 (614); INT = 3235 (872) | Total EI did not change significantly during the duration of the study. Macronutrient composition was unchanged with the exception of fat intake for INT which significantly lower at 9 and 18 mos compared to baseline. Results for the 24-hr recalls were similar to the 3-day food records. |
| **Foster-Schubert et al. (2012)** [110] | Control = 87 women: Age = 57.4 (4.4); BMI = 30.7 (3.9); Non-Hispanic white = 85.1%; VO₂ max = 23.1 (4.1) ml/kg/min. Exercise = 117 women: Age = 58.1 (6.0); BMI = 30.7 (3.7); Non-Hispanic white = 83.3%; VO₂ max = 22.5 (4.1) ml/kg/min. Completion rates: Control = 80/87 (92%); Exercise = 106/117 (91%) | 12 mos | Control: no exercise. Exercise: Progressed from 15 min/session, 60–70% max HR, 5 days/wk to a target of 45 min/session, 70–85% max HR, 5 days/wk. at week 7. Supervised at exercise facility 3 days, at home 5 days. | Women’s Health Initiative 120-item self-administered. FFQ administered at baseline and 12 mos. | Exercise adherence: Achieved on average 80% of the target 225 min/wk aerobic exercise over the 12 mo trial. | EI and fat intake (%EI) decreased in both control and exercise groups, with no significant between group differences. |
| Study | Participants | Length | Intervention/Groups | Diet Assessment | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|-------|--------------|--------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Grediagan et al. (1995) [126] | High Intensity Exercise = 6 women: Age = 30 (5); BMI = 23.8 (2.3); White = 50%; VO2 max = 31.5 (3.8) ml/kg/min. Low Intensity Exercise = 6 women: Age = 31 (6); BMI = 26.2 (1.4); White = 0%; VO2 max = 31.3 (3.3) ml/kg/min. | 12 wks | Supervised treadmill exercise, 4 days/wk at either low (50% VO2 max) or high (80% VO2 max) intensity. Duration was adjusted to elicit EEEx of 300 kcal/session | 4-day food records at baseline, 6 and 12 wks. | Exercise adherence: All subjects completed the 48 prescribed exercise sessions at the prescribed work rate. | No significant changes in EI or macronutrient composition in either group. |
| Jakicic et al. (2011) [122] | Control (n = 89): 92.1% female; 78.6% white; Age = 44.7 (7.9); BMI = 27.1 (1.7). Moderate dose (n = 82): 90.2% female; 78.9% white; Age = 43.5 (8.8); BMI = 27.1 (1.7). High dose (n = 98): 91.8% female; 81.1% white; Age = 45.0 (8.4); BMI = 27.0 (1.6). | 18 mos | Control: no PA intervention. Moderate dose PA: Progressed to 150 min/wk., 55–85% age-predicted max HR, structured, non-supervised PA at wk. 12. High dose PA: Progressed from 100 to 300 min/wk. | Block FFQ Estimated EEEx (kcal/wk.): Control 6 mos = 1529; 12 mos = 1439; 18 mos = 1460. Moderate dose: 6 mos = 1504; 12 mos = 1324; 18 mos = 1147. High dose: 6 mos = 2008; 12 mos = 1685; 18 mos = 1527 | No significant group-by-time interaction for changes in EI or percent of energy from fat, CHO or PRO. |
| Kirkwood et al. (2007) [111] Exercise vs. Control arms | Control = 18 women: BMI = 32.5 (4.5). Exercise = 19 women: BMI = 31.6 (3.8). Mean age for total sample = 41 (NR). Total sample completion rate = 63.3%. Activity/fitness level = NR | 12 wks | Control: no exercise. Exercise: Specific advice to achieve 60 min brisk walking/day. | 4-day unweighed food record (3 wk and 1 wk end day) at baseline, 6 and 12 wks. | EEEx estimated by accelerometer increased 150 kcal/day and 203 kcal/day over baseline at wks 6 and 12, respectively. | Control: EI decreased at wks. 6 and 12 vs. baseline. No change in macronutrient intake as a % of EI over 12 wks. Exercise: EI significantly lower than baseline at wk 6. % energy from fat increased from baseline at wk 12. No change in % energy from CHO or PRO. |
| Miyashita et al. (2010) [127] | Walking group = 8 men: Age = 49.1 (3.4); BMI = 29.7 (2.0); VO2 max = 27.4 (1.7) ml/kg/min. Jogging group = 7 men: Age = 46.7 (3.2); BMI = 29.6 (0.7); VO2 max = 30.7 (2.0) ml/kg/min. | 12 wks | Supervised brisk walking or jogging – 30–60 min/day, 3 days/wk, outdoors. Walking = 65–70% age predicted max HR. Jogging = 75–80% age predicted max HR. | 3 day weighed food record at baseline and 10 wks. | Exercise adherence: Walking = 75(8%); Jogging = 74 (11)%. Exercise intensity: Walking = 69 (4)% max HR. Jogging = 78 (1)% max HR. | No significant differences for total EI or macronutrient intake between or within groups at baseline or at 10 wks. |
### Table 4. Cont.

| Study                        | Participants                      | Length | Intervention/Groups | Diet Assessment | Results: Exercise                                                                 | Results: Diet                                                                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nieman et al. (1990) [112]    | Control group = 18 sedentary women: Age = 32.8 (1.4); BMI = 27.8 (0.9); Exercise group = 18 sedentary women: Age = 36 (1.6); BMI = 28.3 (0.7). | 15 wks  | Brisk walking, 45 min/session, 5 days/wk at 62% VO₂ max. | 7-day food records at baseline, 6 and 15 wks. | 90% of sessions were supervised. Intensity = 62 (2)% VO₂ max. | El decreased significantly over 15 wks in the exercise group and showed a non-significant increase in the control group. The between group differences were non-significant. No significant group by time interactions for CHO, fat or PRO intake as a % of EI. |
| Nordby et al. (2012) [113]    | Control = 15 men: Age = 31 (2); BMI = 28.0 (0.4); VO₂ max = 35.7 (1.7) ml/kg/min. Exercise = 17 men: Age = 28 (1); BMI = 28.3 (0.3); VO₂ max = 38.2 (1.7) ml/kg/min. Completion rate = Control = 75%; Exercise = 85%. | 12 wks  | Control: no exercise. Exercise: Supervised endurance training, 3–4 sessions/wk., moderate intensity 65% HRR and 3–4 sessions/wk. of continuous exercise with intermittent high intensity training intervals at ~85% HRR, until the 600 kcal were utilized. | Weighed 3-day food records at baseline, 2, 6 and 12 wks. | EEEₓ = 576.3 (10.9) Kcal/day. Exercise duration = 51.4 (4.3) min/day | No significant between group differences for change in El or % of energy from fat, CHO or PRO. |
| Prichard et al. (1997) [114]  | Control = 19 men: Age = 42.3 (4.5); BMI = 28.6 (2.8). Exercise = 21 men: Age = 44.9 (6.3); BMI = 29.2 (2.8). Completion rate = 62% of those that started the intervention. Activity/fitness level = NR. | 12 mos  | Control: no exercise. Exercise: Self-selected to be completed in leisure time; minimum 3–30 min sessions/wk at a recommended intensity of 65–75% of max HR. | 3-day food records at 6 and 12 mos. and monthly 24-hr recalls. | Exercise modes: Of the 21 exercisers, 11 walked, 4 jogged (2 alternated jogging with swimming) 3 attended a gym (45 min of aerobic, 15 min RT and anaerobic exercise), and 3 rode an exercise bike. Exercise participation: 3 and 7 sessions/wk. | No significant changes in EI or % energy from fat in either the control or exercise groups. |
| Reseland et al. (2001) [117]  | Control = 37 men. Mean age (complete sample) = 44.9 (2.5). Mean BMI (complete sample) = 28.6 (3.4). No data or data from which to calculate completion rate are presented. Activity/fitness level = NR. | 12 mos  | Control: no exercise. Exercise: Supervised, 3 day/wk, 60 min/session at 60–80% of peak HR. Sessions were 60% aerobic, 25% circuit training and 15% jogging/fast walking. | FFQ completed NR at baseline and 12 mos. | Fat intake as a % of EI was significantly lower at 12 mos. vs. baseline in the exercise group; intakes of other macronutrient was unchanged in both exercise and control groups over the 1-year intervention period. | |
| Ready et al. (1995) [115]     | Control = 10 women: BMI = 32.1 (4.1); VO₂ max = 24.2 (2.8) ml/kg/min. Walk group = 15 women: BMI = 29.4 (6.1); VO₂ max = 28.5 (4.9) ml/kg/min. Average age of total sample = 60.9 (4.6). Completion rate: Control = 63%, Walk = 67%. | 6 mos   | Control: no exercise. Walk: 60 min/day, 5 days/wk at 60% HRR. | 3-day food record at baseline and 6 mos. | Estimated EEEₓ = 6367 (1890) kJ/wk. Duration = 54.3 (7.7) min/session. Intensity = 54% HR. | No significant change in EI or diet composition. |
Table 4. Cont.

| Study                          | Participants | Length | Intervention/Groups | Diet Assessment | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Ready et al. (1996) [116]     | Control = 20 women: BMI = 26.6 (3.8); VO2 max = 21.8 (2.8) ml/kg/min. 3-day group = 19 women: BMI = 26.8 (4.3); VO2 max = 23.2 (4.3) ml/kg/min. 5-day group = 17 women: BMI = 26.2 (2.5); VO2 max = 22.3 (4.3) ml/kg/min. Mean age complete sample = 61.3 (5.8). Completion rate = 71% overall. Control group = 80%; 3-day group = 70%; 5-day group = 63% | 24 wks | Control: no exercise. Exercise: Walk (outdoor track), 60 min/session at 60% VO2 peak either 3 or 5 days/wk. Successful completion required 150 min/wk. and 240 min/wk. for the 3 and 5 day/wk. groups, respectively. | 3-day food records (2 wk days and 1 wk end day). | Exercise frequency: 3 day = 2.9 (0.1) days/wk. 5 day = 4.9 (0.4) days/wk. Exercise duration: 3 day = 171(8) min/wk. 5 day = 279 (20) min/wk. Estimated EEx: 3 day = 4380 kJ/wk. 5 day = 7150 kJ/wk. Supervision: 3 day = 1.1 (0.4) sessions/wk. 5 day = 0.9 (0.3) days/wk. | No significant change in EI, or % energy from fat, CHO or PRO in any group over the 24 wk trial. |
| Rosenkilde et al. (2012) [121] | Control = 17 men: Age = 31 (6); BMI = 28.0 (2.3); VO2 max = 35.9 (4.8) ml/kg/min. Moderate dose exercise (MOD) = 18 men: Age = 30 (7); BMI = 28.6 (1.8); VO2 max = 34.6 (4.1) ml/kg/min. High dose exercise (HIGH) = 18 men: Age = 28 (5); BMI = 27.6 (1.4); VO2 max = 36.2 (5.3) ml/kg/min. Completion rates: Control = 17/18 = 94%; MOD = 18/21 = 86%; HIGH = 18/22 = 82% | 13 wks | Control: no exercise. MOD dose: running/cycling 300 kcal/day. Intense sessions (>70% VO2 max) 3 days/wk. HIGH dose: running/cycling 600 kcal/day. Intense sessions (>70% VO2 max) 3 days/wk. | 3-day weighed food records at baseline and wk 11. Diets for ad libitum consumption were presented over 8 days at baseline and wk 13. Diets were provided in a randomized double-blinded order and consisted of 4 consecutive days of either high-CHO or low-CHO diet, respectively. | Exercise adherence: MOD = 99%, HIGH = 96%. Training EEx: MOD = 335 (8) kcal/day. HIGH = 653 (10) kcal/day. Exercise duration: MOD = 29.9 (8.2) min/session. HIGH = 55.2(6.6) min/session. | No difference in EI in response to the intervention between or within groups. The intervention did not change the relative contribution of dietary macronutrients between or within the groups. No changes between or within groups were observed when ad libitum EI was expressed as total EI or relative to body weight during a high-CHO or low-CHO diets, respectively. |
| Shaw et al. (2010) [118]      | Control = 12 sedentary men: Age = 25 (5.6); BMI = 23.9 (2.3). Concurrent endurance+Resistance training (ET) = 12 sedentary men: Age = 25 (5.6); BMI = 23.9 (2.3). | 16 wks | Control: no exercise. ET: Rowing, stepping cycling and walking on treadmill for 45 min at 60% age predicted max HR, 3 days/wk. CT: 22 min of endurance training as described for the ET group+3 sets/15 reps at 60% 1-RM for 8 exercises. All exercise was supervised. | 7-day food records at baseline and 16 wks. | Exercise adherence or EEx were NR | No association between EI and treatment group. However there was a significant decrease in total EI in and absolute intake (g/day) of CHO, fat and PRO in the CT group. |
| Van Etten et al. (1997) [119] | Control = 8 sedentary men: Age = 35 (6); BMI = 23.6 (NR). Exercise = 18 sedentary men: Age = 33 (6); BMI = 23.8 (NR) | 18 wks | Control: no exercise. Exercise: Supervised resistance training, 2 non-consecutive days/wk, 3 sets, 15 reps, 10 exercises. | 3-day food record (including 1 wk end day) at baseline 8, and 18 wks. | Exercise compliance = 95 (7%) | El and macronutrient intake did not differ between baseline, 8 and 18 wks in either control or exercise groups. |
activity or aerobic fitness. With the exception of the trial of Koulouri et al. [97] who recruited regularly active participants, non-randomized trials were conducted in participants categorized as sedentary [18,21,98,100,102,103,105,106] or with low aerobic fitness [99,104].

Non-Randomized Trials: Results

Energy intake. Eleven of 12 (92%) of non-randomized trials reported no change in energy intake in response to exercise training [18,97–106]. One non-randomized trial reported a significant increase in energy intake (~8 kcal/day) as a result of participating in an exercise training program [21].

Macronutrient intake. None of the 8 non-randomized trials that evaluated the effect of exercise training on macronutrient intake reported significant change in the intake of carbohydrate, fat or protein [18,21,98–100,102,105,106].

Table 4. Cont.

| Study                  | Participants | Length | Intervention/Groups | Diet Assessment | Results: Exercise | Results: Diet |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Washburn et al. (2012) | Control: 13 sedentary men: Age = 20.8 (3.5); BMI = 27.7 (2.5),10 sedentary women: Age = 21.6 (2.5); BMI = 26.4 (3.3), Exercise = 17 sedentary men: Age = 21.1 (2.8); BMI = 27.6 (2.3), 15 sedentary women: Age = 19.1 (1.3); BMI = 27.3 (3.5) | 6 mos | Control: no exercise. Exercise: Supervised resistance training, 3 days/wk, 1 set, 9 exercises, 3–6 repetition max. | Monthly–randomly selected period (2 wk days, 1 wk end day) using 24-hr recalls. | Exercise adherence = 96% of scheduled training sessions. | No significant differences between group in the total sample or for men or women. |

Randomized Trials

The 24 randomized trials constituted ~24% of the total number of studies identified for this review (Table 4). The majority of trials (16/24; ~67%) evaluated the effect of exercise training on energy and macronutrient intake between participants randomized to exercise compared with non-exercise controls [107–122]. The effect of specific exercise training parameters on energy intake including mode (resistance/resistance plus aerobic/swim) [118–120,123,124], intensity [124–127], volume [116,121,122] and timing (intermittent vs. continuous) [128] were also reported. The majority of randomized trials employed an efficacy design; however, reports from Jakicic et al. [122] and Foster-Schubert et al. [110] employed an intent-to-treat design, and Rosenkilde et al. [121] reported both efficacy and intent-to-treat results.

Randomized Trials: Study Characteristics

Sample size/completion rate. The median (range) sample size across the 24 randomized trials was 43.5 (12–411). The median (range) proportion of randomized participants who completed the intervention and provided data for energy intake for the 23 trials that provided data on this parameter was 74% (21–100%).

Trial length. The median (range) length of the 24 randomized trials was 21 (12–72) wks.

Exercise mode. Eight of 24 randomized trials involved laboratory based aerobic exercise where participants used a variety of modalities including cycle ergometers, rowers, recumbent cycles, steppers and treadmill [16,110,113,114,117,118,125], 8 evaluated indoor/outdoor walk/jog [107,111,112,115,116,122,124,127], 5 trials employed primarily laboratory based treadmill walking/jogging [108,109,125,126,128], 4 trials involved resistance training only [108,119,120,123], 2 trials used a combination of resistance and aerobic training [118,123] and one trial each involved swimming [124] and laboratory cycle ergometer exercise [129].

Exercise supervision. All exercise sessions were supervised in 15/24 (63%) of randomized trials [16,107–109,112,113,117–120,123,125–127,129], partially supervised in 6 trials (25%) [110,115,116,121,124,128] and unsupervised in 3 trials (~13%) [111,114,122].

Exercise prescription (frequency). The median (range) exercise frequency was 4 (2–7) days/wk in trials/groups random-
ized to aerobic exercise and 3 (2–4) days/wk for participants randomized to resistance training.

Exercise prescription (intensity). Seven randomized trials prescribed intensity as a percentage of maximal VO₂ [16,108,112,116,121,123,128], 8 trials used a percentage of HRMax [110,114,117,118,122,125–127], 6 used a percentage of heart-rate-reserve [109,113,115,124,128,129] and in 2 trials intensity was “self-paced” [107,111]. The median (range) of intensity prescriptions were: 65% (50–85%) maximal VO₂; 70% (50–90%) HRMax, and 65% (50–75%) heart-rate-reserve.

Exercise prescription (duration). Sixteen randomized trials prescribed exercise duration by time [108–111,114–118,122,124,125–127,129], 5 by level of exercise energy expenditure [113,121,126], and one each by energy expenditure/kg body weight [16], caloric equivalent of walking 12 miles/wk [129] and walking distance [107]. The median (range) duration for the 16 trials prescribing exercise by time was 42 (30–60) min/day. Exercise prescriptions by level of energy expenditure were 300 kcal/day [126], 600 kcal/day [113] and both 300 and 600 kcal/day [121]. Church et al. [16] randomized participants to energy expenditure groups of 4, 0 and 12 kcal/kg/wk, while Bales et al. [125] assigned participants to a combination of aerobic exercise modes (treadmill, elliptical, cycle ergometer) at a caloric equivalent of 12 miles/wk and Brandon et al. [107] prescribed walking 3 miles/session.

Compliance with the exercise protocol. Eighteen studies presented data relative to participant compliance with the exercise training program [16,107–110,112,115,116,119–121,123–129]. Fifteen trials reported the percentage of exercise sessions attended ([median(range) 95% (74–100%)] [16,107–110,112,115,116,119–121,123–126,128], while 3 trials compared the prescribed with actual minutes of actual exercise completed. Bryner et al. [125] prescribed 40–45 min/day, 4 days/wk and observed 45 min/day, 4.1 days/wk. Cox et al. [124] prescribed 90 and achieved 124 min/wk while Nordby et al. [113] prescribed 600 kcal/session and achieved 576 kcal/session.

Energy and macronutrient assessment. Twelve trials used non-weighed food records over 2 to 7 days [107,108,110,112,115,116,119,121,125,126,129], 2 used weighed 3-day food records [113,127], 5 used food frequency questionnaires [16,110,117,122,124], 3 used a combination of food records and 24 hour recalls [114,123,128], and one study each employed repeated 24 hour recalls [120], one study used weigh and measure ad libitum eating over 2 weeks [109], and one study each employed repeated non-weighed food records over 2 to 7 days [107,108,110,111,114,116,117,120–122,124,126,127], while the mean sample BMI was classified as obese (i.e. $\geq 30$ kg/m²) in 8 trials [16,107,110,111,115,123,128,129] and normal weight (i.e. BMI=25 kg/m²) in 3 trials [118,119,125].

Minority status. The median (range) percentage of non-white participants was 19% (0–60%) for the 9 randomized that provided information relative to the racial or ethnic composition of the study sample [16,107–110,122,123,126,129].

Randomized Trials: Results

Energy intake. Eighteen of 24 randomized trials (75%) found no significant change in energy intake in response to exercise training [108–113,115–119,122,124–129]. Five randomized trials reported significant decreases (~200–500 kcal/day) in energy intake in response to exercise training [16,111,112,118,123]. One randomized trial reported a significant increase in energy intake (Brandon 06). However, energy intake increased only in African American, but not white women, where energy intake decreased [107].

Macronutrient intake. Eighteen of the 23 randomized trials (~78%) that provided data on macronutrient intake found no change as a result of exercise training [16,108,109,112–120,122,124–127,129]. Results from the 5 randomized trials that reported significant changes in macronutrient intake as a result of exercise training were mixed [107,110,111,123,128]. For example, Brandon et al. [107] reported a significant increase in absolute carbohydrate intake in white, but not African American women, while Kirkwood et al. [111] reported a significant increase in the intake of fat as a percentage of total energy intake, with no change in the percentage of energy intake from carbohydrate or protein. Studies reported significant decreases in the absolute intake of carbohydrate [107,118,123], fat [118,123,128] and protein [118,123] as well as decreases in the intake of fat as a percentage of total energy intake [117].

Effect of Study Parameters on Energy Intake

Exercise mode. Two randomized trials compared change in energy intake in response to aerobic and resistance training. Broeder et al. [108] reported no change in energy intake in either the aerobic or resistance training groups while Bales et al. [123] reported a significant decrease in energy intake induced by aerobic, but not resistance training. A combination of aerobic plus resistance training was compared with aerobic training alone in 2 trials. Bales et al. [123] reported no between group differences for the change in energy intake with significant decreases in energy intake in both groups. Shaw et al. [118] reported significant decreases in energy intake in the aerobic plus resistance training group but not the aerobic training group. No significant changes in energy intake were reported in the 2 trials that evaluated energy intake in response to resistance training compared with non-exercise controls [119,120] or between participants who completed swim vs. walking training programs [124].

Level of exercise energy expenditure/duration. No between group differences for change in energy intake in response to aerobic exercise training at difference levels of exercise energy expenditure were reported in the 4 trials that evaluated this parameter [16,116,121,122].

Exercise intensity. Four randomized trials compared changes in energy intake in response to aerobic exercise training at low or high intensity [125–127,129]. No significant between group differences for change in energy intake were reported in any of the 4 trials.
Intermittent vs. continuous exercise. The one randomized trial that compared changes in energy intake in response to continuous (one-30 minute sessions/day) vs. intermittent exercise (2–13 minute sessions/day) reported no between or within group differences [120].

Composition of test meals. Rosenkilde et al. [121] found no differences in energy intake with exercise training when low or high carbohydrate test meals were offered.

Effect of Participant Characteristics on Energy Intake

Age. No randomized trials evaluated the effect of age on changes in energy intake in response to exercise training.

Gender. Two randomized trials provided data on gender differences for changes in energy intake in response to exercise training [109,120]. Donnelly et al. [109] reported no between group (exercise vs. control) for change in energy intake in response to 16 months of supervised exercise in either men or women. Similarly, Washburn et al. [120] found no between group differences (exercise vs. control) for change in energy intake in response to 6 months of supervised resistance training in either men or women.

Other participant characteristics. No randomized trials were identified that specifically evaluated the effect of weight status, level of physical activity or level of dietary restraint on the energy intake response to exercise training.

Risk of bias. The risk of bias for all randomized trials is presented in Table 5. The description of the procedures for random sequence generation were unclear in the majority of trials (16/24 ~67%). Six trials adequately described randomization procedures and were considered low risk of bias [109, 110,113,121,123,124], while 2 trials were considered high risk for randomization bias based on failure to provide any description of the randomization process [119] or randomization based on level of occupational and lifestyle physical activity [127]. With the exception of the trial reported by Cox et al. [124], which adequately described procedures for allocation concealment (low bias) all other randomized trials (96%) provided no description of procedures for allocation concealment. Blinding participants and personnel is not feasible in an exercise trial. Blinding of personnel performing outcome assessments is feasible in exercise trials; however, this was described in only 2 trials [110,121]. Twenty one trials provided no information relative to blinding of outcome assessments, while one trial directly stated that outcome assessments were not blinded [113]. Based on an effectiveness study paradigm the risk of attrition bias is high in the majority of the 24 randomized trials included in this review. Fifty-four percent of trials reported completion rates of less than 80%; however, 22 of 24 of these studies were conducted as efficacy trials where data from participants who were non-adherence to the exercise intervention or outcome assessment protocols were not included in the analysis.

Discussion

Summary of Evidence

In this paper we systematically reviewed 99 studies that employed a variety of study designs including cross-sectional, acute/short-term, non-randomized and randomized trials to address the question: Does increased exercise or physical activity alter ad-libitum daily energy intake or macronutrient composition in healthy adults? Our results can be summarized as follows.

Energy intake. It is commonly believed that individuals increase energy intake in response to increased physical activity or exercise training. However overall, we found no consistent, compelling evidence that any level of increased physical activity or exercise has any impact on energy intake. Forty-one percent of cross-sectional studies reported higher energy intake among active compared with inactive individuals. However, cross-sectional data precludes determination of cause and effect. Likewise, it is not possible to determine if the higher energy intake observed among inactive individuals meets or exceeds their level of daily energy expenditure or how between group differences in body weight may impact the results of cross-sectional studies. In agreement with the results of the recent meta-analysis by Schubert et al. [30] on acute exercise and subsequent energy intake, our results from both acute and short-term trials suggest that any observed increase in post-exercise energy intake only partially compensates for the energy expended during exercise. Thus, in the short-term, exercise results in a negative energy balance. Results from both non-randomized and randomized trials are in agreement with the results from acute and short-term trials. Only 2 of 36 (~6%) non-randomized and randomized trials, ranging in duration from 3 to 72 weeks, report an increase in absolute energy intake in response to exercise training, thus implying that exercise does not result in a compensatory increase in energy intake. A limited number of studies across all study designs have evaluated the effect of exercise parameters and participant characteristics on energy intake. Our results suggest no effect of either exercise parameters including mode (aerobic, resistance), intensity, duration/energy expenditure or participant characteristics including age, gender, weight or physical activity level on energy intake. These results are in contrast to those of Schubert et al. [30] from their meta-analysis on the acute effect of exercise on absolute post-exercise energy intake where they noted individuals with low to moderate levels of physical activity were more likely to reduce energy intake in response to exercise compared to their more active counterparts.

Macronutrient intake. Data on macronutrient intake was reported in 67 of the 99 studies (68%) included in this review. Irrespective of study design we found no consistent evidence for an effect of exercise on macronutrient intake. Forty-four of 54 acute/short-term, non-randomized and randomized trials (81%) reported no effect of exercise on macronutrient intake, while results of the 10 trials reporting an association were mixed. Thus, it appears individuals do not spontaneously alter the composition of their diets in response to physical activity or exercise.

Limitations of the Available Literature

There are several important limitations in the literature available for this systemic review. The most critical limitation in the available literature is the lack of studies that have been specifically designed and adequately powered to detect significant between or within group differences in energy intake in response to exercise training. With the exception of 2 acute studies [56,61] no studies included in this review were statistically powered to detect between or within group differences in energy or macronutrient intake. Only 5 of 12 non-randomized trials (~42%) [97,100,102–104] and 3 of 24 randomized trials (~13%) were conducted specifically to evaluate the effect of exercise training on energy and macronutrient intake [112,121,125]. The sample size in each of these 3 trials was <20 participants/group. Inadequate statistical power may explain the disconnect between the results of our review, which found no effect of exercise training on energy intake and other trials that have evaluated the effect of exercise on body weight. For example, studies have reported high individual variability in weight loss in response to the same level of exercise energy expenditure [18] and no significant increase in weight loss in response to increased level of exercise energy expenditure [11,121]. Both of these observations suggest compensatory
| Study                      | Random Sequence Generation (selection bias) | Allocation Concealment (selection bias) | Blinding Participants and Personnel (performance bias) | Blinding of Outcome Assessment (detection bias) | Incomplete Outcome Data (attrition bias) | Selective Reporting (reporting bias) | Other Bias |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Bales et al. (2012) [123] | Low risk                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | High risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Brandon & Elliott-Lloyd (2006) [107] | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Broeder et al. (1992) [108]  | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Byrne et al. (1997) [125]   | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Church et al. (2009) [16]   | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Cox et al. (2003) [129]     | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Donnelly et al. (2003) [9]  | Low risk                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Donnelly et al. (2000) [128] | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Foster-Schubert et al. (2012) [110] | Low risk                                   | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Grediagin et al. (1995) [126] | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Jakicic et al. (2007) [111] | High risk                                   | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Kirkwood et al. (2007) [112] | High risk                                   | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Miyashita et al. (1999) [14] | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Norby et al. (2001) [117]   | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Pritchard et al. (1997) [114] | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Ready et al. (1992) [15]    | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Ready et al. (1990) [16]    | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Rosekilde et al. (2010) [121] | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Shaw et al. (1990) [119]    | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Wahlström et al. (2010) [120] | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |
| Washburn et al. (2012) [120] | Unclear                                    | NR                                      | High risk                                              | Low risk                                      | Low risk                                | Low risk                            | High risk   |

Note: NR = Not Reported.
increases in energy intake in response to exercise training; however, changes in resting metabolic rate and non-exercise physical activity may also play a role.

Because most exercise training studies did not prescribe exercise by level of energy expenditure, assess exercise energy expenditure, or employ adequate methods for the assessment of energy intake, it is not possible to determine the level of exercise-induced energy imbalance actually achieved. Only 7 of the 36 non-randomized and randomized trials included in this review (~19%) prescribed exercise by level of energy expenditure [18,98,103,104,113,121,126] while only 3 of those trials included assessments of the actual level of exercise energy expenditure by indirect calorimetry [18,104,126]. Furthermore, the heterogeneity of exercise/physical activity prescriptions prohibits the identification of a specific level that may elicit compensatory changes in energy intake. Only 5 of 36 non-randomized and randomized trials employed more precise estimates of dietary intake such as weigh and measure test meals [18,103,104,121] or observed weigh and measure ad-libitum eating [109]. Two of the 3 trials that measured exercise energy expenditure used only 1 day assessments of energy intake using test meals at baseline and end study [18,104], while one trial employed 4 day food records at baseline, mid and end study [126]. Thus, reported estimates of energy balance should be cautiously interpreted. The available literature is also limited by a preponderance of data from acute/short-term studies as compared to non-randomized and randomized longitudinal trials. For example, approximately 50% of studies reviewed evaluated the acute or short-term (2–14 days) effect of exercise on energy and macronutrient intake. While acute/short-term studies have employed precise methods for the assessment of energy intake (weigh and measure test meals), the short time frame over which energy intake was assessed may be insufficient to demonstrate significant adaptations in energy intake that may be induced by changes in parameters such as aerobic fitness, body weight or hormonal status etc. associated with longer term exercise training. For example, in overweight men and women Kirk et al. [130] have shown that changes in aerobic fitness and weight takes 4 months and does not level off until 9 months in an exercise program with a typical progressive exercise protocol.

Approximately 60% of acute studies reviewed recruited participants who were relatively young (median age = 23 years), normal weight, and physically active or aerobically fit. Thus, results from acute trials do not generalize to the older, sedentary overweight population in need of weight management. The available literature is also limited by an insufficient number of studies that have evaluated the impact of exercise parameters (e.g. mode, frequency, intensity, duration, time of day, time course) or participant characteristics (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, weight, activity level) on energy and/or macronutrient intake.

Limitations of this Review

Our conclusions should be cautiously interpreted as they are based on both data from sub-optimal study designs (e.g. cross-sectional, acute/short-term, non-randomized trials) and from randomized trials with a high risk of one or more forms of bias. In addition, we did not contact authors to obtain missing data or for clarification of any information presented in the published reports; therefore missing information may reflect reporting bias as opposed to any limitations in the conduct of the study.

Conclusions

The present systematic review found limited evidence to suggest that acute exercise or exercise training has a significant effect on energy or macronutrient intake. However, as previously discussed the available literature on this topic suffers numerous methodological shortcomings. Therefore, we recommend additional randomized trials to specifically evaluate the impact of exercise training on energy and macronutrient intake that: 1) are powered specifically to detect clinically significant differences in energy and/or macronutrient intake; 2) utilize state-of-the-art techniques for the assessment of energy intake such as direct observation weigh and measure or picture-plate-waste and provide multiple measures across the duration of the study; 3) include assessments of exercise energy expenditure across the duration of the study; 4) evaluate and compare levels of exercise for weight management currently recommended by governmental agencies or professional organizations such as the International Association for the Study of Obesity, the Institute of Medicine, and the American College of Sports Medicine (i.e. 60–90 min/day, moderate intensity) to determine differential effects on energy and macronutrient intake; 5) include overweight and obese, sedentary middle-age or older adults; and 6) evaluate both the effect of exercise parameters (e.g. mode, frequency, intensity duration, time course) and participant characteristics (e.g. age, gender, body weight, activity level, ethnicity) on the association between exercise and energy and macronutrient intake.

Supporting Information

Checklist S1 PubMed complete search strategy. (DOC)

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: JD RW SH KL JH AS. Performed the experiments: JD RW SH KL JH AS. Analyzed the data: JD RW SH KL JH AS. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: JD RW SH KL JH AS. Wrote the paper: JD RW SH KL JH AS.

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