A Review of the Effects of Exercise in Preventing Migraine Headaches

Authors : Afsaneh Soltani, Zahra Mohajer

Abstract : Migraine is one of the most common chronic neurological diseases. Migraines affect different aspects of life. Severe migraine headaches lead to dysfunction, a reduced presence at work, and decreased ability to think and make decisions. Nonpharmacological treatments play a very important role in controlling and preventing migraine headaches. A healthy lifestyle helps control migraine headaches. Migraine headaches can be reduced by following these steps: Avoiding stress, eating regularly and avoiding hunger and thirst, avoiding stimulants such as chocolate, caffeine, and cigarettes, following a regular bedtime routine, or avoiding sleep deprivation. Exercise a lot, and do regular exercise (and prevent obesity). Nonpharmacological treatment is especially important in pregnant women and children because in these cases, medical treatments are not preferred due to the many side effects. Exercise is one of the most effective and uncomplicated non-pharmacological alternatives in the treatment of migraine headaches. Exercising for episodic migraines is a safe, effective, and promising complementary treatment option. Numerous studies have shown that aerobic exercise reduces the severity and duration of migraine headaches. Effective aerobic exercise includes cycling and brisk walking. Exercise improves the quality of life and reduces the use of medication in people with migraines. Patients who exercise have fewer migraine days, resulting in better personal, social, and occupational performance. Several studies have shown that pain intensity and frequency in patients who exercise regularly decreased significantly after exercise compared to controls who did not exercise. According to a study, regular exercise reduces the levels of interleukins, especially IL-12P70, which reduces anxiety and reduces the number of days of migraine in patients. An article has shown that endurance exercise reduces the number of migraine days and also increases cerebrovascular health in migraine patients. According to studies, the minimum duration of exercise to achieve a positive effect of exercise in patients with migraine is 3 months (12 weeks) and 40 minutes three times a week.

Keywords : exercise, headache, migraine, physical activity

Conference Title : ICPMR 2022 : International Conference on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Conference Location : Vienna, Austria

Conference Dates : July 28-29, 2022

1