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## Poster Presentation

### Forced Exercise Attenuates Neuropathic Pain in Chronic Constriction Injury Male Rat: An Approach to Oxidative Stress and Inflammation

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#### Abstract

**Introduction:** Peripheral and central nerve injuries cause chronic neuropathic pain in many injured people besides motor disability. Exercise, as a behavioral and non-pharmacological treatment, has beneficial effects on people's general health both for healthy and sick people. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine the effects of exercise on neuropathic pain induced by chronic constriction injury (CCI) of the sciatic nerve. **Materials and Methods:** Wistar male rats weighing  $200 \pm 20$  g were randomly divided into five groups (normal, sham, CCI, pre-CCI exercise, and post-CCI exercise group). Once the rats were anesthetized, their sciatic nerve was ligated to induce CCI, and they were then housed in separate cages. The rats ran on treadmill at a moderate speed for 3 weeks. Mechanical allodynia and thermal hyperalgesia were determined using von Frey Filament and plantar test, respectively. TNF- $\alpha$ , malondialdehyde, and total antioxidant capacity were measured using Western blot test, thiobarbituric acid, and ferric reducing ability of plasma (FRAP) respectively. **Results:** The mechanical allodynia ( $P < 0.05$ ) and thermal hyperalgesia ( $P < 0.01$ ) in the CCI group were significantly higher than those in the sham group. Exercise after CCI significantly reduced ( $P < 0.01$ ) mechanical allodynia and thermal hyperalgesia ( $P < 0.05$ ) against those in the CCI group. Moreover, the level of FRAP in the CCI group was significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) lower than that in the sham group, and the level of FRAP in the post-CCI group increased significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) against that in the CCI group. The level of MDA did not differ significantly between groups. Level of TNF- $\alpha$  increased significantly in the CCI group ( $P < 0.001$ ) compared to sham group and decreased significantly in the post-CCI group ( $P < 0.01$ ) against that in the CCI group. **Conclusion:** Exercise reduces mechanical allodynia and thermal hyperalgesia induced by CCI. These effects probably mediated by increasing the total antioxidant capacity and reducing the TNF- $\alpha$  inflammation factor.

**Keywords:** CCI, TNF- $\alpha$ , Treadmill exercise, Neuropathic pain, Oxidative stress

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