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Influence of Vibrations and Other Negative Physical Factors of Production on Protein Metabolism and Protein Dynamics in the Body

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Abstract

The detrimental effect of vibration, which is considered one of the main physical factors in production, requires comprehensive scientific exploration. This study investigates how whole-body vibration influences protein metabolism using laboratory animals as a model. Two series of experiments were conducted involving a total of 30 white rats housed under uniform environmental conditions. Animals in group 1 were subjected to vibration exposure, whereas group 2 served as the control and did not experience any such exposure. The vibration parameters applied to group 1 included general vertical sinusoidal vibration at a frequency of 20 Hz and an intensity of 126 dB, administered for 4 hours per day for 8 weeks. The experimental data showed that while the total protein concentrations remained largely unaltered, a significant decrease in albumin levels was observed in the protein fraction profile. In addition, there was a significant elevation in both α -globulin and γ -globulin fractions. By the conclusion of the study, a statistically significant decline in serum concentrations of several total amino acids was detected in the vibration-exposed group, including aspartic acid ($P < 0.05$), proline ($P < 0.05$), glycine ($P < 0.01$), valine ($P < 0.05$), methionine ($P < 0.05$), and phenylalanine ($P < 0.001$). A general downward trend was also observed in the levels of hydrophobic (nonpolar) amino acids—specifically valine, proline, phenylalanine, and methionine—as well as in slightly polar uncharged and negatively charged amino acids such as aspartic acid.

Keywords: Protein metabolism, Vibrations, Proteins, Physical factors of production, Negative factors of production

Introduction

Among all organic compounds constituting living organisms, proteins hold a central role due to their intricate molecular structure and critical biological functions. They represent the primary component of body mass—comprising approximately 20%—in contrast to

other substances such as fats (14.7%), inorganic salts (4.9%), nucleic acids (1.0%), and carbohydrates (1.0%) [1–3]. Given their broad functional range—spanning catalytic, structural, energetic, transport, hereditary, immune, and regulatory roles—understanding how protein metabolism responds to environmental influences is of substantial scientific interest [4, 5].

With the continuous advancement of industrialization and urban growth, a rising number of workers are routinely subjected to negative physical factors of the production environment. This trend inevitably leads to increasing exposure to harmful physical conditions at the workplace, contributing to cumulative physiological strain. As such, the scale of potential health consequences

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linked to these exposures is significant, underlining the pressing societal importance of this issue [6–8].

Vibrational impacts stand out among the most critical physical production stressors, which informed the decision to focus this research specifically on vibration as the primary variable [9, 10]. While a wide body of research has addressed the broader health implications of workplace vibration exposure [11–18], including disruptions to multiple physiological systems observed both in at-risk professionals and in experimental animal models [19–22], detailed insight into its effects on protein metabolism remains sparse [23].

This study aims to fill that gap by examining how general vibration—one of the key physical factors of production—affects protein metabolism, using laboratory animals as a model to explore these changes in a controlled setting.

Materials and Methods

To evaluate the adverse impact of vibration as a physical production factor, two experimental series were carried out using thirty white laboratory rats. The study utilized sexually mature Wistar rats, each weighing between 220–250 grams. All subjects were maintained under identical conditions regarding housing, diet, environmental hygiene, and sleep-wake cycles. The animals were divided into two distinct cohorts:

- Group 1: rats subjected to vibration exposure;
- Group 2: control rats that weren't exposed to vibration.

The rats in group 1 experienced general vertical sinusoidal vibration at a frequency of 20 Hz and a vibration velocity of 126 dB, applied using a VSV-240-445 vibration stand (produced by Rostech, Russia). The cumulative vibration exposure was evaluated using total vibration dose metrics, aligning in physical interpretation with exposure criteria outlined in international ISO standards for noise and vibration [24].

Key markers of protein metabolism assessed in this study included total plasma protein levels, its fractionation, and serum amino acid profiles—the latter being the

foundational constituents of protein structures [25]. Total protein concentrations were measured using an IRF-464 refractometer (Agroservice, Russia), while electrophoresis on paper was employed for analyzing protein fractions [26]. Quantification of amino acids in serum was performed with an automatic AAA-500 amino acid analyzer (INGOS, Czech Republic).

All experimental data were analyzed using conventional statistical methods, including the calculation of the arithmetic mean (M) and standard error (m). The significance of differences between data sets was determined through coefficient calculation and Student's t-test to establish the level of statistical confidence.

Results and Discussion

Effectively addressing the mechanisms through which general vibration impacts the body requires an in-depth examination of alterations in metabolic pathways, particularly those involving protein and amino acid metabolism [27]. Proteins, serving as the structural foundation of cells, represent the most quantitatively dominant organic compounds across living organisms, especially in more complex species [28, 29]. In light of this, a targeted investigation was conducted to determine how protein metabolism responds under conditions of experimental vibration exposure.

Findings from this study revealed that subjecting animals to vibration with a frequency of 35 Hz and a vibration velocity of 126 dB for 4 hours daily over 8 weeks—resulting in a cumulative exposure of 150 dB—did not lead to statistically significant alterations in total protein levels (**Table 1**). The mean total protein value recorded in the vibration-exposed group was $6.18 \pm 0.11\%$, compared to $6.35 \pm 0.1\%$ in the control group. Nevertheless, a marked decline in the proportion of albumin within the protein fractions was observed, decreasing from 55.18% to 49.20%. Concurrently, there was a noticeable elevation in both α -globulin and γ -globulin fractions (**Table 1**), indicating that although total protein remained relatively stable, the distribution among protein subtypes was notably affected.

Table 1. Indicators of protein metabolism under the influence of vibration with parameters $f = 35$ Hz, $Lv = 126$ dB, time $t = 4$ hours, cumulative dose of vibration 150 dB

Groups, statistical indicators	Total protein (%)	Protein fractions	
		Albumins (%)	Globulins (%)

	α		β		γ
	$M \pm m$				
Control	6.35 \pm 0.13	55.18 \pm 2.4	12.56 \pm 0.21	20.71 \pm 0.4	13.13 \pm 0.70
Experience	6.18 \pm 0.11	49.20 \pm 1.10	14.20 \pm 0.63	19.1 \pm 1.20	16.9 \pm 0.44
P	> 0.05	< 0.05	< 0.05	> 0.05	> 0.05

The observed reduction in albumin levels may be closely linked to alterations in amino acid metabolism, particularly tryptophan, which is essential for the production of nicotinic acid (PP), serum proteins, and hemoglobin synthesis [30, 31]. Additionally, tryptophan acts as a growth factor, and its demand is higher in younger organisms, which may explain the impaired weight gain in developing rats subjected to prolonged vibration exposure [20, 32, 33].

Amino acids are integral to the formation of proteins and other biologically active compounds in the body [34], but they also serve as a source of energy [35]. The body of higher animals metabolizes both exogenous amino acids, obtained from food proteins, and endogenous amino acids, which are produced through the body's metabolic renewal processes [36]. The findings from the study indicated a significant reduction in the overall concentration of amino acids in the blood serum of the rats by the end of the exposure period (**Figure 1**).

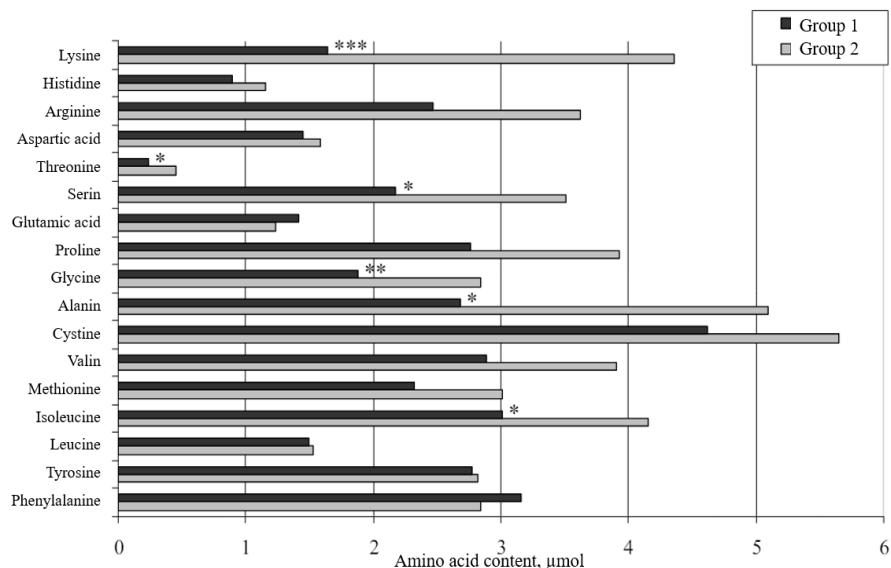


Figure 1. Dynamics of changes in amino acid content under the influence of vibration with a cumulative dose of 150 dB (confidence (P): * 0.05; ** 0.01; *** 0.001)

Amid the overall reduction in amino acids, a significant decline was noted in the levels of aspartic acid ($P < 0.05$), proline ($P < 0.05$), glycine ($P < 0.01$), valine ($P < 0.05$), methionine ($P < 0.05$), and phenylalanine ($P < 0.001$). Specifically, there was a decrease in the hydrophobic (nonpolar) amino acids, such as valine, proline, phenylalanine, and methionine, as well as slightly polar uncharged amino acids and negatively charged ones like aspartic acid. The reduction in methionine is particularly significant, given its role in fat metabolism by influencing fat-phospholipid processes and being a key lipotropic agent that helps prevent the development of

fatty liver [37, 38]. Furthermore, methionine plays an essential role in donating methyl groups for choline synthesis, which acts as an anti-atherosclerotic agent [39]. Additionally, vibration exposure resulted in decreased lysine levels, which is vital for hematopoiesis. A deficiency in lysine is associated with a reduction in red blood cell production and hemoglobin levels [40], as well as disruptions in bone calcification and muscle wasting [41].

These disturbances in protein and amino acid metabolism could be connected to alterations in nitrogen metabolism,

which have been reported by other studies examining the effects of vibration exposure [42-44].

Conclusion

When subjected to a cumulative vibration dose of 150 dB, experimental animals show a notable decrease in albumin levels ($P < 0.05$) and an increase in the α - and γ -globulin fractions in their blood plasma, indicating a significant shift in amino acid metabolism. Along with these protein metabolism alterations, vertical sinusoidal vibration disrupts amino acid balance, leading to a decrease in overall amino acids. Specifically, there is a substantial reduction in aspartic acid ($P < 0.05$), proline ($P < 0.05$), glycine ($P < 0.01$), valine ($P < 0.05$), methionine ($P < 0.05$), and phenylalanine ($P < 0.001$). The primary impact of this vibration exposure is a decrease in hydrophobic (nonpolar) amino acids such as valine, phenylalanine, proline, and methionine, in addition to aspartic acid, which is negatively charged. Furthermore, significant reductions in methionine and lysine levels are observed, both of which are crucial for fat metabolism and blood cell production.

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Conflict of Interest: None

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Ethics Statement: The protocol used for laboratory animal experiments adhered to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes.

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