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PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH IN YOUTH WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES

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Background:

Youth living with type 2 diabetes (T2D) are characterized by an increased cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk profile. It is unclear if regular daily physical activity (PA) modifies this CVD risk.

Objective:

Main outcomes were HbA1c, ambulatory blood pressure (BP; 24 hr readings) and albuminuria (first morning urine). The main exposure, regular vigorous intensity (\geq 3 days/week) PA was determined from a validated questionnaire (Adolescent PA Recall Questionnaire).

Methods:

Using a cross-sectional design, we analyzed cardiometabolic risk factors among 164 youth with T2D from the The *I*mproving renal *C*omplications in *A*dolescents with T2D through *RE*search (iCARE) cohort, stratified according to weekly vigorous intensity PA.

Results:

Youth were 15 ± 3 yrs, 78% lived rurally, 68% were girls, mean BMI Z score was 2.4 ± 1.1 and HbA1c was 9.6 ± 2.6 . Active youth (40%; n=67) achieved nearly twice the dose of PA than less active peers (176 vs 108 MET-HR/week; p=0.001). After adjusting for duration of diabetes, BMI Z score, sex and smoking, active youth displayed lower HbA1c (9.1%, vs 9.9% p = 0.052) and diastolic BP (70 vs 73 mmHg, p = 0.002) and diastolic load (20 vs 26%, p = 0.023) and were less likely to have proteinuria (OR: 0.40 95% CI: 0.19-0.84) and hypertension (OR: 0.39 95% CI: 0.16-0.95).

Conclusion:

Among youth living with T2D, self-reported frequent vigorous PA is associated with lower cardiometabolic risk. These data need to be confirmed with a prospective experimental trial.