

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBMAXIMAL
AEROBIC CAPACITY AND BLOOD LIPIDS
IN A FEMALE POPULATION

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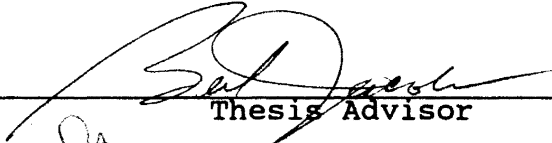
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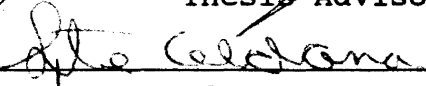
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Cardiovascular disease, specifically coronary heart disease (CHD), is the leading cause of death in the United States. With over 500,000 deaths and another 6 million persons with symptoms, CHD costs over \$50 billion in health care and lost productivity annually (5). Despite substantial success in reducing premature death due to CHD, the pool of knowledge concerning risk factor interaction is considered general at best. More studies regarding specific risk factor interaction are required to determine the optimal level of protection from CHD.

CHD is caused by atherosclerosis, the build up of plaque that results in the narrowing of the arteries that supply blood to the heart. Atherosclerosis begins when cholesterol and other lipids combine with cellular reactions to thicken arterial walls. This process gradually continues to reduce the lumen of the artery and restrict blood flow (1,5). The process reaches critical levels when the heart does not receive adequate supplies of blood and oxygen. The resultant lack of blood flow causes injury or death to myocardial cells, therefore, causing permanent damage to the heart muscle. In some cases, the extent of cardiac damage can result in death.

The risk factors which contribute to the atherosclerotic process can be broken down into two

categories, non-modifiable and modifiable.

Family history of heart disease, increasing age, and male gender are non-modifiable risk factors which have been documented to increase the risk of CHD (29,35,36). However, recent trends have shown women closing the gap to men as age increases (17,27). Estrogen and hormone imbalance are thought to be major contributors to this current trend (17,27).

Modifiable risk factors are lifestyle related and can be either environmental or social. The primary modifiable risk factors are smoking, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia (29,35,36). Although only these three have been mentioned as primary, it is necessary to note that many covariates influence the effect and intensity of each risk factor.

Covariates that can affect primary risk factors include obesity (% of body fat or body mass index), stress, high-fat diet, alcohol consumption, hormone levels, and physical activity (29,35,36). The primary focus of this study will be the effect of exercise on cholesterol, while controlling for the covariates that may have an influence on the results.

Cholesterol is a fat-like substance (lipid) that is a key component of cell membranes and a precursor of bile acids and steroid hormones. Typical of lipids, cholesterol is not water-soluble. In order to be transported through the body, the cholesterol must bind with a protein macromolecule to form a lipoprotein (1). There are several combinations of lipoproteins; high-density lipoprotein (HDL), low-density lipoprotein (LDL), and very low-density

lipoprotein (VLDL). HDL cholesterol is commonly termed the "good" cholesterol, while LDL and VLDL is considered to be the "bad" cholesterol.

HDL is considered "good" because research shows it takes up cholesterol from the bloodstream and delivers it to the liver to form bile acids (1). The result of this process is the reduction of plaque on the arterial walls. Many studies have documented an inverse relationship between HDL and CHD (9,10,21-23).

LDL and VLDL is considered "bad" because when transporting cholesterol to various body cells, the cholesterol is deposited on the blood vessel for use. As a result, when LDL levels are excessively high, cholesterol begins to accumulate and restrict blood flow (1,21-23,29).

As mentioned earlier, a major concern in today's society is the increasing incidence of CHD in women. The exact cause of this trend has yet to be determined, but theories tend to identify the relationship between menopause and oral contraceptive use to cholesterol as major factors in this process (17,18,27,31). Exercise has been proposed as a possible solution to this problem. As a result, this study will examine the interaction of physical fitness and cholesterol in a female population.

Purpose of the Study

The knowledge of the interaction between levels of fitness, cholesterol, and the confounding covariate risk factors is currently limited, especially in the female population. The purpose of this study was to determine

the relationship between three fitness levels and blood lipids, specifically total cholesterol (TC) and HDL-C, in a female population.

Hypotheses

There will be no statistical significant difference in TC and fitness levels in females after control for possible confounding variables.

There will be no statistical significant difference in HDL-C and fitness levels in females after control for possible confounding variables.

Extent of the Study

Delimitations

1. The study will involve employed female adults.
2. The study will involve females living in the same geographical area.

Limitations

1. The subjects will be limited to only those completing all relevant questions on the health risk appraisal questionnaire and completing clinically-measured data.
2. The study will use first-time visit data only.
3. The study will not attempt to control for amount of cholesterol in the diet.
4. The subjects are self-selected, in that enrollment in the health promotion program is on a voluntary basis. The subjects do, however, receive incentives to participate in the program.

Assumptions

1. The health risk appraisal questionnaire is valid and reliable.
2. The clinically-measured data was collected using correct protocol and procedure.

Definitions

Conceptual

Aerobic Capacity: The rate at which oxygen can be consumed during exercise at sea level. Also known as VO₂ max, functional capacity, and oxygen uptake. Usually measured in milliliters per kilogram of body weight.

Atherosclerosis: A very common form of arteriosclerosis, in which the arteries are narrowed by deposits of cholesterol and other material in the inner walls of the artery. It is the type of arteriosclerosis most influenced by lifestyle.

Cholesterol: A steroid alcohol found in animal fats. This pearly, fat-like substance is implicated in the narrowing of the arteries in atherosclerosis.

Coronary heart disease (CHD): Atherosclerosis in the arteries that supply oxygen to the the heart muscle.

High-density lipoprotein (HDL): Cholesterol is carried by the high-density lipoprotein to the liver. The liver then uses the cholesterol to form bile acids which are excreted. This form is commonly termed "good" cholesterol.

Lipids: A general term used for several different compounds which include both solid fats and liquid oils. There are three major classes of lipids: triglycerides,

phospholipids, and sterols.

Lipoprotein: The carrier protein for lipids. There are three types of lipoproteins: HDL, LDL, and VLDL.

Low-density lipoprotein (LDL): Transports cholesterol from the liver to other body cells. LDL is often referred to as "bad" cholesterol because it has been implicated in the development of atherosclerosis.

Functional

Aerobic Capacity: Amount of oxygen consumed during a submaximal bicycle ergometry test. Can be used to classify individuals into fitness categories.

Health Risk Appraisal (HRA): An instrument used to identify health risks and quantify the amount of risk for each risk factor. Commonly used in corporate health promotion programs, in conjunction with consultation, as preventive medicine.

Percent of Body Fat: Percentage of fat, in relation to lean body mass, in the body. Can be measured by several different instruments, but is most commonly measured by skinfold protocols.

CHAPTER II

A SELECTED REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The text of Chapter I was a description of the CHD risk factors. In this chapter, the research behind cholesterol and CHD and the resulting implications of physical fitness are explored and discussed.

Review of Recent Studies:

CHD and Cholesterol

The relationship between cholesterol and CHD has been known for nearly a century (35). The most successful longitudinal study is the Framingham Heart Study. The results of that study have played a major role in explaining the nature of CHD risk factors and their relative importance (36). Other significant studies that have documented the relationship between cholesterol and CHD include the Lipid Research Clinics Prevalence Mortality Follow-up Study (LRCF), the Lipid Research Clinics Coronary Primary Prevention Trial (LRC-CPPT), and the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (MRFIT). All of these studies have provided an abundance of epidemiologic information that has contributed to the knowledge of risk factors directly associated with an increased risk for the development of CHD (21-23,29).

Studies by Leaf et al. (17) and Matthews et al. (27) document the growing trend of CHD in women. Leaf examines

the effect of oral contraceptive use, while Matthews studied the onset of menopause (17,27). Both have significantly correlated with increasing incidence of CHD.

Review of Recent Studies:
Cholesterol and Physical Fitness

The current literature focusing on the relationship between cholesterol and physical activity is equivocal in both men and women. The studies that have found significant reductions in TC and increases in HDL-C characteristically have involved high intensity exercise or superior fitness levels (4,13,38).

In contrast, many of the reviews found an insignificant reduction in TC but a significant increase in HDL-C (2,7,8,11,14,19,20,25,26,28,31,33,39). It is important to note that a substantial number of the studies selected males as the sample population, while very few of the studies involve females as the subjects. As a result, current knowledge of the complete relationship between cholesterol and exercise in females is minimal. The few studies involving only women have shown promise in reducing TC, in addition to, increasing HDL-C (24,32).

In general, the studies involving strictly men have shown no significant change in TC and increases in HDL-C (2,7,8,11,39). The exceptions to this rule include studies by Blair et al. (4), Wood et al. (38), and Hellsten et al. (13). All of these studies reported decreases in TC and increases in HDL-C. The design of these studies involved either intense physical activity or an excellent fitness category rating (VO₂ of above 52 ml/kg/min), in

addition to, strict control over age, diet, and body composition.

Review of Recent Studies: Women only

A study by Lochen et al. (24) was designed to measure differences between fitness levels and physical activity with TC and HDL-C in females. In the study, self-reported levels of physical activity and clinically-measured fitness levels were used for data, while controlling for age, smoking, and body mass index (BMI). The results indicated significant differences in TC and HDL-C between fitness levels but only HDL-C significance for physical activity.

Another study by Owens et al. (32), involved measuring activity by the Paffenbarger Activity Questionnaire and comparing the levels with TC and HDL-C. The study controlled for age, education, and BMI. The results indicated that when women reported energy expenditure of over 2000 Kcal per week, decreased TC and increased HDL-C was observed.

A study conducted by Bauman and Owen (2) examined the relationship between physical activity and cholesterol. The study classified the participants' activity levels as aerobic, moderate, or inactive; while controlling for age and education. Before statistical control, significance was found between both TC and HDL-C for both aerobic and moderate activity levels. After control was added, TC reduction became insignificant, but the relationship between aerobic and HDL-C remained significant.

In another study by Farrell and Barboriak (8),

exercise was specifically prescribed and defined, then the relationship to cholesterol was examined. The design of this study was to expose participants to an eight week endurance program, which included exercise at 70% of VO₂ max, for 30 minutes, 3-4 times per week, while controlling for age and percent of body fat. The testers observed an initial significant reduction of TC, which after four weeks leveled off and became insignificant. The relationship between HDL-C and exercise continued to increase linearly as fitness increased. This same occurrence was documented in a report by Kiens et al. (14).

Review of Recent Studies: Covariates

Studies which have documented significant relationships between covariates and cholesterol are discussed in the following section.

In a study conducted by Hartung et al. (12), the effect of alcohol and exercise on TC and HDL-C in women was examined. The results found significant effects of both exercise and alcohol on HDL-C. Insignificant benefits were noticed in exercise but not in alcohol for TC. Exercise was found to be the more important determinant in increasing HDL-C.

A study by Tucker et al. (37) examined the relationship between TC, HDL-C, and stress. Tucker found that stress and TC were directly related but noted no significant difference in HDL-C.

Matthews et al. (27) conducted a study examining the relationship between menopause and CHD risk factors. The results of the study indicate that following the onset of

menopause, HDL-C levels decline, LDL-C levels increase, and TC levels increase. This suggests that menopause has an unfavorable effect on CHD risk.

Another study conducted by Leaf et al. (17) examined the effect of oral contraceptive use and CHD risk factors. The results of this study revealed no significant difference between oral contraceptive use and TC levels but did report a significant difference in HDL-C levels. The levels of HDL-C were significantly lower in females using oral contraceptives.

In 1992, Haertel et al. (11) conducted a study examining the relationship between HDL-C and employment in females. The study controlled for age, body mass, smoking, alcohol consumption, oral contraceptives, and pregnancy. The results of the test indicated that HDL-C levels of employed females were significantly higher than unemployed females. The relationship between TC and employment was insignificant.

In two studies by Linn et al. (19,20), the relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and lipid levels was examined. The results were dependant upon race. In whites, HDL-C levels were directly related to SES. In contrast, HDL-C and SES were inversely related in blacks. There was no significant difference noted in TC.

In a different study by Krummel et al. (15), TC and HDL-C were examined in relation to a high-fat diet. The percentage of the diet that came from fat was between 35% and 45%. The results of the study indicated that there was a direct relationship between fat intake and TC and HDL-C.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study was designed as a retrospective, cross-sectional study. The focus of the study was on the relationship between blood lipids, specifically TC and HDL-C, and fitness levels in females. The study examined the difference with and without statistical control for the following variables: age, body composition, smoking status, dietary fat intake, stress, family history, SES, use of oral contraceptives, and the onset of menopause.

Population

The sample size for this study was approximately 575 adult females. The subjects are all employed at one of several large Southwest corporations, the average age of the sample was 36.5 years old, and 65% of the sample was married. The majority of the subjects were white (87%) and the average family income was approximately \$28,000. A complete demographic profile is illustrated in Table I.

Procedures

The data for this study was collected from a health risk appraisal (HRA) completed by the sample population as

TABLE I
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

	<u>TC</u>	<u>HDL-C</u>
Sample Size	n= 575	n= 571
<u>RACE</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Caucasian	87.7%	
Black	2.0%	
American Indian	1.3%	
Oriental	.6%	
Hispanic	7.7%	
Other	.8%	
<u>MARITAL STATUS</u>		
Single	35%	
Married	65%	
<u>AGE</u>		36.5
<u>BODY COMPOSITION</u>		30.2%
<u>INCOME</u>		\$28,000

part of a voluntary corporate health promotion program.

Each participant was required to complete a HRA questionnaire prior to their initial laboratory examination. The questionnaire included self-reported responses concerning age, smoking history, alcohol consumption, stress, history of family heart disease, diet, socioeconomic status (SES), use of oral contraceptives, and menopause.

Laboratory data that was clinically-measured included a submaximal fitness test, body composition test (by skinfold), and a lipid profile, which includes TC and HDL-C levels. All of the data was gathered by qualified physician assistants or certified exercise test technologists.

Instrumentation

The data for smoking, alcohol, family history, SES, menopause, and oral contraceptive were gathered categorically, while age, fitness levels, body composition, dietary fat, and stress variables were collected as continuous variables for statistical analysis. The structure of the categorical variables is included in the following paragraphs and the complete questionnaire is included in Appendix A.

Smoking status was classified into three categories; never smoked, quit smoking, and currently smoking. The alcohol consumption was classified into three categories; never drank, \leq two drinks per week, and \geq three drinks per week. SES was broken down into four categories; $<$ \$10,000, \$10-\$20,000, \$20,001-\$40,000, and $>$ \$40,000.

Questions concerning family history of heart disease, menopause, and oral contraceptive use were categorized as simple yes or no responses.

The clinically-measured data for aerobic capacity was measured utilizing the Biogard 990 bicycle ergometer and the submaximal Astrand-Ryming protocol to determine submaximal fitness levels (34). This protocol was chosen because of its wide-spread use and relative low cost of testing many subjects. The aerobic capacity level was measured in milliliters of oxygen consumed per kilogram of body weight per minute (O_2 ml/kg/min). The level attained was then broken down into three fitness categories established by Cooper (6): 1) Participants who scored in the poor or very poor fitness category. 2) Participants who scored in the fair or good fitness category. 3) Participants who scored in the excellent or superior fitness category. An illustration of Cooper's fitness categories can be found in Appendix B.

For ease of description, the very poor to poor category was labeled the low fitness category, the fair to good category was labeled average, and the excellent to superior category was labeled the high fitness category.

Body composition was measured using Harpenden skinfold calipers and a sum of three-sites protocol. The subcutaneous fat was measured at the chest, suprailiac, and the thigh. Following the measurement, the total millimeters of skinfold thickness was tabulated and compared to gender and age tables to determine the percentage of body fat (3).

The total cholesterol and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels were measured following a six hour fast. The TC and HDL-C levels were calculated using the Kodak Ektachem analyzer, which uses an enzymatic process to derive TC and HDL-C.

Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis system (SAS) was utilized to conduct an analysis of variance (ANOVA) and analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) between fitness levels, TC and HDL-C. The ANOVA examined the difference between fitness levels, TC, and HDL-C without statistical control for covariates, while the ANCOVA examined the same relationship with statistical control. Following the initial test, Duncan's post-hoc test for specific differences between groups was used in the ANOVA and the least Square Means (LSMEANS) method was utilized to determine differences between groups in the ANCOVA.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to test the null hypotheses that there would be no significant difference between fitness levels, TC, and HDL-C levels in females, after adjusting for the confounding covariates. The fitness levels were grouped into three categories according to Cooper (10).

An analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to determine the difference among lipids and fitness levels without statistical control for covariates. Following the ANOVA, an analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) was utilized to evaluate the same relationship with statistical control over covariates. The results of these statistical tests are listed in the following paragraphs.

Results of the ANOVA

The results of the ANOVA indicated a significant difference in HDL-C and TC measures between fitness levels. Following the ANOVA, Duncan's post-hoc test for differences between groups indicated significant difference in TC between the low to high and between the moderate to high fitness categories; no difference was found between the low and moderate categories. The results of the ANOVA can be observed in Table II.

TABLE II
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Fitness Levels</u>						F-value	p-value
	<u>Low</u>		<u>Average</u>		<u>High</u>			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
TC	212.3 _a	44.6	205.5 _a	38.2	188.1 _b	37.8	24.37	0.0001
HDL-C	49.6 _a	11.7	53.1 _b	13.0	56.3 _c	13.5	16.52	0.0001

TC = total cholesterol in mg/dL

HDL-C = high density lipoprotein cholesterol in mg/dL

note: means with the same letter subscripts are not statistically significant

Results of the ANCOVA

The results of the ANCOVA indicated that the differences between HDL-C and fitness levels was significant. Using the LSMEANS method of follow-up, the low to high and moderate to high categories were identified as significant. The test results were insignificant in comparing HDL-C levels between the low and moderate fitness categories. The test also yielded insignificant reductions of TC between all levels of fitness. The results of the ANCOVA can be observed in Table III.

TABLE III
ANALYSIS OF COVARIANCE

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Fitness Levels</u>						F-value	p-value
	<u>Low</u>		<u>Average</u>		<u>High</u>			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
TC*	205.6 _a	8.2	204.9 _a	7.9	199.8 _a	7.5	7.18	0.2017
HDL-C*	54.3 _a	2.6	55.6 _a	2.5	58.7 _b	2.4	7.53	0.0022

TC = total cholesterol in mg/dL

HDL-C = high density lipoprotein cholesterol in mg/dL

note: means with the same letter subscripts are not statistically significant

*note: means were adjusted for age, body composition, smoking, stress, diet, alcohol, family history, income, menopause, and oral contraceptive use

Discussion

This study compared fitness levels and lipid levels in a female population. The results were consistent with the majority of the other studies that examined exercise and cholesterol in females (2,8,14). HDL-C was significantly increased by high fitness, while the relationship between TC and fitness remained insignificant. Possible scenarios and mechanisms for these results are discussed in the following paragraphs.

The ANOVA examined the difference between fitness levels to TC and HDL-C without statistical control for covariates. As a result, the ANOVA accounted for 7% of the variance in TC and 5% of the variance in HDL-C, which indicated fitness was a significant contributor to cholesterol.

The ANCOVA examined the same relationship between fitness levels to TC and HDL-C with statistical control. This accounted for 16% of the total variance in TC and 17% of the variance in HDL-C. The means for TC and HDL-C, as related to each covariate, can be observed in Appendix C. In addition, the F-values and p-values for each covariate can be observed in Appendix D.

There are many possible explanations for the variance that was not accounted for in our study. For example, genetic disposition, cholesterol in the diet, stress, medications, and stage of menstrual cycle.

Although attempts were made to control for genetics, diet, and stress; the subjective nature of the self-reported questions and lack of complete information

prevented a thorough determination of variance.

Also, the study made no attempt to control for medications or stage of the menstrual cycle. Both of which have been documented to have a significant effect on cholesterol. Faber et al. (33) documented the change of cholesterol relative to the stage of the cycle. The conclusion was that when estrogen levels are high, cholesterol levels consistently decrease.

HDL-C and Fitness:

HDL-C was significantly increased by high levels of fitness. The precise mechanism which promotes this positive influence has not yet been identified, but leading theories tend to support the change in lipase profile as the primary cause (30).

Exercise acts to promote the activity of the lipoprotein lipase (LPL) and lecithin: cholesterol acyltransferase (LCAT), while inhibiting hepatic lipase (HL). The role of LPL in the body is to increase the utilization of fatty acids by muscle cells. The role of LCAT is to mature the HDL-C particle. And, in contrast, HL acts to eliminate HDL-C from circulation. In conclusion, increased levels of LPL and LCAT and decreased levels of HL have been observed in subjects who engage in regular aerobic activity (30). This provides a positive effect in reducing the risk of CHD.

TC and Fitness:

The difference between all levels of fitness and TC was found to be statistically insignificant. However, it

is important to note that there was an insignificant reduction in TC as fitness levels increased. This observed difference should be considered both encouraging and beneficial in helping to reduce CHD.

Prominent factors that may have skewed the results between fitness levels and TC include the reported percentages of the onset of menopause or the use of oral contraceptives. The percentages were 1.6% and 5.1%, respectively. It is possible that these low percentages can be attributed to the mean age of the sample size (36.5) and the marital status of subjects (65% married).

As a result, neither measurement provides an accurate indication of the effect of menopause or the use of oral contraceptives on cholesterol. The rationale is that the onset of menopause does not occur until approximately the age of 50 and the incidence of oral contraceptives in married couples is relatively low. Therefore, the true effect of these covariates may be concealed in this study.

In conclusion, this study found no significance in TC and fitness, but in an older population, may have had a more significant effect on cholesterol in females with low estrogen levels.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The recent increase of CHD in older women indicates a need for further study into the risk factors of heart disease in the female population. This study specifically examined the relationship between fitness levels to TC and HDL-C

The data collected in the study was analyzed by the following methods:

1. ANOVA with Duncan's follow-up between fitness levels, TC, and HDL-C.
2. ANCOVA with LSMEANS between fitness levels, TC, and HDL-C.

Findings

Based on the hypotheses stated and the limits of this study, the data yielded the following findings:

1. There was no significant difference between TC and all fitness levels.
2. There was no significant difference between HDL-C and the low to moderate fitness levels.
3. There was a significant difference between HDL-C and the low to high and moderate to high fitness levels.

Conclusions

In consideration of the results, the conclusion that high fitness levels have a positive effect on HDL-C can be stated. Although the results cannot be generalized due to employment and location variables, the study does reveal that females who engage in regular aerobic exercise by standard guidelines can reduce their risk for CHD.

Recommendations

It is recommended by this researcher that females engage in regular aerobic activity in such a way, as to safely attain a high fitness level that would reduce the risk of CHD.

In addition, this researcher recommends continued research between cholesterol and physical fitness. Due to the impossibility of controlling completely for genetic disposition and the subjective nature of self-reported answers, the covariate effect of lipids is difficult to quantify and adjust for statistically. Therefore, continued research is necessary to establish any new or changing relationships or evolving trends.

The following recommendations are presented as a result of this study as means to identify future relationships between fitness levels and lipids:

1. Longitudinal studies with more objective control over covariates. This would eliminate the impurities of cross-sectional studies and provide more reliable information on covariate interaction.
2. Studies involving a more diverse female

population, such as chronological age, employment status, marital status, and location.

3. Studies involving the interaction of estrogen on cholesterol, specifically oral contraceptive use and onset of menopause.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

HEALTH RISK APPRAISAL QUESTIONNAIRE

2 IDENTIFICATION

We need your name and address in order to return your educational report to you. Demographic data, social security number, age, height, weight, etc. are necessary to accurately develop your Health Assessment report and compare your health status to similar population types.

TODAY'S DATE

1	2	3
Month	Day	Year

LAST NAME

Please Print

FIRST NAME

MI

HOME ADDRESS

House or Box Number, Street

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

FOREIGN COUNTRY IDENTIFICATION

For individuals living outside the United States, enter your country's code.

3 DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

TELEPHONE

AREA	NUMBER								
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

MO.	DAY	YR.	AGE	FEET	INCHES	WEIGHT
			YEARS			LBS.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9

RACE

MARITAL STATUS

Black Oriental
 White Hispanic
 American Indian Other

Single Widowed
 Married Separated
 Divorced

SEX

FAMILY INCOME

Male
 Female

Under \$10,000/year
 \$10,000 - \$20,000/year
 \$20,001 - \$40,000/year
 More than \$40,000/year

HABITS AND LIFESTYLE

The following section on habits and lifestyle begins with your EATING HABITS. Your particular eating traits as well as those associated with exercise, smoking, alcohol use, trauma exposure, and how you handle stress all bear on your longevity and well-being.

7 STRESS AND FEELINGS

Mark any CHANGES you have experienced IN THE PAST YEAR.

- 1. Spouse died
- 2. Close family member died
- 3. Moved to a new town
- 4. Changed jobs
- 5. Son or daughter left home
- 6. You left home
- 7. Close friend died
- 8. Got divorced or separated
- 9. Lost a lot of money
- 10. Took on a lot of debt
- 11. Got married
- 12. Lost job or retired
- 13. Close relationship ended
- 14. Developed major health problem
- 15. I had NONE of the above CHANGES.

Mark the ONGOING SITUATIONS that you often face.

- 16. Pressure at work, school
- 17. Medical problems
- 18. Facing deadlines
- 19. Financial problems
- 20. Sexual problems
- 21. Trouble with family
- 22. Meeting family demands
- 23. Emotional problems
- 24. Marital difficulties
- 25. Trouble with relationships
- 26. Trouble with co-workers
- 27. Time management problem
- 28. I face NONE of the above SITUATIONS.

Mark the WAYS you usually RESPOND TO STRESS.

- 29. Get more physical exercise
- 30. Take a hot bath, shower
- 31. Escape through reading, hobbies, social activities, music
- 32. Eat more
- 33. Drink more alcohol
- 34. Smoke more
- 35. Spend quiet time alone, relaxing
- 36. Ventilate your feelings (let off steam)
- 37. Talk things over with a relative or friend
- 38. Use the "relaxation response" or other stress technique
- 39. Meditate or pray
- 40. Remain calm outside while getting upset inside
- 41. Walk away from stressful situations when possible
- 42. I respond in NONE of the above WAYS.

Mark the TRAITS that usually apply to you.

- 43. Rapid speech
- 44. Highly competitive
- 45. Hard-driving
- 46. Never late
- 47. Impatient
- 48. Rushed
- 49. Interrupt others
- 50. I have NONE of the above TRAITS.

Mark HOW OFTEN you have the REACTIONS or TENDENCIES listed.

- M = Most of the time S = Some of the time R = Rarely or none of the time
- | M | S | R | | M | S | R | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Cold, sweaty palms | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Trouble sleeping |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Tight neck muscles | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Fast, pounding heart |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Cry easily | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Queasy stomach, "butterflies" |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Grind teeth | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Clench jaws |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Hands tremble | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Unable to relax |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Hyperventilate | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Bounce, jerk foot |

Mark HOW OFTEN you have the FEELINGS listed.

- M = Most of the time S = Some of the time R = Rarely or none of the time
- | M | S | R | | M | S | R | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Sad, depressed | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Lonely |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Wish to end it all | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Still tired after sleep |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Tense, nervous | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Worried |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Unable to cope | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Optimistic about future |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Happy | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Angry |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Anxious, fearful | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Inadequate |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Trapped | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Insecure |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Forgetful | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Irritable, grouchy |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Confused | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Unable to concentrate |

8 ALCOHOL HABITS

- A Mark items that apply to you regarding ALCOHOL USE.
- 1 I do not drink alcohol and never have.
 - 2 I used to drink alcohol but stopped.
 - 3 I CURRENTLY DRINK ALCOHOL.
- B If you CURRENTLY DRINK ALCOHOL mark details. If not, go to 9. Mark the NUMBER OF DRINKS you have during a typical drinking OCCASION. (A drink is a bottle of beer, shot of whiskey, glass of wine, or equivalent).
- 4 0 - 2 drinks 7 - 10 drinks
 - 5 3 - 6 drinks More than 10 drinks
- C Mark the usual number of DRINKS PER WEEK you currently have. Mark the total NUMBER OF YEARS you've been drinking alcohol.
- | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Drinks per WEEK | | Number of YEARS | |
| 5 <input type="radio"/> Less than 2 drinks/week | 6 <input type="radio"/> Less than 1 year | | |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 - 10 drinks/week | <input type="radio"/> 1 - 5 years | | |
| <input type="radio"/> 11 - 25 drinks/week | <input type="radio"/> 6 - 10 years | | |
| <input type="radio"/> 26 - 40 drinks/week | <input type="radio"/> 11 - 20 years | | |
| <input type="radio"/> More than 40 drinks/week | <input type="radio"/> More than 20 years | | |
- D Mark items that apply to you.
- I have or have had-
- 7 A traffic violation related to drinking.
 - 8 A tendency to keep drinking when others stop.
 - 9 Problems with family/friends due to alcohol.
 - 10 Legal or financial problems due to alcohol.
 - 11 Forgotten what happened while drinking.
 - 12 Been told I have a drinking problem.
 - 13 A current desire to talk to someone about my drinking habits.
 - 14 NONE of the above CONDITIONS.

9 DRUGS

- YES NO Do you or would you-
- 1 Feel like you have a drug problem?
 - 2 Like to talk about your drug habits?

10 TRAUMA, ACCIDENT, OTHER HAZARDS

- YES NO Do you-
- 1 Drive after alcohol/drug use?
 - 2 Operate machinery after alcohol/drug use?
 - 3 Tend to exceed the speed limit?
 - 4 Ride with drivers who have been using alcohol or drugs?
 - 5 Know how to swim?
 - 6 Live in a violent crime area?
- Indicate miles traveled yearly in a motor vehicle.
- 7 10,000 or less 15,001 - 20,000
 - 8 10,001 - 15,000 More than 20,000
- What percent of the time do you wear a seatbelt?
- 9 25% or less 51% - 75%
 - 10 26% - 50% More than 75%

SELF CARE AND TESTS

The following items ask about your self care practices and about tests you may or may not have had. Early detection of a serious illness allows you to get early treatment and decreases the risk of permanent disability or premature death.

11 SELF CARE

- YES NO Have you-
- 1 Ever had a chest x-ray?
 - 2 Had an abnormal chest x-ray?
 - 3 Ever had an EKG (electrocardiogram)?
 - 4 Had an abnormal EKG?
 - 5 Ever had an exercise EKG?
 - 6 Had an abnormal exercise EKG?
- YES NO Do you-
- 7 Seek advice from a physician if symptoms persist?
 - 8 Plan annual rectal exam or test for occult blood (trace blood in the stool) after age 40?

12 MEN (Women, go to Unit 13)

- YES NO Do you examine your testicles for nodules once a month?
- 1

13 WOMEN (Men, go to Unit 12)

- YES NO Do you or have you-
- 1 Ever had a PAP test?
 - 2 Had a PAP test within past year?
 - 3 Had an abnormal PAP test in past?
 - 4 Plan annual PAP tests in future?
 - 5 Examine your breasts once a month for lumps?
 - 6 Have a breast exam by a doctor once yearly?

14 TESTS

If you've ever had these tests done, mark the most recent value. If you do not enter any value in this section, the national norms for your age, sex, and race will be used in your health evaluation.

Blood Pressure		Total Cholesterol	HDL Cholesterol
Systolic	Diastolic		
1 <input type="radio"/> Never Done	2 <input type="radio"/> Never Done	3 <input type="radio"/> Never Done	4 <input type="radio"/> Never Done
<input type="radio"/> 120 or less	<input type="radio"/> 80 or less	<input type="radio"/> 180 or less	<input type="radio"/> 15 or less
<input type="radio"/> 121 - 130	<input type="radio"/> 81 - 85	<input type="radio"/> 181 - 200	<input type="radio"/> 16 - 20
<input type="radio"/> 131 - 140	<input type="radio"/> 86 - 90	<input type="radio"/> 201 - 220	<input type="radio"/> 21 - 30
<input type="radio"/> 141 - 150	<input type="radio"/> 91 - 95	<input type="radio"/> 221 - 240	<input type="radio"/> 31 - 40
<input type="radio"/> 151 - 160	<input type="radio"/> 96 - 100	<input type="radio"/> 241 - 260	<input type="radio"/> 41 - 50
<input type="radio"/> 161 - 180	<input type="radio"/> 101 - 110	<input type="radio"/> 261 - 280	<input type="radio"/> 51 - 60
<input type="radio"/> 181 - 200	<input type="radio"/> 111 - 120	<input type="radio"/> 281 - 300	<input type="radio"/> 61 - 70
<input type="radio"/> 201 - 220	<input type="radio"/> 121 - 130	<input type="radio"/> 301 - 330	<input type="radio"/> 71 - 80
<input type="radio"/> 221 - 240	<input type="radio"/> 131 - 140	<input type="radio"/> 331 - 360	<input type="radio"/> 81 - 90
<input type="radio"/> Over 240	<input type="radio"/> Over 140	<input type="radio"/> Over 360	<input type="radio"/> Over 90
<input type="radio"/> Don't Know	<input type="radio"/> Don't Know	<input type="radio"/> Don't Know	<input type="radio"/> Don't Know

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms you have may indicate a problem that requires medical attention. Mark any of the symptoms that you currently have or have had within the past year.

24 HEAD

- 1 Staggering or balance problems
- 2 Spinning sensation or dizziness
- 3 Fainting spells
- 4 Convulsions or seizures
- 5 Inability to speak for a few minutes
- 6 Frequent or severe headaches
- 7 I have had NONE of the above HEAD or NEUROLOGICAL problems in the past year.

25 EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

- 1 Persistent pain in either eye
- 2 Double vision
- 3 Unexpected decrease of vision in one eye
- 4 Persistent or frequent hoarseness
- 5 I have had NONE of the above EYE, EAR, NOSE or THROAT problems in the past year.

26 HEART AND LUNGS

- 1 Frequent or persistent wheezing
- 2 Frequent or persistent cough
- 3 Frequent or severe shortness of breath
- 4 Calf pain when walking, relieved by rest
- 5 Irregular heartbeat, skipped beats
- 6 Bouts of heartbeat so fast you can't count
- 7 Pain, pressure or tight feeling in chest which forced you to stop walking
- 8 Frequent or severe chest pain
- 9 Shortness of breath lying down, relieved by sitting up
- 10 I have had NONE of the above HEART OR LUNGS problems in the past year.

27 DIGESTIVE

- 1 Frequent nausea or vomiting
- 2 Vomiting of blood
- 3 Black tarry stools
- 4 Frequent diarrhea or watery stools
- 5 Unexplained rectal bleeding
- 6 Frequent or severe heartburn or indigestion
- 7 Frequent or severe abdominal pain
- 8 I have had NONE of the above DIGESTIVE problems in the past year.

28 URINARY

- 1 Loss of urine control
- 2 Blood in urine
- 3 I have had NONE of the above URINARY problems in the past year.

29 MEN ONLY (Women go to unit 30)

- 1 Nodule in testicle growing larger

30 WOMEN ONLY (Men go to unit 29)

- 1 I have never had a period
 - 2 My periods have stopped due to surgery
 - 3 My periods have stopped due to menopause (change of life)
 - 4 I am currently using birth control pills
 - 5 I am currently pregnant
- Mark the number of term pregnancies you've had.
- 6 zero one two three or more

Mark any BREAST or REPRODUCTIVE system problems you have had in the past year.

- 7 Vaginal bleeding after menopause (change of life)
 - 8 LUMP IN BREAST
- If you have a BREAST LUMP, mark details.
- 9 Growing larger
 - 10 Skin change
 - 11 Present less than a year
 - 12 Doctor has evaluated it

- 13 I have had NONE of the above BREAST or REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM problems in the past year.

31 OTHER BODY SYSTEMS

- 1 Frequent or constant thirst
- 2 Weight loss not diet related
- 3 Skin lesion that won't heal
- 4 Mole growing rapidly
- 5 Unexplained fever or chills
- 6 Skin or whites of eyes turning yellow
- 7 I have had NONE of the above BODY SYSTEM problems in the past year.

Mark areas for which you would like ADDITIONAL INFORMATION if available.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 Alcohol control | <input type="radio"/> 12 Legal problems |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 Birth control | <input type="radio"/> 13 Loneliness |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 Blood pressure management | <input type="radio"/> 14 Marital problems |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 Cardiac rehabilitation program | <input type="radio"/> 15 Medical emergencies |
| <input type="radio"/> 5 Diabetes management | <input type="radio"/> 16 Self breast exam |
| <input type="radio"/> 6 Diet/nutrition | <input type="radio"/> 17 Sexual problems |
| <input type="radio"/> 7 Drug abuse | <input type="radio"/> 18 Smoking cessation |
| <input type="radio"/> 8 Emotional problems | <input type="radio"/> 19 Stress management |
| <input type="radio"/> 9 Exercise/fitness | <input type="radio"/> 20 Venereal disease |
| <input type="radio"/> 10 Health hazards | <input type="radio"/> 21 Weight reduction/control |
| <input type="radio"/> 11 Human sexuality | <input type="radio"/> 22 General health information |

THANK YOU

For completing this health assessment. Please enclose in the envelope provided and mail to MDI for processing.

This health assessment is not a substitute for routine medical examinations and does not replace traditional medical care administered by medical doctors.

APPENDIX B

COOPER'S FITNESS CATEGORIES

COOPER'S FITNESS CATEGORIES

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AGE</u>		
	<u>13-19</u>	<u>20-29</u>	<u>30-39</u>
Very Poor	< 25.0	< 23.6	< 22.8
Poor	25.0-30.9	23.6-28.9	22.8-26.9
Fair	31.0-34.9	29.0-32.9	27.0-31.4
Good	35.0-38.9	33.0-36.9	31.5-35.6
Excellent	39.0-41.9	37.0-40.9	35.7-40.0
Superior	> 42.0	> 41.0	> 40.1

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AGE</u>		
	<u>40-49</u>	<u>50-59</u>	<u>>60</u>
Very Poor	< 21.0	< 20.2	< 17.5
Poor	21.0-26.4	20.2-22.7	17.5-20.3
Fair	24.5-28.9	22.8-26.9	20.1-24.4
Good	29.0-32.8	27.0-31.4	24.3-30.2
Excellent	32.9-26.9	31.5-35.7	30.3-31.4
Superior	> 37.0	> 35.8	> 31.5

Note: Values are in O₂ ml/kg/min and are in female gender.

APPENDIX C

COVARIATE LIPID MEANS

LIPID LEVELS

			<u>TC</u>		<u>HDL-C</u>	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>MEAN</u>	<u>S.D.</u>	<u>MEAN</u>	<u>S.D.</u>
<u>COVARIATES</u>						
<u>SMOKING:</u>						
1. NEVER	450	58.1	196.7	40.9	53.8	12.7
2. QUIT	188	25.1	202.6	41.3	56.1	13.8
3. CURRENT	126	16.8	208.0	43.1	48.9	11.8
<u>FAMILY HISTORY:</u>						
1. NO	473	60.0	197.7	42.2	53.3	13.3
2. YES	311	40.0	204.0	41.5	53.9	13.2
<u>MENOPAUSE:</u>						
1. PRE	771	98.4	199.9	41.9	53.4	13.2
2. POST	13	1.6	220.5	44.7	61.6	14.5
<u>ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE:</u>						
1. NO	746	94.9	200.6	42.5	53.4	13.3
2. YES	38	5.1	191.9	32.3	56.9	11.4
<u>ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:</u>						
1. NONE	227	28.9	201.9	44.2	52.3	13.2
2. \leq 2/WK.	448	57.0	200.8	41.4	53.2	12.9
3. \geq 3/WK.	109	14.0	194.4	39.8	57.2	13.2
<u>FAMILY INCOME:</u>						
1. < \$10K	24	3.3	194.8	43.0	48.0	10.5
2. \$10-20K	182	24.6	203.2	39.0	52.9	13.3
3. \$21-40K	306	41.3	199.4	40.6	53.8	12.3
4. > \$40K	227	30.8	198.7	45.0	54.5	13.8

APPENDIX D

COVARIATE F-VALUES AND p-VALUES

F-VALUES AND p-VALUES

		<u>F-VALUE</u>	<u>p-VALUE</u>
FITNESS LEVEL:	TC	16.19	.0001
	HDL-C	20.85	.0001
AGE:	TC	35.08	.0001
	HDL-C	15.97	.0001
BODY COMPOSITION:	TC	24.16	.0001
	HDL-C	10.17	.0015
SMOKING STATUS:	TC	3.61	.023
	HDL-C	8.92	.0002
ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:	TC	.18	.83
	HDL-C	7.89	.0004
MENOPAUSE:	TC	2.86	.09
	HDL-C	6.51	.01
ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES:	TC	.36	.55
	HDL-C	.31	.58
FAMILY HISTORY:	TC	3.32	.07
	HDL-C	.14	.71
FAMILY INCOME:	TC	.61	.61
	HDL-C	1.50	.21
STRESS:	TC	.19	.66
	HDL-C	.39	.53
DIET:	TC	.05	.83
	HDL-C	.01	.92

VITA

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Master of Science

Thesis: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBMAXIMAL AEROBIC
CAPACITY AND BLOOD LIPIDS IN A FEMALE POPULATION

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