

# Physiology of Sport and Exercise

## Overtraining Syndrome and Training Monitoring

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# Learning Objectives



Concept of overtraining syndrome

How to prevent overtraining monitoring athletes' training  
dose- response

Practical approach - training monitoring

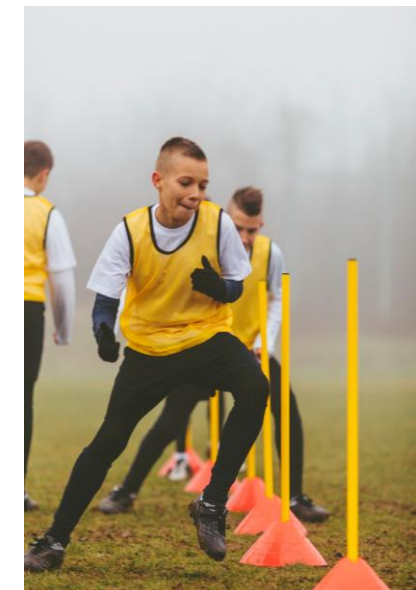
# To achieve highest highest performance

Sport at the professional level, looking for ?

The focus is preparing the athlete/team to reach the peak of performance during competition

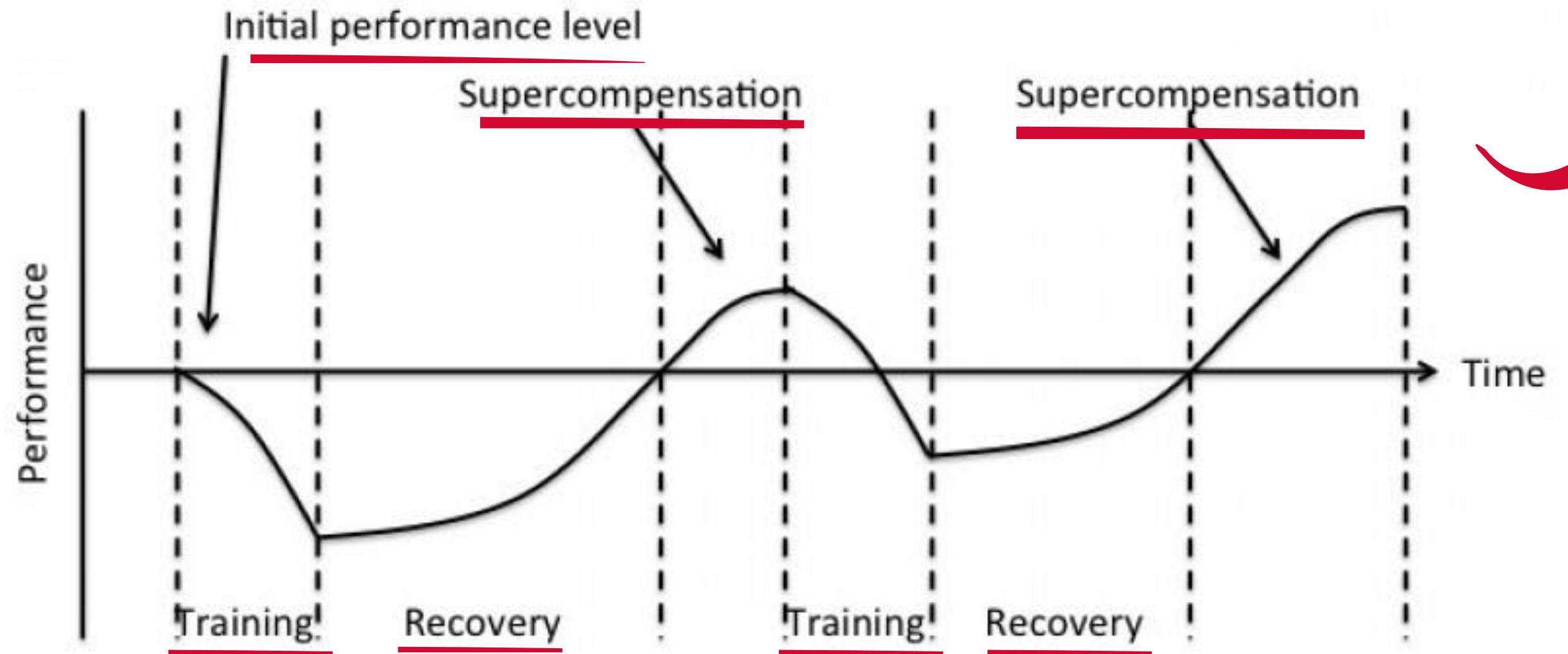
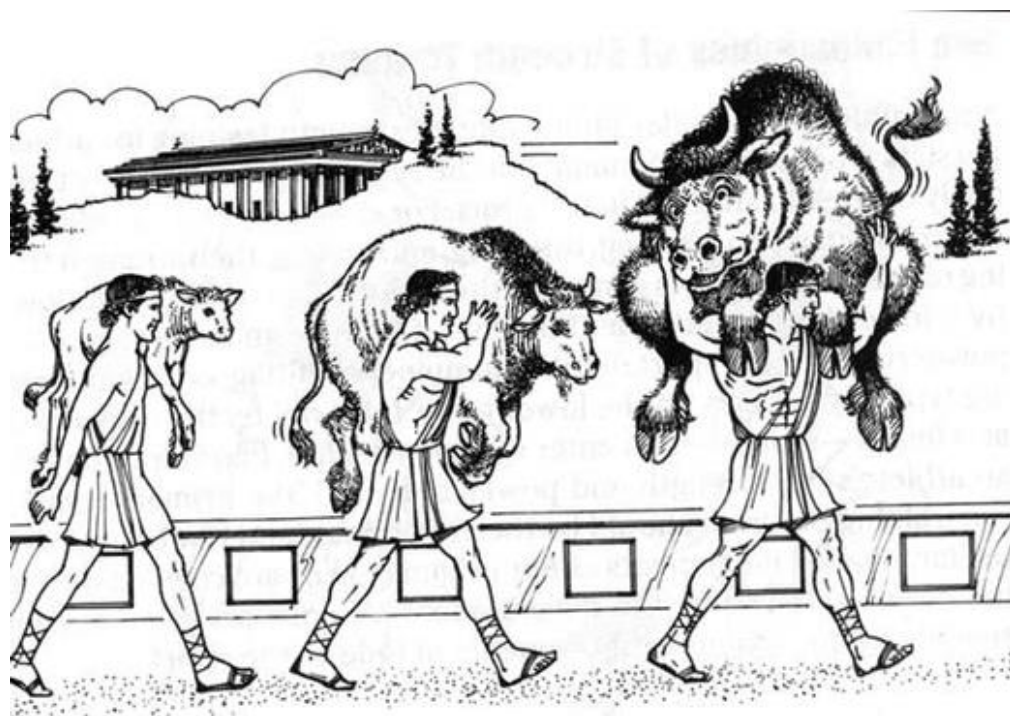


Intense training routine to optimize the athletes' performance - Physical and Technical



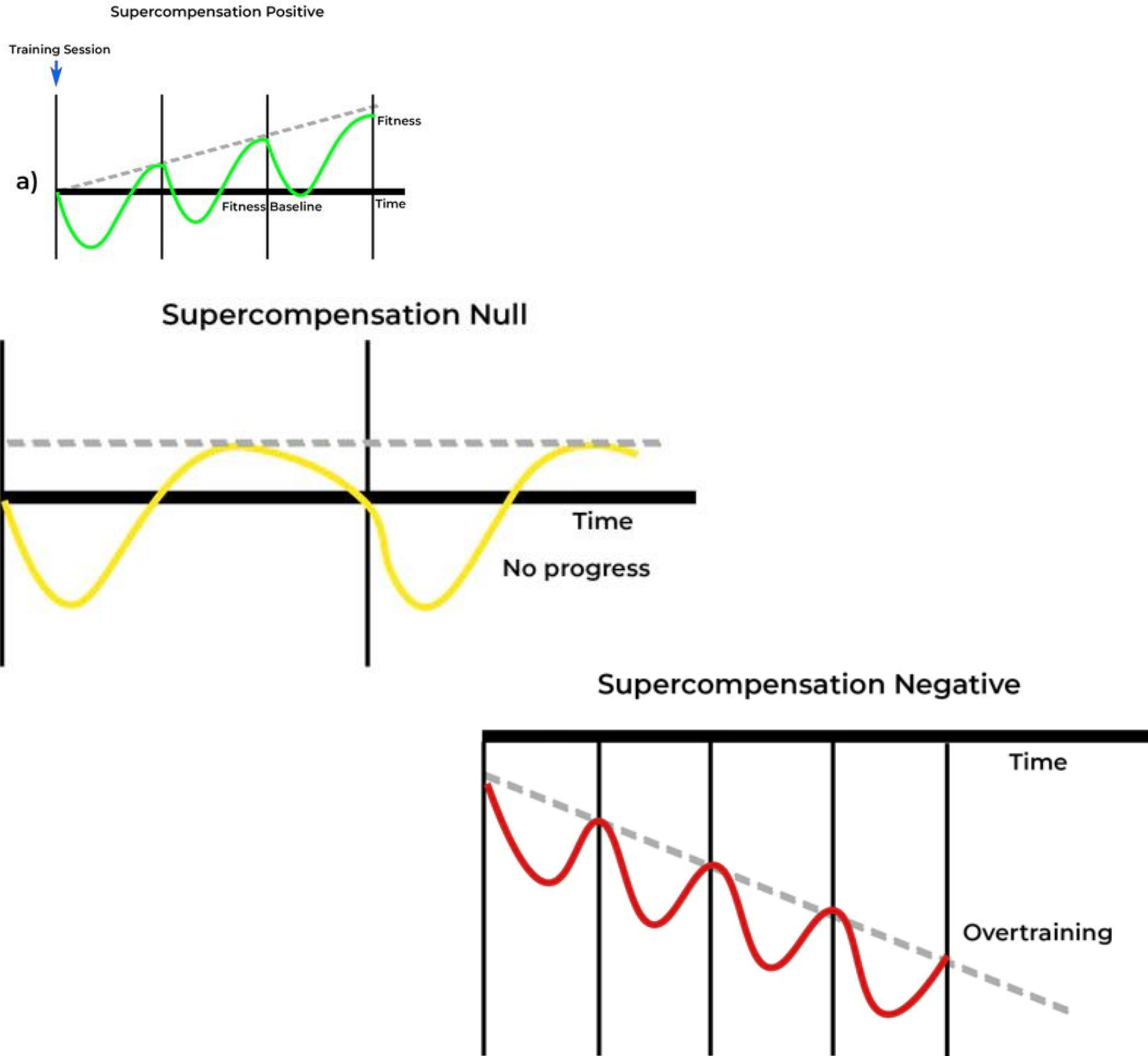
# Supercompensation: training dose- response

The peak of performance at the competition

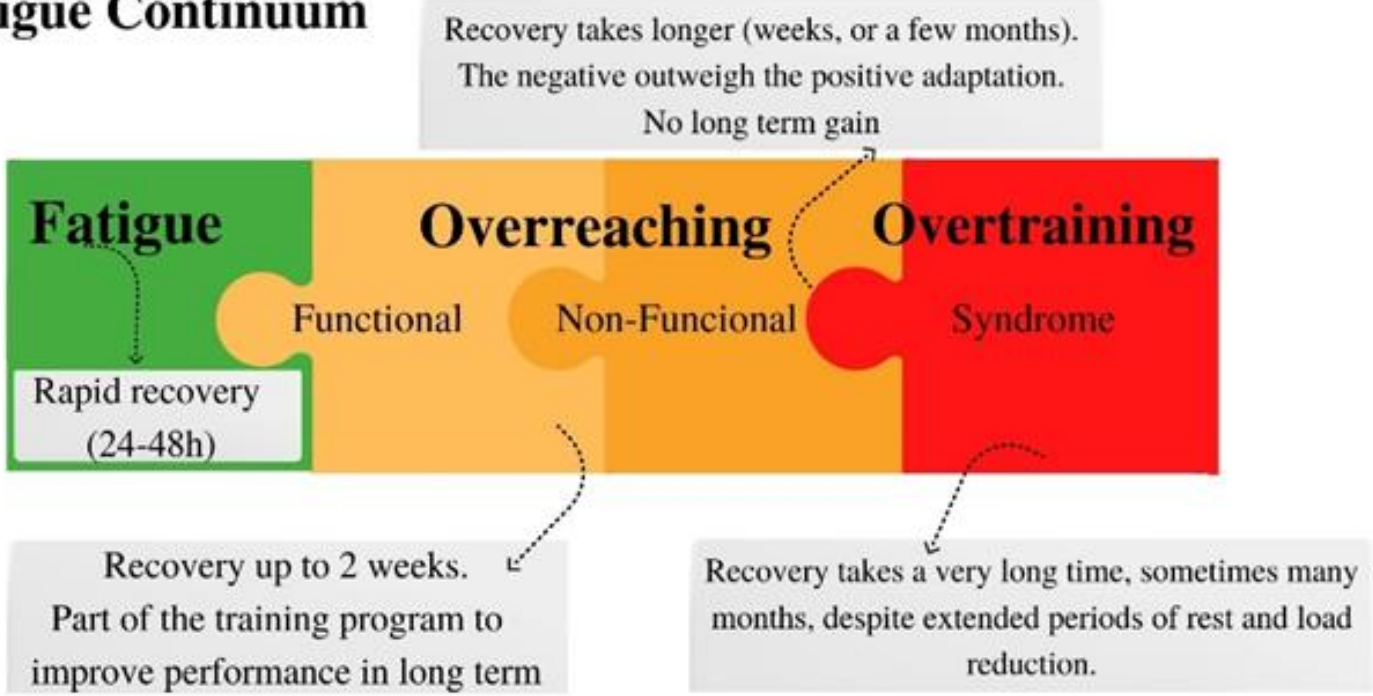


**Classic periodization model: A training load followed by recovery results in increased performance (supercompensation).**

# Supercompensation: positive/null/negative



## Fatigue Continuum



# Overtraining Syndrome (OTS) - Literature Description

Is a condition associated with a long-term **imbalance between training and recovery**



Characterized by **performance decrements, fatigue, and mood disturbances** and has been proposed to affect between 20% and 60% of athletes throughout their careers.

OTS is defined as “a sports-specific **decrease in performance together with disturbances in mood state**. Underperformance persists despite a period of recovery **lasting weeks or months**.”

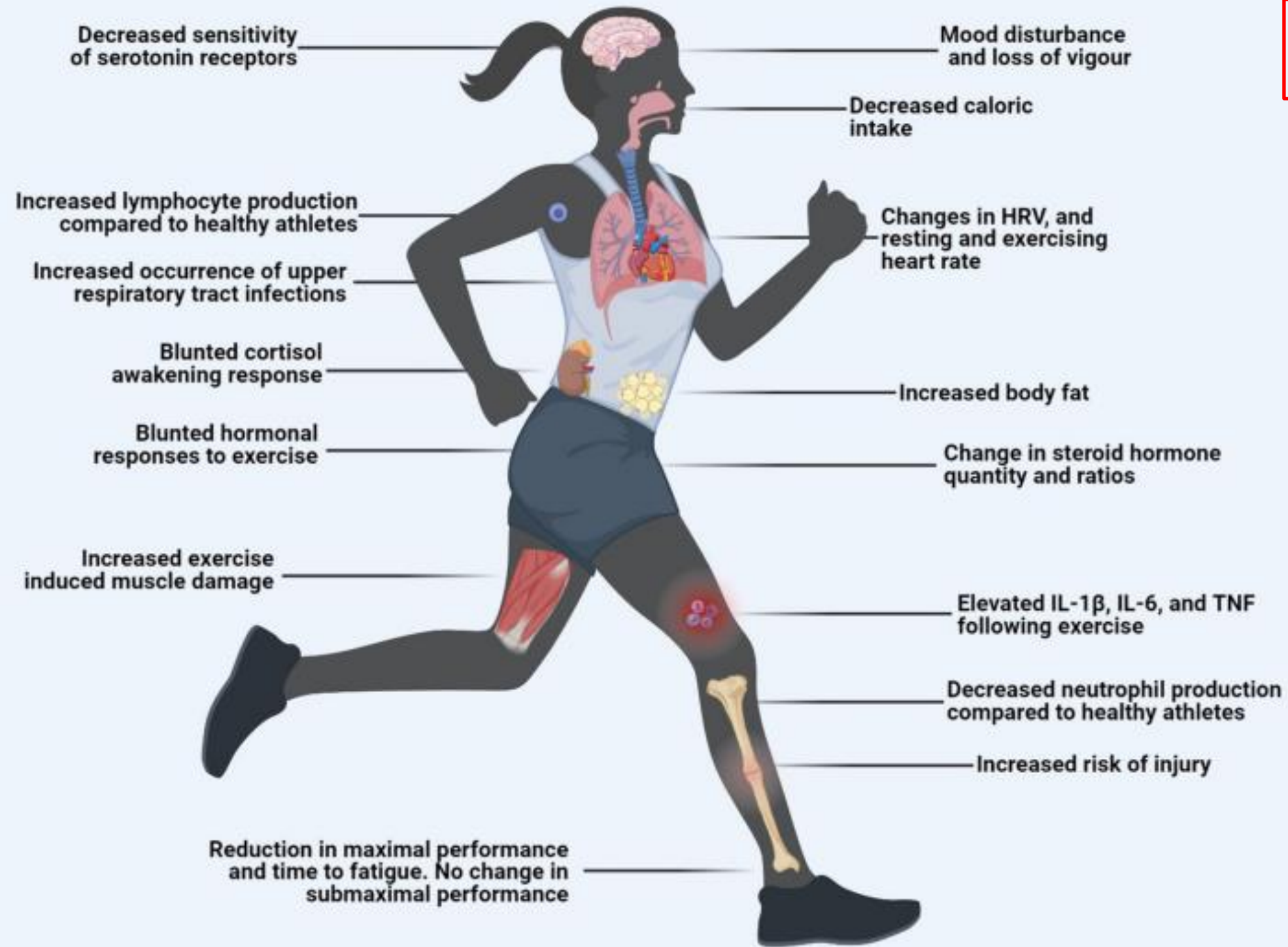
## **Issues:**

Vague terminology, complex nature.  
Difficult to understand, diagnose and treat.

## **Attention:**

Athletic performance  
Physiological changes  
Psychological signs and symptoms

# Proposed symptoms of the overtraining syndrome in athletes



Decreased sensitivity of serotonin receptors

**Increased occurrence of upper respiratory tract infections**

Blunted (mitigate) cortisol awakening responses

**Blunted (mitigate) hormonal responses to exercise**

Increase exercise induced muscle damage

**Reduction in maximal performance and time to fatigue. No change in submaximal performance**

Mood disturbance and loss of vigour

**Decreased caloric intake**

Changes in HRV and resting and exercising heart rate

**Change in steroid hormone quantity and ratios**

Elevated IL-1B, IL-6 and TNF following exercise

**Increased risk of injury**

# Overtraining Syndrome Symptoms and Diagnosis in Athletes: Where Is the Research? A Systematic Review

Jonathon Weakley,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Shona L. Halson,<sup>1,2</sup> and Iñigo Mujika<sup>4,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Behavioural and Health Sciences, Australian Catholic University, Brisbane, QLD, Australia; <sup>2</sup>Sports Performance, Recovery, Injury and New Technologies (SPRINT) Research Centre, Australian Catholic University, Brisbane, QLD, Australia; <sup>3</sup>Carnegie Applied Rugby Research (CARR) Centre, Carnegie School of Sport, Leeds, United Kingdom; <sup>4</sup>Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine and Nursing, University of the Basque Country, Leioa, Basque Country; <sup>5</sup>Exercise Science Laboratory, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Medicine, Universidad Finis Terrae, Santiago, Chile

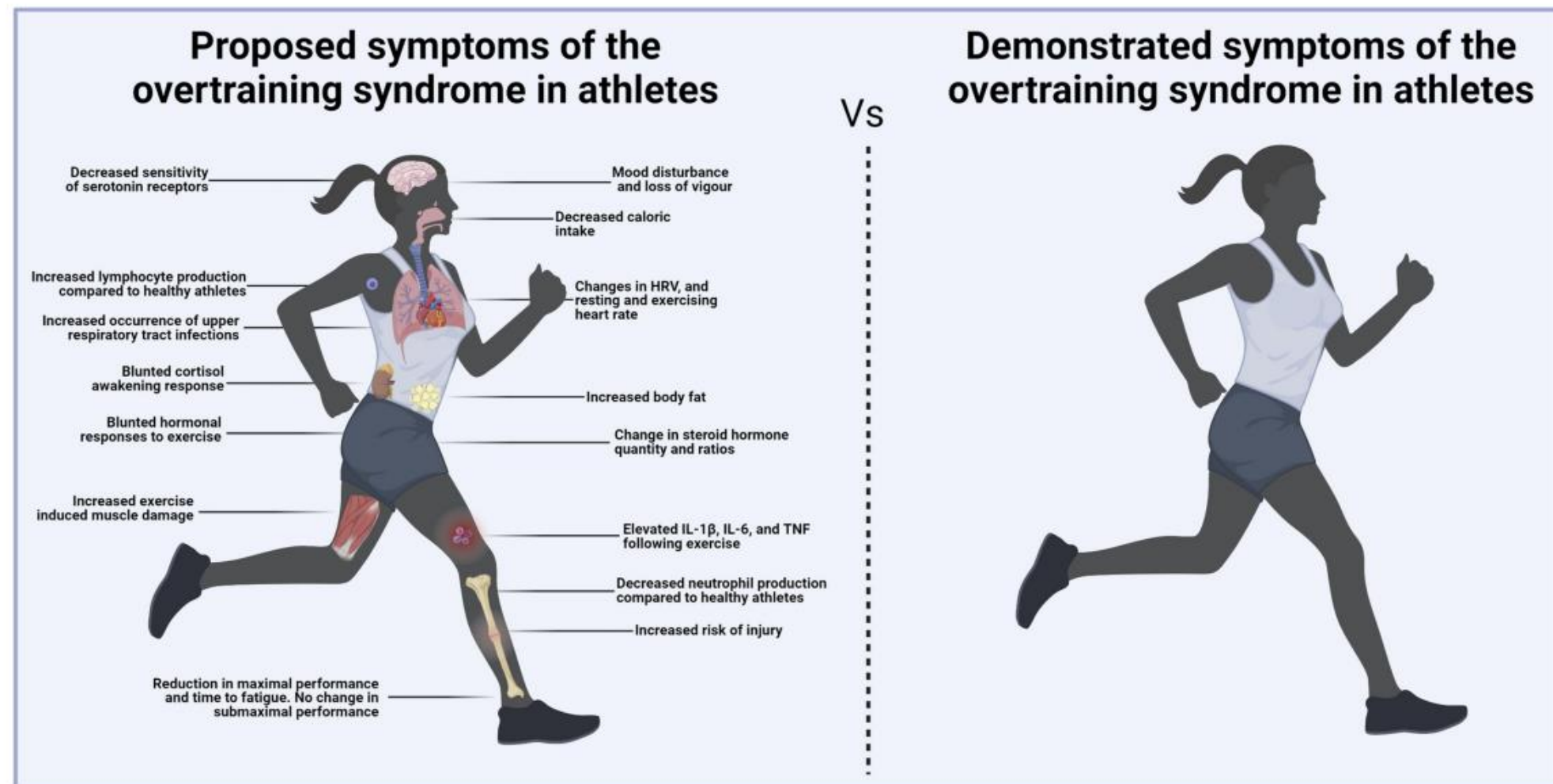


Figure 2 — Proposed and demonstrated symptoms of overtraining syndrome. Information retrieved from references 8–11, 13, 14, 23–25, and 31. HRV indicates heart-rate variability; IL, interleukin; TNF, tumor necrosis factor.

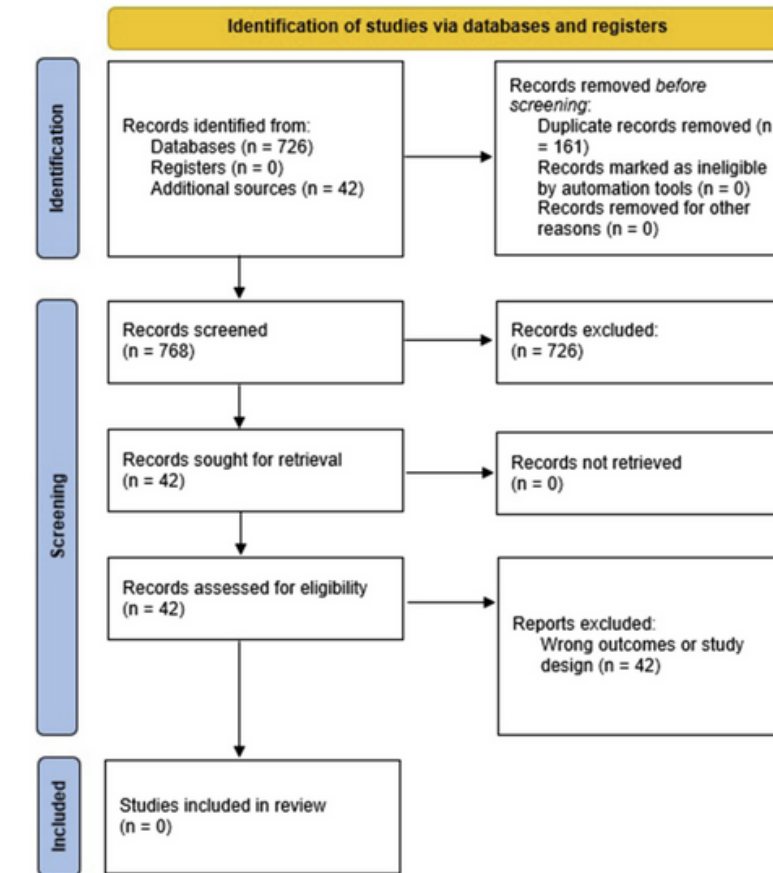


Figure 1 — Flow diagram of search strategy for eligible studies.

It should be noted that while this review cannot provide evidence of sufficient quality regarding changes in performance and mood state associated with OTS, it is plausible practitioners and researchers have indeed observed OTS but have been unable to document these changes



# How to prevent and/or diagnose the OTS symptoms?

Monitoring/tracking / registering the athletes' responses to training and competition demands



Which variables and parameters???



## Athletic performance

Physical tests

(e.g., sport modality characteristics)

Sport-specific test



## Physiological changes

Cardiac autonomic responses

(e.g., VO<sub>2</sub>max, HR, HRV)

Hormonal concentration

(e.g., testosterone, cortisol, estrogen...)

Blood markers



## Psychological signs and symptoms

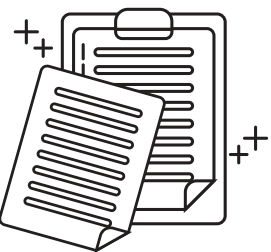
Mood disturbance

Droop on motivation to train and compete

Perception of wellbeing

Mental fatigue

(e.g., evaluation by scales, questionnaires and athletes' conversation/report)



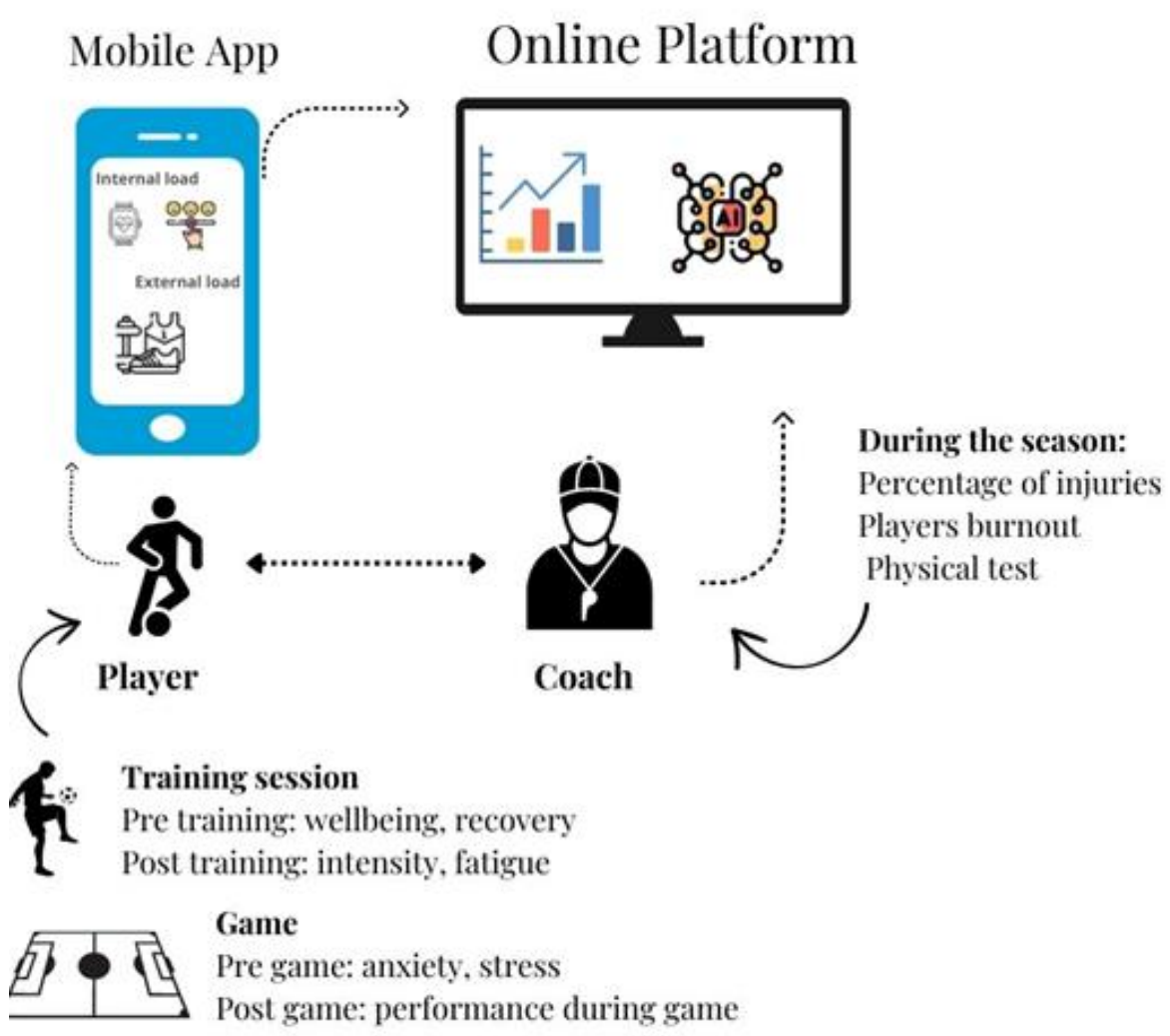
# Monitoring Process



## Commercial Platform



Input and data report  
 Player long-term monitoring  
 Algorithm to prevent injury and OTS



KITMAN LABS

LOAD CONTROL

ACTIMET

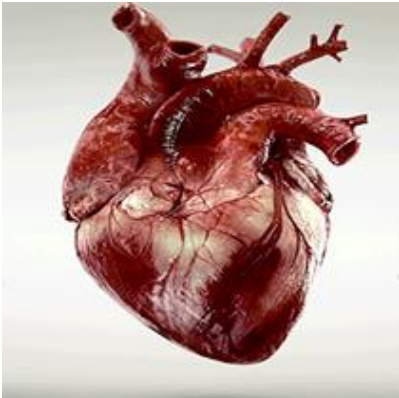


# HRV4 training application - hands on



# HRV4Training

## Sinoatrial Node (pacemaker)



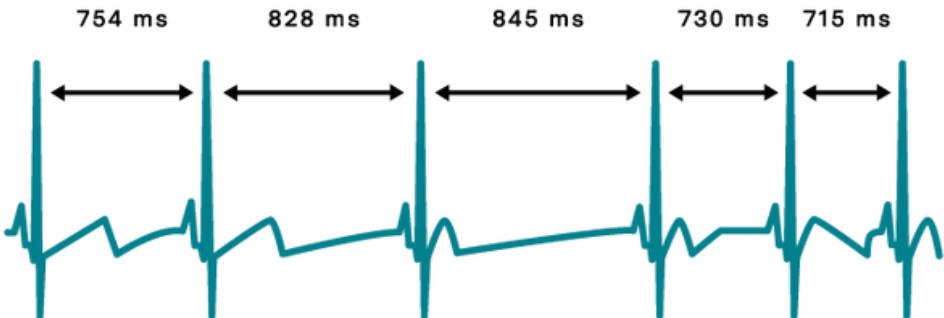
Parasympathetic fibers: inhibitory

Sympathetic fibers: excitatory



Measurement of HRV and perceptual parameters  
(wellbeing, training intensity and recovery)

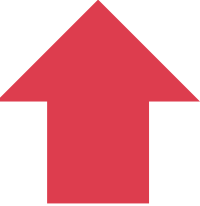
HEART RATE VARIABILITY



Shorter interval: higher bpm  
Major interval: slower bpm



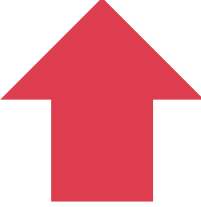
HRV values (RMSSD)



Performance/health



HRV values (RMSSD)



Risk of OTS/ stress/ maladaptation



# Preventing chronic fatigue in Czech young athletes: The features description of the "SmartTraining" mobile application

Martina Bernaciková<sup>1\*</sup>, Michal Kumstát<sup>2</sup>, Iva Burešová<sup>1</sup>, Kateřina Kapounková<sup>2</sup>, Ivan Struhár<sup>2</sup>, Martin Sebera<sup>1</sup> and Ana Carolina Paludo<sup>3\*</sup>

## Multistage Process- Chronic Fatigue

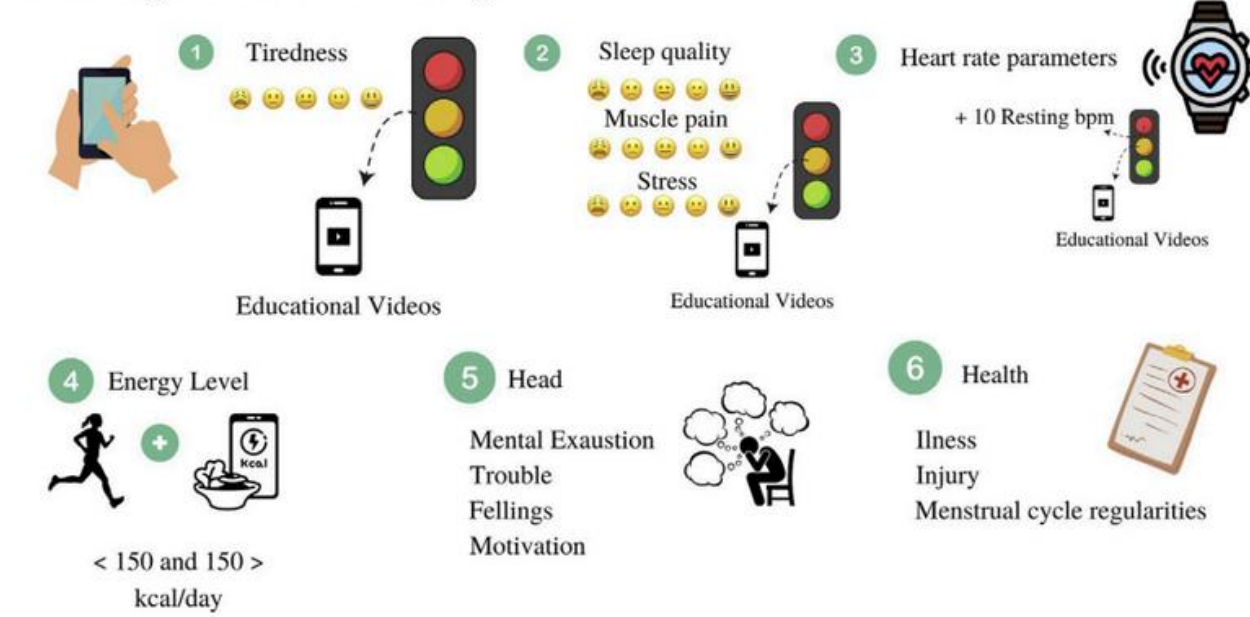


FIGURE 2 Training parameters assessed in a multisatage process of alertness for chronic fatigue.

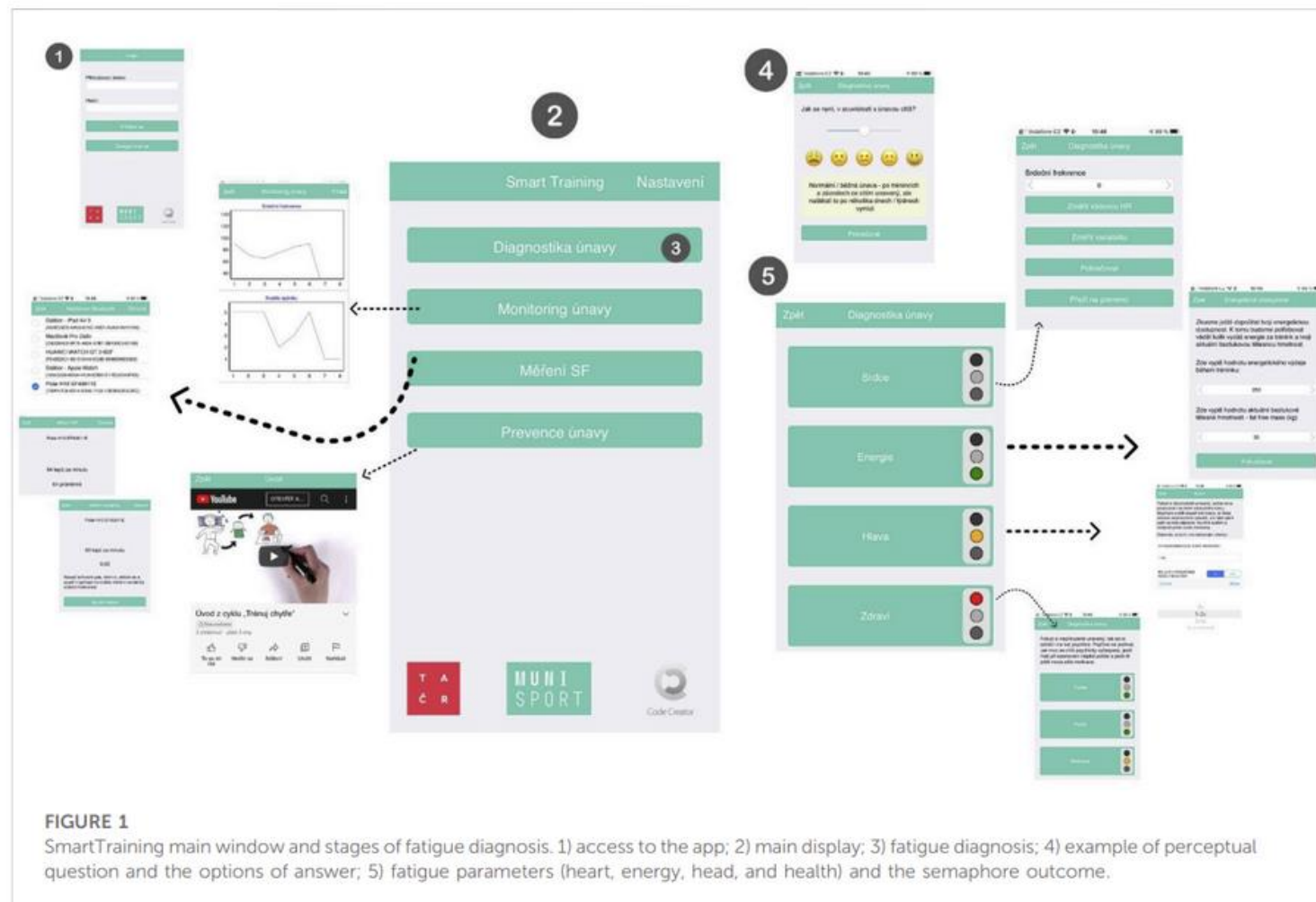


FIGURE 1 SmartTraining main window and stages of fatigue diagnosis. 1) access to the app; 2) main display; 3) fatigue diagnosis; 4) example of perceptual question and the options of answer; 5) fatigue parameters (heart, energy, head, and health) and the semaphore outcome.



FIGURE 3 The educational part of the app: amination videos related to training demands and recovery (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9yCtXX66neQPdsoMZI9gtCV7kz7JZuh0>).

Monitoring session/competition/ individual athletes/ menstrual cycle – hands on

## **Example of a spreadsheet created on excel and Power BI**

## TAKE NOTE

- Sports at the professional level **require high training intensity**
- **Adequate training load** (dose) and recovery is ideal for a supercompensation on performance (response)
- **Inadequate training** and recovery can trigger the OTS
- OTS is characterized by a **decrease in performance and physiological and psychological responses**. It will take months to recover (initial conditions)
- OTS is a **vague concept**
- Monitoring long-term athletes' responses can help to prevent and diagnose OTS
- Many options to monitor/track athletes' physiological and perceptual responses to training. Use of commercial app; coaches can build their own tools.



Obrigada



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**Complementary:**

**Overtraining syndrome symptoms and diagnosis in athletes: where is the research? a systematic review**

<https://doi.org/10.1123/ijssp.2021-0448>.

**Preventing chronic fatigue in Czech young athletes: the features description of the 'SmartTraining' mobile application**

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fphys.2022.919982>.