



# ERGOGENIC AIDS AND SPORT





# **Examples in Sports**

- Football—anabolic steroids
- Cycling—blood doping; amphetamines
- Weight category athletes—diuretics, amphetamines
- Distance running—carbohydrate loading

Note: Scientific studies are limited by the accuracy of measurements and individual day-to-day variability. Events are won by hundredths of seconds or by centimeters.



# Did You Know...?

The placebo effect refers to when your body's expectations of a substance determine your body's response to it. While the effect is psychological in origin, the body's physical response to the substance is real.



#### PLACEBO EFFECT ON STRENGTH GAINS



# **Pharmacological Agents**

- Amphetamines
- Beta blockers
- Caffeine
- Diuretics
- Recreationally used drugs (e.g., alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, nicotine)



# Amphetamines

- Increase mental alertness, blood pressure, heart rate, blood glucose and FFA levels, and muscle tension
- Decrease sense of fatigue
- Redistribute blood flow to skeletal muscles
- May enhance speed, power, endurance, concentration, and fine motor coordination
- May be addictive (metamphetamine) and can trigger cardiac arrhythmia or death



#### **Beta Blockers**

- Prevent the binding of norepinephrine to its receptor, thus decreasing sympathetic nervous system effects
- May improve accuracy (for shooting sports)
- Decrease aerobic capacity but have no effect on strength, power, or muscular endurance
- Prolonged use can cause bradycardia, heart blockage, hypotension, bronchospasm, fatigue, and decreased motivation



#### Caffeine

- Increases mental alertness, concentration, catecholamine release, and mobilization and use of FFA by the muscles
- Decreases fatigue and lowers perception of effort
- Improves endurance performance; may improve sprint and strength performance
- Can cause nervousness, insomnia, tremors, diuresis, and lead to dehydration



#### **Diuretics**

- Increase urine production and excretion
- Used for weight reduction and to mask other drugs during drug testing
- Cause weight loss (water loss)
- Can lead to dehydration, impaired thermoregulation, and electrolyte imbalances



# Alcohol

- Provides energy (7 kcal/g) but inhibits metabolism
- Dulls pain sensation (increasing injury risk); reduces anxiety
- Suppresses release of ADH which leads to dehydration
- Appears to impair psychomotor function
- Has no ergogenic effects on strength, power, speed, or endurance



#### Cocaine

- Blocks reuptake of norepinephrine and dopamine by neurons
- Creates feelings of euphoria, alertness, and selfconfidence
- Masks fatigue and pain
- Has no evidence of ergogenic properties; likely ergolytic
- Extremely addictive; can cause psychological problems and compromise heart function

# Marijuana

- Acts as a stimulant and depressant of CNS
- Impairs performance requiring hand-eye and motor coordination, fast reaction times, tracking ability, and perceptual accuracy
- Can lead to personality changes, memory impairment, hallucinations, and psychotic-like behavior
- May pose same risks as cigarette smoking (if smoked)

#### Nicotine

- Increases alertness and may calm nervousness
- Lowers VO<sub>2</sub>max values (when smoked) and peripheral circulation
- Increases heart rate, blood pressure, autonomic reactivity, vasoconstriction, ADH and catecholamine secretion, blood lipid levels, plasma glucose, glucagon, insulin, and cortisol
- Is addictive and causes various cancers and cardiovascular diseases







# **Hormonal Agents**

- Anabolic steroids
- Human growth hormone
- Oral contraceptives



# **Anabolic Steroids**

 Are nearly identical to male sex hormones; synthetic form maximizes anabolic effects

- Increase muscle mass (fat-free mass) and strength
- Can cause testicular atrophy, reduced sperm count, and prostate and breast enlargement in men
- Can cause breast regression, masculinization, and menstrual disruption in women
- Can cause personality changes, liver damage, and cardiovascular disease

#### **BODY CHANGES WITH ANABOLIC** STEROIDS



#### **STEROIDS AND LEAN BODY MASS**



#### **STEROIDS AND STRENGTH GAINS**



# Did You Know...?

Andro and DHEA, precursors of testosterone, have been proposed to have ergogenic properties—increased muscle mass and strength—but research has not supported the claims that have been made.

#### **Human Growth Hormone**

- Secreted naturally by pituitary; synthetic form used by some athletes
- Difficult to detect synthetic from natural in drug testing
- Proven to increase lipolysis and blood glucose levels; changes in muscle mass and strength are found in some studies, but not in the best controlled studies or studies with athletes
- Can cause acromegaly (bone thickening), enlargement of internal organs, muscle and joint weakness, diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease

# **Oral Contraceptives**

- Control menstrual cycle
- Little research on ergogenic properties
- May delay PMS and dysmenorrhea, alleviating symptom on competition days
- Can cause nausea, weight gain, fatigue, hypertension, liver tumors, blood clots, stroke, or heart attack
- VS. abortion doping of Soviet females?

# **Physiological Agents**

- Blood doping
- Erythropoietin
- Oxygen supplementation
- Bicarbonate loading
- Phosphate loading

# **Blood Doping**

- Artificial increase in total volume of red blood cells (via transfusion)
- Improves endurance performance by increasing blood's O<sub>2</sub>-carrying capacity
- Increases VO<sub>2</sub>max, time to exhaustion, and measurable performance
- Can cause blood clotting, heart failure, and transfusion complications

# **VO2MAX AND FATIGUE AFTER BLOOD DOPING**



#### PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AFTER BLOOD DOPING



# Erythropoietin

- Natural hormone produced by the kidneys to stimulate red blood cell production
- Can be cloned and administered to increase red blood cell volume
- Increases  $\dot{VO}_2$  max and time to exhaustion
- Can cause blood clotting and heart failure due to increased blood viscosity



# **Oxygen Supplementation**

- Breathed by athlete to increase oxygen content of blood
- Can improve performance if administered during exercise, but not before or after
- Too cumbersome to be practical
- No serious risks known
- Rapid oxygenation can induce free radicals?



# OXYGEN SUPPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE



#### **Bicarbonate**

- Naturally part of body's buffering system to maintain normal pH
- Loading increases blood alkalinity so that more lactate can be cleared (delay fatigue)
- Ingesting 300 mg per kg body weight can increase performance in all-out anaerobic exercise bouts between 1 and 7 minutes
- Can cause gastrointestinal cramping, bloating, and diarrhea

# **Phosphate Loading**

Loading is thought to increase phosphate levels throughout body, which then

- Increase potential for oxidative phosphorylation and PCr synthesis
- Enhance oxygen release to the cells
- Improve cardiovascular response to exercise and buffering and endurance capacities

Studies are divided on results of phosphate loading.

No risks are yet known.

# **Nutritional Agents**

- Amino acids
- L-carnitine
- Creatine
- Glycerol
- Pyruvate



# **Amino Acids**

- L-tryptophan and Branched Chain Amino Acids (BCAA)
- Proposed to increase endurance performance by delaying fatigue (delayed transformation to serotonin)
- Studies are inconclusive on effects on performance



#### BRANCED CHAIN AMINO ACIDS AND PERFORMANCE



#### Creatine

- Supplement to better maintain muscle ATP levels
- Shown to increase anaerobic power, anaerobic endurance, and aerobic endurance-types of activities, and possibly fat-free body mass, although the results of these performance studies are mixed



# **Other Nutritional Agents**

- Glycerol might have ergogenic properties facilitating water storage and improving exercise performance in the heat through improved thermoreulation and reduced dehydration
- Pyruvate supplementation has no proven benefits

#### What else?

- ♦ Gene doping?
- ♦ Eugenics?
- ...?