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Department of Physical Education, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab, India Sports injury review: Causes, prevention, and rehabilitation

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Abstract

Athletes of all ages and skill levels are affected by sports injuries in both amateur and professional sports. The purpose of this research paper is to provide a thorough overview of sports injuries, including their causes, prevention strategies, and rehabilitation approaches. Athletes, coaches, and healthcare professionals can work together to reduce the occurrence and severity of sports-related injuries by understanding the underlying factors that contribute to these injuries and implementing appropriate preventive measures.

Keywords: Sports injuries, prevention strategies, rehabilitation, causes, psychological impact, future directions

Introduction

The trend towards early sport specialisation contributes to the estimated 4.5 million sportsrelated injuries (SRIs) suffered by children and young adults each year ^[1]. Athletes are now considered 'highly specialised' in sports by 17% to 41% of youth ^[2, 3]. While early sport specialisation may appear to be advantageous to young athletes seeking the alleged benefits of highly specialised and competitive training, individuals who specialise early may be more prone to overuse injuries, a lack of cross-sport skill development, and burnout [4, 5, 6]. Furthermore, it is unclear whether early specialisation in a single sport can help achieve sports mastery. The medical community has warned against early sport specialisation to reduce injury risk, while also requesting additional research due to the limited data currently available ^[4, 7, 8, 9]. Early specialisation in a single sport at high-intensity and high-volume training may introduce highly repetitive movement patterns and limit neuromuscular foundational skills, stifling an athlete's long-term development and increasing the risk of overuse injury ^[10, 11, 12]. Sports injuries have become more common in modern sports because of factors such as increased competition, increased physical demands, and insufficient training practices. This section provides an overview of the importance of sports injuries and emphasises the importance of comprehensive research and preventive strategies.

Common types of sports injuries

This section discusses the most common types of sports injuries, such as musculoskeletal injuries (sprains, strains, and fractures), overuse injuries (tendinitis, stress fractures), and head injuries (concussions). Each type of injury is discussed in terms of its prevalence, causes, and potential long-term consequences.

Causes of sports injuries

It is critical to understand the causes of sports injuries in order to prevent them. This section investigates the multifactorial nature of sports injuries, including intrinsic (age, gender, genetics, and anatomical factors) and extrinsic (training errors, environmental conditions, and equipment-related issues).

Prevention strategies

Sports injury prevention is critical to reducing the occurrence and severity of these injuries. This section looks at evidence-based prevention strategies that cover a wide range of topics,

Corresponding Author: Amandeep Kaur Department of Physical Education, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab, India such as pre-participation screenings, appropriate training and conditioning, proper equipment use, environmental considerations, and education and awareness programmes.

Rehabilitation and Recovery

When a sports injury occurs, prompt and effective rehabilitation is critical for a full recovery and return to sports. This section delves into the fundamentals of sports injury rehabilitation, such as initial evaluation, treatment modalities (such as physiotherapy, bracing, and surgery), and progressive rehabilitation protocols.

Psychological Impact of Sports Injuries

Sports injuries not only have physical consequences, but they also have a significant impact on an athlete's psychological well-being. This section delves into the psychological aspects of sports injuries, such as emotional reactions, the fear of re-injury, and the importance of mental health support throughout the recovery process.

Future Directions and Innovations

This section examines new trends and technological advances in sports injury research, prevention, and rehabilitation. It identifies areas for additional research, such as personalised injury risk assessment, wearable technology, and novel rehabilitation approaches, with the goal of improving athlete safety and performance.

Conclusion

Athletes, coaches, and healthcare professionals all face significant challenges as a result of sports injuries. The incidence and impact of sports injuries can be reduced by gaining a thorough understanding of the causes, implementing preventive strategies, and utilising evidencebased rehabilitation protocols. Continued research and collaborative efforts are required to ensure athletes' safety and well-being in the ever-changing world of sports.

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