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THE INFLUENCE OF EXERCISE IN PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOSOSIAL WELL BEING IH HIV INFECTED PATIENTS: EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC PESULTS

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The HIV infection leads to impairment in a number of key elements of immune ABSTRACT function, most obviously a progressive decline in many psychophysical parameters. The objective of this partial review is to examine the effectiveness of exercise interventions on physical and psychosocial outcomes in persons living with HIV/AIDS. Main results indicated that moderate aerobic exercise, resistance exercise or alternative exercise as yoga or tai chi in HIV infected patients improves the immune, neuromuscular and cardiovascular function, the body composition and also attenuates psychological stress. In conclusion, in addition to medication, exercise seems to lead to a better quality of life in HIV infected patients. These findings are limited by the small number of studies. So, future studies with larger sample sizes, a greater proportion of participants, especially with patients of the last two stages of HIV infection, are necessary to increase the generalizability of results.

Key words: HIV/AIDS, Immune function, Physical-psychological outcomes, Exercise.

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