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Heat Illness Evaluation Avoidance and Treatment

**Sodium Depletion Illness  
(Hypovolemic Hyponatremia)  
Who's at Risk?**

Sandra Fowkes Godek PhD, ATC  
Fluid and Electrolyte Balance  
Special Interest Group, NATA 2008



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**Introduction**


- Problems we are faced with - Why has the incidence of hyponatremia increased?
  - The EHS ( $T_c$ ) and dehydration dilemma
  - Experimental versus Field Studies
- Major fluid regulating hormones
  - The body's response to low blood pressure
- Three forms of hyponatremia
- Electrolyte studies in FB and Ice Hockey
  - $Na^+$  supplemented versus un-supplemented



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**Introduction**


- Critical questions to which we don't have all of the answers
- By the numbers – sweat sodium losses
- Hyponatremia versus heat exhaustion
- Hypovolemic hyponatremia
  - Signs/symptoms
  - Management and prevention



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**Problem- Which are Heat Illnesses?**


- Heat Cramps (EAMC)?
- Heat Exhaustion ?
  - Symptomatic dehydration
- Hyponatremia? ← This can be prevented!!
- Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS) – YES
- A heat illness is defined as a condition in which the primary treatment is rapid cooling!!



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**Problem - What causes Exertional Heat stroke?? HS ATC Survey** Dombek, Casa, Yeargin et al JAT Suppl 2006


- “ATC rankings of 14 items that predispose athletes to EHS revealed they consider..”
  1. Dehydration (2.6 rank)
  2. High Humidity (3.4 rank)
  3. High ambient temperature (4.3 rank)
  4. Acclimatization (5.1 rank)
  5. Physical fitness (5.7 rank)
  6. History of heat illness (6.1 rank)
  7. Exercise intensity (6.2 rank)



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**Problem - What causes Exertional Heat stroke??** Dombek, Casa, Yeargin et al JAT Suppl 2006

- Dehydration was ranked significantly higher than all other factors except high humidity!!
- However – The overwhelming expert consensus is that metabolic rate (exercise intensity) is the single most important factor related to elevated core temperature
  - Dehydration at best has minimal affect
- So why do ATC’s still think this way??
  - Where does your information come from?

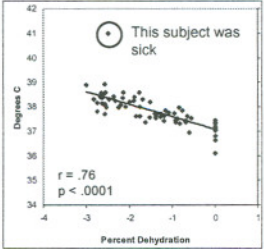


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**Is there a Significant correlation between  $T_c$  and level of Hydration?**




Yes - when you remove the Brain

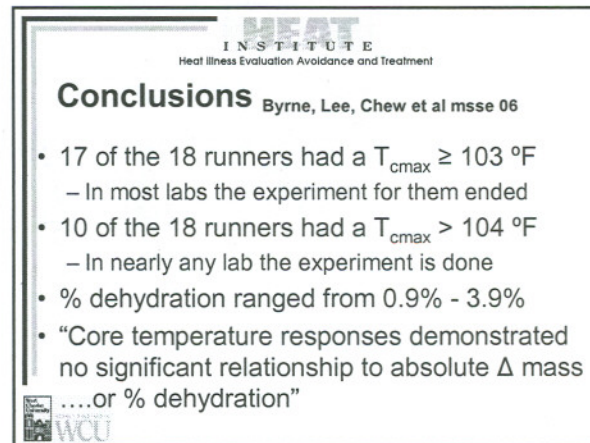
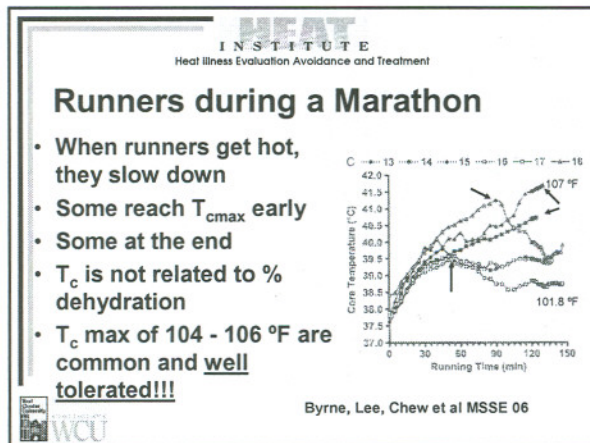
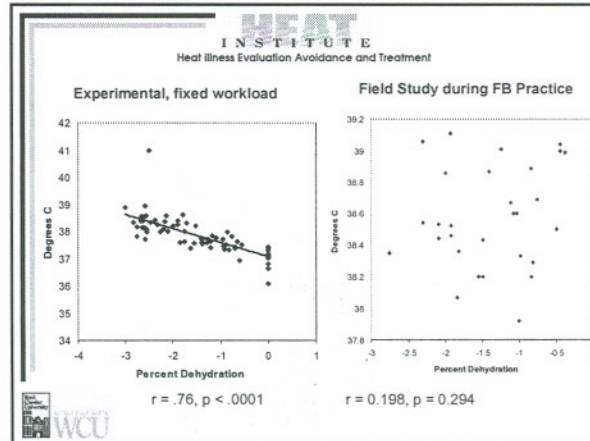
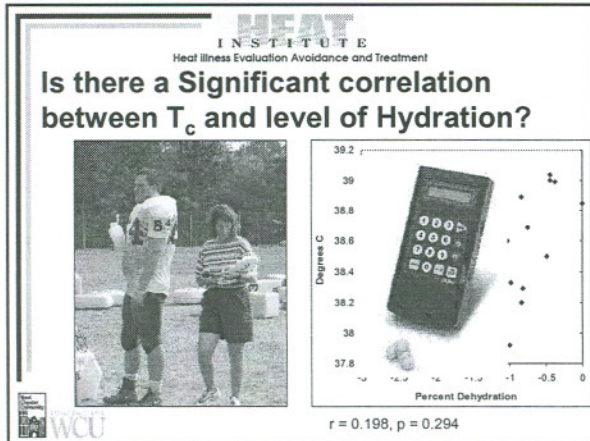


$r = .76$   
 $p < .0001$

This subject was sick

Bartolozzi AR, Fowkes Godek S. Sweat rate and core temperature responses to Dehydration induced experimentally versus during actual pre-season practice in College football players . J Athl Train S39(2), 2004.






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### Triathletes during a Race

- Mean  $T_{c \text{ max}} = 38.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $100.6^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
- Mean % dehy = 3%
- Change in mass was not related to finishing  $T_{c}$
- “Body mass loss of 3% was found to be tolerated by well trained tri-athletes ..... without any evidence of thermoregulatory failure”

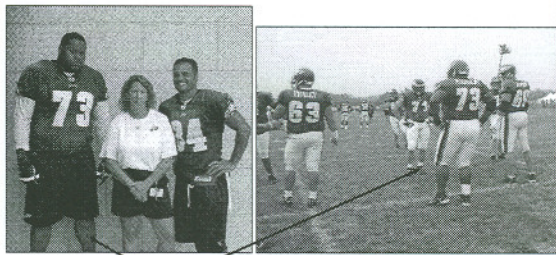


Laurson et al BJSM 06

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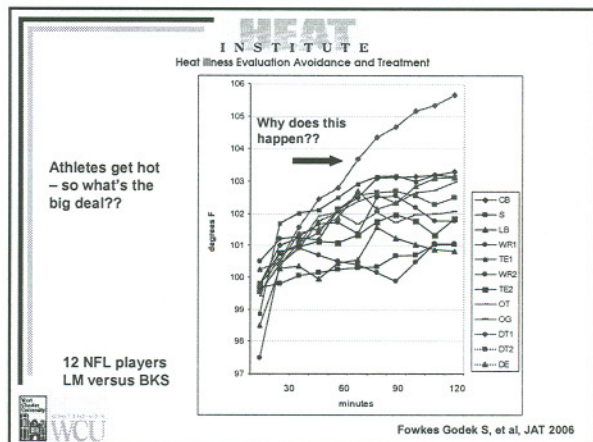
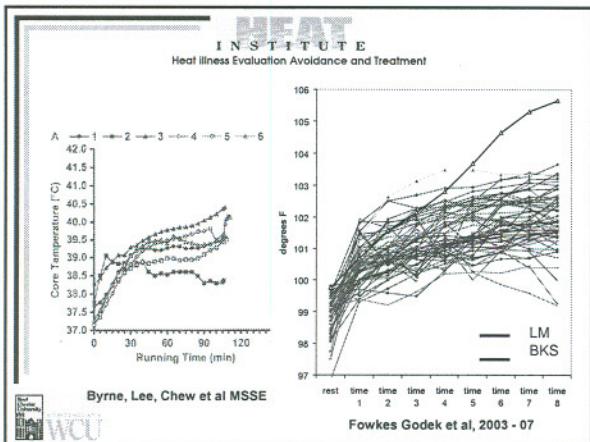
### This Cohort is Considerably Different

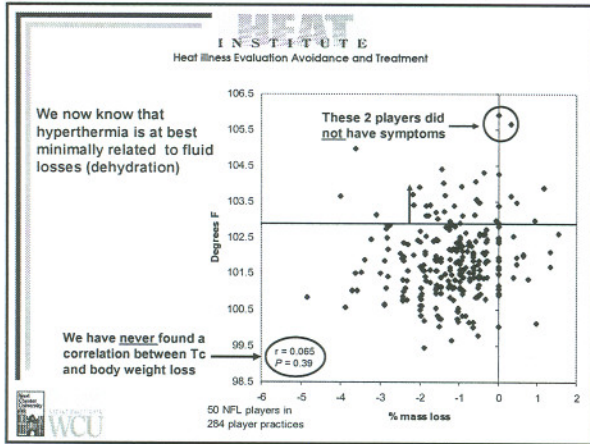


This athlete weighs 163 kg

These athletes sweat at  $2.5 - 3.5 \text{ l}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$  Fowkes Godek JAT 2006

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### The EHS and Dehydration Dilemma

- It clouds the fluid/electrolyte balance issue and provides a false sense of security
- It promotes the thinking that drinking to replace all fluid losses will prevent EHS
- We don't know what causes EHS but it is NOT dehydration
- 2 – 3% body mass loss during exercise is normal, expected and well tolerated

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### Major Hormones Involved in the control of Blood Volume (BP)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Released when blood volume and blood pressure are low           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Vasopressin (ADH)</li> <li>– Renin-Angiotensin</li> <li>– Aldosterone</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Released when blood volume and blood pressure are high           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Natriuretic Peptides               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANP</li> <li>• BNP</li> <li>• Urodilantin</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### The Body's Response to Low BP (Salt/blood volume Depletion)

- Kidneys release Renin
- Renin combines with Angiotensinogen to form Angiotensin I
- Angiotensin I is converted to Angiotensin II by ACE
- Angiotensin II stimulates several mechanisms that raise blood pressure


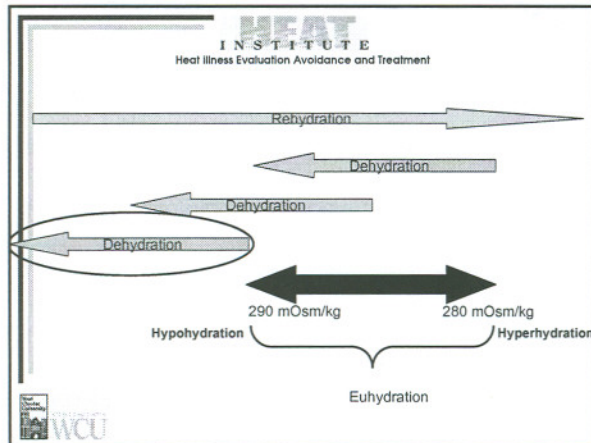
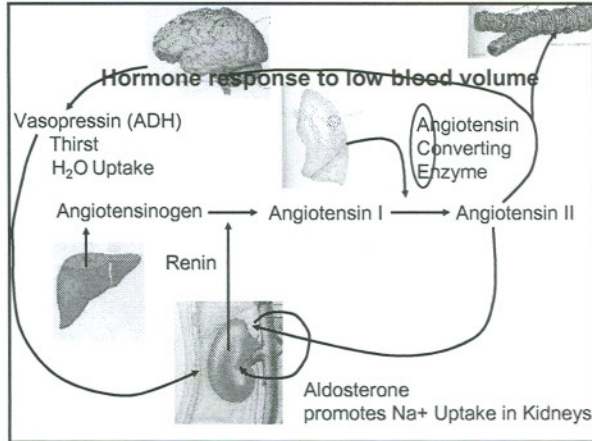
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### Angiotensin II

- Causes Vasoconstriction of Blood Vessels
- Stimulates Brain to release Vasopressin (ADH)
  - Increases H<sub>2</sub>O reabsorption
  - Stimulates Thirst
- Stimulates adrenal cortex to release Aldosterone
  - Increases Na<sup>+</sup> reabsorption

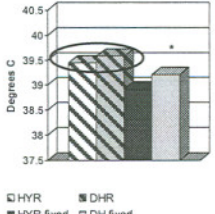
↑ Body Fluids → ↑ Blood Volume → ↑ BP

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### Trail running

- Fluid restricted starting 12 hr before
- Began trials hypohydrated
- No difference in T<sub>GI</sub> at race pace
- When subjects were kept at fixed workloads, DHS had higher T<sub>GI</sub>



Degrees C

■ HYR ■ DHR  
■ HYR fixed □ DH fixed



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### What is Constitutes Normal Hydration?


290 mOsm/kg ←————→ 280 mOsm/kg

AVP Aldosterone Thirst      Naturetic peptides No thirst

←————→ A 2.2 % loss of mass

148.3 kg      151.7 kg

- With  $S_{osm}$  (285 mOsm/kg) body mass normally fluctuates between:
  - 79.2 kg and 80.8 kg in a 80 kg (176 lb) male (5 lbs)
  - 64.4 kg and 65.6 kg in a 65 kg (143 lb) female (~ 3 lbs)
  - 29.7 kg and 30.34 kg in a 30 kg (66 lb) child (1.4 lbs)
  - 148.3 kg and 151.7 kg in a 150 kg (330 lb) FB LM (~ 8 lbs)



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### Three forms of Hyponatremia


- Hypervolemic hyponatremia
- Normovolemic hyponatremia
- Hypovolemic hyponatremia
- There is probably a spectrum of etiology

Hypovolemic Hyponatremia      Normovolemic Hyponatremia      Hypervolemic Hyponatremia

←————→

Too much sodium loss with inadequate sodium replacement (and ISADH)??      Excessive fluid consumption (and ISADH)??


Normal serum  $Na^+$  is 135 – 145 mmol/l  
Clinical diagnosis of hyponatremia is 130 mmol/l  
Symptoms can begin when serum  $Na^+$  < 135 mmol/l



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### Hyponatremia – $Na^+$ Dilution


- Hypervolemic hyponatremia – blood volume expands and blood  $Na^+$  is diluted
  - This is primarily the marathon/ultra-distance athlete – water intoxication
  - Females and slow runners may be more prone?
  - Probably linked much of the time to ISADH
  - Caused by drinking too much of ANYTHING (including CE drinks)!!

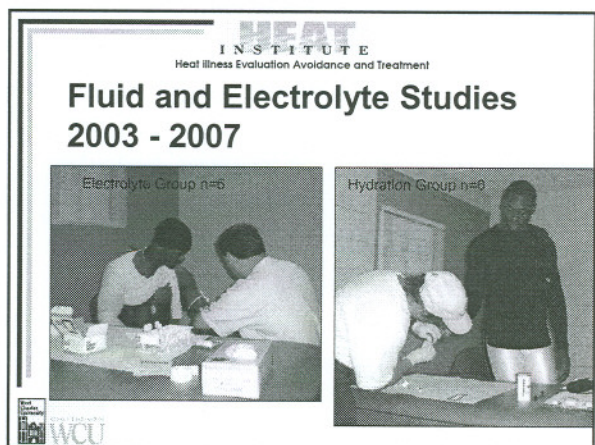
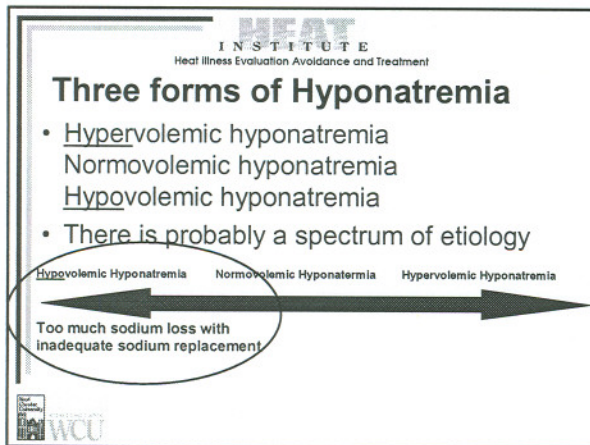
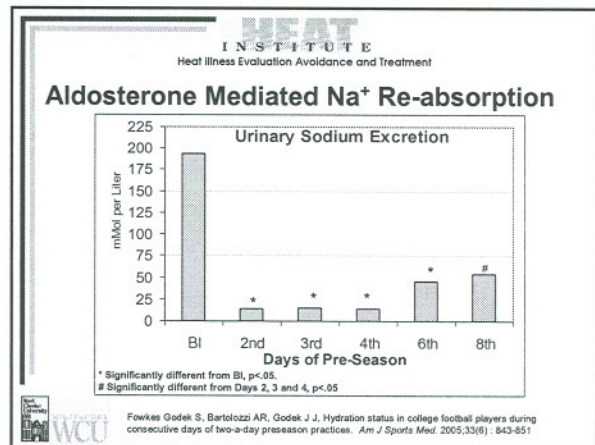
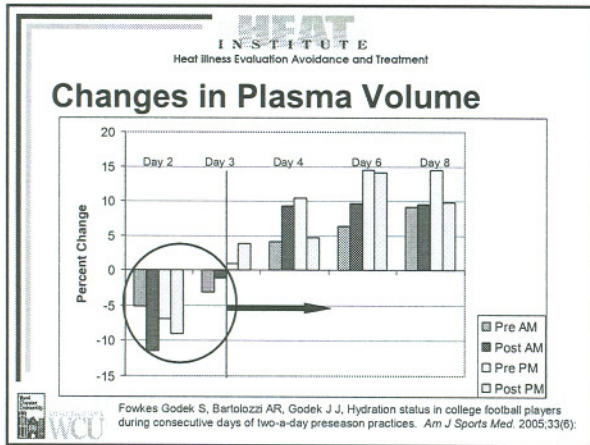


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### Hyponatremia – $Na^+$ Depletion

- Hypovolemic hyponatremia – Low body sodium leads to a contracted blood volume
  - This is the heavy and/or salty sweaters
  - Probably occurs more in males
  - Exacerbated by drinking too much water and/or CE drinks
  - Detection of the hypovolemia in collegiate FB players during two-a-days was the key!

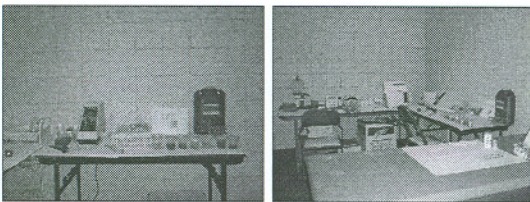







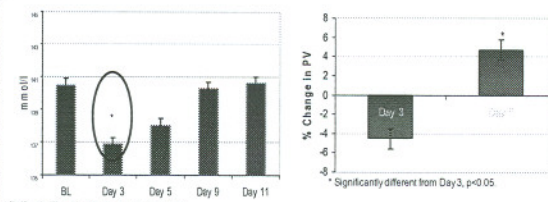
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## Pre-Season On-site Lab

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## Hypovolemic Hyponatremia




**Left Chart: Sodium Levels (mmol/L)**

Day	Sodium (mmol/L)
BL	~140
Day 3	~138
Day 5	~137
Day 9	~139
Day 11	~140

**Right Chart: % Change in PV**

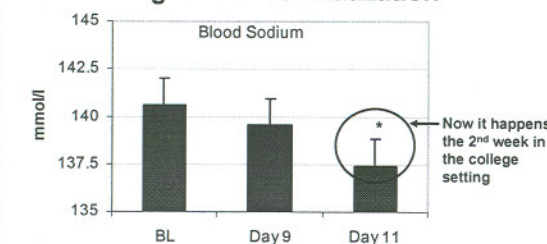
Day	% Change in PV
Day 3	~-3.5
Day 11	~4.5

\* Significantly different from BL, Day 9 and Day 11,  $p < 0.01$ .  
\* Significantly different from Day 3,  $p < 0.05$ .



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## Blood Na<sup>+</sup> in College Players after NCAA Rules Changes for Acclimatization



**Blood Sodium (mmol/L)**

Day	Blood Sodium (mmol/L)
BL	~140.5
Day 9	~139.5
Day 11	~137.5*


\* Significantly different from BL and Day 9,  $p < 0.001$ .  
Now it happens the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in the college setting.  
Day 11 is after 5 practices in 3 days.



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## Critical Questions

- Can athletes really become sodium depleted?
- Does hyponatremia always have to involve at least some ISADH?
- Why can't CE drinks prevent hyponatremia?
- Can high sweat losses replaced with hypotonic fluids on consecutive days causes hyponatremia?





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## FB Players Sweat Heavily


- Case study in a collegiate football player
  - Average sweat losses during practices (3 days and 6 practices) = 13.5 L per day
  - Maximal sweat loss = 14.8 L per day  
That's 35 8oz glasses!!!
  - Fluids consumed during practices = 8 L/day

Fowkes Godic, S, A.R. Bartokozzi. Sweat rate, fluid turnover, hydration status and core temperature in an American football player during pre-season training: A case study. *Atlet Ther Today*, 2004;9(4):264-270.


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## Ice Hockey Players Sweat a lot Too!



And they get hot – some over 103° F


We would never call the illness they get "Hypovolemic Hyponatremia" during the playoffs a heat illness – because it is not a "Heat Illness"!!




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## What about CE Drinks?

- Why can't we put all of the salt back with CE drinks??
- They are actually OK for a small population of athletes
  - Average-sized males with average SwtR and low sweat [Na<sup>+</sup>]
  - Female??
  - Kids?????? What about the childhood obesity epidemic?



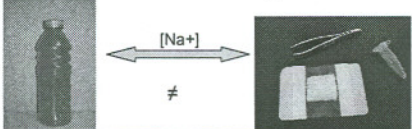

This is non carbonated sugar and salt water



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## By the Numbers

- **REMEMBER** - All fluids that your athletes' consume are hypotonic (not salty)
- CE drinks have Na<sup>+</sup> < 20 mEq · L<sup>-1</sup>
- Sweat Na<sup>+</sup> ranges from 15 – 100 mEq · L<sup>-1</sup>
- Just replacing fluids – even with a CE drink does not adequately replace salt in heavy sweaters

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### Three Examples – Sweat Studies



Fowkes Godek S, Bartolozzi AR et al. Sweat rates and fluid turnover in professional football players: A comparison of NFL linemen versus backs, J Athl Train. Accepted for publication.


Fowkes Godek S, Godek JJ, Bartolozzi A, McCrossin J. Sweat Sodium losses in NHL players during a pre-season practice versus a game. MSSE 2006



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### How much CE is Needed? Ex. #1


- A football player who sweats  $3.5 \text{ L} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$  and practices 4.5 h per day = 13.5 L sweat loss
- At a sweat  $\text{Na}^+$  content of  $50 \text{ mEq} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  and 13.5 L per day he loses 15.5 g of  $\text{Na}^+$
- Replacing  $\frac{1}{2}$  in food (4 tsp salt)
- He needs to consume ~ **17 L** of CE drink
- Won't this promote sodium dilution? Yes!



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### How much CE is Needed? Ex. #2


- An NHL player who sweats  $2 \text{ L} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$  in a 3 hr game = 6 L of sweat loss
- At a sweat  $\text{Na}^+$  content of  $90 \text{ mEq} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  and 6 L of fluid loss he loses 12.4 grams of  $\text{Na}^+$  in one game
- Replacing  $\frac{1}{2}$  in food
- He needs to consume ~ **14 L of CE drink** which will make him hyponatremic



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### How much CE is Needed? Ex. #3


- An NFL player who sweats  $2.9 \text{ L} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$  and practices 4.5 h per day lost 13 L sweat
- At a sweat  $\text{Na}^+$  content of  $99 \text{ mEq} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  and 13 L per day he lost ~ 30 g of sodium (that's 15 tsp of table salt!!!)
- After replacing  $\frac{1}{2}$  in food
- He needs to consume ~ **33 L of CE drink** which will make him hyponatremic



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### What else will you get??


- Remember – we are assuming ½ of the sodium is replaced with food intake
- **33 L of CE drink** will likely promote hyponatremia – AND provide:
  - 7112 Kcals
  - 1991 g of CHO (glucose, fructose, sucrose)
  - ~~4267 mg of potassium~~



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### What is Heat Exhaustion?


- Water depletion
  - Symptomatic dehydration
  - Caused by inadequate replacement of water losses (dehydration beyond 3 - 4%)
  - Beginning a second bout of exercise hypohydrated
  - Untreated it can lead to heat stroke
  - Involves an elevated core temperature



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### Salt/volume depletion illness

- Should not be classified as a Heat illness
  - Caused by low serum Na<sup>+</sup> but may not clinically be classified as hyponatremia until Na<sup>+</sup> ≤ 130 mmol/L (<135 mmol/L is better)
  - Usually occurs in athletes who sweat heavily over several consecutive days
  - Water loss is replaced but Na<sup>+</sup> is not
  - Does not involve hyperthermia
  - Athlete is hypovolemic




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### Signs and Symptoms of Salt/Volume Depletion Illness

• Weakness	• Pale, clammy skin
• Fatigue	• Low BP
• Headache	• Tachycardia
• Muscle aches	• Syncope
• Anorexia	• Normal or low body temperature
• Nausea	
• Vomiting	
• Diarrhea	

**\*\* The athlete feels "sick"**

This illness is probably under diagnosed or misdiagnosed as a viral illness or food poisoning


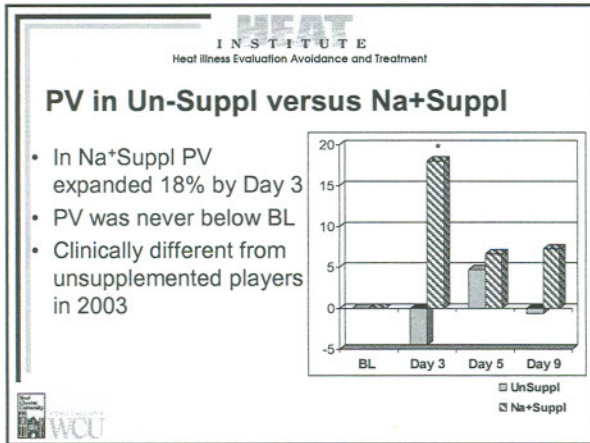
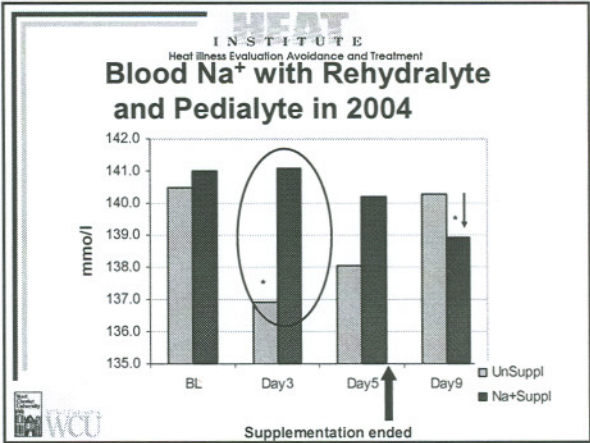


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### Management

- Rest – Do not let them play
- Administer high electrolyte drink orally with meals or sodium supplements
- Consider IV fluid replacement (saline)
- Monitor vital signs (blood pressure)
- Recovery usually within 24 hours

- Educate athletes about replacement of electrolytes (salt food liberally)

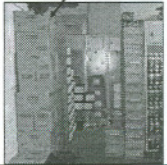



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### Na<sup>+</sup> Supplementation in 2005


- Two groups of players were supplemented at and between meals with oral electrolyte solutions
  - Pickle Juice
  - Rehydralyte + Pedialyte
- All subjects received 4.5g of Na<sup>+</sup> per day

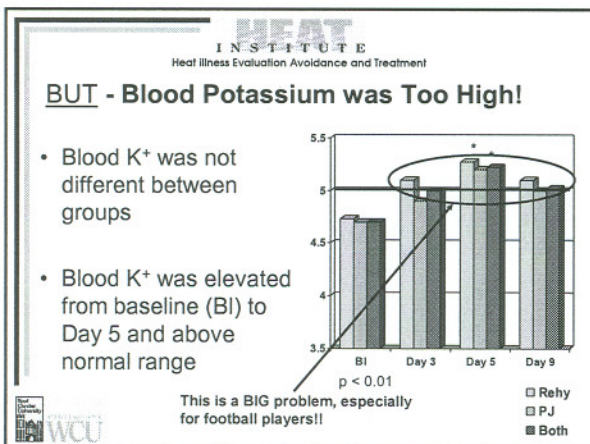
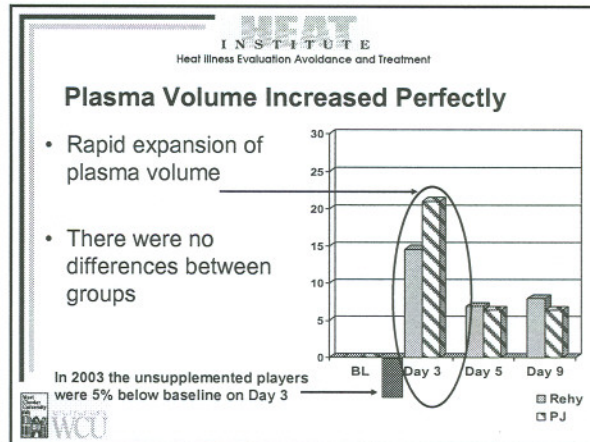
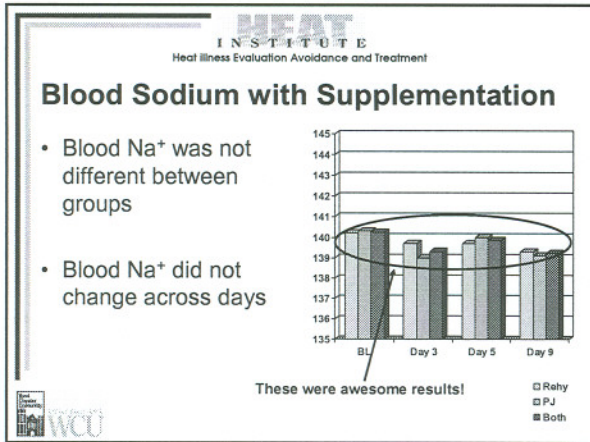
One group drank Rehydralyte and Pedialyte



One group drank Pickle juice





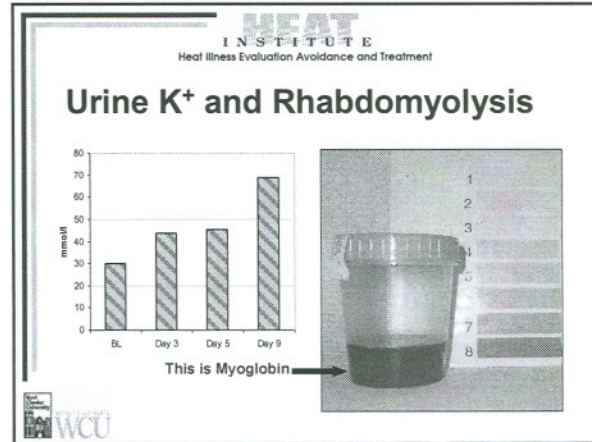
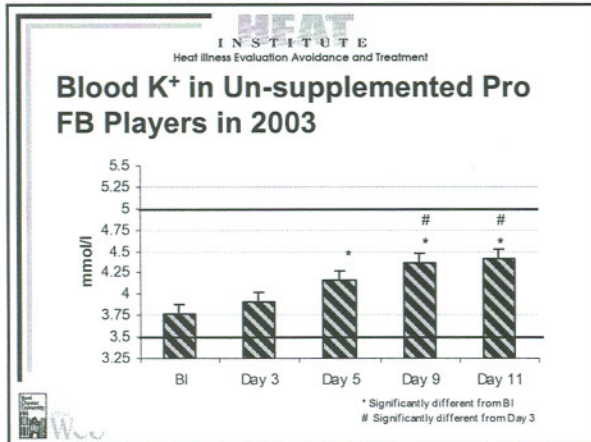


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### A Problem

- What are the blood K<sup>+</sup> concerns specifically in football?
- Hyperkalemia causes cardiac issues
- These guys are not the "average" male athlete

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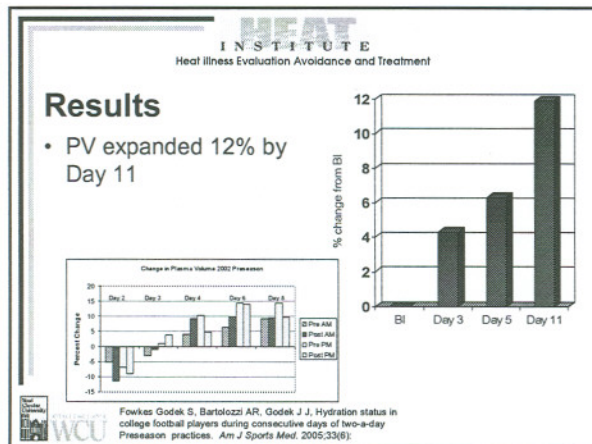
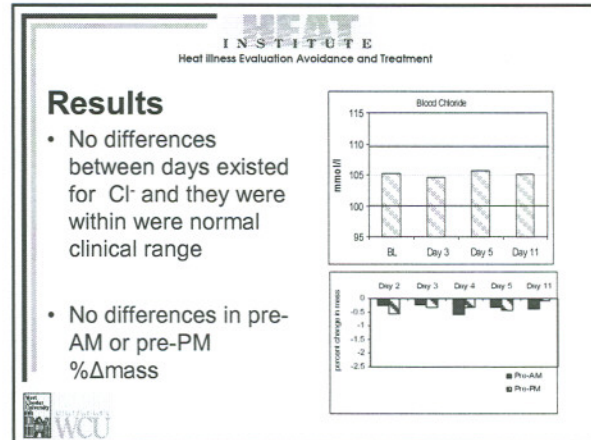
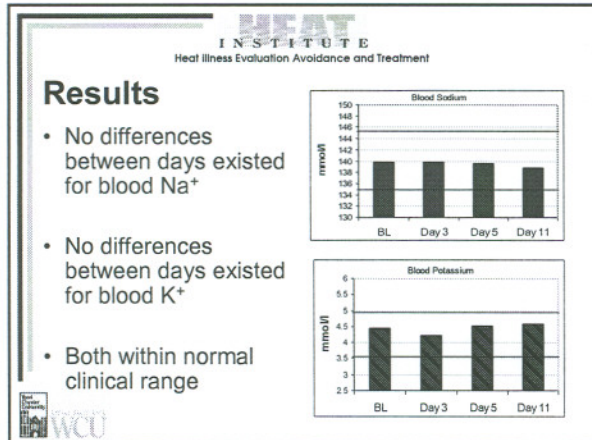
### Why is blood and urine K<sup>+</sup> high?

- Playing football in the heat causes muscle cell death (rhabdomyolysis) Eylers et al, JAT 2002
- Muscle cells have high [K<sup>+</sup>] inside
- When cells rupture they leak K<sup>+</sup> into the blood
- The K<sup>+</sup> has to be excreted

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### Na<sup>+</sup> supplementation with NO K<sup>+</sup> in 2006 (4.5 g/day)

10 players representing all positions






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**Prevention – Salt/volume depletion**

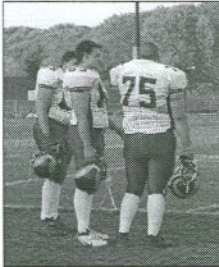

- It is caused by consecutive days of large daily Na<sup>+</sup> losses not replaced and drinking too much of anything
- Know your athletes' sweat rate
- Know your salty sweaters
- Swt [Na<sup>+</sup>] and SwtR are extremely variable
- We have to get rid of consecutive days of two or three/day practices!!



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**Prevention – Salt/volume depletion**


- Know your athletes who are hypertensive
  - Be aware of which athletes are on a low Na<sup>++</sup> diet
  - Be aware of athletes on ACE inhibitors
  - Medication may need to be altered during preseason


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**Prevention – Salt/volume depletion**

- Require weight charts and monitor them
- Be aware of athletes who cannot maintain body weight
- Think beyond pre-season fall sports





↑  
Their issues occur more often in post-season playoffs



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**Prevention – Salt/volume depletion**


- REMEMBER - 2 – 3 % dehydration is OK
- Hypohydration prior to practice is not – are they gaining wt back?
- Replace lost electrolytes
  - 4 meals per day of sodium rich foods and fluids
  - NaCl supplementation/individualized replacement

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### 4 meals per day during Pre-season!

- Eat foods high in Na<sup>+</sup> and Mg<sup>++</sup> and CL<sup>-</sup>
- Avoid too much potassium in this population →
- Can consume some Pedialyte or PJ
  - 2-3 bottles pedialyte
  - 3-4 oz PJ



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### Breakfast Foods

- Cereals
  - Chex cereal
  - Golden grahams
  - Maple and brown sugar oatmeal
  - Rice krispies
  - Total
  - Frosted wheaties
  - Basic 4
- Breads
  - Corn muffins
  - Bagels
  - Whole wheat English muffins
- Meats
  - Sausage
  - Canadian bacon
  - Ham

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### Lunch and dinner foods

- Hotdogs and Lunch meats
- Soups
  - Chicken noodle
  - Onion
  - Vegetable
  - Tomato
  - Cream of chicken or mushroom
  - NE Clam Chowder
  - Chicken gumbo
  - Split pea and ham
- Sauerkraut
- Cheese
  - American
  - cottage
  - Parmesan
- Pizza
- Tomatoes
- Salads with dressing
  - zesty Italian
  - French
  - Caesar

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### Lunch and dinner foods

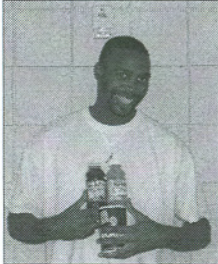

- Sauces
  - Marinara
  - Alfredo sauces
  - Beef or mushroom gravy
- Stir-fry
  - teriyaki and soy sauces
- Chili, stews
- Chow mein vegetables
- Navy beans, chick peas, baked beans
- Peas and carrots
- Pita bread

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## Drinks and Snacks


- Snacks
  - Pickles
  - Pretzels/chips
  - Cheese puffs
  - Chex mix
- Drinks
  - Tomato juice
  - V-8 juice
  - Pedialyte
  - Pickle juice

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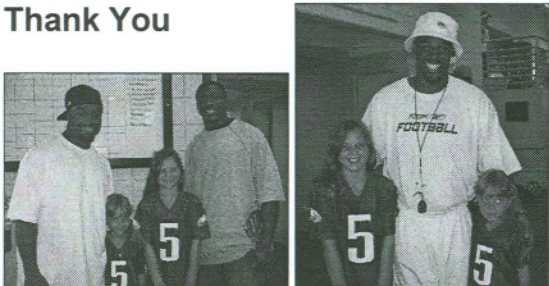

## Foods to avoid during pre-season

- Orange juice
- Bananas
- Dried fruits
- Baked potatoes
- Raisins
- Nuts
- Spinach
- Mushrooms
- Lima beans
- Black beans
- Lentils
- Cucumbers
- Squash
- Zucchini
- Brussel sprouts
- Gatorade Endurance



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## Thank You


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PATS Research Fund


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Katherine Alexandra  
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