高齢者における足関節底屈筋群の 瞬発的な力発揮能力向上を目的とした 在宅トレーニングが立位姿勢保持能力に及ぼす効果

芝浦工業大学 赤 木 亮 太 (共同研究者) 芝浦工業大学大学院 江 間 諒 一

Effects of Home-based, High-speed Calf-raise

Training for Improvement of Rapid Force Production of Plantar Flexors on

Postural Stability in Elderly People

by

Ryota Akagi

College of Systems Engineering and Science, Shibaura Institute of Technology Ryoichi Ema

Graduate School of Engineering and Science,
Shibaura Institute of Technology
Research Fellow of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

ABSTRACT

This study examined whether home-based, high-speed calf-raise training changes the rate of torque development (RTD) of the plantar flexion, balance performance and the resting muscle hardness of the gastrocnemius medialis (MG) in elderly men. Twenty-three healthy elderly men (70–79 yr) were randomly assigned to a training (n = 13; 73.9 ± 2.9 yr) or control group (n = 10; 73.2 ± 3.3 yr). The subjects in the training group performed 8 weeks (3 times per week) of home-based bilateral calf-raise training using body mass. On the other hand, the subjects in the control group were requested

to continue their normal daily activities throughout the same period. The RTD of the plantar flexion, the outer circumferential area of center of pressure (COP) displacement during single-leg standing and the resting MG hardness were measured before and after the intervention. The RTD relative to maximal strength of the plantar flexion was calculated as nRTD. In addition, the muscle volume of the plantar flexors was estimated using the muscle thickness of them and the lower leg length. No variables changed in the control group. In contrast, nRTD of the plantar flexion and the resting MG hardness increased and the outer circumferential area of COP displacement during single-leg standing decreased significantly after the intervention in the training group. Our findings indicate that the calf-raise training at home, performed without special equipment or venue, induces improvements of the rapid force generating capability of the plantar flexors and the ability of balance performance. That is, this training program is useful to maintain and/or improve the quality of life for elderly men. Furthermore, from the perspective of muscle mechanical properties, it is suggested that a stiffer muscle can contribute to the higher rapid force generating capability.

要旨

本研究では、70代の高齢男性を対象に、素早 い動作を意識した在宅でのカーフレイズトレーニ ングが足関節屈曲群の瞬発的な発揮能力、立位姿 勢保持能力を変化させるかについて検討した. ト レーニング群の被験者13名(73.9±2.9歳)は. 自重によるカーフレイズトレーニングを週3回. 8週間, 自宅で実施した. 一方, コントロール群 の被験者10名(73.2±3.3歳)は、同期間、普段 通りの生活を送った. 8週間の前後で、足関節底 屈筋群の Rate of Torque Development (RTD) 及 び筋体積, 片脚での静止立位中の足圧中心 (COP) 軌跡の外周面積及び腓腹筋内側頭の筋硬度を測 定あるいは推定した. また、RTD については 最大随意収縮時のピークトルクで正規化した他 (nRTD) を算出した. コントロール群において. いずれの変数も8週間の前後で変化がみられな かった.一方.トレーニング群では8週間のトレー ニングに伴い、nRTD 及び筋硬度は増加し、COP 軌跡の外周面積は減少した.これらの結果は,足 関節屈曲筋群の瞬発的な発揮能力及び立位姿勢保 持能力が,在宅でのカーフレイズトレーニングに より改善されることを示すものであった.このよ うに,本研究で採用したトレーニングプログラム は,実際に高齢者の Quality of Life の維持・向上 を果たす上で有用なものであることが明らかにさ れた.また,筋の機械的性質の観点から,筋の硬 さが瞬発的な力発揮能力に貢献し得る可能性が示 唆された.