噛みしめがもたらす運動パフォーマンスの影響: 脊髄機能による検証

 新潟医療福祉大学
 平
 林
 怜

 (共同研究者)
 同
 江
 玉
 睦
 明

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 大
 西
 秀
 明

Effects of Clenching on Exercise Performance: Verification Using Spinal Function Assessments

by

Ryo Hirabayashi, Mutsuaki Edama, Hideaki Onishi Institute for Human Movement and Medical Sciences, Niigata University of Health and Welfare

ABSTRACT

Teeth clenching has a significant impact on exercise performance, but the optimal clenching strength for peak exercise performance is unknown. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the relationship between exercise performance and spinal function as a function of clenching strength.

Two experiments were conducted in this study using two groups of 20 healthy adults. The four clenching conditions in Experiment 1 were 0, 12.5, 25, and 50% of the maximum voluntary contraction (MVC) of the masseter muscle, and Experiment 2 consisted of three conditions: no-bite condition, moderate effort, and maximum effort (max condition). In Experiment 1, measurements of spinal function and ankle dorsiflexion tasks were performed for each clenching condition, and the ankle dorsiflexion task was performed in Experiment 2. Regarding spinal function, we measured spinal reciprocal inhibition (RI) and the excitability of spinal anterior horn

cells. For the ankle dorsiflexion task, ankle dorsiflexion MVC was performed for 3 s under each clenching condition. The items analyzed were the reaction time, peak ankle dorsiflexion torque, and soleus (Sol) /tibialis anterior (TA) electromyography (EMG) ratio.

The results of Experiment 1 illustrated that RI was significantly attenuated or eliminated with increasing clenching strength (>25% MVC). The excitability of spinal anterior horn cells increased significantly with increasing clenching strength. The peak torque was significantly higher at 50% MVC than at 0% MVC condition. In Experiment 2, the peak torque was significantly higher under the moderate and max conditions than under the no-bite condition, and the Sol/TA EMG ratio was significantly higher under the max condition than under the moderate condition. The present results illustrated that during high-strength clenching (\geq 50% MVC), antagonist muscles are activated simultaneously to increase muscle strength. High-strength clenching improved kinetic performance (joint fixation), whereas low-strength clenching (<50% MVC) enhanced exercise performance (joint movement).

要旨

歯の噛みしめは運動パフォーマンスに大きな影響をもたらすが、運動パフォーマンスを発揮するための最適な噛みしめ強度は不明である。そこで、本研究の目的は、噛みしめ強度に伴った運動パフォーマンスと脊髄機能との関係を明らかにすることとした。

対象は健常成人20名とした. 実験は2つ実施した. 噛みしめ条件として, 実験1は, 咬筋最大随意収縮 (MVC) の0%, 12.5%, 25%, 50% の4条件とし, 実験2は, 噛みしめなし (no-bite条件), 適度 (moderate条件), 最大努力 (max条件) の3条件とした. 実験1では各噛みしめ条件中に脊髄機能の計測と足関節背屈課題, 実験2では足関節背屈課題を実施した. 脊髄機能では脊髄相反性抑制 (RI) と脊髄前角細胞の興奮性を計測した. RIの計測は, 条件(総腓骨神経) - 試験刺激 (脛骨神経) 間隔 (CTI) が2ms (Ia相反抑制), 20ms (D1抑制) の2条件に試験刺激のみ条件 (single) を合

わせた3条件とした. 脊髄前角細胞の興奮性の計測は,一定の刺激強度でヒラメ筋H反射振幅で計測した. 足関節背屈課題は,各噛みしめ条件中に足関節背屈MVCを3秒間実施した. 解析項目は,反応時間,足関節背屈ピークトルク, Sol/TA EMG ratioとした.

実験1の結果より、RIは、噛みしめ強度(25%MVC条件以上)の増加伴い有意に減弱または消失した.脊髄前角細胞の興奮性は、噛みしめ強度の増加に伴い有意に増大した.ピークトルクは50%MVC条件で0%MVCと比較して有意に高値を示した.実験2の結果より、ピークトルクはmoderate条件、max条件でno-bite条件と比較して有意に高値を示し、Sol/TA EMG ratio はmax条件でmoderate条件と比較して有意に増加した.

本研究は、高強度の噛みしめでは (50%MVC 以上), 拮抗筋同士を同時活性させ筋力発揮させ る運動パフォーマンス (関節固定) に適した噛み しめ強度であった. 一方で、低強度の噛みしめで は (50%MVC未満), 拮抗筋を抑制する機能を残 存させ、筋力発揮させる運動パフォーマンス (関 節運動) に適した噛みしめ強度であった.