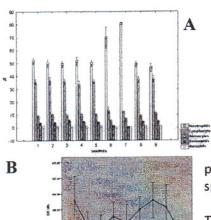
POST 1.5.3
Biological markers in the pre-competition and competition phases of triathlon

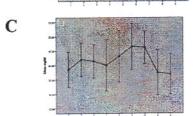
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The physiological effects induced by the training process can be assessed by biological markers, which can be used for monitoring workloads in training to power up sport performance. In the present study the creatine kinase, urea and immune response behavior was analyzed, during the precompetitive and competitive phases of a master category triathlon team in Monterrey, Mexico, with the main objective of establishing the biological standards for our Mexican athletes and with this to develop personalized training

programs in order to accomplish better results in this particular sport.



The sample was composed of twelve male athletes (age M=36.41, SD=5.51; height M=179.33 cm, SD=8.02; weight M=81.84 Kg, SD=10.97; Body mass index M=25.25 Kg/m², SD=1.11), the athletes participation was voluntary with a consent letter. Total blood and serum samples were taken, for the quantification of neutrophils, eosinophils, basophils, lymphocytes and monocytes and also for creatine kinase and urea. The samples were taken weekly in the first hour before the athlete started the physical activity during five weeks in the precompetitive training (samples 1-5), during the competition the samples were taken in the next

order: immediately after de competition (sample 6), two hours after the competition (sample 7), 48 hours after competition (sample 8) and one week after the competition when the triathletes performed soft physical activity, for recovery (sample 9).

During the training period a constant concentration of urea and the analyzed cells (neutrophils, eosinophils, basophils, lymphocytes and monocytes) (fig. A and D); and for creatine kinase a concentration increase was observed in the samples 1 and 4 because the athletes had an important physical wear due to the increase of the training intensity in their preparation process for competition. All the variables analyzed in the study presented a high significance difference (P<0.1) among the samples; the creatine kinase, urea and neutrophils during the post competition phase (samples 6 and 7) showed a high significant value followed by a return to normal level values in sample 8 and 9 (fig. A, B, and C). The lymphocytes, eosinophils, monocytes and basophils showed a contrary behavior to what mentioned before, when the triathlon competition was over, the concentration of the analyzed cells diminished on a high significance way, and it recovered in the week after competition (fig. A). The creatine kinase, urea and immune response values reflected changes after performing an exhausting physical activity followed by a recovery to basal values after a week period, which represents an elevation or diminishment towards the physiological boundaries of training. It is important to point that the results presented in this study were an average; however it is also important to mention that in individual way each athlete showed a different response to training, concluding that an integral and personal physical preparation is strictly necessary in this discipline to avoid any overtraining risk, muscle skeletal injuries and myocardial damage.



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