

21-24 March: Modern Coach - A seminar for young coaches



JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO  
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

# JYU Sports Technology Unit

## *Science Meets Coaching*

Ritva Mikkonen, PhD

Sports Technology Unit, Vuokatti

Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences

University of Jyväskylä

# JYU Sports Technology Unit

## *Science Meets Coaching*

### Contents

- \* About me
- \* What is Sports Technology?
- \* JYU Sports Technology Unit in numbers
- \* Research and learning environments
- \* Degree programs
- \* Highlights of current projects






# Ritva Mikkonen (Taipale), PhD

*Project manager and researcher  
University of Jyväskylä, Sports Technology Unit, Vuokatti*

**GUSTAVUS**   
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

**2003-2007**

**Bachelor of Arts  
Health Fitness (ACSM)**

  
JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO  
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

**2007-2013**

**MSc and PhD  
Science of Sport Coaching and  
Fitness Testing**

*2013-2015*

*PostDoc*


  
KAMK • University  
of Applied Sciences

**Senior lecturer**

**2015-2019**

*AmO*

**jamk** | University of  
Applied Sciences

  
JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO  
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

**2019 →**

*Research!  
Education projects!*



- Competition and coaching experience in skiing and running



**Johanna K. Ihalainen, Anthony C. Hackney, Jarmo Piirainen, Vera Salmi, Ida Löfberg, Oona Kettunen, Heikki Peltonen, Maarit Valtonen, Katja Mjösund, Kirsty Elliott-Sale, Kathryn E. Ackerman, Ida Heikura, Guro Strøm Solli, Ari Nummela, Juha Peltonen, Antti Leppävuori, Kerry McGawley, Simon Walker, Marja Kokkonen, Heikki Kyröläinen, Keijo Häkkinen & several other PhD students, Master's and Bachelor's students ! <3**



# SPORTS TECHNOLOGY UNIT Vuokatti



Euroopan unioni  
Euroopan aluekehitysrahasto  
Euroopan sosiaalirahasto

Vipuvoimaa  
EU:lta  
2014–2020



Euroopan unioni  
Euroopan sosiaalirahasto



Kainuu



CEMIS

Centre for Measurement and Information Systems



# Sports technology

## Definition



Sports technology seeks solutions to use technological knowledge for the enhancement of physical activity and health.



Application areas include: elite sports, health enhancing exercise and physical activity, as well as rehabilitation.



Development targets in sports technology can include analysing softwares and assistive technology.

# Vuokatti Sports Technology Unit

## Who are we?

- Education and Research Unit
- Founded in 2004
- **Director:**
  - Professor Vesa Linnamo
- Staff: 17 employees
- Facilities: Snowpolis
  - Set ups "in the field"
- Budget 2022: 1,2 M€
- **University of Jyväskylä, Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences**







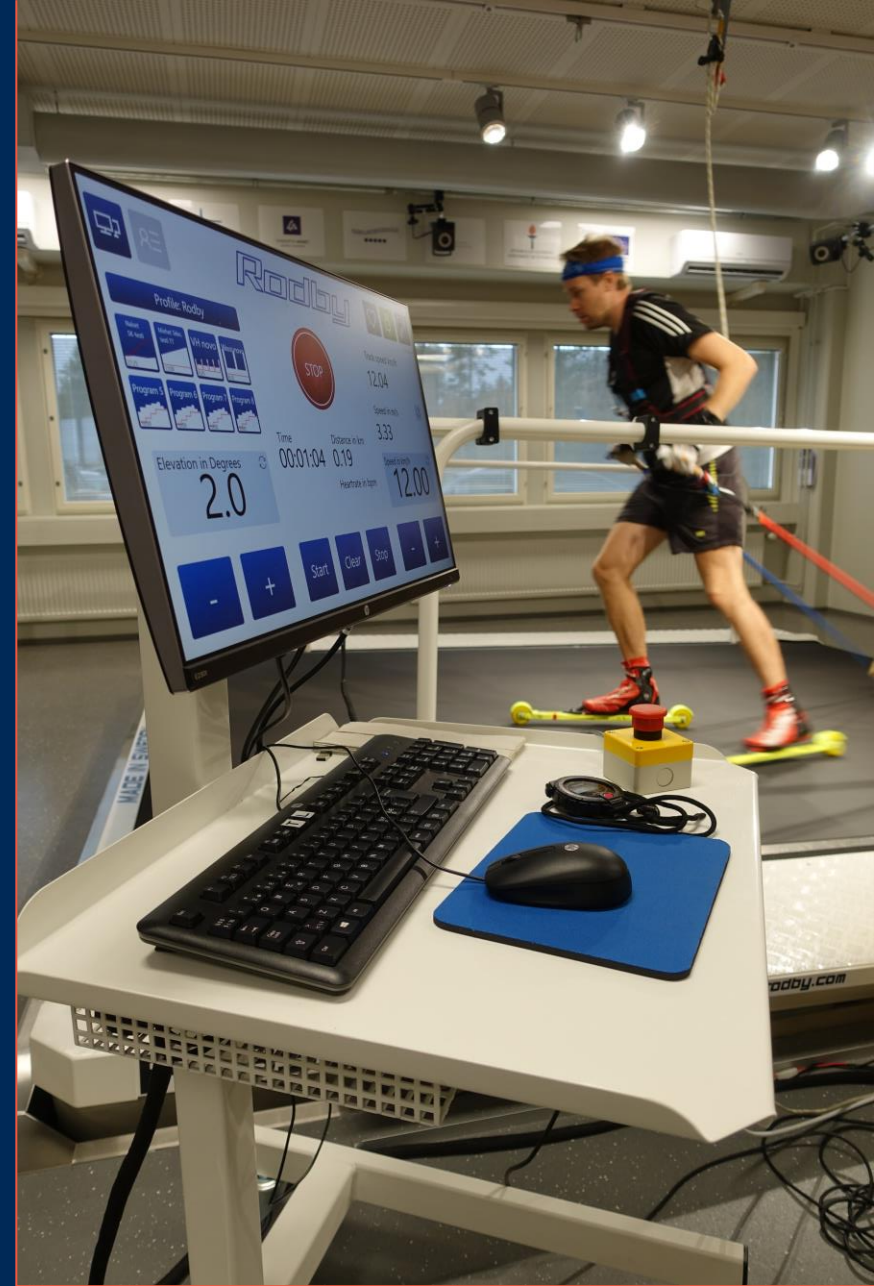
# Research

- Multidisciplinary and applied research in **biology of physical activity** in three main areas:
  - Biomechanics
  - Exercise physiology
  - Science of sport coaching and fitness testing
- Strong emphasis on applied research in **Nordic skiing sports**
  - Technology application and development
  - From science to practice



# Vuokatti Sports Technology Unit in Numbers:

- 87** Master's of Science
  - 6** Defended dissertations (*10 projects in progress*)
  - 108** Peer-reviewed scientific articles
  - 43** Books or book chapters
  - 180** Congress abstracts
  - 8** Hosted international conferences or seminars
  - 81** Invited lectures (*53 international*)
  - 124** Jobs
  - 16** Businesses
  - 63** Business partners
  - 30** Organizations as partners
- ~14 M€** Project funding/stipends

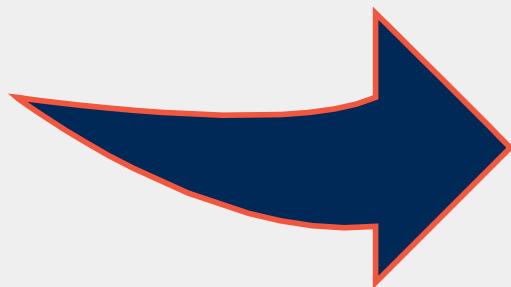




















# 2021 Global Ranking of Sport Science Schools and Departments (Shanghai list)

**JYU's Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences**

**8th place**



1		Deakin University School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition		100.0	95.4
2		Norwegian School of Sport Sciences Norwegian School of Sport Sciences		91.7	72.9
3		University of Copenhagen Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports Institute of Sports Medicine		90.9	91.6
4		University of Verona Faculty of Exercise and Sport Sciences Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine ...		86.1	100.0
5		Loughborough University School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences		76.1	93.6
6		Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Scien...		72.0	96.3
7		The University of Queensland School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sc...		69.7	69.3
8		University of Jyväskylä Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences		68.0	69.7

# International co-operation



## Universities:

- University of Mid Sweden
- University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
- University of Salzburg, Austria
- University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Beijing Sport University, China

## Networks:

- Scandinavian Network for Elite Sports
- ClusSport
- EPSI





# Regional and national co-operation







# Research and testing environments in Vuokatti



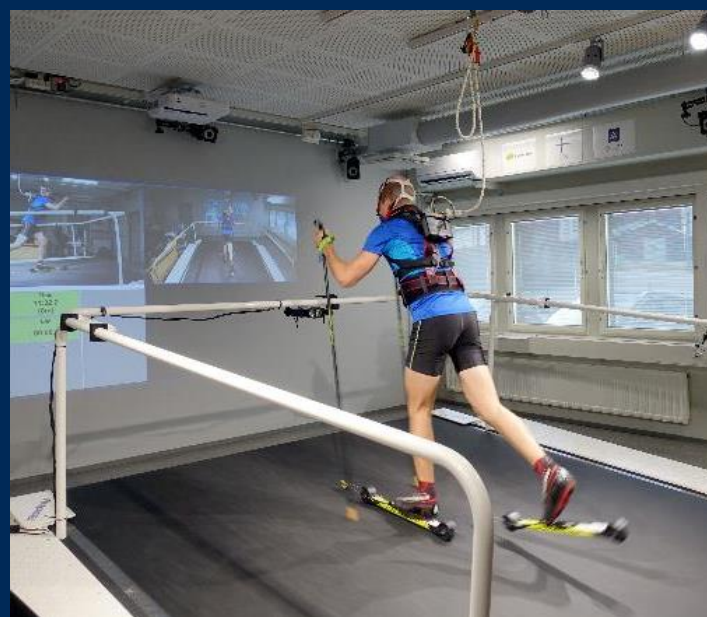
# Research and testing environments in Vuokatti



Ski tunnel



Ski testing laboratory



Ski laboratory



Shooting  
laboratory (biathlon)



Euroopan unioni  
Euroopan aluekehitysrahasto  
Euroopan sosiaalirahasto

Vipuvoimaa  
EU:lta  
2014–2020



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UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ



VUOKATTI SPORT



SOT  
KA  
MO.fi



# Degree programs



Vipuvoimaa  
EU:lta  
2014–2020





# Dual career program



**LIIKU** Liikuntateknologian  
Koulutuspolku Urheilijoille

insinööri/tradenomi AMK +  
liikuntatieteiden maisteri  
= tulevaisuuden osaaja<sup>2</sup>

Opinto-oikeus  
Kajaanin ammattikorkeakouluun

Opinto-oikeus Jyväskylän yliopiston  
liikuntatieteelliseen tiedekuntaan

Jäsenyys Vuokatti-Ruka  
Urheiluakatemiaan

Seuraava  
erillishaku  
keväällä  
2022!

[liikuntateknologia.fi](http://liikuntateknologia.fi)

Liikuntateknologian koulutuspolku huippu-urheilijoille Kainuussa -hanke 2019–2022

 Euroopan unioni  
Euroopan sosiaalirahasto

 Vipuvoimaa  
EU:lta  
2014–2020

 Elinkeino-, liikenne- ja  
ympäristökeskus

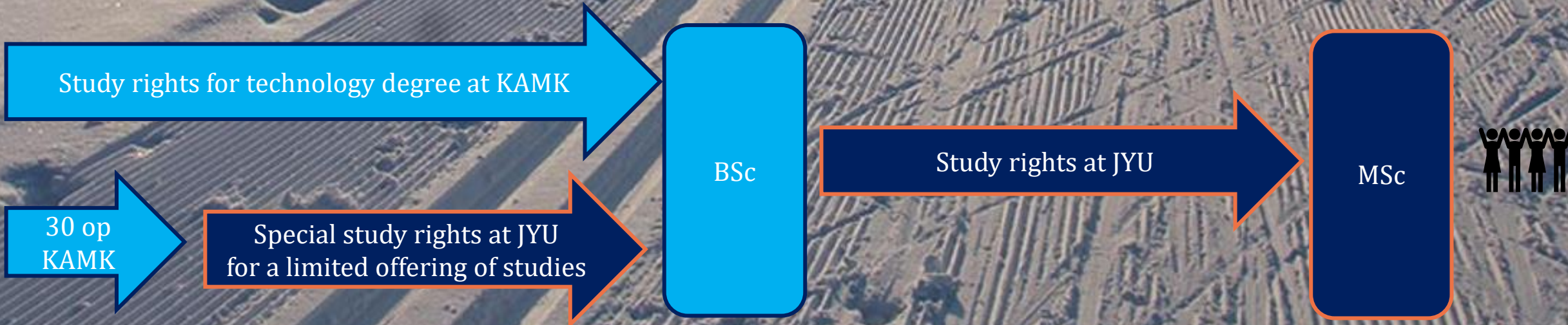
Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö

 JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO  
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

 KAMK • University  
of Applied Sciences

- Degrees from the Kajaani University of Applied Sciences (BSc) and University of Jyväskylä (MSc)
- Started in 2020
- Accepting applications **NOW**
- Next planned application period 2024
- Duration of studies: approx. 7 years





For more information: [www.liikuntateknologia.fi](http://www.liikuntateknologia.fi), [essi.fonselius@kamk.fi](mailto:essi.fonselius@kamk.fi) or [ritva.s.taipale@jyu.fi](mailto:ritva.s.taipale@jyu.fi)





Liikuntateknologian koulutuspolku huippu-urheilijoille Kainuussa; korkeasteen kaksoisura Kajaanin ammattikorkeakoulusta ja Jyväskylän yliopistosta -hanke (2019-2022)

**Liiku** Liikuntateknologian Koulutuspolku Urheilijoille

**Yhteensä 874 op**

Koulutuspolun seuraava erillishaku  
**16.-30.3.2022**

5

Tieto- ja viestintätekniikan opiskelijaa

3

Rakennus- ja yhdyskuntatekniikan opiskelijaa

2

Tietojenkäsittelyjen opiskelijaa

1

Konetekniikan opiskelija

1

Liiketalouden opiskelija



**Lajitaustaa**

**6 lajia**

→ maastohiihto, ampumahiihto, hiihtosuunnistus, alppihiihto, jääkiekko ja pesäpallo

- 12 student-athletes
- >874 credits (KAMK + JYU)
- 6 sports represented
  - Nordic and alpine skiing, biathlon, ski orienteering, hockey, and baseball.

# Sports Technology Master's Degree Program



## Sports Technology Vuokatti



Background studies (120 credits)

Biology of physical activity (120 credits)



Biomechanics



Exercise  
Physiology



Science of Sport Coaching  
and  
Fitness Testing



- Since 2004
- Accepting applications **NOW**
- You must have a bachelor's degree including at least 50 credits from "technical" studies

For more information:  
[jarmo.m.pirainen@jyu.fi](mailto:jarmo.m.pirainen@jyu.fi)

Study language: Finnish (with English language literature)



# PhD Program (since 2005)



## Defended dissertations

- Physical load of the conscript, *Minna Tervo*, 2012
- Balance control of elderly, *Jarmo Piirainen*, 2014
- Arm swing in XC-skiing, *Caroline Göpfert*, University of Salzburg, 2017
- Technical determinants of superior rifle shooting technique, *Simo Ihalainen*, KIHU 2018
- Skating XC-skiing, *Olli Ohtonen*, 2019
- Para sit-skiing, *Valeria Rosso*, Politecnico di Torino, 2019

## 10 on-going PhD projects

# PhD Program (since 2005)

## Dissertations in progress:

- Physical load of young athletes, *Christina Mishica*
- Ski friction and ski testing , *Teemu Lemmettylä*
- Movement analysis in XC-skiing, *Shuang Zhao*
- Energy balance of female skier, *Oona Kettunen\**
- Frequency in cross-country classic skiing technique, *Jussi Piirainen*
- Practical testing methods for alpine and freeski, *Jonathan McPhail*
- Biathlon tests, *Miika Köykkä*
- Motor control of the athlete, *Nijia Hu*
- Endogenous androgens and endurance training in females, *Vera Salmi\**
- Endurance training, endogenous sex hormones, energy balance and body composition in women, *Ida Löfberg\**



\*=Ritva is supervisor or co-supervisor





# Project & RDI operations



Vipuvoimaa  
EU:lta  
2014–2020



BUSINESS  
FINLAND

CEMIS  
*Centre for Measurement and Information Systems*



Opetus- ja  
kulttuuri-  
ministeriö

# Main goals and principles



## Special emphasis on developing solutions for athlete testing and sport coaching

- Monitoring of performance → *sensor integrations, instant feedback, motion analysis*
- Active dialogue with coaches → *Vuokatti Sports Academy, Olympic Training Center Vuokatti-Ruka*
- Co-operation with the Finnish sports and wellbeing technology industry
- Educating students from diverse backgrounds (engineering and marketing)

From science to practice





# Coachtech

## Feedback tool for coaching

- Combination of video(s) and analog signals
- **Not** sport specific
- Real time feedback
- Easy to use
- Web analysis and storage
- Information to coaches available in an easy-to-use format

- Wireless Nodes (40 x 28 x 92 mm, 58g)
- Accelerometers + force sensors
- Cameras, GoPro Hero 3 (4)
- Computer
- Potential to integrate other signals

03.09.2014 09:57 TK\_TT\_24 Switch to sync mode

CYCLE:			FORCE (left/right):			
CT [s]	Push / Swing [%]	CL [m]	a_PPF [N]	a_CF [N]	a_IMP [N]	diff (L/R) [%]
1.0	36.4/63.6	6.9	259.3/292.6	117.0/105.5	49.5/41.5	54.4/45.6

0.100

One frame back Play One frame forward

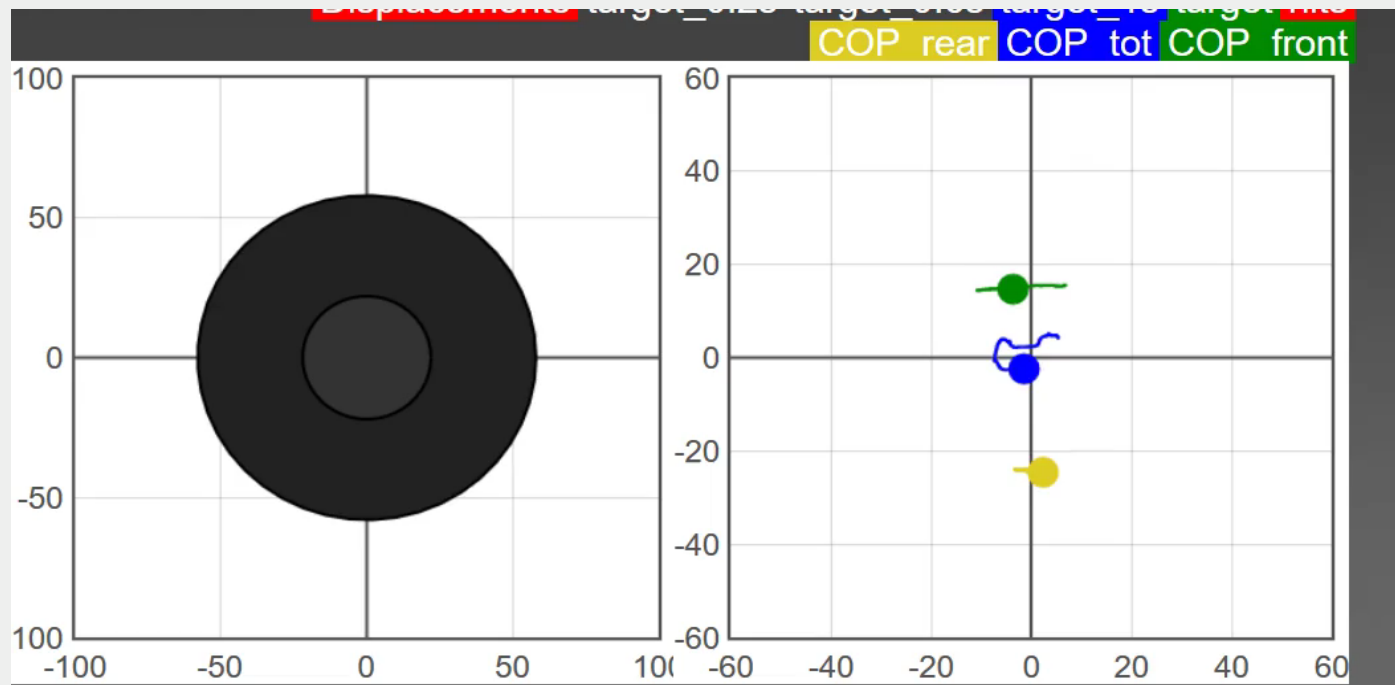
Cameras:  side  rear

Video speed: 0.5x 0.1x  1x

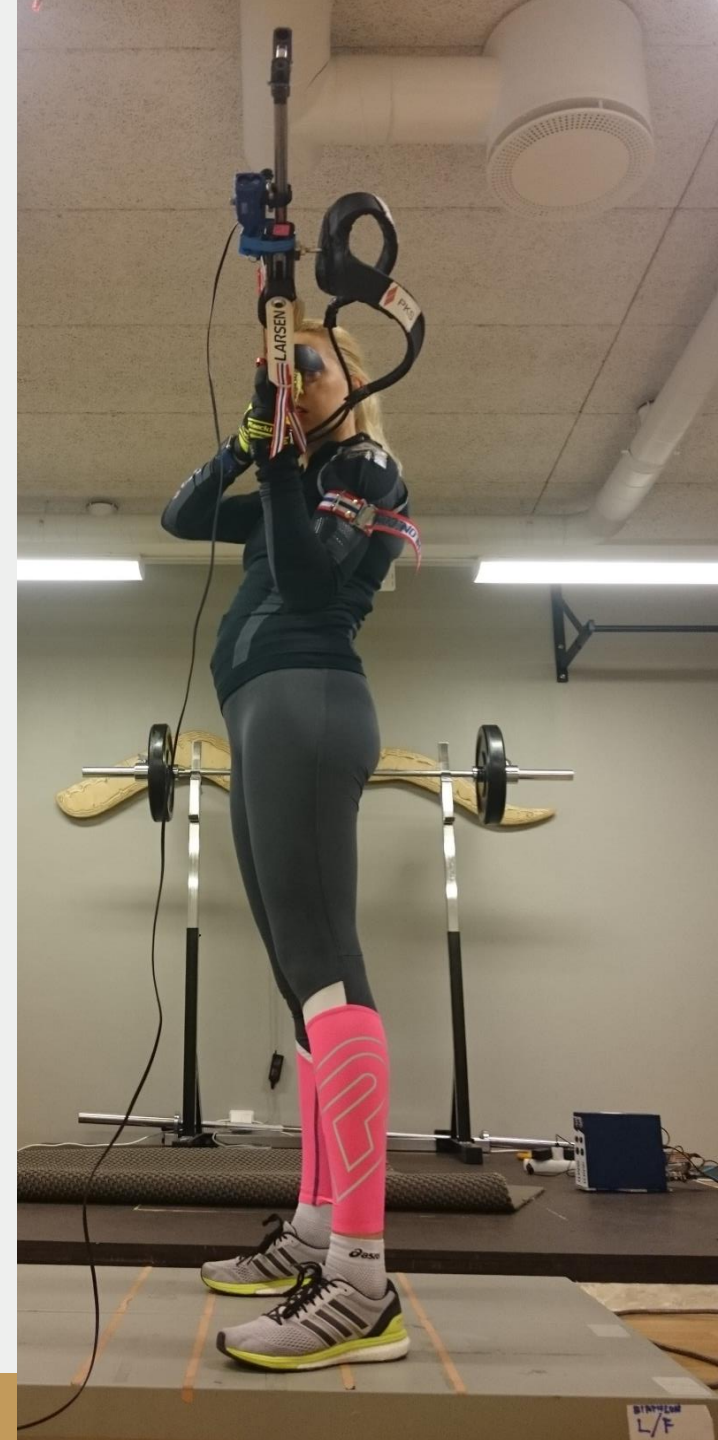
nopeus: 24.09 kulma: 2.18  oikea  vasen

0.00 2.50 5.00 7.50 10.00 12.50 15.00 17.50

# Coachtech - shooting



Aiming							
Points	dist	TTI	dev (x;y)	COA	COG	ATV	TaT
9	15.4	4	17.7 / 23.1	34	29.7	34	0.443
Balance							
front/rear [%]	loc_rel	dev_tot	dev_f	dev_r	rom_tot	rom_f	rom_r
58 / 42	2.4	0.4 / 0.4	0.5 / 0.0	0.4 / 0.1	1.2 / 1.7	1.3 / 0.2	1.5 / 0.3





# Sensor integration



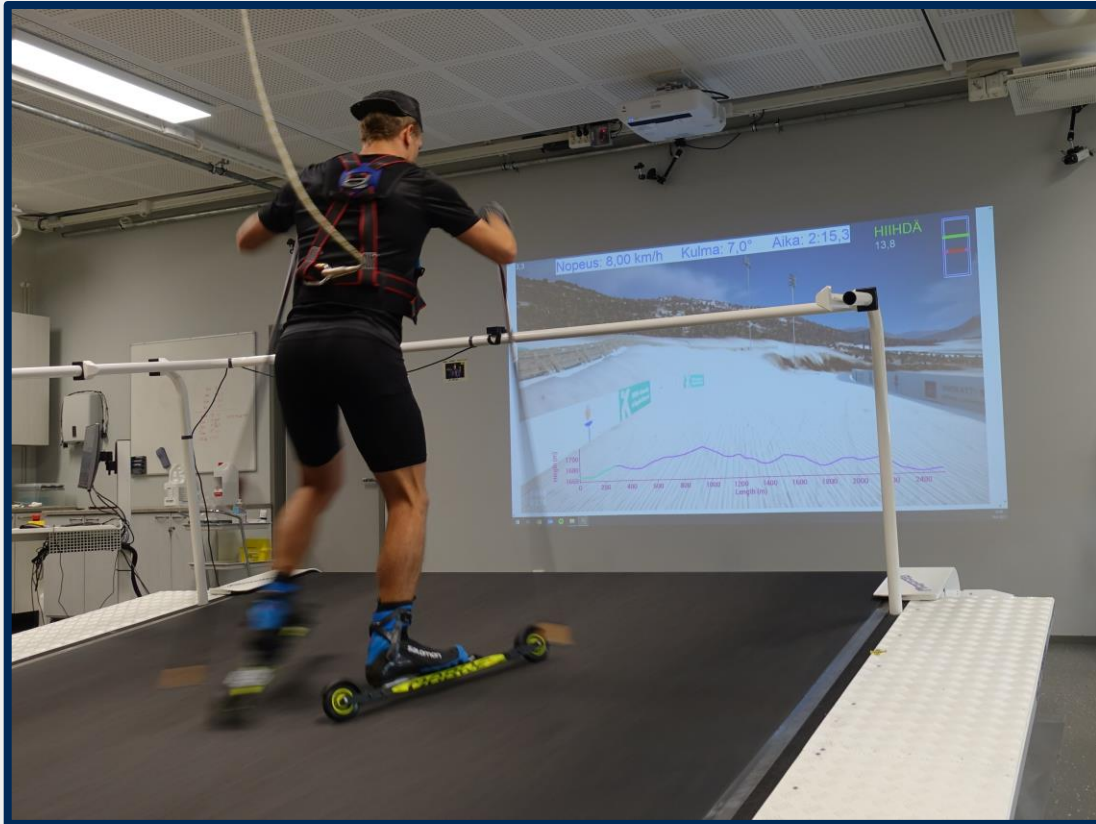
**”SummerSki” artificial skiing track**





# Virtual environments

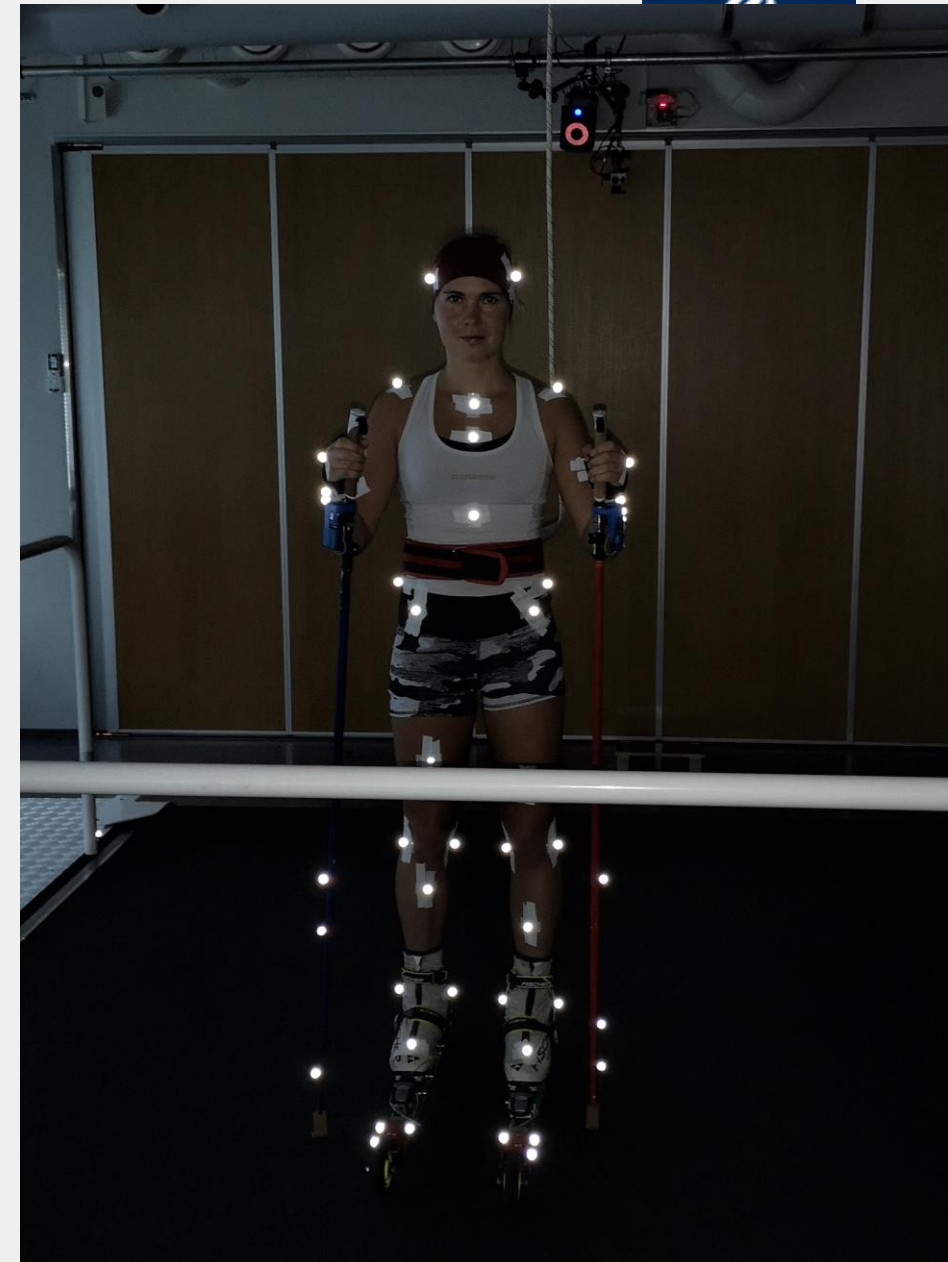
- Possible to “get to know” race-courses from “anywhere” in the world from the lab
- Changes in elevation can be simulated





# Automated motion analysis

- Utilization of computer vision and pose estimation
- For automatic recognition/calculation of joint angles
- Treadmill skiing, biathlon shooting, dynamic balance





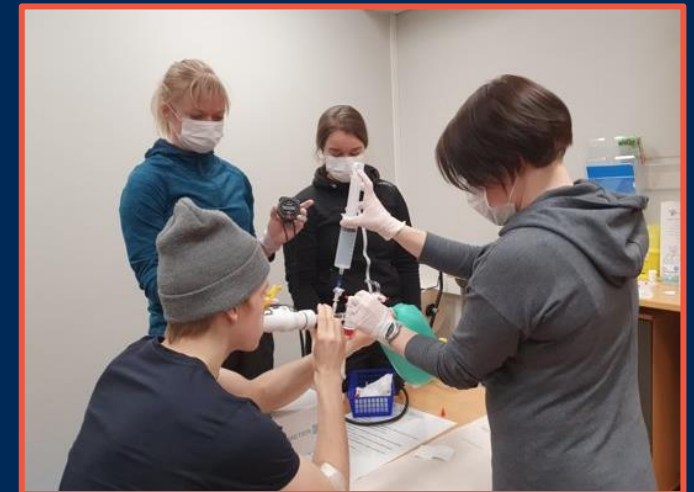
# Current projects *(Ritva's highlights)*





# Altitude living / training

*Korkean paikan harjoittelun tutkimus- ja investointihankkeet Vuokatti (KohatuVu)*





# Research questions

- **What kinds of individual differences in acclimatization responses and adaptations are observed in young and old sub-elite athletes?**
  - Acute responses (e.g. EPO) and adaptation (e.g. EPO, Hb, and Hb mass)
  - Monitoring of duration at altitude (time), altitude (m), training (endurance and strength)
- **How can we maintain (or prolong) the hypoxia adaptation after returning to sea level?**
  - How many hypoxic training sessions or nights in an altitude house/tent may be needed?
- **Influence of hypoxia on the autonomic nervous system**
  - Whether training/recovery may help to maintain autonomic nervous system balance?

I will show you some preliminary data.

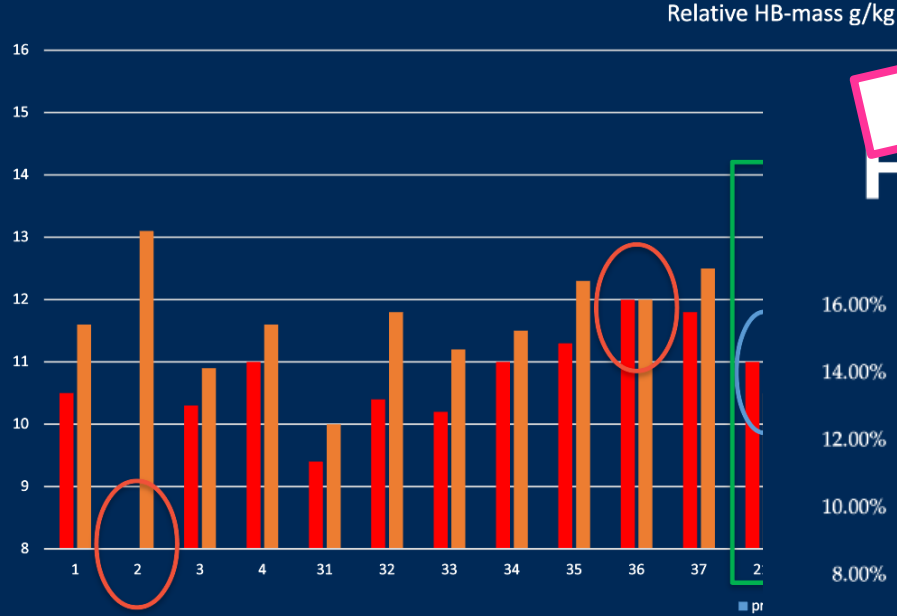
I will show you some preliminary data.



# Relative HB-mass changes

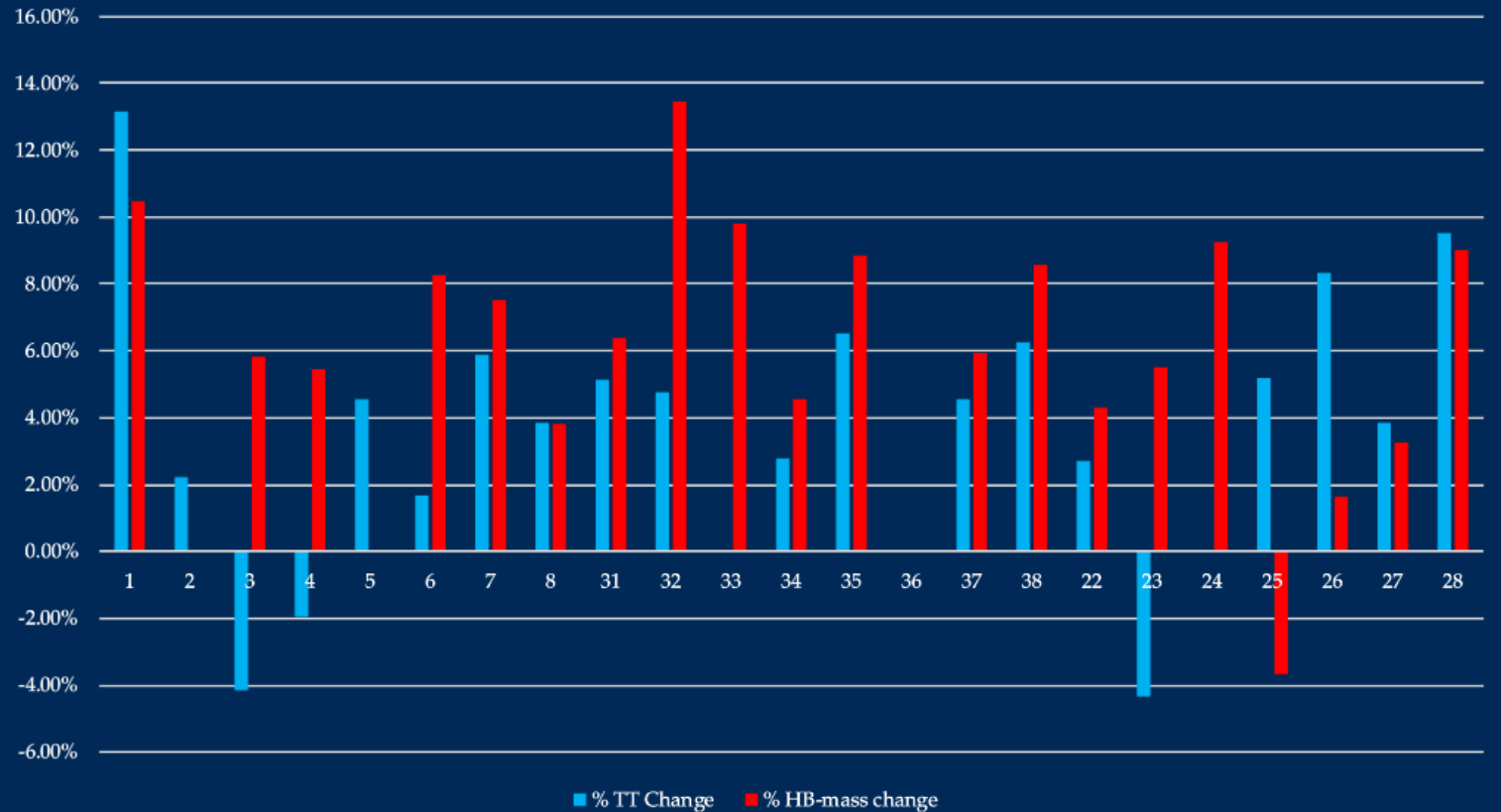


Preliminary data, not for public use



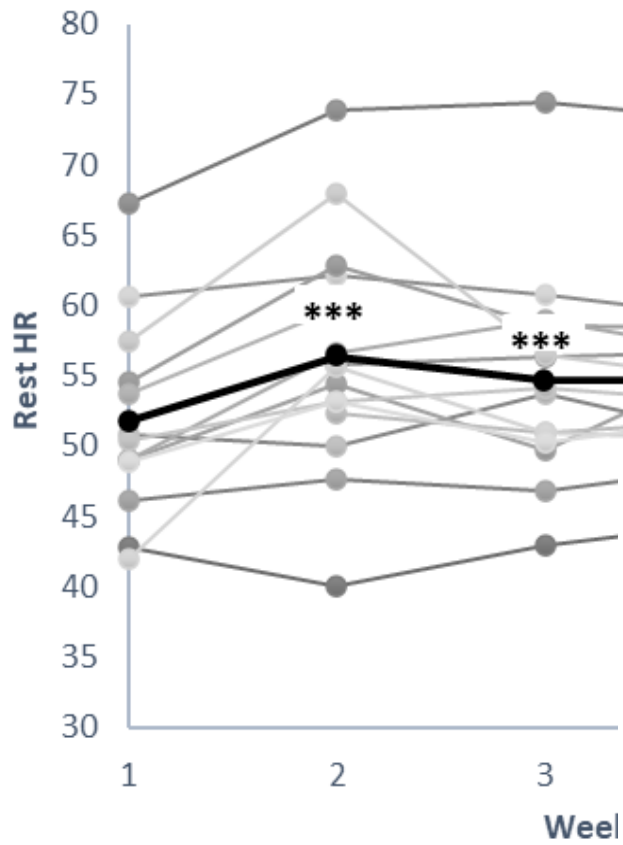
## Hb-mass (g/kg) VS performance (t)

Test time vs HB-mass change



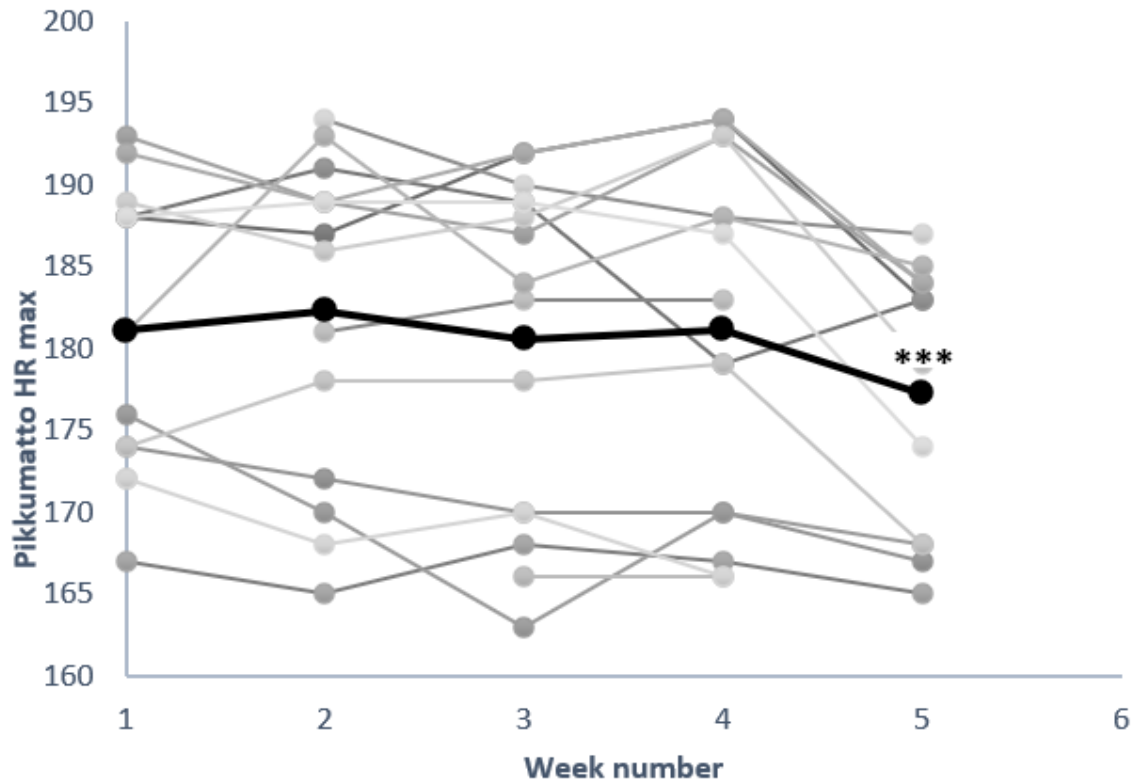
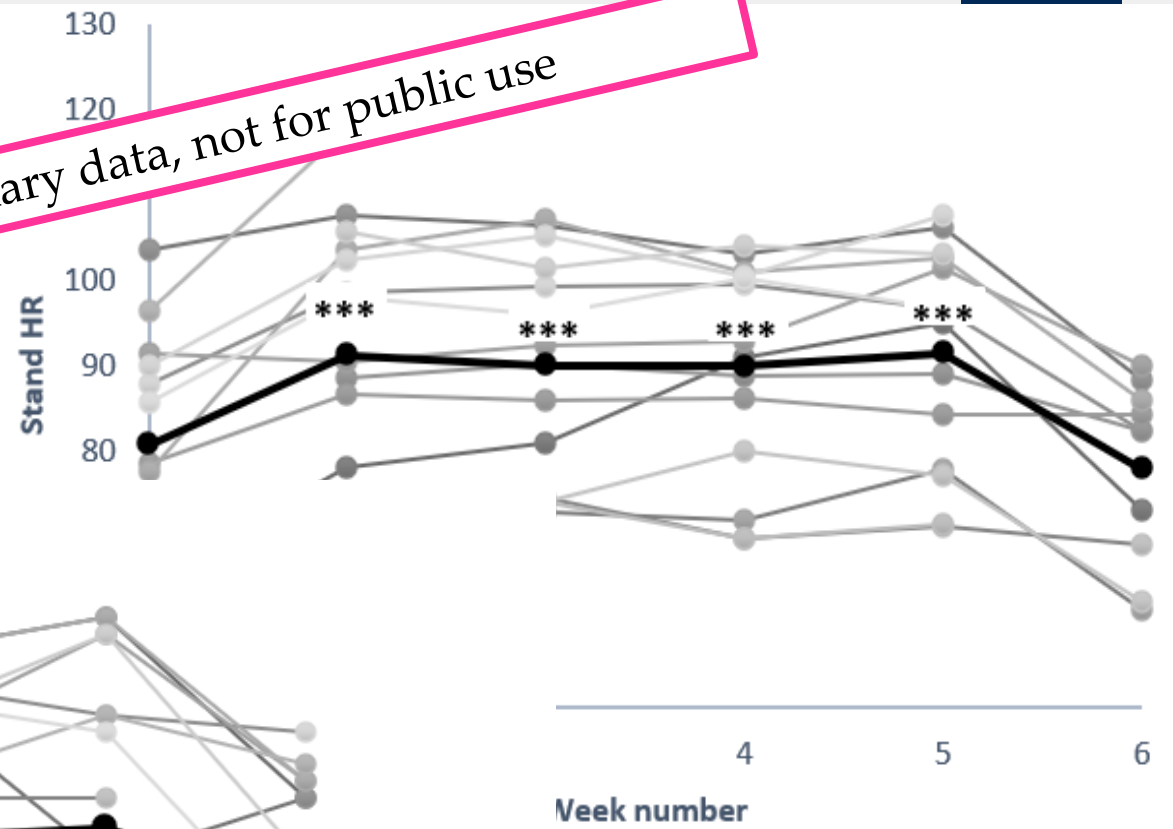
Change in Hb-mass (and EPO response) were individual, but generally positive.

Increased Hb-mass is associated with increased time to exhaustion



Time at altitude reflected in resting and orthostatic HR

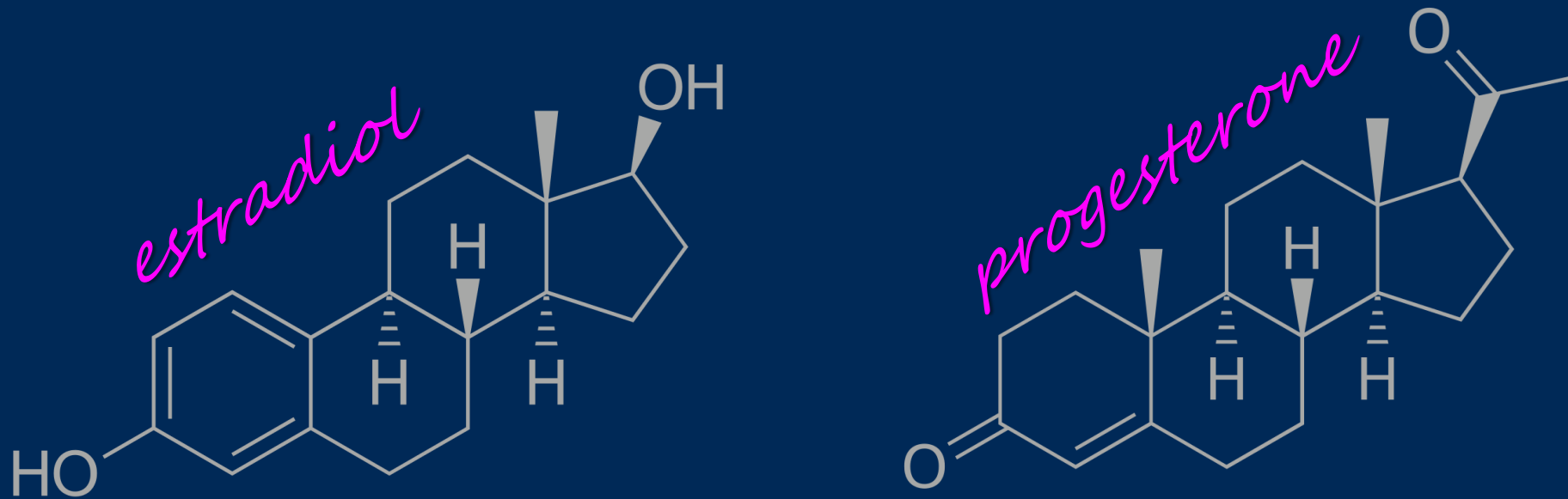
Preliminary data, not for public use



HRmax during testing decreased markedly after altitude period



# Female physiology







# Female physiology

- Endogenous hormonal milieu (also those influenced by exogenous hormones) training responses, training adaptations, performance, recovery... **what don't we know?**
- Several multidisciplinary projects (*data collection completed, in progress, and to be collected later this year*)
- Two female physiology related reviews (*in progress*)

**Target population:** Athletes (individual and team sport) **AND** physically active females

- / Funding for high-performance research is sparse
- / Projects manipulating training logical to "pilot" in physically active females (including overweight)

[ritva.s.taipale@jyu.fi](mailto:ritva.s.taipale@jyu.fi)

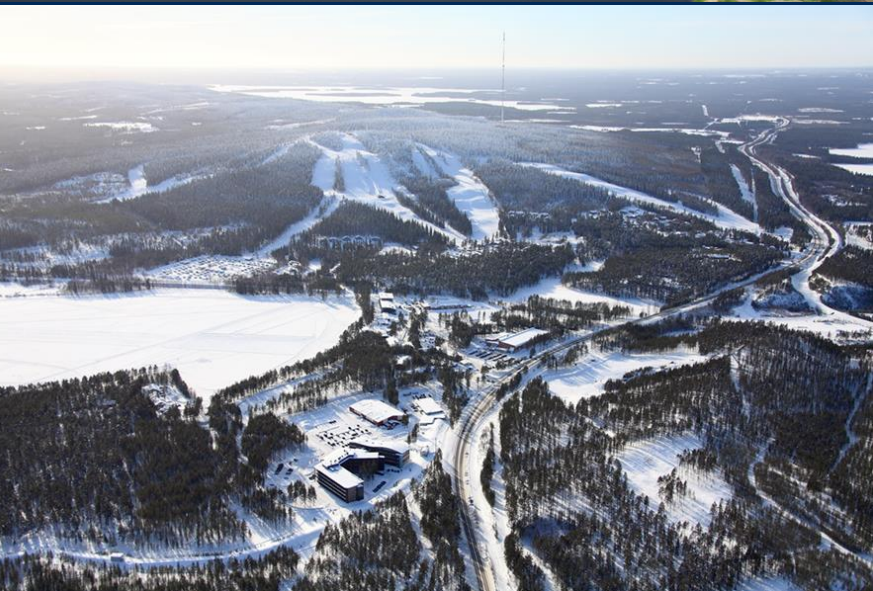
 @RituTM

[johanna.k.ihalainen@jyu.fi](mailto:johanna.k.ihalainen@jyu.fi)

 @jokasten

## PhD students:

Essi Ahokas  
Oona Kettunen  
Anuliisa Lähtie  
Ida Löfberg  
Suvi Ravi  
Vera Salmi  
Eero Savolainen



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# Thank you!

[www.jyu.fii/en](http://www.jyu.fii/en)

[www.jyu.fi/sport/fi/liikuntateknologia](http://www.jyu.fi/sport/fi/liikuntateknologia)



[facebook.com/liikuntateknologia/](https://facebook.com/liikuntateknologia/)



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21-24 March: Modern Coach - A seminar for young coaches



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# Coaching women

## *Are they just small men?*

Ritva Mikkonen, PhD

Sports Technology Unit, Vuokatti

Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences

University of Jyväskylä



- **Aims:**

- To understand the role of menstrual cycles and hormonal contraceptives in health and performance of female athletes.
- To remind you to never make a woman/girl/person who menstruates feel gross/guilty/uncomfortable talking about what their bodies naturally do.



## Included topics:

- A couple of questions
- Women are **not** just smaller versions of men
- Unique hormonal profiles
  - Let's talk about the menstrual cycle!
  - Hormonal contraceptives
  - Ovarian steroids are **not** just reproductive hormones



What do these mean in sport?





# Is there a lack of sport/exercise research in women?

2014–2020

63% of publications included both women and men

31% of publications included only men only

6% of publications included women only

When analyzing participants included in all journals:

8,253,236 (66%) were men and 4,254,445 (34%) were women

(Cowley et al. 2021)

*Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal*, 2021, 29, 146-151

<https://doi.org/10.1123/wspaj.2021-0028>

© 2021 University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG)

## “Invisible Sportswomen”: The Sex Data Gap in Sport and Exercise Science Research

Emma S. Cowley,<sup>1</sup> Alyssa A. Olenick,<sup>2</sup> Kelly L. McNulty,<sup>3</sup> and Emma Z. Ross<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, United Kingdom;

<sup>2</sup>Integrative Cardiovascular Physiology Laboratory, Department of Kinesiology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, US

<sup>3</sup>Department of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Northumbria University,

Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom; <sup>4</sup>The Well HQ, BBE Health Ltd, London, United Kingdom

Human Kin

Sport, exercise and the life cycle: where is the research

G Bruinvels,<sup>1,2,3</sup> R J Burden,<sup>2,3,4</sup> A J McGregor,<sup>2,6</sup>  
M Dooley,<sup>7</sup> T Richards,<sup>1</sup> C Pedlar<sup>2,6</sup>

Consideration of Sex as a Biological Variable in NIH-funded Research

problem of implicit gender bias in sport and exercise medicine

Sheree Bekker,<sup>1</sup> Osman H Ahmed,<sup>2,3</sup> Ummukulthoum Bakare,<sup>4,5</sup>  
Tracy A Blake,<sup>6,7</sup> Alison M Brooks,<sup>8</sup> Todd E Davenport,<sup>9</sup>  
Luciana De Michelis Mendonça,<sup>10</sup> Lauren V Fortington,<sup>11</sup>  
Michael Himawan,<sup>12</sup> Joanne I. Kemn,<sup>13</sup> Karen Litzv,<sup>12</sup> Roland F Loh,<sup>14</sup>

*European Journal of Sport Science*, 2014  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17461391.2014.911354>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Where are all the female participants in Sports and Exercise Medicine research?

JOSEPH T. COSTELLO<sup>1</sup>, FRANCOIS BIEUZEN<sup>2</sup>, & CHRIS M. BLEAKLEY<sup>3</sup>



# Is there a lack of high-quality research in women?

International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance, (Ahead of Print)  
<https://doi.org/10.1123/ijssp.2019-0514>  
© 2019 Human Kinetics, Inc.

## Sport Science on Women, Women in Sport Science

As I, Iñigo Mujika, write these words, I have just completed the third week of an altitude training camp in Sierra Nevada, Spain (2320 m) to be held usual in support champion camp is are wom 2 women my career opportun first scien of this st 10 males wanted to training a group of trained na in this stu women fi complica

Human Kinetics  
EDIT



manwhohasitall @manwhohasitall · Oct 24

"We never use men in our clinical trials because controlling the effects of the testicles would be too difficult. So we just use normal, standard, default humans, i.e. women." Caroline, scientist. Fair enough Caroline.

Several factors in research are not controlled for OR reported

- is this behind heterogeneous results?
- have we missed something important?

CURRENT OPINION

### Methodological Considerations for Studies in Sport and Exercise Science with Women as Participants: A Working Guide for Standards of Practice for Research on Women

Kirsty J. Elliott-Sale<sup>1</sup> · Clare L. Minahan<sup>2</sup> · Xanne A. K. Janse de Jonge<sup>3</sup> · Kathryn E. Ackerman<sup>4</sup> · Sarianna Sipilä<sup>5</sup> · Naama W. Constantini<sup>6</sup> · Constance M. Lebrun<sup>7</sup> · Anthony C. Hackney<sup>8</sup>



MYTHS AND METHODOLOGIES

WILEY Physiology

### Myths and Methodologies: Reducing scientific design ambiguity in studies comparing sexes and/or menstrual cycle phases

Stacy T. Sims<sup>1</sup> | Alison K. Heather<sup>2</sup>



Women are generally smaller than men...

...but are not smaller versions of men

\*not all 'women' are the same

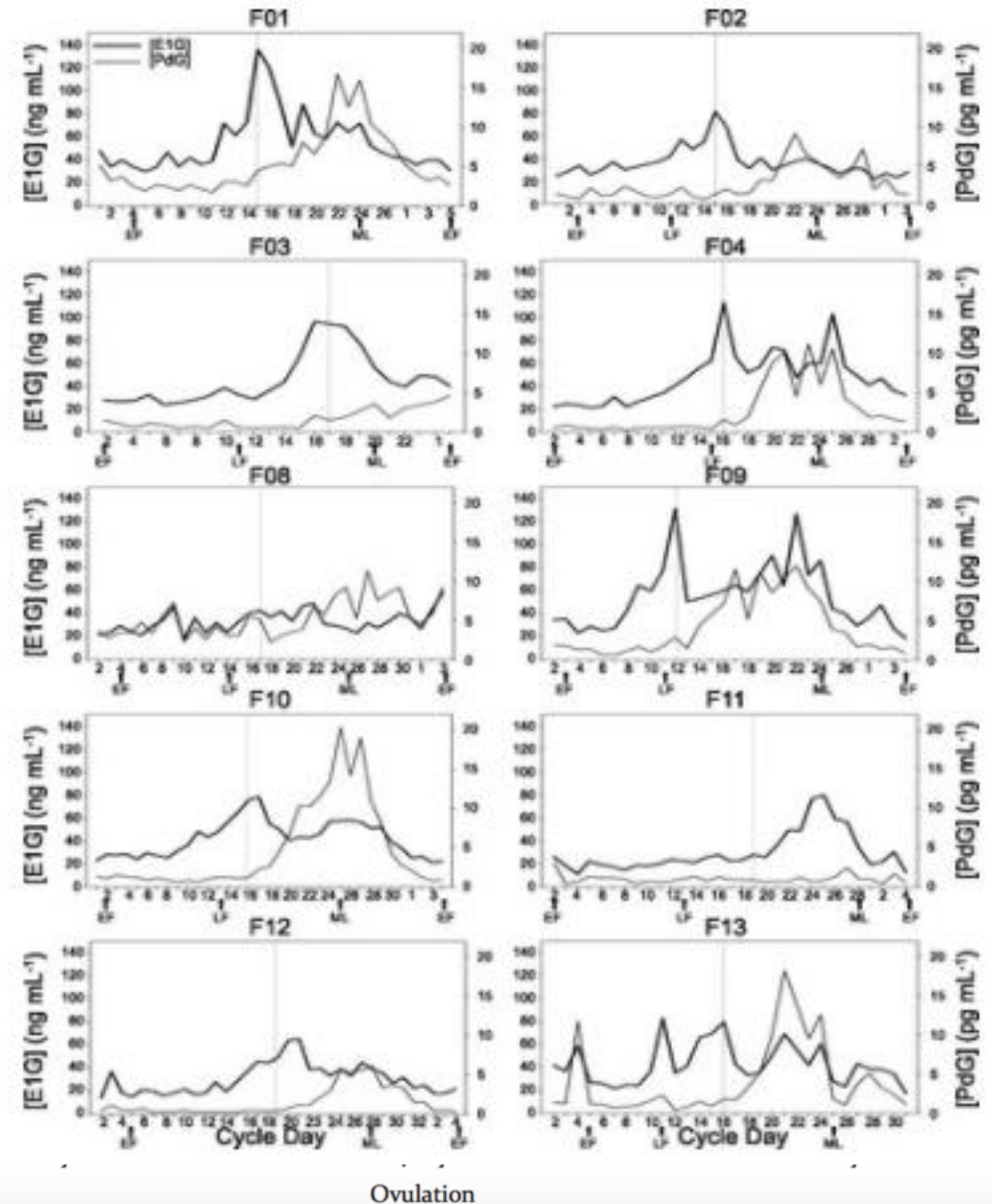




**Let's talk about the menstrual cycle**  
(menstrual dysfunction & hormonal contraceptive use)

# Menstrual cycle

- Begins at ~13 years of age
- Ends around 50 years of age
- Cycle length 28-35 days
  - Menses 2-7 days
- 2 phases (follicular and luteal) separated by ovulation
  - *Follicular and luteal phases can be further be divided into early, mid or late (7 phases!)*
- Unfortunately

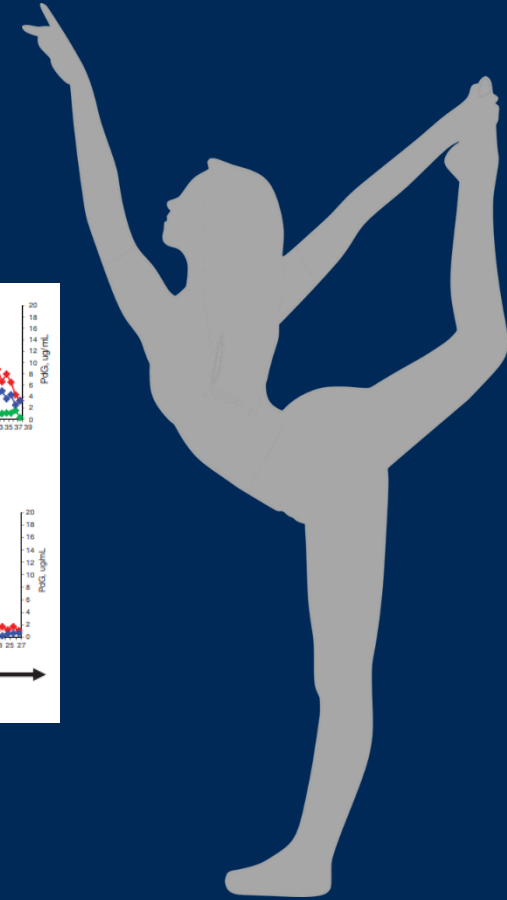
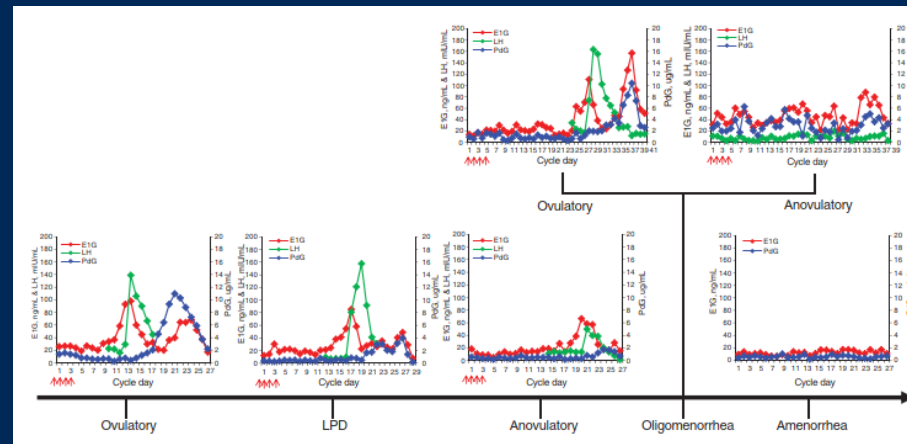


# Menstrual status – why should you care?

*The menstrual cycle is an indicator of homeostasis and health  
- the absence or delay of menstruation should always be investigated*

- **Can be influenced by several variables:**

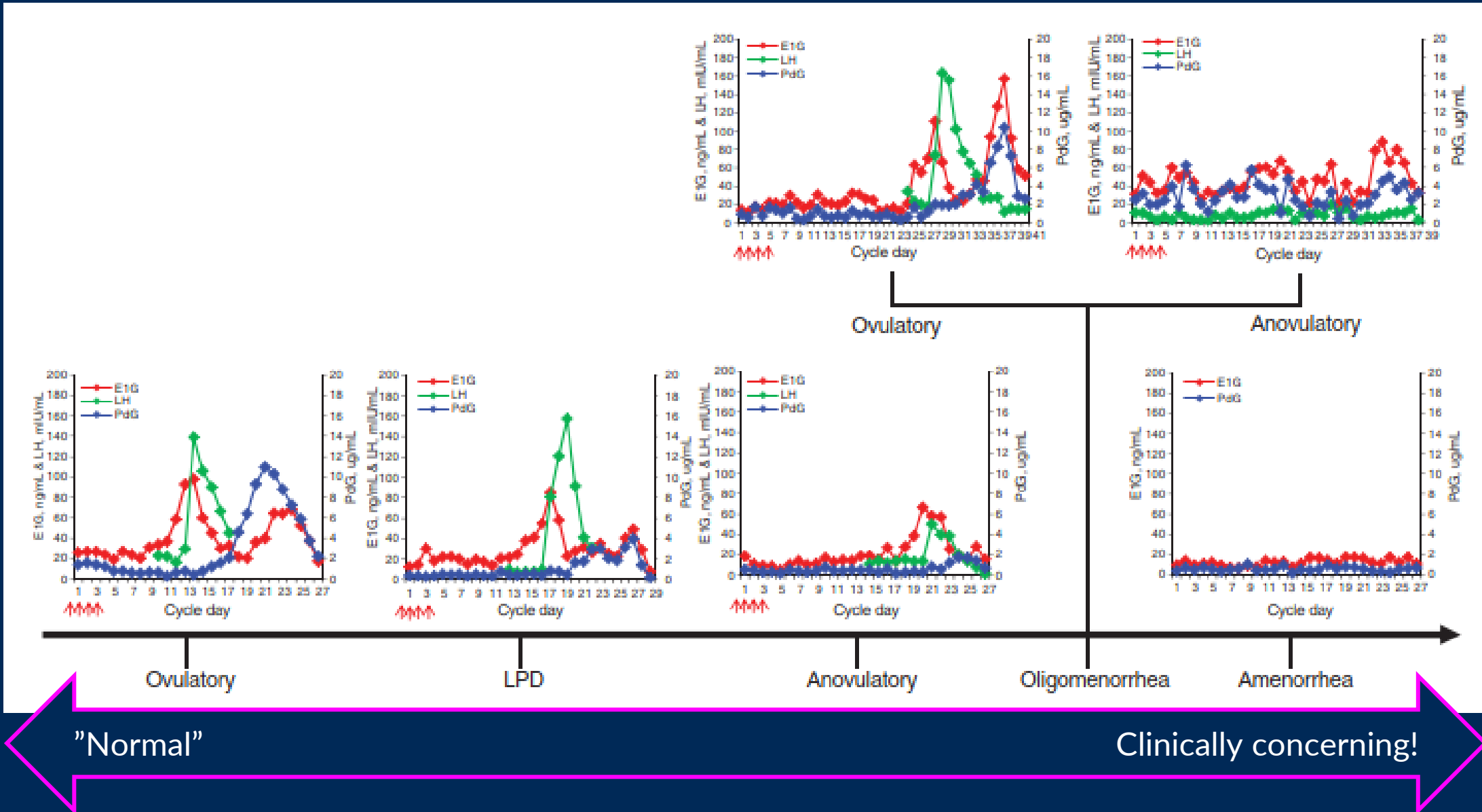
- Age (puberty, perimenopause, menopause...)
- Pregnancy (miscarriage) and lactation
- Hormonal contraceptive use
- Stress!
- Diet
- Exercise
- Circadian variation (sleep)
- Gynecological illnesses (e.g. PCOS, endometriosis...)





# Menstrual status - why should you care?

Allaway et al. 2016 *Hormone Molecular Biology and Clinical Investigation*  
<https://doi.org/10.1515/hmbci-2015-0053>





# Terminology

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Eumenorrhea</b>	Menstrual cycle length is 21-35 days resulting in $\geq 9$ consecutive periods per year. There is evidence of LH surge and correct hormonal profile and no HC use 3 months prior
<b>Primary amenorrhea</b>	Failure to reach menarche by age 15 years when development of secondary sexual characteristics is evident. OR Failure to reach menarche by age 14 years when no secondary sexual characteristics are present.
<b>Secondary amenorrhea</b>	Absence of more than 3 consecutive periods in non-pregnant women with past menses that may be caused by gynecological illness or low energy availability
<b>Luteal phase deficiency</b>	Menstrual cycles with $<16 \text{ nmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ of progesterone based on a single luteal phase progesterone measurement
<b>Oligomenorrhea</b>	Menstrual cycle length is $> 35$ days
<b>Anovulation</b>	Menstrual bleeding without ovulation
<b>Polymenorrhea</b>	Menstrual cycle length is $< 21$ days
<b>Primary dysmenorrhea</b>	Menstrual bleeding is accompanied by significant pain from the first menstrual period (concomitantly other symptoms may be present such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, fever, irritability, muscle pain, dizziness and/or headache)
<b>Secondary dysmenorrhea</b>	Previously unpainful menstrual bleeding that typically is secondary to gynecological illness (concomitantly other symptoms may be present such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, fever, irritability, muscle pain, dizziness and/or headache)
<b>Menorrhagia</b>	Menstrual bleeding that is abnormally heavy ( $>80\text{ml}$ ) or prolonged ( $> 7$ days) and negatively affects daily function

# What about hormonal contraceptives?

## ANOTHER CHALLENGE:

Up to 70% of athletes use HC (Martin, Sale, Cooper, & Elliott-Sale, 2018)

## Different delivery methods, doses...

- Monophasic – constant dose for 3 weeks
  - But hormone profile isn't 100% "stable"
- Triphasic – varying dose over 3 weeks

*Endogenous hormone profiles differ w/ dose & brand*  
(Elliott-Sale et al 2013)

*What is the reason behind HC use?*

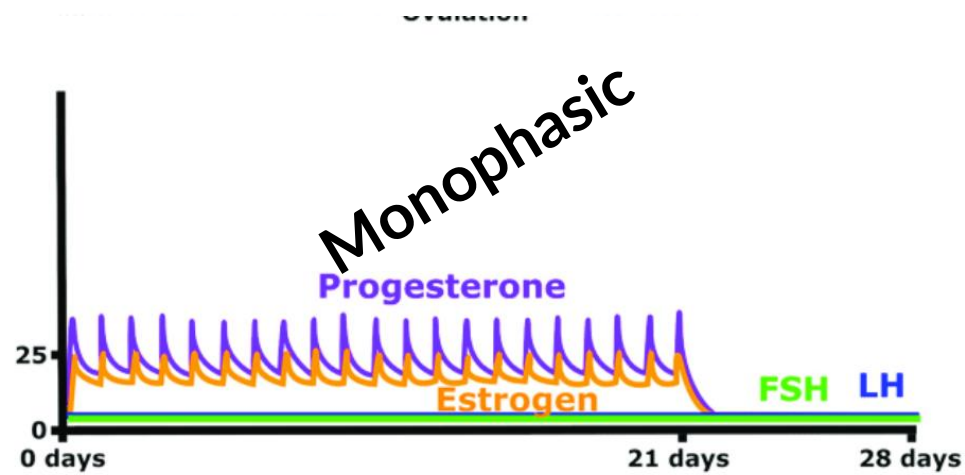


FIGURE 2 Daily exogenous hormone dosage, in micrograms, for monophasic oral contraceptive (data derived from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Makenzie 28)

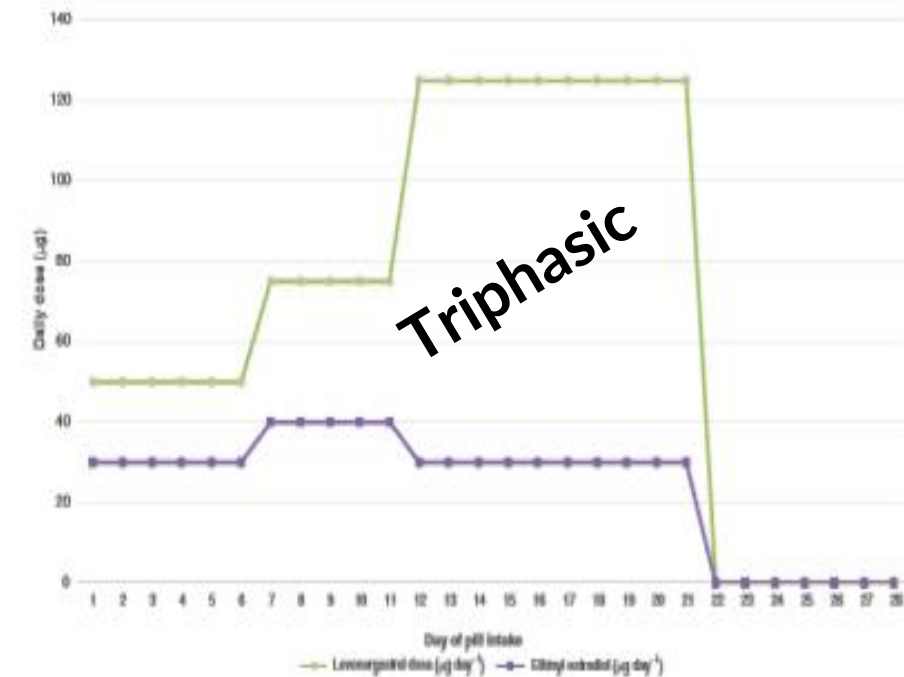


FIGURE 3 Daily exogenous hormone dosage, in micrograms, for triphasic oral contraceptive (data derived from Berlex Laboratories, Tri-Levlen 28)

Sims and Heather (2018) and [Chidi-Ogbolu and Baar \(2019\)](#)





# Ovarian steroids are not just reproductive hormones

└ *estrogens and progesterone,*

**Ovarian steroids (hormones that fluctuate during the menstrual cycle) also act on:**

- **TISSUES:** *muscle, nervous, epithelial, and connective*
- **PHYSIOLOGICAL PROCESSES:** *metabolism, cardiovascular, pulmonary (ventilation), autonomic, immunity, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, cognition*

*It's reasonable to **hypothesize** that the non-reproductive functions of ovarian steroids could influence e.g. acute responses to exercise and perhaps even longer-term adaptations.*

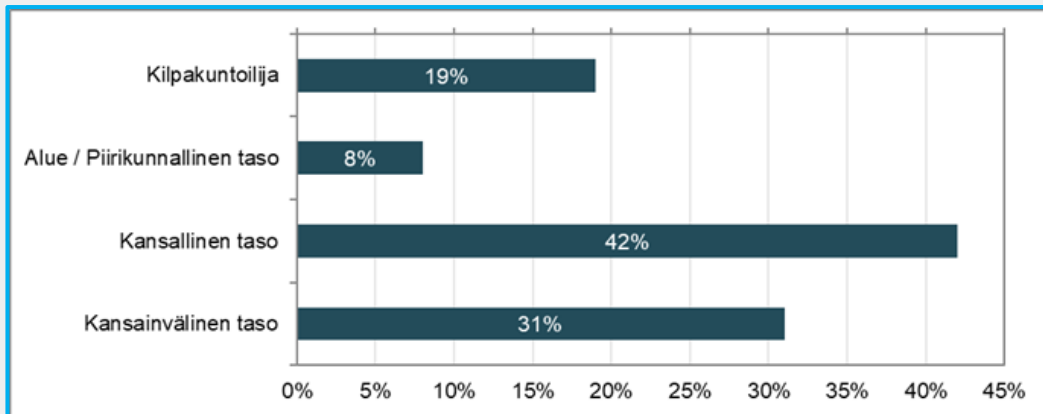


# Preliminary Naisurheilija 2.0 results (n = 885)



Cooperation between **Univeristy of Jyväskylä** and  
**Research Institute for Olympic Sports (KIHU)**

**Summer  
2020**



**Johanna Ihalainen**  
@jokasten

Yli 800 vastausta kasassa! Kiitos mahtavat urheilijat KIITOS 🙏  
Muutama päivä jäljellä. Saa jakaa! Todella tärkeä aihe [#ravitsemus](#)  
[#kuukautiskierto](#) [#suorituskyky](#) [#hormonaalinenekhäisy](#)



**KIHU** @KIHUFinland · 17. elok.

Naisurheilija! Vastaa elokuun aikana kyselyyn urheilusta, ravinnosta, kuukautiskierrosta ja hormonaalisesta ehkäisystä. Lisätietoa nettisivuilta: [jyu.fi/sport/fi/tutki...](https://jyu.fi/sport/fi/tutki...) @KIHUFinland @JYUsport\_health ja @olympiakomitea Suora linkki kyselyyn 🖱️ [r.jyu.fi/D2F](https://r.jyu.fi/D2F)

9.39 ip. · 27. elok. 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

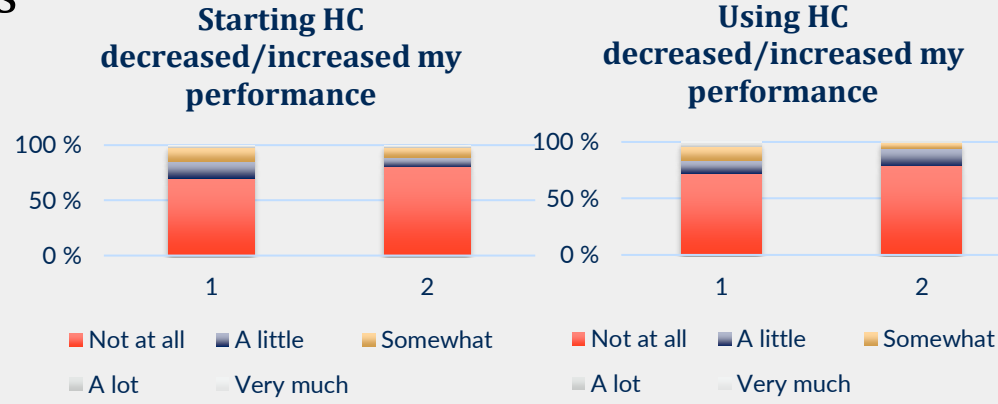
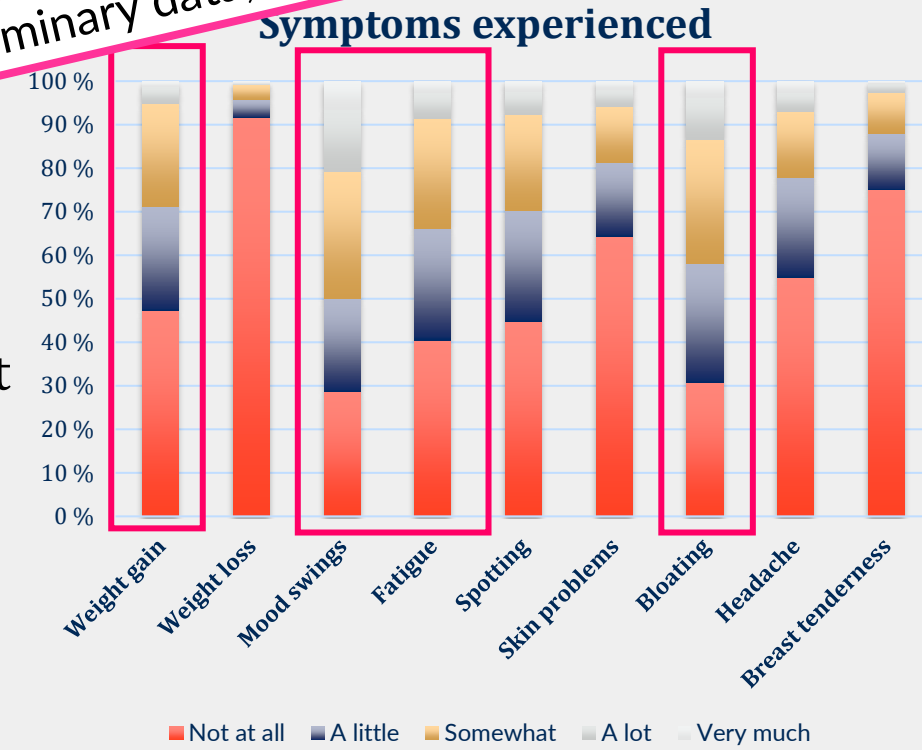


# Preliminary Naisurheilija 2.0 results (n = 885)

→ hormonal contraception

Preliminary data, not for public use

- **59%** athletes **DO NOT** use hormonal contraceptives
- **41%** athletes use hormonal contraceptives
  - **12%** have used hormonal contraceptives sometime in the past
- **Hormonal contraceptives used:** 52% combined hormonal contraceptives + 13% "mini" pill + 26% IUD (hormonal or copper) + 4% capsule + 4% ring
- **37%** hormonal contraceptive users have PMS symptoms
- **40%** non-users have PMS symptoms





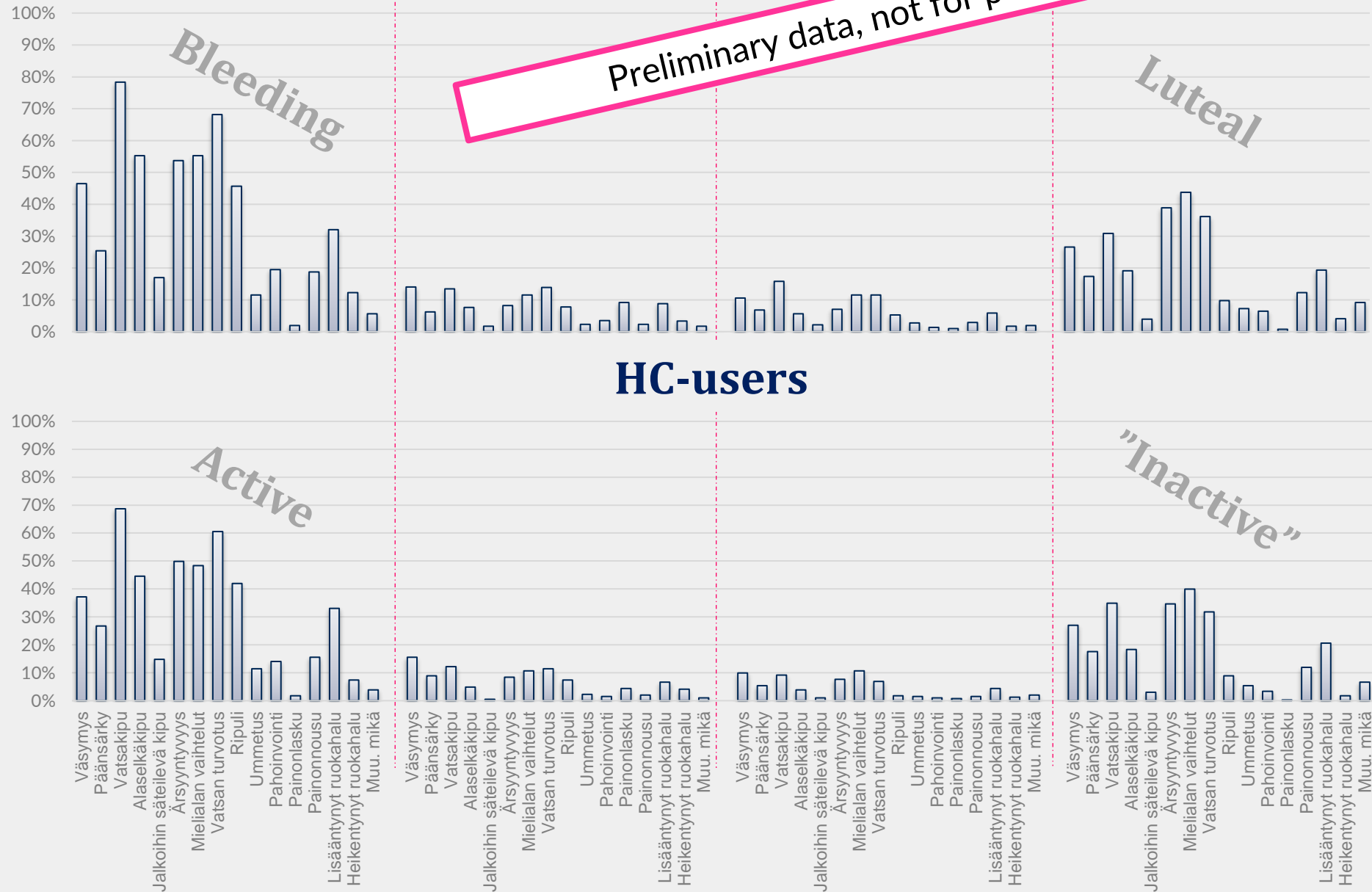


# Oireet

Have you regularly observed (more than once) any of the following symptoms related to your cycle during the last year viimeisen vuoden aikana?

No difference between HC users and non-users.

What can we do to mitigate unpleasant symptoms related to "cycles"?

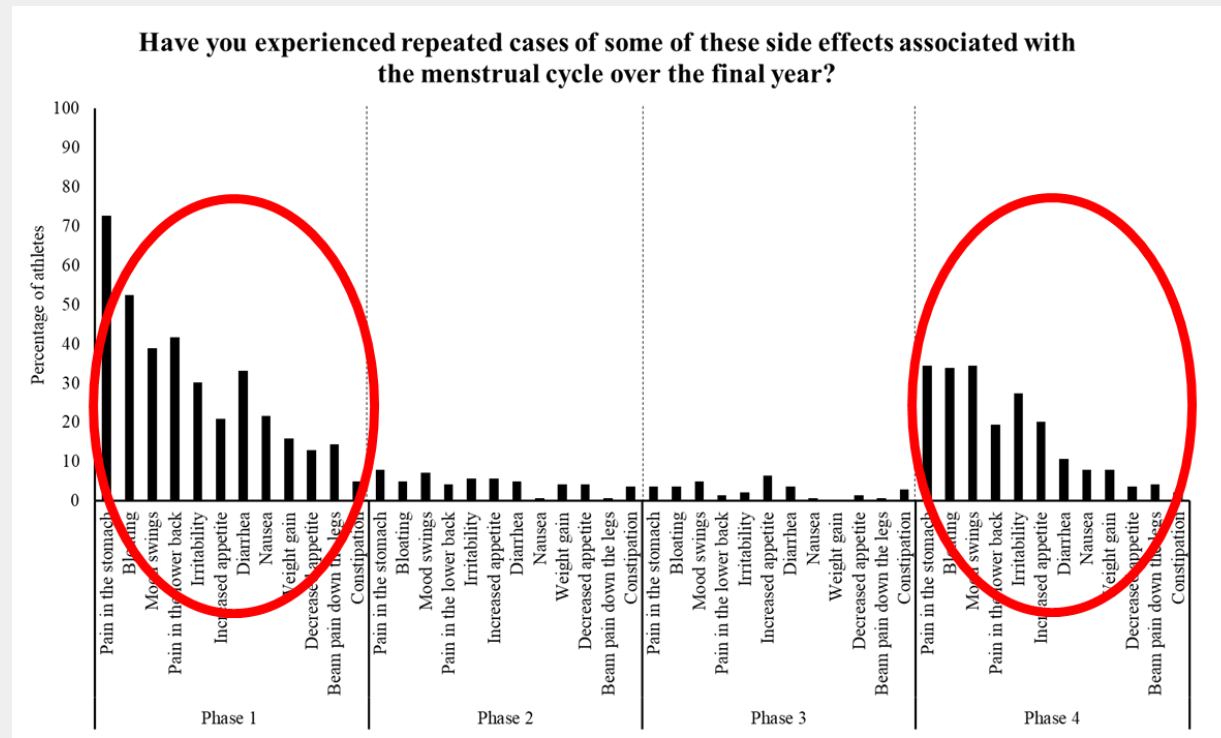




## Effect of the menstrual cycle on "performance"

- 140 Norwegian Nordic skiers / biathletes
- Questionnaire: 48% TOP30 MC
- 70% Cycle affects performance
- 70% Use pain medication
- 50% Change their training plans

○ **LESS THAN 30%** talk about their cycle and symptoms with their coaches



*International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance*, (Ahead of Print)  
<https://doi.org/10.1123/ijsp.2019-0616>  
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Human Kinetics  
ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

## Changes in Self-Reported Physical Fitness, Performance, and Side Effects Across the Phases of the Menstrual Cycle Among Competitive Endurance Athletes

Guro S. Solli, Silvana B. Sandbakk, Dionne A. Noordhof, Johanna K. Ihalainen, and Øyvind Sandbakk



# Performance

In which phase of your cycle do you feel your "performance" is **POOR**?

ja

In which phase of your cycle do you feel your "performance" is **THE BEST**?

**DO NOT** assume that cycles affect athletes  
**DO NOT** make cycles a problem

## Non-users



## HC-users







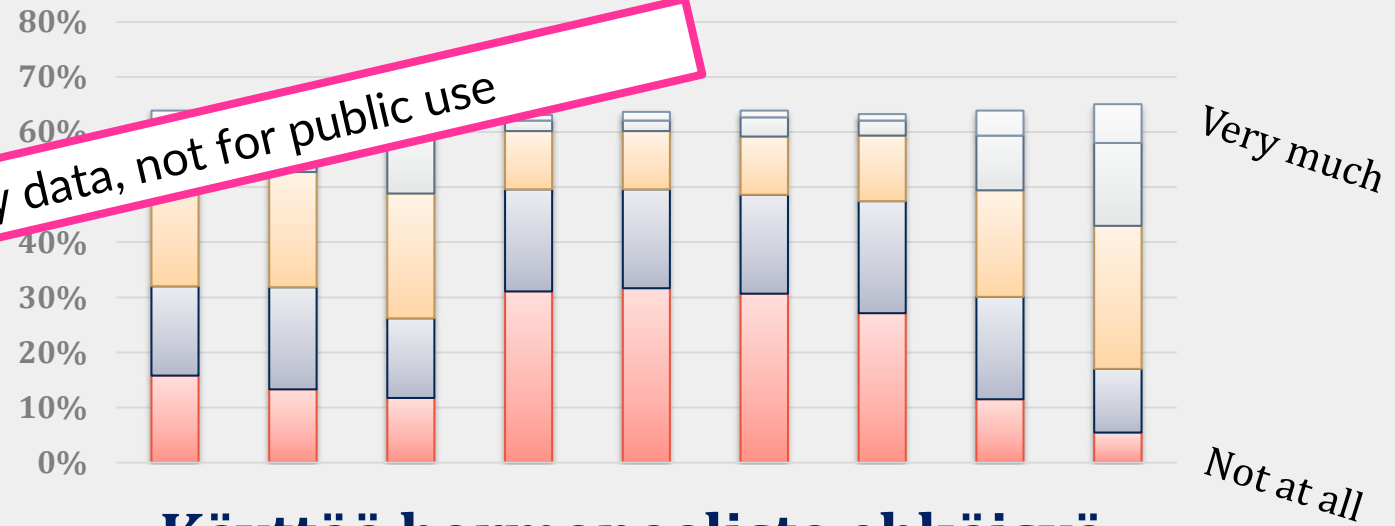
# Performance

What characteristics or skills associated with performance are affected by your cycle and how much?

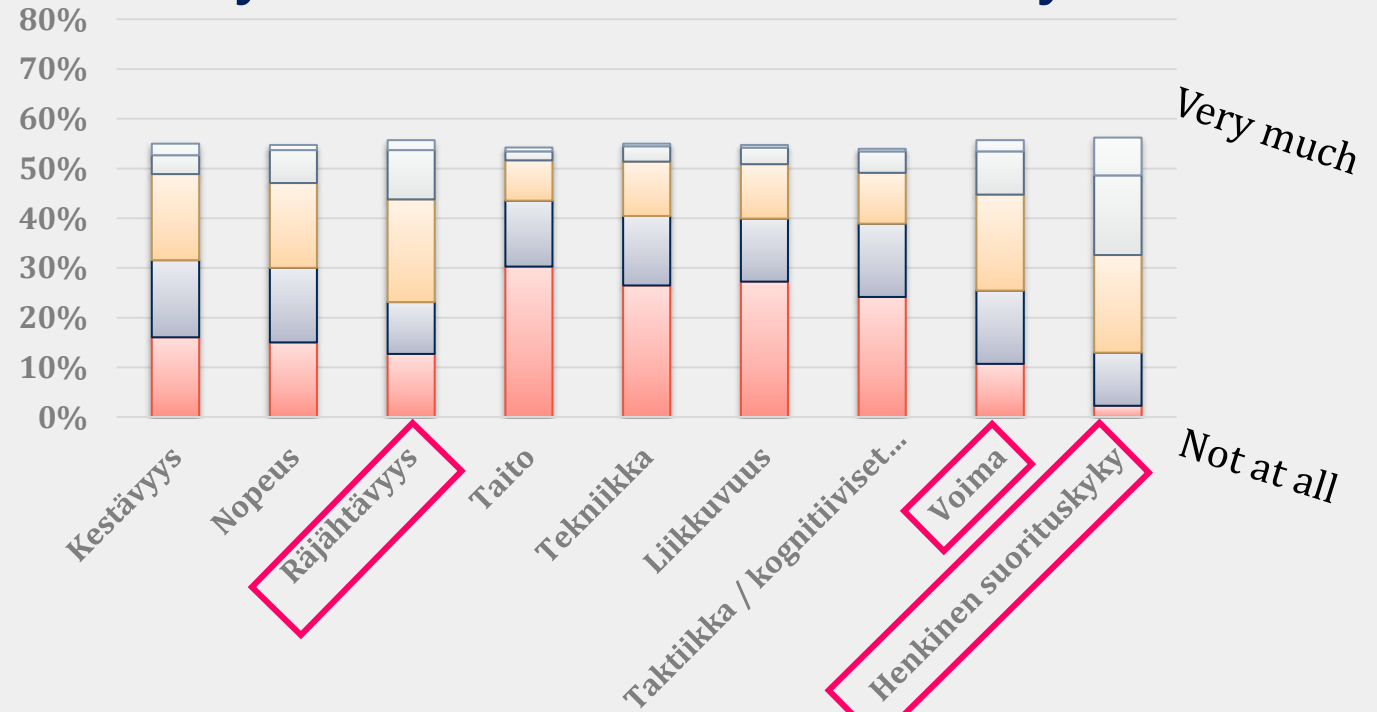
Power, strength, (endurance, speed) and MENTAL PERFORMANCE are affected

## Ei käytä hormonaalista ehkäisyä

Preliminary data, not for public use



## Käyttää hormonaalista ehkäisyä





# *I want you, as coaches, to understand the role of menstrual cycles and hormonal contraceptives in health and performance of female athletes.*

- Having a menstrual cycle is HEALTHY
- Not having a menstrual cycle (in absence of pregnancy, lactation, or HC use is cause for concern) → seek help
- HC is a good tool for multiple reasons, but can't replace good nutrition and recovery (sleep)
- Taking note of symptoms or patterns of symptoms may be useful (for athletes and coaches)
- Anyone prescribing exercise according to the cycle is relying on a weak base of literature





I want you, as coaches, to never make a woman/girl/person who menstruates feel gross/guilty/uncomfortable talking about what their bodies naturally do.

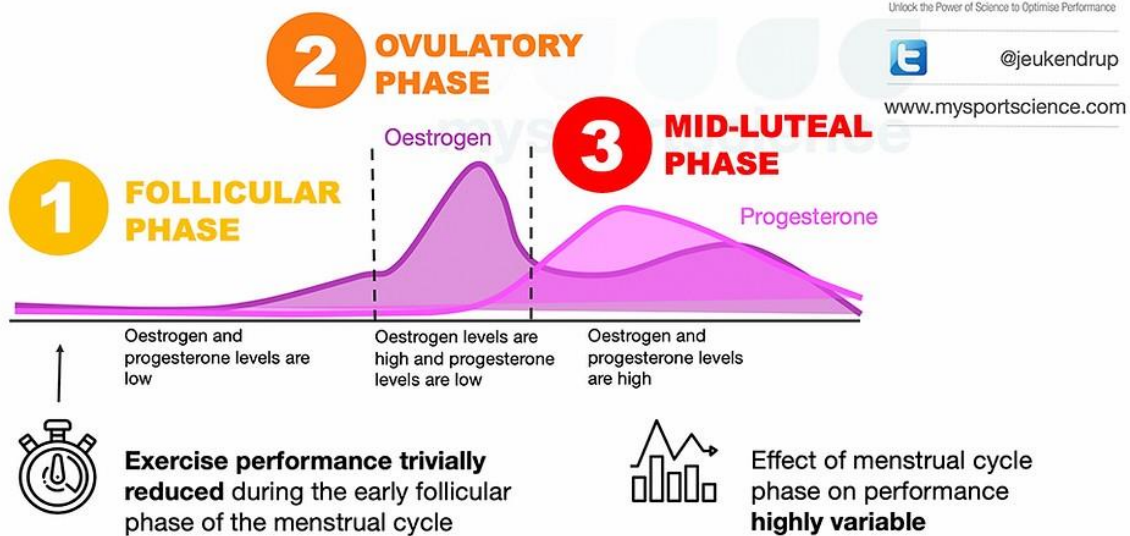


Pads and tampons in your glove compartment, at the gym or in your bag and the knowledge that they are there is a good conversation starter (and these products are fantastic for first aid).





## Menstrual cycle and performance



McNulty ym. 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40279-020-01319-3>

## Oral contraceptives and performance

- ✓ **1 SMALL EFFECTS**  
Some OC using women might have a **very small decline in performance** compared to naturally menstruating, non-oral contraceptive using, sportswomen.
- ✓ **2 INDIVIDUAL**  
OC must be considered at an **individual level**
- ✓ **3 PILL DAYS – PILL FREE DAYS**  
**No performance related evidence** to warrant general guidance on oral contraceptive pill taking days versus pill free days



Elliot-Sale ym. 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40279-020-01317-5>





# Kiitos

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