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# Post- moderate intensity exercise energy replacement does not reduce subsequent appetite and energy intake in adolescents with obesity

Thivel D<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Roche J<sup>1</sup>, Miguet M, Fillon A<sup>1,3</sup>, Khammassi M<sup>1</sup>, Beaulieu K<sup>4</sup>, Finlayson G<sup>4</sup>, Pereira B<sup>5</sup>,  
Miyashita M<sup>6</sup>, Thackray AE<sup>7</sup>, Masurier J<sup>3</sup>, Duclos M<sup>2,8,9,10</sup>, Boirie Y.<sup>2,8,10,11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Clermont Auvergne University, EA 3533, Laboratory of the Metabolic Adaptations to Exercise under Physiological and Pathological Conditions (AME2P), Clermont-Ferrand, France.

<sup>2</sup>CRNH-Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

<sup>3</sup>UGECAM Nutrition Obesity Ambulatory Hospital, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

<sup>4</sup>School of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

<sup>5</sup>Clermont-Ferrand University hospital, Biostatistics unit (DRCI), Clermont-Ferrand, France.

<sup>6</sup>Faculty of Sport Sciences, Waseda University, Saitama 169-8050, Japan.

<sup>7</sup>National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine, School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, Loughborough University, Leicestershire LE11 3TU, UK.

<sup>8</sup>INRA, UMR 1019, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

<sup>9</sup>Department of Sport Medicine and Functional Explorations, Clermont-Ferrand University Hospital, G. Montpied Hospital, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

<sup>10</sup>University Clermont Auvergne, UFR Medicine, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

<sup>11</sup>Department of Human Nutrition, Clermont-Ferrand University Hospital, G. Montpied Hospital, Clermont-Ferrand, France

**Running head:** Post-exercise energy replacement and appetite

## Corresponding Author:

Thivel David (PhD, HDR)

Clermont University, EA 3533, Laboratory of the Metabolic Adaptations to Exercise under Physiological and Pathological Conditions (AME2P), BP 80026, F-63171 Aubière cedex, France

[David.thivel@uca.fr](mailto:David.thivel@uca.fr)

Phone and fax/ 0033 4 73 40 76 79

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**Key words.** Exercise; Energy Replacement; Appetite; Adolescents; Obesity

## Abstract

Exercise modifies energy intake in adolescents with obesity, but whether this is mediated by the exercise-induced energy deficit remains unknown. The present study examined the effect of exercise with and without dietary replacement of the exercise energy expenditure on appetite, energy intake and food reward in adolescents with obesity. Fourteen 12-15 years adolescents with obesity (8girls; Tanner3-4; BMI  $34.8\pm 5.7\text{kg/m}^2$ ; BMI-z score  $2.3\pm 0.4$ ) randomly completed 3 experimental conditions: i) rest control (CON); ii) 30-min cycling (EX); iii) 30-min cycling with dietary energy replacement (EX+R). *Ad libitum* energy intake (EI) was assessed at lunch and dinner, and food reward (Leeds Food Preference Questionnaire) before and after lunch. Appetite was assessed at regular intervals. Lunch, evening and total EI (excluding the post-exercise snack in EX-R) were similar across conditions. Lunch and total EI including the post-exercise snack in EX+R were higher in EX-R than CON and EX; EX and CON were similar. Total relative EI was lower in EX ( $1502\pm 488$  kcal) compared with CON ( $1713\pm 530$ ;  $p<0.05$ ) and higher in EX+R ( $1849\pm 486$  kcal) compared with CON ( $p<0.001$ ). Appetite and satiety quotients did not differ across conditions ( $p\geq 0.10$ ). Pre-meal explicit liking for fat was lower in EX compared to CON and EX+R ( $p=0.05$ ). There was time by condition interaction between EX and CON for explicit wanting and liking for fat ( $p=0.01$ ). Despite similar appetite and energy intake, adolescents with obesity do not adapt their post-exercise food intake to account for immediate dietary replacement of the exercise-induced energy deficit, favoring a short-term positive energy balance.

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## Introduction

The prevalence of pediatric overweight and obesity represents a continuing global public health challenge <sup>(1)</sup> and arises as a consequence of a chronic surplus of energy intake above energy expenditure <sup>(2)</sup>. Evidence supports a role for exercise in the control of body weight due to its ability to increase energy expenditure and induce a negative energy deficit in the absence of compensatory changes in energy intake <sup>(3)</sup>. The interplay between exercise, energy intake and appetite control in young people has attracted increasing scientific attention given the direct implications for energy homeostasis and body weight control.

It is well established that adults respond to acute moderate-to-high intensity exercise with a transient suppression in appetite and do not exhibit compensatory increases in appetite or *ad libitum* energy intake on the day of exercise <sup>(4; 5)</sup>. Single bouts of moderate-to-high intensity exercise have been shown to reduce *ad libitum* energy intake on the same day in children and adolescents with overweight or obesity but this effect has not been observed in healthy weight young people <sup>(6; 7; 8)</sup>. A recent review suggests that energy intake responses to acute exercise in young people may be modulated by physiological, neurocognitive and hedonic pathways <sup>(9)</sup>. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated recently that the exercise-induced reduction in *ad libitum* energy intake observed in adolescents with obesity appears to coincide with a reduction in food reward, evidenced by a reduction in the preference for high fat and sweet foods after exercise <sup>(10)</sup>. However, research examining hedonic responses to acute exercise stimuli in young people is sparse and further studies are required to enhance understanding of the interaction between exercise, appetite and energy intake in this population.

A handful of studies have examined the impact of energy intake manipulations in the immediate pre- or post-exercise periods on subsequent energy intake and appetite responses in young people. Specifically, it has been demonstrated that ingestion of a glucose solution immediately after 15 min of rest or moderate-to-vigorous intensity exercise reduced *ad libitum* energy intake independent of

exercise in boys who were lean or overweight <sup>(11)</sup>. Similarly, a reduction in *ad libitum* energy intake has also been observed after a glucose preload was ingested before 40 min of rest or exercise in normal weight boys and men, but the effect was augmented when combined with the exercise bout <sup>(12)</sup>. A recent study in adolescent boys and girls aged 12 to 14 years demonstrated that *ad libitum* energy intake was not altered in response to a mid-morning snack and an isoenergetic bout of cycling completed alone or in combination <sup>(13)</sup>. However, it is possible that the provision of a highly palatable pizza meal consumed in small peer groups may have influenced their *ad libitum* energy intake in the snack and exercise conditions <sup>(14)</sup>. The authors also reported that appetite was suppressed after snack intake but returned to control values before the *ad libitum* meal and were not influenced by exercise <sup>(13)</sup>. However, it is not known whether replacement of the exercise-induced energy deficit immediately after exercise alters subsequent appetite, energy intake and food reward responses in adolescents with obesity.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare the effects of acute exercise with and without immediate replacement of the exercise-induced energy deficit on *ad libitum* energy intake, appetite perceptions and food reward in adolescents with obesity. We formulate the hypothesis that the adolescents will not reduce their *ad libitum* energy intake in presence of an energy replacement snack after exercise, favoring then a higher overall energy balance.

## 115 **Methods**

### ***Population***

Fourteen adolescents with obesity (according to Cole et al <sup>(15)</sup>) aged 12 to 15 years (Tanner stage 3-4) were recruited through the local Pediatric Obesity Centre (Tza Nou, La Bourboule, France) to participate in this study (6 boys, 8 girls). This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, approved by the local ethics authorities (Human Ethical Committee: CPP ILE DE FRANCE 120 III; authorization reference: 2018-A02160-55) and registered with ClinicalTrials.gov (trial identifier: NCT03742622). All participants and their parent or legal guardian provided written informed assent or consent, respectively, before the study commenced. Participants were not taking any medications that could interact with the study outcomes, were engaging in less than 2 h of moderate physical

125 activity per week (according to the IPAQ short-form questionnaire)<sup>(16)</sup>, and did not exhibit high  
cognitive restraint (as assessed using the Child Three-Factor Eating Questionnaire (CTFEQr17))<sup>(17)</sup>.

### ***Preliminary measures***

130 After a preliminary medical screening visit with a clinical pediatrician to confirm eligibility,  
preliminary measurements were conducted to assess anthropometry and to determine peak oxygen  
uptake (peak  $\dot{V}O_2$ ). Height and body mass were determined using a standard wall-mounted  
stadiometer and digital scale (SECA, Les Mureaux, France), respectively. Body Mass Index (BMI) was  
calculated as body mass (kg) divided by height squared ( $m^2$ ), and BMI percentile was calculated using  
age- and sex-specific French reference curves <sup>(18)</sup>. Fat mass (FM) and fat-free mass (FFM) were  
assessed by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) (QDR4500A scanner, Hologic, Waltham, MA,  
135 USA).

### ***Peak oxygen uptake ( $\dot{V}O_2$ ) test***

Participants performed a peak  $\dot{V}O_2$  test on a traditional concentric cycle ergometer <sup>(19)</sup>. The initial  
power was set at 30 W for 3 minutes, and was increased in 15 W increments every minute until  
volitional exhaustion. Maximal criteria were: heart rate >90% of the age-predicted maximum heart  
140 rate ( $210 - 0.65 \times \text{age}$ ), respiratory exchange ratio (RER) > 1.1 and/or  $\dot{V}O_2$  plateau. Heart rate was  
monitored continuously using short-range telemetry (Polar V800, Polar Inc.) and 12-lead  
electrocardiography monitoring was conducted (Ultima Series<sup>TM</sup>, Saint Paul, MN). Oxygen  
consumption and carbon dioxide production were determined using an online breath-by-breath gas  
analysis system (BreezeSuite Software, Saint Paul, MN). Peak  $\dot{V}O_2$  was defined as the average of the  
145 last 30 s of exercise before exhaustion.

### ***Main trials***

Participants completed 3, 12 h trials (08:00am–08:00pm) in a random crossover design separated by  
one week: (1) rest control (CON); (2) exercise with energy deficit (EX); and (3) exercise with energy  
150 replacement (EX+R). Participants arrived at the laboratory at 08:00am on the morning of the trials  
after a 12 h overnight fast. The adolescents were requested not to engage in any moderate-to-  
vigorous physical activity during the two days that preceded each trial. Similarly, the adolescents  
were asked to avoid any food overconsumption and to record their intake on the day the preceded  
their first trial. They were asked to maintain a similar food consumption on the day before their two  
155 other trials.

During CON, participants were required to remain quiet and not to engage in any physical activity.  
During the exercise trials, participants cycled for 30 min (09:45am-10:15am) at 65% of their peak  $\dot{V}O_2$   
and then rested in the laboratory. Heart rate was monitored continuously and the exercise-induced  
energy expenditure was estimated using data from the peak  $\dot{V}O_2$  test. Immediately after the exercise  
160 session in EX-R, participants consumed an individually calibrated snack composed of bread, nuts,  
fruits and chocolate within 20 minutes to replace the estimated exercise-induced energy deficit ( $177 \pm 39$  kcal, respecting recommendations for age <sup>(20)</sup>.

165 **Standardized and ad libitum meals**

At 08:00am, participants consumed a standardised breakfast respecting the nutritional recommendation for age and consisting of white bread, butter, marmalade, yoghurt or semi-skimmed milk and fruit or fruit juice which provided 500 kcal. Participants were provided with an *ad libitum* buffet meal for lunch (12:00pm) and evening meal (07:00pm). Lunch consisted of beef steak, pasta (Lustucru, Grenoble Isère; France), mustard (Auchan brand, Croix, France), cheese (Camembert Auchan brand, Croix, France), yoghurt (plain yoghurt, Auchan Brand, Croix, France), compote (apple compote Andros, Biars-sur-Cère, France), fruits and bread (white bread), and the evening meal consisted of ham or turkey, beans, mashed potato, cheese (Camembert Auchan brand, Croix, France), yoghurt (plain yoghurt, Auchan Brand, Croix, France), compote (apple compote Andros, Biars-sur-Cère, France), fruit and bread (white bread). Food items were provided in excess of expected consumption and participants were instructed to eat until “comfortably satiated”. The adolescents made their choices and composed their trays individually. Their food selection was weighted by the investigators who served the adolescents. Importantly the adolescents were not aware that their plates were weighted and did not have any indication regarding the quantity of calories served. The weighted difference of food items was measured before and after the meal and intakes of energy and macronutrients were calculated using dietary analysis software (Bilnut v4.0 for Windows, La Fressinouze, France). Relative energy intake (REI) for the *ad libitum* lunch meal and total (*ad libitum* lunch and evening meals combined) were calculated as the energy intake *minus* the net energy expenditure of exercise.

185 **Subjective appetite ratings**

Appetite ratings were assessed throughout the day using visual analogue scales (150 millimeters scales) at baseline (fasted – 08:00 am), immediately after breakfast (08:30am), and then immediately before (09:45am) and after (10:15am) exercise, before (12:00pm) and after (01:00pm) lunch and before (07:00pm) and after (08:00pm) evening meal. Additional measurements were also obtained 30 and 60 min after lunch <sup>(21)</sup>. Specifically, the questions i) “how hungry do you feel?”, ii) “how full do you feel?”, iii) “would you like to eat something?”, and iv) “how much do you think you can eat?” provided an assessment of perceived hunger, fullness, drive to eat (DTE) and prospective food consumption (PFC), respectively. Total daily Area Under the Curves (AUC) for each appetite sensation were calculated as well as AUC for the 60 minutes post lunch. The satiety quotient (SQ) for hunger, fullness, PFC and DTE were calculated as follows <sup>(22)</sup>:

$$\text{Satiety quotient (mm/kcal)} = \frac{\text{pre-lunch appetite (mm)} - \text{mean 60 min post-lunch appetite (mm/h)}}{\text{energy content of lunch (kcal)}} \times 100$$

**Food liking and wanting**

The Leeds Food Preference Questionnaire (LFPQ; described in detail by Dalton and Finlayson <sup>(23)</sup>) provided a measure of food preference and food reward. Participants were presented with an array of pictures of individual food items common in the diet. Foods in the array were chosen by the local research team from a validated database to be either predominantly high (>50% energy) or low (<20% energy) in fat but similar in familiarity, protein content, palatability and suitable for the study

population. The LFPQ has been deployed in a range of research studies <sup>(23)</sup> including a recent exercise and appetite trial in young French boys <sup>(10)</sup>. Explicit liking and explicit wanting were measured by participants using 100 mm visual analogue scales to rate the extent they like each food (“How pleasant would it be to taste this food now?”) and want each food (“How much do you want to eat this food now?”). The food images were presented individually, in a randomized order. Implicit wanting and relative food preference were assessed using a forced choice methodology in which the food images were paired so that every image from each of the four food types was compared to every other type over 96 trials (food pairs). Participants were instructed to respond as quickly and accurately as they could to indicate the food they wanted to eat the most at that time (“Which food do you most want to eat now?”). To measure implicit wanting, reaction times for all responses were covertly recorded and used to compute mean response times for each food type after adjusting for frequency of selection. Responses on the LFPQ were used to compute mean scores for high fat, low fat, sweet or savoury food types (and different fat-taste combinations). Fat bias scores were calculated as the difference between the high-fat scores and the low-fat scores, with positive values indicating greater liking, wanting or choice for high-fat relative to low-fat foods and negative values indicating greater liking, wanting or choice for low-fat relative to high-fat foods. Sweet bias scores were calculated as the difference between the sweet and savoury scores, with positive values indicating greater liking or wanting for sweet relative to savoury foods and negative values indicating greater liking or wanting for savoury relative to sweet foods.

### ***Statistical analyses***

Statistical analyses were performed using Stata software, Version 13 (StataCorp, College Station, TX, US). The sample size estimation was determined according to (i) CONSORT 2010 statement, extension to randomized pilot and feasibility trials (Eldridge et al., 2016) and (ii) Cohen’s recommendations (Cohen, 1988) who has defined effect-size bounds as : small (ES: 0.2), medium (ES: 0.5) and large (ES: 0.8, “grossly perceptible and therefore large”). So, with 12 patients by condition, an effect-size around 1 can be highlighted for a two-sided type I error at 1.7% (correction due to multiple comparisons), a statistical power greater than 80% and an intra-class correlation coefficient at 0.5 to take into account between and within participant variability. Continuous data was expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) or median [interquartile range] according to statistical distribution. The assumption of normality was assessed using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Random-effects models for repeated data were performed with condition and time included as fixed factors and including a random effect for each participant. A Sidak’s type I error correction was applied to perform multiple comparisons. As proposed by some statisticians <sup>(24; 25)</sup> a particular focus was also given to the magnitude of differences, in addition to inferential statistical tests expressed using p-values. The normality of residuals from these models was studied using the Shapiro-Wilk test.



240 Although no gender difference was observed (certainly due to the relatively reduced sample size and then respective number of boys and girls), all statistical analyses were adjusted for gender.

## Results

245 Fourteen  $12.8 \pm 0.9$  years old adolescents with obesity participated in this study. Their mean body mass was  $95.3 \pm 16.1$  kg, with a BMI of  $34.8 \pm 5.7$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> (z-BMI  $2.3 \pm 0.4$ ), percentage of body fat mass of  $37.7 \pm 4.2$  % and FFM of  $57.4 \pm 8.2$  kg. The adolescents had a  $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$  of  $22.25 \pm 4.22$  ml/min/kg. Energy expenditure induced by exercise (total duration 30min) was higher compared to the 30-min resting energy expenditure ( $177 \pm 39$  kcal and  $56 \pm 6$  kcal, respectively;  $p < 0.001$ ).

### **Absolute and relative energy intake**

250 Table 1 displays the absolute and relative energy intake excluding the energy content of the post-exercise snack in EX-R. Lunch, evening and total daily absolute *ad libitum* energy intakes were not different across the conditions (main effect of condition  $P = 0.09$ ).

255 Absolute lunch and total energy intake including the energy content of the post-exercise snack in EX-R were different across conditions (main effect of condition  $p = 0.008$  and  $p = 0.0013$ , respectively) (Figure 1A). Both lunch and total energy intake were higher in EX-R compared with CON and EX but no difference was seen between EX and CON (Figure 1A).

260 Lunch REI (including the post-exercise snack in EX-R; main effect of condition was higher in EX+R ( $1040 \pm 329$  kcal) compared with both CON ( $931 \pm 315$  kcal) and EX ( $826 \pm 279$  kcal) ( $p < 0.001$ ). Lunch REI had a tendency to be lower in EX versus CON ( $p = 0.08$ ). Total REI (including the post-exercise snack in EX-R; main effect of condition was lower in EX ( $1502 \pm 488$  kcal) compared with CON ( $1713 \pm 530$ ) ( $p < 0.05$ ) and higher in EX+R ( $1849 \pm 486$  kcal) compared with CON ( $p < 0.001$ ). A tendency was found for total REI to be lower in EX compared with CON ( $p = 0.07$ ).

265 This Figure 2 illustrates the inter-individual variability of the lunch and total absolute and relative energy intake variations between the three experimental conditions (Figure 2).

### **Macronutrient intake**

270 Absolute protein consumption at the evening meal was different across conditions (main effect of condition  $p =$ ), with intakes lower in EX ( $39.6 \pm 16.9$  g) compared with CON ( $58.6 \pm 25.8$  g,  $p = 0.009$ ) and EX+R ( $51.1 \pm 16.8$  g,  $p = 0.0253$ ). No differences were observed in absolute protein intake at lunch or overall, or in absolute carbohydrate and fat intake at lunch, evening meal or overall.

The percentage of energy ingested from protein and CHO was not different across conditions at lunch, evening meal or overall. At the evening meal, the percentage of energy ingested through fat was lower in CON ( $21.9 \pm 10.8$  %) compared with both EX ( $31.3 \pm 9.7$  %,  $p = 0.043$ ) and EX+R ( $32.1 \pm 7.8$  %,  $p = 0.023$ ). In total (lunch and evening meal combined), the percentage of energy ingested from

275 fat was higher in EX+R ( $30.8 \pm 4.5 \%$ ) compared with CON ( $26.8 \pm 5.6 \%$ ,  $p=0.0363$ ), and was marginally higher in EX-R than EX ( $27.5 \pm 3.8 \%$ ) ( $p=0.063$ ).

### ***Appetite ratings***

280 As detailed in Table 2, none of the fasting, pre-lunch or total AUC values for hunger, fullness, PFC and DTE were different across conditions (all main effects of condition  $p \geq 0.10$ ). The AUC 60 minutes post lunch and satiety quotients, as satiating indicators, did not differ across conditions for any of the appetite ratings (all main effects of condition  $P=0.11$ ).

### ***Food reward***

285 As detailed in Table 3, no condition (exercise versus control), time (pre versus post meal) or interaction (time x condition) effects were found for Choice Taste Bias, Implicit Wanting Taste and Fat Bias, and Explicit Liking Taste Bias. Choice Fat Bias did not show any condition or interaction effect. Explicit Wanting Fat Bias was significantly reduced in response to the test meal in CON only ( $p=0.001$ ) and a time x condition interaction was observed between CON and EX ( $p=0.017$ ). Explicit Wanting Taste Bias only showed a significant reduction in response to the *ad libitum* test meal in 290 CON ( $p=0.03$ ). Pre-meal Explicit Liking Fat Bias showed a significant condition effect ( $p=0.05$ ) with EX being significantly lower than both CON ( $p=0.016$ ) and EX+R ( $p=0.01$ ). Explicit Liking Fat Bias also showed a condition x time interaction between CON and EX ( $p=0.026$ ).

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## **Discussion**

In accordance with our initial hypothesis, the primary finding of the present study was that 30- minutes of moderate-intensity cycling did not alter subsequent *ad libitum* energy intake or appetite in adolescents with obesity, irrespective of whether the exercise-induced energy deficit was replaced 300 immediately after exercise. The absence of adjustments in post-exercise energy intake suggests that maintenance of the exercise-induced energy deficit may be required to prevent the promotion of a positive energy balance on the same day of exercise.

Absolute energy intake at the *ad libitum* lunch and evening meals were similar between conditions resulting in higher energy intake in EX+R when accounting for the energy content of the post-

305 exercise snack. This resulted in a lower REI when the energy deficit was maintained after exercise, but REI was higher in EX+R than CON indicative of a positive energy balance on the day of exercise when the exercise-induced energy deficit was replaced. The lack of modification in post-exercise absolute energy intake might be explained by the moderate intensity of the exercise bout. Indeed, while our results are in line with some studies using similar exercise intensities <sup>(26; 27)</sup>, other studies  
310 conducted in similar populations reported reduced energy intake after single bouts of vigorous-intensity exercise (>70% of maximal capacity) <sup>(10; 28; 29)</sup>. This anorexigenic effect of vigorous-intensity exercise in adolescents with obesity has been confirmed in a recent systematic review and meta-analysis <sup>(8)</sup>. It is also possible that the absence of energy intake modification after exercise with an energy deficit in the present study may reflect the delay between the exercise bout and the *ad*  
315 *libitum* lunch meal. Previous studies have typically provided an *ad libitum* test meal approximately 30 minutes after exercise cessation <sup>(26; 29)</sup> whereas the *ad libitum* lunch meal was provided 2 h after exercise in the current investigation. In this regard, Albert et al. reported lower food intake after moderate-intensity exercise completed 30 minutes, but not 130 minutes, before a test meal in healthy weight adolescent boys <sup>(30)</sup>. Our study was not designed to investigate the importance of  
320 energy intake timing in the post-exercise period; therefore, further research is required before recommendations can be made.

The effect of immediate replacement of the exercise-evoked energy expenditure on subsequent energy intake responses in young people is restricted to one previous investigation in 12 to 14 year-old adolescents <sup>(13)</sup>. In accord with our findings, Varley-Campbell et al. did not find any differences in  
325 energy intake after acute exercise regardless of whether the exercise energy expenditure was replaced, resulting in a lower relative energy intake when the energy deficit was maintained <sup>(13)</sup>. Importantly, the authors employed a pizza buffet meal, which may have reduced the sensitivity to detect differences in energy intake due to the high palatability of the meal <sup>(14)</sup>. Consequently, the present work adopted a balanced buffet meal that was designed to provide familiar foods without  
330 promoting over-, under- or occasional/opportunistic consumption (as previously validated <sup>(31)</sup>).

Furthermore, the buffet meals adopted in this study allowed the exploration of specific macronutrient intakes. While we did not find any modification in the absolute consumption of fats, proteins and carbohydrates at lunch, absolute protein intake was lower at the evening meal after EX but not after EX+R. Interestingly, the total daily percentage of energy derived from fat was higher in EX+R compared to CON and EX. The reason underpinning these findings is unclear, with previous evidence examining the effect of exercise on macronutrient intake in young people yielded largely conflicting findings <sup>(8)</sup>. Nevertheless, the findings of the present study contribute to the extant literature examining energy and macronutrient intake responses to acute exercise in adolescents.

It has been shown previously in healthy weight boys and girls that ingestion of a mid-morning snack, both before acute exercise and an equivalent period or rest, suppressed hunger and PFC and elevated fullness compared to exercise and rest conditions with no snack provision <sup>(13)</sup>. The present study in adolescents with obesity observed no differences in any of the fasting, pre-meal or total daily appetite sensations after exercise inducing an energy deficit, supporting previous studies in adolescents with obesity <sup>(26; 32)</sup>. Our findings extend the current evidence base by demonstrating that subjective appetite is not altered in adolescents with obesity when the energy expenditure induced by exercise is replaced, contrasting the previously discussed findings in healthy weight boys and girls <sup>(13)</sup>. Clearly, the effect of acute exercise on appetite ratings and the interplay between subjective appetite sensations and energy intake requires further attention in this population, particularly given the largely contradictory results evident in the present literature (for review see <sup>(33)</sup>).

The Leeds Food Preference Questionnaire was adopted in this study to assess the adolescents' food reward immediately before and in response to an *ad libitum* lunch meal. Evidence examining the effect of acute exercise on food reward are relatively sparse <sup>(34; 35; 36)</sup>, especially in children and adolescents. Nevertheless, it has been reported recently that the preference for high-fat vs. low-fat foods was reduced in response to single bouts of aerobic and resistance exercise in healthy adult women using the LFPQ <sup>(36)</sup>. Furthermore, the hedonic "liking" of high-fat foods was lower after

resistance, but not after aerobic exercise, suggesting a potential role for exercise modality <sup>(36)</sup>. In adolescents with obesity, Miguet and colleagues showed recently that 16-minutes of high-intensity interval cycling decreased the relative preference for both fat and sweet taste, and implicit wanting for high-fat foods (using the LFPQ) in response to an *ad libitum* meal <sup>(10)</sup>. The present results also seem to suggest a potential effect of acute exercise on food reward in this population with a reduced pre-meal explicit liking for fat compared to the control condition which was not altered in the presence of post-exercise energy replacement (EX+R). Explicit Wanting for fat showed a significant interaction between CON and EX with a lower reduction in response to the test meal on EX compared with CON, whereas no time x condition interaction was observed between CON and EX+R. A significant interaction was also observed between CON and EX for Explicit Liking for fat that increased in response to the test meal in EX and decreased in CON. This suggests that an exercise-induced energy deficit may influence food reward in adolescents with obesity, while these effects are diminished after immediate replacement of the energy expenditure induced by exercise. Further work is required to confirm these findings and to determine the relevance in relation to exercise, appetite and energy balance in young people.

The present study is limited by the absence of a direct measurement of energy expenditure during the exercise bouts which may have under- or over-estimated the exercise-induced energy deficit. Longer exercise and/or performed at higher intensities might be considered to favor greater energy deficits, which might lead to divergent results. Other limitations like the absence of hormonal indicators (mainly those involved in the control of energy intake), the lack of control of the level of hydration of the adolescents and the relatively reduced sample size have to be considered when interpreting our results. Nevertheless, this study is the first to investigate the effect of post-exercise energy replacement on the subsequent appetite and energy intake responses in adolescents with obesity, a population where weight control strategies are likely to provoke the most clinical relevance.

In conclusion, adolescents with obesity do not alter their post-exercise *ad libitum* energy intake after immediate dietary replacement of the exercise-induced energy deficit. This results in a short-term positive energy balance which, if sustained over the long term, may have important implications for weight control in this population. Further work is required to confirm the clinical relevance of these findings, but cautious adoption of post-exercise energy replacement practices may be required in adolescents with obesity to optimize the beneficial effects of exercise.

### Authors' contribution

TD, MJ, DM, TA and YB designed the study. RJ, MM, FA, KM performed the data collection. KB, MM, GF, TD PB analyzed and interpreted the data. TD, YB, DM, AT and MM wrote and revised the paper.

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## Figures' list

475 **Figure 1.** Absolute (A) and relative (B) energy intake in the control (CON), exercise with energy deficit (EX) and exercise with energy replacement (EX+R) conditions. Values are mean (SD) for n = 14. Values for EX-R include the energy content of the post-exercise snack. (\*\*p<0.05 for the main effect of condition; a: p<0.05 versus control; c: p<0.001 versus Exercise).

480 **Figure 2.** Individual variation of absolute energy intake at lunch (A) and total (B) and of relative energy intake at lunch (C) and total (D) in the control (CON), exercise with energy deficit (EX) and exercise with energy replacement (EX+R) conditions. Values are mean (SD) for n = 14. Values for EX-R include the energy content of the post-exercise snack.

## 485 Tables

**Table 1.** Absolute and relative *ad libitum* energy intake in the control, exercise with energy deficit (EX) and exercise with energy replacement (EX+R) conditions.

	CON		EX		EX+R		P
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
<b>Absolute Energy Intake (kcal)</b>							
Lunch	987	315	1003	289	1040	329	0.44
Evening	782	319	676	295	809	177	0.17
Total	1769	532	1678	501	1849	486	0.09
<b>Relative Energy Intake (kcal)</b>							
Lunch	931	315	826	279	1040	329 <sup>*,c</sup>	0.0032
Total	1713	530	1502	488 <sup>*</sup>	1849	486 <sup>c</sup>	0.0020

Values are mean (SD) for n = 14 and are exclusive of the post-exercise snack consumed in EX-R. \*p<0.05 versus CON.

490 <sup>c</sup>p<0.001 versus EX; P values represent the main effect of condition.

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**Table 2.** Fasting, total area under the curve and satiety quotients for each appetite rating in the control (CON), exercise with energy deficit (EX) and exercise with energy replacement (EX+R) conditions.

CON	EX	EX+R	P
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	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
<b>Hunger</b>							
Fasting (mm)	68	48	81	48	97	38	0.10
Pre-lunch (mm)	91	36	83	45	87	37	0.76
SQ (mm/kcal)	8,7	3,5	7,5	4,3	8,1	5,1	0.59
AUC 60min post lunch (mm)	570	681	633	997	665	1061	0.82
Total AUC (mm)	9243	3747	9526	4703	9841	4304	0.51
<b>Fullness</b>							
Fasting (mm)	33	55	21	33	9	9	0.20
Pre lunch meal (mm)	22	25	27	40	23	30	0.97
SQ (mm/kcal)	-10,1	4,6	-5,4	9,8	-8,1	5,2	0.26
AUC 60min post lunch (mm)	7139	2037	4953	3442	5987	2746	0.11
Total AUC (mm)	23180	6988	17837	8877	19881	7918	0.17
<b>PFC</b>							
Fasting (mm)	71	43	80	44	85	40	0.69
Pre lunch meal (mm)	97	26	94	42	89	38	0.82
SQ (mm/kcal)	9,1	3,8	8,6	5,9	7,6	4,3	0.62
AUC 60min post lunch (mm)	888	1141	869	1095	905	1267	0.94
Total AUC (mm)	10253	5005	11297	5106	10574	5444	0.84
<b>DTE</b>							
Fasting (mm)	74	48	87	48	96	42	0.30
Pre lunch meal (mm)	100	36	96	44	89	39	0.63
SQ (mm/kcal)	9,6	3,9	8,3	3,8	7,8	4,6	0.31
AUC 60min post lunch (mm)	659	960	662	777	763	1145	0.79
Total AUC (mm)	10576	4922	11106	6076	9701	4826	0.42

Values are mean (SD) for n=14. SQ: Satiety Quotient; DTE: Desire To Eat; PFC: Prospective Food Consumption; AUC; Area Under the Curve; SD: Standard Deviation. P values represent the main effect of condition.

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**Table 3.** Pre- and post-lunch meal food reward in the control (CON), exercise with energy deficit (EX) and exercise with energy replacement (EX-R) conditions.

Choice	CON		EX		EX+R		p	Interaction time x condition		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		CON vs. EX	CON vs. EX+R	EX vs. EX+R
<i>Fat Bias</i>										

Before meal	6,4	10,4	5,6	10,0	4,8	7,2	0,71	0,97	0,76	0,75
After meal	8,29	10,1	7,6	8,8	6,5	6,3	0,42			
<i>p before vs. after meal</i>	0,01		0,22		0,26					
<b>Taste Bias</b>										
Before meal	5,5	12,3	2,15	13,0	4,4	11,8	0,49	0,21	0,35	0,74
After meal	5,7	12,4	5,54	11,8	7,4	13,2	0,68			
<i>p before vs. after meal</i>	0,88		0,11		0,06					
<b>Implicit Wanting</b>										
<b>Fat Bias</b>										
Before meal	4,6	40,3	16,29	25,9	2,6	27,9	0,22	0,06	0,24	0,16
After meal	28,3	47,1	12,51	13,7	24,4	82,9	0,18			
<i>p before vs. after meal</i>	0,10		0,29		0,12					
<b>Taste Bias</b>										
Before meal	18,5	39,8	-0,26	42,0	15,5	30,3	0,78	0,57	0,99	0,32
After meal	20,7	34,6	17,51	29,4	18,7	36,1	0,73			
<i>p before vs. after meal</i>	0,93		0,18		0,60					
<b>Explicit Wanting</b>										
<b>Fat Bias</b>										
Before meal	15,5	7,5	11,90	7,5	15,1	14,7	0,80	0,017	0,84	0,26
After meal	4,7	6,1	10,74	9,0	5,7	10,4	0,32			
<i>p before vs. after meal</i>	0,001		0,92		0,08					
<b>Taste Bias</b>										
Before meal	17,2	12,2	16,10	12,0	17,6	20,8	0,87	0,94	0,78	0,84
After meal	9,3	9,4	8,60	10,6	11,8	11,6	0,64			
<i>p before vs. after meal</i>	0,03		0,12		0,26					
<b>Explicit Liking</b>										
<b>Fat Bias</b>										
Before meal	14,4	7,4**	1,60	12,9	9,0	16,4**	0,05	0,026	0,50	0,25
After meal	7,9	9,7	8,08	8,2	7,3	8,1	0,97			
<i>p before vs. after meal</i>	0,09		0,21		0,72					
<b>Taste Bias</b>										
Before meal	17,7	12,0	8,90	18,1	15,0	18,5	0,23	0,22	0,17	0,76
After meal	9,2	10,3	7,46	9,4	18,6	15,9	0,15			
<i>p before vs. after meal</i>	0,06		0,91		0,65					

Values are mean (SD) for n=14. CON: control condition; EX: Exercise condition; EX+R: Exercise + Energy Replacement condition; SD: Standard Deviation, \*\*p<0.01 versus EX