

The Effect of Aquatic Exercise on Quality of Life, Body Mass index and cardiovascular Markers in Middle-aged Women: a pilot study

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Abstract

Background & Aim: Midlife is one of the most important steps of life that in case of lack of exercise, can lead to a significant reduction in quality of life. The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of 8 weeks of Aquatic Exercise on quality of life, Body Mass index, and cardiovascular Markers in Middle-aged Women.

Methods: After measuring anthropometric markers, 20 women aged between 45 and 55 years were randomly assigned into two groups of aquatic exercise (n=10) and control (n=10). In the baseline stage, both groups completed WHOQOL-BREF scale to assess the quality of life. Moreover, Body Mass index and cardiovascular Markers were measured. The exercises in aquatic exercise group were performed in 60 minutes sessions twice a week for eight weeks. At the end of the eighth week, study parameters were measured in both groups.

Results: Eight weeks of aquatic exercise significantly increased the quality of life in middle-aged women ($P=0.001$), so that in addition to the overall life quality scores, the subscales including mental health ($P=0.001$), social relationships ($P=0.02$) and environmental health ($P=0.001$) were improved. In addition, blood pressure ($P=0.04$) and body mass index ($P=0.001$) were significantly decreased.

Conclusion: Eight weeks of aquatic exercise may significantly increase the quality of life and improve Body Mass index and cardiovascular indices in middle-aged women.

Keywords: Aquatic exercise, middle-aged women, quality of life, Body Mass Index

