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1 **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH CLINICAL OUTCOME**
2 **MEASURES IN ADULTS WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS; A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW.**

3

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10 **RUNNING TITLE: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN ADULTS WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS.**

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29

30 **Conflict of Interest**

31 The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

32 **ABSTRACT**

33 *Background:* Physical activity (PA) is important in the management of Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and
34 is associated with a number of beneficial effects. PA assessment is not commonplace or
35 consistent clinical practice, therefore understanding of PA in adults with CF remains limited.
36 The purpose of this review was to evaluate PA levels in this population and compare PA to
37 global recommendations and non-CF peers.

38 *Methods:* The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
39 guidelines were utilised to inform the review process. Original research was identified and
40 screened against inclusion/exclusion criteria. Quality was assessed, data extracted and a
41 narrative synthesis undertaken to describe the findings.

42 *Results:* Adults with CF did not achieve recommended PA guidelines and step count targets
43 in 5/8 studies where assessment was possible. No significant differences in PA were found
44 between CF and non-CF peers in 3/5 studies. Associations between PA and improved lung
45 function were inconsistent with 4/9 studies finding a positive association. Evidence for an
46 association between PA and higher exercise capacity was stronger with all 4 studies reviewed
47 reporting a positive association. Quality ratings were low across all studies.

48 *Conclusions:* PA in adults with CF is largely comparable to their non-CF peers, despite being
49 insufficiently active to achieve PA recommendations. Assessment tools used and outcomes
50 reported are variable, many of which do not provide sufficient information to assess relevant
51 components of PA. There is a requirement for high quality studies designed specifically to
52 explore PA in adults with CF, ideally employing standardised PA assessment methods.

53

54 **KEYWORDS**

55 PRISMA; respiratory disease; exercise; quality of life.

56

57 **ABBREVIATIONS**

58 PA, Physical activity; SB, Sedentary behaviour; PRISMA, Preferred Reporting Items
59 for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses; MVPA, Moderate-Vigorous Physical
60 Activity; METs, Metabolic Equivalents.

61 1. INTRODUCTION

62 Life expectancy of patients with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) continues to increase with improvements
63 in treatments over recent decades, resulting in a greater proportion of adults living with CF [1].
64 Physical activity (PA) is associated with a number of potential benefits in the management of
65 CF including positive effects on lung function [2], mucociliary clearance [3], bone health [4]
66 and hospitalisation frequency [5]. Higher levels of PA are also associated with improved
67 exercise capacity [6], which is in turn associated with reduced mortality in patients with CF [7].
68 PA promotion is therefore recommended as part of the routine management of CF [8,9].
69 Despite this PA assessment is not common or consistent [8]. However, CF presents patients
70 with a number of potential barriers to PA including; physical symptoms (breathlessness,
71 increased cough, fatigue), high treatment burden and low self-efficacy for PA [10].

72 PA can be defined as any bodily movement produced by contraction of skeletal muscle that
73 substantially increases energy expenditure, this includes leisure-time PA, occupational PA
74 and exercise [11]. Various self-reported and objective methods are reported in the literature
75 for the assessment of PA in adults with CF, however inconsistencies in measurement tools,
76 outcome measures reported and study design used limit our understanding of PA behaviour
77 and its health associations in this population. It is generally accepted that patients with CF
78 engage in less PA than their non-CF peers, this is particularly evident for vigorous PA [12],
79 however this finding is inconsistent across the multiple assessment methods reported in the
80 literature. Furthermore, little is known about sedentary behaviour (SB) in this population
81 despite high levels of SB being negatively associated with health outcomes and
82 cardiometabolic diseases in the general population, even among individuals achieving PA
83 guidelines of 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous PA a week [13]. High levels of SB are
84 considered as an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease and mortality [13], yet
85 remain relatively unexplored in an ageing CF population.

86 There are currently no PA guidelines specifically developed for individuals with CF, although
87 guidelines for the general population appear to be applicable with some modifications
88 depending on disease progression [14]. For the purpose of this review, the global physical
89 activity guidelines outlined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) were used when
90 interpreting reported PA levels. It is recommended that adults (18-64 years) should take part
91 in at least 150 minutes of moderate-vigorous intensity aerobic PA (MVPA) or 75 minutes of
92 vigorous intensity PA throughout the week [15]. The variation in outcome measures reported
93 in the studies reviewed makes it difficult to compare reported levels of PA to recommended
94 guidelines, comparison is therefore only possible in a small number of the studies reviewed.
95 Achieving 10,000 steps daily also provides a reasonable estimate of daily activity and

96 individuals achieving this typically meet the recommendations of 150 minutes MVPA per week
97 [16]. Therefore assessing step count can help to quantify PA and through the use of the indices
98 can provide information for screening, surveillance and intervention evaluation [16].

99 A large proportion of the PA research conducted in CF populations has been undertaken with
100 children and adolescents [8] and may not be transferable to adult populations. It is well
101 documented that PA declines with age in the general population [17] which may also be
102 exacerbated by worsening disease severity in CF. Given the increasing life expectancy and
103 number of adults living with CF, an understanding of PA levels in adult populations is required.
104 It is important that healthcare professionals are familiar with PA guidelines, engage patients
105 in conversation around PA and are able provide advice and signpost patients to relevant
106 resources.

107 **1.1 Aims**

108 The purpose of this review therefore, is to: 1) Establish the physical activity levels of adults
109 with CF. 2) Compare reported PA levels between CF patients and their non-CF peers. 3)
110 Examine the associations between PA and markers of health in adults with CF.

111

112 **2. METHODS**

113 The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA)
114 guidelines were utilised to inform the review process [18]. Studies that assessed PA in adults
115 with CF and were published from database inception to Feb 28th 2018 were identified. An *a*
116 *priori* defined protocol was utilised to identify relevant articles that were then systematically
117 screened against inclusion and exclusion criteria. The published protocol can be accessed via
118 the PROSPERO database (CRD42018088434).

119 A narrative synthesis was performed to provide a summary of the assessment tools used,
120 outcomes reported and overall quality of PA assessment [19]. An assessment of the quality of
121 evidence was made to support the strength of the findings and conclusions made. It was not
122 possible to conduct a meta-analysis due to the wide variation in the methods used to assess
123 PA, the inconsistency of outcome measures reported and the low quality ratings of the
124 available literature.

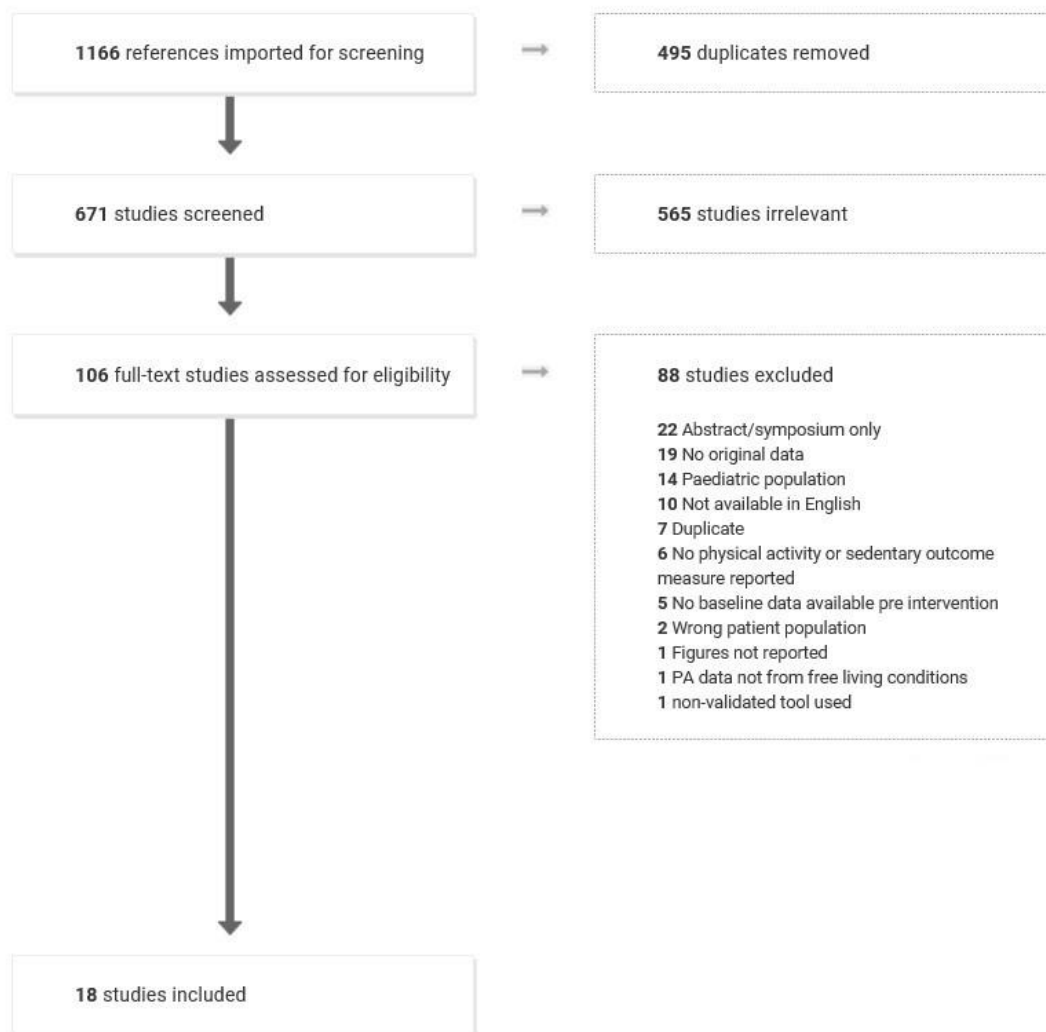
125 **2.1 Search strategy and initial screening**

126 Electronic databases SCOPUS (Elsevier, EMBASE & ScienceDirect), Web of Science,
127 Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (MEDLINE) (Cumulative Index of
128 Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), SportDiscus & Psychinfo) and Oalster grey
129 literature were searched using search terms individually tailored for each database (Figure 1).
130 Databases were selected to provide comprehensive coverage of indexed journals, which
131 publish studies from relevant healthcare and PA fields. Title and abstract screening was
132 employed to identify relevant articles and remove articles that were not eligible, this was
133 preferred to applying search limits or 'NOT' terms. Reasons for removing articles at this stage
134 included; non-CF population, paediatric population, no original data reported, not peer
135 reviewed and written in languages other than English. No restrictions were applied to the date
136 of publication, owing to the limited number of studies in a relatively novel field. The search
137 terms yielded 1166 hits, representing 671 unique articles (Figure 2). A further 565 articles
138 were removed during title and abstract screening, using the same criteria as above, resulting
139 in screening of 106 full-text articles. Full-text articles were screened against inclusion and
140 exclusion criteria, leaving 18 articles for data extraction (Figure 2). Study characteristics are
141 presented as supplementary material (additional file 1) References of all included papers were
142 screened, although this did not yield any additional articles.

143 Figure 1 – Boolean search terms

OR	AND
'physical activity'	'Cystic Fibrosis'.
'habitual activity',	
'sedentary behaviour'	
'accelerometers'	
'motion sensors'	
'actigraph'	
'geneactiv'	
'sensewear'	
'activpal'	
'HAES'	
'caltrac'	
'IPAQ'	
& variations on each term	

144 **Figure 2 - PRISMA flowchart**



145

146 **2.2 Application of eligibility criteria**

147 Inclusion criteria included; measurement of physical activity and/or sedentary behaviour (SB)
 148 using a measurement tool validated for use in the general adult population and/or adults with
 149 CF. Baseline PA and/or SB reported prior to any interventions. Preferable but not essential
 150 criteria included; data reported for clinical outcome measures (lung function, exercise
 151 capacity, quality of life (QoL)).

152

153 Exclusion criteria included; paediatric (<18 years), non-CF or mixed populations where adult
 154 and paediatric data were not separated, use of non-validated methods for assessing PA and/or
 155 SB, no reporting of PA and/or SB or no baseline data available. Additionally, studies not written
 156 in English, providing no original data or that were not peer reviewed were also excluded.
 157 Studies that were written as abstracts only rather than full papers were also excluded. No
 158 restrictions were applied for study design. Randomised control trials, interventional and

159 observational studies were considered based on satisfaction of the inclusion/exclusion criteria
160 outlined above. Five articles were excluded as 'paediatric population' although they reported
161 data for mixed adult and paediatric populations or defined adults by criteria other than ≥ 18
162 years [6,20–23]. Whilst these articles may contain potentially relevant data the original authors
163 were not able to provide the data on the request of the reviewers in the given time frame.
164 Additionally, all studies that were excluded and used accelerometry are listed alongside the
165 reason for exclusion (additional file 2).

166 **2.3 Data extraction**

167 A modified version of the 'Cochrane Data Extraction Form', from the Cochrane Handbook for
168 Systematic Reviews of Interventions (version 5.1) [24] was used. The form was modified to
169 include relevant participant characteristics and outcome measures. Two authors (JS, ED)
170 independently extracted the data, discrepancies were resolved through discussion, with a third
171 reviewer (LB) where necessary. Extracted information included: Article characteristics; year of
172 publication, journal, funding source, publication type. Study setting; study population and
173 participant demographics and baseline characteristics. Study methodology; recruitment and
174 study completion rates; outcomes and times of measurement. Information for assessment of
175 the risk of bias.

176 **2.4 Risk of bias assessment**

177 Two reviewers (JS, ED) independently assessed the risk of bias for the included studies using
178 the Cochrane risk of bias tool, agreement was reached between the reviewers although a third
179 reviewer (LB) was available if required (Table 1).

180 **Table 1 – Risk of bias assessment of studies included for review.**

	Allocation concealment	Blinding of outcome assessors	Blinding of participants & personnel	Sequence Generation	Incomplete outcome data	Selective outcome reporting
Bhudhikanok 1998 [42]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Cox 2016 [5]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Currie 2017 [37]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Decorte 2017 [33]	low	high	high	high	low	low
Elkin 2001 [39]	high	high	high	unclear	low	low
Enright 2004 [38]	low	low	unclear	high	low	low
Enright 2007 [43]	high	low	high	high	low	low
Gruet 2016 [35]	unclear	high	high	high	low	low
Haworth 1999 [34]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Hollander 2005 [32]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Ionescu 2003 [40]	high	high	high	high	low	unclear
Rasekaba 2013 [36]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Savi 2013 [31]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Savi 2015 [30]	high	high	high	high	low	high
Savi 2015 [28]	high	high	high	high	high	high
Street 2006 [41]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Troosters 2009 [12]	high	high	high	high	low	low
Ziai 2016 [29]	high	high	high	high	low	low

181 **2.5 Data synthesis**

182 A narrative synthesis was used to describe the data in three sections; 1) PA levels of adults
183 with CF in comparison to global PA recommendations, 2) PA levels of adults with CF in
184 comparison to non-CF peers, 3) The relationship between PA and clinical outcome measures.

185 **2.5.1 Moderate-Vigorous Physical Activity**

186 Studies reporting a measure of PA described with a time unit, were compared to the 150
187 minutes of MVPA per week recommendation. In studies only measuring PA over 5 days the
188 150 minutes of MVPA recommendation was interpreted as 30 minutes per day on 5 days of
189 the week.

190 **2.5.2 Metabolic Equivalent (MET)**

191 MET refers to metabolic equivalent, where 1 MET is the rate of energy expenditure while sitting
192 at rest and is equivalent to an oxygen uptake of 3.5 millilitres per kilogram (kg) per minute, or
193 a caloric consumption of 1kcal/kg/hour. METs are used to attempt to classify PA intensity in a
194 number of studies reviewed, for example, a 3 MET activity expends 3 times the amount of
195 energy used at rest. For the purposes of this review the following definitions are applied;
196 moderate intensity (3-6 METs), vigorous activity (>6 METs) [25]. METs can also be expressed
197 as MET-minutes, whereby the metabolic equivalence of an activity is multiplied by the number
198 of minutes spent engaging in the activity. For example engaging in an activity of 3 METs for
199 30 minutes is equal to 90 MET-minutes. Consequently, 150 minutes MVPA per week equate
200 to 450 MET-minutes per week, therefore recommendations for MET minutes per week are
201 ≥ 450 MET-minutes per week.

202 **2.5.3 Steps**

203 Whilst it is not possible to make comparisons with the WHO guidelines, the following indices
204 were applied to classify PA based on the number of daily steps reported; Sedentary (<5000),
205 low active (5000-7499), somewhat active (7500-9999), active ($\geq 10,000$), highly active
206 ($> 12,500$) [16]. Total physical activity described as time spent in weight bearing activity or
207 walking was reported in two studies. It is not possible to compare levels of PA among adults
208 with CF to recommended guidelines for MVPA using this data as there is no description of
209 intensity.

210 **2.5.4 Energy expenditure**

211 Energy expenditure (EE) represents the sum of resting energy expenditure and the thermic
212 effect of digestion in addition to physical activity [25]. Studies in the current review reported
213 total energy expenditure (TTE) and not specifically the energy expenditure associated with

214 PA. Whilst it has been proposed that adherence to recommended PA guidelines yields an
215 energy expenditure of ~1000 kcal-wk⁻¹, which is associated with improved health outcomes
216 [26], TEE alone does not provide suitable information to assess if adults with CF achieved
217 recommended guidelines for PA.

218 **2.5.5 PA indices**

219 The Baecke and Physical Activity Self-Administered Questionnaire (AQAP) questionnaires
220 provide a PA index. The work domain classified occupations as; Low activity (1), Moderate
221 activity (3), High activity (5). Sport and leisure domains were calculated by assigning a MET
222 value for specified activities and assessing the time spent engaging in such activities again
223 resulting in a PA score between 1-5. The sum of the three categories (work, sport, leisure)
224 provides a total PA score between 3-15 [27]. These data do not provide information on minutes
225 of PA therefore cannot be compared to PA guidelines.

226 **3. RESULTS**

227 **3.1 Reporting of PA in adults with CF**

228 In the 18 studies reviewed 33 separate outcome measures were reported using 11
 229 assessment tools including 1 accelerometer (SenseWear Pro 3 armband) and 10 separate
 230 self-report questionnaires (Table 2).

231 **Table 2 – Summary of assessment tools utilised and outcome measures reported.**

Accelerometer	
SenseWear Pro 3 armband [5,12,28–31]	Total energy expenditure (Kcal/day)
	Steps per day
	Total METs
	Total PA (mins/day)
	Light PA (mins/day)
	Moderate PA (mins/day)
	Vigorous PA (mins/day)
	Moderate to vigorous PA (mins/day)
Questionnaire	
Habitual Activity Estimation Scale (HAES) [31]	Total inactivity (min/day)
	Total activity (min/day)
Baecke [32–34]	Activity score
	Activity factor for sedentary lifestyle (1.5, 1.7, 2.1)
	Work index
	Sport index
	Leisure index
Physical Activity self-Administered Questionnaire (AQAP) [35]	Sport index
	Leisure index
	Global index
International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) [36]	Work (min/week)
	Transport (min/week)
	Domestic (min/week)
	Leisure (min/week)
	Walking (min/week)
	Moderate (min/week)
	Vigorous (min/week)
Recall questionnaires [37–43]	METs (weekly)
	METs (daily)
	METs (1.5 Light) (hrs/week)
	METs (4 Moderate) (hrs/week)
	METS (6 Hard) (hrs/week)
	METs (10 Very hard) (hrs/week)
	Lying time (min/day)
	Energy expenditure (Kcal/day)

232 **3.2 Levels of PA in adults with CF compared to recommended PA guidelines**

233 Comparison between PA levels in adults with CF and global physical activity guidelines was
234 only possible in 8 [5,12,28-30,,36, 37,43] of the 18 studies reviewed. Adults with CF only met
235 PA guidelines in 3 [5,36,37] of the 8 studies, only one of which used objective methods to
236 assess PA [5]. Table 3 displays the findings for the 13 studies which did not include a control
237 group.

238 **3.2.1 Studies reporting objectively assessed PA**

239 Accelerometry was used in 3 of these studies [5,28,29] although only two reported MVPA
240 [5,28] with a third reporting step count and TEE [29]. Of the two studies reporting MVPA,
241 participants achieved recommended PA guidelines in one [5]. In the study in which participants
242 did not achieve recommended PA guidelines, step count was also reported, which would
243 indicate that patients were 'somewhat active', despite not meeting guidelines for MVPA [28].
244 Despite using similar assessment methods in groups of comparable disease severity and
245 participant characteristics the two studies reported different levels of MVPA. The final study
246 [29] using objective assessment only reported step count, however these values appear to be
247 similar to those previously reported [28], with both studies reporting 'somewhat active' cohorts
248 achieving 8874 and 9508 steps respectively.

249 **3.2.2 Studies reporting self-reported PA**

250 One study [37] used a 7-day recall questionnaire to assess PA, and whilst this tool has
251 previously been validated for use in CF [20], reported levels of PA are high in contrast to
252 objectively assessed PA, with patients exceeding PA recommendations, reporting a mean of
253 282 minutes of moderate, hard or very hard PA per week. Three studies used the Baecke
254 questionnaire [32–34], with a fourth using the AQAP [35], all of which report PA as an activity
255 score and therefore results cannot be compared to PA guidelines. Furthermore one study did
256 not provide group means, which prevented interpretation [32]. Gruet *et al.* (2016) reported an
257 overall PA score of 9 (of a possible 15) which may suggest that the population studied were
258 moderately active [35]. Haworth *et al.* (1999) reported an activity score of 7.6 which likely
259 represents low levels of activity in the study group [34]. Decorte *et al.* (2017) reported 2.6, 2.3
260 and 3.2 for work, sport and leisure time indices respectively, which suggests that occupational
261 activity and engagement in sport were low in the population studied, whilst leisure time activity
262 was higher [33].

263 Two studies reported mean daily METs [38,40] assessed using recall questionnaires, which
264 does not provide information for comparison to recommended PA guidelines. Both studies

265 reported similar levels of PA (36.7 and 37.6 daily METs, respectively) which were reported to
266 be comparable to non-CF young adults [38].

267 Energy expenditure was reported based on self-reported PA in one study [39]. Whilst it is not
268 possible to make assumptions about PA levels from energy expenditure, the data reported
269 indicates that TEE in the cohort studied (2071.39 Kcal) is comparable to what could be
270 predicted for a typical sedentary/low active adult [25].

271 The final studies reported total PA (time spent walking or doing sport) and weight bearing PA
272 using self-report techniques [41,42]. The data reported did not include any information about
273 intensity, which again prevents interpretation in the context of WHO recommended guidelines.
274 The two studies reported considerably different values with Street *et al.* (2006) describing what
275 could be considered as an active cohort (engaging in 11.3hrs per week of PA, including
276 walking and sport) whilst data provided by Bhudikanok *et al.* (1998) would suggest that the
277 cohort were inactive (engaging in 3hrs per week of weight bearing PA). It is possible that the
278 two report different aspects of PA which is not clear from the methods described.

279 **3.2.3 Sedentary behaviour (SB)**

280 No studies assessed SB, although lying time was reported in one study, finding no significant
281 difference between adults with CF (452.1 mins/day) and their non-CF peers (493.5 mins/day)
282 ($P=0.11$) [31]. Inactivity, assessed using the HAES, was also reported and was not different
283 between groups (367 vs. 376.6 mins/day for CF and non-CF respectively ($P=0.74$)) [31],
284 however inactivity describes insufficient levels of PA to meet guidelines and not necessarily
285 SB [45].

286

287 **Table 3 – Comparison between reported PA in adults with CF and PA recommendations.**

288

289

290 **[Insert Table 3 here – attached as additional file]**

291

292

293 **3.3 Levels of PA in adults with CF compared to their non-CF peers**

294 Whilst recommended PA guidelines provide a reference value to assess PA in adults with CF,
295 it is also well recognised that a large proportion of the general adult population do not meet
296 recommended PA guidelines [17]. It may therefore be more appropriate to compare adults

297 with CF to comparable non-CF control groups rather than public health guidelines to determine
298 if differences exist between the cohorts. Five studies [12,30,31,36,43] reported PA levels for
299 a comparable non-CF control group, PA was therefore compared between these groups
300 (Table 4).

301 **3.3.1 Studies reporting objectively assessed PA**

302 Three studies reported objectively assessed PA [12,30,31]. Time spent engaging in MVPA
303 was significantly higher in the control group when compared to adults with CF in one study
304 [12]. No significant differences were found between groups across any other outcome reported
305 in the remaining studies, additionally, the significant difference found by Troosters *et al.* (2009)
306 was found in activity above moderate intensity, with no difference at light intensity or in daily
307 step count [12]. Step count was reported in two studies, neither found a significant difference
308 between groups, however in both studies the control group would be considered as 'active'
309 based on the daily number of steps (10281 and 10591 steps respectively), whereas each of
310 the CF groups failed to meet this threshold (9398 and 9161 steps respectively) [12,30].
311 Although there is evidence to suggest that there are beneficial effects associated with taking
312 10,000 steps, cut-points such as this should be interpreted with caution.

313 **3.3.2 Studies reporting self-reported PA**

314 Three studies used self-report tools to assess PA [31,36,43]. PA was higher in the non-CF
315 control group in 1 study [36], there were no significant differences in the remaining 2 studies
316 [31,43]. The significant difference observed between the CF and non-CF groups was found
317 for total PA (MET min-week) (5309 and 7808 respectively, ($P=0.011$)) [36]. No significant
318 differences were found between groups for MVPA, additionally, Rasekaba *et al.* (2013)
319 described comparable levels of PA across domestic, leisure, moderate-vigorous domains, with
320 reduced total activity being explained by reduced PA in work and transport domains [36]. The
321 proportion of adults with CF and non-CF controls who met recommended guidelines for PA
322 was also comparable with 93% in each group [36].

323 One study used both a validated questionnaire (HAES) and an accelerometer [31]. No
324 significant correlation was observed between PA assessed using the objective or subjective
325 methods ($P>0.05$), with self-reported PA being over-estimated in both groups, which may
326 suggest an influence of measurement tool on PA [31].

327 **Table 4 – Comparison between reported levels of PA in adults with CF and**
328 **comparable non-CF control groups.**

329

330

331 **[Insert Table 4 here – attached as additional file]**

332

333

334 **3.4 Relationship between PA and clinical outcome measures**

335 Thirteen studies explored the relationship between PA and other clinical outcome measures
336 (lung function, body mass index (BMI), exercise capacity, exacerbation frequency)
337 [5,12,40,42,43,28–31,34,36,37,39]. Whilst the remaining 5 studies [32,33,35,38,41] reported
338 data on some of these outcome measures no correlations with PA were performed or reported.

339 *3.4.1 Lung Function*

340 Five studies reported on the relationship between lung function expressed as FEV₁ or FEV₁%
341 predicted and objectively assessed PA [5,12,28,30,31]. Though MVPA was not different
342 across categories of disease severity (FEV₁ <40, 40-60, 60-80 >80% predicted), participants
343 engaging in 30 minutes or more MVPA per day had higher lung function than those engaging
344 in less than 30 minutes MVPA [5]. Time spent engaging in MVPA was also positively
345 associated with FEV₁% predicted ($P=0.04$) [28]. Troosters *et al.* (2009) did not find a
346 correlation between MVPA and FEV₁, although number of steps was positively correlated with
347 near significance with FEV₁ ($R=0.39$, $P=0.08$) [12]. Savi *et al.* (2015) also found no correlation
348 between MVPA and lung function [30]. MVPA was not reported by Savi *et al.* (2013), who
349 reported on energy expenditure, finding a significant correlation between FEV₁ and activity
350 energy expenditure during both week days ($r=0.436$, $P=0.05$) and weekends ($r=0.435$,
351 $P=0.05$) [31].

352 Four studies reported the relationship between lung function and self-reported PA
353 [36,37,40,43]. No significant difference in FEV₁% was found between participants who
354 achieved recommended PA guidelines compared to those who did not achieve guidelines [37].
355 No relationship was found between FEV₁ and self-reported PA, although low PA was
356 associated with reduced vital capacity (VC) and total lung capacity (TLC) ($P<0.01$) [43]. Higher
357 PA (MET·min·week) was associated with better lung function (FEV₁), although the relationship
358 was weak ($R=0.26$, $P<0.05$) and not statistically significant when analysing males alone, which
359 may indicate gender differences in PA levels [36]. Patients with severe impairment (FEV₁
360 <45% predicted) were less active than those with mild impairment (FEV₁ >65% predicted)
361 ($P<0.01$), with no difference between moderate and severe impairment [40].

362 3.4.2 *Exercise capacity*

363 Four studies explored the relationship between exercise capacity and PA, all of which
364 assessed PA using objective methods [5,12,30,31]. All found positive associations between
365 PA (Total PA (($R=0.51$, $P=0.02$)) [31] and MVPA (($\beta=0.59$, $P=0.002$, ($R^2=0.32$)), ($R=0.44$
366 $p=0.01$)) [5,12,30]) and exercise capacity (VO_{2peak} [5,12,30] and 6-minute walk test distance
367 [31]). This relationship was not evident when using the HAES questionnaire to assess PA [31].

368 3.4.3 *Exacerbations*

369 Two studies explored the relationship between exacerbation and hospitalisation frequency
370 and objectively assessed PA [5,28]. More frequent exacerbations were associated with lower
371 PA, although this was not significant once corrected for other clinical covariates [28]. Time
372 spent engaging in MVPA was moderately, yet significantly correlated with reduced need for
373 hospitalisation ($r_s=-0.3$, $P=0.05$) [5].

374 3.4.4 *Body composition*

375 Three studies explored the relationship between body composition and self-reported PA
376 [36,40,43]. Lower PA was associated with lower fat free mass (FFM) [40,43] but not BMI [36].

377 Four studies [34,39,40,42] explored the relationship between self-reported PA and bone
378 mineral density (BMD), all of which reported a positive association between higher PA and
379 higher BMD (($r=0.249$, $P,0.05$), ($r=0.3$, $P<0.01$),($r=0.53$, $P<0.01$)) [34,39,40] with the exception
380 of Bhudikanok *et al.* (1998) who reported no association [42].

381 3.4.5 *Blood glucose control*

382 Two studies reported on the association between blood glucose control and PA, using
383 objective [29] and self-reported PA assessment [37]. No significant association between blood
384 glucose control and PA was reported in either study [29,37] .

385 3.4.6 *Quality of Life (QoL)*

386 Only one study reported on quality of life, finding higher scores for QoL in patients achieving
387 recommendations for MVPA when compared to those who did not ($P<0.05$) [5].

388 **4. DISCUSSION**

389 In the majority of studies reviewed adults with CF fail to meet recommended PA and step
390 count guidelines. Non-CF peers also failed to meet guidelines, with comparable levels of PA
391 between adults with CF and their non-CF peers. There was low quality evidence to support
392 associations between lung function, exercise capacity and PA. Associations between PA and

393 clinical variables were more evident in studies using objective PA assessments, when
394 compared to those using self-reported PA.

395 **4.1 Achievement of recommended PA guidelines**

396 Adults with CF did not achieve recommended PA guidelines and daily step count targets in
397 five out of the eight studies in which comparison to guidelines was possible. However, their
398 non-CF peers also failed to achieve recommended guidelines in two out of five studies. Many
399 of the assessment tools used did not provide sufficient information about frequency, intensity
400 and time of PA to allow for comparison to guidelines. Whilst it is recommended that patients
401 meet PA guidelines it is also worth noting that a small increase in PA levels is associated with
402 beneficial effects on health outcomes and risk of all-cause mortality, even when recommended
403 levels are not achieved. Such health benefits can be achieved by individuals moving from the
404 category of 'no activity' to 'some levels of' of activity [15].

405 **4.2 Physical activity in adults with CF compared to non-CF peers**

406 No significant differences in PA were found between groups in 3 of the 5 studies with
407 comparable control groups. The differences observed between groups were reported in work
408 and transport domains, suggesting variation in lifestyle and employment opportunities in adults
409 with CF when compared to their non-CF peers in one of these studies [36]. Individuals with
410 CF are more likely to work in jobs which are sedentary or involve light work, with two thirds of
411 patients with CF reporting CF as an obstacle to their career, with over half reporting being
412 limited in their work by CF [46]. Occupational PA in patients with CF may warrant further
413 investigation. In the second study, the differences between groups were observed at moderate
414 intensities and above [12]. Classifying PA intensity remains problematic in clinical populations.
415 Activity intensity is classified using cut-points which are derived using device specific energy
416 expenditure prediction equations [47], which may not be appropriate for CF populations as no
417 CF specific cut-points exist. Raw data analysis is recommended as best practice in PA
418 research [48] and cut-points derived from raw data are available [49], which increases
419 research control of the data. Unfortunately, these methods were not employed in any of the
420 studies reviewed and have not been examined in patients with CF to date. Future research
421 should look to employ these methods when assessing PA in patients with CF.

422 **4.3 The relationship between PA and secondary outcomes**

423 The evidence for an association between PA and lung function was inconsistent with 5/9
424 finding a positive association. There appears to be stronger evidence for an association
425 between PA and exercise capacity with all 4 studies reviewed reporting a positive association,
426 albeit in a small number of low quality studies. Evidence of an association with PA was also

427 inconsistent across all other outcome measures reviewed. Additionally only one study
428 reviewed reported a measure of QoL.

429 The majority of studies which found an association between PA and lung function used an
430 objective assessment of PA, with only one study finding an association using self-reported PA.
431 Likewise, all of the studies finding an association between PA and exercise capacity used
432 objective PA assessment, whereas the association was not evident when using a self-report
433 questionnaire. Given the limited number of studies comparing objective and self-reported PA
434 assessment, it is not possible to assess the influence of assessment tool on the ability to
435 detect correlations between PA and clinical outcome measures. Though the available data
436 would suggest that objective PA assessment may be more appropriate than self-reported
437 methods [31]. Future research should utilise objective PA assessment wherever possible, with
438 additional self-report methods considered alongside, in order to provide evidence for future
439 PA guidelines.

440 An additional consideration when exploring the relationship between PA and clinical outcome
441 measures is that of variation in the population due to the nature of the disease. Patients will
442 inevitably experience periods of stability and instability, and disease progression and severity
443 is highly variable within cohorts, all of which presents challenges for monitoring PA.
444 Exacerbations of CF symptoms and hospitalisation impact levels of PA [50]. This may result
445 in data attrition if exacerbations occur during study monitoring periods. Additionally, PA
446 assessed pre, during or post-exacerbation may not accurately reflect habitual PA. Routine
447 monitoring throughout the year and not just during admissions is required to overcome this
448 issue. Monitoring devices and cut-points need to be validated for use in CF populations, both
449 in terms of criterion validity to gold standard measures of PA assessment and in terms of the
450 ability to discriminate between disease severities. Additional work is required to develop
451 disease specific cut-points. Alternatively, standardised cut-points should be agreed upon and
452 adopted universally.

453 **4.4 Variability in reported PA variables**

454 There were a wide range of measurement tools used in the studies reviewed. Five studies
455 used an objective method [6,11,22–25] with the remaining 12 studies using self-report
456 questionnaires, in addition to one study using both methods [31]. Comparisons between
457 studies are difficult due to the large range of outcomes reported (Table 2). There is no
458 consistent variable (e.g. steps, total PA time, METs) reported meaning analysis of pooled
459 effects was not possible. There were no consistent findings for PA in comparison to guidelines
460 or non-CF peers when assessed using different PA assessment methods, suggesting no
461 difference between the assessment methods used. This may be due to variances in validity

462 and reliability of these assessment methods as well as differences in populations' studied and
463 study designs. There is therefore a need for an adoption of standardised, objective measures
464 of PA, with consistent outcomes reported. Standardisation may enable a better understanding
465 of PA in this cohort and allow for comparisons to be made to global PA recommendations and
466 non-CF peers.

467 **4.5 Assessment tools utilised**

468 Questionnaires may be useful for large scale epidemiological research, or as secondary
469 outcome measures of PA, however objective PA assessment should be considered as the
470 informed choice for PA assessment in clinical practice and research [8]. The IAPQ was the
471 only self-report tool which allowed PA levels to be compared to guidelines in the current
472 review. The Baecke questionnaire was the most frequently used questionnaire, used in 3
473 studies, all of which described low levels of PA in adults with CF. Understanding of PA levels
474 in adults with CF has previously been based on such studies though it may be possible that
475 the Baecke questionnaire underestimates PA in this population. The questionnaire is not
476 disease specific and was developed in healthy, individuals and may not be appropriate for use
477 in CF populations. Whilst the IPAQ is well validated across multiple populations [51], it is not
478 valid or appropriate for use in clinical populations such as; breast cancer [52], HIV [53] or
479 fibromyalgia [54], which highlights the importance of validating tools in the population in which
480 they are intended to be used. The HAES questionnaire has previously been described as a
481 valid, reliable and responsive PA assessment tool in adolescents with CF [55]. The current
482 review only included one study using the HAES questionnaire, the findings of which suggest
483 that the questionnaire overestimates PA in adults with CF when compared to accelerometry
484 [31]. The studies in the current review span almost two decades, during which time the
485 management of CF has changed considerably. Additionally, the assessment of physical
486 activity has also changed with the increased accessibility and use of accelerometry in the
487 previous decade. The data available in the current review does not allow for comparisons of
488 clinical outcome measures and PA assessment throughout this period and caution should be
489 taken when interpreting data across such a long period.

490 **4.6 Limitations**

491 The quality of data reported in the studies reviewed limits the strength of the conclusions which
492 can be made from this review, this review therefore highlights the need for further research in
493 this area. The majority of the studies were graded as low quality, based primarily on a lack of
494 a control groups and/or randomisation. The majority of studies were not specifically designed
495 to investigate PA levels, often reporting PA as a secondary outcome measure. The non-
496 standardised reporting of outcome measures prevents any meta-analysis or collation of data

497 to strengthen the evidence and improve understanding of PA behaviour. Additionally,
498 assessing the risk of bias in the studies reviewed is problematic. The tools currently available
499 to assess risk of bias are not designed to assess studies using a cross-sectional design.
500 Consequently, the assessment of risk of bias and the ability to make recommendations based
501 on this assessment may be limited when using the tools currently available.

502 **CONCLUSIONS**

503 The literature reviewed would suggest that PA in adults with CF is largely comparable to their
504 non-CF peers, despite being insufficiently active to achieve global PA recommendations. The
505 choice of PA assessment tool and reported outcomes are highly variable, many of which do
506 not provide sufficient information about the frequency, intensity or time of PA in adults with
507 CF. The associations between PA and clinical outcomes appear to be stronger when using
508 objectively assessed PA when compared to self-reported PA, although there are few studies
509 available for analysis. The previously reported associations between PA and lung function
510 appear to be supported by the data reviewed, although a number of studies found no
511 associations. The association between PA and exercise capacity is also supported by data
512 reviewed, albeit from a limited number of studies.

513

514 **6. FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

515 The current review has highlighted a requirement for high quality studies designed specifically
516 to explore PA in adults with CF. The increased emphasis on adults with CF is also reflected
517 by the recently updated European Cystic Fibrosis society (ECFS) best practice guidelines,
518 who also recognise a shift in focus to adult populations given the current trend in life
519 expectancy. Whilst this is true for wider CF care it is particularly relevant with regards to PA
520 assessment, given the lack of available evidence. Standardisation of PA monitoring and
521 reporting is essential for future research, it has previously been recommended that time spent
522 engaging in PA of different intensities, time spent sedentary, step count and energy
523 expenditure should be the minimum standard for reporting PA [8]. A wrist-worn accelerometer
524 (compliance has previously been shown to be higher when using wrist worn devices [49]),
525 worn for seven consecutive days during waking hours, using at least 10 hours per day as a
526 minimum wear time criteria should be used to assess habitual PA [56]. Where possible raw
527 data analysis should be used to analyse data with outcomes reported as outlined above.
528 Standardisation will allow for comparisons between cohorts as well as data pooling to improve
529 statistical precision. Levels of PA and its impact on health and wellbeing in CF are still not
530 clear in the literature. Which may be attributed to the lack of high-quality research, using
531 appropriate PA assessment methods to examine PA behaviours and the relationship with

532 clinical outcomes. Further work is therefore needed to fully elucidate the impact of PA in CF,
533 with an ultimate aim of providing an evidence base to inform guidelines and clinical practice.
534 The scope of the current review only extends to adults (≥ 18 years), additional reviews are
535 required to understand any differences between paediatric and adult/mixed populations.

536 The quality of PA assessment would benefit from an approach similar to the European CF
537 Exercise group's recommended guidelines for exercise testing [57]. This involved experts from
538 a range of backgrounds from different organisations and geographical areas were involved in
539 a process to inform the development of the guidelines [57]. The guidance recommends the
540 standardised use of routine exercising testing in CF care, and whilst this provides an important
541 assessment of exercise capacity, this is only one component of PA. Further assessment
542 methods are required to assess habitual PA; a combination of exercise testing, objective and
543 self-reported PA assessment methods should be considered in clinical practice to screen
544 participants and inform and evaluate PA interventions.

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