

# The Effects of Pilates and Aerobic Exercise on Blood Pressure, Heart Rates, and Blood Serum Lipids in Sedentary Females

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Received: February 20, 2019	Accepted: March 6, 2019	Online Published: March 24, 2019
doi:10.11114/jets.v7i4.4077	URL: https://doi.org/10.111	14/jets.v7i4.4077

# Abstract

The aim of this study was to determinate the effects of 12 weeks pilates and aerobic exercise on blood pressure, heart rates, and blood serum lipids in sedentary females. 18 sedentary women with an average age of 45.52 years, height of 161.14 cm and weight of 72.5 kg have been selected and put through a plates and aerobic exercise programmer one hour a day for three days a week. Exercises in each training session were arranged in such a way as to make each woman's heart rate to reach a level of 130-140 a minute. The waist and hip circumferences were measured using a measuring tape. BMI and waist hip ratio were calculated by standard formulas. Triglyceride (TG), Total Cholesterol (TC), High density lipoprotein (HDL-C) and Low density lipoprotein (LDL-C) levels were determined by Hitachi 717 auto analyzer. Analysis was performed on SPSS 21 version. Paired-t tests were done statistical analysis. Body Weight found before 12 weeks plates and aerobic exercise 72.5 kg and after 63.8 kg. At the end of the 12 weeks exercise program, a decrease of %12.00 in body weight, %14.03 in systolic, %3.96 in diastolic, %13.85 in cholesterol, %25.30 in Triglyceride, and %22.33 in LDL-C have been registered. However, there were increases of %16.34 in HDL-C. The effects of aerobic exercise is on Triglyceride, HDL-C, LDL-C and total cholesterol since (p<0.01). At the end of the 12 weeks exercise program, a decrease %13.34 hip circumference and %4.19 waist circumference. Waist to hip ratio found before 12 weeks plates and aerobic exercise 0.87 cm and after 0.78 cm. The effects of aerobic exercise is on Body weight, Systolic blood pressure, Heart rate, hip and waist circumference since (p<0.05; p<0.01). In this study, together Pilates and aerobic exercise was effective in sedentary women with initially high total cholesterol, triglyceride, and Low density lipoprotein levels. At end of the cycles of 12 weeks Pilates and aerobic exercises, has a positive effect of waist to hip ratio, blood pressure, and heart beats in sedentary females. Risk of heart and vascular disease is reduced. Pilates and aerobic exercises are recommended for decrease risk.

Keywords: waist hip ratio, exercise, sedentary women

# 1. Introduction

Human is dynamic existence and should move to survive. If the movement is performed with some rules and discipline, in order to purpose, ensure our physical and physiological health. It is clear that physical inactivity is a major cause of premature mortality and morbidity from chronic diseases (Warburton et al, 2006; World Health Organization, 2004). Modern life physically motionless effects every aged of people. The problems such as; hypertension, obesity, muscle atrophy, postural disorder and inadequate cardiovascular system caused by lack of exercise and sedentary life style or harmful habits such as smoking (Imamoğlu et al., 2017). Cardiovascular disease (CVD) in women is the leading cause of mortality in the United States, and less than optimal lipid and lipoprotein levels are major risk factors for CVD (George at al., 2004). There is consolidated evidence that physical activity exerts beneficial effects on several chronic conditions and longevity, on the basis of its proposed biological effects, especially on lipid profiles (Lippi et al., 2006). Aerobic exercise is efficacious for increasing high density lipoprotein and decreasing total cholesterol, low density lipoprotein, and triglyceride in women (George at al., 2004). High-intensity aerobic training results in improvement in high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (Tambalis et al., 2008). Being overweight is related to the development of many diseases like diabetes, coronary heart disease, psychological disorders, kidney disease, hypertension, stroke, lung disease and back and foot problems (Öztürk and Bavlı, 2017). Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death worldwide. Low blood levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol are an independent risk factor for cardiovascular

disease (Franceschini, 2001). Cross-sectional data provide strong evidence that people who are more physically active have higher High density lipoprotein levels. Thus, the value of regular aerobic exercise in increasing serum high density lipoprotein level and in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease has received widespread acceptance. In contrast, results of aerobic exercise studies vary considerably, depending on the exercise program and characteristics of subjects at baseline (Imamoğlu et al., 2014). Comparisons between intensities of aerobic exercise programs resulted in favorable effects only for high intensity. The most frequently observed alteration was an increase in the high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, whereas reductions in triglycerides, total cholesterol, and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol appeared less often (Tambalis et al., 2008). Various researchers suggest that aerobic group exercise classes e.g. cycling, and zumba taken regularly are effective in controlling weight, blood pressure, and body composition (Delextrat et al., 2016; Faulkner et al., 2015). Acute short term physiological responses to aerobic exercise include increased heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate, and tidal volume. Long-term aerobic exercise participation is proven to increase the amount of maximal oxygen consumption during intense aerobic exercise, lower resting blood pressure and heart rate, lower body fat mass, and increase muscle mass, while low levels of cardiovascular fitness are associated with increased risk of premature death (Ehrman et al., 2009). Hence, aerobic exercise plays an important role in decreasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, pulmonary diseases, and metabolic diseases (Pescatello et al., 2013). Both aerobic dance and zumba incorporate large muscle groups for movement during class for aerobic endurance, strength training and flexibility. Exercise will also help to regulate hormonal changes during menopause and it reduces back pain, limit body weight gain and fat retention post pregnancy (Ehrman et al., 2009; Imamoğlu, 2017). To get rid of all these adverse circumstances in order to make fit and healthy organism is needed to important activities increasingly, such as sport for a healthy life, fitness, aerobics, jogging, and pilates etc. (Gullu et al., 2013; Cetinkaya and Imamoğlu, 2018).

Studies have shown that Pilates reduces the risk of heart diseases, prevents osteoporosis, gives the body a good form and develops balance, flexibility and strength (Solomon, 2003). When literature was reviewed about effects of exercise on plasma lipids, lipoproteins, blood pressure and heart rates, results were indicated that moderate and low intensity exercise, if its performed adequate time period cause decrease in body weight and body fat ratio, additionally decrease serum total cholesterol level. Though pilates is an exercise with lower intensity compared to other aerobic and dance exercises, the concentration, control, focus, flowing movement rhythm, certainty of movement and breathing techniques during positions play a very important role in a healthy body (Öztürk and Bavlı, 2017). Several studies revealed improved fitness, weight loss, reductions in cholesterol levels or inflammatory markers in women at risk after various forms of aerobic dancing Shimamoto, including "aerobics", "step aerobics" and "cultural dances" (Sharma et al., 2017). The Pilates exercises has been used since the beginning of the 20th century as a form of exercise that was devised to improve strength, flexibility, and muscular control, particularly of the muscles of the lumbar and pelvic regions, which are essential for activities of daily living (Granacher at al., 2013). Recent meta-analysis articles suggest that Pilates can improve different physical functional abilities in older individuals (Bullo et al., 2015; Barker et al., 2015; Campos et al., 2016). In the literature, there are many studies involving pilates training (Barker et al., 2015). The Pilates exercises is an exercise and physical movement system that has become popular all over the world and has been used in both rehabilitation and fitness. Öztürk and Bavlı (2017) in a study, it is found to say that eight weeks of step aerobics and pilates training has positive and similar effects on structural, biomotor and psychological variables of sedentary women.

The lipid and lipoprotein abnormalities play a major role in the development and progression of coronary artery disease. Benefits include improved serum lipid profiles, blood pressure and inflammatory markers as well as reduced risk of stroke, acute coronary syndrome and overall cardiovascular mortality (Skoumas et al., 2003; Baydil, 2013). The importance of regular physical activity is emphasized in order to maintain a healthy life and to have both preventive and healing effects for many diseases and injuries (Brown et al., 2012; Yilmaz et al., 2017).

The combination of pilates and aerobic exercises is thought to have a positive effect. The purpose of this study was to determinate the effects of 12 weeks pilates and aerobic exercise on waist to hip ratio, blood pressure, heart rates, and blood serum lipids in sedentary females.

## 2. Method

## 2.1 The Study Group

Eighteen healthy sedentary female whose average age is 45.52 years participate this study as a subject. Females are volunteered to participate in this study. All the participants were informed of the purpose of the study.

## 2.2 Training Program

Plates and Aerobic groups participate the training during 12 weeks period with one hour training session 3 days in a week period. The study was conducted in two parts. In training was 30 minute Pilates and 30 minute aerobic exercise. Intensity of training increased slightly and heart rates were 130-140 beats in minute at the end of exercise. We also excluded studies of subjects having specific medical problems in which treatments such as with diet or drugs would

influence the effect of exercise (history of cancer, hemodialysis treatment, and coronary heart disease). At the beginning of the study, blood samples were taken from all subjects before breakfast in the morning. High density lipoprotein (HDL-C), low density lipoprotein (LDL-C), total cholesterol (TC) and triglyceride (TG) levels were determined these blood samples. Triglyceride, total cholesterol, high density lipoprotein and low density lipoprotein levels were determined by hitachi 717 auto analyzer. The blood pressure and heart beats were measured by digital blood pressure meters ALP K2 777. At the end of 12 weeks period all measurements were repeated. The waist and hip circumferences were measured using a measuring tape. BMI and waist hip ratio were calculated by standard formulas. (BMI) = Body Weight (kg) / Height (m)<sup>2</sup> = (kg/m<sup>2</sup>). Waist to hip ratio= Hip circumference/ Waist circumference.

#### 2.3 Statistics

Analysis was performed on SPSS 21 version. Shapiro Wilk test was used to evaluate the normality of parameters. The difference between pre-test, post-test results was determined paired t test. The significance level was determined as p<0.05 and p<0.001. For all the values, mean and standard deviation were used.

#### 3. Results

In table 1, shown anthropometrical parameters of females before and after pilates and aerobic exercise participate. In table 2, shown alteration rates of blood parameters. In table 3, shown blood pressure and heart rates alteration.

Table 1.	Anthropometrical	parameters of	sedentary	females	before and	after r	bilates and	l aerobic e	xercise (	n=18)

Variables	Before Exercise	After Exercise	Decrease and Increase	t
Age (year)	45.52	-	-	
Height (cm)	161.14	-	-	
Body Weight (kg)	72.5	63.8	-12.00	2.21*
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	28.32	24.92	-12.01	2.12*
Hip circumference (cm)	90.15	78.12	-13.34	3.63**
Waist circumference (cm)	104.18	99.82	-4.19	2.92*
Waist to hip ratio	0.87	0.78	-	-

\*p<0.05 \*\* p<0.001

Table 2. Percent change in blood parameters of sedentary female

Mg/100		Mean	Std. Deviation	Decrease and Increase	t
Cholostarol (mg/aa)	Before Exercise	196.77	34.07	12.92	7.12**
Cholesterol (mg/cc)	After Exercise	169.55	32.62	-13.83	
Triglyceride (mg/cc)	Before Exercise	109.82	35.19	-25.30	5.33**
	After Exercise	82.03	20.72	-23.30	3.35
HDL-C (mg/cc)	Before Exercise	39.14	4.28	- 22.33	-4.82**
	After Exercise	47.88	12.73	22.55	-4.82
LDL-C (mg/cc)	Before Exercise	117.79	32.55	21.69	5.64**
	After Exercise	92.24	20.78	-21.09	5.04

\*\*p<0.001

Table 3. Percent change in blood pressure and heart rates of sedentary females

Variables	Before Exercise	After Exercise	Decrease and Increase (%)	t
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	127.12	109.28	-14.03	-2,23*
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	76.50	73.47	-3.96	-1,02
Heart Rate	88.40	76.32	-13.67	-2,14*

\*p<0.05

#### 4. Discussion

Physical activity and exercise habit contribute to prevent obesity, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and some other chronic diseases and to lead a healthy lifestyle. Exercise and physical activity are at the top of the treatment options list to prevent hyperlipidemia, one of the significant risk factors for cardiovascular diseases (Demirel et al., 2018). When literature was reviewed about effects of exercise on plasma lipids, lipoproteins, blood pressure and heart rates, results were indicated that moderate and low intensity exercise, if its performed adequate time period decrease in body weight and body fat ratio, additionally decrease serum TC level. In the most studies, it has been noticed that regular exercise affects levels of lipid and lipoprotein positively and it is salutary for the heart. It has been identified that regular exercise reduces total blood cholesterol, serum triglycerides and LDL-C and increases high-density lipoprotein cholesterol

HDL-C (Imamoğlu et al., 2017). Previous epidemiologic studies have demonstrated an increased risk of CHD and cardiovascular death with an increase in BMI (Garry and McShane, 2001).

## The effect of BMI was presented in four categories according to World Health Organization

Recommendations:  $< 18.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$  (lean); 18.5-24.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (normal weight); 25–29.9kg/m<sup>2</sup> (overweight) and  $\ge$ 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Another classification: BMI's categories (the underweight [<  $18.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ], low normal weight [ $18.5-21.9 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ], normal weight [22–23.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, the referent], overweight [24–26.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>], obese1 [27–29.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>], and obese 2 [ $\geq$  30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>]), (Hsu et al., 2018)). Multiple meta-regression analyses demonstrated that subjects with a body mass index less than 28 and total cholesterol level of 220 mg/dL or more experienced an approximately 2.1-mg/dl larger increase in HDL-C level than those with a body mass index of 28 or more and total cholesterol level less than 220 mg/dl (Kodama et al., 2007). Elevation in body mass index (BMI) has been associated with less favorable lipoprotein profiles. Elevation in the BMI has also been associated with an increased relative risk of CHD, as well as an increased mortality due to cardiovascular disease (Garry and McShane, 2001). In a study, players with BMI > 32 kg/m<sup>2</sup> had a relative risk of cardiovascular death that was 6.04 times that of the players with BMI  $< 28 \text{ kg/m}^2$  (Garry and McShane, 2001). There is a general understanding that the body mass index (BMI) in itself is a major determinant of mortality, although qualified by fat distribution for disease specific outcomes (Whitlock et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2005). Historically, this may not always have been so but evidence from large-scale cohorts in both Western and Asian countries generally indicate that a BMI of 22–25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> may be optimal for prevention of premature death (Heymsfield and Cefalu, 2013; Hsu et al., 2018). In this study, body weight found before 12 weeks plates and aerobic exercise 72.5 kg and after 63.8 kg. There was a significant decrease in body weight and body mass index (p < 0.05). In this study, found at the end of the 12 weeks plates and aerobic exercise program, a decrease of 12.00 % in body weight and body mass index 12.01%. As a result of exercises body mass indexes decreased to normal values.

The waist to hip ratio was calculated as waist girth divided by the hip girth. It is statistically proved that men with WHR (Waist to hip ratio) of more than 0.90 and women with 0.85 are at greatest risk of health complications (Annamna et al., 2012). Waist hip ratio above 0.85 for females are important indicators of lifestyle-related health problems throughout the world (Dubbert, 2002). Sedentary women with waist circumference of more than 85cm had almost doubled mortality risk compared to active women with waist circumference below 80 cm (Annamna et al., 2012). Turgut et al. (2017) in a study, found at the end of three months of exercise, the decrease in waist and hip circumference measurements significant. In this study, found at the end of the 12 weeks plates and aerobic exercise program, a decrease 13.34 % hip circumference and 4.19 % waist circumference.WHR found before 12 weeks plates and aerobic exercise 0.87 cm and after 0.78 cm. The effects of pilates and aerobic exercise is positive hip and waist circumference since (p<0.05; p<0.01).

Several studies have shown that exercise can cause improving effect on serum HDL-C, LDL-C and TG (Boardley et al., 2007). Çi çek et al. (2017) found step-aerobic and core exercise showed significant changes of inflammatory and lipid markers with cardiac dimensions and had favorable effects on both left ventricular systolic function. Turgut et al., (2017) in a study, found there a significant difference in cholesterol, triglyceride, and HDL-C and LDL-C values between the first measurement and the second measurement after 3 months of exercise. Imamoğlu et al. (2017) in a study, regular aerobic and weight-lifting plus aerobic exercises have been shown to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in sedentary women and a significant improvement in systolic and diastolic blood pressures as well as reduction of cholesterol, triglyceride, and of LDL-C. Level of HDL-C was increased in both of exercise groups. Gullu et al. (2013) in a study, there were decreases in run-walk group on total cholesterol by 6.44%, LDL-C by 7.93%, and triglyceride by 17.75%, but there was not any difference in value of HDL-C. There were decreases in step-aerobics group on total cholesterol by 10.54%, LDL-C by 9.05%, and triglyceride by 15.24% (p<0.01 and p<0.05), however, there was increasing in value of HDL-C by 5.64% (p<0.05). Imamoğlu et al. (2002), Koca (2017) and Imamoğlu et al (2017) in on studies, found to effect short time exercise on serum lipids of sedentary females increase in HDL-C and to decrease in LDL-C, total cholesterol, and triglyceride. After 12 weeks pilates and aerobic exercise in this study decrease percentage of blood values of females, found 13.3% in Cholesterol quantity, 25.30 % in triglyceride, and 21.69% in LDL-C. Also HDL-C increase is 22.33 % (Table 2). This study was Imamoğlu et al. (2002 and 2017) and is compatible with the work of the Koca (2017). At the end they couldn't found significance, triglyceride, total cholesterol, LDL-C was decreased, HDL-C was increased (p<0.001). The average net increase in HDL-C level by exercise itself was but highly significant. Coronary heart disease risk decrease %1.5 cause of to increase %1 of HDL-C (Imamoğlu, 2014; Imamoğlu et al., 2017). In that case in this study, decrease of LDL-C and increases of HDL-C have decreased risk of Coronary Heart Disease.

Most of studies about blood pressure and heart beat, claim that the exercise decreased the blood pressure and heart beat (Imamoğu, 2014). Imamoğlu et al. (2017) on studies, the systolic blood pressure was decreased in aerobic exercise. Diastolic blood pressure was decreased in aerobic exercise. Heart beat was decrease with aerobic exercise. Koca (2017) in a study founding similar result. In this study, the systolic blood pressure was decreased 14.03% in plates and aerobic exercise. Diastolic blood pressure was decreased 3.96% in plates and aerobic exercise. Heart beat was decrease 11.61% in plates and aerobic exercise. The decrease in systolic blood pressure and heart rate was found to be significant in this study (p<0.05). There was no significant change in diastolic blood pressure (p>0.05). Pilates and aerobic exercises may be recommended to reduce hypertension.

Both aerobic and anaerobic exercise can decrease total cholesterol, raise high-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels, and lower the TC/HDL-C ratio (Garry and McShane, 2001). A substantial increase in aerobic physical activity within the population might be recommended to reverse adverse lipid abnormalities, especially in subjects with a higher cardiovascular risk (Lippi et al., 2006). Regular aerobic exercise modestly increases HDL-C level. Exercise was more effective in subjects with initially high total cholesterol levels or high body mass index (Kodama et al., 2007). In this study found similar conclusion.

In this study, together pilates and aerobic exercise was effective in sedentary women with initially high total cholesterol, triglyceride, and low density lipoprotein levels. At end of the cycles of 12 weeks pilates and aerobic exercises, has a positive effect of waist to hip ratio, blood pressure, and heart beats in sedentary females. Risk of heart and vascular disease is reduced. Pilates and aerobic exercises are recommended for decrease risk.

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