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## Effect of Drinking Rate on the Retention of Water or Milk Following Exercise-Induced Dehydration

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## 1 Introduction

2 Individuals typically do not consume enough fluid during exercise to counteract sweat losses, producing a  
3 post-exercise state of body water deficit (i.e. dehydration) (Garth & Burke, 2013). As a result, individuals  
4 are encouraged to drink fluid during recovery to reinstate total body water balance prior to recommencing  
5 physical activity (Evans et al., 2017; Sawka et al., 2007). However, rapidly consuming large volumes of  
6 hypotonic fluid has the potential to reduce plasma osmolality (POSM), resulting in increased urinary  
7 output (i.e. “fluid induced diuresis”), potentially delaying a return to euhydration (Mitchell et al., 1994;  
8 Robertson, 1974). Hence, there is considerable scientific interest in understanding factors that enhance  
9 fluid retention and assist with rehydration after exercise.

10 When consumed without food and matched for volume, nutrient dense beverages (e.g. milk and milk-  
11 based beverages) appear to promote greater fluid retention compared to water and carbohydrate-  
12 electrolyte solutions (Desbrow et al., 2014; Seery & Jakeman, 2016; Shirreffs et al., 2007; Watson et al.,  
13 2008). The effectiveness of milk as a rehydration solution has been attributed to a number of its  
14 constituents (i.e. sodium (Merson et al., 2008; Shirreffs & Maughan, 1998), carbohydrate (Osterberg et  
15 al., 2009), and protein (Hobson & James, 2015; James et al., 2014; James et al., 2012)), which are  
16 believed to delay gastric emptying and/or attenuate changes in  $P_{OSM}$ , reducing the degree of fluid induced  
17 diuresis (Calbet & MacLean, 1997; Clayton et al., 2014; Murray et al., 1999; Vist & Maughan, 1995).

18 Typically, post-exercise rehydration studies control drinking rate by prescribing fixed volumes of  
19 beverages within standardised time periods. In contrast, active individuals may consume fluids at  
20 different rates, which is likely to influence nutrient delivery and consequently, fluid retention. To date,  
21 only two studies have investigated the influence of drinking rate on fluid recovery (Jones et al., 2010;  
22 Kovacs et al., 2002). The initial investigation failed to detect differences in fluid retention when a  
23 carbohydrate-electrolyte beverage was consumed over 3 h ( $79\pm 6\%$ ) compared to 5 h ( $82\pm 5\%$ ) following  
24 exercise-induced dehydration (3.0% body mass (BM) loss). In contrast, Jones et al., (2010) reported  
25 significantly greater retention when water was consumed over a 4 h ( $75\pm 12\%$ ) compared to a 1 h

26 (55±18%) drinking period following an exercise-induced 2.0% BM loss. The explanation for the  
27 equivocal findings may relate to the subtle differences in the drinking rates and/or the use of beverages  
28 with different nutrient profiles (and hence osmolalities). Furthermore, when consumed *ad libitum*,  
29 individuals typically ingest the largest volume of fluid within the first 30 min following exercise (Baguley  
30 et al., 2016). To date, the effect of drinking rate on the retention of fluid from beverages with contrasting  
31 nutrient profiles has not been systematically examined. In addition, no previous investigation has  
32 compared a conservative drink pattern to a rapid ingestion rate (e.g. large volumes consumed in ~30 min),  
33 which may reflect the actual behavior of individuals following exercise.

34 Therefore, the aim of the current study was to investigate the effect of rapid vs slower drinking rates on  
35 fluid retention using beverages with contrasting nutrient profiles (milk vs. water). It was hypothesized that  
36 the fluid retained from the consumption of a nutrient dense beverage would be unaffected by drinking  
37 rate; and that slower intake of a hypotonic beverage would enhance subsequent fluid retention.

## 38 **Methods**

### 39 ***Overview of study designs***

40 This investigation was intended to systematically explore the effect of drinking rate on subsequent fluid  
41 recovery. The investigation was conducted in two parts, with the results from Part A used to inform the  
42 design of Part B. Part A explored the impact of drinking rates of different beverages (milk and water) on  
43 fluid retention. In Part B, further exploration of different drinking rates was performed. In addition, the  
44 trials were conducted in separate laboratories (Part A - Australia, Part B - Scotland). All participants were  
45 fully informed of the nature and possible risks of the investigations before providing written informed  
46 consent. The investigation was approved by the Griffith University and University of Stirling's Human  
47 Ethics Committees and the procedures were conducted in accordance with the principles outlined by the  
48 declaration of Helsinki.

### 49 ***Participant characteristics***

50 In Part A thirteen healthy males volunteered to take part. However, one participant was unable to continue  
51 with the study after completing the first trial for reasons unrelated to the study (i.e. work commitments).  
52 Consequently, twelve male participants (age:  $23.5 \pm 5.3$  y; height:  $179 \pm 6$  cm; BM:  $77.3 \pm 9.6$  kg; maximal  
53 oxygen consumption ( $VO_{2_{peak}}$ ):  $43.1 \pm 6.4$  mL·kg<sup>-1</sup>·h<sup>-1</sup> (Mean±SD)) completed four experimental trials.

54 In Part B fourteen healthy participants volunteered to take part. However, one participant withdrew from  
55 the study due to external factors and one participant's data was excluded because they could not achieve  
56 the required level of dehydration. Consequently, twelve (9 males and 3 females) participants (age:  
57  $28.3 \pm 6.3$  y; height:  $176 \pm 11$  cm; BM  $74.0 \pm 10.2$  kg;  $VO_{2_{peak}}$ :  $50.6 \pm 7.6$  mL·kg<sup>-1</sup>·h<sup>-1</sup>) completed four  
58 experimental trials.

#### 59 ***Study designs***

60 A schematic representation of the experimental protocols is displayed in Figure 1. Both parts utilised a  
61 repeated-measures experimental design, involving 4 experimental trials; each separated by a minimum of  
62 5 d. For all trials, participants lost ~2.0% BM through intermittent cycle exercise before cooling down  
63 and beginning a rehydration period in which different treatment interventions were examined (Part A,  
64 water or milk ingested over 30 or 90 min; Part B, water ingested over 15, 45, or 90 min with either the 15  
65 or 45 min trial repeated). An incomplete Latin square design was used to counterbalance the order of  
66 treatments.

#### 67 ***Preliminary requirements***

68 Participants undertook an incremental test to exhaustion on a cycle ergometer. The protocol began at 100  
69 W, and increased in 50 W increments every 2.5 min until volitional exhaustion, with participant's breath  
70 sampled continuously via a calibrated gas analysis system (Part A: Medgraphics Ultima, USA; Part B:  
71 Servomex Group Ltd, United Kingdom ). The test was used to determine  $VO_{2_{peak}}$  and maximum heart rate  
72 ( $HR_{max}$ ), with these values used to guide the prescription of exercise intensity for the experimental trials.  
73 Participants were instructed to abstain from caffeine (12 h), alcohol (24 h) and moderate to strenuous  
74 exercise (12 h) before all trials. During the 24 h period preceding the first trial, individuals completed a

75 food and beverage diary. They were also instructed to drink 500 mL of water at least 2 h before arrival at  
76 the laboratory (to assist with hydration) and abstain from all food and fluid (excluding water) after 21:00  
77 h. Individuals were then instructed to repeat these behaviors prior to all subsequent experimental trials.

### 78 *Experimental procedures*

79 Participants arrived at the laboratory between 05:30 and 08:00 h and verbally acknowledged compliance  
80 to the pre-experimental conditions. A urine sample was taken for determination of hydration status (Part  
81 A: urine specific gravity ( $U_{SG}$ ) (Palette Digital Refractometer, ATAGO, USA) and Part B: urine  
82 osmolality ( $U_{OSM}$ ) (Löser Osmometer, Camlab, UK). If participants recorded a  $U_{SG} \geq 1.024$  (Sommerfield  
83 et al., 2016) or  $U_{OSM}$  of  $>700$  mOsm·kg<sup>-1</sup> (Sawka et al., 2007) they were considered hypohydrated. In Part  
84 A, hypohydrated participants were required to consume 600 mL of plain water over 5 min, before  
85 providing a second urine sample 30-60 min later. If this urine sample achieved the thresholds for  
86 euhydration the participants continued with the trial (this practice was then replicated on all subsequent  
87 trials). If the threshold value was not reached within the 60 min period the trial was rescheduled.  
88 Participants then rested in a seated position for 5 min prior to venepuncture of a forearm vein. Following  
89 this initial blood collection, participants were provided with a standardised breakfast in a quantity relative  
90 to BM (20 kJ·kg<sup>-1</sup> and 1 g CHO·kg<sup>-1</sup>) that consisted of raisin toast, strawberry jam and fruit juice (200  
91 before completing a questionnaire on GI subjective symptoms, voiding their bladder and obtaining a  
92 baseline nude BM measurement (Part A: A&D Company Ltd, Tokyo, Japan, to nearest 20 g; Part B:  
93 Marsden, Rotherham, United Kingdom, to nearest 10 g).

### 94 *Exercise-induced dehydration*

95 After completing a brief standardised warm up, participants began cycling in a warm environment (Part  
96 A: 25.2±0.8 °C and 84±11% RH, Part B: 26.4±0.7°C and 38±5% RH). Individuals commenced exercise at  
97 a workload corresponding to ~65% of  $HR_{max}$ . Intensity was recorded by an investigator and replicated on  
98 all subsequent trials. Following 50 min of cycling, participants BM was measured. A BM loss of <1.8%  
99 from baseline required participants to continue exercising in 10 min bouts until a BM loss  $\geq 1.8\%$  was

100 achieved. Following exercise, dehydrated participants rested in a seated position for 15 min prior to  
101 having a cool shower. Afterwards, participants dried themselves thoroughly, before a cannula was  
102 inserted into a forearm vein and a blood sample obtained. Participants then emptied their bladder and  
103 provided a urine sample before a final nude BM measure was recorded to determine total fluid loss (30  
104 min post-exercise).

#### 105 ***Post-exercise fluid replacement***

106 In Part A, water or low fat cow's milk (Maleny Dairies, Queensland, Australia; 210 kJ Energy, 5.3 g  
107 CHO, 4.0 g Protein, 1.4 g Fat, 48 mg Na<sup>+</sup>·100 mL<sup>-1</sup>) were ingested in a quantity equal to 100% of the  
108 volume of sweat lost during exercise. The fluid volume was ingested in six equal aliquots spread evenly  
109 over either a 30 or 90 min period, resulting in the beverage treatments: Water 30 min (W30), Water 90  
110 min (W90), Milk 30 min (M30), and Milk 90 min (M90). Participants were instructed to consume each  
111 aliquot at an even pace over 5 or 15 min according to the relevant drinking rate. In Part B, water in a  
112 quantity equal to 100% of the volume of sweat lost during exercise was ingested. The volume was  
113 provided in three aliquots spaced evenly over either a 15, 45 or 90 min drinking period, resulting in the  
114 following beverage treatments: Water 15 min (DR15); Water 45 min (DR45); and Water 90 min (DR90).  
115 To assess within individual variation, participants in part B repeated either the DR15 or DR45 trial. To  
116 assess inter-site variation W90 (Part A) was compared to DR90 (Part B).

117 A 3 h rehydration monitoring period (from the commencement of drinking) was applied to all trials.  
118 Observations were made every hour and included measures of nude BM, urine and plasma measures of  
119 hydration status. In addition, subjective measures of bloatedness, fullness and thirst were recorded. All  
120 measurements were obtained while participants remained seated.

#### 121 ***Body mass and fluid retention***

122 BM change (estimate of fluid loss) was calculated by subtracting the post-exercise BM (post-void) from  
123 the pre-exercise BM. Net BM change was calculated by subtracting the 3 h BM measurement from the

124 pre-exercise BM. Percent fluid retention at the conclusion of the observation period was calculated by the  
125 following equation:

$$\text{Fluid Retained (\%)} = 100 \times \frac{(\text{Total beverage ingested (g)} - \text{Total urine output (g)})}{\text{Total beverage ingested (g)}}$$

126

### 127 *Urine and blood collection, storage and analysis*

128 Additional urine sampling was performed at pre-exercise, post-exercise (immediately pre-drinking),  
129 immediately post-drinking and then at 120 min and 180 min after the start of drinking. At each of these  
130 urine collection points, participants completely voided their bladder into an empty container for  
131 subsequent measures of urine volume. Total urine loss was calculated from the accumulated urine output  
132 in the period from the commencement of drinking until the end of the observation period. A sample of  
133 urine was retained for determination of urine osmolality. Blood sampling was performed at pre-exercise,  
134 post-exercise (immediately pre-drinking), immediately post-drinking and then at 120 min and 180 min  
135 after the start of drinking for the determination of  $P_{\text{OSM}}$ . Participants remained seated prior to a 5 mL  
136 blood sample being drawn from an antecubital vein. All samples were collected into EDTA pre-treated  
137 vacutainers and centrifuged at room temperature for 10 min at  $\sim 1350 \times g$ . Plasma was analysed in  
138 duplicate on a calibrated freezing-point depression osmometer (Part A: Osmomat 030, Germany and Part  
139 B: Löser osmometer, Camlab, UK). Cannulas were kept patent by flushing sterile saline (2 mL of 0.9%  
140 NaCl; Becton Dickson, NJ, USA) on completion of each sample (with an equivalent volume of blood  
141 initially discarded before collection of subsequent samples).

### 142 *Subjective measures*

143 Subjective ratings of bloatedness, fullness and thirst were recorded on separate 100 mm visual analog  
144 scales, with 0 mm representing 'not at all' and 100 mm representing 'extremely'. Scales were  
145 administered via a computerized modifiable software program (Marsh-Richard et al., 2009).

**146 Statistical analyses**

147 Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 22 (SPSS Inc., IBM,  
148 Chicago, IL). All measures were examined for normality and sphericity using the Shapiro-Wilk test  
149 ( $p>0.05$ ) and Mauchly's test ( $p>0.05$ ), respectively. Where assumptions of sphericity in repeated-  
150 measures analyses were violated, the Greenhouse-Geisser statistic was applied. One-way repeated-  
151 measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) were performed to verify that pre-trial conditions and exercise-  
152 induced fluid loss did not differ across trials. For Part A, a three-factor (i.e. Beverage x Rate x Time)  
153 repeated-measures ANOVA was used to compare main outcomes; two-factor (i.e. Beverage x Rate)  
154 repeated-measures ANOVA were conducted to compare total fluid retention and net BM changes across  
155 treatments. Pairwise comparison (Bonferroni) were performed where significant main effects were  
156 present. For Part B, two-factor (i.e. Rate x Time) repeated-measures ANOVA were used to compare  
157 outcomes between the different beverage ingestion rates. Paired *t*-tests or Wilcoxon tests were used where  
158 appropriate to conduct post-hoc comparisons on significant interaction effects. An adjusted-alpha (i.e.  
159  $p=0.05$  divided by the number of tests performed) was used to account for multiple comparisons. The  
160 test-retest reliability was calculated as a coefficient of variation (CV%) using the traditional method and  
161 any difference in responses between sites was assessed using an unpaired *t*-test. Statistical significance  
162 was accepted at  $p<0.05$ . All data are reported as Mean $\pm$ SD, unless stated as Mean $\pm$ SEM.

**163 Results****164 Standardisation procedures**

165 |All participants reported compliance with the standardisation procedures in the 24 h prior to arriving at  
166 the laboratory.| In Part A, two participants were administered water (600 mL) due to a pre-exercise USG  
167  $\geq 1.024$  on Trial 1; this practice was repeated on all subsequent trials to ensure consistency. The remaining  
168 participants had a  $U_{SG}<1.024$  at the commencement of each trial. Exercise duration and pre-exercise  
169 values for BM,  $U_{SG}$  and  $P_{OSM}$  were similar across all treatments, and did not differ significantly by trial  
170 order ( $p>0.05$ ). Exercise-induced BM loss differed significantly ( $p<0.01$ ) by trial order (Trial 1:



171 1.54±0.26 kg; Trial 2: 1.44±0.28 kg; Trial 3: 1.41±0.31 kg; Trial 4: 1.38±0.32 kg); however,  
172 counterbalancing ensured that mass loss was similar across treatment conditions (Table 1).

173 In Part B, exercise duration and pre-exercise values for BM,  $U_{OSM}$ ,  $P_{OSM}$ , and exercise induced BM loss  
174 were similar across all treatments (Table 1); and did not differ significantly by trial order ( $p>0.05$ ).

### 175 *Urine output and fluid retention*

176 In Part A, cumulative urine output was greater with water than with milk at 120 min (398±190 vs. 139±44  
177 g) and 180 min (592±248 vs. 224±70 g) after the start of drinking ( $p<0.01$ ; Figure 2A). A significant  
178 effect of beverage was observed on fluid retention (W30: 56.5±16.1%; W90: 59.7±19.9%; M30:  
179 82.9±6%; M90: 84.9±7%) with the proportion of ingested fluid retained lower with water than milk  
180 (58.1±15.6 vs. 83.9±6.1%,  $p<0.01$ ). No other significant differences were observed in either analysis.

181 In Part B, a similar cumulative urine output response was observed when water was ingested at DR15,  
182 DR45 and DR90 rates. Three hours after the start of the drinking period, cumulative urine output was  
183 lower for the DR90 trial (602±183 g) compared to the DR45 (750±373 g) and DR15 (754±230 g) trials,  
184 but this did not reach statistical significance ( $p>0.05$ ). The mean difference (95% CI) between DR15 and  
185 DR90 was 7.4(1.2-13.6)%, equivalent to 152 (43-260) mL (Figure 2B). Fluid retention was significantly  
186 higher ( $p<0.05$ ) on the DR90 trial (57.1±12.9%) compared to the DR15 trial (49.7±11.0%), but these  
187 trials were not different ( $p>0.05$ ) to DR45 (51.6±19.8%).

### 188 *Net fluid balance*

189 In Part A, all experimental trials concluded with participants in a state of negative net fluid balance 180  
190 min after the ingestion period started (Part A: W30: -0.68±0.31 L; W90: -0.61±0.25 L; M30: -0.27±0.07  
191 L, M90: -0.28±0.08 L; Figure 3A). Post hoc comparisons revealed that milk ingestion led to less negative  
192 fluid balance compared to water at 120 min (-0.40±0.19 vs. -0.14±0.04 L,  $p=0.001$ ) and 180 min (-  
193 0.64±0.27 vs. -0.28±0.07 L,  $p<0.001$ ) after drinking started. Fluid balance was also less negative

194 immediately post-drinking for the 30 min compared to the 90 min drinking trials ( $-0.14 \pm 0.08$  vs.  
195  $0.04 \pm 0.03$  L,  $p < 0.001$ ), since participants had less time to produce urine on these trials.

196 In Part B, all experimental trials concluded with participants in a state of negative net fluid balance  
197 (DR15:  $-0.75 \pm 0.23$  L; DR45:  $-0.75 \pm 0.37$  L; DR90:  $-0.60 \pm 0.18$  L; Figure 3B). No differences were  
198 observed between trials.

### 199 ***Plasma osmolality***

200 In Part A, the consumption of water decreased  $P_{OSM}$  compared to milk at the cessation of drinking ( $291 \pm 4$   
201 vs.  $298 \pm 5$  mOsm $\cdot$ kg $^{-1}$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), but this effect was not evident by 180 min (Water:  $290 \pm 2$  mOsm $\cdot$ kg $^{-1}$ ;  
202 Milk:  $293 \pm 4$  mOsm $\cdot$ kg $^{-1}$ ,  $p = 0.033$ ).  $P_{OSM}$  did not differ significantly as a result of the fluid ingestion rate  
203 at any point ( $p > 0.05$ ).

204 In Part B, a drinking rate by time interaction was not evident for  $P_{OSM}$ . Plasma osmolality 180 minutes  
205 after start of drink ingestion did not differ significantly as a result of the fluid ingestion rate (DR15:  
206  $304 \pm 2$  mOsm $\cdot$ kg $^{-1}$ ; DR45:  $302 \pm 3$  mOsm $\cdot$ kg $^{-1}$ ; DR90:  $303 \pm 5$  mOsm $\cdot$ kg $^{-1}$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ).

### 207 ***Subjective measures***

208 In Part A, analysis for bloatedness, fullness, and thirst ratings identified a significant effect of time on  
209 each variable ( $p < 0.01$ ). A significant effect of beverage was also observed for fullness ( $p = 0.022$ ). For  
210 bloatedness and fullness there were significant time x beverage interaction effects (bloatedness:  $p = 0.014$ ;  
211 fullness  $p < 0.01$ ). Post hoc comparisons revealed that the 30 min drinking protocol increased feelings of  
212 bloatedness ( $p < 0.01$ ) and decreased feelings of thirst ( $p < 0.01$ ) immediately after drinking compared to  
213 the 90 min protocol. The consumption of milk increased feelings of fullness immediately after drinking  
214 ( $p < 0.01$ ) and at 120 min ( $p < 0.01$ ), compared to the consumption of water. No other significant  
215 differences were observed.

216 In Part B, perceived bloatedness and fullness were significantly higher immediately after drinking on the  
217 DR15 trials compared to the DR45 and DR90 drinking rates ( $p < 0.01$ ), but were not different at

218 subsequent time points up to 180 min. No other significant differences were observed at any other time  
219 point (Figure 4).

### 220 ***Reliability and inter-lab repeatability***

221 The CV% of test re-test reliability between duplicate trials on DR15 and DR45 ingestion rates (Part B)  
222 was 17%. Data from repeated trials was not significantly different (Table 2). The fluid retention on 90  
223 min water rate trials (Part A: W90 and Part B: DR90) was not significantly different between testing sites  
224 (W90: 59.7±19.9%; DR90: 57.1±12.9%,  $p=0.73$ ).

### 225 **Discussion**

226 This two-part study explored the effect of drinking rate on fluid retention of different beverages following  
227 exercise-induced dehydration. In keeping with our hypothesis, Part A observed that drinking milk resulted  
228 in greater fluid retention than water during a 3 h recovery period. This effect was not influenced by  
229 drinking rate (i.e. 30 vs. 90 min). Consequently, Part B assessed retention of water consumed over  
230 alternative drinking rates (i.e. 15 vs. 45 vs. 90 min), as well as the day-to-day variation in post-exercise  
231 fluid retention. Part B, indicated that the 15 min drinking protocol led to a significant reduction in fluid  
232 retention compared to the 90 min drinking protocol. However, the magnitude of the effect was within the  
233 CV% of the repeated trials (17%). Thus, findings from this study suggest the influence of drinking rate on  
234 post-exercise fluid recovery is small and that the nutrient composition of a beverage has a more  
235 pronounced impact on fluid retention than the beverage ingestion rate.

236 Only two studies have previously investigated the influence of drinking rate on fluid recovery (Jones et  
237 al., 2010; Kovacs et al., 2002). Results from these studies are contradictory, with only one investigation  
238 (Jones et al., 2010) identifying an influence of drinking rate on fluid retention. Jones et al., (2010) had  
239 participants ingest water at 1.61 L·h<sup>-1</sup> vs. 0.40 L·h<sup>-1</sup>. Kovacs et al., (2002) had participants ingest a  
240 carbohydrate-electrolyte sports drink at a maximum rate of 1.32 L·h<sup>-1</sup> in the first hour, with an average  
241 rate over 3 hours of 0.77 L·h<sup>-1</sup> and compared this to fluid retention with a slow drinking rate of 0.53 L·h<sup>-1</sup>  
242 over 5 h. These fluid consumption patterns are slower than those observed when individuals drink *ad*

243 *libitum* post-exercise (e.g. with drinking rates in the first 30 min exceeding 2 L·h<sup>-1</sup>, Baguley et al., 2016).  
244 The present study attempted to assess drinking rates across a broader range (5.84 L·h<sup>-1</sup> (1.46 L in 15 min)  
245 to 0.95 L·h<sup>-1</sup> (1.42 L in 90 min)) to elucidate effects on fluid retention. We observed little impact of  
246 contrasting drinking rates on fluid retention with water. In fact, the only difference noted in Part B (DR15  
247 vs. DR90) was within the CV% of the method.

248 The current findings suggest that the nutrient profile of different beverages have a greater impact on fluid  
249 retention than ingestion rate. Indeed, when consumed exclusively and matched for volume, milk  
250 beverages promote greater fluid retention than water at rest (Maughan et al., 2016) and during the post-  
251 exercise period (Seery & Jakeman, 2016; Shirreffs et al., 2007; Watson et al., 2008). These effects may be  
252 mediated by the composition of milk (whey/casein protein), electrolyte content and insulin response to  
253 carbohydrate/protein delivery. In addition, the electrolyte content of milk (Shirreffs et al., 2007) and  
254 insulin mediated impacts on renal water transport (Magaldi et al., 1994) both have the potential to  
255 enhance fluid retention.

256 In a practical sense post-exercise, athletes typically consume fluids ad libitum and the beverage choice,  
257 drinking rate and total volume consumed are determined by many factors, including prior exercise  
258 (intensity, duration and type), environmental conditions, thirst, palatability, gastrointestinal tolerance,  
259 drink availability, exercise commitments and other, unrelated dietary goals (Minehan et al., 2002; Passe et  
260 al., 2000). The rapid consumption of large volumes of milk or water during the immediate post-exercise  
261 period may be poorly tolerated by some individuals. However, the range of subjective responses to our  
262 most rapid drinking rates highlights individual differences in tolerance. For those who drink beverages  
263 rapidly in the immediate post-exercise period, the rates examined in the present study do not appear to  
264 compromise fluid retention when a fixed volume is provided and may facilitate the consumption of other  
265 fluids after completing a “prescribed” volume of a beverage. Conversely, it is not known whether rapid  
266 beverage ingestion compromises subsequent voluntary fluid consumption in ad libitum drinking scenarios  
267 due to an action on thirst response mediated via the gut-brain axis (Zimmerman et al., 2019).

268 Several methodological limitations require acknowledgement. Firstly, this study did not employ a direct  
269 measure of gastric emptying. Hence, while greater fluid retention was achieved during Milk trials, the  
270 distribution of the retained fluid (e.g. within the GI tract (as potentially indicated by higher “fullness”  
271 ratings) as opposed to vascular space) and therefore physiological relevance of this fluid retention remains  
272 unknown. In addition, the recovery period for this study (3 h from the start of drinking) was shorter than  
273 previous work in this area (typically  $\geq 4$  h), which may have resulted in small volumes of uncaptured fluid  
274 losses in response to the differences in drinking strategy. The decision to shorten the duration of the  
275 observation was based on a number of factors; (1) the relatively small volumes of urine seen beyond 90  
276 min following the cessation of drinking in our previous study (Desbrow et al 2014), (2) the smaller  
277 volume of fluid being ingested (100% vs. 150% fluid replacement), (3) the practical relevance of 4 h  
278 observation, given that many individuals are likely to eat/drink within this period of time and (4) our  
279 previous study (Maughan et al., 2016) demonstrated the pattern of response in cumulative urine output  
280 and calculated hydration index to ingested drinks was observed to be similar at 2 h post-drinking and 4 h  
281 post-drinking.

## 282 **Conclusion**

283 This study suggests that drinking more rapidly does not compromise post-exercise fluid retention  
284 following moderate intensity exercise in recreationally active participants. This observation was  
285 consistent between different testing sites and across different drinking rates. Laboratory informed findings  
286 suggest that beverage composition is more influential than fluid ingestion rate in determining post-  
287 exercise fluid retention.

## 288 **Acknowledgments**

289 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

290 B. Desbrow and S. D. R. Galloway conceived the project. B. Desbrow, S. D. R. Galloway, G. R. Cox, C.  
291 Irwin, N. Rodriguez-Sanchez, D. McCartney, P. Rodriguez-Giustiniani and L. Sayer developed the  
292 overall research plan. L. Sayer, D. McCartney, C. Irwin, N. Rodriguez-Sanchez and P. Rodriguez-

293 Giustiniani conducted the research and analysed the samples. B. Desbrow, S. D. R. Galloway, C. Irwin,  
294 N. Rodriguez-Sanchez, D. McCartney and L. Sayer performed the statistical analysis. B. Desbrow, S. D.  
295 R. Galloway, G. R. Cox, C. Irwin, N. Rodriguez-Sanchez, D. McCartney, P. Rodriguez-Giustiniani and L.  
296 Sayer wrote the paper. All the authors approved the final version of the paper.

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389 **Figure legends and footnotes**

390 **Figure 1.** Schematic of experimental protocol investigating the effect of drinking rate on fluid retention following  
391 exercise.

392

393 **Figure 2.** Cumulative urine output before and after the test drink ingestion equal to the volume of sweat lost during  
394 exercise. A = Part A (Water or Milk ingested over 30 or 90 min, Water 30 (W30); Water 90 (W90); Milk 30 (M30);  
395 and Milk 90 (M90)), B = Part B (Water ingested over 15 (DR15), 45 (DR45) or 90 (DR90) mins). *a*, milk  
396 significantly different to water. Values are Mean±SD.

397

398 **Figure 3.** Net fluid balance responses before and after the test drink ingestion equal to the volume of sweat lost  
399 during exercise. A = Part A (Water or Milk ingested over 30 or 90 min, Water 30 (W30); Water 90 (W90); Milk 30  
400 (M30); and Milk 90 (M90)), B = Part B (Water ingested over 15 (DR15), 45 (DR45) or 90 (DR90) mins). *a*, milk  
401 significantly different to water; *b*, rapid drinking significantly different to metered drinking. Values are Mean±SD.

402

403 **Figure 4.** Subjective gastrointestinal ratings of bloatedness, fullness and thirst before and after test drink ingestion  
404 equal to the volume of sweat lost during exercise. Part A = Panels A, B and C and Part B = Panels D, E and F. *a*,  
405 milk significantly different to water; *b*, rapid drinking significantly different to metered drinking; *c*, fast ingestion  
406 rate significantly different to slow ingestion rate. Values are Mean±SEM, where 0 represents 'not at all' and 100  
407 represents 'extremely much' for each subjective feeling.

409 Table 1. Pre-trial conditions and impact of exercise-induced dehydration

Part A	W30	W90	M30	M90	<i>p</i> -value
Pre-Ex U <sub>SG</sub>	1.015±0.006	1.015±0.007	1.013±0.005	1.014±0.005	0.35
Pre-Ex P <sub>OSM</sub> (mOsm·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	290±4	292±5	290±6	289±5	0.67
Pre-Ex BM (kg)	77.10±9.67	77.27±9.78	76.77±9.73	76.57±9.52	0.28
Ex Duration (min)	70±14	70±13	70±13	70±12	0.86
BM Loss (kg)	1.46±0.28	1.42±0.30	1.43±0.32	1.46±0.29	0.79
BM Loss (%)	1.9±0.3	1.9±0.4	1.9±0.4	1.9±0.3	0.82
Part B	DR15	DR45	DR90		<i>p</i> -value
Pre-Ex U <sub>OSM</sub>	477±218	474±178	443±185		0.76
Pre-Ex P <sub>OSM</sub> (mOsm·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	303±5	302±3	302± 5		0.36
Pre-Ex BM (kg)	71.60±9.90	71.54± 10.15	71.31± 10.08		0.39
Ex Duration (min)	79±12	81±13	80± 11		0.62
BM Loss (kg)	1.46±0.35	1.51± 0.33	1.45±0.32		0.30
BM Loss (%)	2.0± 0.4	2.1±0.2	2.0±0.3		0.61

410 BM: Body mass; Ex: Exercise; P<sub>OSM</sub>: Plasma osmolality; U<sub>SG</sub>: Urine specific gravity; U<sub>OSM</sub>: Urine osmolality.  
 411 Values are Mean±SD.

413 Table 2. Test-retest trial data (Part B: pooled from DR15 and DR45)

	<b>Initial Trial</b>	<b>Repeat Trial</b>	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>
<b>Pre-Trial Conditions</b>			
Pre-Ex $U_{OSM}$	483±197	479±197	0.30
Pre-Ex $P_{OSM}$ (mOsm·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	307±5	307±7	0.81
Pre-Ex BM (kg)	72.56±11.10	72.38±10.94	0.30
Ex Duration (min)	80.0±13.5	80.8±13.1	0.34
BM Loss (kg)	1.43±0.32	1.39±0.39	0.62
<b>Fluid Retention Data</b>			
Cumulative urine output (g)	792± 280	704±175	0.07
$U_{OSM}$ 180 min after drinking started (mOsm·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	297±75	281±127	0.69
$P_{OSM}$ 180 min after drinking started (mOsm·kg <sup>-1</sup> )	303±4	302±4	0.38
Fluid retention (%)	52.8±7.0	55.0±7.5	0.21

414 Values are mean±SD.

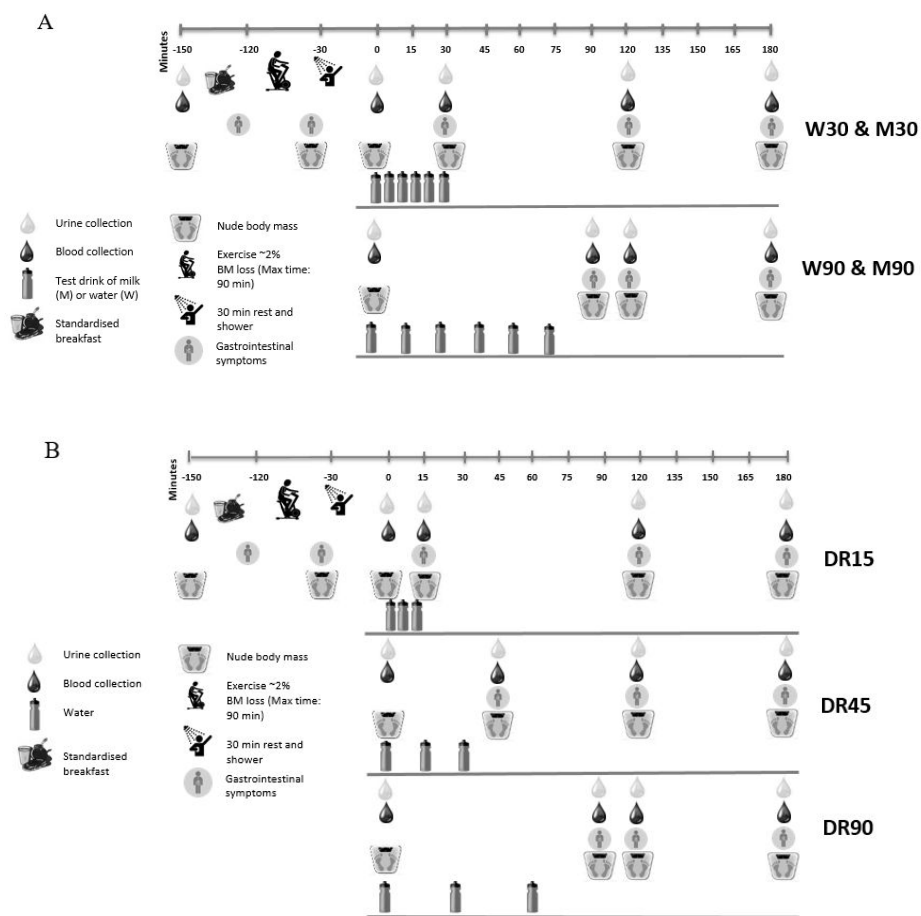
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420 **Figure 1**  
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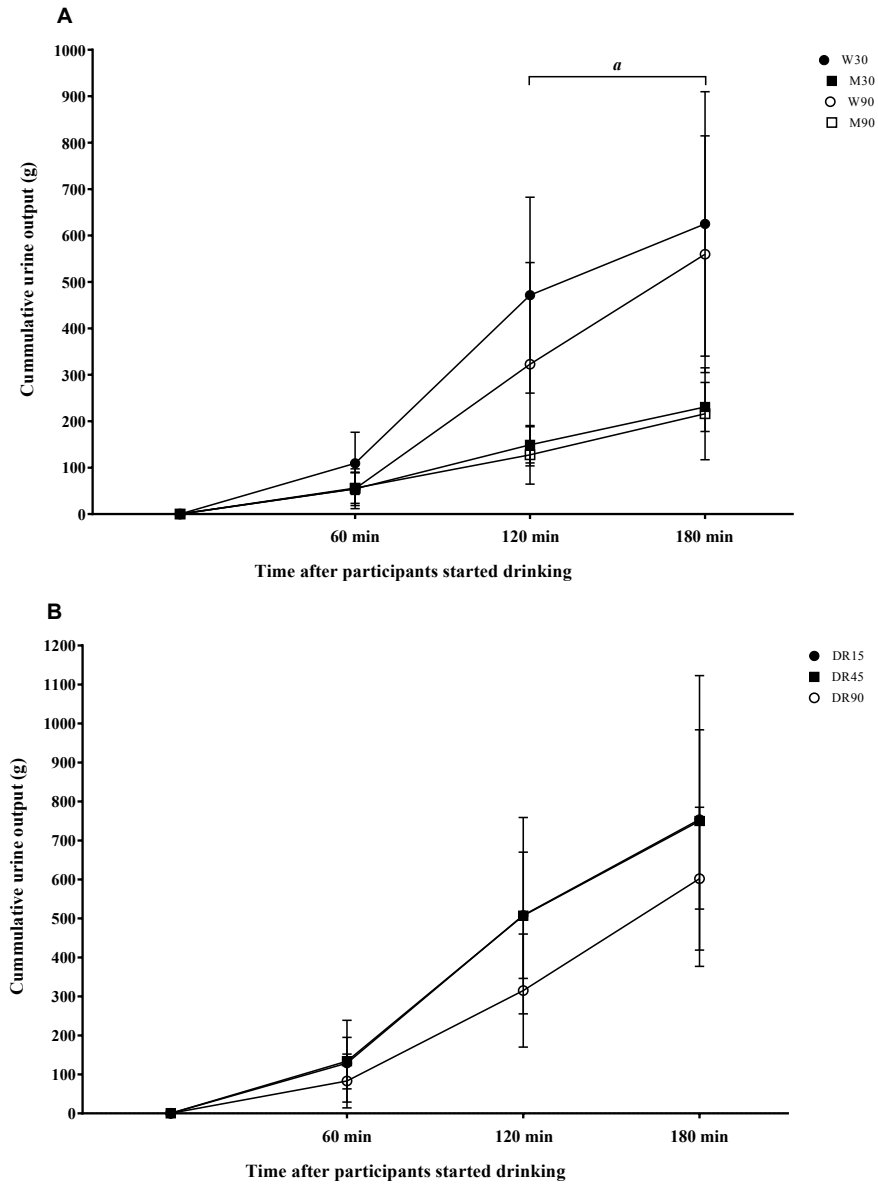
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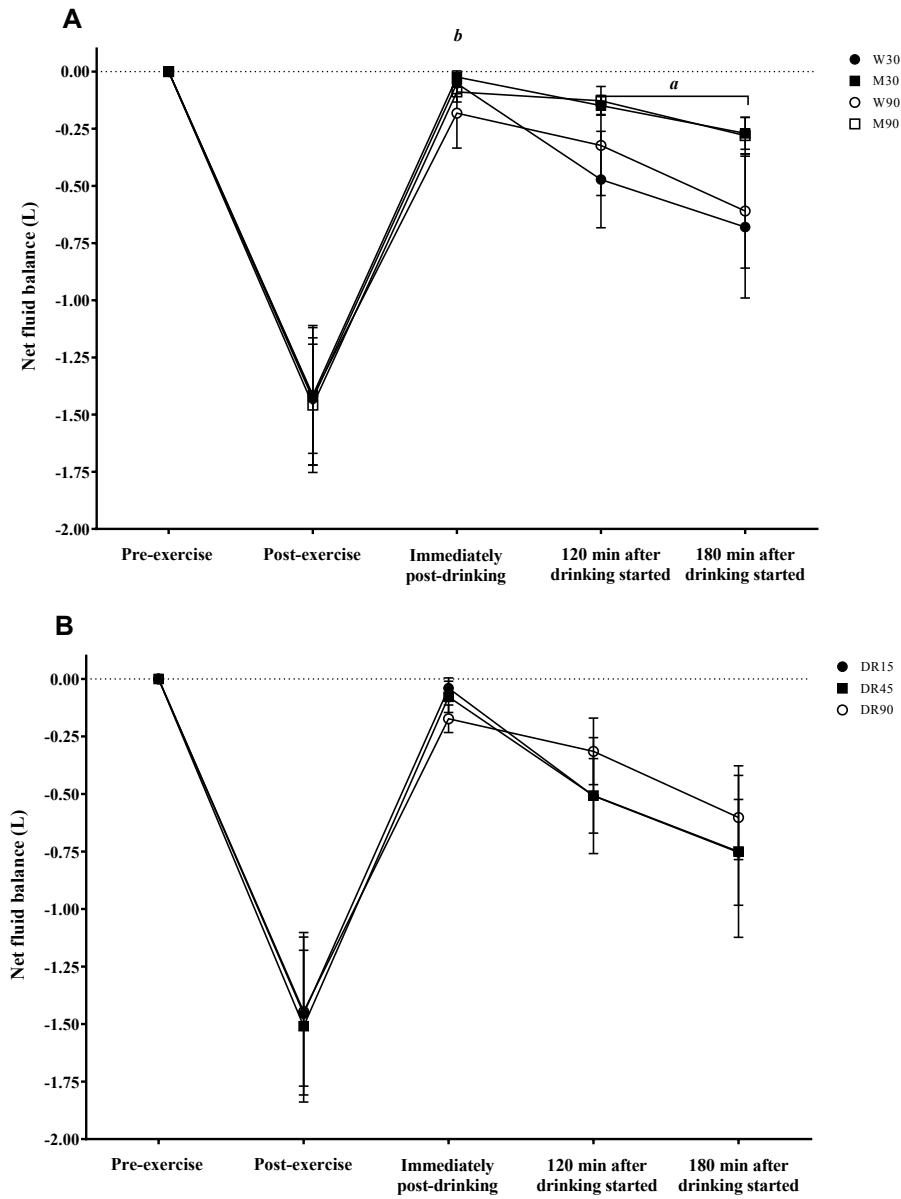
Figure 2



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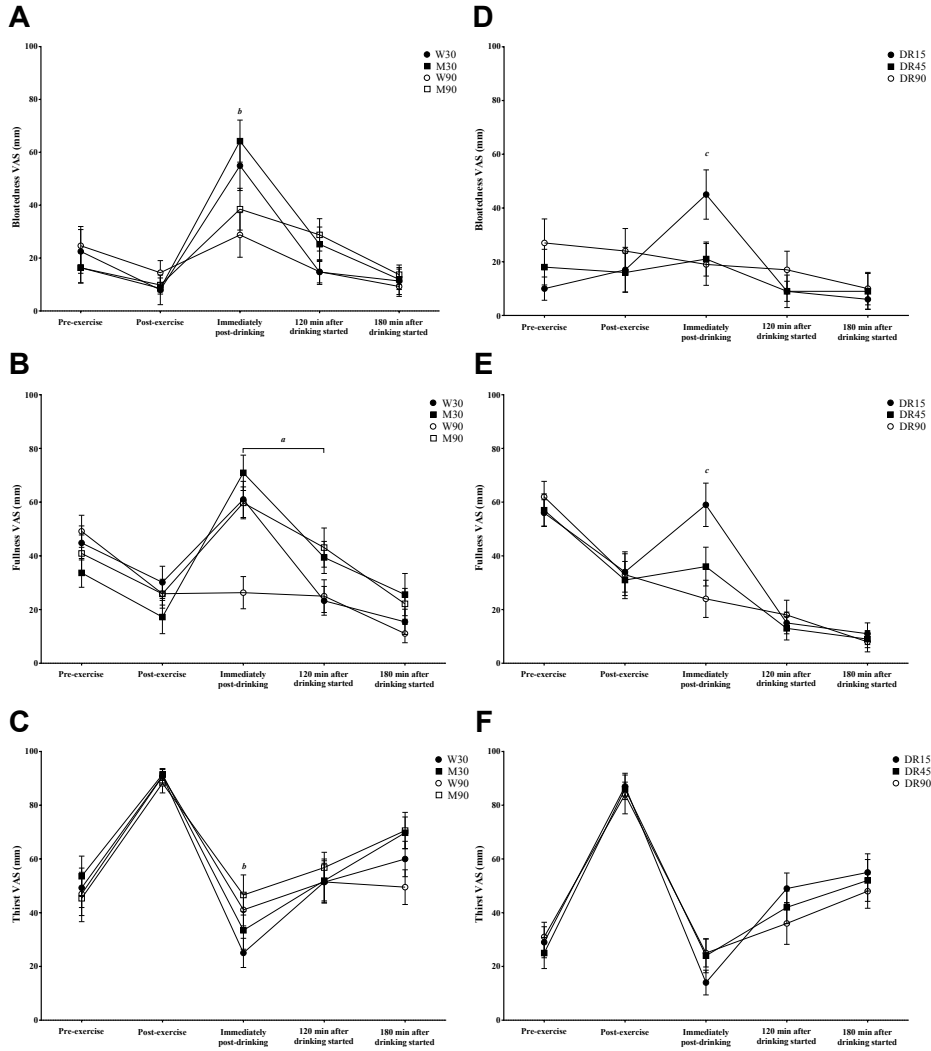
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Figure 3



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Figure 1

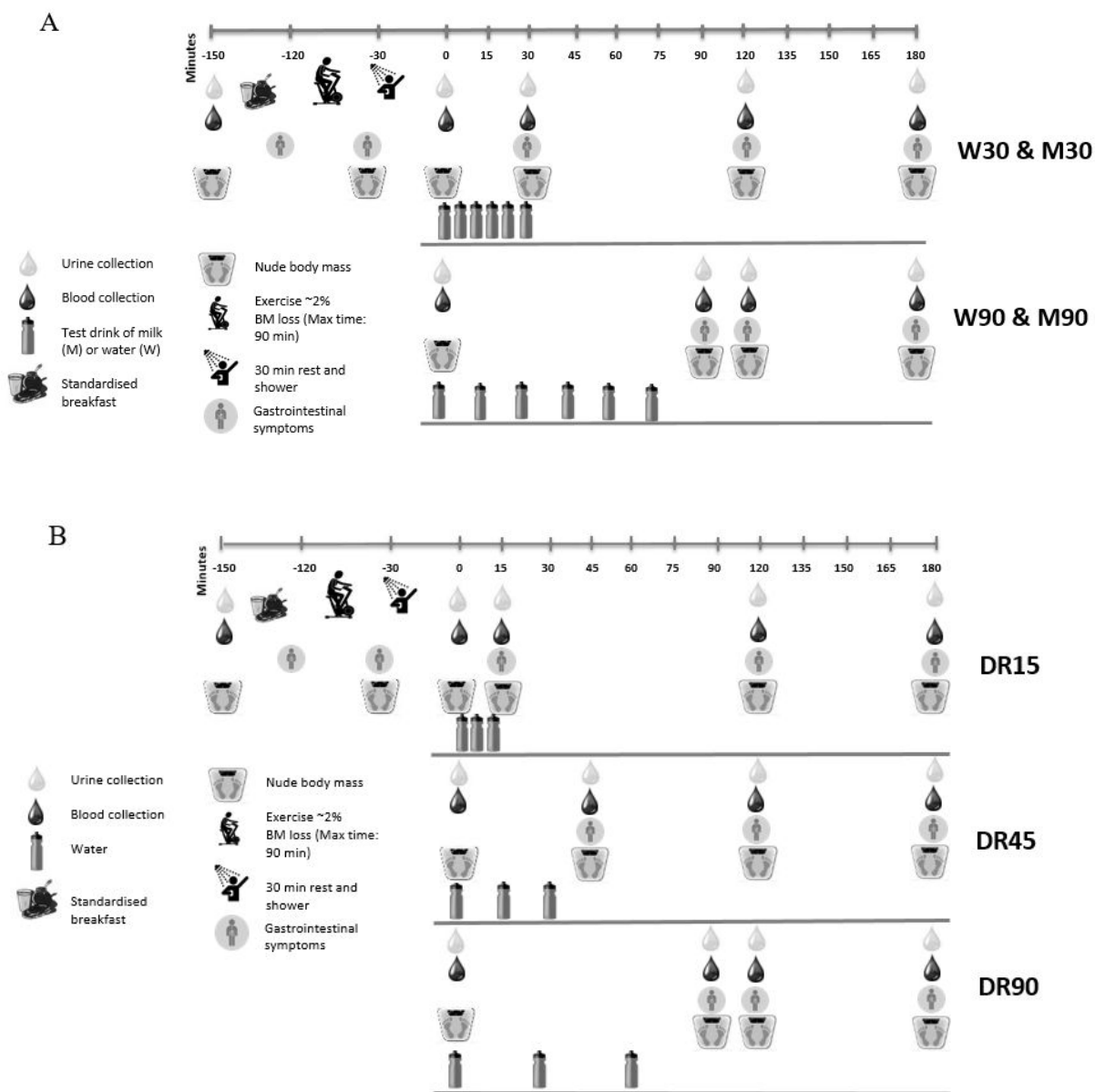


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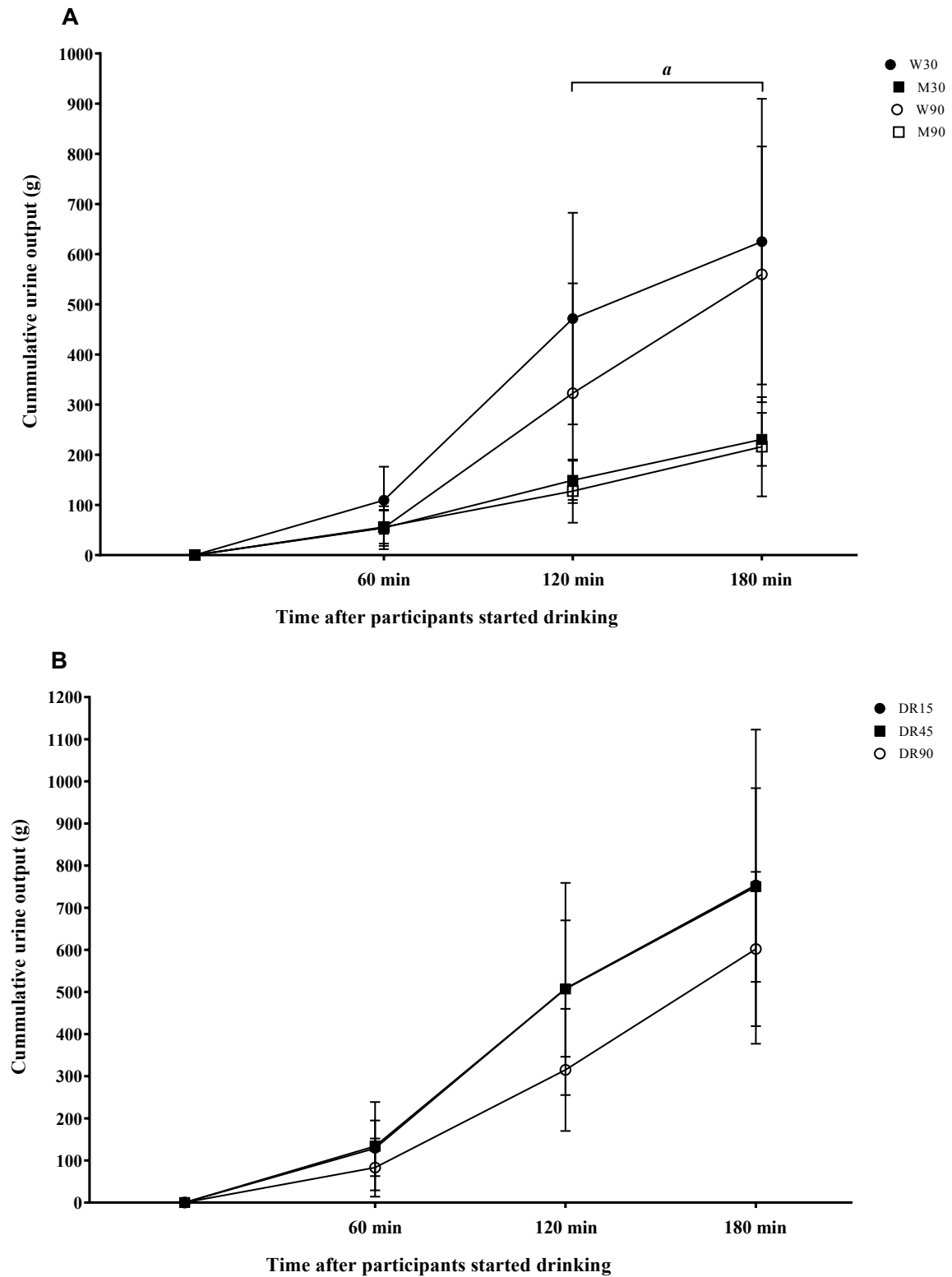


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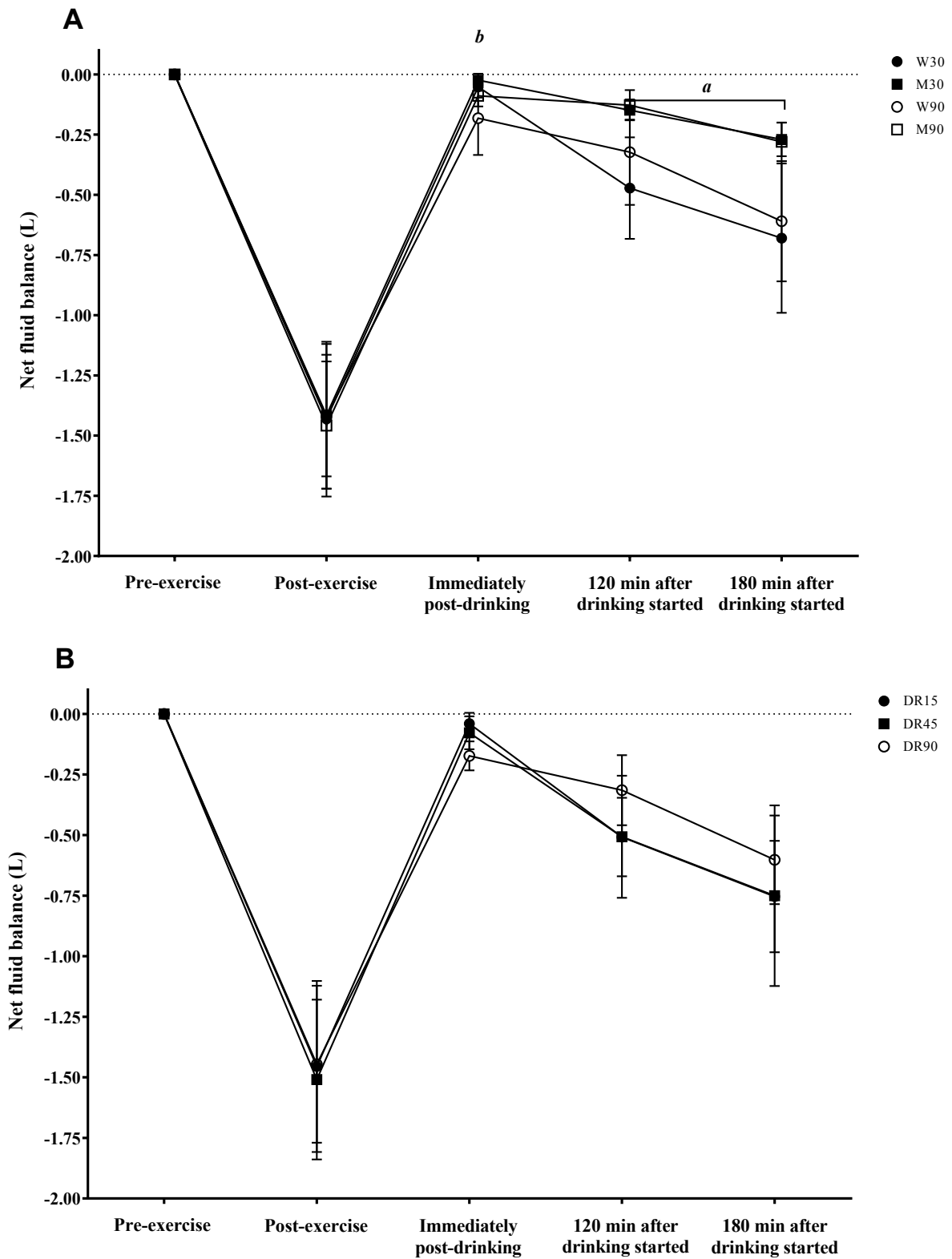


Figure 4

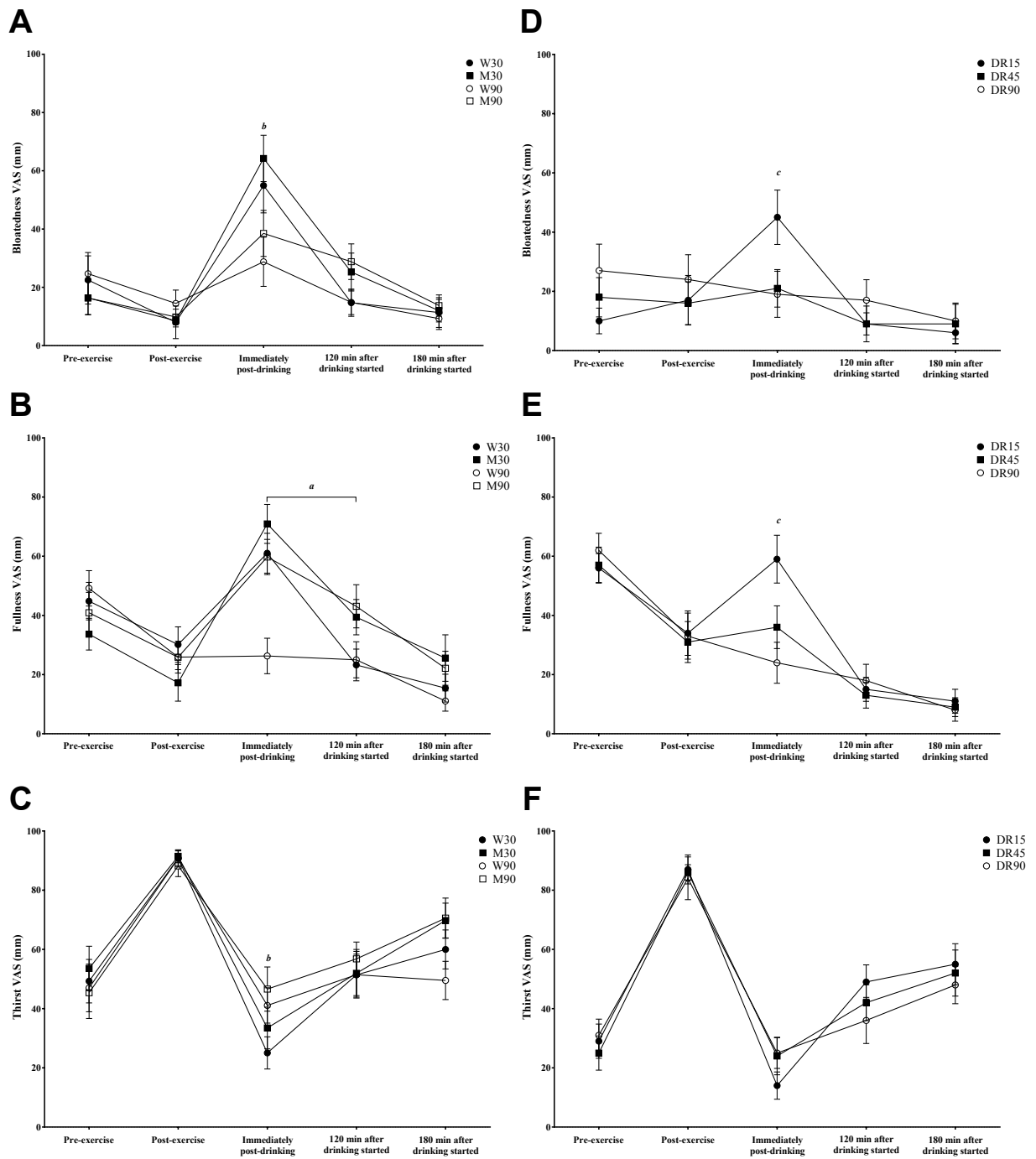


Table 1. Pre-trial conditions and impact of exercise-induced dehydration

<b>Part A</b>	<b>W30</b>	<b>W90</b>	<b>M30</b>	<b>M90</b>	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>
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<b>Part B</b>	<b>DR15</b>	<b>DR45</b>	<b>DR90</b>		<b><i>p</i>-value</b>
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BM: Body mass; Ex: Exercise;  $P_{OSM}$ : Plasma osmolality;  $U_{SG}$ : Urine specific gravity;  $U_{OSM}$ : Urine osmolality. Values are Mean±SD.

Table 2. Test-retest trial data (Part B: pooled from DR15 and DR45)

	<b>Initial Trial</b>	<b>Repeat Trial</b>	<b><i>p-value</i></b>
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Values are mean±SD.