



**Plyometric exercise and bone health in children and adolescents: a systematic review.**

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## **Plyometric exercise and bone health in children and adolescents: a systematic review.**

### ***Abstract***

Context: Many jumping interventions have been performed in children and adolescents in order to improve bone-related variables and thus, ensure a healthy bone development during these periods and later in life.

Objective: This systematic review aims to summarize and update present knowledge regarding the effects that jumping interventions may have on bone mass, structure and metabolism in order to ascertain the efficacy and perdurability of these interventions.

Data sources: A systematic review of articles using Medline-Pubmed and SportDiscus. Additional studies were identified by contacting clinical experts and searching bibliographies and abstract. Search terms included “bone and bones”, “jump\*”, “Weight-bearing”, “Resistance Training” and “school intervention”.

Study selection: Only studies that had performed a specific jumping intervention in under 18-year olds and had measured bone mass were included.

Data extraction: Independent extraction of articles by 2 authors using predefined data fields.

Data synthesis: A total of 26 studies were included in this review. Most jumping interventions seemed to positively affect bone, as subjects included in the intervention groups showed higher bone mineral density, bone mineral content and bone structure improvements than controls. Moreover those studies that evaluated the perdurability of the effects found that some of the increases in the intervention groups were maintained after several years.

Conclusions: Jumping interventions during childhood and adolescence improve bone mineral content, density and structural properties without showing side effects. These type of interventions should be therefore implemented when possible in order to increase bone mass in childhood, which may have a direct preventive effect on bone diseases like osteoporosis later in life.

## Introduction

Physical inactivity has a major health effect worldwide; in fact, it has been identified by the WHO as the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality causing an estimated 3.2 million deaths globally. Physical activity interacts as a protective factor versus several diseases, some of them related to bone such as osteopenia and osteoporosis. These are characterized by micro-deterioration of bone mass, and an increased risk of suffering a bone fracture[1]. Nevertheless, osteoporosis is a widespread disorder affecting millions of individuals of all ethnic backgrounds worldwide, particularly among older women. It is called “the silent thief” because it steals bone without any immediate consequence. Moreover, it is a growing disease which was estimated to increase in 2005 from 10 million to more than 14 in 2020 with an associated 25.3 billion dollars in costs in the USA[2].

There are some ways of counteracting osteoporosis and one of the most popular preventive treatments has been the optimisation of peak bone mass through childhood[3]. Peak bone mass, as the amount of bone present at the end of skeletal maturation, is an important determinant of osteoporotic fracture risk. The amount of bone mass gained during the 2 years of peak bone mineral accrual at adolescence approximates the quantity of bone lost in adulthood[4]. Several studies have shown that premenarche, even prepubertal (Tanner 1) vs. early pubertal (Tanner 2 and 3)[5-7], are times of greater bone response to exercise than postmenarche[8, 9]. It has been pointed out that an increase of only 3-5% in bone mineral density (BMD) is estimated to result in as much as 20-30% reduction in fracture risk[10]. Thus, childhood and adolescence are critical periods to intervene with lifestyle strategies that may prevent osteopenia- and osteoporosis-related fractures in the later years. Recent systematic reviews focusing on general weight-bearing activities during childhood and adolescence found that these activities provided a relevant method to significantly improve BMC[11] and BMD[12], although the effect sizes were small[11]. However, not all weight-bearing activities have the same peak-ground reaction forces, being the most osteogenics those that involve jumps and direction turns[13]. Running which is a weight-bearing sport entails around 2.6 vertical ground reaction forces while a drop jump entails around 5.5 vertical ground reaction forces. Therefore grouping these 2 weight-bearing activities together might mask the real effects that they independently have on bone mass.

As previously stated, one important strategy to increase peak bone mass is jumping and more specifically plyometric jump training. It involves a wide variety of exercises with different jumps and it has been associated with high ground reaction forces (four to seven times body weight) as defined by Hayes et al.[14]. Plyometric jump training is based on the premise that increasing eccentric preload on a muscle induces the myotatic stretch reflex and may cause a more forceful concentric contraction. This, taking into account the Mechanostat Theory will lead to stress and tension forces on the bones, which will make them adapt and therefore increase their strength[15]. Hind and Burrows[16] concluded that although weight-bearing exercise appeared to enhance bone mineral accrual in children, particularly during early puberty, it remained unclear as to what constituted the optimal exercise programme. To our knowledge plyometric jumps or exercise with jumps may be one of the best methods to improve bone mass due to the osteogenic stimulus, not only for the tensile forces applied by the muscles, but also for the impacts produced against the ground.

Therefore, the aim of this review is to summarize the available literature concerning jumping interventions and bone mass in children and adolescents in order to have a clearer picture on the

1  
2  
3 effective interventions to bring new insight for building evidence-based osteogenic exercise  
4 programmes.

## 5 6 **Methods**

### 7 8 *Data sources and search strategy*

9  
10 This study followed the systematic review methodology proposed in the Preferred Reporting  
11 Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement[17].

12  
13 Identification of studies was performed by searching in the database MEDLINE- PubMed and  
14 SportDiscus. The search was conducted up to October 2014.

15  
16 Three different types of search were conducted in order to find all the published studies. When  
17 possible, the filters of human, clinical trial and under-18 were applied for all searches. For the  
18 first search in MEDLINE the word jump\* was combined with the thesaurus of “Bone and  
19 Bones” with the Boolean operator AND. For SportDiscus, the thesaurus of “BONE” and  
20 “JUMPING” were combined with the Boolean operator AND. The second search was  
21 performed by combining the thesaurus of “Weight-bearing” with “Resistance Training” with the  
22 Boolean operator OR. The results of this search were combined with “Bone and bone” with the  
23 Boolean operator AND. The third search was performed by combining “bone mineral density”  
24 with “school intervention” with the Boolean operator AND. Results of the searches are  
25 summarized in Figure 1.  
26  
27

### 28 29 *Inclusion criteria*

- 30  
31 1) Types of study: Randomized and non-randomized controlled trials studying the effects of a  
32 jumping intervention on bone mass with or without coexistent treatments.  
33  
34 2) Types of participants: Children and adolescences without any pathology under 18 years old.  
35  
36 3) Types of intervention: Trials comparing the effects of an exercise-training program consisting  
37 of a plyometric or jumping intervention. No minimum duration or intensity was required.  
38  
39 4) Types of outcome measured: Bone mineral content (BMC) and/or BMD of total body (TB),  
40 lumbar spine (LS), limbs, hip (femoral neck (FN), trochanter (TR), inter-TR, proximal femur  
41 (PF) and Wards triangle subregions), bone architecture (from peripheral computed tomography  
42 (pQCT) or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) ultrasound parameters [Broadband Ultrasound  
43 Attenuation (BUA), Speed of sound (SOS) or Stiffness Index (STIF)] and bone markers.  
44

### 45 46 *Exclusion criteria*

- 47  
48 1) Studies in languages other than English or Spanish.  
49  
50 2) Unpublished data.  
51  
52 3) Studies with animals.  
53  
54 4) Studies without a control group (CON) that would allow comparison.  
55  
56 5) Studies focusing exclusively on bone metabolic markers and not using a bone imaging  
57 technique.  
58  
59  
60

6) Studies not explaining the intervention program or only stating “A physical activity intervention”.

7) Studies only adding an extra, non-specific physical activity class.

### Search summary

Two independent researchers identified 3131 potentially relevant articles and 6 additional articles were identified through reference lists. Following review of titles and abstracts and excluding the duplicates the total was reduce to 51 potentially relevant papers for inclusion. Of these articles, 26 met the selection criteria and were included in this review (Figure 1).

### Bias assessment

Studies were assessed using the “The Cochrane Collaboration’s tool for assessing risk of bias in randomized trials”[18], (Table 2).

### Results and Discussion

Table 1 summarizes studies concerning jumping interventions and bone mass in children and adolescences included in this review. Results have been organized according to the type of intervention performed by each study. This section has been divided into four subsections; BMC, BMD, Bone structure, and other factors affecting bone mass (calcium intake, pubertal status, training protocols and race).

#### BMC

The first study regarding a jumping intervention and BMC was developed by Morris et al.[19]. They studied the effects of a high-impact exercise program (step aerobics, bush dance and others) on bone mass assessed with Dual energy X-ray (DXA). After a 10-month intervention, premenarcheal girls allocated into the intervention group (INT) increased TB, LS, PF and FN BMC compared to those girls in the CON. Further on, two researches performed a step-aerobic program including drop jumps[9, 20]. Firstly, Heinonen et al.[9]. evaluated pre- and postmenarcheal girls during a 9-month intervention finding that those premenarcheal in the INT improved BMC more than CON at the LS and FN. However, those postmenarcheal showed no significant intergroup differences in any of the BMC parameters. Secondly, Kontulainen et al.[20] showed that BMC at the LS increased in a sample of fifty peri- and postpuberal females who trained twice per week for 9 months. During this period, 46% of the female participants become postpuberal, therefore the effect of maturation should have been controlled in this kind of studies.

Four studies performed drop jumps without a complementary step-aerobic program from several heights using boxes or steps. Witzke et al.[21] carried out an intervention with box depth jumps in adolescent girls (both pre- and postmenarcheal together) showing an improvement in BMC of the greater TR in the INT group. Fuchs et al.[22] reported gains in the INT BMC at FN and at LS with 100 two-footed jumps off 61-cm boxes three times per week during 7 months. One year later, Fuchs and Snow[23] re-evaluated their participants and noted that INT maintained greater FN BMC than CON. Johansen et al.[24] performed 5 days a week of 25 jumps from a 45-cm

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3 box showing that in 3 months, the INT gained more TB and Leg BMC than the CON. Gunters  
4 et al.[25], used higher boxes reaching 61-cm and trained three times per week. Prepubertal  
5 children of the INT group showed greater BMC improvements than the CON at LS, FN, TB and  
6 hip, being these improvements maintained 3 years after the intervention[25]. Anliker et al.[26]  
7 also performed a 2 day drop jumping intervention combined with other jumps during 9 months  
8 in children with attention deficit finding no differences in vBMC measured by pQCT between  
9 groups.

10  
11 Therefore, it seems possible to state that drop jump interventions alone or combined with other  
12 jumping interventions, with 45-cm boxes or higher and during a minimum of 3 months seem to  
13 be enough to improve BMC at several bone sites.  
14

15  
16 Just one research showed no improvements using a drop jumping intervention combined with a  
17 rope skipping program[27]. Nevertheless, they pointed out that those girls who were not  
18 involved in previous sports activities improved BMC of the FN. Arnett and Lutz[28] also used a  
19 rope skipping intervention reporting that 10 minutes with a rate of 50 jumps per minute for 4  
20 months was enough to increase BMC at the FN and at the greater TR more than CON.  
21

22  
23 Mackelvie et al. studied the effects of a 10-12-min circuit of jumping intervention in four  
24 different studies<sup>[6, 29-31]</sup>. The first one, focused on early pubertal girls showing that INT gained  
25 more BMC at the FN and in LS than CON after 7 months training 3 times per week[6]. Similar  
26 results were found for boys in the INT that gained more TB BMC[30]. Two years later, the  
27 same author continued with the intervention in both genders, finding on pubertal girls  
28 improvements in BMC at the LS and in FN after 20 months[29] and in prepubertal boys[31]  
29 greater increases in the FN for the INT than CON.  
30

31  
32 Several studies[32-37]carried out a jumping intervention with a variety of jumping activities  
33 such as skipping and hopping and other physical activities like running. Firstly, Specker et  
34 al.[36] performed an intervention with children aged 3 to 5 based on 20 minutes 5 days per  
35 week of hopping and skipping. They found that children in the INT showed higher increases in  
36 leg BMC than the CON. Similar results were found in pubertal and prepubertal children  
37 showing the INT group higher LS, FN, and TB BMC increases than the CON group[35], and  
38 these effects appeared to persist over three years[34]. Other researchers reduced from 5 to 3  
39 days per week. They focused on hopping and skipping and still found benefits in the INT group.  
40 Children in the INT group showed higher improvements of femur and tibia BMC with a 8.5  
41 month intervention [33]. Besides, improvements in femoral bone marrow adipose tissue volume  
42 were found with only 10 weeks of intervention [32]. Differently to the previous interventions  
43 Weeks et al.[37] developed a 2-day per week intervention for implementing their 10 minute  
44 jumping in school children. Children in the INT completed around 600 jumps per week  
45 improving TR, FN, LS and TB BMC values more than the CON.  
46  
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48  
49 Therefore, these interventions seem to be effective in pre- peri- and postpubertal children. Ten  
50 minutes twice a week might be enough to improve BMC, although it is possible that higher  
51 frequencies, volumes and protocol durations could produce a higher BMC and BMD  
52 improvement. Although the later is just a hypothesis as to our knowledge there are no studies  
53 comparing intervention protocols.  
54

55  
56 Several researchers[38, 39] used the Bounce at the Bell intervention, which required children to  
57 perform short bouts of high-impact jumping (counter-movement jumps) 3 times a day 5 days  
58 per week[39] which only entailed around three minutes per day. This type of intervention  
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3 showed higher BMC improvements in FN and intertrochanteric region of those early pubertal  
4 children allocated in the INT[39]. When this intervention was combined with 15 extra minutes  
5 per day of specific jumping and running physical activity, boys in the INT had greater gains in  
6 LS and TB BMC than the CON[38].  
7

## 8 **BMD**

9  
10 The number of studies that did not measure BMD is surprising; as both, BMD and BMC are  
11 measured with the same device (i.e. DXA) future studies should include both measures in order  
12 to give more information of bone status.  
13

14  
15 Morris et al.[19] showed that females who were participating in a high impact exercise program  
16 (step aerobics, bush dance and others) improved TB, LS, PF and FN BMD and also LS bone  
17 mineral apparent density. Some years later, McKay et al.[5] studied the effects of a jumping  
18 intervention on prepubescent and early pubescent Asian and white children for 8 months  
19 showing that the INT had greater increase in femoral TR area BMD. Studies that found  
20 improvements in BMC with 10 minutes 5 days per week of hopping and skipping which have  
21 also been included in this review as a jumping intervention, also found improvements in TB and  
22 LS BMD[35]. Similar results were found when the intervention was reduced to 3 days per week  
23 in 10-year-old students[40]. Weeks et al.[37] proposed a 10-minute jumping intervention before  
24 class began, two days per week in school children and found that girls allocated to the INT  
25 increased LS BMD more than the CON.  
26  
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28  
29 A seven-month intervention with drop jumps 3 times per week from 10 to 20 minutes was  
30 performed by Petit et al.[7]. They divided their sample by maturity status and showed that in  
31 early-pubertal girls the INT had greater gains in FN and inter-TR BMD than CON. Fuchs et  
32 al.[22] in a similar program studied 45 prepubescent children showing that BMD at the LS  
33 increased more in the INT than in the CON.  
34

35  
36 In another study with early pubertal girls and with a circuit of jumping activities, MacKelvie et  
37 al.[6] observed that the INT improved areal BMD at the FN and LS and volumetric BMD  
38 (vBMD) at the FN. As occurred with BMC, the study carried out by Van Langednock et al.[27]  
39 found no differences in areal BMD when implementing drop jumps plus rope skipping.  
40

41  
42 When the “Bounce at the bell” intervention was performed, no differences were found for  
43 vBMD measured with pQCT between the intervention and the CON[41]. The other two  
44 studies<sup>[38, 39]</sup> that performed this type of intervention did not measure BMD.  
45

46  
47 Regarding perdurability of BMD gains after the intervention, Meyer et al.[34] found that the  
48 INT group in their study maintained higher TB BMD compared to the CON 3 years after the  
49 intervention.  
50

51  
52 In conclusion, most of the studies that performed a jumping intervention showed benefits in the  
53 INT for BMC at the TB<sup>[19, 24, 30, 35, 37]</sup>, leg<sup>[24, 33, 36]</sup>, FN<sup>[6, 9, 19, 22, 23, 28, 29, 31, 35, 37]</sup>, PF<sup>[19, 27, 39]</sup>, TR<sup>[21, 37]</sup>,  
54 inter-TR[39] and LS<sup>[6, 9, 19, 20, 22, 29, 35, 37]</sup>. Only one study found that controls gained more TB  
55 BMC[39] while intervention children gained more BMC at the PF and intertrochanteric region  
56 two relevant clinical sites. Two studies found no improvements in BMC with the  
57 intervention[26, 32], although the study performed by Casazza et al.[32] had a duration of only  
58 10 weeks. Summarizing, regarding BMD, results were similar to those found in BMC, showing  
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3 the INT improvements in the TB<sup>[19, 35]</sup> LS<sup>[19, 22, 35, 37]</sup>, FN<sup>[7, 19, 40]</sup>, PF[19, 27, 30], inter-TR[7] and  
4 femoral TR[5].  
5

6 Therefore, it is possible to conclude that jumping interventions positively affect BMC and  
7 BMD. These increases in BMC and BMD due to ground impacts are in line with previous  
8 studies finding sports which entail high impacts more osteogenic[3], while other sports without  
9 impacts such as cycling[42] or swimming[43] do not produce the same effects. This is of  
10 extreme importance because bone optimization in childhood will result in stronger and denser  
11 bones in adulthood reducing the chances of developing osteoporosis later in life[44]. A 10 %  
12 increase of peak bone mass in childhood is estimated to reduce the risk of an osteoporotic  
13 fracture during adult life by 50 percent[45].  
14  
15

16 Similar results were found independently of the type of jumping intervention (i.e. drop jumps,  
17 circuit of jumping, skipping, hopping), we therefore encourage future researchers to perform  
18 enjoyable interventions with different exercises that vary along the programme in order to  
19 maintain motivation and avoid withdrawals.  
20

21 In addition to bone health, improvements in other health-related fitness variables such as  
22 maximum oxygen uptake or body composition might also occur with these interventions[46].  
23 This makes them highly recommended in primary schools.  
24  
25

26 A major question arising from this review, is what constitutes the optimal jumping programme  
27 to improve bone mass in children and adolescents. All intervention trials have achieved  
28 successful results independently of the exercise protocols such as: step aerobics, drop jumps,  
29 rope skipping, circuit interventions, and bounce at the bell. However, no quantitative, dose-  
30 response studies have been developed. Thus, it is difficult to ascertain what type and level of  
31 exercise program would be optimal to have a positive effect on bone mass. Results from the  
32 exercise interventions reviewed in this paper have varied. Yet comparison between studies is  
33 complex due to differences in design, control of variables duration of the intervention, the  
34 frequency at which exercises were performed and the ground reaction forces generated. It would  
35 be interesting that future studies compare different interventions instead of comparing an INT  
36 group to a CON group, in order to ascertain which type of intervention is more effective  
37 regarding bone mass.  
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### 43 **Bone structure**

44 pQCT was the most used technique to evaluate bone structure. Heinonen et al.[9] performed a  
45 combined step aerobic drop jumping intervention and assessed the tibial midshaft in pre- and  
46 postmenarcheal girls with pQCT. After 9 months of intervention no differences between groups  
47 (INT vs. CON) were found neither in pre- nor postmenarcheal groups. Similar results were  
48 found by Anliker et al.[26] when also performing a drop-jump intervention and Johansen et  
49 al.[24] that found no main effect of jumping on any of the pQCT tibia measurements. Other  
50 jumping interventions focused on hopping and skipping[36] did find greater periosteal and  
51 endosteal circumferences gains in the INT group than the CON. Macdonald et al.[41] that  
52 performed the “Bounce at the bell” intervention found that the INT prepubertal boys increased  
53 bone stiffness index (BSI) more than CON.  
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3 Hip Structural Analysis (HSA), was also frequently used to evaluate bone structure. This  
4 program is used in PF DXA scans to evaluate bone geometry and estimate the hip structural  
5 strength. The INT that performed a circuit of jumping activities showed increases in structural  
6 parameters, such as subperiosteal and endosteal surfaces of the narrow neck region[31], and  
7 improvements in bone strength indexes such as the cross-sectional moment of inertia  
8 (CSMI)[31] and section modulus[31]. Petit et al.[7] performed a drop jumping intervention  
9 finding improvements in the section modulus (bending strength) at the FN in early pubertal  
10 girls. In contrast, no differences were found in these variables in prepubertal girls[7]. However,  
11 other studies using this technique showed no differences between INT and CON groups[39]  
12 with the previously mentioned bounce at the bell intervention.  
13  
14

15 Another technique to evaluate bone structure was quantitative ultrasound. After a rope skipping  
16 intervention during 4 months, the INT increased os calcis stiffness index[28] more than CON.  
17 Weeks et al.[37] performed a jumping intervention finding that the INT improved more than  
18 CON for broadband ultrasound attenuation which reflects bone strength, primarily as a function  
19 of bone mass[47].  
20  
21

22 One study[32] used MRI to assess bone health in children and found that those performing a 10-  
23 week intervention, presented a decrease in femoral marrow adipose tissue volume. This  
24 parameter has shown a reciprocal relationship with bone mineral preservation[48] and is  
25 therefore of great importance to bone mass.  
26  
27

28 Interventions evaluating bone with pQCT showed improvements in the INT groups at the tibia  
29 for vBMD<sup>[24, 26, 41]</sup> BMC[24, 26] periosteal and endosteal circumferences[36] and BSI[41]. Just a  
30 pair of studies showed no differences in structure bone parameters after the intervention using  
31 this device<sup>[9, 26]</sup>.  
32

33 Similar results were found with other measurement techniques, as studies using HSA<sup>[7, 31]</sup>,  
34 Ultrasound[28, 37] or MRI[32] also found improvements in bone structure.  
35  
36

37 It seems clear that, independently of the used device to measure bone structure or bone strength,  
38 similar results can be found with higher improvements in structure and bone health in INT than  
39 in CON. This suggests that a jumping intervention might be beneficial to bone structure and  
40 strength, although these differences are not as large as those found in BMC and BMD.  
41  
42

43 No studies evaluating bone structure and strength studied the perdurability of the effects of the  
44 interventions. It is possible to hypothesize that these structural improvements are maintained  
45 longer in time than the improvements in BMC and BMD. Further researchers should focus on  
46 the perdurability of the benefits in bone structure and strength to corroborate this hypothesis.  
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### 49 **Other factors affecting bone accretion**

#### 50 *Calcium intake*

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53 Optimal exercise for promoting bone health is important, but it is also important to have an  
54 optimal dietary intake of nutrients and energy essential for normal growth processes and for  
55 bone metabolism[49, 50]. For this reason, some researchers combined interventions including  
56 jumps and calcium supplementation.  
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3 Specker et al.[36], included calcium as part of a jumping intervention, using daily chewable  
4 supplements, 5 days per week in 3- to 5- year-old children. Their study was composed by 4  
5 groups; exercise and calcium group, exercise and placebo, non-exercise and calcium and non-  
6 exercise and placebo. They found that leg BMC increase was higher in children receiving  
7 calcium versus placebo, and that children in the exercise group had greater tibia periosteal and  
8 endosteal circumferences by pQCT at study completion. Moreover, in the exercise intervention  
9 group, those who received calcium had cortical thickness and cortical area larger than those who  
10 received placebo.  
11

12  
13 Iuliano-Burns et al.[33] and Ameri et al.[40] also found exercise-calcium interactions at the leg,  
14 more specifically at the femur. Burns et al.[33] suggested that calcium influenced bone mass at  
15 non-loaded sites while exercise, but not calcium increased bone mass at the loaded site.  
16

17  
18 Although studies combining plyometric intervention and calcium intake are scarce, it seems that  
19 a combination of exercise and calcium is more effective than consuming calcium or performing  
20 exercise alone. Other studies[51-53] including weight-bearing exercise and calcium combined  
21 together have found similar results, and future interventions searching to increase BMD or  
22 BMC should therefore take both variables into account.  
23

#### 24 *Pubertal status*

25  
26 Several studies evaluated pubertal status in their participants, describing differences of the  
27 impact of the interventions on bone mass according to pubertal stage. Johannsen et al.[24],  
28 suggested that the greatest bone benefit from jumping was observed in pubertal children.  
29 Nevertheless, several other researchers<sup>[35, 41]</sup> suggested that the best stage for increasing bone  
30 structure was prepuberty.  
31

#### 32 33 34 *Training protocols (time, duration, total minutes, g-forces).*

35  
36 As summarized in table 1, interventions varied from 10 weeks to 2 years, although most of them  
37 found similar results.  
38

39  
40 It seems that a 10 week intervention[32] might be enough to start producing changes in bone.  
41 However, these changes might not be reflected in BMD or BMC and therefore might not be  
42 detected with DXA. Although, such a short intervention does not change bone mass *per se*, it  
43 seems to decrease resident adipose tissue volume in the bone marrow which is reciprocally  
44 related to the amount of mineral in the long bones[48, 54] in adults, and has been suggested to  
45 be an independent predictor of fracture<sup>[54, 55]</sup>.  
46

47  
48 Johannsen et al.[24] extended in 2 weeks the previous training[32]. Children in their study  
49 performed 5 days a week of 25 jumps. Researchers found that in 3 months, the intervention  
50 group had gained more TB and leg BMC than the CON.  
51

52  
53 Compared to these short intervention studies, the longest intervention performed was that  
54 applied by MacKelvie et al.[31] that performed a 20 month intervention during 2 school years,  
55 and showed that intervention boys gained significantly more BMC at the femoral neck and  
56 greater bone area. Moreover, the intervention group increased CSMI and SM significantly more  
57 than the CON.  
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2  
3 Most of the studies performed an 8 month intervention during a school year, and showed  
4 positive benefits in bone quantity<sup>[33, 37, 39]</sup> although, only one showed benefits in bone quality  
5 measured by QUS[37]. Longer interventions showed increases in both bone quantity[35, 36, 40]  
6 and quality<sup>[31, 36, 41]</sup>.  
7

8  
9 It seems that as little as a 3-month intervention might begin to be beneficial to bone mass  
10 increasing BMC. However, longer interventions are needed in order to change bone structure  
11 and attain stronger bones, being the study that showed more differences between the INT and  
12 the CON groups a 2-year study that performed a 20-month intervention.  
13

14 Most of the studies ranged from 8 to 12 months of intervention and found similar results,  
15 although a small amount evaluated the perdurability of the intervention. Fuch and Snow were  
16 the first to evaluate the perdurability after a 7-month intervention finding that INT maintained  
17 4% greater FN BMC than CON after 14 months[23]. Meyer et al.[34] also evaluated bone mass  
18 3 years after finding that children that had performed the 9-month intervention showed higher  
19 differences at follow-up for TB BMD compared to controls and higher TB, FN and total hip  
20 BMC.  
21

22  
23 The lack of studies evaluating perdurability of shorter interventions<sup>[28, 32]</sup> disallow comparisons  
24 regarding if longer interventions are better in the longer term. If both interventions were equally  
25 effective as a practical purpose, the shorter one should be performed. Nevertheless, if a longer  
26 intervention has a longer perdurability it would be appropriate to perform them. It can be  
27 suggested that future randomized controlled trials study as well the perdurability of the effect, to  
28 describe bone health after ending the intervention. If possible, it would be interesting that  
29 recently published studies[32, 40] also perform a follow-up in order to describe this  
30 perdurability.  
31

### 32 33 *Race*

34  
35 To our knowledge, only two studies evaluated the differences in bone variables after a jumping  
36 intervention regarding ethnicity<sup>[5, 30]</sup> finding different results. Mackelvie et al.[30] compared  
37 Asian boys to white boys, showing no differences in the bone accrual response to exercise over  
38 7 months at any measured site. However, Mckay[5] et al. found a greater increase in TB BMD  
39 in Asian children when compared to white children for a similar training program. These  
40 differences between studies might be attributed to the different age range between the two  
41 samples.  
42

### 43 44 **Limitations**

45  
46 Although most studies reported positive skeletal effects in those exercising, several  
47 confounders, limitations and considerations were evident. These are mainly concerning to  
48 selection procedures, compliance rate and control of variables. Regarding the later, calcium  
49 intake was rarely registered and is an important variable regarding bone mass that should have  
50 been controlled throughout the intervention period.  
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52  
53 Also a possible publication bias might exist, as it has been found that trials with positive  
54 findings are published more often, and more quickly, than trials with negative findings[56, 57].  
55

### 56 57 **Conclusion**

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3 Although the exact amount of volume, intensity and duration needed for jumping interventions  
4 to be effective are unclear, jumping interventions during childhood and adolescence improve  
5 bone health parameters, from BMC, BMD to structure and size without showing side effects.  
6 Moreover, these effects are maintained in time after the intervention has ended. These  
7 interventions should be therefore implemented, when possible, as this may have a direct  
8 preventive effect on bone diseases like osteoporosis later in life.  
9

10  
11 The bone structure and strength improvements in addition to BMC and BMD improvements  
12 underline the importance that specific training programmes have on bone health. These reported  
13 improvements in bone mass in addition to other non-studied improvements in fitness related  
14 variables should make these interventions compulsory along the students' life. Jumping  
15 interventions in the middle of the class duration in each session could improve fitness related  
16 variables and attention as several studies have demonstrated that the student attention only lasts  
17 for 20 minutes[58], with Europe classes lasting an average of 50 minutes. Therefore, by  
18 performing 20 jumps in the middle of the class duration in each session students would perform  
19 around 120 jumps per day, 2500 per month, improving at least bone mass, fitness related  
20 variables and attention with a possible increase in school performance[59].  
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23  
24 Future studies should compare interventions to try to determine which is the best intervention  
25 regarding volume, intensity and duration to improve bone mass, as it still remains unclear what  
26 type and doses of jumping intervention is best to improve bone mass. In addition, if possible,  
27 studies that have already performed perdurability follow-ups should perform future follow-ups  
28 when children reach their peak bone mass ages (between 25 and 30 years), in order to describe  
29 if those that performed the intervention reached a higher peak bone mass than those allocated in  
30 the control group.  
31

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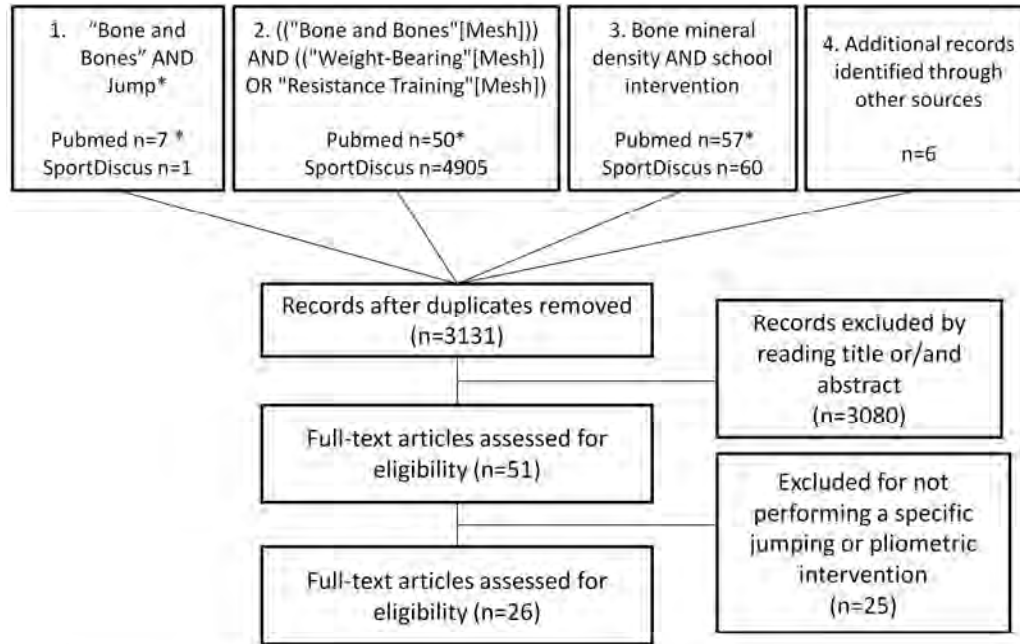
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For Review Only



Figure 1. Flowchart diagram of the included studies.



\*Limits= Clinical Trial, Humans, Child: birth-18 years.

only

Table 1. Studies concerning jumping interventions and bone mass in children and adolescences

| Authors                 | Participants  | N  | Sex     | Age                | Protocol                 |                      |   |           |   |           | Tot. min     | g forces         | Device                   | Variables                   | Measures  | Outcomes |
|-------------------------|---|--|---------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------|---|-----------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------|
|                         |   |  |         | (mean±SD or range) | Type                     | Time                 | Exercises   | Duration  | Frequency   |           |              |                  |                          |                             |   |          |
| Morris et al. 1997[19]  | Premenarcheal girls                                       | 71<br>38 INT<br>33 CON                                     | F       | 9-10               | Step-aerobic             | 30 min               | Step aerobics, bush dance, skipping, modern dance and others*                             | 10 months | 3 times per week  | 3870      | -            | DXA              | BMC<br>BMD<br>BMAD       | TB<br>LS<br>PF<br>FN        | INT showed higher BMC ↑ for TB, LS, PF and FN than CON<br>INT showed higher BMC ↑ for TB, LS, PF, FN and LS BMAD than CON |          |
| McKay et al. 2000[5]    | Prepubescent and early pubescent Asian and white children | 63 INT<br>81 CON   | M-<br>F | 6.9-10.2           | Jumping intervention     | 10-30 min            | 10 tuck jumps and Jumping, hopping, and skipping  | 8 months  | 3 times weekly and twice weekly into physical education classes | 1700-5100 | 3-5 times BW | DXA              | aBMD                     | TB<br>LS<br>PF              | INT showed higher ↑ in femoral trochanteric aBMD than CON   |          |
| Reinonen et al. 2000[9] | Pre- and postmenarcheal girls                             | 64 INT<br>25 pre<br>39 post<br>62 CON<br>33 pre<br>29 post | F       | 10-15              | Step-aerobic + drop jump | 20 min jump training | Step-aerobic program with additional jumps (from 100 to 150 both-leg jumps and box jumps) | 9 months  | 2 sessions per week   | 1560      | -            | DXA<br>p-<br>QCT | BMC<br>COD<br>CSA<br>BSI | LS<br>PF<br>Tibial midshaft | In the premenarcheal girls, the INT showed higher BMC ↑ at the LS and FN than CON   |          |

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|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------|--|----------|------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 6  | Witzke et al.<br>2000[21]   | Adolescent girls              | 25 INT<br>28 CON  | F       | 14.6±0.5 | Drop jumps                    | 30-45 min | Hopping, jumping bounding and box depth jumps (from 100-140 jumps at the beginning to 360-1000 jumps at the end)             | 9 months | 3 times per week | 3510-5265 | 4-7 times BW   | DXA        | BMC                                       | TB<br>PF<br>LS<br>Femoral mid-shaft | INT showed higher BMC ↑ at the greater TR than CON   |
| 15 | Petit et al.<br>2002 [7]    | Pre- and early-pubertal girls | Prepubertal<br>43 INT<br>25 CON<br>Early-pubertal<br>43 INT<br>63 CON | F       | 9-12     | Drop jumps                    | 10-12 min | From 10 to 20 jumps and the height from 10 to 50 cm. 50 times at each initial session and 100 jumps by the end of each level | 7 months | 3 times per week | 900-1080  | 3.5-5 times BW | DXA<br>HSA | BMD<br>Subperiosteal width<br>CSA<br>CSMI | Hip                                 | In early-pubertal girls the INT showed higher BMD ↑ at the FN and inter-TR than CON<br>INT showed higher structural changes for SM (bending strength) at the FN than CON |
| 26 | MacKelvie et al.<br>2001[6] | Early pubertal girls          | 87 INT<br>90 CON  | F       | 8.7-11.7 | Circuit of jumping activities | 10-12 min | From 50 to 100 jumps each session  | 7 months | 3 times per week | 900-1080  | 3.5-5 times BW | DXA        | BMC<br>aBMD                               | TB<br>LS<br>PF<br>FN<br>TR          | Early pubertal girls in the INT gained more bone at FN and LS than early pubertal girls in the CON.  |
| 32 | Buchs et al.<br>2001 [22]   | Prepubescent children         | 45 INT<br>25 Boys<br>20 Girls<br>44 CON<br>26 Boys<br>18 Girls        | M-<br>F | 5.9-9.8  | Drop jumps                    | 20 min    | 100, two-footed jumps off 61-cm boxes each session   | 7 months | 3 times per week | 1800      | 8.8 times BW   | DXA        | BMC<br>BMD                                | Hip<br>LS                           | INT showed higher BMC ↑ at the FN and LS than CON<br>INT showed higher BMD ↑ at the LS than CON  |

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------|---------------------|----------|------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Mackelvie et al. 2002[30]   | Prepubertal boys   | 61 INT<br>60 CON                                  | M       | 10.3±0.7<br>10.2±0.6 | Circuit of jumping activities | 10-12 min                  | From 50 to 100 jumps each session   | 7 months  | 3 times per week    | 900-1080 | 3.5-5 times BW   | DXA        | BMC aBMD          | TB<br>LS<br>PF<br>FN<br>TR | INT showed higher BMC ↑ for the TB than CON<br>INT showed higher aBMD ↑ for the PF than CON |
| Arnett and Lutz 2002[28]    | Pospubescent girls | 13 INT high volume<br>12 INT low volume<br>12 CON | F       | 14.7±0.7             | Rope skipping                 | 10 or 5 min each INT group | A rate of 50 jumps per min  | 4 months  | 4 times per week    | 340-680  | 3.2±0.2 times BW | DXA<br>QUS | BUA<br>SOS<br>BMC | LS<br>PF                   | High-volume INT showed higher ↑ for STIF, and BMC at the FN and greater TR than CON         |
| Fuchs and Snow 2002[23]     | -                  | 37 INT<br>37 CON                                  | M-<br>F | 8.8±0.1              | Drop jumps                    | -                          | -   | 7 months  | -                   | -        | -                | DXA        | BMC               | PF<br>LS                   | INT maintained 4% greater FN BMC  |
| Kontulainen et al. 2002[20] | -                  | 50 INT<br>49 CON                                  | F       | 12.5±1.5             | Step-aerobic + drop jump      | 50 min                     | Step-aerobics sessions with additional jumps (150 both-leg and 50 one-leg box (30 cm high) jumps) | 9 months  | 2 sessions per week | 3900     | -                | DXA        | BMC               | LS<br>PF                   | INT showed higher BMC ↑ in the LS than CON  |
| Mackelvie et al. 2003[29]   | Pubertal girls     | 32 INT<br>43 CON                                  | F       | 9.9±0.6<br>10.3±0.4  | Circuit of jumping activities | 10 min                     | Plyometric, alternating-foot and 2-foot obstacle jumps from 5 laps (55 jumps) to 12 (132 jumps)   | 20 months | 3 times per week    | 2580     | 3.5-5 times BW   | DXA        | BMC               | TB<br>LS<br>PF             | INT showed higher BMC ↑ at the LS and FN than CON   |

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---|----------|------------------|------|----------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Van Langendonck et al. 2003[27] | Prepubertal monozygotic female twins | 21 INT<br>21 CON | F       | 8.7±0.7              | Drop jumps + rope skipping | 10 min        | Rope skipping 50 times, hopping 20 times, jumping from a wooden box of 40 cm high landing on both feet 30 times | 9 months | 3 times per week | 1170 | 3.5-5 times BW | DXA      | BMC aBMD               | PF FN LS                          | No differences in bone indexes between groups but girls who were not involved in previous sport activities improved aBMD and BMC of the PF more than CON  |
| Johansen et al. 2003[24]        | Children                             | 26 INT<br>26 CON | M-<br>F | 10.3±5.3<br>10.0±5.1 | Drop jumps                 | No time limit | 25 jumps day from a 45-cm box   | 12 weeks | 5 days per week  | 650  | 4-5 times BW   | DXA pQCT | BMC PERIC ENDC COA CTH | TB, LS, FN 4 and 20% distal tibia | Jumpers showed higher BMC ↑ for TB and leg than CON. There was no main effect of jumping on any pQCT tibia measurements. During peripubertal stage INT showed higher BMC ↑ at LS and 4% distal tibia than CON |

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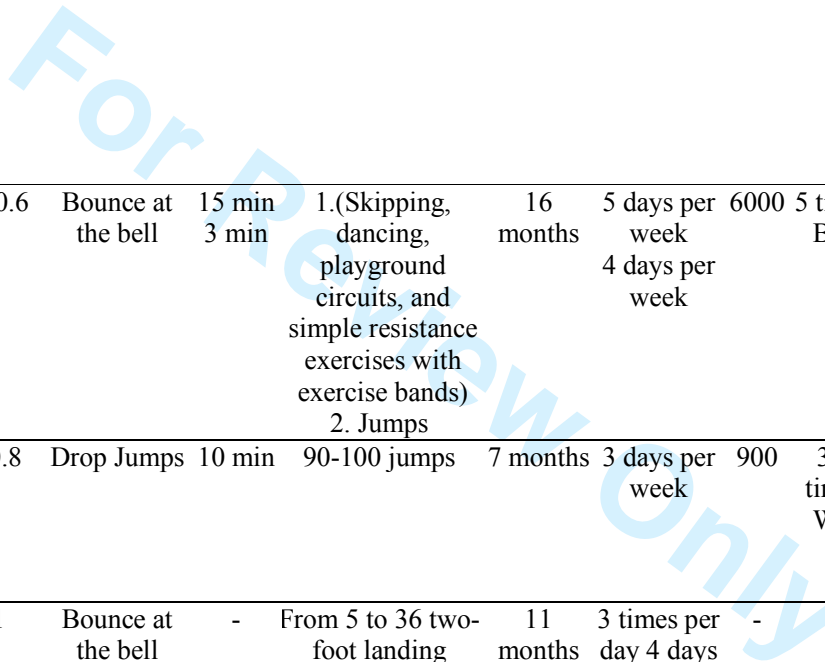
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|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--|----------------------|--------|--|-----------|-----------------|------|---|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Specker et al. 2003[36] | 3 to 5 year-old children | 124 INT exercise<br>114 CON | M-<br>F | 3.9±0.6<br>3.8±0.5<br>4.0±0.6<br>4.0±0.6 | Jumping intervention | 30 min | Groups 1 and 2, jumping, hopping and skipping activities | 12 months | 5 days per week | 7800 | - | DXA<br>pQCT | BMC<br>BA<br>PER<br>END<br>COA<br>CTH | TB, Arm, Leg, 20% distal tibia | Exercise-INT showed higher periosteal and endosteal circumference ↑ than children in the fine motor group. In the CA-INT those that were in the exercise-INT showed higher ↑ for CTH and COA than those receiving placebo. In the placebo-INT those that were in the exercise-INT CTH and COA were smaller than those in the without the exercise intervention. Leg BMC ↑ more in the CA than the placebo groups |
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| Qualiano-Burns et al. 2003[33] | Pre and early-pubertal girls | 34 INT<br>32 CON | F | 8.7±0.3<br>9.0±0.2<br>8.8±0.3<br>8.9±0.3 | Jumping intervention          | 20 min    | Groups 1 and 2 hopping, jumping and skipping + 2 g milk minerals (400 mg of calcium)<br>Groups 3 and 4 stretching and low-impact dance routines                    | 8.5 months | 3 days per week | 2220 | 2-4 times BW   | DXA        | BMC  | TB, LS                    | An exercise-calcium interaction was detected at the femur<br>Exercise but not calcium, increased bone mass at the tibia.<br>INT showed higher BMC ↑ than CON<br>BMC ↑ 2-4% more in the calcium supplemented than the non-supplemented groups at the radius-ulna |
| MacKelvie et al. 2004[31]      | Prepubertal boys             | 31 INT<br>33 CON | M | 10.2±0.5<br>10.1±0.5                     | Circuit of jumping activities | 10-12 min | 50 to 100 jumps per session across three levels of difficulty.<br>Exercise stations incorporated plyometric jumps, alternating-foot jumps and 2-ft obstacle jumps. | 20 months  | 3 days per week | 2610 | 3.5-5 times BW | DXA<br>HSA | BMC<br>BA<br>CSMI<br>CSA<br>SM<br>CTH,<br>END<br>PER | TB, LS,<br>PF, FN,<br>TR, | INT boys showed higher BMC ↑ at the FN than CON<br>INT boys showed higher CSMI and SM ↑ than CON  |

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| Mckay et al. 2005[39]     | Early pubertal children | 51 INT<br>71 CON   | M-<br>F | 10.1±0.5<br>10.2±0.4 | Bounce at the bell | 3 min           | 10 countermovement jumps three times each school day  | 8 months  | 5 days per week                    | 510  | 5 times BW   | DXA<br>HSA | BMC<br>BA<br>CSA<br>CSM<br>SM                    | TB, LS, PF, FN, TR, IT, | INT showed higher BMC ↑ at the PF and IT than CON<br>CON showed higher BMC ↑ for adjusted than INT<br>No significant differences between INT and CON for bone structural variables |
| McDonald et al. 2007[41]  | School children         | 281 INT<br>129 CON | M-<br>F | 10.2±0.6             | Bounce at the bell | 15 min<br>3 min | 1.(Skipping, dancing, playground circuits, and simple resistance exercises with exercise bands)<br>2. Jumps | 16 months | 5 days per week<br>4 days per week | 6000 | 5 times BW   | pQCT       | BSI<br>SSIPOL<br>TOA<br>COD<br>CSA<br>SM<br>vBMD | 8 & 50% of the tibia,   | Intervention prepubertal boys showed higher BSI ↑ than CON   |
| Gunter et al. 2008[25]    | School children         | 101 INT<br>104 CON | M-<br>F | 8.6±0.8              | Drop Jumps         | 10 min          | 90-100 jumps  | 7 months  | 3 days per week                    | 900  | 3-4 times WB | DXA        | BMC  | TB<br>Hip<br>FN<br>LS   | INT showed higher BMC ↑ than CON at the LS, hip, FN and TB. Even three years after the intervention  |
| Macdonald et al. 2008[38] | School children         | 293 INT<br>117 CON | M-<br>F | 9-11                 | Bounce at the bell | -               | From 5 to 36 two-foot landing jumps   | 11 months | 3 times per day<br>4 days per week | -    | -            | HSA<br>DXA | BMC<br>BA<br>CSA<br>CSM<br>SM                    | FN<br>PF<br>LS<br>TB    | INT boys showed higher BMC ↑ at the LS and TB than CON.  |



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| Weeks et al. 2008[37] | School children | 52 INT<br>47 CON | M-<br>F | 13.8±0.4 | Jumping intervention | 10 min | Jumps, hips, tuck-jumps, jump-squats, stride jumps, star jumps, lunges, side lunges and skipping | 8 months | 2 days per week | 680 | - | DXA<br>QUS | BMC<br>BMD<br>BA<br>BMAD<br>CTH<br>CSMI<br>BSI<br>BUA | FN, TR, LS TB, Calcaneus Vertical jump test | INT showed higher calcaneal BUA ↑ than CON<br>INT showed higher BMC FN,TR, LS and TB ↑ than CON<br>INT boys showed higher WB BMC ↑ than CON boys<br>INT boys showed ↑ for calcaneal BUA and FN area while CON did not.<br>INT girls ↑ FN BMC and LS BMAD while CON did not.<br>In the INT improvements in TR, LS and WB BMC were greater in boys than girls. |
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| Meyer et al. 2011[35] | School children                 | 158 INT<br>133 CON | M-<br>F | 6-7 & 11-12<br>6-7 & 11-12   | Jumping intervention | 45 min | At least 10 min of jumping activities like hopping, jumping up and down stairs, rope skipping etc. 3-5 short activity breaks during academic lessons, comprising motor skill tasks such as jumping or balancing every day. 10 min PA homework | One school year (9 months) | 2 days per week | 3510 | - | DXA | BMC<br>BMD | TB, FN, LS | INT showed larger ↑ in TB BMC from baseline<br>INT showed higher BMC ↑ at FN and LS than CON<br>A larger intervention effect in prepubertal than pubertal children was found. |
| Ameri et al. 2012[40] | Students with attention deficit | 28 INT<br>26 CON   | M       | INT+CA<br>10.3±2.0<br>INT+PL<br>10.3±2.1<br>CON+CA<br>10.2±2.1<br>CON+PL<br>10.4±2.2 | Jumping intervention | 50 min | Walking, running, jumping, hippping and galloping   | 9 months                   | 3 days per week | 5850 | - | DXA | BMD        | FN         | BMD improvement was significant in all experimental groups<br>INT+CA had significantly greater changes in FN BMD than other groups  |

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| Anliker et al. 2012[26] | Children        | 22 INT<br>23 CON  | M-<br>F | 10.5±1.2<br>10.8±1.1 | Drop jumps           | 10 min                     | Two-and one-legged hopping, drop jumps, side to side jumps, jumping jacks, jumps and landings from a podium, jumps over barriers and short multidirectional sprints      | 8 months                   | 2 days per week | 720  | 3-3.5 times BW | pQCT       | vBMC,<br>trvBMD<br>COD<br>vBMD<br>trBOA COA<br>Peri Endo<br>SSIPOL | Tibia         | There were no significantly different adaptations in bone strength and geometry between the two groups from pre to post intervention. |
| Casazza et al. 2012[32] | Young Children  | 10 INT<br>10 CON  | M       | 4.8±0.2<br>5.1±0.1   | Jumping intervention | 10 min<br>10 min<br>10 min | Jumping<br>Hopping<br>Running  | 10 weeks                   | 3 days per week | 900  |                | DXA<br>MRI | BMC<br>BMAT<br>CTH   | TB,<br>Femur  | INT showed a higher decrease in femoral BMAT than CON<br>No changes in either femoral cortical bone volume or TB BMC in both groups.  |
| Meyer et al. 2013[34]   | School children | 149 INT<br>65 CON | M-<br>F | 8.8±2.1<br>8.8±2.2   | Jumping intervention | 45 min                     | At least 10 min of jumping activities like hopping, jumping up and down stairs, rope skipping etc. 3-5 short activity breaks during academic lessons. 10 min PA homework | One school year (9 months) | 2 days per week | 3510 | -              | DXA        | BMC<br>BMD   | TB, FN,<br>LS | INT showed significantly higher BMC ↑ for WB, FN and THIP compared to CON<br>INT showed higher adjusted ↑ for WB BMD compared to CON  |

↑=Increases; aBMD = areal BMD; BA = Bone area; BMAD = Bone Mineral Apparent Density; BMAT = Bone marrow adipose tissue; BMC = Bone Mineral Content; BMD = Bone Mineral Density; BSI = Bone Strength Index; BSI=Bone strength index; BSI=Bone strength index; BUA = Broadband Ultrasound Attenuation; BW = Body Weight; CA = Calcium Intervention; COA = Cortical Area; COD = Cortical Density; CON = Control group; CSA = Cross-Sectional Area; CSMI=Cross-sectional moment of inertia; CTH = Cortica thickness; DXA = Dual Energy X-ray; END = Endosteal width; ENDC = Endosteal circumference; Ex=Exercise intervention; F = Females; FN = Femoral Neck;

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HAS = Hip Structural Analysis; IBS=Index of bone structural strength; INT = Intervention group; IT = Intertrochanteric region; LS = Lumbar Spine; M = Males; PER = Periosteal width; PERIC = Periosteal circumference; PF = Proximal Femur; PL=Placebo; p-QCT = peripheral Quantitative Computed Tomography; QUS = Quantitative UltraSound; SM = Section Modulus; SOS = Speed of Sound; SSI=Polar strength strain index; SSIPOL = Strength Strain Index; STIF = Stiffness Index; TB = Total Body; THIP=Total hip; TOA = Total area; TR = Trochanter; trbBMD = Trabecular vBMD; trBOA=Trabecular BA; vBMC = Volumetric BMC; vBMD = Volumetric BMD.

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Table 2. The Cochrane tool for assessing risk in randomized trials.

| Author                           | Random sequence generation | Allocation concealment | Blinding of participants | Blinding of personnel | Blinding of outcome assessment | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other bias  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Morris et al. 1997 [19]          | High risk                  | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Low risk              | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            | A greater increase in height in the control group versus the exercise group |
| McKay et al. 2000 [5]            | Unclear risk               | Unclear risk           | Unclear risk             | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Heinonen et al. 2000 [9]         | High risk                  | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Witzke et al. 2000 [21]          | High risk                  | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Petit et al. 2002 [7]            | Unclear risk               | Unclear risk           | Unclear risk             | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| MacKelvie et al. 2001 [6]        | Unclear risk               | Unclear risk           | Unclear risk             | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Fuchs et al. 2001 [22]           | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Arnett and Lutz 2002 [28]        | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Low risk              | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Fuchs and snow 2002 [23]         | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Kontulainen et al. 2002 [20]     | High risk                  | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| MacKelvie et al. 2002[30]        | Unclear risk               | Unclear risk           | Unclear risk             | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| MacKelvie et al. 2003 [29]       | Unclear risk               | Unclear risk           | Unclear risk             | Unclear risk          | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Van Langendonck et al. 2003 [27] | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Low risk              | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Johannsen et al. 2003 [24]       | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Specker et al. 2003 [36]         | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | Low risk*                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Iuliano Burns et al.2003 [33]    | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | Low risk*                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Mackelvie et al. 2004 [31]       | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Mckay et al. 2005 [39]           | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Macdonald et al. 2007 [41]       | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | Unclear risk             | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Gunter et al. 2008 [25]          | Unclear                    | Unclear risk           | High risk                | Low risk              | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Macdonadl et al. 2008[38]        | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Weeks et al. 2008 [37]           | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Meyer et al. 2011 [35]           | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Ameri et al.2012 [40]            | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |
| Anliker et al. 2012 [26]         | Low risk                   | Unclear risk           | High risk                | High risk             | High risk                      | Low risk                | Low risk            |   |

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Casazza et al. 2012 [32]      High risk    Unclear risk    High risk    High risk    High risk    Low risk    Low risk

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\*Two types of exercise, and regarding calcium intake there is a placebo group.

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