



AP Bio

FRQ Fridays

2016 #8
Experimental Design & Error Bars

FRQ Friday #4

2016 #8

Researchers conducted a study to investigate the effect of exercise on the release of prolactin into the blood. The researchers measured the concentration of prolactin in the blood of eight adult males before ($T = 0$ hour) and after one hour ($T = 1$ hour) of vigorous exercise. As a control, the researchers measured the concentration of blood prolactin in the same group of individuals at the same times of day one week later, but without having them exercise. The results are shown in Figure 1.

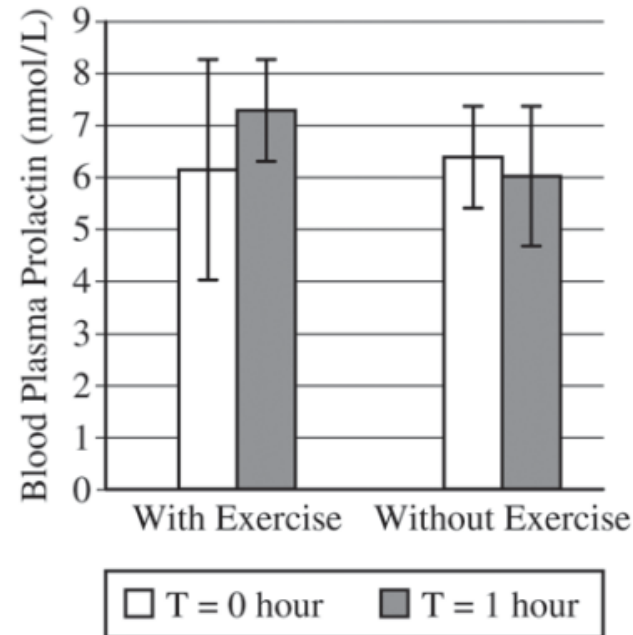


Figure 1. Effect of exercise on blood prolactin levels in adult males. The data represent the means $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$.



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(a) Justify the use of the without-exercise treatment as the control in the study design.

Justification (1 point)

- Attribute changes in the concentration of blood prolactin to exercise only
- Rule out normal fluctuations in prolactin release/levels

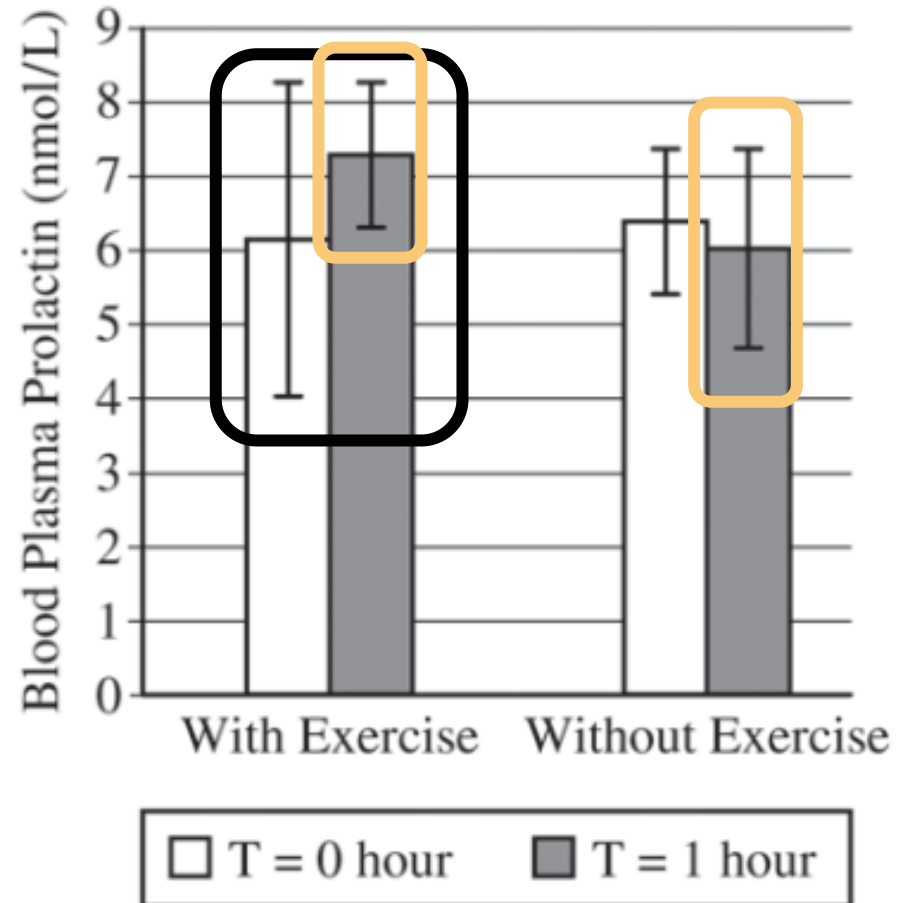
a.) The without-exercise treatment serves as the control group to see what normal levels of prolactin are, without exercise, at that exact time. It removed time as a possible variable.



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(b) Using evidence from the specific treatments, **determine** whether prolactin release changes after exercise. **Justify** your answer.



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Determination (1 point)

- Exercise does not affect prolactin release

Justification (1 point)

- The T=1 hour with-exercise mean and the T=1 hour without-exercise mean are within $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$.
- The $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$ error bars for the T=1 hour with-exercise time point and the T=1 hour time without-exercise point overlap.
- The $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$ error bars for the T=0 and T=1 hour with-exercise time points overlap.
- The T=0 hour with-exercise mean and the T=1 hour with exercise-mean are within $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$.



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Determination (1 point)

- Exercise does not affect prolactin release

Justification (1 point)

- The T=1 hour with-exercise mean and the T=1 hour without-exercise mean are within $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$.
- The $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$ error bars for the T=1 hour with-exercise time point and the T=1 hour time without-exercise point overlap.
- The $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$ error bars for the T=0 and T=1 hour with-exercise time points overlap.
- The T=0 hour with-exercise mean and the T=1 hour with exercise-mean are within $\pm 2SE_{\bar{x}}$.

b.) Prolactin release does not change after exercise because the error bars from t = 0 hour and t = 1 hour on the with exercise bars, overlap.

Hi!