

Effect of Covid-19 on the Lifestyles of Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Elite Athletes: A Cross-Country Analysis

Mahdi. Ashouri¹, Sadaf. Nehzat Norozi Tehrani², Karuppasamy. Govindasamy³, Hassane. Zouhal^{4*}




¹ PhD student in Sports Physiology, Mazandaran University, Iran

² Master of Sports Physiology, Imam Khomeini International University, Qazvin, Iran

³ Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, College of Science and Humanities, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Tamilnadu, India

⁴ Univ Rennes, M2S (Laboratoire Mouvement, Sport, Santé) - EA 1274, F-35000 Rennes, France

* Corresponding author email address: hassane.zouhal@univ-rennes2.fr

Editor	Reviewers
Alireza Aminaee  Department of Motor Behavior and Sport Psychology, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport Sciences, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran Email: aaminaee@ut.ac.ir	Reviewer 1: Leila Youzbashi  Department of sport science , Faculty of Humanities, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran. Email: l.youzbashi@znu.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Mozhgan Moshtagh  Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Faculty of Health, Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran Email: mozhganmoshtagh@bums.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 01 February 2022

Reviewer: Overall, the study provides valuable insights into the effects of COVID-19 vaccination status on the lifestyles of elite athletes. With some improvements in detailing the methodology and expanding on the implications of the findings, the study could significantly contribute to the field.

- **Research Question and Design:** The research question is relevant and timely. The use of a cross-sectional study design is appropriate for the research question. However, the sampling method (convenience and snowball sampling) could limit the generalizability of the findings.
- **Data Collection and Analysis:** The instruments used for data collection are standard and suitable for the study's objectives. The statistical methods are clearly outlined and appropriate for the data analysis. However, the study might benefit from a more detailed description of the data collection process, particularly regarding participant recruitment and response rates.

- **Results:** The results indicate significant disparities in physical activity and dietary habits between vaccinated and unvaccinated elite athletes, which are valuable insights. Nonetheless, the report could enhance its impact by providing more nuanced interpretations of these disparities and their potential implications.
- **Limitations:** The study acknowledges its limitations, including the sample size and the inability to control for certain variables. Further discussion on how these limitations affect the results and potential ways to address them in future research would be beneficial.

Response: Thank you for your comment. I have uploaded the revised document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 02 February 2022

Reviewer: This study is a significant contribution to understanding the impact of COVID-19 on elite athletes' lifestyles. It highlights important differences in behavior based on vaccination status, providing a foundation for further research and practical implications in sports and health policy. With further refinement in methodology and depth in discussion, this paper could have a substantial impact on the field.

- The study addresses a unique and under-researched area by focusing on elite athletes' lifestyle changes due to COVID-19 vaccination status. This innovative angle is a significant strength of the paper.
- While the methodology is generally sound, the study could further strengthen its approach by discussing the rationale behind the chosen statistical tests and possibly including additional analyses to explore the relationships between different lifestyle factors and vaccination status.
- The interpretation of results is thorough, with careful consideration of how vaccination status may influence various lifestyle aspects. Future recommendations or practical applications of these findings to athlete management and policy could be a valuable addition.
- The literature review is comprehensive, but it could be more focused on directly relevant studies to establish a clear theoretical framework for the research
- The article is well-structured and follows a logical flow. However, some sections, such as the discussion, could be condensed to improve readability.
- The inclusion of figures is helpful in illustrating the findings. Ensuring high-quality, readable figures would enhance the paper's overall presentation.

Response: Thank you for your comment. I have uploaded the revised document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.