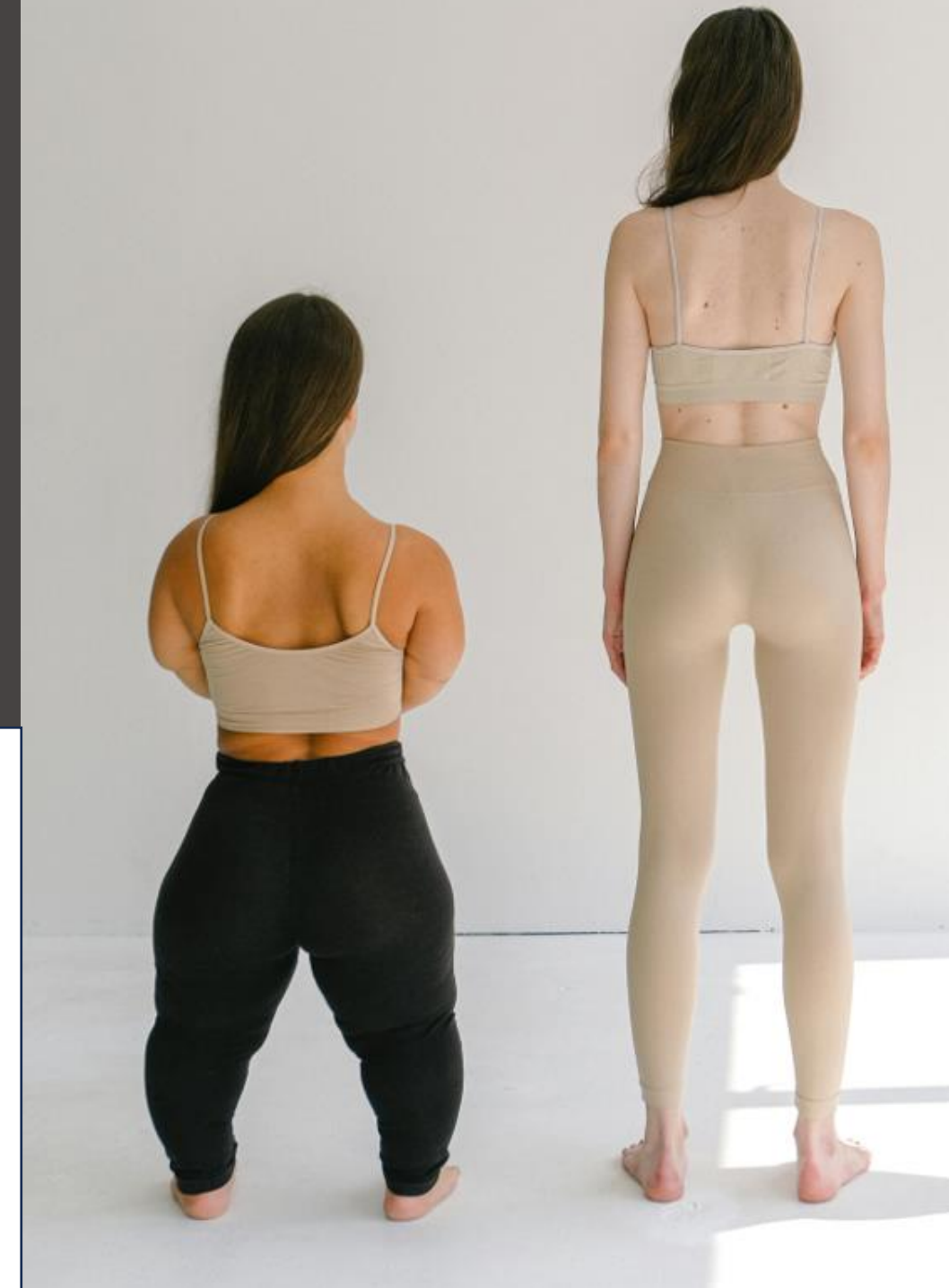


Effects of physical activity habits in cardiometabolic health in adults with Achondroplasia

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Achondroplasia



Rare skeletal dysplasia

Caused by a mutation in FGFR3



Skeletal Impact

Disproportionate short stature.
Skeletal deformities, spinal stenosis, joint laxity

Adult height
110 cm -
135 cm

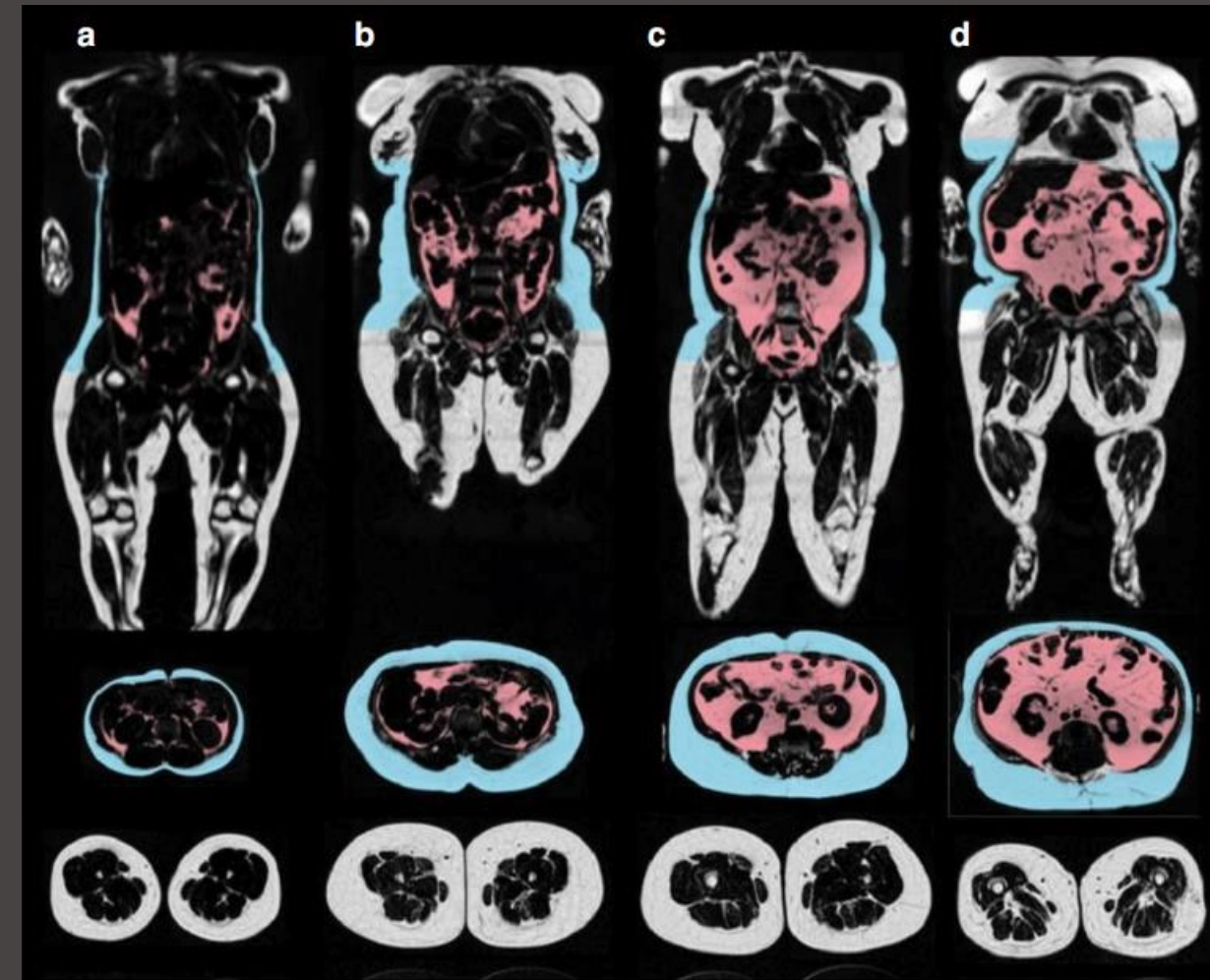


Prevalence

1 in 25 000 births



Cardiovascular disease
Obesity ^[1]

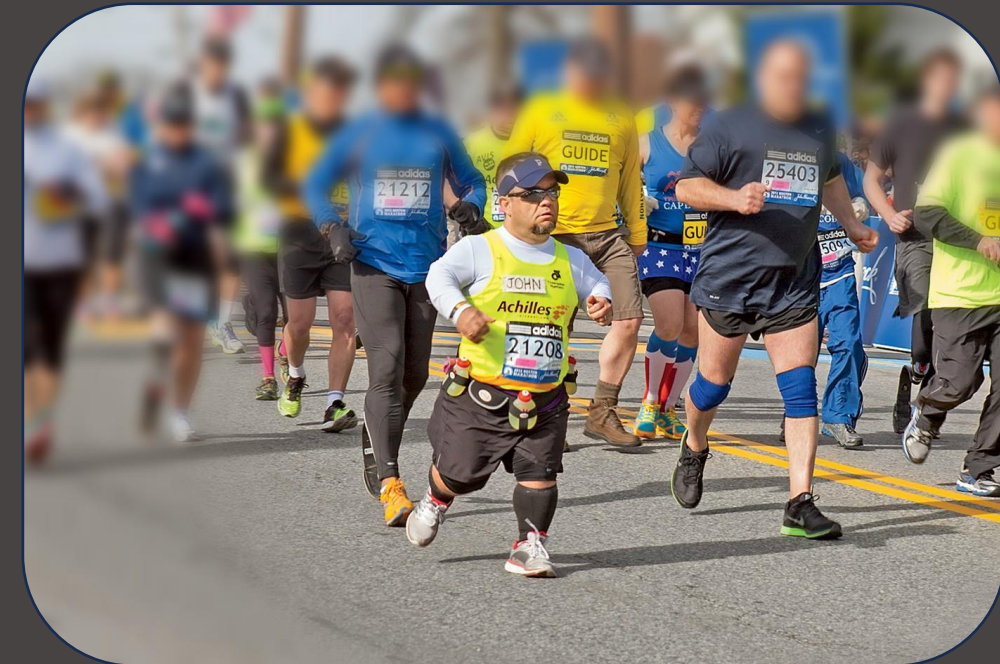


Research Hypothesis

Higher levels of regular physical activity are associated with:



Lower adiposity

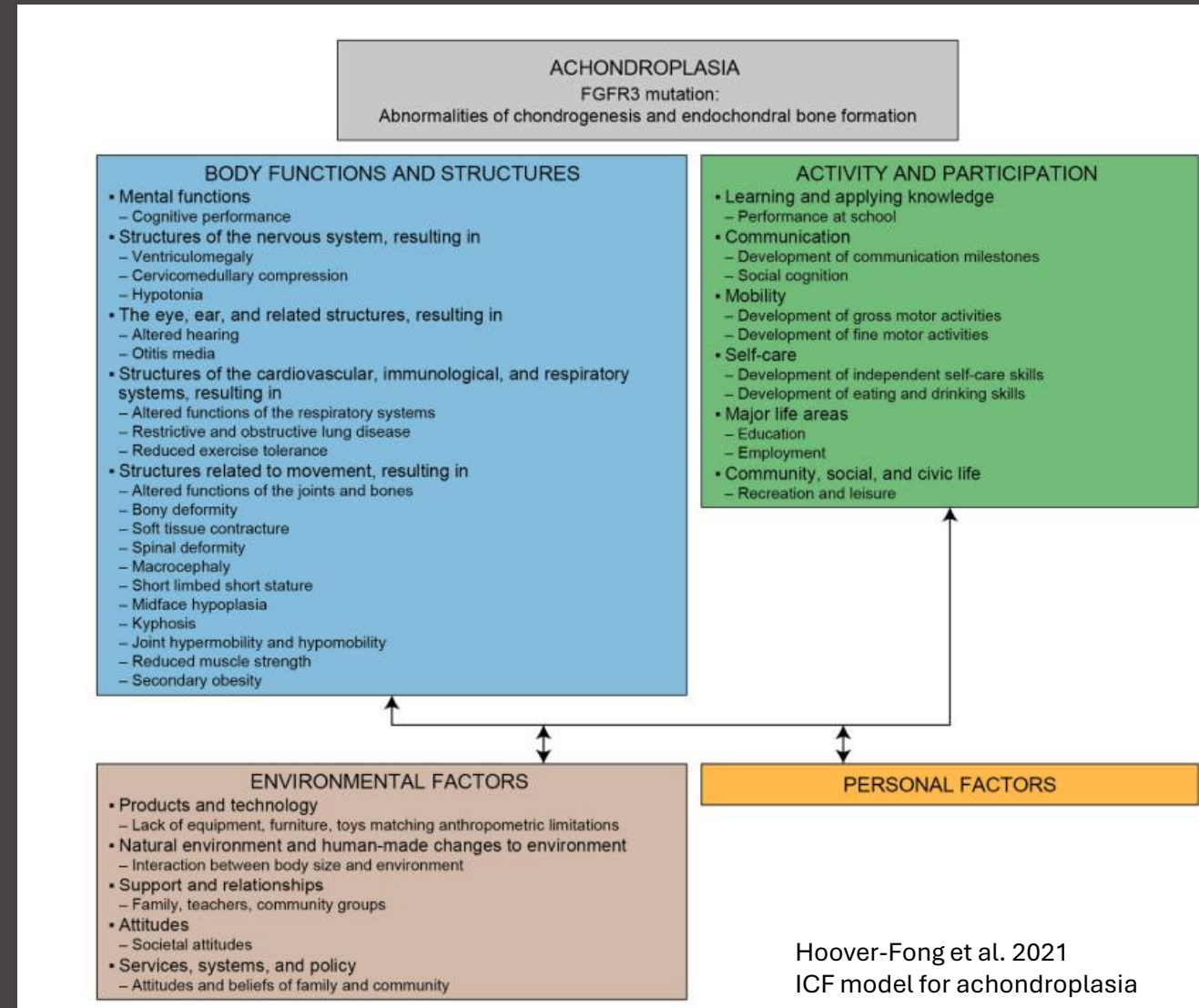


Better physical fitness [2]

Functional diversity / disability



Credits: Tom Shakespeare



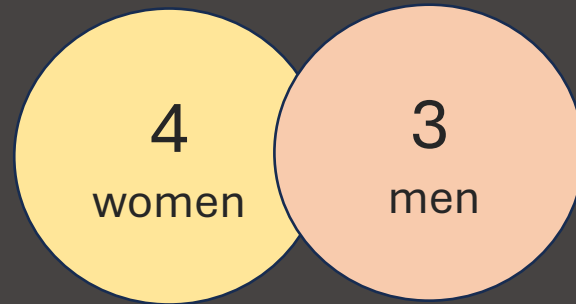
Methods

ASSESSMENTS

- Anthropometrics and body composition
- Physical fitness test (6MWT, handgrip)
- IPAQ questionnaire (PA score and level)
- **Maximal treadmill exercise test**
 - VO₂max
 - peak VO₂ (pVO₂)
 - peak ventilation (pV)
 - maximum heart rate (maxHR)
 - anaerobic threshold (AT)
 - Functional Capacity (FC)



Participants characteristics



	Age (years)	Weight (kg)	Height (cm)	Waist circunf (cm)	Hip circunf (cm)	W/R	Fat mass (%)	Lean mass (%)
Mean ± SD	37.3 ± 11.9	53.7 ± 15.2	129 ± 13.9	83.5 ± 15.6	99.3 ± 11.7	0.839 ± 0.096	24.2 ± 11.7	70.3 ± 14.8

	6MWT (m)	Handgrip strength (kg)	IPAQ - PA score (METs)
Mean ± SD	395 ± 86.4	13 ± 6.41	723±768



Physical activity assessment

METs – multiple of resting metabolic rate



Activity Type	MET Value
Walking	3.3 METs
Moderate Physical Activity	4.0 METs
Vigorous Physical Activity	8.0 METs

Results

Physical activity levels



PAL 1 - Inactive

No exercise, walking only

N = 5



PAL 2 – Minimally active

Lower MET exercises (leisure swimming or slow cycling)

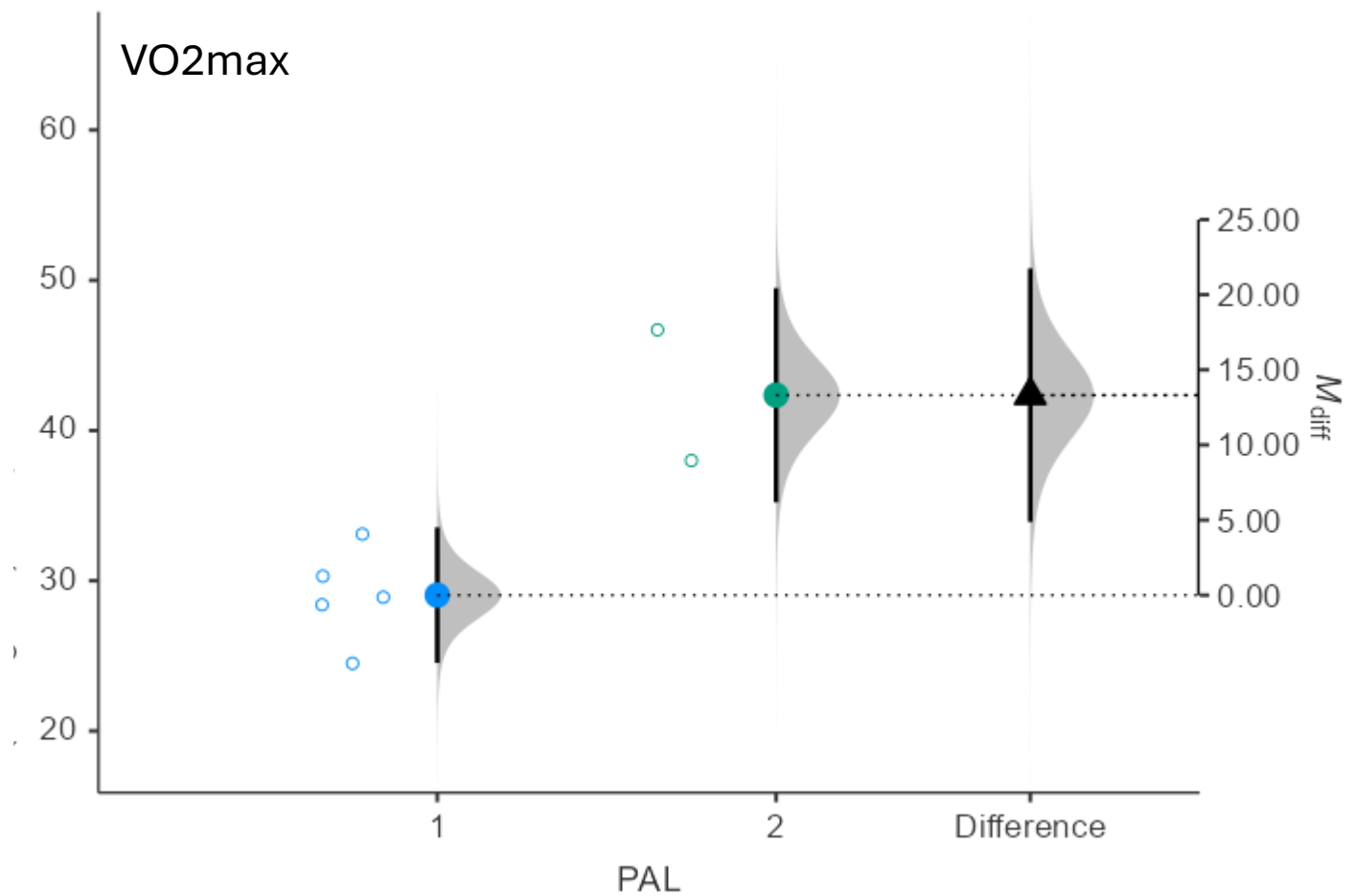
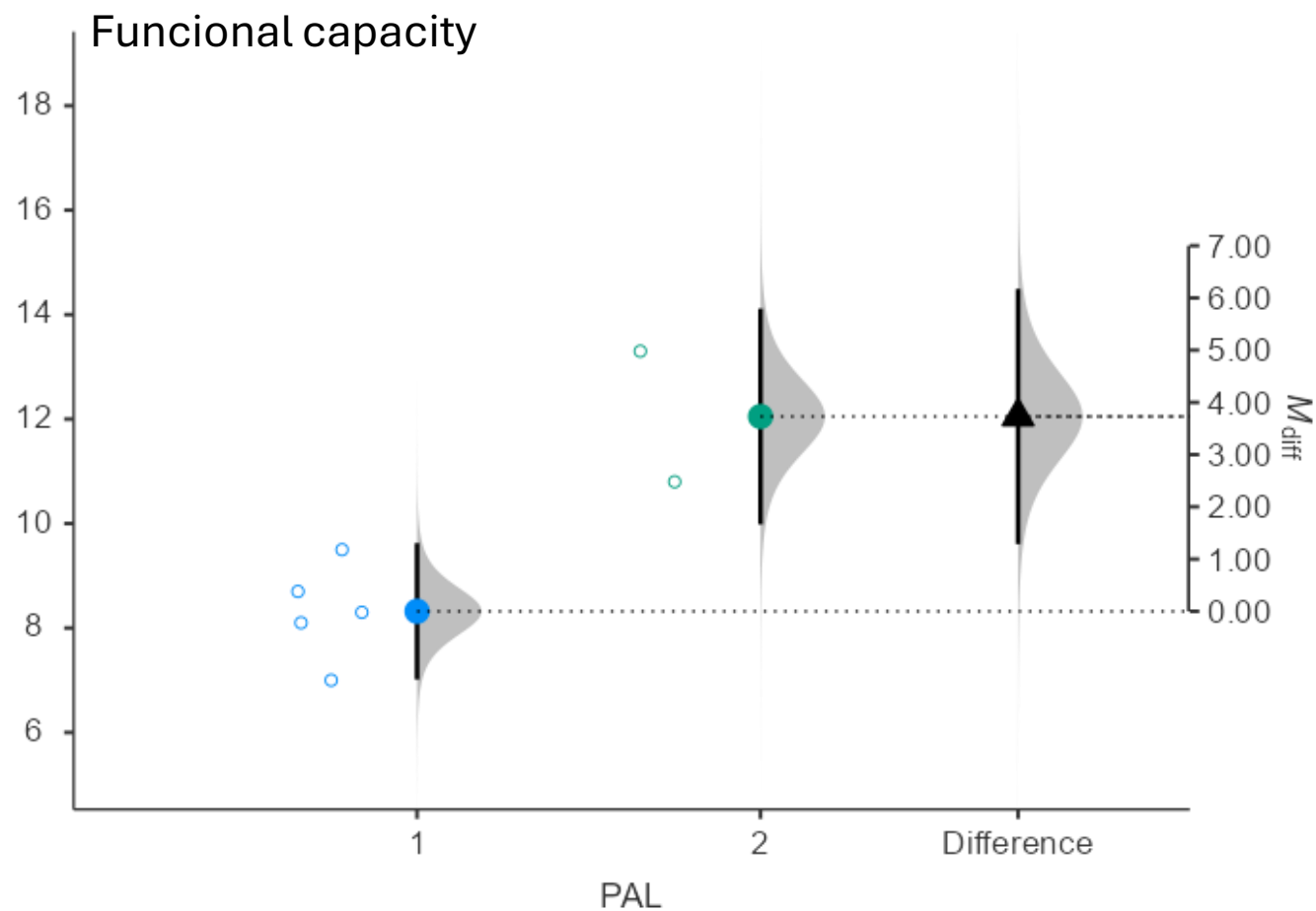
N = 2

Results

Comparison between PAL1 and PAL2

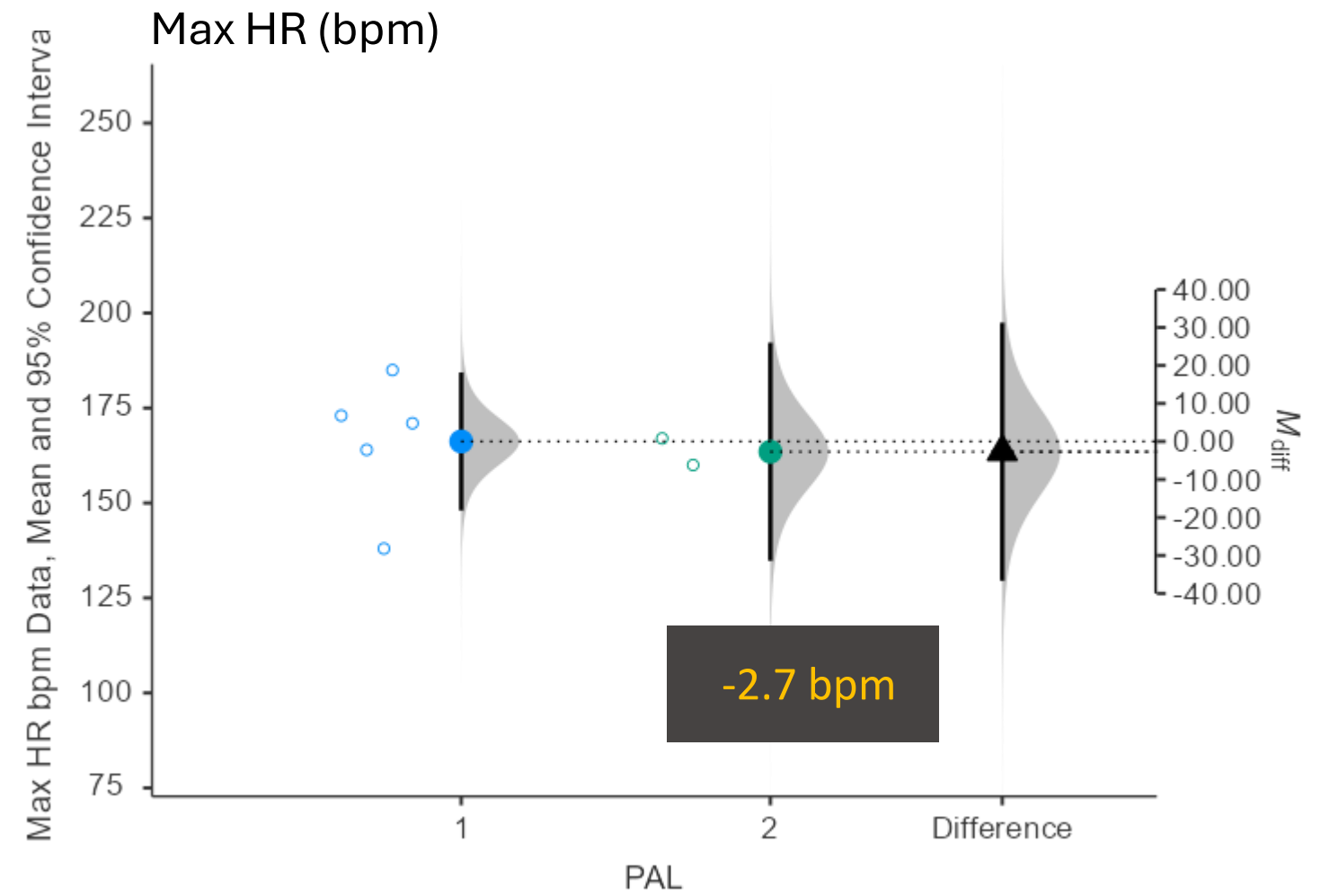
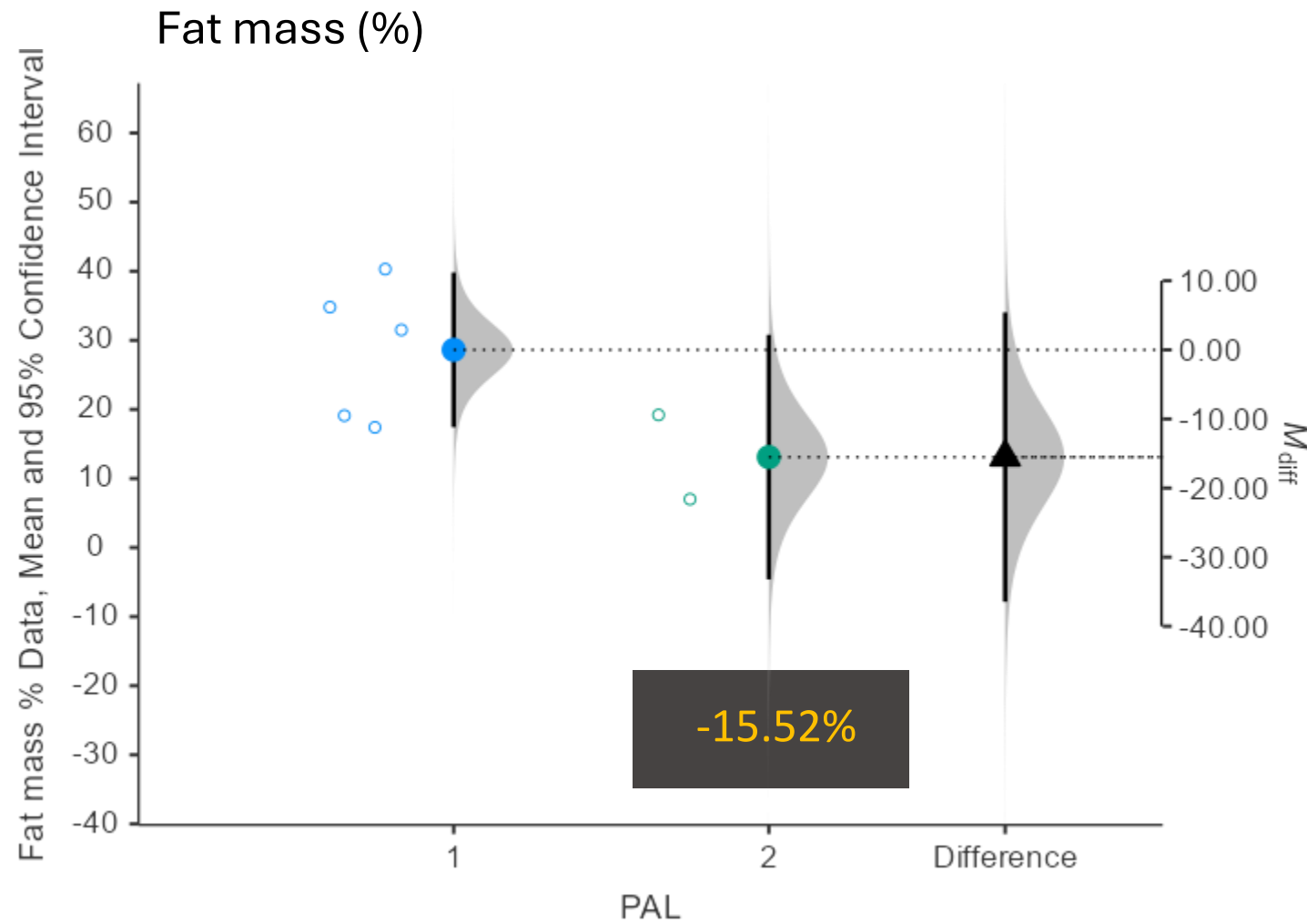
Significant differences
($p < 0.05$, effect size > 2.1)
in favor of **PAL2**

	Functional capacity METS	Peak VO2 mL/min	Exercise capacity mL/kg/min	Aerobic threshold mL/kg/min	6MWT mts	PAS
PAL 1	8.32 ± 0.91	1492 ± 484	29 ± 3.13	20.5 ± 4.26	355 ± 55	355 ± 212
PAL 2	12.1 ± 1.77	2550 ± 223	42.4 ± 6.15	28.7 ± 0.85	497 ± 60.8	1642 ± 996



Results

Body Composition and Heart Rate



Results

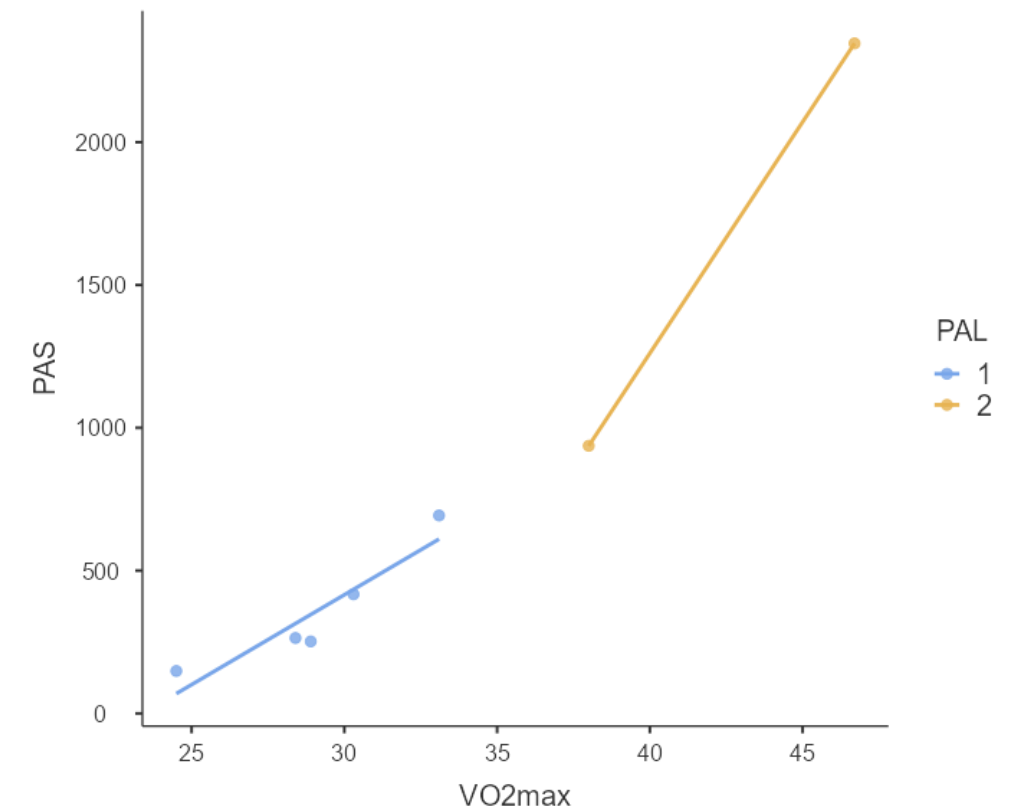
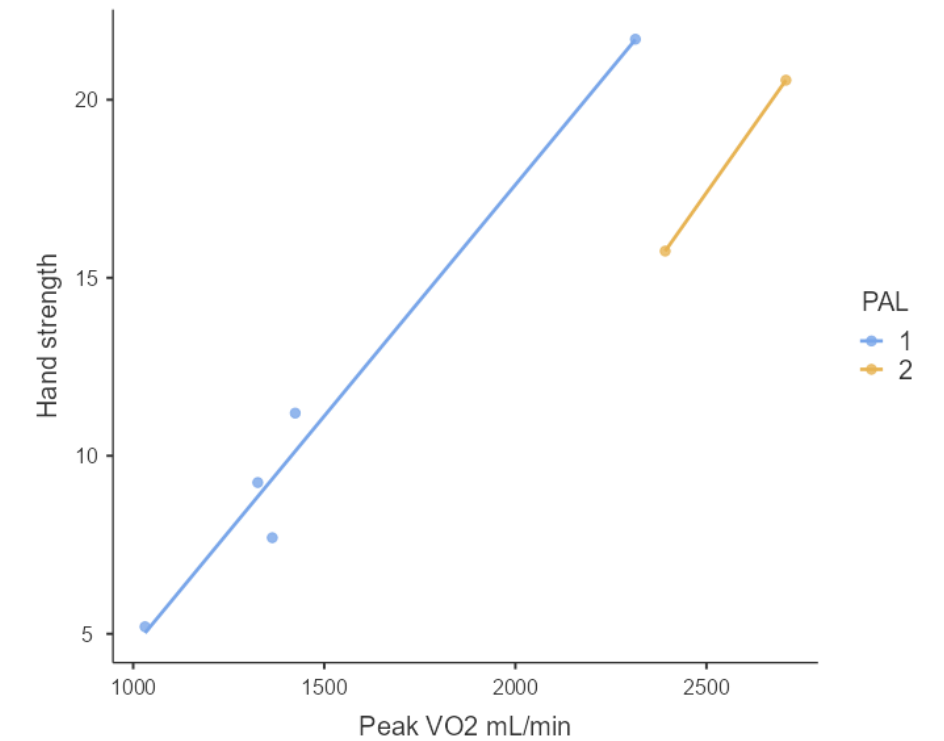
Correlations

•Strong correlations ($p < 0.001$):

- Handgrip strength and peak ventilation ($r = 0.955$)
- VO₂max and Physical Activity Score ($r = 0.967$)
- VO₂max and Fat Mas % ($r = -0.842$)

Other significant correlations ($p < 0.01$):

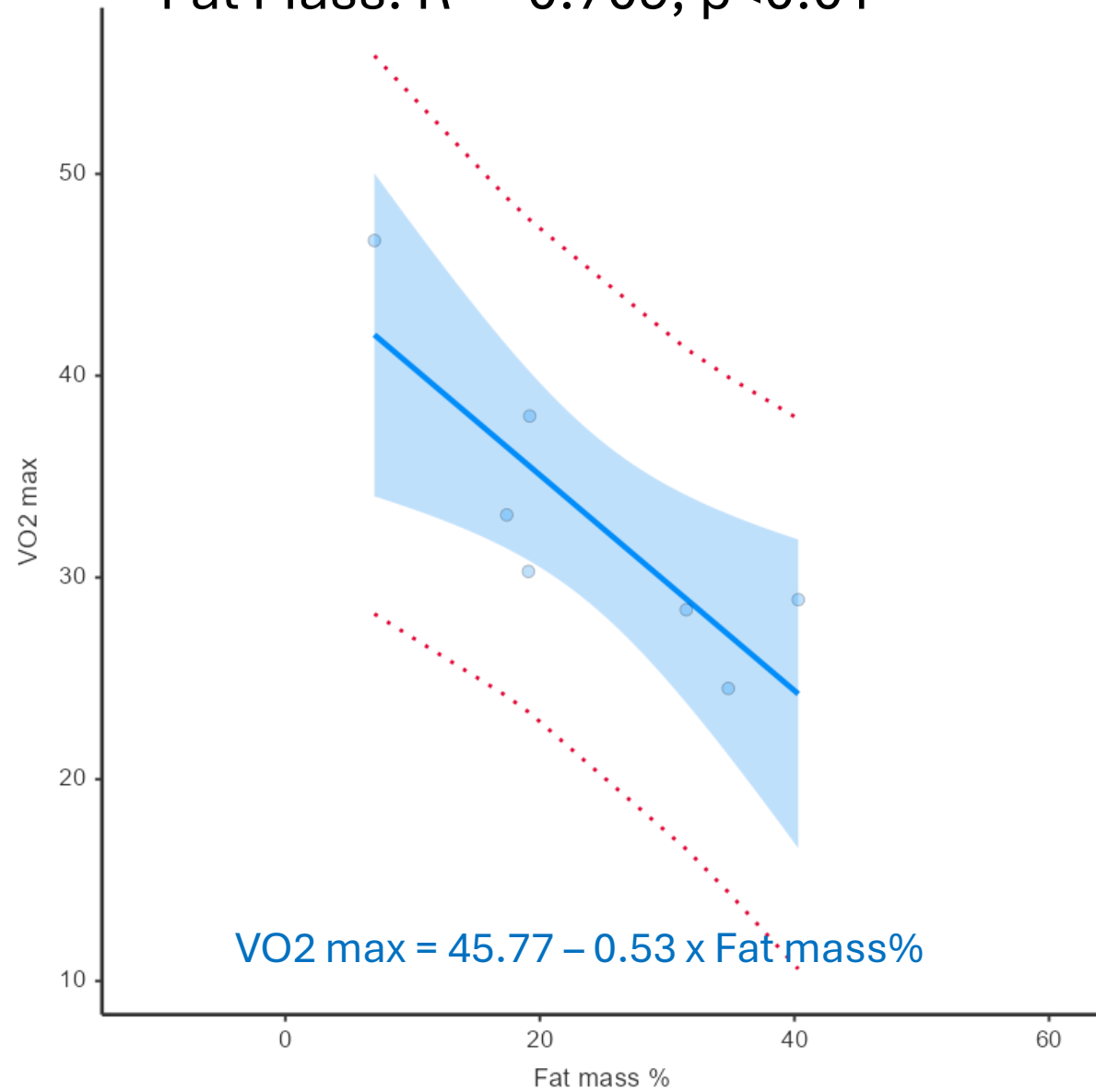
- Peak VO₂ and Handgrip strength ($r = 0.939$)
- Peak VO₂ and Body Weight ($r = 0.928$)
- Lean Mass and Anaerobic Threshold ($r = 0.873$)



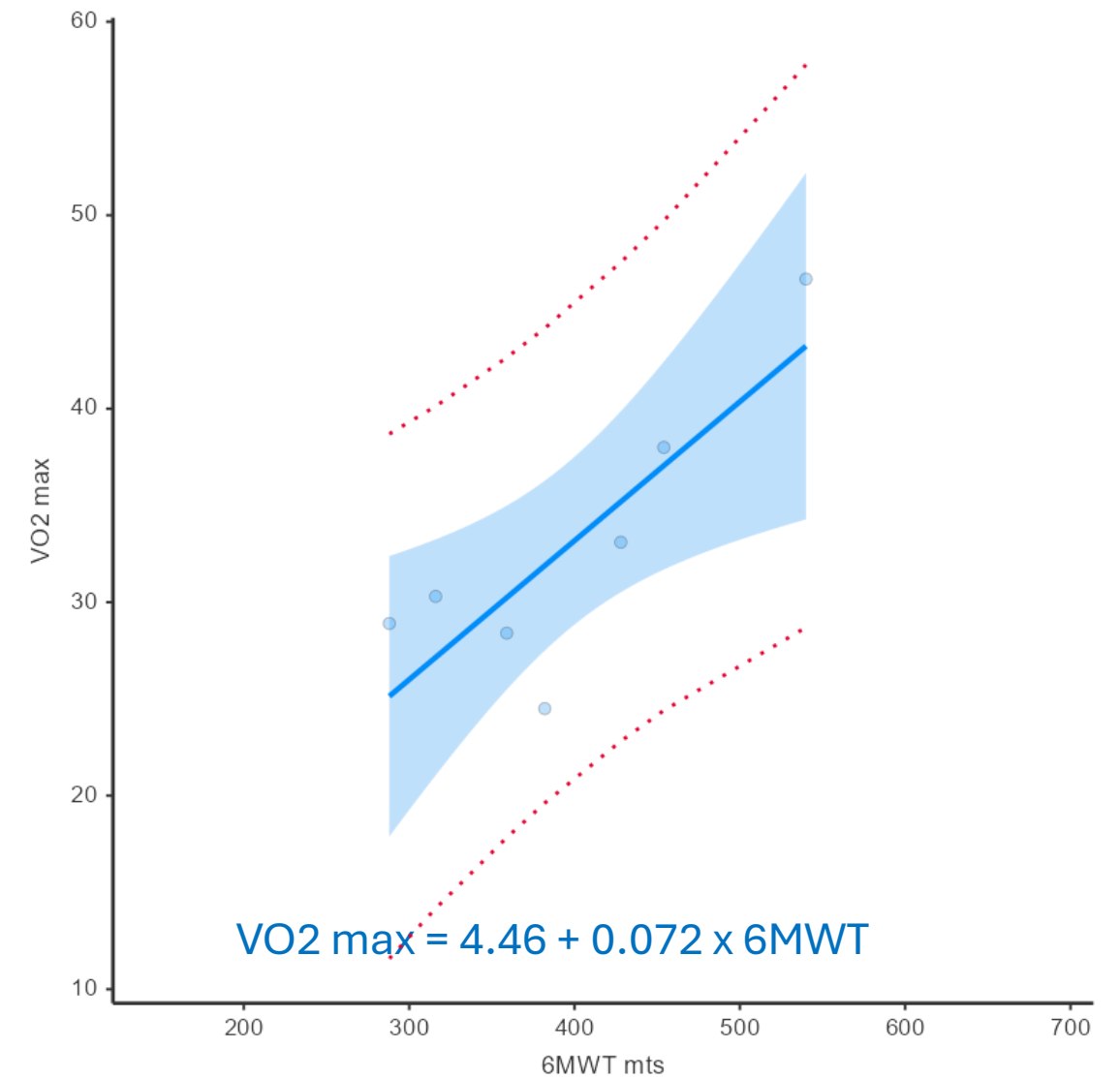
Results

VO2 max predictors

Fat Mass: $R^2 = 0.709$, $p < 0.01$



6-Minute walking Test: $R^2 = 0.699$, $p < 0.01$



Conclusions

- Increased physical activity **associated** with improved cardiorespiratory function
- Higher physical activity levels **linked to** lower fat mass and max heart rate
- 6MWT and handgrip strength as potential **clinical proxies** for exercise tolerance
- Insights for developing **strategies** to increase physical activity in adults with achondroplasia





Future Directions

- Larger sample size
- Longitudinal studies
- Interventional studies

References

1. Hoover-Fong J, et al., Lifetime impact of achondroplasia. *Bone*. 2021 May; 146:115872.
2. de Vries O, et al., Physical fitness and activity level in Norwegian adults with achondroplasia. *AmJMedGenet*, 2021 Apr;185(4):1023-1032.
3. Mezzani A et al., Standards for the use of cardiopulmonary exercise testing for the functional evaluation. *EJCardio Prev Rehabil*. 2009 Jun;16(3):249-67



Credits: IDSF 2013



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Thank you

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