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6th International Conference and Exhibition on

Traditional & Alternative Medicine

September 14-16, 2016 Amsterdam, Netherlands

Are cold and heat patterns associated with resting energy expenditure and body composition?

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Evaluating cold and heat patterns is a basic pattern identification component in traditional East Asian medicine. This study aims to investigate the association of cold and heat pattern with resting energy expenditure (REE) and body composition. The cold and heat pattern of 130 adults were evaluated with a self-administered questionnaire. REE and body composition were analyzed by spearman's correlation tests and regression analysis for their association with the cold and heat pattern. The cold pattern score (CPS) was higher in women and heat pattern score (HPS) was higher in men. REE showed moderate correlation with the CPS (rho=-0.469, p<0.001) and HPS (rho=0.418, p<0.001). Fat free mass (FFM), body cell mass, the ratio of extracellular water (ECW) to intracellular water (ICW), and the proportion of ICW and ECW in FFM were moderately correlated with the CPS and weakly correlated with the HPS. A cold or heat preference and a cold or hot body sensation showed stronger correlations with metabolic measures than did other parameters in the questionnaire. The CPS and HPS explained 25.5% of the REE variance, and the HPS was independently associated with REE after adjusting for age, gender and FFM. Cold and heat patterns appear to be related to REE, and in particular, heat patterns were independently associated with REE. Future studies are needed to investigate the biological basis and diagnostic value of these findings.

Biography

Sujeong Mun is a Senior Researcher at Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine. Her recent research interest is to explore the association of patterns in traditional East Asian Medicine with biological parameters.

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