

Minerva Access is the Institutional Repository of The University of Melbourne

Author/s:

Cavalheri, V;Granger, CL

Title:

Exercise training as part of lung cancer therapy

Date:

2020-11-01

Citation:

Cavalheri, V. & Granger, C. L. (2020). Exercise training as part of lung cancer therapy. *Respirology*, 25 (S2), pp.80-87. <https://doi.org/10.1111/resp.13869>.

Persistent Link:

<https://hdl.handle.net/11343/275802>

Granger Catherine (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-6169-370X)

Cavalheri Vinicius (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-8620-7499)

Manuscript submission template:

Editorial Office Notes:

RES -20-092.R1

Article type: Invited review

INVITED REVIEW SERIES: Essential update in lung cancer medicine

SERIES EDITORS: Alistair Miller and Emily Stone

Received: 30 January 2020

Invited to revise: 3 March 2020

Revised: 4 March 2020

Accepted: 11 May 2020

Publication Fee Waiver: YES

Volume number: 25

This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as doi: [10.1111/resp.13869](https://doi.org/10.1111/resp.13869)

INVITED REVIEW

TITLE: EXERCISE TRAINING AS PART OF LUNG CANCER THERAPY

Vinicius Cavalheri, PhD^{1,2} and Catherine L. Granger, PhD^{3,4}

¹ School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University, Perth, WA, Australia

² Allied Health, South Metropolitan Health Service, Perth, WA, Australia,

³ Department of Physiotherapy, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

⁴ Department of Physiotherapy, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

Short title: Exercise training in lung cancer

Corresponding author full contact details:

Name: Vinicius Cavalheri

Address: School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science, Curtin University, GPO Box U1987
Perth, WA, Australia

Email: vinicius.cavalheri@curtin.edu.au

Twitter account name (optional): @vincavalheri

Manuscript submission template:

ABSTRACT

Exercise training is playing an increasing role in lung cancer care. Lung cancer is associated with significant burden to the individual and healthcare system. There is now substantial evidence that exercise training is safe, feasible and effective at improving several outcomes in people with lung cancer, especially in those with non-small cell lung cancer. Exercise is beneficial across the lung cancer disease and treatment pathway, including in patients with early stage disease before and after surgery, and in patients with advanced disease. This review describes the impact of lung cancer and lung cancer treatment on patient health outcomes and summarises the aims, safety, feasibility and effects of exercise training in the context of both early stage and advanced stage lung cancer. The paper also includes a discussion of current topical discussion areas including the use of exercise in people with bone metastases and the potential effect of exercise on suppression of tumour growth. Finally, seven clinical questions are included, which are a priority to be addressed by future research over the next decade as we strive to progress the field of lung cancer and improve patient outcomes.

Key words:

Exercise; Lung Neoplasms; Rehabilitation; Survivorship; Quality of Life

Granger Catherine (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-6169-370X)

Cavalheri Vinicius (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-8620-7499)

Manuscript submission template:

ABBREVIATIONS

6MWD: Six-minute walk distance

CI: Confidence interval

COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

ERAS: Enhanced recovery after surgery

HRQoL: Health-related quality of life

MD: Mean difference

NK: Natural killer cells

NSCLC: Non-small cell lung cancer

RCT: Randomised controlled trial

RR: Risk ratio

SMD: Standardised mean difference

VO₂peak: Peak rate of oxygen consumption

Manuscript submission template:

1. INTRODUCTION

Exercise training is playing an increasing role in lung cancer care. The past decade has witnessed an exponential increase in the evidence (of varying certainty) that exercise training is safe, feasible and effective at improving several outcomes in people with lung cancer, especially in people with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). A PubMed search, in January 2020, for studies on exercise training for people with lung cancer detected 38 clinical trials and 20 systematic reviews published since 2010. This is a substantial increase in evidence (Figure 1) compared to the very small number of trials and systematic reviews published before this time (6 clinical trials and 1 systematic review from 2000 to 2009, with the first ever trial published in the year 2000).¹ Importantly, the findings of the studies published in the past decade have now informed the recommendations for exercise training in people with lung cancer within several clinical guidelines and position statements worldwide.²⁻⁶

This review describes the impact of lung cancer and its treatment on patient health outcomes and summarises the aims, safety, feasibility and effects of exercise training in the context of both early and advanced stage lung cancer. The paper also includes a discussion of current topical discussion areas in the field of exercise and lung cancer including exercise in people with bone metastases and the potential effect of exercise on suppression of tumour growth. Lastly, we have included a list of seven clinical questions which we view as a top priority to

be addressed by research over the next decade to progress the field forward. Our take-home messages can be found in Table 1.

2. IMPACT OF LUNG CANCER AND ITS TREATMENT

Lung cancer is estimated to be the leading cause of the burden of disease due to cancer amongst males and the second amongst females. Nearly 90% of patients report symptoms at the time they are diagnosed with lung cancer and, typically, patients present with two or three symptoms at diagnosis.⁷ The most frequent symptoms include cough, dyspnoea, chest pain and haemoptysis, with systemic symptoms such as weight loss, anorexia and asthenia also being reported.⁸ These symptoms affect patient's health-related quality of life (HRQoL), level of distress and daily physical activity, promoting a cycle of inactivity and decline in exercise capacity and physical function.^{9, 10}

Treatment options for people with lung cancer vary according to the type of lung cancer, stage of the disease, and the patient's functional status. Treatments can include surgical resection, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy. These treatments themselves may also be associated with numerous side effects, and when combined with the symptoms of the cancer itself, result in high patient burden and deterioration in many patient-related outcomes including exercise capacity and physical function.

In people with early stage NSCLC, surgical resection of the tumour is the treatment option that offers the best chance of cure. Although surgical resection offers a chance of cure, postoperative pulmonary complications such as respiratory failure, pneumonia, myocardial

infarction, and arrhythmias are not uncommon.^{11, 12} The reported incidence of postoperative pulmonary complications following surgery varies in the literature due to the wide variety of measurement tools utilised, but they are understood to occur more commonly in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), those with smoking history or poor lung function¹²⁻¹⁵ as well as in patients whose surgery involved a thoracotomy (compared to video assisted thoracic surgery),¹²⁻¹⁴ increased use of intraoperative crystalloids,¹⁵ or a surgical procedure of ≥ 2 hours in duration.¹⁵ Further, following surgery, lung function, exercise capacity and the physical function domain of HRQoL have consistently been shown to immediately decrease,¹⁶⁻²¹ with partial to minimal recovery of lung function and exercise capacity at 6 to 12 months following surgery.^{16, 18, 20, 21} Lastly, nearly half of patients who are alive two years after surgery continue to experience increased dyspnoea and fatigue when compared with preoperative levels.¹⁹ Adjuvant therapy (such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy) can also exacerbate treatment-related symptoms and impairment.

In people with advanced lung cancer, medical treatment is aimed at prolonging survival and/or improving HRQoL.²² The most common treatments include chemotherapy, radiotherapy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy. In this population, the direct effects of lung cancer progression, presenting as dyspnoea, fatigue, weight loss, and pain,¹⁰ combined with the indirect effects of cancer treatment (which vary according to the treatment received), can cumulatively lead to further reductions in HRQoL, exercise capacity and physical activity levels.^{10, 23-26} It is worth mentioning that data are still pending on the changes in outcome measures related to exercise capacity and physical function following immunotherapy, as this treatment was only recently introduced into clinical practice and the long-term implications

are not yet well understood. In Australia for example, it was only from June 2019, that the Government started covering most of the immunotherapy cost for advanced lung cancer through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

3. EXERCISE TRAINING IN PEOPLE WITH EARLY STAGE LUNG CANCER

Exercise training is beneficial as part of the management of early stage operable disease at a number of distinct time points along the surgical treatment pathway (Figure 2). This includes before surgery, in the short-term immediately after surgery (i.e. during the hospital stay), and in the longer-term following surgery. The purpose of exercise, type of exercise training recommended, expected outcomes of exercise, and barriers to exercising at these different time points varies slightly.

3.1 Preoperative exercise

In patients with operable disease, exercise training can be delivered in the time between diagnosis and surgery. It is worth mentioning that, in those deemed 'fit for surgery' by the multidisciplinary team, there is no evidence to delay surgery for exercise. In the lung cancer field, exercise training before surgery is commonly referred to as preoperative exercise or prehabilitation; however, in other clinical areas prehabilitation more commonly refers to a more diverse bundle of care in the pre-treatment setting including exercise, nutrition and psychological support.²⁷ Preoperative exercise training aims to maximise exercise capacity for the patient and in turn minimise the postoperative burden for both the patient and health system. Prevention of postoperative pulmonary complications in particular is important as they are associated with increased intensive care admissions, length of hospital stay and

hospital re-admissions; as well as early and late mortality in this population.^{12, 14, 15}

Preoperative exercise programs in published randomised controlled trials (RCTs) were generally short in duration and opportunistically used the time period whilst the patient was awaiting surgery, which was commonly less than 4 weeks.²⁸ Whilst these programs were short (ranging from 1 to 4 weeks), the exercise sessions occurred frequently during this time (ranging from twice daily to 5 times per week).²⁸ The focus of exercise prescription in those RCTs was to improve exercise capacity, and the prescription consisted of either moderate intensity continuous aerobic exercise or high intensity interval training,²⁸ both of which could be achieved using a stationary bike or a treadmill. These types of exercises aimed to increase peak rate of oxygen consumption (VO_{2peak}), which is an important variable in patients awaiting lung cancer surgery, as it is a predictor of better surgical outcomes.²⁹ In addition to walking and/or cycling, occasionally programs also included whole body resistance training and/or inspiratory muscle training.²⁸ The optimal exercise training regime in this setting remains unclear and needs further investigation.

A Cochrane review on preoperative exercise training for people with lung cancer identified five RCT (on 167 participants) published until November 2016.²⁸ The review has shown that, compared to a control group that did not exercise, patients who exercised had the risk of developing a postoperative pulmonary complication reduced by 67% (risk ratio (RR) [95% confidence interval (CI)] 0.33 [0.17; 0.61]), fewer days needing an intercostal catheter following surgery (mean difference (MD) [95% CI] -3 [-5; -1] days), a shorter postoperative length of hospital stay (MD [95% CI] -4 [-5; -3] days), and improved preoperative six-minute walk distance (6MWD) (MD [95% CI] 18 [9; 28] m).²⁸ However, caution should be taken in

interpreting these results, as overall the certainty of evidence was rated as low, particularly due to the small sample sizes and significant risk of bias of trials included in the meta-analyses. Since the Cochrane review there have been additional trials published which reported similar findings.³⁰

Whilst preoperative exercise may have wide appeal, much work needs to be done before it becomes routine management for patients with lung cancer. Research supporting preoperative exercise in lung cancer has infrequently been implemented into clinical practice worldwide.^{31,}

³² The limited time frame for training (prior to surgery) means patients need fast access to programs, and high motivation to both commence exercise quickly and adhere to relatively burdensome programs. At this stage the health system in many countries is not set up with routine pathways for patients to be seamlessly enrolled into preoperative exercise programs. This is partly due to lack of data around the longer-term benefits of prehabilitation, as well as lack of data on the cost-effectiveness of preoperative exercise training.³³ With expected reductions in postoperative pulmonary complications and shorter hospital length of stay,²⁸ we hypothesise cost savings associated with preoperative exercise, but trial data are needed to confirm this. In the future, if we are to see long-term positive outcomes from preoperative exercise clinical trials and cost-effectiveness established, there will be a strong case for preoperative exercise and a major change in the landscape lung cancer management. Until this time, we recommend patients be offered preoperative exercise if feasible in their local setting (for example if there is a program available and the patient is willing), as this is a safe intervention with good short-term benefits for the patient.²⁸

3.2 Acute postoperative (in hospital) exercise

Exercise training immediately after lung cancer surgery focuses on early mobilisation, which includes sitting out of bed and walking around the hospital ward, with the aim to achieve fast readiness of discharge to home.^{13, 34} Many hospitals follow a clinical pathway for patients following thoracic surgery and key goals of the pathway include sitting out of bed and walking incremental distances commencing from day 0 or day 1 postoperative.³⁴ The use of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols, which include early mobilisation, are increasingly being implemented in thoracic surgery units.^{2, 35} A recent clinical guideline for ERAS in thoracic surgery² included the recommendation for early mobilisation and stated that “patients should be mobilised within 24 hours of surgery”. This recommendation was graded as ‘strong’ despite the level of evidence being ‘low’ in the absence of high-quality trials (with consistent results) demonstrating outcomes of early mobilisation protocols.^{2, 36} Instead, the strong recommendation for early mobility stems from the evidence of harm associated with immobilisation, including prolonged hospital length of stay and morbidity following lung resection.^{2, 37} Common barriers for patients to not walk early after surgery are low blood pressure and unsteadiness,¹⁴ and patients should be monitored closely to ensure they achieve mobility milestones. There have been a small number of studies investigating the role of postoperative exercise commencing whilst patients are still in hospital after surgery,^{38, 39} although the majority of studies commence exercise training once patients are discharged from hospital.⁴⁰ It is currently unknown whether early commencement provides added benefits. In addition to early mobilisation, upper limb stretches are also prescribed while patients are in hospital to reduce pain and improve shoulder function.⁴¹

3.3 Postoperative exercise

Exercise training following hospital discharge after lung cancer surgery focuses on recovery and rehabilitation. Exercise in the weeks to months following surgery for lung cancer is well established as a safe, feasible and effective component in the management of lung cancer.⁴⁰ The barriers to exercise at this time point are less evident. For example, when compared to preoperative exercise, there is no time pressure to commence exercise; patients can start exercise when they are ready and when they can access a program. Most postoperative outpatient exercise programs included in published RCTs commenced 5 to 10 weeks following surgery, were usually 6 to 12 weeks in duration (up to 20 weeks), with exercise sessions running 2 to 3 times per week in a supervised environment, often supplemented with home-based exercise to achieve 5 sessions across the week.⁴⁰ Exercise prescription included a combination of aerobic exercise (moderate intensity continuous aerobic exercise) or high intensity interval training on a stationary bike or a treadmill, and whole-body resistance training; with or without inspiratory muscle training.⁴⁰ These programs were very similar to traditional pulmonary rehabilitation programs for people with COPD and in fact we advocate that all pulmonary rehabilitation programs be open to people following surgery for lung cancer.

A Cochrane review on postoperative exercise training within 12 months of surgery for people with lung cancer identified eight RCTs (on 450 participants) published until February 2019.⁴⁰ The review has shown that, compared to a control group that did not exercise, patients who exercised presented improvements in exercise capacity (VO_{2peak} : MD [95% CI] 3 [2; 4] mL/kg/min; and 6MWD: MD 57 [34; 80] m), HRQoL (physical component of the SF-36) (MD [95% CI] 5.0 [2.3; 7.7] points), quadriceps muscle force (standardised mean difference

(SMD) [95% CI] 0.75 [0.4; 1.1]), and reported less dyspnoea (SMD [95% CI] -0.43 [-0.81; -0.05]). Whilst lack of resources is a major issue and postoperative exercise programs are also uncommon in clinical practice at present, we strongly advocate for the establishment of programs worldwide and for patients to access consultations with health professionals specialising in exercise and cancer, such as physiotherapists or exercise physiologists, if there is not a program in their local area.³¹

4. EXERCISE TRAINING IN PEOPLE WITH ADVANCED STAGE LUNG CANCER

The main aims of exercise training in patients with advanced stage lung cancer (and in those with early stage disease deemed 'unfit' for surgery) are to improve symptoms, prevent the deterioration of exercise capacity and HRQoL and attenuate the side effects of medical treatment. Exercise programs usually comprise moderate intensity aerobic and resistance training, and studies of exercise training in patients with advanced lung cancer have reported few minor musculoskeletal events such as muscle pain; but no serious exercise-related adverse events.⁴²

Single group studies on exercise training for people with advanced lung cancer have reported improvements in exercise capacity, functional capacity, anxiety and emotional well-being.⁴³⁻

⁴⁵ However, the certainty of the evidence for the effectiveness of exercise to maintain or improve health outcomes in people with advanced lung cancer is lower than that for preoperative or postoperative exercise in people with early stage lung cancer. The very-low to low certainty for the effectiveness of exercise training in people with advanced lung cancer is

mainly due to fewer RCTs, that had small sample sizes and an overall high risk of bias. A Cochrane review on exercise training for people with advanced lung cancer identified six RCTs (on 221 participants) published until July 2018.⁴² In those six RCTs, the timing of exercise training commencement was either just before start of medical treatment or during medical treatment. The interventions ranged in length from 6 to 12 weeks and the frequency of supervised exercise varied from 1 to 5 days a week. Findings from five of the six RCTs were included in the meta-analyses. The review has shown that, compared to a control group that did not exercise, patients who exercised had higher 6MWD (MD [95% CI] 63 [4; 123] m) and better HRQoL (SMD [95%CI] 0.51 [0.08; 0.93]).⁴² Regarding symptoms, meta-analysis was conducted to investigate the effects of exercise training on dyspnoea. Although the central tendency (i.e. SMD) was in favour of the exercise group (SMD -0.27), the variability around this central tendency was large, and crossed the line of no effect (95% CI -0.64; 0.10). Further, the five studies included in this meta-analysis used four different tools to measure dyspnoea and the statistical heterogeneity was moderate ($I^2=47\%$).⁴² Therefore, there is still an uncertainty on the effects of exercise on dyspnoea in this population.

The abovementioned Cochrane review clearly demonstrated the need for larger high-quality RCTs. At present, several RCTs are being conducted all over the world that will shortly assist with confirming and extending the current evidence.⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸ Since the publication of the Cochrane review, a well-designed RCT conducted in Australia, that investigated the effects of a comprehensive, unsupervised, home-based exercise program combined with nursing-led symptom management on outcomes in people with inoperable NSCLC, has been published.⁴⁹ The primary outcome measure of the study was change in 6MWD after the first 8 weeks of

the intervention and a sample size of 92 participants was needed to detect a between group difference in 6MWD of 48 ± 68 m ($\beta=0.8$; $\alpha=0.05$). Of note, the intervention was 6-months long, and several other outcome measures were collected both on completion of the first 8 weeks and on completion of the 6-month intervention. Ninety-two participants were randomised (45 to the intervention group), and there were 14 participants who dropped out in the first 8 weeks (seven in each group). Adherence to the aerobic and resistance training components of the intervention was 65% and 53%, respectively. After the first 8 weeks of the intervention, there was no between-group difference in 6MWD (MD [95% CI] -25 [-64; 13] m). However, exploratory analyses demonstrated that, at 6 months, the intervention group had better HRQoL (MD [95% CI] 13 [4; 22]) and lower symptom severity measured via the MD Anderson Symptom Inventory - Lung Cancer scale (MD [95% CI] -2.2 [-3.6; -0.9]).⁴⁹

The initial evidence that we have for the effects of exercise training in people with advanced/inoperable lung cancer seems to suggest that unsupervised home-based exercise does not confer the same benefits of supervised exercise programs. However, we should agree with the very sensible words from Dr Morten Quist on a recently published commentary, where he stated that: *“In patients with inoperable lung cancer, any improvement (or at least the prevention of deterioration) in physical and/or mental outcomes is of value”*.⁵⁰ Exercise training offers low risk of harm, has some evidence of benefit in both physical and mental status outcomes, and therefore should be seen as a potential tool to maximise outcomes in patients with such a devastating disease.

5. TOPICAL DISCUSSION AREAS

This section discusses some areas which are currently topical in the field of exercise and lung cancer. This includes the use of exercise training in people with bone metastases; the potential role of exercise on suppression of tumour growth; and top research clinical questions to be addressed to move the field forward.

5.1. Exercise training in people with bone metastases

Historically, and in many instances still today, health professionals have been concerned about prescribing exercise for patients with bone metastases. Bone metastases occur in approximately 20% to 30% of patients with lung cancer at diagnosis, and an additional 35% to 40% of patients develop bone metastases during the course of their disease.⁵¹ Data collected in men with prostate cancer have shown that those with bone metastases are at risk of developing pathological fractures, nerve or spinal cord compression and other skeletal-related events that result in shorter survival, significant morbidity, limited function and decreased HRQoL.⁵²

Over the past two decades, exercise training studies in people with cancer have excluded people with bone metastases due to the potential risk of fractures, spinal compression, or exacerbation of bone pain. However, there is emerging evidence from RCTs (in cancer populations other than lung cancer) that exercise training is safe, well-tolerated and helps with preserving self-reported physical function in men with bone metastases from prostate cancer and no significant bone pain (assessed by their specialist).^{53, 54}

Importantly, exercise training programs for patients with bone metastases must be meticulously designed to minimise compressive and shear loads on affected skeletal sites, and executed carefully to avoid associated skeletal complications. The type of aerobic exercise for patients with pelvic, lumbar or proximal femur metastases should be non-weight bearing (i.e. stationary cycling), with weight bearing aerobic exercise (i.e. walking) being safely prescribed for patients with thoracic/ribs metastases.⁵⁴ Regarding resistance training, Table 2 (adapted from previous work⁵⁴) provides recommendations for upper limb, trunk and lower limb exercises according to the bone metastasis site. Clinically, we recommend that, in patients with lung cancer, bone metastasis is not seen as an blanket contra-indication, but rather that patients be referred to a health professional specialising in exercise oncology, such as an oncology physiotherapist or exercise physiologist. Then, in collaboration with the treating doctor or general practitioner, an individualised exercise program should be carefully prescribed to meet the patient's needs and keep them as active as able.

5.2 Potential effect of exercise on suppression of tumour growth

Preclinical studies, on a range of experimental animal tumour models, have shown that exercise (i.e. voluntary wheel running) can inhibit tumour growth.⁵⁵ A previous study that evaluated the effect of wheel running before and/or during tumour challenge in a melanoma model in female mice, demonstrated an exercise-dependent increase in intratumoral immune cell infiltration.⁵⁶ These intratumoral infiltrates included natural killer (NK) cells, which contributed to a reduction in tumour growth. That study demonstrated that 4 weeks of

voluntary wheel running prior to tumour cell inoculation reduced tumour growth by 61%. Wheel running also halved the number of lung metastases after intravenous injection of melanoma cells. Further, in a Lewis Lung carcinoma model, wheel running decreased tumour volume and weight by 58% and 56%, respectively. A mechanistic analysis performed by the authors suggested that suppression of tumour growth was achieved through an epinephrine-dependent mobilisation of NK cells, together with subsequent interleukin-6-induced redistribution and activation of NK cells.⁵⁶

Another mechanism of exercise-induced tumour suppression was described by Higgins and colleagues.⁵⁷ The study, in mice after tail vein injections of luciferase-tagged A549 lung adenocarcinoma cells, demonstrated that 4 weeks of wheel running reduced local lung tumour growth. Compared to the lung tumours in the group of mice who did not exercise, the tumours in those who exercised presented an up-regulation of pro-apoptotic proteins such as p53 and Bax (1103% and 179% up-regulation, respectively).⁵⁷

The findings of the abovementioned studies are promising and exciting, but must be interpreted with caution. Although these preclinical studies indicate that exercise might induce intratumoral adaptations with increased immune cell infiltration and up-regulation of pro-apoptotic proteins, future research in humans examining whether the effects of exercise training on lung cancer progression are similar to that in mice are warranted.

5.3 Top questions still to be addressed

This review has addressed many topics related to exercise training across the lung cancer continuum. However, the field of exercise training for people with lung cancer is still in its

Manuscript submission template:

infancy and there are many questions still to be addressed. The authors recognise that the questions listed in this section may not be the top questions that clinical and research groups around the world may want to address. However, we believe that several of these questions have the potential to be viewed as critical in the area of exercise training for people with lung cancer. Our main aim is to list questions that, if answered, would fill some of the gaps mentioned in this review, rather than provide a comprehensive review to justify each question. We would like to encourage researchers all around the world to develop international networks/collaborative groups that would develop multicentre studies to address some of these questions.

Question 1: What is the cost-effectiveness of: (i) preoperative exercise training? (ii) postoperative exercise training? (iii) exercise training during treatment for advanced/inoperable lung cancer?

Question 2: In people undergoing treatment for lung cancer, is exercise training delivered via a mobile phone application or telerehabilitation as effective as outpatient supervised exercise training programs to improve health outcomes?

Question 3: What is the optimal length for exercise training programs across all stages of disease?

Question 4: What is the optimal timing to commence exercise training in: (i) people following lung resection for lung cancer; and (ii) in people undergoing treatments other than lung resection?

Manuscript submission template:

Question 5: In people with advanced/inoperable lung cancer, what type of exercise training program (i.e. resistance or aerobic) is more effective at improving HRQoL and symptoms?

Question 6: In people with advanced/inoperable lung cancer, is exercise training delivered before treatment commencement feasible and effective at reducing some of the negative impacts of lung cancer treatment?

Question 7: Across the whole lung cancer continuum, does exercise training improve survival?

Granger Catherine (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-6169-370X)

Cavalheri Vinicius (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-8620-7499)

Manuscript submission template:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VC is funded by a Cancer Council Western Australia Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

CLG is supported by a Victorian Cancer Agency Clinical Research Fellowship.

THE AUTHORS

Dr VC is a physiotherapist with expertise in exercise training and promotion of physical activity for people with chronic lung disease and lung cancer. He is the Allied Health Research Director at South Metropolitan Health Service (WA) and a Senior Lecturer within the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science at Curtin University. A/Prof CLG is a physiotherapist clinician-researcher with expertise in physical activity and exercise for cancer and cardiorespiratory patient populations. She is the Head of Physiotherapy Research at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and an Associate Professor of Physiotherapy at The University of Melbourne.

Manuscript submission template:

REFERENCES

- 1 Wall LM. Changes in hope and power in lung cancer patients who exercise. *Nurs Sci Q*. 2000; **13**: 234-42.
- 2 Batchelor TJP, Rasburn NJ, Abdelnour-Berchtold E, Brunelli A, Cerfolio RJ, Gonzalez M, Ljungqvist O, Petersen RH, Popescu WM, Slinger PD, Naidu B. Guidelines for enhanced recovery after lung surgery: recommendations of the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS(R)) Society and the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS). *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg*. 2019; **55**: 91-115.
- 3 Campbell KL, Winters-Stone KM, Wiskemann J, May AM, Schwartz AL, Courneya KS, Zucker DS, Matthews CE, Ligibel JA, Gerber LH, Morris GS, Patel AV, Hue TF, Perna FM, Schmitz KH. Exercise Guidelines for Cancer Survivors: Consensus Statement from International Multidisciplinary Roundtable. *Med Sci Sports Exerc*. 2019; **51**: 2375-90.
- 4 Hayes SC, Newton RU, Spence RR, Galvao DA. The Exercise and Sports Science Australia position statement: Exercise medicine in cancer management. *J Sci Med Sport*. 2019; **22**: 1175-99.

- 5 Segal R, Zwaal C, Green E, Tomasone JR, Loblaw A, Petrella T, Exercise for People with Cancer Guideline Development G. Exercise for people with cancer: a clinical practice guideline. *Curr Oncol.* 2017; **24**: 40-6.
- 6 Tew GA, Ayyash R, Durrand J, Danjoux GR. Clinical guideline and recommendations on pre-operative exercise training in patients awaiting major non-cardiac surgery. *Anaesthesia.* 2018; **73**: 750-68.
- 7 Athey VL, Suckling RJ, Tod AM, Walters SJ, Rogers TK. Early diagnosis of lung cancer: evaluation of a community-based social marketing intervention. *Thorax.* 2012; **67**: 412-7.
- 8 Buccheri G, Ferrigno D. Lung cancer: clinical presentation and specialist referral time. *Eur Respir J.* 2004; **24**: 898-904.
- 9 Cooley ME. Symptoms in adults with lung cancer. A systematic research review. *J Pain Symptom Manage.* 2000; **19**: 137-53.
- 10 Iyer S, Taylor-Stokes G, Roughley A. Symptom burden and quality of life in advanced non-small cell lung cancer patients in France and Germany. *Lung Cancer.* 2013; **81**: 288-93.
- 11 Benzo R, Kelley GA, Recchi L, Hofman A, Scirba F. Complications of lung resection and exercise capacity: a meta-analysis. *Respir Med.* 2007; **101**: 1790-7.
- 12 Lugg ST, Agostini PJ, Tikka T, Kerr A, Adams K, Bishay E, Kalkat MS, Steyn RS, Rajesh PB, Thickett DR, Naidu B. Long-term impact of developing a postoperative pulmonary complication after lung surgery. *Thorax.* 2016; **71**: 171-6.

- 13 Agostini P, Lugg ST, Adams K, Vartsaba N, Kalkat MS, Rajesh PB, Steyn RS, Naidu B, Rushton A, Bishay E. Postoperative pulmonary complications and rehabilitation requirements following lobectomy: a propensity score matched study of patients undergoing video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery versus thoracotomy. *Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg.* 2017; **24**: 931-7.
- 14 Agostini PJ, Lugg ST, Adams K, Smith T, Kalkat MS, Rajesh PB, Steyn RS, Naidu B, Rushton A, Bishay E. Risk factors and short-term outcomes of postoperative pulmonary complications after VATS lobectomy. *J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2018; **13**: 28.
- 15 Kaufmann KB, Loop T, Heinrich S. Risk factors for post-operative pulmonary complications in lung cancer patients after video-assisted thoracoscopic lung resection: Results of the German Thorax Registry. *Acta Anaesthesiol Scand.* 2019; **63**: 1009-18.
- 16 Bolliger CT, Jordan P, Soler M, Stulz P, Tamm M, Wyser C, Gonon M, Perruchoud AP. Pulmonary function and exercise capacity after lung resection. *Eur Respir J.* 1996; **9**: 415-21.
- 17 Cavalheri V, Jenkins S, Cecins N, Gain K, Phillips M, Sanders LH, Hill K. Impairments after curative intent treatment for non-small cell lung cancer: a comparison with age and gender-matched healthy controls. *Respir Med.* 2015; **109**: 1332-9.
- 18 Handy JR, Jr., Asaph JW, Douville EC, Ott GY, Grunkemeier GL, Wu Y. Does video-assisted thoracoscopic lobectomy for lung cancer provide improved functional outcomes compared with open lobectomy? *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2010; **37**: 451-5.

- 19 Kenny PM, King MT, Viney RC, Boyer MJ, Pollicino CA, McLean JM, Fulham MJ, McCaughan BC. Quality of life and survival in the 2 years after surgery for non small-cell lung cancer. *J Clin Oncol*. 2008; **26**: 233-41.
- 20 Kushibe K, Kawaguchi T, Kimura M, Takahama M, Tojo T, Taniguchi S. Changes in ventilatory capacity, exercise capacity, and pulmonary blood flow after lobectomy in patients with lung cancer--which lobectomy has the most loss in exercise capacity? *Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg*. 2008; **7**: 1011-4.
- 21 Wang JS, Abboud RT, Wang LM. Effect of lung resection on exercise capacity and on carbon monoxide diffusing capacity during exercise. *Chest*. 2006; **129**: 863-72.
- 22 Socinski MA, Evans T, Gettinger S, Hensing TA, Sequist LV, Ireland B, Stinchcombe TE. Treatment of stage IV non-small cell lung cancer: Diagnosis and management of lung cancer, 3rd ed: American College of Chest Physicians evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. *Chest*. 2013; **143**: e341S-68S.
- 23 Edbrooke L, Granger CL, Clark RA, Denehy L. Physical Activity Levels Are Low in Inoperable Lung Cancer: Exploratory Analyses from a Randomised Controlled Trial. *J Clin Med*. 2019; **8**.
- 24 Granger CL, McDonald CF, Irving L, Clark RA, Gough K, Murnane A, Mileszkin L, Krishnasamy M, Denehy L. Low physical activity levels and functional decline in individuals with lung cancer. *Lung Cancer*. 2014; **83**: 292-9.

- 25 Kasymjanova G, Correa JA, Kreisman H, Dajczman E, Pepe C, Dobson S, Lajeunesse L, Sharma R, Small D. Prognostic value of the six-minute walk in advanced non-small cell lung cancer. *J Thorac Oncol*. 2009; **4**: 602-7.
- 26 Lin YY, Rau KM, Lin CC. Longitudinal study on the impact of physical activity on the symptoms of lung cancer survivors. *Support Care Cancer*. 2015; **23**: 3545-53.
- 27 Silver JK, Baima J. Cancer prehabilitation: an opportunity to decrease treatment-related morbidity, increase cancer treatment options, and improve physical and psychological health outcomes. *Am J Phys Med Rehabil*. 2013; **92**: 715-27.
- 28 Cavalheri V, Granger C. Preoperative exercise training for patients with non-small cell lung cancer. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2017; **6**: CD012020.
- 29 Brunelli A, Kim AW, Berger KI, Addrizzo-Harris DJ. Physiologic evaluation of the patient with lung cancer being considered for resectional surgery: Diagnosis and management of lung cancer, 3rd ed: American College of Chest Physicians evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. *Chest*. 2013; **143**: e166S-e90S.
- 30 Rosero ID, Ramirez-Velez R, Lucia A, Martinez-Velilla N, Santos-Lozano A, Valenzuela PL, Morilla I, Izquierdo M. Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized, Controlled Trials on Preoperative Physical Exercise Interventions in Patients with Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer. *Cancers*. 2019; **11**.
- 31 Granger CL, Denehy L, Remedios L, Retica S, Phongpagdi P, Hart N, Parry SM. Barriers to Translation of Physical Activity into the Lung Cancer Model of Care. A Qualitative Study of Clinicians' Perspectives. *Ann Am Thorac Soc*. 2016; **13**: 2215-22.

- 32 Granger CL, Parry SM, Denehy L, Remedios L. Evidence, education and multi-disciplinary integration are needed to embed exercise into lung cancer clinical care: A qualitative study involving physiotherapists. *Physiother Theory Pract.* 2018; **34**: 852-60.
- 33 Karenovics W, Licker M, Ellenberger C, Christodoulou M, Diaper J, Bhatia C, Robert J, Bridevaux PO, Triponez F. Short-term preoperative exercise therapy does not improve long-term outcome after lung cancer surgery: a randomized controlled study. *Eur J Cardiothorac Surg.* 2017; **52**: 47-54.
- 34 Granger CL. Physiotherapy management of lung cancer. *J Physiother.* 2016; **62**: 60-7.
- 35 Mayor MA, Khandhar SJ, Chandy J, Fernando HC. Implementing a thoracic enhanced recovery with ambulation after surgery program: key aspects and challenges. *J Thorac Dis.* 2018; **10**: S3809-s14.
- 36 Castelino T, Fiore JF, Jr., Niculiseanu P, Landry T, Augustin B, Feldman LS. The effect of early mobilization protocols on postoperative outcomes following abdominal and thoracic surgery: A systematic review. *Surgery.* 2016; **159**: 991-1003.
- 37 Rogers LJ, Bleetman D, Messenger DE, Joshi NA, Wood L, Rasburn NJ, Batchelor TJP. The impact of enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) protocol compliance on morbidity from resection for primary lung cancer. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2018; **155**: 1843-52.
- 38 Arbane G, Tropman D, Jackson D, Garrod R. Evaluation of an early exercise intervention after thoracotomy for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), effects on quality of

life, muscle strength and exercise tolerance: randomised controlled trial. *Lung Cancer*. 2011; **71**: 229-34.

39 Granger CL, Chao C, McDonald CF, Berney S, Denehy L. Safety and feasibility of an exercise intervention for patients following lung resection: a pilot randomized controlled trial. *Integr Cancer Ther*. 2013; **12**: 213-24.

40 Cavalheri V, Burtin C, Formico VR, Nonoyama ML, Jenkins S, Spruit MA, Hill K. Exercise training undertaken by people within 12 months of lung resection for non-small cell lung cancer. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2019; **6**: CD009955.

41 Reeve J, Stiller K, Nicol K, McPherson KM, Birch P, Gordon IR, Denehy L. A postoperative shoulder exercise program improves function and decreases pain following open thoracotomy: a randomised trial. *J Physiother*. 2010; **56**: 245-52.

42 Peddle-McIntyre CJ, Singh F, Thomas R, Newton RU, Galvao DA, Cavalheri V. Exercise training for advanced lung cancer. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2019; **2**: CD012685.

43 Quist M, Adamsen L, Rorth M, Laursen JH, Christensen KB, Langer SW. The Impact of a Multidimensional Exercise Intervention on Physical and Functional Capacity, Anxiety, and Depression in Patients With Advanced-Stage Lung Cancer Undergoing Chemotherapy. *Integr Cancer Ther*. 2015; **14**: 341-9.

44 Quist M, Rorth M, Langer S, Jones LW, Laursen JH, Pappot H, Christensen KB, Adamsen L. Safety and feasibility of a combined exercise intervention for inoperable lung cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy: a pilot study. *Lung Cancer*. 2012; **75**: 203-8.

- 45 Temel JS, Greer JA, Goldberg S, Vogel PD, Sullivan M, Pirl WF, Lynch TJ, Christiani DC, Smith MR. A structured exercise program for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer. *J Thorac Oncol*. 2009; **4**: 595-601.
- 46 Jensen W, Oechsle K, Baumann HJ, Mehnert A, Klose H, Bloch W, Bokemeyer C, Baumann FT. Effects of exercise training programs on physical performance and quality of life in patients with metastatic lung cancer undergoing palliative chemotherapy--a study protocol. *Contemp Clin Trials*. 2014; **37**: 120-8.
- 47 Quist M, Langer SW, Rorth M, Christensen KB, Adamsen L. "EXHALE": exercise as a strategy for rehabilitation in advanced stage lung cancer patients: a randomized clinical trial comparing the effects of 12 weeks supervised exercise intervention versus usual care for advanced stage lung cancer patients. *BMC Cancer*. 2013; **13**: 477.
- 48 Wiskemann J, Hummler S, Diepold C, Keil M, Abel U, Steindorf K, Beckhove P, Ulrich CM, Steins M, Thomas M. POSITIVE study: physical exercise program in non-operable lung cancer patients undergoing palliative treatment. *BMC Cancer*. 2016; **16**: 499.
- 49 Edbrooke L, Aranda S, Granger CL, McDonald CF, Krishnasamy M, Mileskin L, Clark RA, Gordon I, Irving L, Denehy L. Multidisciplinary home-based rehabilitation in inoperable lung cancer: a randomised controlled trial. *Thorax*. 2019; **74**: 787-96.
- 50 Quist M. Critically appraised paper: In people with inoperable lung cancer, home-based rehabilitation provides no benefit over usual care in optimising functional exercise capacity [commentary]. *J Physiother*. 2020; **66**: 57.

- 51 Santini D, Barni S, Intagliata S, Falcone A, Ferrau F, Galetta D, Moscetti L, La Verde N, Ibrahim T, Petrelli F, Vasile E, Ginocchi L, Ottaviani D, Longo F, Ortega C, Russo A, Badalamenti G, Collova E, Lanzetta G, Mansueto G, Adamo V, De Marinis F, Satolli MA, Cantile F, Mancuso A, Tanca FM, Addeo R, Russano M, Sterpi M, Pantano F, Vincenzi B, Tonini G. Natural History of Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer with Bone Metastases. *Sci Rep*. 2015; **5**: 18670.
- 52 Broder MS, Gutierrez B, Cherepanov D, Linhares Y. Burden of skeletal-related events in prostate cancer: unmet need in pain improvement. *Support Care Cancer*. 2015; **23**: 237-47.
- 53 Cormie P, Newton RU, Spry N, Joseph D, Taaffe DR, Galvao DA. Safety and efficacy of resistance exercise in prostate cancer patients with bone metastases. *Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis*. 2013; **16**: 328-35.
- 54 Galvao DA, Taaffe DR, Spry N, Cormie P, Joseph D, Chambers SK, Chee R, Peddle-McIntyre CJ, Hart NH, Baumann FT, Denham J, Baker M, Newton RU. Exercise Preserves Physical Function in Prostate Cancer Patients with Bone Metastases. *Med Sci Sports Exerc*. 2018; **50**: 393-9.
- 55 Pedersen L, Christensen JF, Hojman P. Effects of exercise on tumor physiology and metabolism. *Cancer J*. 2015; **21**: 111-6.
- 56 Pedersen L, Idorn M, Olofsson GH, Lauenborg B, Nookaew I, Hansen RH, Johannesen HH, Becker JC, Pedersen KS, Dethlefsen C, Nielsen J, Gehl J, Pedersen BK, Thor Straten P, Hojman P. Voluntary Running Suppresses Tumor Growth through

Manuscript submission template:

Epinephrine- and IL-6-Dependent NK Cell Mobilization and Redistribution. *Cell Metab.* 2016; **23**: 554-62.

57 Higgins KA, Park D, Lee GY, Curran WJ, Deng X. Exercise-induced lung cancer regression: mechanistic findings from a mouse model. *Cancer.* 2014; **120**: 3302-10.

Manuscript submission template:

TABLES

Table 1: Take-home messages

<i>Number</i>	<i>Take-home message</i>
1	The direct effects of lung cancer combined with the indirect effects of cancer treatment can cumulatively lead to reductions in exercise capacity and health-related quality of life
2	Exercise training can play a major role in improving outcomes in patients with lung cancer
3	In patients with operable lung cancer, <i>preoperative</i> exercise training improves exercise capacity, and decreases the risk of postoperative pulmonary complications, length of hospital stay and days with an intercostal catheter
4	In patients with operable lung cancer, <i>postoperative</i> exercise training improves exercise capacity, health-related quality of life, quadriceps muscle strength and symptoms of dyspnoea
5	In patients with <i>inoperable</i> lung cancer, supervised exercise training is safe, feasible and helps maintain or improve exercise capacity and health-related quality of life
6	The field of exercise training for people with lung cancer is still in its infancy and exercise programs for patients with lung cancer are uncommon in clinical practice

7

We encourage researchers globally to develop international networks/collaborative groups to develop and facilitate the conduct of large multicentre/country studies to address important unanswered questions for the field (as listed in this article)

Table 2: Prescription of resistance exercise for patients with bone metastases

(recommendations drawn from work in men with metastatic prostate cancer^{53,54})

<i>Site</i>	<i>Upper limb</i>	<i>Trunk[#]</i>	<i>Lower limb</i>
<i>Pelvis</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes**
<i>Lumbar spine</i>	Yes	<u>No</u>	Yes
<i>Thorax/ribs</i>	Yes*	<u>No</u>	Yes
<i>Proximal femur</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes**
<i>All regions</i>	Yes*	<u>No</u>	Yes**

*Exclusion of shoulder flexion/extension/abduction/adduction; inclusion of elbow flexion/extension

**Exclusion of hip extension/flexion; inclusion of knee extension/flexion

[#]Examples are chest press and abdominal crunches

Granger Catherine (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-6169-370X)

Cavalheri Vinicius (Orcid ID: 0000-0001-8620-7499)

Manuscript submission template:

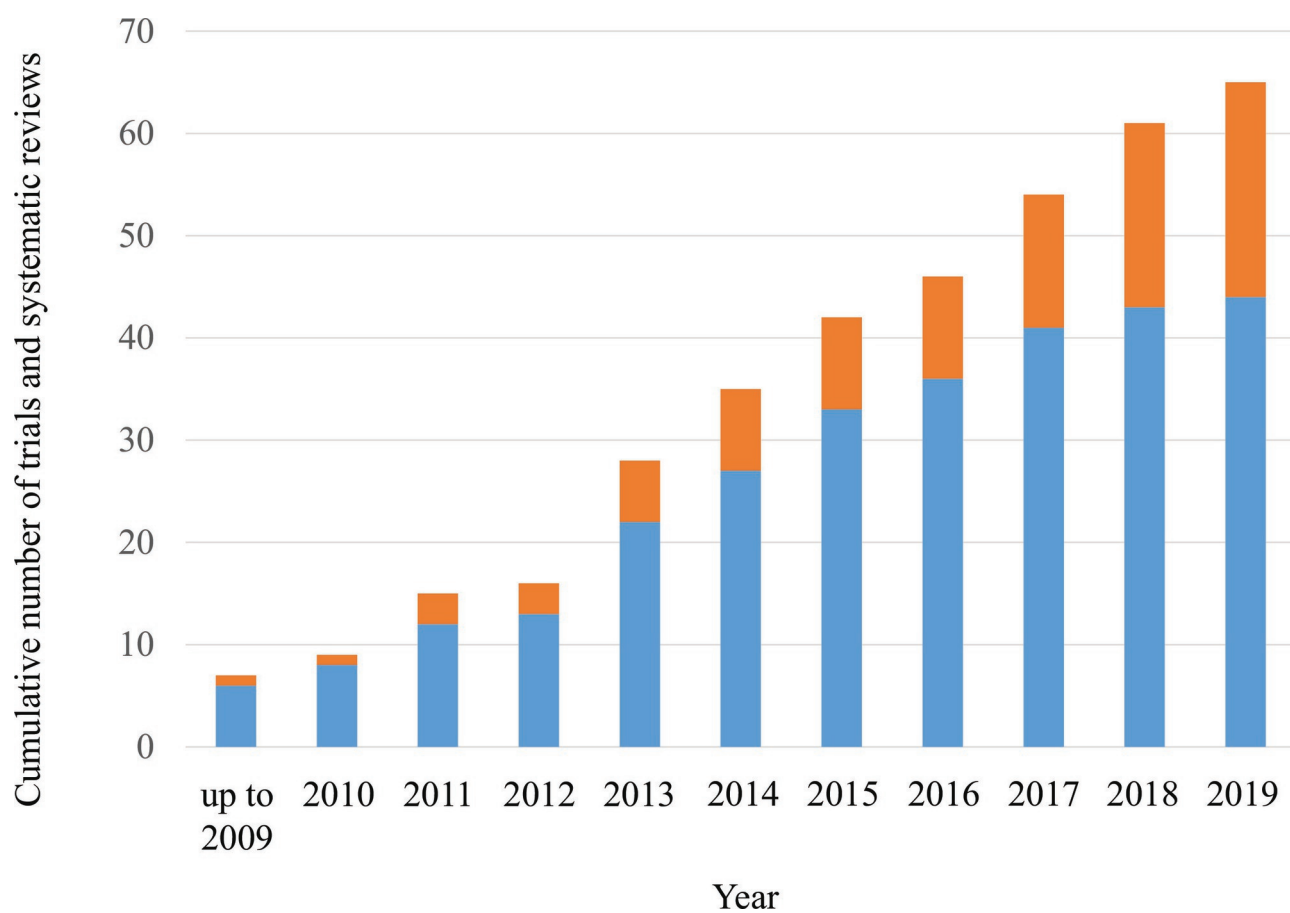
FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1: Cumulative number of clinical trials (blue) and systematic reviews (orange) on exercise training for people with lung cancer published until December 2019

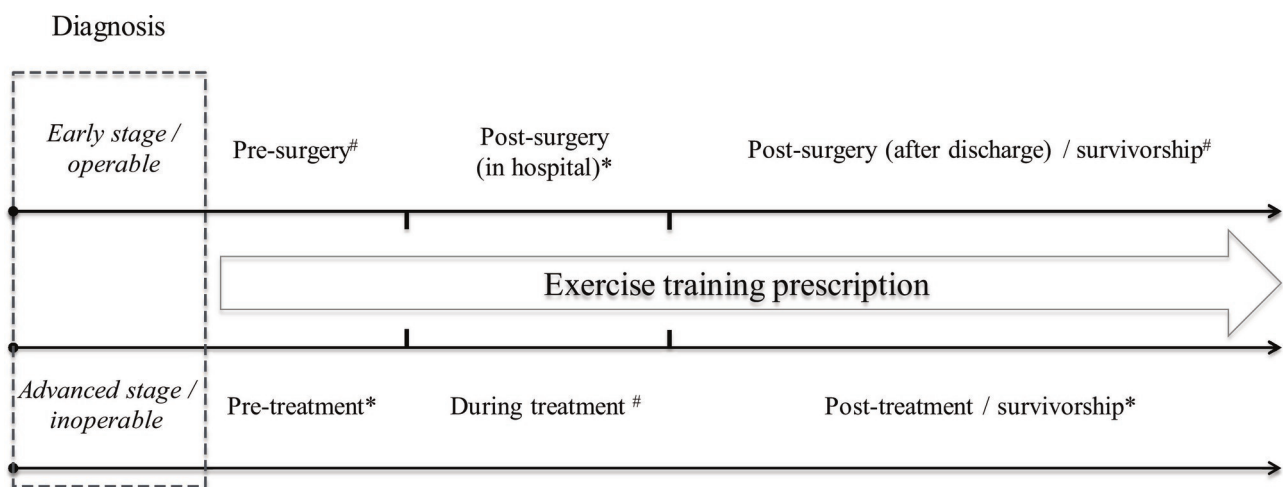
Figure 2: Authors' recommendations on timing of exercise training across the disease/treatment pathway following a diagnosis of lung cancer

* Pending research to investigate specific benefits of exercise training

Evidence of benefit from Cochrane systematic reviews that only included randomised controlled trials



resp_13869_figure 1_cavalheri and granger 2020.eps



resp_13869_figure 2_cavalheri & granger_new.eps