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## The Effect of Breath Hold Diving on Bone Mineral Density of Women Fishery Diver

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to determine the effect of breathhold diving on female diver 's bone mineral density (BMD).

**Methods:** A cross-sectional observational study was carried out utilizing a health checkup of divers and controls at a hospital in Jeju city, Korea. Female divers (n=61) were matched with non-diver controls (n=61) by age, weight and postmenopausal year. BMD of the proximal femur(femoral neck, trochanter and Ward 's triangle) was assessed by dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA).

**Results:** The average diving duration of the female divers was  $34 \pm 13$  years. The BMD of the divers was higher than that of the controls in the femur neck and trochanter ( $p<0.05$ ). On correlations analysis, the status of menopause, age, body weight and age at menarche were significantly correlated with proximal femur BMD in the divers ( $p<0.05$ ). On multiple regression analysis, age and body weight were predictors of proximal femur BMD in the divers. On linear regression analysis of proximal femur BMD according to age in the divers and controls, regression coefficients of the divers were lower in all 3 areas of the proximal femur than the controls.

**Conclusions:** BMD of the divers was higher than that of the controls in the femur neck and trochanter. There was a tendency for BMD of the divers to decrease faster than that of the controls with increasing age.

**Key words:** Female fishery divers, Bone mineral density (BMD)

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(止息潛水, breath hold

가

diving)

5~20 m

1960

3 5 , 1970

1 5

가

1999

1.

10,505

2~3

1)

1999 8 1 2001 7 31

5~6

가

Hong

113~138

170~200

52~63

가

226

800 가 ,

60

80 ,

4

가

, 1

, 2

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7

73

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1999 8 1

2001 7 31

가

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10 m 1

129

5

가

124

가

가

가

3가

가

가

5

40

80

8

30 kg, 5 kg, 40 kg, Ward )  
8 g/cm<sup>3</sup> 3

10  
2  
10 5 가  
3가  
16 3.

45 61

2) t-test

5 5% 가

Fisher's exact test

Ward's

t-test

가

가

3)

5

1.

54.43±

2. 8.93, 54.07±8.55,  
55.53±5.83 kg, 55.79±6.01 kg,  
Hologic QDR-1500 154.96±4.93 cm, 154.61±5.02  
(DEXA; Dual Energy X-ray cm, 9.14±7.07,  
Absorptiometry) 8.93±6.42, 3.38±1.25,  
( 3.42±1.67 t-test

가 . 가 3 .  
 17.70±1.72 , 16.95±1.64 1 , 6 .  
 (p< .05)(Table 1). 32 , 3 . 5  
 23 , 4 , 1 , 1 . 4  
 45 , 3 Fisher's exact test  
 13 .  
 34.3±13.3 (5 ~ 60 ) , 3 , 11 가  
 9.6±3.2 (1 ~ 12 ) ,  
 14.6±5.3 (1 ~ 28 ) , 5.2  
 ±1.6 (2 ~ 10 ) (Table 2). (Table 3).  
 2. 3.

, 7 ( 5 0.756±0.180 g/cm<sup>2</sup>, 0.694±0.103 g/cm<sup>2</sup>  
 , 1 , 1 ) . (p=0.021), 0.606±0.108  
 ).54±1.66 (0 ~ 10 ) , g/cm<sup>2</sup>, 0.565±0.094 g/cm<sup>2</sup> (p=0.027),  
 2.22±6.25 (0 ~ 24 ) , Ward 0.558 ± 0.183  
 0.12±0.34 (0 ~ 1.5 ) . g/cm<sup>2</sup>, 0.501±0.142 g/cm<sup>2</sup> (p=0.054)

**Table 1.** Characteristics of study subjects (mean ± S.D.)

	Divers (N=61)	Controls (N=61)	p*
Age(year)	54.43 ± 8.93	54.07 ± 8.55	0.820
Weight(kg)	55.53 ± 5.83	55.79 ± 6.01	0.807
Height(cm)	154.96 ± 4.93	154.61 ± 5.02	0.694
Postmenopausal year	9.14 ± 7.07	8.93 ± 6.42	0.893
No. of children	3.38 ± 1.25	3.42 ± 1.67	0.770
Age at menarche(year)	17.70 ± 1.72	16.95 ± 1.64	0.032

\* t-test

**Table 2.** Diving pattern of women divers (N=61)

	Mean	Median	Range
Diving years	34.33 ± 13.35	37.00	5~60
Diving months / year	9.59 ± 3.17	11.00	1~12
Diving days / month	14.57 ± 5.25	15.00	1~28
Diving hours / day	5.21 ± 1.58	5.00	2~10

4.

(p<0.05).

0.939±0.255 g/cm<sup>2</sup>, 0.774±  
 0.071 g/cm<sup>2</sup> (p=0.018),  
 0.726±0.101 g/cm<sup>2</sup>, 0.627±0.074 g/cm<sup>2</sup>  
 (p=0.004), Ward 0.791±  
 0.182 g/cm<sup>2</sup>, 0.624±0.123 g/cm<sup>2</sup>  
 (p=0.005)  
 (p<0.05).  
 가 0.030 (p=0.018) (p=  
 (p<0.05)(Table 4).  
 (p=0.000).

Spearman

Pearson

**Table 3.** Distribution of factors related to bone mineral density

Factors	Diver (N=61)	Control (N=61)	p*
Smoking	0	3	0.244
Alcohol drinking	1	6	0.114
Drinking a cup of milk a day	3	11	0.044
History of athletic activity at school years	0	3	0.244
History of diet	0	4	0.119

\* Fisher's exact test

**Table 4.** Differences of bone mineral density between divers and controls for the proximal femur

	Total			Premenopause			Postmenopause		
	Divers (N=61)	Controls (N=61)	p*	Divers (N=16)	Controls (N=16)	p*	Divers (N=45)	Controls (N=45)	p*
Femur neck	0.756 ±0.180	0.694 ±0.103	0.021	0.939 ±0.255	0.774 ±0.071	0.018	0.691 ±0.076	0.666 ±0.098	0.175
Troch -anter	0.606 ±0.108	0.565 ±0.094	0.027	0.726 ±0.101	0.627 ±0.074	0.004	0.563 ±0.073	0.543 ±0.091	0.246
Ward's triangle	0.558 ±0.183	0.501 ±0.142	0.054	0.791 ±0.182	0.624 ±0.123	0.005	0.476 ±0.089	0.457 ±0.123	0.404

\* t-test † BMD : bone mineral density

(p=0.004) Ward  
(p=0.005)

(p=0.004) Ward (p=  
가 (p=0.076).

(p>0.05)(table 5). (regression coefficient)가  
0.011(p=0.000), 0.009(p=0.009),  
가 -0.000(p=0.885)

**Table 5.** Correlation coefficient between BMD and related variables in 61 divers (p-value in parenthesis)

Variables	Femur neck BMD*	Trochanter BMD*	Ward 's triangle BMD*
Status of menopause <sup>†</sup>	-0.655 (0.000)	-0.618 (0.000)	-0.706 (0.000)
Weight <sup>‡</sup>	0.302 (0.018)	0.278 (0.030)	0.164 (0.205)
Age <sup>‡</sup>	-0.556 (0.000)	-0.610 (0.000)	-0.679 (0.000)
Age at menarche <sup>‡</sup>	-0.229 (0.076)	-0.362 (0.004)	-0.356 (0.005)
Total diving hours a year <sup>‡</sup>	-0.090 (0.489)	-0.199 (0.124)	-0.104 (0.423)

\* BMD : bone mineral density † Spearman correlation coefficient; premenopause=0, postmenopause=1

‡ Pearson correlation coefficient

**Table 6.** The factors affecting proximal femur BMD in 61 divers

BMD	Independent variables	Regression coefficient	Standard error	p	R square
Femur neck	Age	-0.011	0.002	0.000	0.388
	Weight	0.009	0.003	0.009	
	Total diving hours a year	-0.000	0.000	0.885	
	Intercept	0.878	0.218	0.000	
Trochanter	Age	-0.007	0.001	0.000	0.452
	Weight	0.005	0.002	0.015	
	Total diving hours a year	-0.000	0.000	0.223	
	Intercept	0.760	0.124	0.000	
Ward 's triangle	Age	-0.014	0.002	0.000	0.480
	Weight	0.004	0.003	0.160	
	Total diving hours a year	-0.000	0.000	0.783	
	Intercept	1.077	0.204	0.000	

BMD: bone mineral density

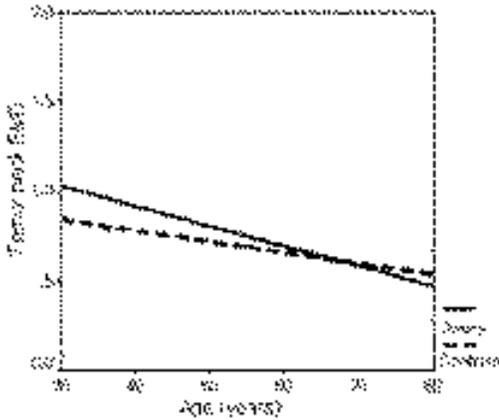
38.8%

(p>0.05)(Table 6).

가 -0.007(p=0.000), 0.005(p=0.015), -0.000(p=0.223) 45.2% =1.367-0.011\*  
 =1.027-0.006\* (p=0.000) (Fig. 1).

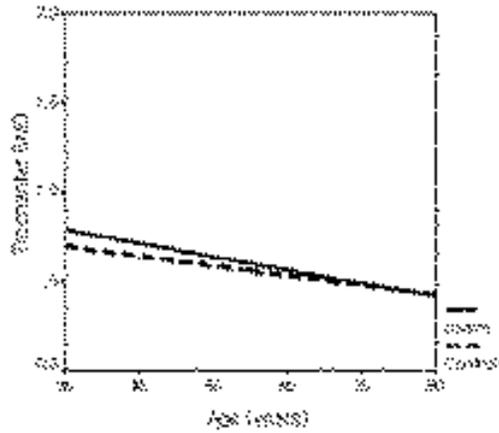
가 =1.009-0.007\* =0.859-0.005\*  
 0.014(p=0.000), 0.004(p=0.160), -0.000(p=0.783) 0.005\* (p=0.000) (Fig. 2). Ward

18.0% Ward =1.316-0.011\* =0.987-0.009\*  
 Ward (p=0.000) (Fig. 3).  
 가



FN BMD of divers = 1.367-0.011 × Age  
 R square = 0.309, p = 0.000  
 FN BMD of controls = 1.027-0.006 × Age  
 R square = 0.263, p = 0.000

**Fig. 1.** Relationship between age and the femur neck BMD in divers and controls  
 FN: femur neck  
 BMD: bone mineral density (g/cm<sup>2</sup>)



T BMD of divers = 1.009-0.007 × Age  
 R square = 0.373, p = 0.000  
 T BMD of controls = 0.859-0.005 × Age  
 R square = 0.244, p = 0.000

**Fig. 2.** Relationship between age and the trochanter BMD in divers and controls  
 T: trochanter  
 BMD: bone mineral density (g/cm<sup>2</sup>)



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( $p < 0.05$ ),

( $p > 0.05$ ).

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