The effect of dry-land training on functional strength and swimming performance of 10-12 years old swimmers

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Abstract. Study Objectives: The objective of this study was to examine the effect of three weeks of dry-land training on functional strength and swimming performance in addition to eight weeks of swimming training of 15 female athletes in the 10-12 years age group with at least three years of training history. A total of 30 athletes between the ages of 10-12 participated in the study; it was divided into control and experimental groups. Methods: Muscle strength tests and swimming performance tests (50 m freestyle, 400 m freestyle, critical swimming speed tests) were applied to all groups before and after the test at eight week intervals. The dry-land training program applied to the experimental group was prepared for the 10 most frequently used muscle groups in swimming branch in the literature. Descriptive statistics were applied to the obtained data. The normality of data were analyzed with Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and it was found that the data showed a normal distribution. Paired samples t test was used for within group comparisons in the analysis of data and independent samples t test was used for comparison of measurement times of the groups. Results: Trapezius middle left-right deltoid anterior left-right, deltoid middle-right, triceps brachii left-right, gluteus maximus left-right, tensor facia latasol-right, biceps femoris left-right, quadriceps femoris left-right; a statistically significant difference was found between the groups in terms of 400 m free style and 50 m free style critical swimming speed variability (p <0.05). When the pre-test and post-test values of the experimental group were compared, Trapezius middle left, deltoid anterior left-right, biceps brachii left-right, brachio radialis left-right, gluteus maximus left-right, tensor fasia lata left-right, biceps femoris left-right, quadriceps femoris left-right statistically significant differences were found in 400 m free style, 50 m free style critical swimming speed variables (p <0.01). When the developmental values of the experimental and control groups were examined, trapezius middle-left, deltoid anterior left-right, deltoid middle-left, biceps brachii left-right, brachio radialis left-right, gluteus maximus left-right, tensor facia lata left, biceps phemoris left-right, quadriceps femoris left-right; statistically significant differences were found in 400 m free style and 50 m free style critical swimming speed variables (p <0.05). Conclusion: Dry-land training has a positive effect on swimming and functional strength performance in 10-12 years old strength swimmers.

Keywords: Swimming, Dry-Land Training, Microfet2, Critical Swimming Speed

Introduction

Swimming is defined as an Olympic branch in which free style, back, breast stroke, butterfly and mixed techniques are used, which is a combination of movements that a person does to cover a certain distance against water resistance in the shortest time possible and uses all body muscles (1-4). Swimmers use different energy systems depending on the length of the race. Strength and condition training helps to train these energy systems (4-7). In addition to swimming training, physical training outside the water is also used to improve performance in swimming. These trainings are called "Dry-Land Trainings" in swimming (7-9). In order to increase their underwater performance, swimmers should also do resistance training on land as well as in water. Performance for the success of swimmers is important that the strength and power are at the appropriate level (4,5,8,10). Dry-land training occupies an important place in swimming training as it provides strength, power and flexibility to the total development of the swimmer. The objective of dryland training is to provide endurance to the muscles by increasing the strength of active muscle groups, and then to gain speed by strengthening them (4,11-13).

Swimmers who will compete in the international platform are required to do 8-12 swimming training and 3-5 dry-land training per week. If the distance covered per week and the approximate training times are considered as 80-90 km and 22-26 hours, it is seen that a significant part of these studies are dry-land training. Therefore, correct planning should be made for strength development in dry-land training (14-17).

Dry-land strength training may include exercises in which the stroke is simulated using swimming benches, mediocreiners or IV hoses. (18,19). Also, other resistance exercises such as weight training, stretching exercises, medicine ball, and plyometric exercises can do the same. Dry-land exercises to increase swimming power should consist of 4-12 repetitions. These repetitions should be done quickly and without interruption. The number of sets should be between 3-6 and the rest periods between sets should be 2-3 minutes (20-23).

It's much easier to measure strength training performances on land than in water. Swimming benches that can measure work done numerically are motivating and provide a very accurate method of measuring spent performance. When weight machines are used, the amount of the load lifted in a certain number of repetitions provides an excellent measurement opportunity. When using instruments that allow measuring resistance, such as the median and IV tubing, the time required to complete a certain number of repetitions should be recorded. Later, this period should be improved (8,20,21,24). The objective of this research is to examine the effect of dry-land training 3 days a week, in addition to swimming training for eight weeks, on strength and swimming performance of 15 female athletes in the 10-12 years old group with at least three years of training history.

Material and Methods

Participants

10-12 years old thirty female athletes with a training history of at least three years participated in the study. In order for the athletes to participate in the study, a "Parent Consent Certificate" was obtained from the parents. The athletes participating in the study were divided into two as the experimental group (11.18 \pm 0.80 years; n = 15) and the control group (11.16 \pm 0.83 years; n = 15). Both groups participated in swimming training 6 days a week for 8 weeks. In addition to the 6-day swimming training, the experimental group participated in the dry-land training three days a week before the swimming training and then started the swimming training. This study was conducted with the approval of the ethics committee of Selçuk University (Decision Number: 21, Date: 12.04.2018). Additionally, the study was conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the revised Helsinki Declaration.

Data Collection Tools

Hoggan MicroFET2 Manual Muscle Strength Meter

MikroFET2 (Hoggan Scientific, LLC, Salt Lake City UT, USA); it is designed for objective, reliable and measurable muscle test measurements. MikroFET2 software automatically checks calculations and validity, and creates tables and graphs from test data. It shows the application location of the test with a picture. The device is powered by battery; it is designed to fit in an ergonomic and comfortable palm lighter than 1kg. This patented system using advanced digital technology provides an indicator that detects even subtle changes in the direction of application (25).

MikroFET2 features

Selectable units of measurement: Pound (lbs), Newton (N) or Kilogram-Force (kgf) (at 1% error rate).

Muscle testing has two threshold settings.

- Low threshold-0.8 ld-300 lbs. In 0.1 lb increments.
- High threshold-3.0 lbs. 300lbs. In 0.1lb increments (1lb = 0.45kg).

Experimental Design

Before the tests were applied, two groups were informed about the tests. In order to get the best results during the tests, motivating speeches were made to the athletes and the athletes were warned to perform their performance at the highest level. While the critical swimming speed test data were taken, it was aimed to swim better degrees by bringing the athletes with close swimming degrees to swim in the same series. In the muscle strength test, 10 muscle groups that are used more effectively in the biomechanics of swimming were targeted. For each muscle group, the same measurement was made on both the right and left sides three times, and the highest values were recorded separately as right and left. Pound (lbs) was chosen as the unit of measurement and recorded. The selected muscle groups and measurement methods are as follows:

1-Anterior Deltoid: The shoulder flexion device was held in the anterior region of the upper arm near the elbow, while the subject pushed the shoulder at the maximal level backwards.

2-Middle Deltoid: Sholder abduction kept the transducer in the lateral region of the upper arm near the elbow, while the experiment pushed the shoulder upwards at the maximal level.

3-Triceps Brachii: Elbow extension pushed the experimental hand at maximal force while holding the transducer near the wrist in the direction of the posterior elbow.

4-Brachio Radialis: While holding the elbow flexion transducer in the region of the forearm near the wrist in a radial view, the experiment pulled the hand towards itself with its maximal force. 5-Biceps Brachii & Brachialis: While holding the elbow flexion transducer in the anterior region of the forearm near the wrist, the experiment pulled the hand towards itself with its maximal force.

6-Gluteus Maximus: Hip extension while holding the posterior part of the upper foot in the region close to the knee, the experiment lifted the foot upwards with its maximal force.

7- Tensor Disaster Lata: When the hip abduction from flexed position (hip removal from the stretched position) is held in the lateral region of the upper foot near the knee, the experiment lifts the foot upwards with its maximal force.

8-Biceps Femoris: When the knee flexion transducer is held close to the ankle in the posterior region of the lower foot and the lower foot is rotated laterally, the experiment pulled the foot towards itself with its maximal force.

9- Quariceps Femoris: While the knee extension (knee deployment) held the transducer near the ankle in the antrerior region of the lower foot, the experiment pushed the foot with its maximal force.

10-Middle Trapezius: While the scapular adduction was held by taking the transducer into the shoulder approximately with the lateral angle of the scapula, the experiment raised the hand with its maximal force.

While the critical swimming speed test was applied to the subjects in the pre and post-test stages in the olympic swimming pool. 50 meters of free style swimming was performed after the warm-up swim, and 400 meters of free style time was taken after the same warm-up swim the next day. It is planned to give a day break between swims, to apply the maximum force and to obtain the best swimming degree.

Critical Swimming Speed Test

The Critical Swimming Speed Test (CSS), discovered by Ginn in 1993, is used to observe the aerobic capacity of swimmers. The result of this test can also be used to estimate the appropriate goal time for each repetition of swimmers' aerobic training sessions. CSS is defined as "the maximum theoretically sustainable maximum swimming speed without getting tired or exhausted" (26). This test consists of a maximum of two swims over 400 meters and 50 meters. Adequate rest periods should be given between each swim to ensure that swimmers can fully rest.

Requirements for the test: swimming pool, stopwatch, assistant.

Critical swimming speed calculation

The calculation of the swimmers' CSS is based on 400 m and 50 m performance times and is calculated as follows.

D1 = 50m, D2 = 400m, T1 = 50m's swam seconds and T2 = 400m's swam

CSS = (D2 - D1) / (T2 - T1) (8).

Dry Land Training Design

In addition to warming up and cooling, 12 movements aimed at working and strengthening the lowerupper extremity muscles, abdominal and back muscles were determined and applied in 2 sets to the experimental group as dry-land training. The exercises aiming to strengthen the lower-upper extremity muscles were applied to the athletes as 12 repetitions, and the movements aiming to strengthen the abdominal and back muscles were applied to the athletes as 20 repetitions (Table 1) (27).

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were applied to the obtained data. the normality of data was examined with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and it was found that the data were normally distributed. Paired samples t test was used for within group comparisons in the analysis of data and independent samples t test was used for comparison of measurement times of the groups. Since there was a difference between the pre-test values of the experimental and control groups, whether there was a difference between the groups in the variables examined after the training was examined by calculating the percentage of improvement. Development percentages were calculated as [(Post-test value - Pre-test value) x 100] / Pre-test value. Whether there is a difference between the experimental and control groups in these calculated improvement percentages was examined using the t test.

Table 1. Dry-land	training program	applied to t	he experimental	group
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PARTS	Set	Repetation	Station
Lower extremity	2	12	Squat with exercise stick
Upper extremity	2	12	Dips
Core	2	20	Crunch
Lower extremity	2	12	Front Lunge – Side Lunge
Upper extremity	2	12	Push up with bar
Back	2	20	Reverse Crunch
Lower extremity	2	12	Squat Jump
Upper extremity	2	12	Elastic Band
Core	2	20	Rowling
Lower extremity	2	12	Star Jump
Upper extremity	2	12	Plymetric Press Up
Back	2	20	Plank – Side Plank

Results

Descriptive statistics and t test results regarding the pretest values of the experimental and control groups are presented in Table 2.

As seen in Table 2, a statistically significant difference was found between the groups in all variables except for the variables LEFT3, LEFT4, LEFT4, LEFT5, RIGHT5 in the pre-test values of the variables (p <0.05). When the averages are examined, it is seen that the values of the experimental group are higher than the values of the control group in the variables related to the force. When the average of swimming test results (50M FREE STYLE, 400M FREE STYLE, PRE-CRITICAL SWIMMING SPEED) are examined, it is seen that the values of the experimental group are lower than the values of the control group. Descriptive statistics regarding the pre-test and post-test values of the experimental group and the t-test results in dependent groups are presented in Table 3.

As seen in Table 3, a statistically significant difference was found in all variables except RIGHT 1, LEFT 3, RIGHT 3, LEFT 6 and RIGHT 6 between the pretest and posttest values of the experimental group (p < 0.01). When the averages are examined, it is seen that there is an increase in the strength variables

Table 2. Descriptive statistics and t test results regarding the pretest values of the experimental and control groups

	Experimental group (n=15)		Control group (n = 15)			
Variables	x	SD	x	SD	t	р
LEFT 1	38.24	11.49	28.13	7.34	-2.869	.008**
RIGHT 1	36.57	10.26	26.01	6.34	-3.390	.002**
LEFT 2	68.96	14.71	57.35	12.30	-2.345	.026*
RIGHT 2	70.60	18.73	57.36	10.96	-2.363	.025
LEFT 3	86.96	20.55	73.78	16.59	-1.931	.064
RIGHT 3	88.23	19.98	73.00	15.02	-2.360	.025
LEFT 4	130.46	23.79	113.06	26.78	-1.880	.071
RIGHT 4	132.72	28.11	115.19	22.92	-1.871	.072
LEFT 5	126.26	36.00	111.74	24.95	-1.283	.210
RIGHT 5	133.99	31.05	117.20	24.46	-1.645	.111
LEFT 6	103.46	22.61	87.89	17.16	-2.124	.043
RIGHT 6	106.58	23.79	84.26	17.69	-2.916	.007
LEFT 7	151.72	30.62	127.17	25.61	-2.382	.024
RIGHT 7	149.04	35.10	119.90	22.84	-2.695	.012
LEFT 8	89.12	22.78	70.86	18.26	-2.422	.022
RIGHT 8	87.09	20.81	71.36	19.93	-2.114	.044
LEFT 9	133.46	24.97	102.72	24.21	-3.423	.002
RIGHT 9	138.37	25.31	99.88	20.62	-4.567	.001
LEFT 10	145.90	30.44	114.84	29.88	-2.819	.009
RIGHT 10	150.32	34.90	118.72	26.78	-2.782	.010
50M FREE STYLE	35.24	2.57	45.71	7.44	5.144	.001
400M FREE STYLE	352.57	23.79	514.07	23.79	6.543	.001
CRITICAL SWIMMING SPEED	1.10	.07	.77	.076	-8.078	.001

	Experimental Group					
Variables	Pre-test		Post-test			
	x	SD	x	SD	t	р
LEFT 1	38.24	11.49	41.69	10.97	-7.541	.000
RIGHT 1	36.57	10.26	38.33	9.57	-1.939	.073
LEFT 2	68.96	14.71	72.02	15.09	-6.707	.000
RIGHT 2	70.60	18.73	74.50	19.08	-3.182	.007
LEFT 3	86.96	20.55	89.28	18.81	-1.737	.104
RIGHT 3	88.23	19.98	90.28	20.31	-1.901	.078
LEFT 4	130.46	23.79	134.90	24.23	-8.176	.000
RIGHT 4	132.72	28.11	136.88	27.60	-7.167	.000
LEFT 5	126.26	36.00	130.27	35.00	-5.514	.000
RIGHT 5	133.99	31.05	137.62	29.81	-7.069	.000
LEFT 6	103.46	22.61	105.27	20.94	-1.409	.181
RIGHT 6	106.58	23.79	107.88	24.27	-1.305	.213
LEFT 7	151.72	30.62	160.28	28.02	-4.090	.001
RIGHT 7	149.04	35.10	156.24	33.69	-11.088	.000
LEFT 8	89.12	22.78	94.49	21.99	-8.469	.000
RIGHT 8	87.09	20.81	91.32	19.62	-4.146	.001
LEFT 9	133.46	24.97	139.19	23.63	-8.906	.000
RIGHT 9	138.37	25.31	143.47	22.09	-4.647	.000
LEFT 10	145.90	30.44	154.03	28.94	-8.705	.000
RIGHT 10	150.32	34.90	157.05	32.50	-6.762	.000
50M FREE STYLE	35.24	2.57	34.25	2.39	7.341	.000
400M FREE STYLE	352.57	23.79	343.98	22.10	7.089	.000
CRITICAL SWIMMING SPEED	1.10	.076	1.13	.07	-6.359	.000

Table 3. Descriptive statistics regarding the pre-test and post-test values of the experimental group and t-test results in dependent groups

and the critical speed variable, and a decrease in the swimming test values.

As seen in Table 4, there was no statistically significant difference between the pretest and posttest values of the experimental group in all variables except LEFT 10, 400M free style and critical swimming speed (p> 0.01). When the averages are examined, it is seen that there is an increase in the strength variables and the critical speed variable, and a decrease in the 400m free style swimming test values.

As seen in Table 5, a statistically significant difference was found between the development values of the experimental and control groups in all variables except RIGHT 1, RIGHT 3, LEFT 6, RIGHT 6, RIGHT 8 (p < 0.01, p < 0.05). When the averages are examined, it is seen that there is an increase in the strength variables and the critical swimming speed variable, and a decrease in the swimming test values.

Discussion and Conclusion

As a result of the findings of the study, the pretest and post-test values of the experimental group

	Control Group					
Variables	Pre-test		Post-test			
	x	SD	x	SD	t	р
LEFT 1	28.13	7.34	28.07	7.08	.172	.866
RIGHT 1	26.01	6.34	26.39	6.34	-1.107	.287
LEFT 2	57.35	12.30	57.01	12.19	.893	.387
RIGHT 2	57.36	10.96	57.88	11.05	942	.362
LEFT 3	73.78	16.59	73.35	15.72	.900	.383
RIGHT 3	73.00	15.02	73.90	15.73	-1.313	.210
LEFT 4	113.06	26.78	110.42	23.73	1.743	.103
RIGHT 4	115.19	22.92	115.58	22.90	431	.673
LEFT 5	111.74	24.95	111.64	24.49	.100	.922
RIGHT 5	117.20	24.46	115.16	23.20	1.013	.328
LEFT 6	87.89	17.16	88.60	17.27	907	.380
RIGHT 6	84.26	17.69	84.90	17.68	-1.236	.237
LEFT 7	127.17	25.61	126.89	24.83	.372	.716
RIGHT 7	119.90	22.84	119.40	24.34	.219	.830
LEFT 8	70.86	18.26	71.78	19.38	-1.491	.158
RIGHT 8	71.36	19.93	70.29	19.74	.351	.731
LEFT 9	102.72	24.21	102.85	23.92	175	.864
RIGHT 9	99.88	20.62	100.56	20.87	566	.581
LEFT 10	114.84	29.88	117.72	29.34	-2.838	.013
RIGHT 10	118.72	26.78	118.37	26.55	.248	.808
50M FREE STYLE	45.71	7.44	45.65	7.42	.394	.699
400M FREE STYLE	514.07	92.58	513.04	92.98	2.415	.030
CRITICAL SWIMMING SPEED	0.77	0.142	0.77	0.14	-2.441	.029

Table 4. Descriptive statistics on the pre-test and post-test values of the control group and t-test results in dependent groups

were compared and there was a statistically significant increase in trapezius middle left, deltoid anterior leftright, biceps brachii left-right, brachio radialis leftright, gluteus maximus left-right, tensor facia lata left-right, biceps femoris left-right, quardiceps femoris left-right muscle strength and critical swimming speed. When the critical swimming speed test results are examined, it shows that dry-land training significantly increases swimming performance in 10-12 years old female swimmers. In the experimental group, improvement was observed in 50 m free style and 400 m free style swimming degrees. Considering the developmental percentages of the experimental group, an increase was observed in all muscle strength and critical swimming speed, while a statistically significant decrease in swimming degrees was observed. As a result of the research, a positive effect of dry-land training on functional strength and swimming performance was observed in 10-12 years old swimmers.

The developmental percentage of dry-land training strength and swimming performances in 10-12 years old swimmers was found to be higher than those who did not do dry-land training. Atabaş (2017) reported that the 8-week functional strength training

	Experimental group (n = 15)		Control group (n = 15)			
Variables	x	SD	x	SD	t	р
LEFT 1	10.10	6.19	0.05	4.77	-4.978	.000
RIGHT 1	6.40	10.91	1.61	5.94	-1.492	.147
LEFT 2	4.59	2.60	54	2.86	-5.144	.000
RIGHT 2	5.81	6.05	.97	3.75	-2.631	.014
LEFT 3	3.43	5.54	33	2.45	-2.408	.023
RIGHT 3	2.51	5.25	1.15	4.21	-0.78	.442
LEFT 4	3.43	1.72	-1.77	4.30	-4.345	.000
RIGHT 4	3.34	1.98	.40	2.87	-3.262	.003
LEFT 5	3.64	2.66	.06	3.29	-3.274	.003
RIGHT 5	3.09	2.30	-1.38	5.77	-2.788	.009
LEFT 6	2.17	3.92	.81	3.34	-1.021	.316
RIGHT 6	1.25	4.02	.83	2.44	-0.343	.734
LEFT 7	6.29	6.71	07	2.21	-3.487	.002
RIGHT 7	5.29	2.48	35	7.14	-2.894	.007
LEFT 8	6.63	3.80	.99	3.63	-4.155	.000
RIGHT 8	5.54	5.89	21	13.70	-1.495	.146
LEFT 9	4.61	2.45	.29	2.88	-4.412	.000
RIGHT 9	4.29	4.58	.80	4.51	-2.1	.045
LEFT 10	6.02	3.20	2.81	3.99	-2.421	.022
RIGHT 10	5.12	3.54	09	4.49	-3.534	.001
50M FREE STYLE	-2.77	1.42	12	1.21	5.486	.000
400M FREE STYLE	-2.40	1.27	21	0.31	6.466	.000
CRITICAL SWIMMING SPEED	2.31	1.43	.16	0.26	-5.709	.000

Table 5. Descriptive statistics and t test results regarding the development values of the experimental and control groups

approach had a positive effect on strength performance in young swimmers (28), while Pedro et al (2012) reported that strength is one of the main factors that can increase swimming speed in their study examining the effects of dry-land training on swimming performance (6). The research findings obtained in this framework can be considered to support the results of the study.

Girold et al (2007) found that, 2 methods combining swimming and dry-land strength or swimming and the resisted- and assisted-sprint training were more efficient than the swimming program alone in increasing sprint performance, whereas no differences were observed between swimming and resisted- and assisted-sprint training. Muscle strength increased in swimming and resisted- and assisted-sprint training, whereas stroke rate increased only in resisted- and assisted-sprint training. The muscle strength gain in concentric condition of the elbow extensors was a good predictor of the 50-m performance in swimming, while the stroke depth and the stroke rate variations were good predictors of the 50-meter performance in resisted- and assisted-sprint training(15).

On the other hand, according to Sadowski et al's (2012) data, it is not clear that strength training allowed the improvement in swimming performance in youth swimmers although a tendency to improve performance due to both types of training was noticed. It is uncertain whether dry-land strength training leads to improved sprint performance while swimming (29).

As a result, strength training using in dry-land training can increase the ability to generate propulsion in water, especially for short distance swimming. More work is needed to determine the appropriate volumes and intensities of training programs by gender and level.

As a result of this research, the following suggestions can be developed;

1- This study can be done for different age groups.

2- It can be looked at the effect of dry-land training on male swimmers.

3- Dry-land training with free weights can be applied to adult swimmers.

4- By expanding the scope of the study, it can be examined on a larger population group.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest about this manuscript.

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