

Supplementary table 1: Study selection								
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Author	Year	n	Physical activity	Population	Maternal BMI (mean)	Maternal age (mean)	Gestational Age (GA)	Effects/Conclusion
<b>Brik et al.[1]</b>	2019	Exercise group: 42; Control group: 43	Aerobic (supervised)	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, previously sedentary women	BMI (pre-pregnancy): Exercise group: 23.4 ± 3.6; Control group: 24.3 ± 5.3	Exercise group: 33.4 ± 3.2; Control group: 32.7 ± 4.4	<16 weeks of GA	Increased ductus arteriosus pulsatility index (DA-PI) at 20 weeks and the ejection fraction (EF) at 36 weeks in the exercise compared with the control group
<b>Melo et al.[2]</b>	2019	88	Walking	pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, sedentary women	BMI (at 36 week of GA): 28.1 ± 4	25 ± 6	13, 20, 28, 36	↓ ↓ mean number of fetal movements in FHR during exercise
<b>Sletten et al.[3]</b>	2018	48	Every type of PA	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated pregnancy	BMI (pre-pregnancy): range 19.5 ± 45.7	Range 21-38	24, 28, 32, 36	↑ diversity of FHR rhythm at 32 and 36 weeks of GA in the less active group
<b>Santos et al.[4]</b>	2016	28	Treadmill (running on treadmill until volitional fatigue)	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, previously sedentary women	BMI : 23.7 ± 3.2)	26 ± 6.9	30.51 ± 3.3	No significant effect after exercise on cardiocography and biophysical profile of the fetus however significantly reduced resistance and pulsatility indices and fetal biophysical profile
<b>Onoyama et al.[5]</b>	2016	373	Five different types/groups of PA	singleton, full-term pregnancies	NA	30.3 ± 5.9	NA	→ no significant effects in fetal parameters, mild effects in cord blood (cellular level)
<b>Bgeginski et al.[6]</b>	2015	10	Resistance exercise	Healthy women, not practicing regular exercise in the last three months	NA	25.2 ± 4.4	22-24, 28-32, 34-36	→ no significant effects on fetal parameters

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<b>Sechrist et al.[7]</b>	2015	Exercise Group: 19 ; Control Group: 12	Aquatic Exercise (AE) (heated, indoor pool)	high risk pregnancies, singleton pregnancies and twin births	NA	18-45	NA	↑ significant increase in the AE group and control group for the change in mean amniotic fluid index (AFI) measurements values
<b>May et al.[8]</b>	2014	40	Aerobic (walking jogging, yoga, weight lifting)	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	BMI: 29.2	29.2	33-36	significant correlation between minutes of non-continuous leisure time physical activity with fetal overall HRV
<b>van Leeuwen et al.[9]</b>	2014	Exercise group: 21; Control group: 19	Self-managed aerobic exercises (minimum 3 times per week throughout pregnancy)	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	NA	20-35	36	→ fetal-maternal heart rate coupling is generally weak in exercising mothers
<b>Gustafson et al.[10]</b>	2014	Exercise group: 16; Control group: 27	Aerobic (Visits at 28, 32, 36 weeks of gestation and 1 month follow up)	highly active women, healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	NA	20-35	less than 28 GA until one month of age	↑ significantly higher short-term HRV (RMSSD, LF, HF) at one month age
<b>de Oliveria Melo et al.[11]</b>	2012	Group A: 62 Group B: 63 Control group: 62	Moderate-intensity walking	healthy women	Group A: 24.7 ± 4.3; Group B: 23.4 ± 3.8; Group C: 23.5 ± 3.5	Group A: 24 ± 5.8; Group B: 26 ± 5.3; Group C: 24 ± 5.4	13 GA until term	→ no significant effects in fetal parameters (14 cases of preeclampsia occurred (Group A: n=3; Group B: n=6; Group C: n=5))
<b>Jukic et al.[12]</b>	2012	1647 births	Activity included: recreational, occupational, household, and child/adult care	NA	BMI: <18.5= 28 (n); 18.5-24.9= 977 (n); 25-29.9= 353 (n); ≥ 30= 261 (n)	≤ 24 years: 202; 25-29 years: 592; 30-34 years: 584; 35-39: 248; ≥40 years: 21	recruited before 10 GA	→ mild reduced risk of preterm birth with first-trimester vigorous recreational activity.

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<b>May et al.[13]</b>	2012	50	Aerobic (walking, jogging); Anaerobic (weight lifting, yoga etc.); all leisure time activities	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	BMI (pre-pregnancy): 21 (self-reported)	23-39	36	Significant correlation between duration of PA and all fetal HRV measures
<b>Owe et al.[14]</b>	2012	61.098	Different types of PA were investigated through questionnaire	singleton pregnancy	NA	NA	17 GA until birth	↓ reduced preterm births ↑ slightly increased post term births.
<b>Szymanski et al.[15]</b>	2012	45 (3 groups according to self-reported physical activity)	Treadmill	healthy women	NA	1) 32.9; 2) 34.3; 3) 32.9	28 to 32	↓ fetal heart rate in the highly active group was lower than the other groups → alterations in umbilical cord blood and uterine artery Dopplers
<b>Tomic et al.[16]</b>	2012	166	Aerobic	healthy women, age between 18-35 years	BMI (pre-pregnancy): 23.1 ± 4.1	28	6 to 8	↑ gestational diabetes significantly more frequently in the control than in the exercise group ↓ women in exercise group showed lower occurrence of fetal macrosomia
<b>Fleten et al.[17]</b>	2010	43.705	Different types of PA	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	BMI (pre-pregnancy): 24 ± 4.3	15-23 (y) = 5.642 (n); 25-29 (y) = 15.854 (n); 30-34 (y) = 16.227 (n); 35-39 (y) = 5.408; 40-49 (y) = 574	17 GA until term	→ Exercise during pregnancy has a minor impact on birth weight whereas maternal pre-pregnancy BMI has a larger influence

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<b>Juhl et al.[18]</b>	2010	79.692	Different types of PA	NA	BMI (pre-pregnancy): <18=54.5 (%); 18.5 to <25 = 68 (%); 25 to <30 = 19 (%); 30+ = 8 (%)	>25 = 13%; 25 to <35 = 75%; 35 to <40 = 10%; 40+ = 1%	16-31	↓ risk of having a baby small for gestational age and large for gestational age	
<b>May et al.[19]</b>	2010	Exercise group: 26; Control group: 35	Aerobic (self-reported)	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, highly active women	BMI: Exercise group: 22.8 ± 2.6; Control group: 25.2 ± 4.6	20-35	28-36	The effect of exercise on fetal HR depends on GA and fetal activity state ↓ lower FHR during active fetal state (36 GA) ↑ increased fetal HRV during active fetal state (36 GA)	
<b>Melzer et al.[20]</b>	2010	44	Different types of PA	healthy women	BMI (pre-pregnancy): Exercise group = 22.8 ± 4.2; Control group = 22.8 ± 3.5	Exercise group: 31.5 ± 5.4 Control group: 30.5 ± 5.8	35-41	→ no significant effects in fetal parameters	
<b>Silveira et al.[21]</b>	2010	133	Water Aerobics in a heated pool (25-30°)	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, gestational age ≤ 24 weeks, previously sedentary women	NA	19-35	24-27, 28-31, 32-35, 36-39	↑ HRV was significantly greater following exercise (24-27 GA)	
<b>Barakat et al.[22]</b>	2008	160	Aerobic	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy,	BMI (Exercise group): 24.3; BMI (Control group): 23.4	25-35 (Exercise group: 30.4; Control group: 29.5)	NA	→ no significant effects in fetal parameters	

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				previously sedentary women				
<b>Clapp et al.[23]</b>	2002	75	Running, Aerobic and Stair-stepper	singleton pregnancy, active women	NA	31 ± 1 (Group 1: Lo-Hi), 30 ± 1 (Group 2: Mod-Mod) and 32 ± 1 (Group 3: Hi-Lo)	from 8 GA until term	↓ significant decrease in newborns' weight and height in the exercise groups (Group 1 and Group 2) ↑ mid-trimester growth rates were significantly greater (Group 2 and 3)
<b>Kennelly et al.[24]</b>	2002	Entire group: 258; Control group: 112; Mild exercise: 119; Moderate exercise: 27	Cycle Ergometer + 30-degree semi-recumbent couch	singleton pregnancy, primiparous	BMI: 28.1 ± 4.1	27 ± 5.5	33-38	→ no significant effects in fetal parameters
<b>Clapp III et al.[25]</b>	2000	46	weight-bearing exercise, treadmill, stair stepper	singleton pregnancy, previously sedentary women	NA	31 ± 1	16, 20, 24	↑ weight-bearing exercise (moderate, early pregnancy) is associated with a significant increase in fetoplacental growth in normal pregnancy
<b>MacPhail et al.[26]</b>	2000	23	Cycle Ergometer	singleton pregnancy, active women	BMI: 28 ± 2.6	20-40	31-38 (mean 35 ± 1.6 weeks)	↓ significantly fewer accelerations in the second post-test 10-minutes segment compared with the second pre-test 10-minutes segment ↑ baseline FHR in the 20-minutes post-test period compared with the 20-minutes pre-test period

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								↓ HRV in both post-tests periods compared with the first 10-minutes pre-test period
<b>Rafila et al.[27]</b>	1999	low risk group: 193; high risk group: 44	Cycle Ergometer	NA	NA	16-38	31-38	↓ in younger mothers (16-24) significantly lower FHR than in those aged 25-38 years  ↓ lower FHR in women who exercised with an intensity of 55-75% submaximal exercise than those exercising at 76%-90%  ↓ athletes had fetuses with significantly lower fetal heart rates than those less active
<b>Brenner et al.[28]</b>	1999	Exercise group: 14; Control group: 6	Cycle Ergometer	Healthy, previously sedentary women		Exercise group: 28.7 ± 3.5; Control group: 29.3 ± 3.2	Entry: Exercise group: 16.4 ± 4.1 and Control group: 18.8 ± 3.5; Study time points: 17, 27, 30	↑ increase in FHR during exercise  ↓ FHR post-exercise  ↑ FHR in recovery period

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<b>Avery et al.[29]</b>	1999	Exercise group: 12 Control group: 12 non-pregnant women	Strength Conditioning Exercise	NA	Weight: Exercise group = 70 ± 3; Control group = 62 ± 2; pre-pregnancy BMI: Exercise group: 58 ± 2 ; Control group: NA	Exercise group: 29 ± 1; Control group: 29 ± 2	31 ± 1	↑ significant increase for the frequency of FHR accelerations from rest to the sitting posture compared to the control group	
<b>Manders et al.[30]</b>	1997	12	Bicycle	NA	NA	20-36	29-32	↑ basal FHR was significantly increased for 30 minutes ↓ significantly lower incidence of body movements was found for the first 5 minutes following exercise	
<b>Spinnewijn et al.[31]</b>	1996	26	Cycle Ergometer	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	NA	23-37	38-42	↑ uterine activity during the exercise period	
<b>Clapp III et al.[32]</b>	1995	Exercise group: 31; Control group: 29	Running, Aerobic, Stair stepping, Biking, Swimming	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, highly active women	NA	31 ± 1	36-38	→ decrease in gestational length, birth weight and pregnancy weight gain in the continued exercise group	

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<i>Jackson et al.[33]</i>	1995	60 (Exercise continued group (EX CONT)= 20; Exercise early only group (EX EARLY)=20; Control group (CON)=20)	All types of PA	highly active women	NA	NA	whole pregnancy and 6 months prior (activities were recorded by self-reports)	↑ significantly greater placental mass per kg of birth weight in the exercise group compared to the other two groups  ↑ functional parenchymal tissue and the villous vessel diameters were significantly increased in the EX EARLY group
<i>McMurray et al.[34]</i>	1995	Exercise group: aerobic dance; Control group: treadmill walking	Treadmill and aerobic dance	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	NA	32 ± 5	21-28	↑ FHR significantly higher during the aerobic exercise than compared to the treadmill
<i>Winn et al.[35]</i>	1994	12	Treadmill	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, active women	NA	32	26-36	↓ fetal body movements and fetal breathing after exercise
<i>Webb et al.[36]</i>	1993	Exercise group: 22; Control group: 16	Cycle Ergometer	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, sedentary women	NA	Exercise Group: 30.2 ± 0.9; Control Group: 29.1 ± 0.9	16-38	↑ mean FHR baseline were 3-7 beats/min higher post-exercise compared with those pre-exercise
<i>van Doorn et al.[37]</i>	1992	33	Cycle Ergometer	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	NA		16, 25, 35 and 7 weeks postpartum	↑ mean FHR during first 5 minutes after exercise in first trimester



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<b>Rafila et al. [38]</b>	1991	21	Cycle Ergometer	nulliparous, healthy women	NA	NA	28-37	Maternal heart rate increased significantly and umbilical artery waveforms revealed a significant decrease in the S/D value following the period of exercise
<b>Watson et al. [39]</b>	1991	13	Swimming and cycling	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	NA	30	25-35	Slightly decrease in FHR immediately after exercise followed by an increase in FHR (10-20 minutes after exercise)  → trend towards bigger change from baseline FHR after cycling compared to swimming
<b>Green et al. [40]</b>	1988	26	Exercises recommended by Balaskas and Balaskas (1979)	pregnant women with uncomplicated pregnancy	NA	NA	36-40	Unusually high incidence of obstetric pathology
<b>Carpenter et al. [41]</b>	1988	45	Cycle Ergometer	pregnant women with uncomplicated pregnancy, mixture of non-active and active women	NA	29.2 ± 3.7	25.2 ± 3.7	Maximal exertion is followed by fetal bradycardia whereas submaximal physical activity has no effect on the fetus
<b>Steegers et al. [42]</b>	1988	20	Treadmill	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, sedentary women	NA	25 ± 4	34 ± 2	↑ few minutes after exercise the fetal heart rate showed a statistically significant increase of 7 beats per minute (bpm)

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<b>Katz et al.[43]</b>	1988	12	Water Aerobic (30 ± 2°)	Previously sedentary women	NA	29.5	15, 25, 35	↑ resting FHR at 15 weeks was significantly greater than the resting in 25 and 35 GA ↑ gross fetal body movements, fetal limb movements and foetal breathing motion
<b>Clapp III et al.[44]</b>	1984	336 (3 groups based on their activity levels)	Running, aerobic dance, cross-country skiing	All kind of activity levels (self-report)	NA	27.6 ± 0.3	28-34	↓ gestational length in the exercising group who continued exercising until term
<b>Collings et al.[45]</b>	1983	Exercise group: 12; Control group: 8	Cycle Ergometer	healthy women	NA	NA	22.5 (mean) 34.2 (mean)	↑ 5 minutes after exercise FHR were significantly greater than pre-exercise FHR ↑ small but significant rise in fetal heart rate during exercise
<b>Sibley et al.[46]</b>	1981	Exercise group: 7; Control group: 6	Swimming	healthy women, singleton pregnancy	NA	Experimental group: 26.4 ± 4.7; Control group: 24.3 ± 1.4	13-26 (at start of exercising) Experimental group: GA (mean): 21.7 ± 2.6; Control group (mean): 22.2 ± 2.1	→ no effects in fetal parameters

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<b>Pomerance et al. [47]</b>	1974	54	Cycle Ergometer	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy	NA	17-26	35-37	→ no effects in fetal parameters	
<b>Elite athletes</b>									
<b>Pivarnik et al. [48]</b>	2016	45; 1. Control group 2. Regularly active women 3. Highly active women	Treadmill	healthy women (elite athletes)	NA	1) 32.9; 2) 34.3; 3) 32.9	28 to 32	↓ post-exercise fetal heart rate in the highly active was lower than in the other groups  → alterations in umbilical cord blood and uterine artery Doppler immediately post-exercise	
<b>Salvesen et al. [49]</b>	2011	6	Treadmill	healthy women (athletes) (Norwegian national team in endurance events)	BMI: 20 ± 3.2	28-37	23-29	Exercise at intensity above 90% of maximum maternal heart rate may induce fetal bradycardia  ↓ Mean uterine artery volume blood flow was reduced by 25-60% during intensive exercise	
<b>Kardel et al. [50]</b>	2005	42 (high intensity (HEG) and medium intensity group (MEG))	Strength, Running, Interval	healthy women (well-trained)	NA	HEG: 28.8; MEG: 26.7	<20 GA	higher level of exercise correlated with significantly earlier onset of labour for those women who gave birth to girls but not for those who gave birth to boys	

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<b>García González et al.[51]</b>	2017	Exercise group: 204; Control group: 205	Music	healthy pregnant women with uncomplicated singleton pregnancy, third trimester	NA	Exercise group: 31.85 ± 5.04; Control group: 30.90 ± 5.26	28	<b>Relaxation Intervention</b> ↑ FHR and fetal reactivity	
<b>Babbar et al.[52]</b>	2016	52 Exercise group: 28; Control group: 24)	Yoga: 23 postures	healthy women	BMI: Experimental group=26.5 ± 6.1; Control group=25.1 ± 6.7	Experimental group=25.5 ± 4.4; Control group=25.4 ± 4.6	28-36	→ no effects in fetal parameters	
<b>Nwebube et al.[53]</b>	2017	111	Music: 12 weeks intervention, 20 mins a day listening to music	healthy women	NA	at least 18 years old	NA	→ no effects in fetal parameters	
<b>Gebuza et al.[54]</b>	2016	60	15 minutes music stimulation with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Turkish March" and Johann Strauss' "Tritsch-Tratsch Polka"	healthy women	NA	NA	27-41	↑ significant increase in fetal movements ↓ baseline cardiac activity and low variability significantly decreased ↓ number of uterine contractions decreased significantly	

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<b>Polis et al.[55]</b>	2015	25	Yoga: one-on-one yoga session, 26 yoga postures selected for this study area group of standard postures found in a typical yoga class (standing, sitting, and supine positioning and incorporated twisting, balancing, bending, and stretching)	healthy women with or without yoga experiences (10 = regular yoga; 8 = familiar with yoga; 7 = no yoga experience)	BMI: 23.3 ± 64.1	31.7 ± 3.1	35-37	→ no effects in fetal parameters
<b>Chuang et al.[56]</b>	2012	Exercise group: 68; Control group: 59	13-minutes relaxation audio program for experimental group (progressive muscle relaxation); only routine prenatal care for control group	healthy women diagnosed with preterm labour, singleton pregnancy, hospitalized at time of entry into the study, gestational age between 20-34 and having a cervical dilatation of less than 3 cm	NA	Control group: 30.37; Exercise group: 31.72	20-34	→ no effects in fetal parameters
<b>Fink et al.[57]</b>	2011	33	Progressive Muscle Relaxation (PMR), Guided imagery (GI) and Control group (CG)	healthy women	NA	PMR group: 33.1; GI group: 34.1; CG group: 33	PMR group: 32.5; GI group: 32.3; CG group: 33	↑ control group had more FHR acceleration ↑ significantly more uterine activity (PMR group) than women in the GI group

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<b>Chuntharapat et al.[58]</b>	2008	74	Yoga: six 1-hour sessions	non-yoga-experienced healthy Thai women, primiparous	NA	18-35	26-37	Experimental group had a shorter duration of the first stage of labour, as well as the total time of labour
<b>DiPietro et al.[59]</b>	2008	100	18 minutes guided imagery relaxation and 18 minutes post-relaxation period	healthy women (gestational diabetes and anemias not excluded)	Weight: 67.1 kg; Height: 1.63m	31.1	32	↓ cortisol declined significantly over time ↓ decline in fetal motor activity ↑ increase in FHRV ↓ lower umbilical and uterine artery resistance
<b>Narendran et al.[60]</b>	2005	Exercise group: 169; Control group: 166	Yoga: Experimental Group: Physical postures (asanas), breathing techniques and meditation; Control group: walking 30 minutes twice a day	healthy women	Weight: Experimental group = 54.37; Control group = 53.14	Experimental group: 26; Control group: 26.5	18-20	↑ birth weight >2500 grams was significantly higher ↓ preterm labour was significantly lower in the yoga group ↓ complications such as IUGR was significantly lower in the yoga group

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