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Sauna exposure immediately prior to short-term heat acclimation accelerates phenotypic

adaptation in females

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**Abstract** 

Objectives: Investigate whether a sauna exposure prior to short-term heat acclimation (HA) accelerates

phenotypic adaptation in females.

Design: Randomised, repeated measures, cross-over trial.

Methods: Nine females performed two 5-d HA interventions (controlled hyperthermia  $T_{re} \ge 38.5$ °C),

separated by 7-wk, during the follicular phase of the menstrual cycle confirmed by plasma

concentrations of 17-β estradiol and progesterone. Prior to each 90-min HA session participants sat for

20-min in either a temperate environment (20°C, 40% RH; HA<sub>temp</sub>) wearing shorts and sports bra or a

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