



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Doping control adverse results prevalence worldwide for 13 consecutive years Analysis of the season 2015 according to sports

Franchek Drobnic^{a,*}, Pedro Alberto Galilea^b

^a *Servicios Médicos del FC Barcelona, Departamento de Investigación del CAR, Unidad Medicina del Deporte Hospital Sant Joan de Deu, Spain*

^b *Departamento de Fisiología del Deporte del CAR, Spain*

Received 26 June 2017; accepted 18 September 2017

KEYWORDS

Doping;
Doping control;
Anabolic steroids;
World AntiDoping
Agency (WADA)

Abstract The presence of adverse results in doping controls is always bad news for the sport, as it reflects the moral and ethical absence of a clean competition. Its prevalence and evolution is important to know and have criteria on the relevance of this event.

Method: The results of doping controls from 2003 to 2015 at the global level, offered by the World Anti-Doping Agency on its website, have been revised.

Results: The presence of adverse results of the year 2015 as last reference, reached 0.83% in Olympic sports and 2.04% in the non-Olympic ones. It remains a similar level during the last 7 years, tending to decline in the Olympics and increase in the non-Olympics. The groups of predominant substances are, in order, anabolic steroids 50.3%, stimulants 15.4% and maskers 12.5%, being the rest diverse and variable. It should be noted that many treatments with therapeutic authorisation, i.e., beta agonists (3–4%), glucocorticosteroids (6–8%) or central nervous system (3–5%), are shown as adverse results, but are therefore not doping positive and in their case punishable. Similarly, the high number of anabolic positives is the result of fraud, but also the presence of repeated samples in the follow-up study of some athletes.

Conclusion: The data serve as a reference to have a more accurate criterion in reference to this field of sport.

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* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: drobnic@car.edu, franchek.drobnic@fcbarcelona.cat (F. Drobnic).

PALABRAS CLAVE

Dopaje;
Control dopaje;
Anabolizantes
esteroideos;
World AntiDoping
Agency (WADA)

Prevalencia de resultados adversos en los controles de dopaje a nivel mundial durante 13 años consecutivos Análisis de la temporada 2015 según deportes

Resumen La presencia de resultados adversos en los controles de dopaje son siempre una noticia nefasta para el deporte, pues refleja la ausencia moral y ética de una competición limpia. Su prevalencia y evolución es importante para conocer y disponer de criterio sobre la relevancia de este suceso.

Método: Se han revisado los resultados de los controles de dopaje del 2003 al 2015 a nivel mundial, ofrecidos por la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje en su web. Se ofrecen, además, los resultados por deportes del 2015.

Resultados: La presencia de resultados adversos, tomando de referencia ese año, alcanza un 0,83% de las muestras estudiadas en los deportes olímpicos y un 2,04% en los no olímpicos. Se mantiene un nivel similar en los últimos 7 años, tendiendo a disminuir en los deportes olímpicos y aumentar en los no olímpicos. Los grupos de sustancias predominantes son, por orden, anabolizantes (50,3%), estimulantes (15,4%) y enmascarantes (12,5%), siendo el resto diverso y variable. En el total de resultados debe tenerse en cuenta que muchos tratamientos con autorización terapéutica, por ejemplo para beta-agonistas (3-4%), glucocorticoides (6-8%) o del sistema nervioso central (3-5%), se muestran como resultados adversos, pero no son por tanto dopaje positivo ni en su caso sancionables. De igual manera, el elevado número de positivos en anabolizantes son fruto del fraude pero también de la presencia de muestras repetidas en los seguimientos de estudio de algunos deportistas.

Conclusión: Los datos sirven de referencia para disponer de un criterio más certero en referencia a este ámbito del deporte.

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Introduction

The true extent of the results and data on the fight against doping are not only unknown, as also the news about doping in successful sports personalities in the media gives a message that is very distant from the actual situation. Official analysis to detect banned substances in sportsmen and women has been practised since the 1960s, when the International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA) and the International Cycling Union (UCI) carried out the first determinations. The consolidation in 1999 of the World AntiDoping Agency (WADA-AMA) was a very important step, as it not only brought the majority of international sports federations together with the same aim, but also established an Antidoping Code listing banned substances in and outside competitions, together with all of the procedures and actions necessary to obtain samples correctly.¹ Since then and up to now the grouping together of regional and national antidoping agencies and Olympic and non-Olympic sports federations and associations has strengthened the commitment to clean competition.

However, it is not easy to communicate the message that this contest against fraudulent competitors is being won. It is habitual in different competitions, and above all those which attract the largest numbers of followers, for news to arise that a winning sportsman or woman cheated to gain an honour that does not correspond to them. Such news items are often the most widely broadcast, and they debase the references to the sports in question.

The WADA-AMA has published the worldwide results of these analyses annually since 2003 in its official website. This paper presents the results, classified and grouped according to sports, with the aim of offering those who study this subject resources that show the actual situation.

Method

The annual results from the last 13 years from 2003 to 2015 were obtained from the WADA-AMA web page. These results are classified according to sport, whether or not it is an Olympic sport and according to the banned substance detected by analysis. To break down the findings according to sport and to make a selection from them the results of the last year shown in the web page, 2015, are shown.

Adverse results are identified, i.e., the ones that are unexpected and indicate the presence in a urine sample of a substance considered to be doping according to the current antidoping code. By definition an "Adverse analytical Result" indicates the presence of banned substances or the use of banned methods in a certain sample. Adverse Analytical Results should not be confused with AntiDoping Rule Violations (ADRV) which are judged or punished due to several reasons. These figures may therefore contain findings that were subject to the process of Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) Authorisation, or some adverse analytical findings may correspond to multiple measurements in a single sportsman or woman, such as cases of longitudinal studies to evaluate the presence of testosterone (i.e., monitoring the testosterone level in an individual over a period of time).

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