

Biomechanics and Technical Aids Department

# Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion

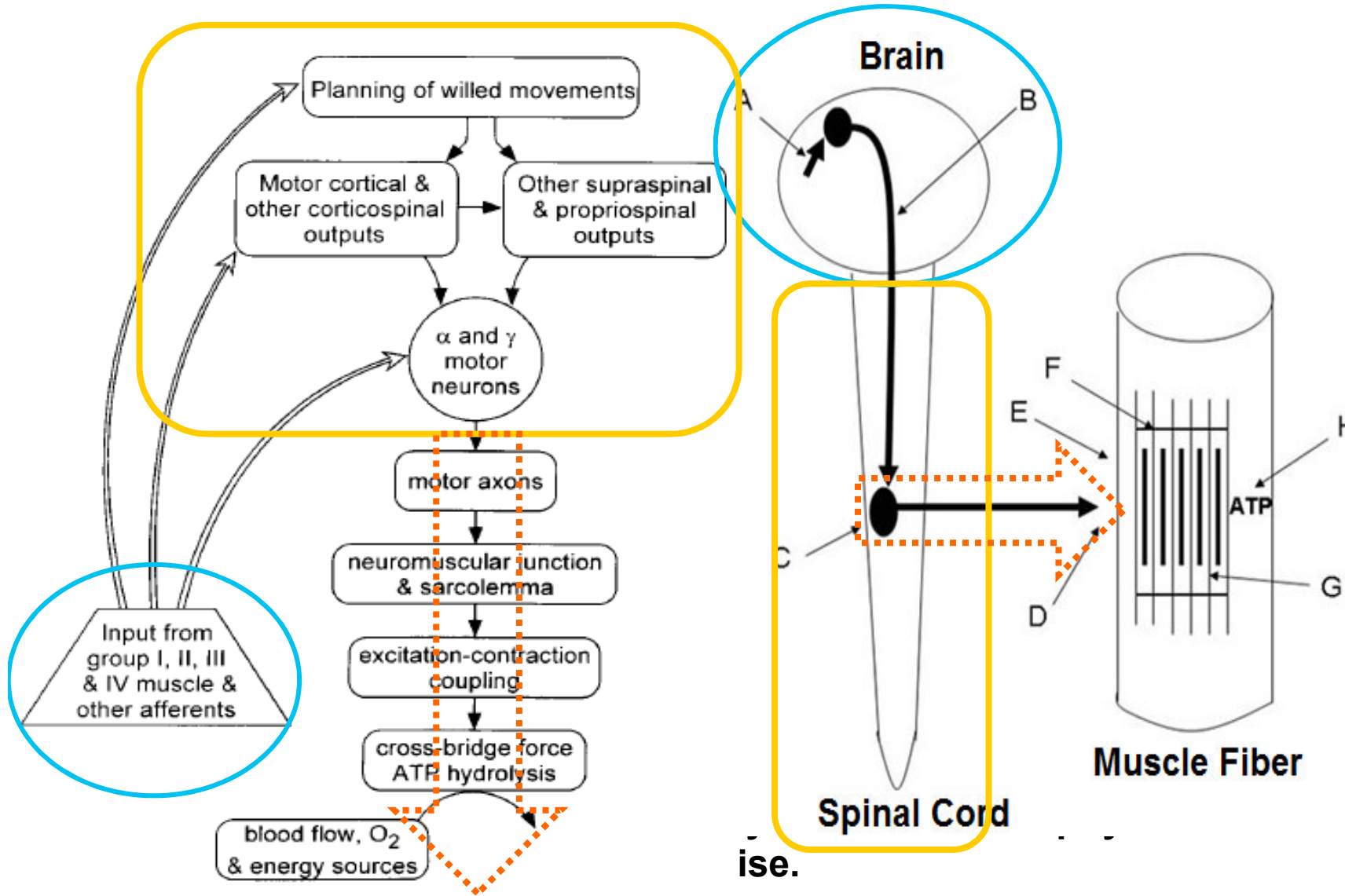
Dra. Beatriz Crespo Ruiz, Ph.D

Gil-Agudo A, De los Reyes J, Oliviero A, Mordillo L, Aguado R.

Vista Conference / Bonn, Germany / 3 May 2013

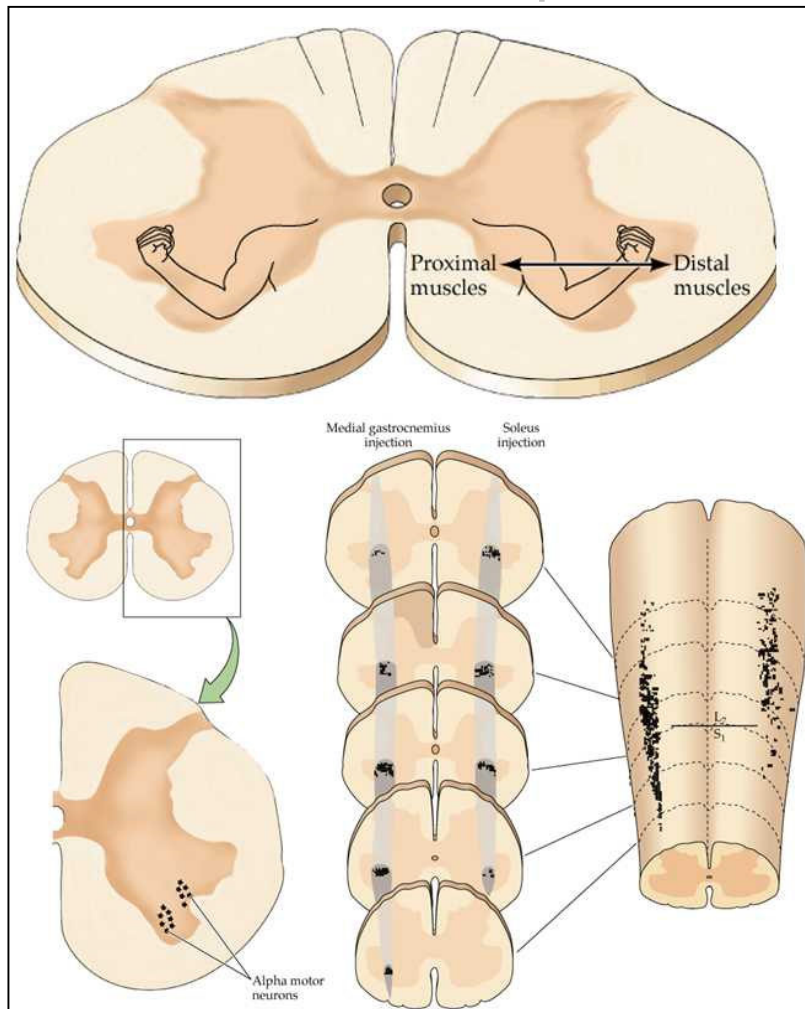
# 01. INTRODUCTION

## FATIGUE vs SPINAL CORD INJURY



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### FATIGUE vs SPINAL CORD INJURY



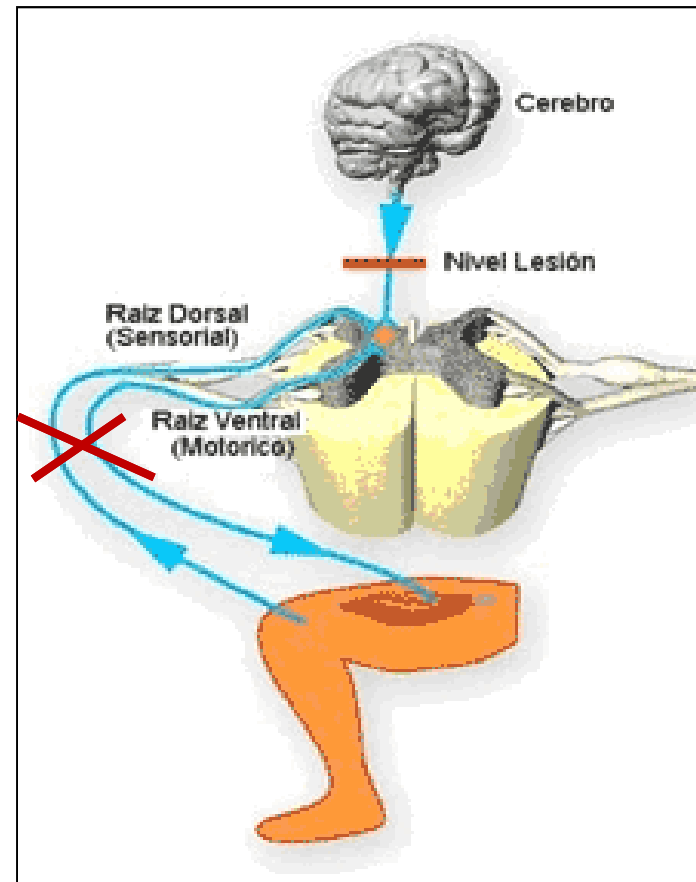
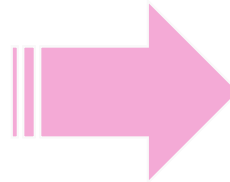
**Inside the Spinal Cord is where the output of the brain is ordered to stimulate the muscle with how and when it has to move giving us what we know as a coordinated movement.**



Staas WE et al. (1998); Sapru HN (2002); Steeves JD (2007); Alcobendas Maestro M (2010)

## 01. INTRODUCTION

### FATIGUE vs SPINAL CORD INJURY



## 02. HYPOTHESIS

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion



#### Hyphotesis 1

In trained people with spinal cord injury (SCI) the behaviour of the mechanisms where fatigue is developed they are unchained in a different way than a controled group (CG) of trained athletes.



#### Hyphotesis 2

The people that have SCI that have been trained will get tired a lot later in the proposed exercise than a CG of trained athletes, without the importance of the SCI that they suffer.

### 03. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE

## Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion



To study the behavior of the mechanisms of development of fatigue during manual wheelchair propulsion in athletes with SCI.



To compare the physiological, metabolic and biomechanical aspects

**Study 1: Study of Fatigue during a Short –Term Test**

**Study 2: Study of Fatigue during a Long-Term Test**

## 04. PARTICIPANTS. INCLUSION CRITERIAS

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion

#### Athletes with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

- ✓ Athletes with lower than the T6 SCI level.
- ✓ Ages from 18 to 45 years old.
- ✓ Aerobic training 3-6 h/ week.
- ✓ Daily life dependent on the use of the wheelchair.
- ✓ To have at least 6 months of injury evolution.

#### Control Group (CG)

- ✓ Athletes without sensori-motors alterations.
- ✓ Ages from 18 to 45 years old.
- ✓ Aerobic training 3-6 h/ week

#### ▪ *Study 2. Long-Tem Fatigue Test*

It was established that they had aerobic training at least 6h/week to be equal to the sample of elite athletes with SCI.



#### 04. PARTICIPANTS. EXCLUSION CRITERIAS

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion

#### Study 1 and Study 2

- **Illness or injury** at the moment of doing the test.
- Participants with **cardiovascular disease** or which had suffered **hyperthermia or hypothermia** in the last 48h.
- Those who indicated shoulder pain or history of **trauma the last 4 weeks**.
- Was also excluded any subject who refused to sign the consent form.

#### Study 2

- ❖ Participants who showed **poor adaptation** to exercise on wheelchair during **Study 1**.
- ❖ Those not meeting the inclusion criteria specific to the CG for the realization of Study 2.





## 04. PARTICIPANTS

### Study 1: Short-term Fatigue Test

Subject	Age	Weight (kg)	Aerobic Training (h/week)
<b>Mean SCI ± SD (n=9)</b>	<b>30 ± 8</b>	<b>63 ± 10</b>	<b>8 ± 2</b>
<b>Mean CG ± SD (n=9)</b>	<b>29 ± 6</b>	<b>77 ± 8</b>	<b>6 ± 2</b>



### Study 2: Long-term Fatigue Test

Subject	Age	Weight (kg)	Aerobic training (h/week)
<b>Mean SCI ±SD (n=5)</b>	<b>28,6 ± 2</b>	<b>63,2 ± 12</b>	<b>&gt; 8</b>
<b>Mean CG ±SD (n=5)</b>	<b>27 ± 4</b>	<b>76,8 ± 7</b>	<b>&gt; 8</b>

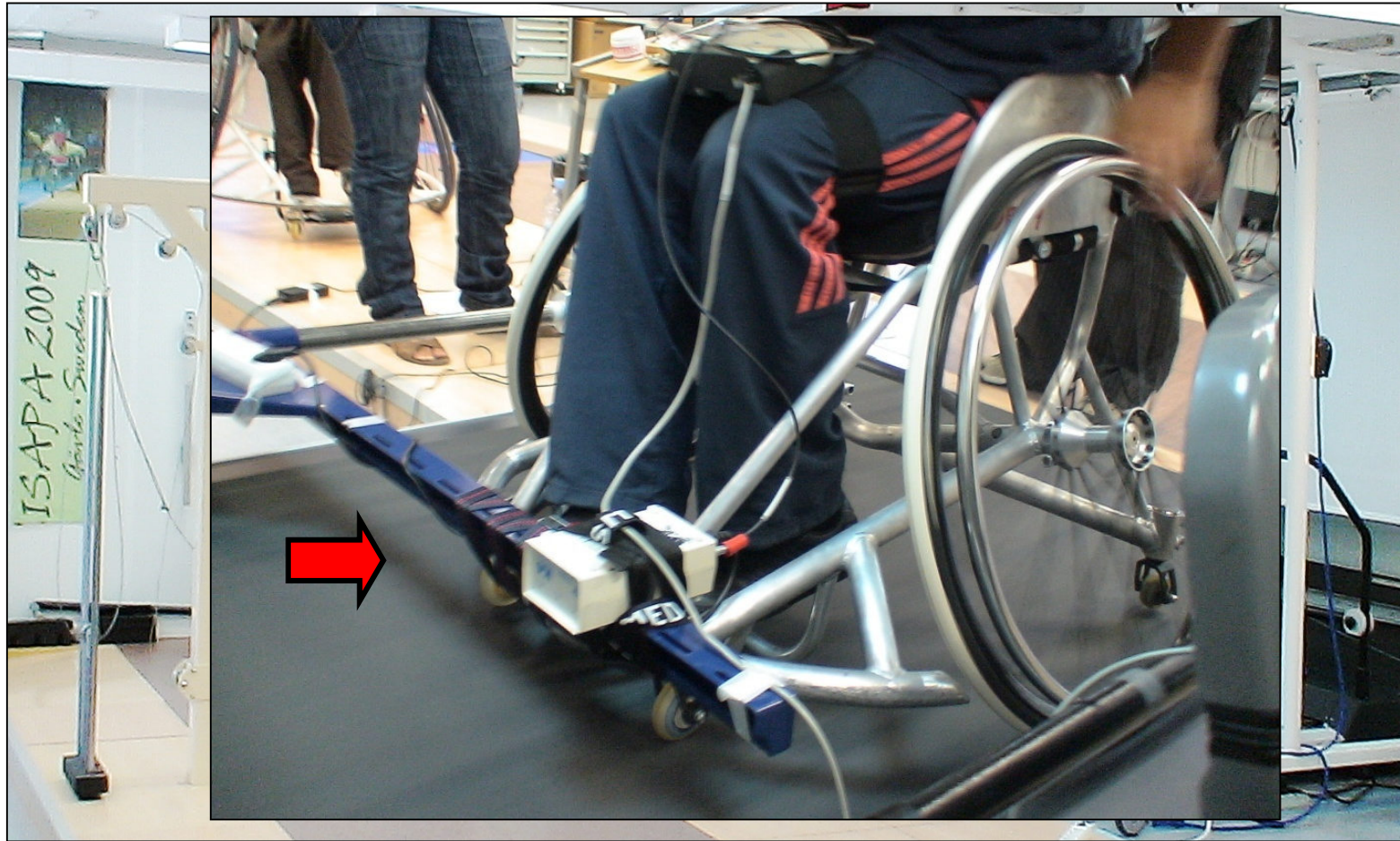
Descriptive Statistic (Mean+/- Standart Deviation (SD))



## 05. INSTRUMENTATION

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion

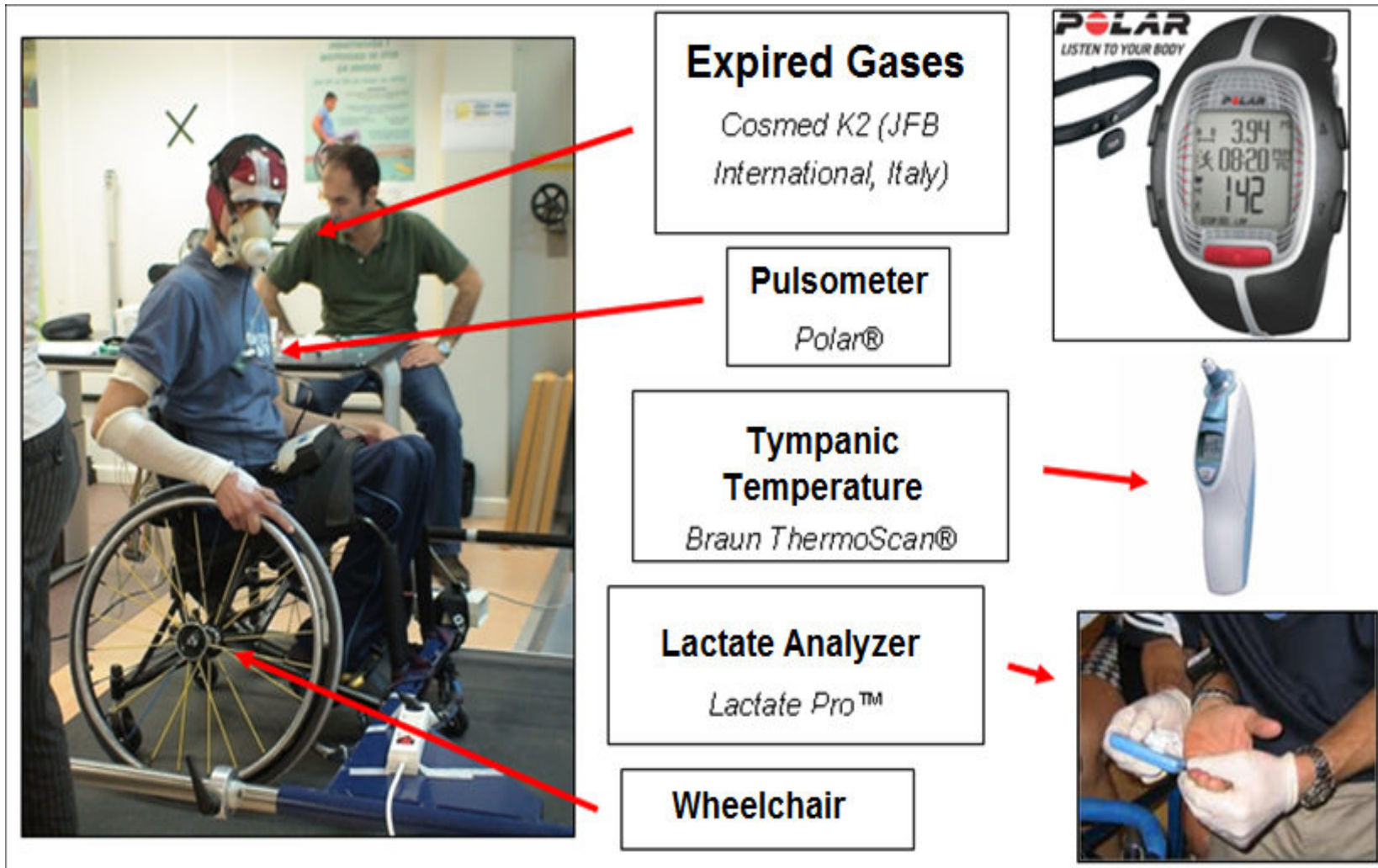
#### Laboratory Setting. Wheelchair Treadmill.



Solís-Mozos M; Crespo-Ruiz B; Gil-Agudo A y Del Ama-Espinosa A. (2009); Crespo-Ruiz B: European Congress of Adapted Physical Activity, Torino, Oct. (2008)

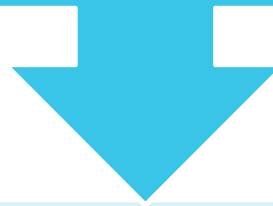
## 05. INSTRUMENTATION

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion





## Study 1: Maximal Incremental Aerobic Test (Short-term Test)



## Study 2: Anaerobic Threshold Test (Long-Term Test) (75 min max)



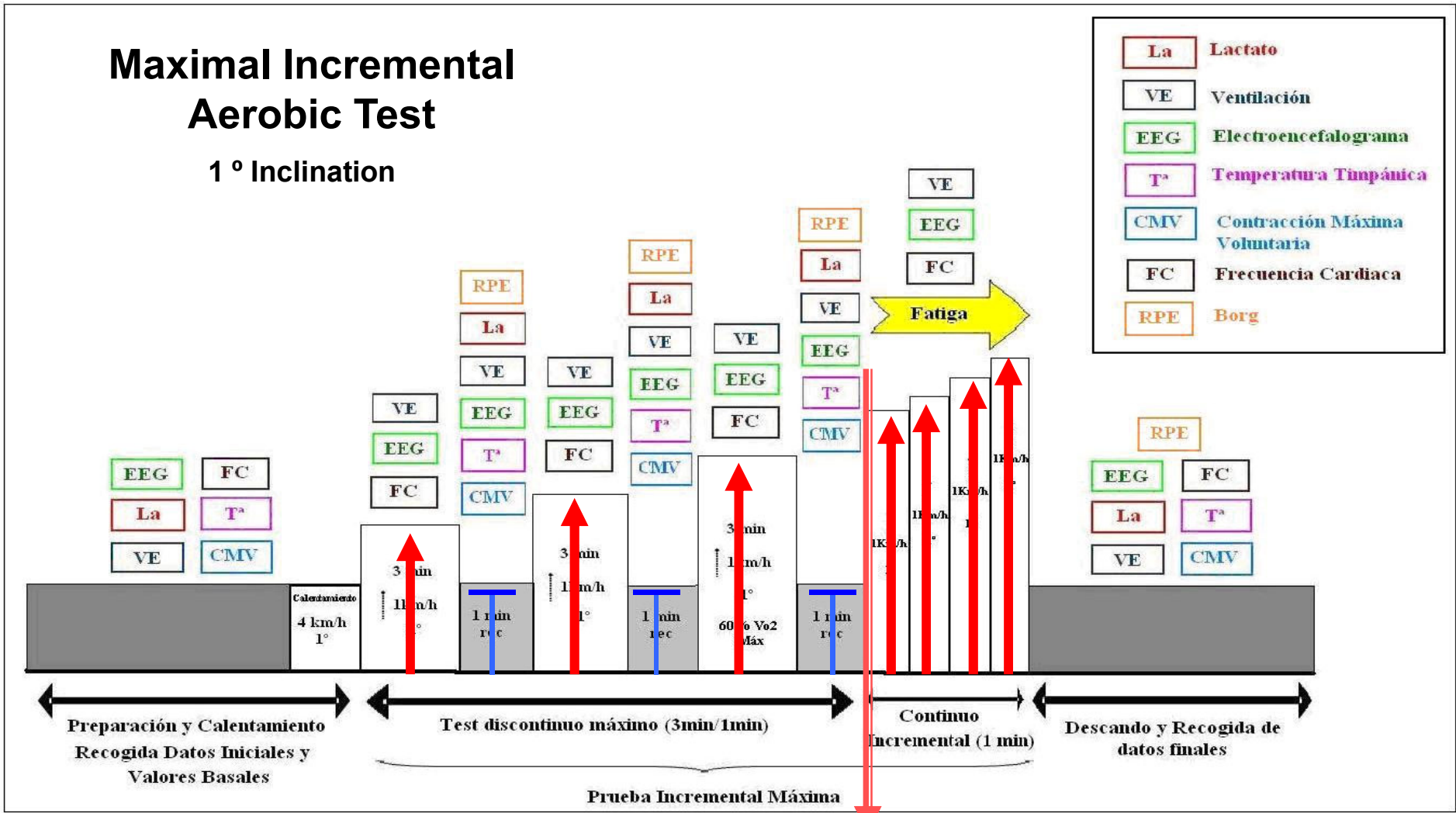
Methodology: Aguado-Jiménez R, Crespo-Ruiz B, De los Reyes-Aguilar J, Gil-Agudo A, Oliviero A, Mordillo L: ACSM's 59th Annual Meeting and 3rd World Congress on Exercise is Medicine, San Francisco (California), 2012



# Study 1: Study of Fatigue during short-term test

## Maximal Incremental Aerobic Test 1° Inclination

La	Lactato
VE	Ventilación
EEG	Electroencefalograma
T°	Temperatura Timpánica
CMV	Contracción Máxima Voluntaria
FC	Frecuencia Cardiaca
RPE	Borg

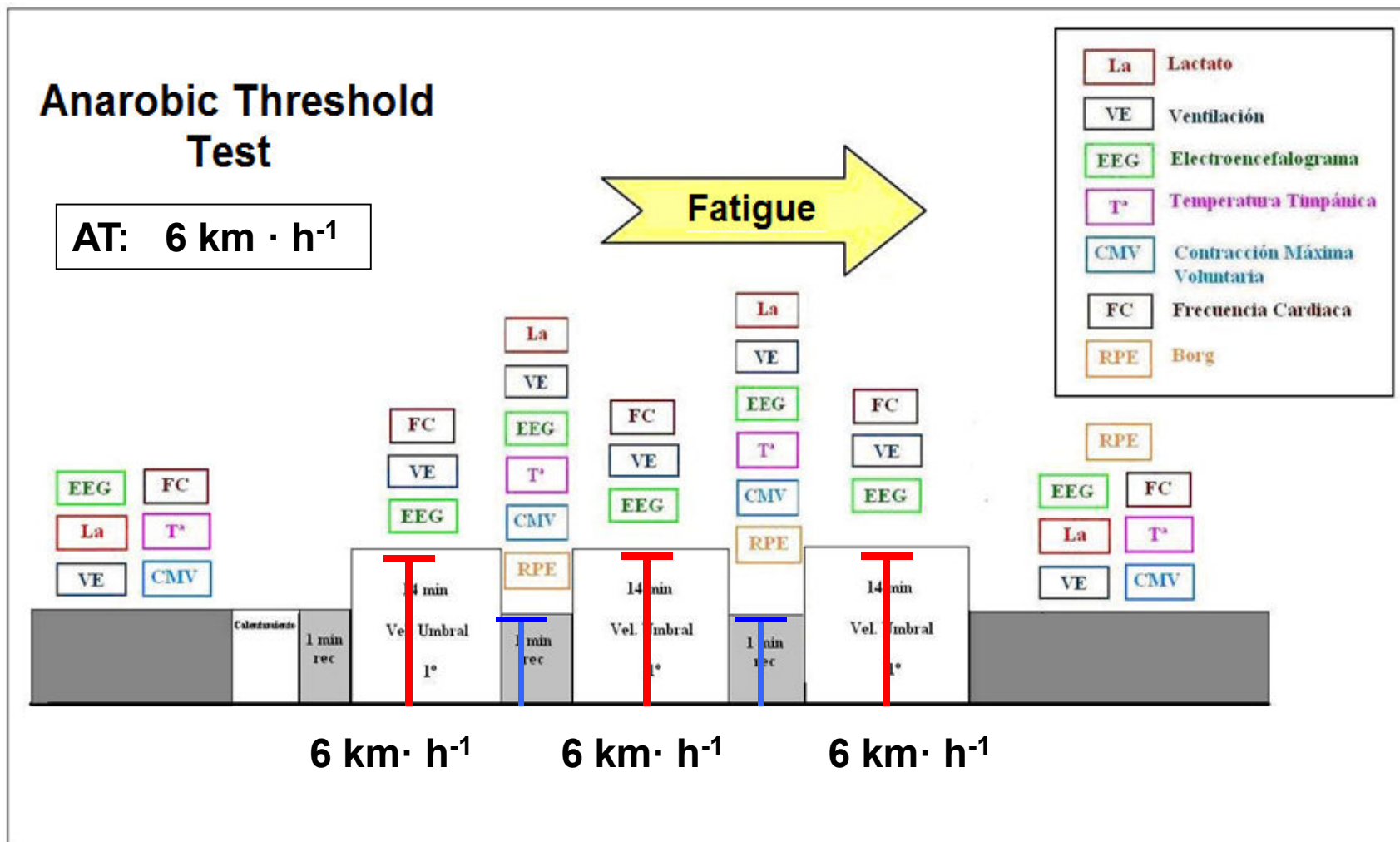


Jones A et al. (1996); Cálculo UA: Coyle et al. (1983);  
Criterios Test Máximo: ACSM (2006)

AT : 6 km· h<sup>-1</sup>

## 06. METHOD

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion



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### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion



**METHOD- FATIGUE IN WHEELCHAIR ATHLETES**

## 07. VARIABLES

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion



#### Cardiorespiratory Parameters

Oxygen consumption (**VO<sub>2</sub>**) absolute (l / min) and relative (ml · kg<sup>-1</sup> · min<sup>-1</sup>).  
CO<sub>2</sub> production (**VCO<sub>2</sub>**) (l / min)  
Respiratory exchange ratio (**RER = VCO<sub>2</sub> / VO<sub>2</sub>**).  
CO<sub>2</sub> Ventilatory equivalent (**VE/VCO<sub>2</sub>**).  
Basal heart rate (**F<sub>cbasal</sub>**) (beats / min) and maximum (HR<sub>max</sub>) (beats / min).

#### Metabolic Parameters

Blood Lactate (**La**) (mmol)

Tympanic Temperature (Temp.) (C°)

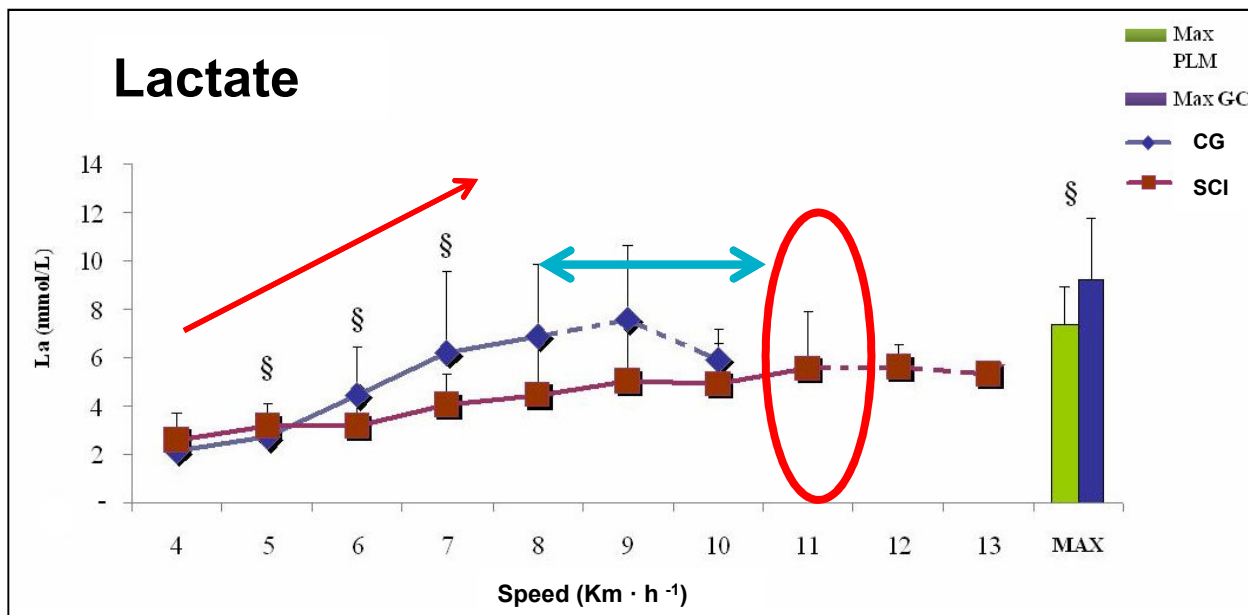
RPE (6-20)

% Gross Mechanical Efficiency (GME)

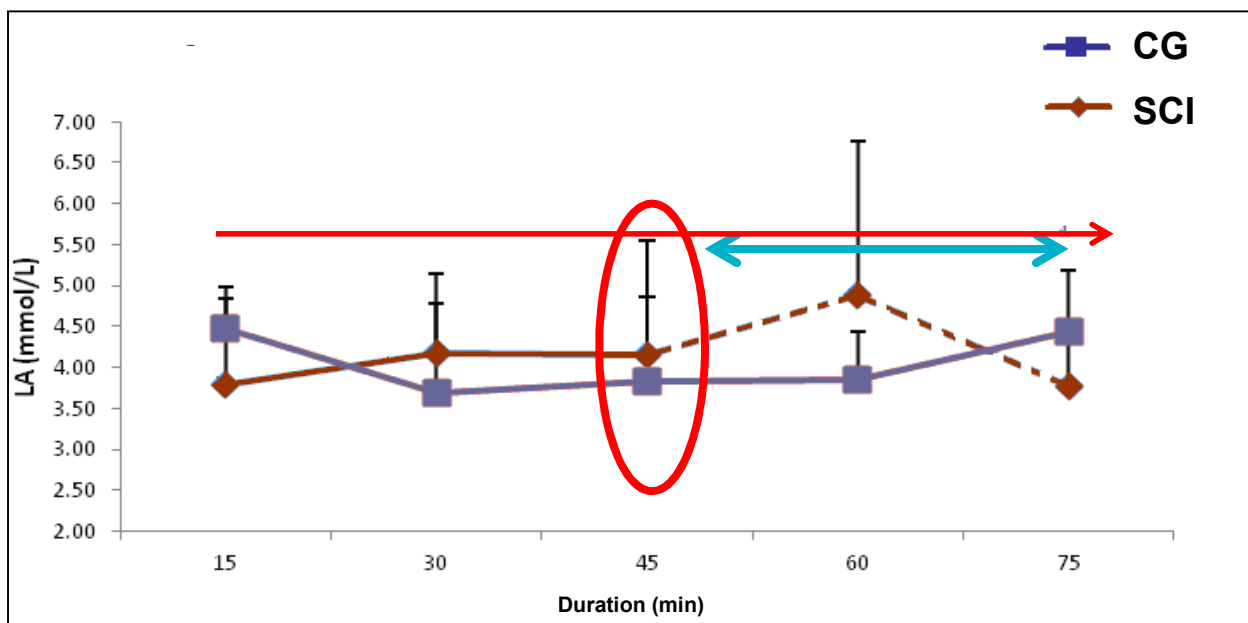




## 08. RESULTS

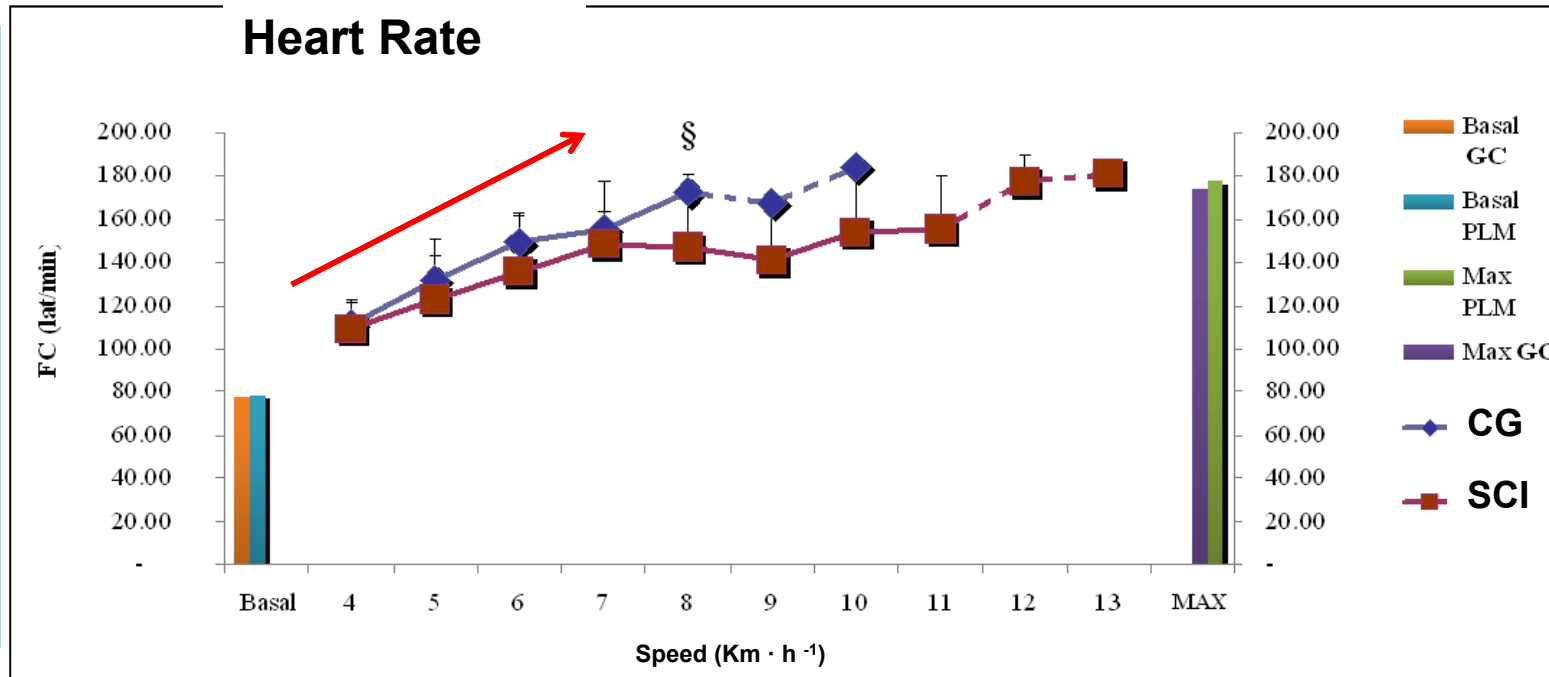


**INCREMENTAL TEST**

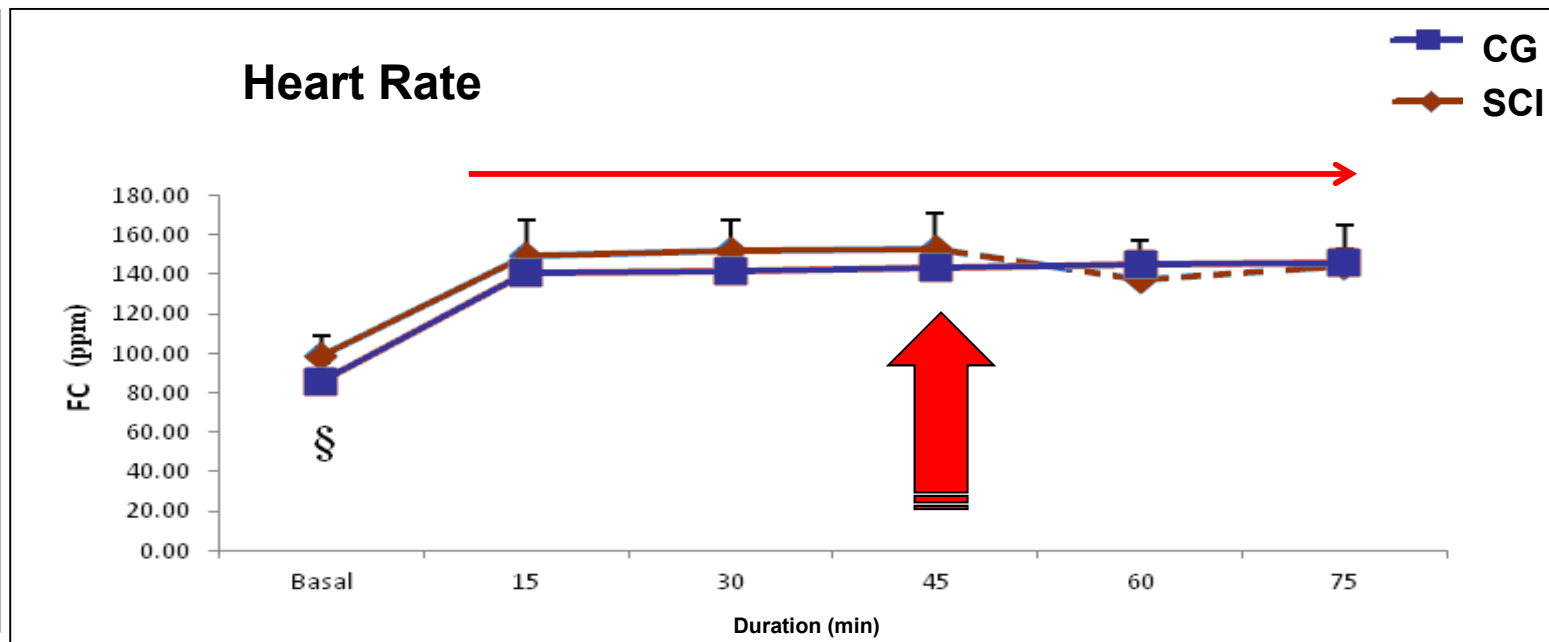


**ANAEROBIC THRESHOLD (AT) TEST**

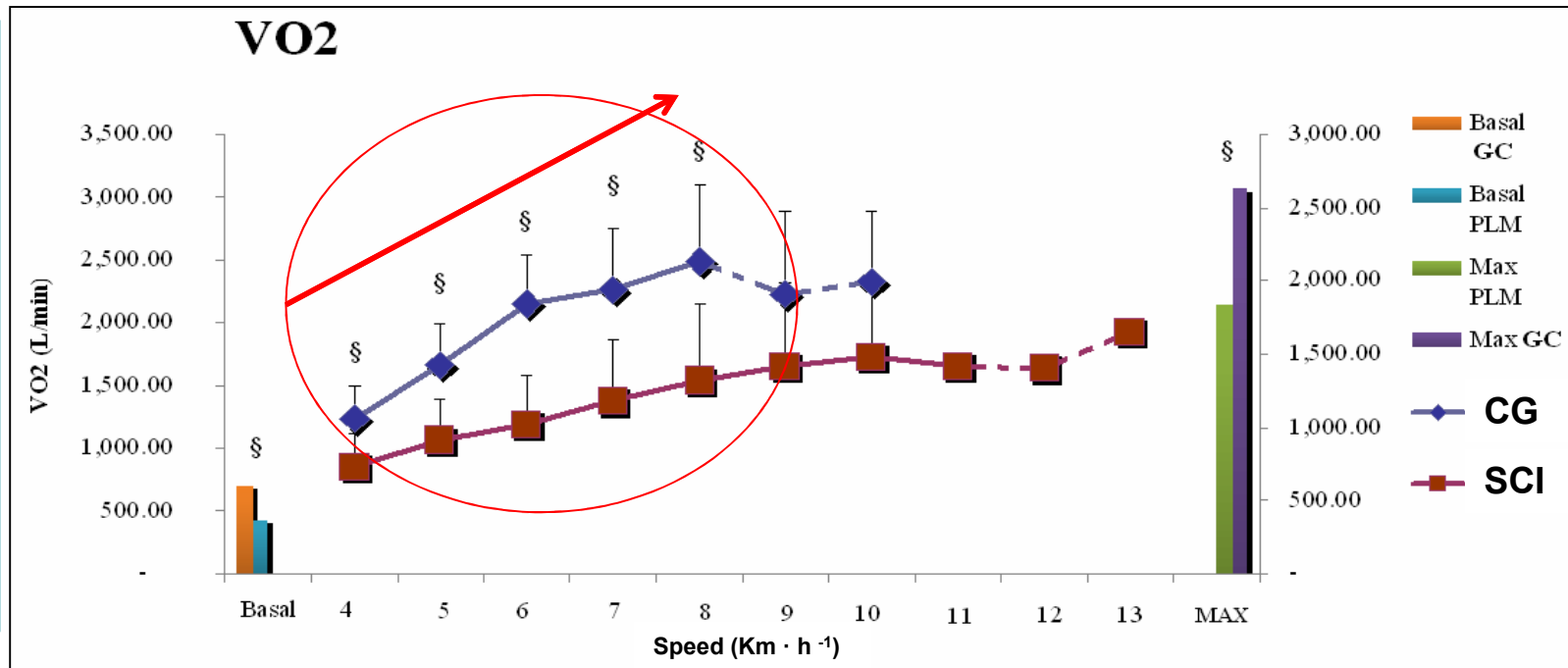
# INCREMENTAL TEST



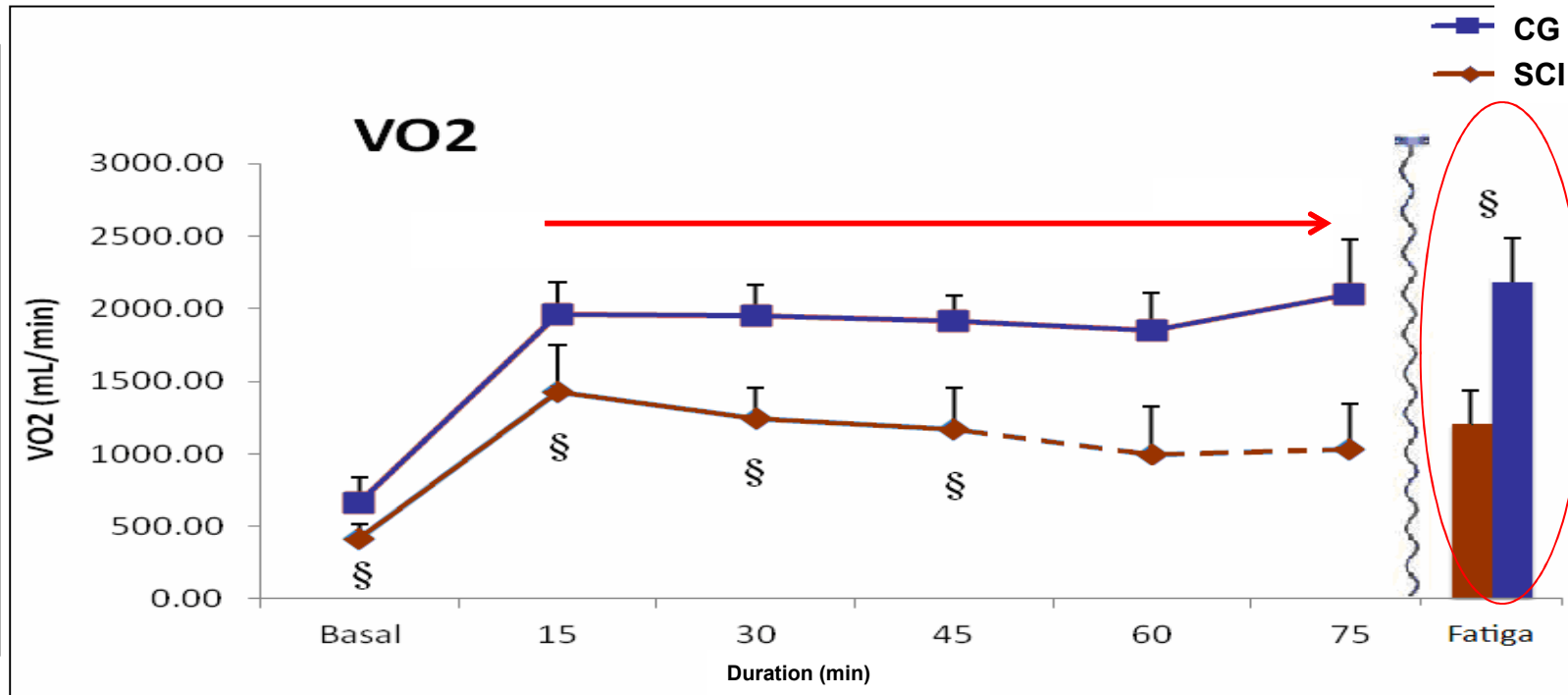
# AT TEST



INCREMENTAL TEST



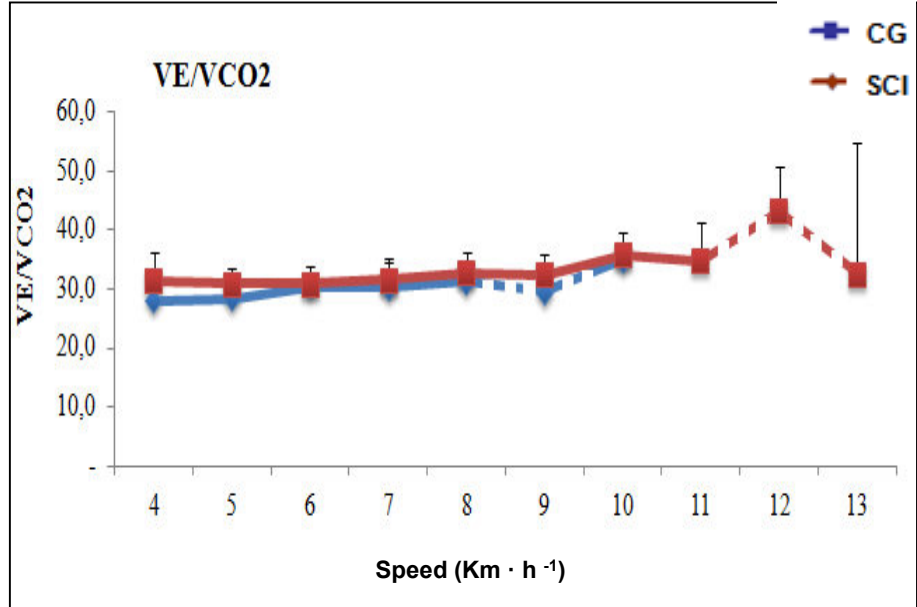
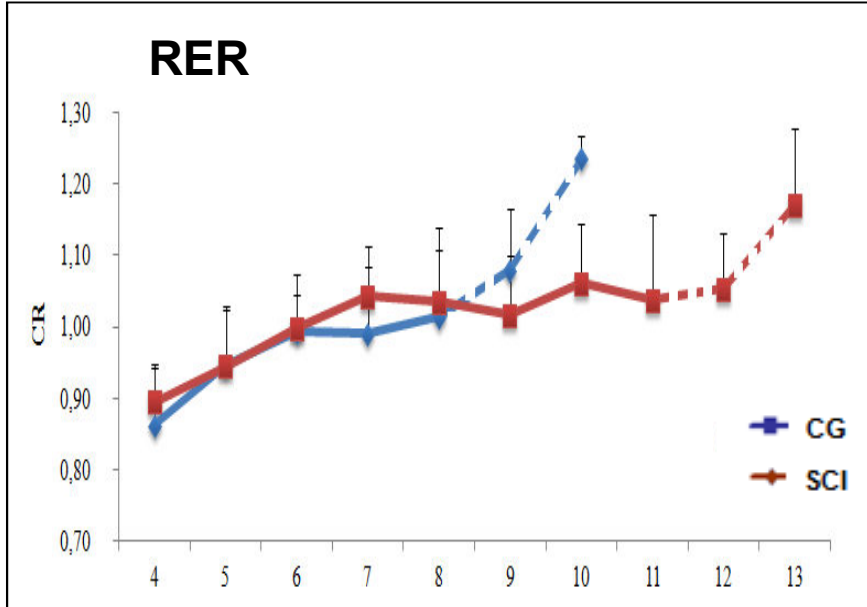
AT TEST



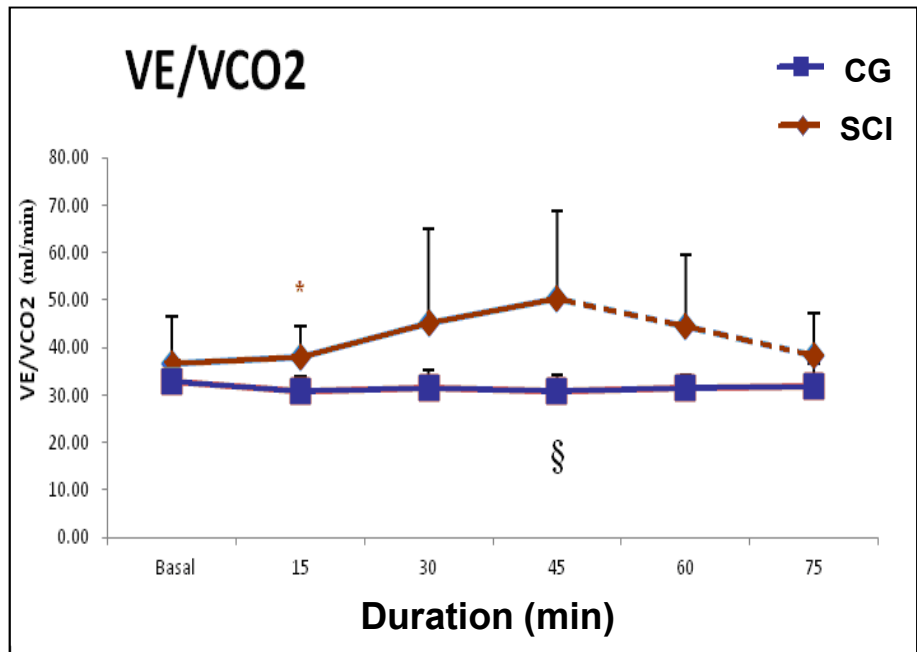
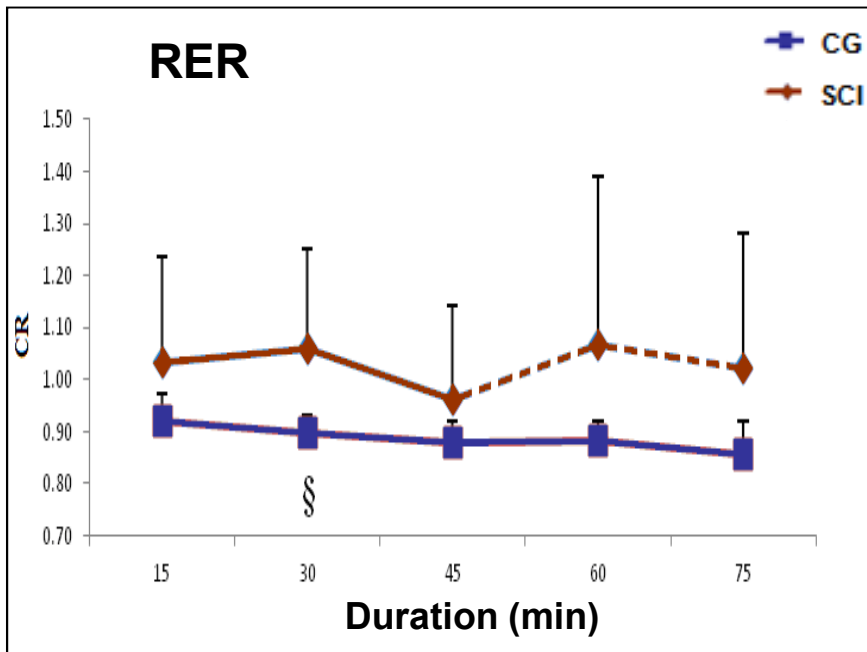
RESULTS- FATIGUE IN WHEELCHAIR ATHLETES

08. RESULTS

INCREMENTAL TEST

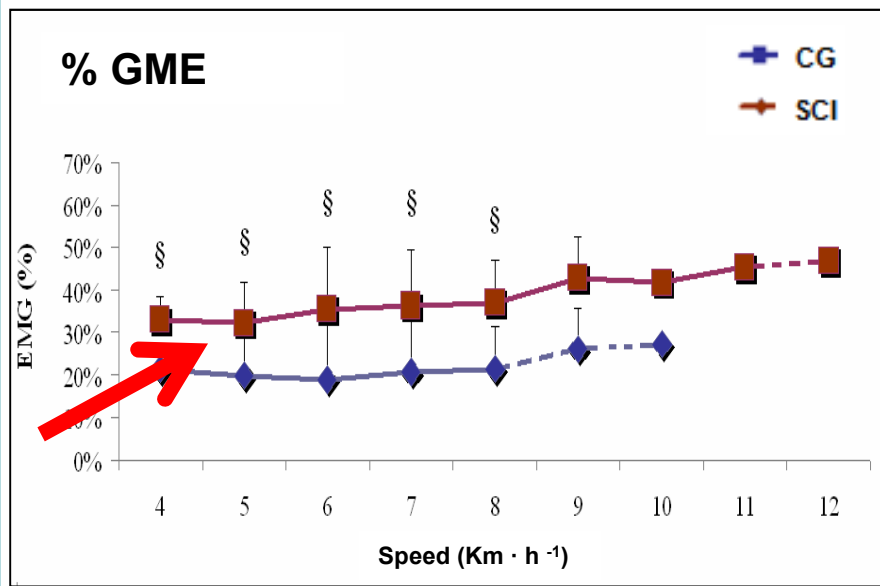


AT TEST

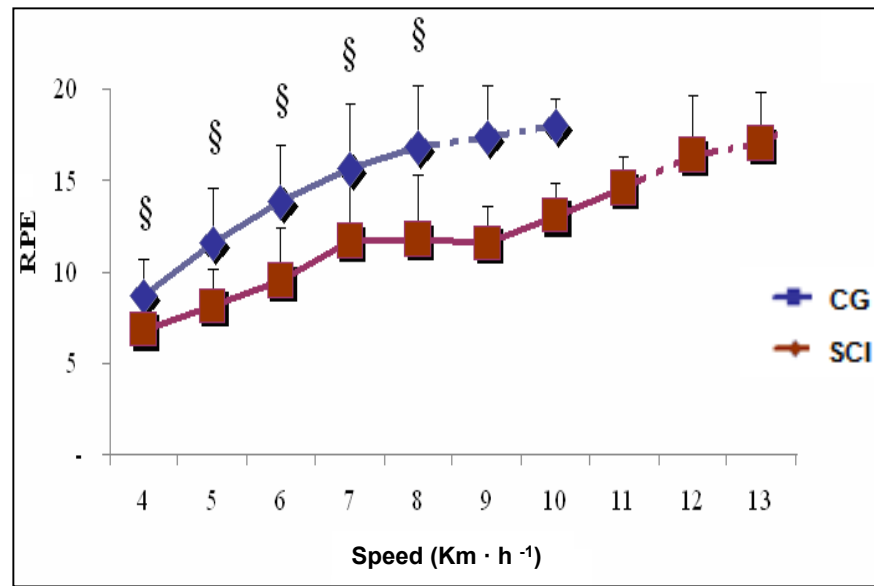


INCREMENTAL TEST

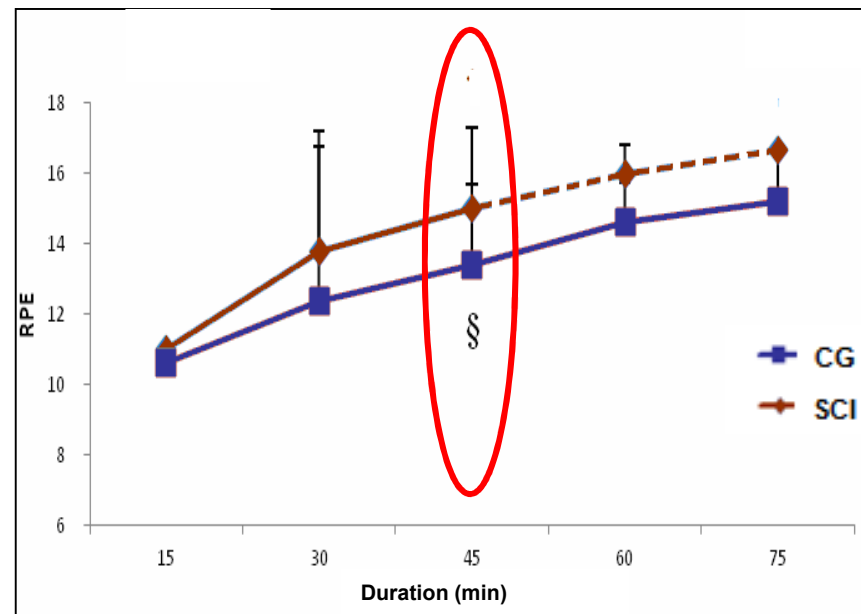
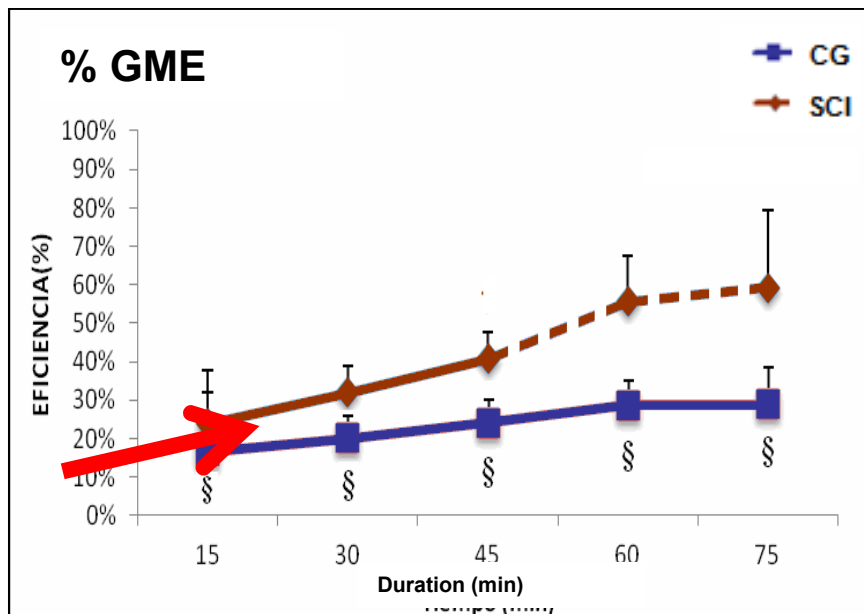
### Gross Mechanical Efficiency



### Borg Scale



AT TEST

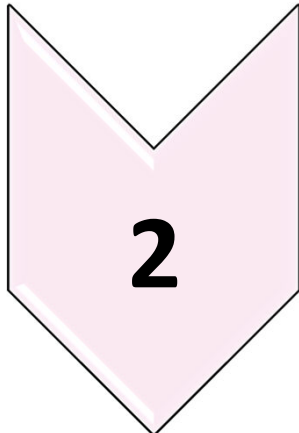


## 08. CONCLUSIONS

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion



- The SCI athletes shows a better physiological adaptation to the high intensity and short duration physical exercise during manual wheelchair propulsion in comparison with the CG.



In a long-term duration exercise, the SCI had indicated an increased level of fatigue. This increased fatigue could not be detected through the study of the physiological, metabolic and biomechanical parameters, but it was detected by the perception of the subjective individual effort .

## 08. CONCLUSIONS

### Assessment of Fatigue in Athletes During Manual Wheelchair Propulsion

3

- There are some other possible factors beyond the metabolic and cardiorespiratory parameters through which it is triggering fatigue in the SCI group during a long-term test, and it could be related to a central fatigue that comes from their pathology (i.e pain)

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Hence it follows that what triggers fatigue in both groups must be different.

**Thank You for your  
attention!**



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