

## **Publication**

Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Associations Between Athlete Burnout, Insomnia, and Polysomnographic Indices in Young Elite Athletes

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**Author(s)** Gerber, Markus; Best, Simon; Meerstetter, Fabienne; Isoard-Gautheur, Sandrine; Gustafsson, Henrik; Bianchi, Renzo; Madigan, Daniel J.; Colledge, Flora; Ludyga, Sebastian; Holsboer-Trachsler, Edith; Brand, Serge

Author(s) at UniBasel Brand, Serge ; Gerber, Markus ; Ludyga, Sebastian ; Colledge, Flora ; Year 2018

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Few studies have examined the association between sleep and burnout symptoms in elite athletes. We recruited 257 young elite athletes (M; age; = 16.8 years) from Swiss Olympic partner schools. Of these, 197 were reassessed 6 months later. Based on the first assessment, 24 participants with clinically relevant burnout symptoms volunteered to participate in a polysomnographic examination and were compared with 26 (matched) healthy controls. Between 12% and 14% of young elite athletes reported burnout symptoms of potential clinical relevance, whereas 4-11% reported clinically relevant insomnia symptoms. Athletes with clinically relevant burnout symptoms reported significantly more insomnia symptoms, more dysfunctional sleep-related cognitions, and spent less time in bed during weeknights (p < .05). However, no significant differences were found for objective sleep parameters. A cross-lagged panel analysis showed that burnout positively predicted self-reported insomnia symptoms. Cognitive-behavioral interventions to treat dysfunctional sleep-related cognitions might be a promising measure to reduce subjective sleep complaints among young elite athletes.

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