

Fahey T, Pearl MS. **The hormonal and perceptible effects of phosphatidylserine administration during two weeks of resistive exercise-induced overtraining.** *Biology of Sport* 15(3):135-144·January 1998.

### **Abstract**

A balanced order, double-blind, cross-over design study, measured the effects of 800 mg soybean-derived phosphatidylserine (PS) or placebo (C), administered daily during 2-week intense weight training, on cortisol (CT), ACTH, testosterone (TS), luteinising hormone (LH), creatine kinase (CK) activity, subjective well-being (WB) and muscle soreness (MS) in 11 trained males. Subjects did 5 sets of 10 repetitions for 13 exercises, 4 times a week, for two 2-week periods separated by a 3-week recovery. Resting morning venous blood was sampled 6 times during each 2-week period (T1-T6) and 15 min following the 8th training sessions (T7). WB and MS were estimated using 10-point scales. CT was similar between treatments in T1-T6. CT decreased between T6 and the post-exercise T7 in PS ( $15.6 \pm 1.7$  to  $10.0 \pm 0.9$   $\mu\text{g/dl}$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) but not in C. ACTH did not change in PS in T1-T7 but increased in C between T4 ( $40.6 \pm 5.1$   $\text{pg/ml}$ ) and T5 ( $62.2 \pm 10.5$   $\text{pg/ml}$ ), T6 ( $59.2 \pm 7.7$   $\text{pg/ml}$ ), and T7 ( $63.7 \pm 6.1$   $\text{pg/ml}$ ). TS increased in PS between T1 ( $3.3 \pm 0.3$   $\text{ng/ml}$ ) and T3 ( $4.4 \pm 0.5$   $\text{ng/ml}$ ) and fell in both treatments between T3 and T7 ( $3.3 \pm 0.3$   $\text{ng/ml}$ , PS;  $3.3 \pm 0.4$ , C). LH increased significantly between T1 ( $1.5 \pm 0.1$   $\text{mIU/ml}$ ) and T6 ( $2.2 \pm 0.3$   $\text{mIU/ml}$ ) in PS but did not change in C. WB was greater in P than C in T2-T6. In C, WB at T3 was markedly depressed ( $4.9 \pm 0.8$ ). MS increased in both treatments and was greater in C than PS at T2 ( $2.9 \pm 0.4$ , PS;  $4.7 \pm 0.7$  C) and T5 ( $2.0 \pm 0.5$ , PS;  $3.6 \pm 0.9$  C). Cortisol decreased in PS after exercise, possibly by depressing ACTH and might have attenuated the negative effects of intense weight training on perception of well-being and muscle soreness.