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Construct validation of the Leisure Time Physical Activity Questionnaire for people with SCI (LTPAQ-SCI)

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1	
2	Construct Validation of the Leisure Time Physical Activity Questionnaire for People with SCI
3	(LTPAQ-SCI)
4	
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Abstract

21 Study design. Cross-sectional construct validation study.

Objectives. To test the construct validity of the Leisure Time Physical Activity Questionnaire for People with Spinal Cord Injury (LTPAQ-SCI) by examining associations between the scale responses and cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF) in a sample of adults living with spinal cord injury (SCI).

26 Setting. Three university-based laboratories in Canada.

27 **Methods.** Participants were 39 adults (74% male; *M* age: 42 ± 11 years) with SCI who completed 28 the LTPAQ-SCI and a graded exercise test to volitional exhaustion using an arm-crank 29 ergometer. One-tailed Pearson's correlation coefficients were computed to examine the 30 association between the LTPAQ-SCI measures of mild-, moderate-, heavy-intensity and total 31 minutes per week of LTPA and CRF (peak volume of oxygen consumption [$\dot{V}O_{2peak}$] and peak 32 power output [PO_{peak}]).

Results. Minutes per week of mild-, moderate- and heavy-intensity LTPA and total LTPA were all positively correlated with $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$. The correlation between minutes per week of mild intensity LTPA and $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ was small-medium (r = .231, p = .079) while all other correlations were medium-large (rs ranged from .276 to .443, ps < .05). Correlations between the LTPAQ-SCI variables and PO_{peak} were also positive but small (rs ranged from .087 to .193, ps > .05), except for a medium-sized correlation between heavy-intensity LTPA and PO_{peak} (r = .294, p = .035).

40 Conclusions. People with SCI who report higher levels of LTPA on the LTPAQ-SCI also
41 demonstrate greater levels of CRF, with stronger associations between moderate- and heavy42 intensity LTPA and CRF than between mild-intensity LTPA and CRF. These results provide

43 further support for the construct validity of the LTPAQ-SCI as a measure of LTPA among44 people with SCI.

45

Introduction

Participation in exercise, sports and other forms of leisure-time physical activity (LTPA) has significant positive effects on the fitness, health and well-being of people living with spinal cord injury (SCI)^{1,2,3}. However, the vast majority of people with SCI are insufficiently active to derive these benefits⁴ because they face so many barriers to participation⁵. Consequently, there is a need to develop, test and implement strategies to increase LTPA participation in people living with SCI.

52 Reliable and valid measures of LTPA are required to assess the effectiveness of LTPAenhancing interventions. Review articles^{6,7,8} have catalogued the measurement properties of 53 54 wearable and self-report physical activity measures that have been used in SCI research. 55 Although the reliability and validity of wearable measures is improving, a significant limitation 56 of these devices is that they cannot distinguish between LTPA and other types of physical activity (e.g., household, transportation, occupational activity)⁷. Because LTPA is the only form 57 of physical activity that has been shown to significantly improve fitness in people with SCI¹, it is 58 59 crucial that scientists have valid and reliable methods to measure it. Another limitation of some 60 wearable devices (e.g., wrist-worn accelerometers), is that they underestimate the intensity of wheeled activity on slopes and rough, uneven surfaces^{9,10,11}. The SCI exercise guidelines¹² 61 stipulate that exercise must be done at a moderate- to heavy-intensity in order to achieve 62 63 significant health and fitness benefits. Systems that track SCI exercise guideline adherence 64 require valid and reliable measures of the amount of activity performed at moderate- and heavyintensities. Given the limitations of wearable devices, self-report measures are considered 65

superior for feasibly collecting data on the types and amounts of LTPA performed by people 66 67 with SCI⁷.

Compared to all other measures of PA used in SCI research, the Physical Activity Recall 68 Assessment for People with SCI (PARA-SCI)¹³ has yielded the strongest evidence of reliability 69 and validity^{7,8,14}. Using a structured, standardized interview format, respondents are cued to 70 71 recall and rate the intensity of all LTPA and activities of daily living (ADL) that they have performed over the previous 3 days¹⁵. The PARA-SCI has demonstrated positive evidence of 72 criterion validity (using both indirect calorimetry and doubly-labeled water as criteria), construct 73 validity and test-retest reliability^{13,16,14}. However, because the PARA-SCI was designed to 74 75 capture the types, frequencies, intensities and durations of *all* physical activities, it can create 76 unnecessary participant and clinician/researcher burden in situations where investigators are interested only in measuring LTPA⁷. In response to these concerns, the Leisure Time Physical 77 Activity Questionnaire for People with SCI (LTPAO-SCI) was developed¹⁷. 78 79 The LTPAQ-SCI is an SCI-specific, self-report assessment of LTPA that measures the 80 number of minutes of mild, moderate, and heavy intensity LTPA that a person performed over the previous 7 days¹⁷. It can be self- or interviewer-administered in less than 5 minutes. The

82 reporting format used in the LTPAO-SCI parallels the reporting structure of one of the most 83 widely used self-report measures of PA in the general population--the International Physical Activity Ouestionnaire-Short Form¹⁸. 84

85 Research has produced positive evidence of the LTPAQ-SCI's test-retest reliability. Intraclass correlation coefficients were significant for LTPAQ-SCI measures of mild, moderate, 86 heavy and total LTPA over a one-week test-retest period¹⁷. A recent study of the test-retest 87 reliability of a Canadian-French version of the questionnaire produced similarly strong ICCs¹⁹. 88

89	Evidence of the measure's criterion validity was shown by significant correlations between
90	LTPAQ-SCI measures of mild, moderate, heavy and total LTPA minutes per week and PARA-
91	SCI measures (i.e., the criterion) LTPA minutes per day at these same intensities ¹⁷ .
92	Support for the LTPAQ-SCI's construct validity has been generated in hypothesis-testing
93	studies ²⁰ . For example, LTPAQ-SCI measures of LTPA have been shown to increase
94	significantly in response to LTPA-enhancing interventions delivered to adults with SCI ²¹ and
95	multiple sclerosis ²² . LTPAQ-SCI measures of LTPA have also been shown to differ in predicted
96	directions between adults with SCI with low versus high depressive symptomatology, ²³ and
97	between athletes with disabilities who participate in sport at lower (recreational, developmental)
98	versus higher (provincial, state, national) competitive levels ²⁴ . It is important to note, however,
99	that construct validation is an ongoing process, and no one single experiment can 'prove'
100	construct validity ²⁰ . Rather, each supportive study serves to strengthen the construct's
101	nomological network, ²⁵ by demonstrating that the construct operates predictably within a system
102	of key concepts.
103	Cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF) is a key concept in relation to LTPA. It is well-established
104	that participation in moderate- to heavy-intensity exercise (a specific type of LTPA) imparts
105	significant improvements in the CRF of adults with SCI ^{1,26} . If the LTPAQ-SCI is to be used as a
106	measure of LTPA, then its construct validation should include tests of its associations with CRF
107	(these types of tests are sometimes referred to as tests of 'convergent validity' ²⁰). Therefore, the
108	purpose of the present study was to examine the association between the number of minutes per
109	week of mild, moderate, heavy and total LTPA reported by adults with SCI who completed the
110	LTPAQ-SCI, and their CRF. It was hypothesized that number of minutes per week of LTPA
111	would be positively correlated with participants' CRF.

Method

113 **Participants**

114 Participants were 51 individuals who completed the LTPAO-SCI and CRF assessment during 115 baseline testing for CHOICES (NCT01718977), a multicentre, randomized controlled clinical 116 trial assessing the effects of two different exercise interventions on cardiovascular health outcomes in adults with SCI^{27} . This construct validation study was planned *a priori*, as a 117 118 secondary analysis of data that were being collected as part of the CHOICES protocol. 119 CHOICES study inclusion criteria were: male or female; 18-60 years of age; chronic (>1 year 120 since injury), traumatic, motor-complete SCI [American Spinal Injury Association Impairment 121 Scale (AIS) A and B]; and neurological level of injuries (NLI) between the cervical fourth and 122 thoracic sixth vertebrae (C4-T6). AIS and NLI were determined using the International Standards for neurological Classification of SCI²⁸. Participants were excluded if they had: any 123 124 medical history of symptoms of cardiovascular disease; major trauma or surgery in the last six 125 months; fracture within the previous 12 months; or any psychological or cognitive dysfunction 126 that prevented understanding English instructions. All study procedures were approved by the 127 research ethics board at each trial site and all participants provided written informed consent 128 prior to any of the study procedures.

129 Measures

LTPAQ-SCI. The LTPAQ-SCI was administered during an interview conducted by a
research assistant (face-to-face interview at two sites and telephone interview at one site).
Consistent with the LTPAQ-SCI administration instructions,¹⁷ participants were first presented
with a standardized definition of LTPA: "physical activity that you choose to do during your free
time, such as exercising, playing sports, gardening, and taking the dog for a walk (necessary)

6

physical activities such as physiotherapy, grocery shopping, pushing/wheeling for transportation 135 are not considered LTPA)." Next, participants were given a validated, ¹³ SCI-specific definition 136 137 of mild-intensity LTPA and were asked to recall a) the number of days, over the past 7 days, that 138 they did mild-intensity LTPA and b) on those days, how many minutes they usually spent doing 139 mild-intensity LTPA. These steps were repeated for moderate-intensity and heavy-intensity 140 LTPA. Mild-intensity activities were defined as "activities that require you to do very light work. 141 You should feel like you are working a little bit but overall you shouldn't find yourself working 142 too hard." Moderate-intensity activities were defined as "activities that require some physical 143 effort. You should feel like you are working somewhat hard but you should feel like you can 144 keep going for a long time". Finally, heavy-intensity activities were defined as "activities that 145 require a lot of physical effort. You should feel like you are working really hard (almost at your 146 maximum) and can only do the activity for a short time before getting tired. These activities can 147 be exhausting". The number of minutes per week of LTPA performed at each intensity (mild, 148 moderate and heavy) was calculated by multiplying the days of activity by the minutes of 149 activity. Total LTPA was calculated as a sum of LTPA at each intensity, thus yielding the total

150 number of minutes of LTPA undertaken in the past week.

151 *Cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF)*. All participants underwent an incremental exercise test 152 using an electronically braked arm-crank ergometer (Lode BV, Groningen, The Netherlands; 153 Vancouver site, Monark 881E, Monark Exercise AB, Vansbro, Sweden; Toronto and Hamilton 154 sites) until the point of volitional exhaustion. Heart rate was recorded continuously using a chest 155 strap HR monitor (T31; Polar Electro Inc., Woodbury, NY, USA). Respiratory gases were 156 collected using a metabolic cart that was calibrated, prior to each use, according to the 157 manufacturer's instructions (Parvomedics Truemax 2400, Sandy, Utah, USA; Vancouver site:

158 Vmax Encore, SensorMedics, California, USA; Toronto site: Moxus Metabolic System, AEI

159 Technologies, Illinois, USA; Hamilton site).

160 Participants were asked to empty their bladders prior to the test to minimize the influence 161 of autonomic dysreflexia. The test protocol began with a warm-up of arm cranking at 0 Watts for 162 two minutes. Afterwards, the protocol continued with 1-minute stages, with a resistance 163 increment of 5-10 Watts per stage depending on the participant's neurological level of injury²⁹. 164 Participants were instructed to maintain a cycling cadence of 50 revolutions per minute (rpm) 165 throughout the duration of the test with continuous motivation delivered by the assessor. The test 166 continued to the point of volitional exhaustion or when the cadence dropped below 30 rpm. Borg's rating of perceived exertion (RPE) 6-20 was administered at the end of every stage³⁰. 167 168 The highest volume of oxygen consumption ($\dot{V}O_2$) of 20-second averaging during the test was recorded as peak volume of oxygen consumption ($\dot{V}O_{2peak}$). Peak power output (PO_{peak}) was 169 170 defined as the highest PO achieved, unless volitional exhaustion occurred within 20-seconds of 171 the beginning of the stage, in which case PO_{peak} was recorded as the PO at the second-last 172 completed stage of the test.

173 **Procedure**

At two sites (Hamilton and Vancouver), the LTPAQ-SCI was administered during the baseline testing session, prior to the CRF test. At one site (Toronto), the LTPAQ-SCI was administered 8 days after the fitness test but before starting exercise in the CHOICES trial. This timing was deliberate to avoid participants reporting any LTPA that was performed as part of the CHOICES baseline testing or training protocols.

179 Data Management and Analyses

The respiratory exchange ratio (RER) was used to corroborate attainment of VO_{2neak} 180 181 during the fitness test. Analyses were conducted only on participants who exhibited an RER > 182 1.00, representing a conservative vet reliable lower-range of expected peak RER responses in SCI and healthy adults^{29,31}. People with tetraplegia cannot achieve the same $\dot{V}O_{2neak}$ and PO_{neak} 183 as people with paraplegia due to more severe autonomic and upper-body motor impairments³². 184 185 Consequently, the distributions of these values differ for people with tetraplegia versus paraplegia³². Therefore, the measures of CRF (i.e. $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ and PO_{peak}) were standardized for 186 187 lesion level (i.e., paraplegia or tetraplegia) through transformations to z-scores prior to analysis. 188 Descriptive statistics were calculated as means, standard deviations, medians and 189 minimum-maximum for continuous variables, and as percentages for the categorical variables. 190 Shapiro Wilk tests were used to check the normality assumption. Because the LTPAQ-SCI 191 variables presented significant deviations from the normal distribution, a square root 192 transformation was carried out on these variables. Using the transformed variables, one-tailed 193 Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated between the LTPAQ-SCI measures of mild, moderate, heavy and total LTPA and the measures of CRF (i.e. VO_{2peak} and PO_{peak}). Since the 194 195 hypotheses were directional (i.e. all the correlations were expected to be positive), one-tailed 196 tests were used. All analyses were conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics v. 26. Alpha was set at 197 .05 for all analyses and was not adjusted for multiplicity given that all hypotheses were specified a priori (cf.³³). Cohen's conventions were used to interpret the magnitude of the correlations (i.e., 198 rs of .10, .30, .50 constitute small, medium and large correlations, respectively)³⁴. 199

200

Results

201 **Preliminary analyses**

202	After excluding data from 12 participants who did not achieve RER \geq 1.00, 39
203	participants remained for the main analyses. Excluded participants presented significantly lower
204	PO _{peak} and VO _{2peak} values than the included ones. In addition, all excluded participants had
205	tetraplegia. No significant differences were found between excluded and included participants
206	regarding sex, age, age at injury, time since injury, body mass or height, or LTPAQ-SCI values.
207	Exploratory analyses indicated neither age nor years since injury were significant bivariate
208	correlates of PO_{peak} or VO_{2peak} . In exploratory regression analyses, neither age nor years since
209	injury were significant predictors of any LTPAQ-SCI variable. Therefore, for parsimony, these
210	variables were not included in subsequent analyses. Subsequent analyses were conducted with
211	data from the remaining 39 participants. Table 1 shows the demographic data for both the full
212	sample and the final sample, as well as the <i>p</i> -values of the tests performed to detect potential
213	differences between included and excluded participants
213 214	differences between included and excluded participants Correlations between the LTPAQ-SCI measures of LTPA and aerobic fitness
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 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 	Correlations between the LTPAQ-SCI measures of LTPA and aerobic fitness Table 2 presents the full correlation matrix. Minutes per week of mild-, moderate- and heavy-intensity LTPA and total LTPA were all positively correlated with $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$. The correlation between $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ and mild-intensity LTPA was small-medium ($r = .231, p = .079$), while the correlations of $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ with moderate-intensity LTPA ($r = .276, p = .045$) and heavy-intensity LTPA ($r = .443, p = .002$) were medium-large. Correlations between the LTPAQ-SCI variables and PO _{peak} were also positive. However, the

Discussion

225 The purpose of this study was to conduct a test of the construct validity of the LTPAO-SCI. 226 As hypothesized, minutes per week of LTPA reported on the LTPAO-SCI were positively 227 correlated with participants' CRF. Correlations tended to be stronger for heavy versus mildintensity LTPA and for VO_{2peak} than for PO_{peak}. 228 229 Overall, the pattern and size of the correlations were similar to correlations reported between 230 CRF and other self-report measures of PA for people with and without SCI. For instance, in prior tests of the PARA-SCI's construct validity,¹⁶ correlations between CRF and moderate- and 231 232 heavy-intensity LTPA were medium-sized, while the correlation between CRF and mild-233 intensity LTPA was small. These findings align with research demonstrating that in order to 234 produce significant CRF benefits, adults with SCI must exercise at a moderate- to heavyintensity¹. Exercise of a mild intensity is insufficient³⁵. Our results show that the LTPAO-SCI 235 236 does indeed capture CRF-enhancing LTPA in adults with SCI. 237 Our results are also similar to the medium-sized correlations reported in validation studies of 238 the IPAQ-SF, one of the most widely-used self-report measures of PA for the general population. 239 For instance, across three studies that reported correlations between the IPAQ-SF measure of total minutes per week of PA and $\dot{V}O_{2max}$, the median correlation was $r = .30^{36}$. We found a 240 correlation of r = .33 between LTPAQ-SCI total LTPA and $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$. It is worth noting that only 241 242 ~50% of the variance in CRF can be explained by environmental factors, such as physical activity, with the rest attributed to hereditary/genetic factors³⁷. Furthermore, additional variance 243 244 in CRF within the SCI population can be attributed to the severity and exact level of neurological 245 injury sustained, contributing to the degree of autonomic and functional impairment³⁸. Thus, it is encouraging to observe similar, if not slightly better, associations between LTPA and VO_{2peak} in 246

247 individuals with high-level SCI, supporting the construct validity of the LTPAQ-SCI in the

context of other well-used self-report measures of PA.

Our analyses suggested that LTPA was more strongly correlated with $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ than PO_{peak} . 249 250 This finding differs from results from the PARA-SCI validation studies in which CRF tended to be more strongly correlated with PO_{peak} than $\dot{V}O_{2peak}^{16}$. These discrepancies are likely a statistical 251 252 artefact. There was greater variability in PO_{peak} values in the PARA-SCI validation study than in the present study. When data variability is reduced, correlations may be lower than expected³⁹. 253 254 Nevertheless, as the correlations with PO_{neak} were all positive, and stronger for moderate- and 255 heavy-intensity LTPA than mild-intensity LTPA, we take this as further support for the construct 256 validation of the LTPAQ-SCI as a measure of CRF-enhancing LTPA. 257 Importantly, scale validation studies do not confirm that the scale itself is valid. No study can 258 'validate' a scale. Rather, validation studies substantiate the inferences that can be made about

people based on their scale scores (e.g., the amount of LTPA they do each week)²⁰ and that the 259 scale is valid for use with a particular group of people in a particular context²⁰. The present study 260 261 was conducted with a sample of men and women with chronic, motor complete cervical or high 262 thoracic injuries. Although we would expect the results to generalize to individuals with incomplete, lower-level injuries,¹⁶ this hypothesis should be tested in heterogenous samples. 263 264 There is also a need to conduct LTPAQ-SCI validation studies in countries other than Canada, because definitions of LTPA may differ across cultural contexts⁴⁰. For instance, the 265 266 instructions for completing the LTPAQ-SCI stipulate that physiotherapy should not be counted. 267 This stipulation is included because during development of the PARA-SCI and LTPAQ-SCI, 268 many of the physiotherapy activities reported by Canadians with SCI, were neither leisure-time

269 nor fitness-enhancing activities (e.g., passive stretching, practicing transfers, practicing using

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mobility equipment)¹⁵. However, in other countries or contexts, physiotherapy may routinely 270 271 include exercise or sport activities and may therefore be counted as LTPA. In a similar vein, active transportation is uncommon among Canadians with SCI⁴¹ because climate, terrain and 272 273 long distances are significant barriers. In some countries, however, it may be more common for people with SCI to use active forms of transportation (e.g., handcycling in European countries⁴²) 274 275 in order to get exercise. In these circumstances, it may make sense to report such activities on the 276 LTPAO-SCI. By testing the relationships between CRF and LTPAO-SCI scores, including and 277 excluding physiotherapy and active transportation activities, users of the LTPAO-SCI can better 278 define and measure LTPA in their contexts. 279 Strengths of this study include standardized administrations of the LTPAQ-SCI and the 280 CRF test. While multi-site data collection was a strength insofar as it facilitated participant 281 enrolment and statistical power, it may also be considered a limitation that introduced variability 282 through different CRF testing equipment and testers at each site. A further limitation is that only 283 one aspect of physical fitness was measured. Muscular strength and endurance are two additional physical fitness aspects that should correlate positively with LTPAO-SCI scores¹⁶ and should be 284 285 examined in future construct validation studies. Furthermore, if study participants engaged 286 primarily in strength-training LTPA (e.g., lifting weights), the correlation between their LTPAQ-287 SCI measure of minutes per week of LTPA and their CRF may have been attenuated relative to 288 individuals who engaged primarily in CRF-enhancing LTPA (e.g., arm cycling). 289 Another study limitation is that data collected from nearly half of the tetraplegic 290 participants (12 out of 27) could not be used because they terminated the CRF test before achieving criteria indicative of a peak exercise test (i.e., RER > 1.00). Because of arm fatigue 291

292 during exercise testing, peripheral ratings of perceived exertion increase much faster in those

293	with tetraplegia than paraplegia ⁴³ prompting participants to terminate the test before achieving
294	peak. Given this challenge, researchers should consider other feasible, valid measures of CRF
295	that could be used in LTPAQ-SCI construct validation studies involving participants with
296	tetraplegia, for example, individualized ramp tests, submaximal aerobic endurance, or
297	submaximal predictive equations such as the 6-minute arm test validated for individuals with
298	SCI ⁴⁴ . An alternative construct validation approach may be to assess associations between
299	LTPAQ-SCI scores and 7-day overall physical activity levels measured via wearable devices.
300	While limitations of accelerometers attached to a single anatomical location or wheelchair have
301	been noted in people with SCI ^{7,9} , the estimation of physical activity intensity can be improved by
302	utilising multi-sensor devices that incorporate physiological signals (such as galvanic skin
303	responses or heart rate) and utilising complex or individualised modelling approaches ^{45,46} .
304	Combined with the use of diaries or logs to distinguish periods of LTPA from other physical
305	activity types, assessing the associations between outputs from multi-sensor wearable devices
306	and the LTPAQ-SCI may be a way to test the validity of this measure while overcoming some of
307	the challenges noted with assessing CRF in individuals with tetraplegia.
308	In conclusion, the results of the present study demonstrate that self-reported LTPA as

In conclusion, the results of the present study demonstrate that self-reported LTPA, as measured by the LTPAQ-SCI, is positively correlated with CRF in adults with chronic, motor complete cervical or high thoracic SCI, being the associations stronger for moderate- and heavyintensity LTPA. When considered with previous research showing that LTPAQ-SCI scores vary in predictable ways across meaningful groups and in response to behavioural interventions^{17,19-24}, these results provide further support for the construct validity of the LTPAQ-SCI as a measure of LTPA for adults with SCI. Further construct validation studies are needed to demonstrate the

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validity of the LTPAQ-SCI for use as a measure of LTPA in more heterogeneous samples of
 people with SCI and in other countries and contexts.

317 **Data archiving:** The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study 318 are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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Ethics: Ethics approval was obtained from the University of British Columbia (H1202945-11), McMaster University (12-672) and Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University
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324 **Conflict of interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

325 Author contributions: KAMG was responsible for conceptualizing and designing the 326 study, interpreting results and writing the report. JU-C was responsible for analyzing the data, 327 writing the results, creating tables and providing feedback on the report. AAA was responsible 328 for collecting and cleaning the data, drafting the methods section and providing feedback on the 329 report. TEN was responsible for assisting during data collection, drafting the methods section, 330 assisting with data interpretation, and providing feedback on the report. JSA was responsible for 331 assisting in the design of the study protocol, drafting the methods section, assisting with data 332 interpretation, and providing feedback on the report. KDC was responsible for assisting during 333 data collection and providing feedback on the report. MH was responsible for assisting during 334 data collection and providing feedback on the report. AK is the Principal Investigator for the 335 CHOICES study and was responsible for designing and overseeing implementation of all aspects 336 of the CHOICES protocol and providing feedback on the report.

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528

529 Table 1. Characteristics of Participants in the Full Sample and the Analyzed Sample and p-

	Excluded (n=12) n (% total); M ± SD; Median, min-max	Analyzed Sample (n=39) n (% total); M ± SD; Median, min-max	p-value
Sex	,	,	.964
Male	9 (75%)	29 (74%)	
Female	3 (25%)	10 (26%)	
Age (years)	40 ± 10 42, 23-58	42 ± 10 43, 22-60	.638
Age at injury (years)	25 ± 9 22, 15-49	29 ± 14 25, 3-57	.252
Years post-injury	16 ± 11 14, 2-30	13 ± 11 10, 1-42	.502
Level and severity of injury Tetraplegia AIS A	8 (67%)	8 (21%)	< 0.001
Tetraplegia AIS B	4 (33%)	7 (18%)	
Paraplegia AIS A	0	24 (61%)	
Body mass (kg)	76.3 ± 19.1 74.0, 46.9-101.9	79.2 ± 17.3 78.5, 44.9-135.7	.764
Height (cm)	180 ± 13 181, 158-200	175 ± 8 176, 158-188	.201
BMI (kg/m ²)	23.33 ± 4.04 23.95, 15.43-28.83	25.87 ± 5.44 25.57, 16.49-42.83	.203
VO2 _{peak} (mL/kg/min)	7.97 ± 1.66 7.53, 5.49-11.70	13.93 ± 5.49 13.60, 6.07-29.84	<.001
PO _{peak} (Watts)	28 ± 16 28, 10-61	60 ± 28 60, 10-130	.001
Mild LTPA (min/wk)	152 ± 148 98, 10-450	221 ± 308 135, 0-1680	.555
Moderate LTPA (min/wk)	61 ± 89 28, 0-240	115 ± 124 60, 0-480	.093
Heavy LTPA (min/wk)	45±115 0, 0-405	60 ± 96 20, 0-480	.260
Total LTPA (min/wk)	260 ± 226 188, 10-730	395 ± 431 240, 0-2405	.291

530 values of Tests to Detect Differences Between Included and Excluded Participants.

531 AIS is the ASIA Impairment Scale. BMI is Body Mass Index. VO_{2peak} is peak volume of oxygen

532 consumption and PO_{peak} is peak power output during the cardiorespiratory fitness test. LTPA is

533 Leisure Time Physical Activity.

534 Table 2. Correlation Matrix Showing Pearson Correlation Coefficients for Cardiorespiratory Fitness and LTPAQ-SCI Measures of

VO _{2peak}	PO _{peak}	Mild LTPA	Moderate LTPA	Heavy LTPA	Total LTPA
1					
.773**	1				
.231	.087	1			
.276*	.193	.315*	1		
.443**	.294*	.225	.499**	1	
.330*	.176	.815**	.729**	.591**	1
	1 .773** .231 .276* .443**	1 .773** .231 .087 .276* .193 .443**	LTPA LTPA 1 .773** 1 .231 .087 1 .276* .193 .315* .443** .294* .225	LTPA LTPA LTPA 1 .773** 1 .231 .087 1 .276* .193 .315* 1 .443** .294* .225 .499**	LTPA LTPA LTPA LTPA LTPA 1 .773** 1 .231 .087 1 .276* .193 .315* 1 .443** .294* .225 .499** 1

535 Mild, Moderate, Heavy and Total Leisure-Time Physical Activity (LTPA)

536 Note. *p<0.05; **p<0.01 (one-tailed).

537 LTPAQ-SCI is the Leisure Time Physical Activity Questionnaire-Spinal Cord Injury. VO_{2peak} is peak volume of oxygen consumption

538 and PO_{peak} is peak power output during the cardiorespiratory fitness test.