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**Load absorption force-time characteristics following the second pull of weightlifting derivatives**

SUBMISSION TYPE: Original Investigation

RUNNING HEAD: Weightlifting derivative load absorption characteristics

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4 **ABSTRACT**

5 The purpose of this study was to compare the load absorption force-time characteristics of  
6 weightlifting catching and pulling derivatives. Twelve resistance-trained men performed  
7 repetitions of the hang power clean (HPC), jump shrug (JS), and hang high pull (HHP) on a force  
8 platform with 30, 45, 65, and 80% of their one repetition maximum (1RM) HPC. Load  
9 absorption phase duration, mean force, and work were calculated from the force-time data. The  
10 HHP produced a significantly longer load absorption phase duration compared to the HPC ( $p <$   
11  $0.001$ ,  $d = 3.77$ ) and JS ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 5.48$ ), while no difference existed between the HPC and  
12 JS ( $p = 0.573$ ,  $d = 0.51$ ). The JS produced significantly greater load absorption mean forces  
13 compared to the HPC ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 2.85$ ) and HHP ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 3.75$ ), while no difference  
14 existed between the HPC and HHP ( $p = 0.253$ ,  $d = 0.37$ ). Significantly more load absorption  
15 work was performed during the JS compared to the HPC ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 5.03$ ) and HHP ( $p <$   
16  $0.001$ ,  $d = 1.69$ ), while HHP load absorption work was also significantly greater compared to the  
17 HPC ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 4.81$ ). The weightlifting pulling derivatives examined in the current study  
18 (JS and HHP) produced greater load absorption demands following the second pull compared to  
19 the weightlifting catching derivative (HPC). The JS and HHP may be used as effective training  
20 stimuli for load absorption during impact tasks such as jumping.

21  
22 Key Words: hang power clean, jump shrug, hang high pull, eccentric loading, catch phase

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Implementing weightlifting movements and their derivatives into strength and conditioning programs has become increasingly popular. This is likely due to the superior training adaptations (strength, vertical jump height, sprint speed, etc.) that result from their inclusion compared to other training methods (10, 17, 31). ENREF 2Most of the research that has examined weightlifting derivatives has investigated the kinetic and kinematic characteristics of the second pull (2-5, 19-21, 29, 30). This is not surprising given that the second pull phase of the clean and snatch, which is characterized by the triple extension of the hips, knees, and ankles (plantar flexion) and the shrugging of the shoulders, results in the greatest production of force and power (6-8), and transfers to sport tasks with similar joint movements (22). While this information is important for exercise prescription, less is known about the force-time characteristics following the second pull. If additional benefits could be obtained from weightlifting derivatives in the form of the mechanical demands made following the second pull, indicated by the force-time characteristics, an even stronger case could be made for the inclusion of weightlifting derivatives into resistance training programs of sports/events that do not typically use them.

A purported benefit of weightlifting derivatives that involve the completion of the catch phase is the ability to train the individual to “accept”, “decelerate”, or “absorb” a load (22). Furthermore, although not supported by evidence, some may believe that the catching action may simulate

1 receiving an impact in sports such as American football or rugby. Research by Moolyk and  
2 colleagues (14) examined strategies used to absorb force during a jump landing, a drop landing, a  
3 clean (i.e. squat/full clean), and a power clean (i.e. clean caught in a semi-squat position). Their  
4 results indicated that the clean resulted in more overall joint work compared to the power clean,  
5 but was not different from the drop landing. They concluded that the clean and power clean  
6 could be used to train the muscular strength required for impact actions, such as jump landing.  
7 While the previous study examined the load absorption differences between two weightlifting  
8 movements that involved the catch phase, no research has compared the load absorption phase of  
9 weightlifting catching derivatives and weightlifting pulling derivatives that exclude the catch  
10 phase.

11  
12 Previous research has indicated that the weightlifting pulling derivatives that omit the catch  
13 phase may produce similar (i.e. small-moderate effect sizes) (2, 3) or superior (i.e. large-very  
14 large effect sizes) (27, 29, 30) force and power characteristics compared to weightlifting catching  
15 derivatives. Moreover, several weightlifting pulling derivatives may allow an individual to train  
16 with loads that are greater than the maximum weight lifted during a catching derivative (4, 5, 9,  
17 12), which may emphasize force production. As a result, practitioners may consider  
18 implementing weightlifting pulling derivatives as a substitute to the clean or snatch, or as an  
19 additional exercise to train triple extension (22, 26). ENREF 1 Due to the potential training  
20 benefits of weightlifting pulling derivatives during the concentric phase (i.e. force production  
21 and external power characteristics) (2, 3, 27, 29, 30), further research is needed to examine their  
22 force-time characteristics following the second pull to determine if they provide an eccentric  
23 loading stimulus similar to traditional weightlifting exercises. Previous research that examined

1 post-second pull force-time characteristics of the jump shrug (JS) indicated that landing forces  
2 decreased as the external load increased (28). While this information is beneficial to  
3 practitioners who may question the mechanical consequences of the JS landing, further research  
4 is needed to understand force-time characteristics following the second pull of the JS, as well as  
5 other weightlifting catching and pulling derivatives. Comparisons of the load absorption force-  
6 time characteristics following the second pull of weightlifting catching and pulling derivatives  
7 may be beneficial from a programming standpoint for those interested in implementing  
8 weightlifting derivatives to train both the concentric and eccentric phases of the lift. Therefore,  
9 the purpose of this study was to compare the load absorption force-time characteristics of the  
10 hang power clean (HPC) catch phase, JS landing phase, and hang high pull (HHP) landing phase.  
11 It was hypothesized that the JS would produce the greatest load absorption demands due to the  
12 landing characteristics associated with the exercise (28).

## 14 **METHODS**

### 15 **Experimental Approach to the Problem**

16 A repeated measures design was used to compare the load absorption force-time characteristics  
17 following the second pull phase of the HPC, JS, and HHP. Subjects performed sets of the HPC,  
18 JS, and HHP with 30, 45, 65, and 80% of their one repetition maximum (1RM) HPC. Load  
19 absorption phase work, mean force, and duration were calculated from the force-time data and  
20 compared to quantify between-exercise differences. The work performed during the load  
21 absorption phase was studied to establish the effect that exercise and load had on the absorption  
22 of potential energy during the loading phase following the second pull of each movement. Mean  
23 force during the load absorption phase was examined as opposed to peak force to provide a

1 greater understanding of the magnitude of force produced over the duration of the loading phase  
2 of each weightlifting derivative. Finally, load absorption duration was studied to examine the  
3 length of time over which force was produced in order to decelerate the system center of mass  
4 during each weightlifting derivative.

5

## 6 **Subjects**

7 Twelve resistance-trained men participated in this study (age =  $21.4 \pm 1.2$  years, height =  $180.3 \pm$   
8  $6.2$  cm, body mass =  $83.2 \pm 8.4$  kg, 1RM HPC =  $108.5 \pm 14.6$  kg, relative 1RM HPC =  $1.3 \pm 0.2$   
9  $\text{kg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ ). All of the subjects participated in NCAA Division III track and field (short sprints,  
10 jumps, or throws) or collegiate club/intramural sports and had at least two years of training  
11 experience with weightlifting derivatives. Each subject read and signed a written informed  
12 consent form. The current study was approved by the University's Institutional Review Board.  
13 Twelve subjects were recruited based on an *a priori* power analysis that indicated that 12-14  
14 subjects would be needed to establish a moderate effect (Cohen's  $d = 0.60$ ) (11) at a statistical  
15 power level of 0.80.

16

## 17 **Procedures**

18 All subjects attended four sessions that included a 1RM testing and practice session and three  
19 subsequent exercise testing sessions. Each session was carried out at the same time of day (2-7  
20 days apart) with the subjects refraining from physical activity that could affect their performance  
21 at least 24 hours before each testing session.

22

1 Upon arrival for the 1RM testing and practice session, subjects completed a standardized  
2 dynamic warm-up and submaximal HPC sets before making 1RM attempts, following a  
3 previously described protocol (20, 29). Briefly, subjects attempted progressively heavier loads  
4 (minimum 2.5 kg increase) until a failed attempt occurred. The largest successfully lifted load  
5 was recorded as each subject's 1RM. All HPC repetitions were performed using previously  
6 described technique (20) and repetitions caught in a squat position where the upper thigh of the  
7 subject was below parallel to the floor were considered unsuccessful. Following a self-selected  
8 rest period, subjects practiced the JS and HHP and were coached on proper technique.  
9 Specifically, each subject performed submaximal sets of the JS and HHP using 30% of their  
10 1RM HPC in accordance with previous research (29). All JS and HHP repetitions were  
11 completed using the technique previously described by Suchomel and colleagues (23, 24). It  
12 should be noted that a 1RM JS and HHP were not performed as no criteria exist on what  
13 constitutes a successful 1RM attempt of weightlifting pulling derivatives (25).

14  
15 The order of the remaining exercise testing sessions was randomized. Prior to testing, each  
16 subject performed the same dynamic warm-up as previously described followed by submaximal  
17 sets (i.e. one set of three repetitions with 30 and 50% 1RM HPC) of the exercise that was to be  
18 tested during that session (HPC, JS, or HHP). To clarify, if the subjects were going to test the JS  
19 during that particular testing session, they would perform a set of three JS repetitions with 30 and  
20 50% of their 1RM HPC as part of their warm-up before performing testing repetitions.

21 Following the warm-up, subjects performed two maximal effort repetitions of the testing session  
22 exercise with 30, 45, 65, and 80% of their 1RM HPC on a force platform (Kistler, Type 9290AD,  
23 Kistler, Winterthur, Switzerland) sampling at 500 Hz with one minute of rest between repetitions

1 and two minutes between loads. It should be noted that no additional instructions were given to  
2 the subjects prior to or after each repetition regarding their landing technique as extra instruction  
3 or feedback may impact the ground reaction forces produced (13, 15, 16). The order of loads  
4 was randomized in an attempt to prevent a fatigue or potentiation order effect during the first  
5 testing session. The same randomized order of loads was used during each subsequent testing  
6 session with the remaining exercises. Subjects rested for one minute between repetitions and  
7 two minutes between loads.

8

### 9 **Data Analyses**

10 Force-time data were exported from Bioware and analyzed using a custom LabVIEW program  
11 (Version 10.0; National Instruments, Austin, TX, USA). Force-time data from each repetition  
12 were analyzed to obtain load absorption phase work, mean force, and duration after completion  
13 of the second pull phase. The transition from pulling to load absorption was represented by two  
14 distinct force-time curves (Figures 1, 2, and 3); the most obvious where subjects left the ground  
15 (JS and HPC, Figures 1 and 2), and when this occurred a force threshold of 10 N was used to  
16 indicate both take off and load absorption in accordance with previous work by Owen et al (18).  
17 In the event that the subjects did not leave the ground (e.g. HHP), the lowest post-pull force was  
18 identified and the same 10 N threshold used to identify the beginning of load absorption (lowest  
19 force + 10 N, Figure 3). The load absorption phase ended when the system (lifter plus bar)  
20 center of mass reached its lowest post landing displacement (See Figures 1-3). Acceleration-time  
21 data were calculated by dividing net force by system mass, and this was integrated with respect  
22 to time using the trapezoid rule to first yield velocity-time data, and then again to yield  
23 displacement-time data. Mean force was calculated by averaging the force produced over the

1 duration of the load absorption phase. The displacement of the system center of mass was  
2 calculated by subtracting the position of the system center of mass at the end of the load  
3 absorption phase from its position at the beginning of the phase. Work was then calculated as  
4 the product of the mean force and displacement. The load absorption phase work, mean force,  
5 and duration of each HPC, JS, and HHP repetition was used to assess trial-to-trial reliability and  
6 then averaged for further statistical analyses.

7  
8 (Figures 1-3 about here.)

## 10 **Statistical Analyses**

11 Intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC: 3,1) were used to determine the test-retest reliability of  
12 load absorption phase work, mean force, and duration based on the recommendations from Weir  
13 (33). The normality of the data distribution was tested by using the Shapiro-Wilks test. To  
14 compare the differences in load absorption phase work, mean force, and duration between the  
15 HPC, JS, and HHP, a series of 3 x 4 (exercise x load) repeated measures ANOVAs were used. If  
16 the assumption of sphericity was violated, Greenhouse-Geisser adjusted values were reported.  
17 When appropriate, *post hoc* analysis was performed applying the Bonferroni correction. The  
18 alpha value was set at  $\leq 0.05$  for all statistical measures. Statistical power (*c*) was calculated for  
19 all main effect comparisons. In addition, Cohen's *d* effect sizes and 95% confidence intervals  
20 (CI) were calculated for all pairwise comparisons. Effect sizes were interpreted as trivial, small,  
21 moderate, large, very large, and nearly perfect if values were equal to 0.00-0.19, 0.20-0.59, 0.60-  
22 1.19, 1.20-1.99, 2.00-3.99, and 4.00 or greater, respectively (11). All statistical analyses were  
23 performed using SPSS 22 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA).

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## RESULTS

The ICC statistics for load absorption phase work, mean force, and duration during the HPC, JS, and HHP are displayed in Table 1.

(Table 1 about here.)

Significant exercise ( $F_{2,22} = 154.598, p < 0.001, c = 1.00$ ), load ( $F_{1,54,16.88} = 17.947, p < 0.001, c = 0.99$ ) and exercise x load interaction ( $F_{6,66} = 7.027, p = 0.001, c = 0.97$ ) effects existed for load absorption work. *Post hoc* analysis revealed that significantly more load-averaged work was performed during the JS ( $647.3 \pm 111.1$  J) compared to the HPC ( $129.9 \pm 93.7$  J;  $p < 0.001, d = 5.03, CI = 415.6 - 619.4$ ) and HHP ( $448.8 \pm 123.4$  J;  $p < 0.001, d = 1.69, CI = 147.5 - 249.5$ ). In addition, significantly more load-averaged work was performed during the HHP compared to the HPC ( $p < 0.001, d = 4.81, CI = 229.2 - 408.7$ ) (Figure 4).

*Post hoc* analysis revealed that significantly more exercise-averaged work was performed with 80% 1RM ( $451.5 \pm 229.6$  J) compared to 30% ( $366.8 \pm 229.1$  J;  $p = 0.001, d = 0.37, CI = 33.9 - 135.5$ ), 45% ( $406.0 \pm 253.7$  J;  $p = 0.033, d = 0.19, CI = 3.0 - 88.0$ ), and 65% 1RM ( $410.3 \pm 250.0$  J;  $p = 0.001, d = 0.17, CI = 17.1 - 65.3$ ). In addition, the work performed with 65% 1RM was significantly greater than work with 30% 1RM ( $p = 0.035, d = 0.18, CI = 2.6 - 84.4$ ), but

1 was not different than 45% 1RM ( $p = 0.011$ ,  $d = 0.02$ ,  $CI = -29.6 - 38.1$ ). Finally, the work  
2 performed with 45% 1RM was significantly greater than work with 30% 1RM ( $p = 0.001$ ,  $d =$   
3  $0.16$ ,  $CI = 17.6 - 60.9$ ) (Figure 4).

4  
5 (Figure 4 about here.)

6  
7 The HPC, JS, and HHP exercise and load interaction for load absorption work is displayed in  
8 Figure 5.

9  
10 (Figure 5 about here.)

11  
12 Significant exercise ( $F_{1,23,13.48} = 89.575$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $c = 1.00$ ), load ( $F_{1,63,17.97} = 21.734$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  
13  $c = 1.00$ ) and exercise x load interaction ( $F_{6,66} = 7.038$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $c = 0.99$ ) effects existed for  
14 load absorption mean force. *Post hoc* analysis revealed that the load-averaged mean force for the  
15 JS ( $2674.1 \pm 420.6$  N) was significantly greater compared to the HPC ( $1488.1 \pm 411.6$  N;  $p <$   
16  $0.001$ ,  $d = 2.85$ ,  $CI = 782.3 - 1589.7$ ) and HHP ( $1359.6 \pm 259.9$  N;  $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 3.75$ ,  $CI =$   
17  $1031.1 - 1597.9$ ), while the HPC and HHP were not significantly different ( $p = 0.253$ ,  $d = 0.37$ ,  
18  $CI = -62.5 - 319.4$ ) (Figure 6).

19  
20 *Post hoc* analysis revealed that exercise-averaged mean forces with 80% ( $2061.6 \pm 629.2$  N)  
21 were significantly larger than mean forces with 30% ( $1683.7 \pm 747.0$  N;  $p = 0.002$ ,  $d = 0.55$ ,  $CI$   
22  $= 144.4 - 611.44$ ), 45% ( $1751.2 \pm 731.6$  N;  $p = 0.001$ ,  $d = 0.45$ ,  $CI = 124.7 - 496.0$ ), and 65%  
23 1RM ( $1865.8 \pm 650.1$  N;  $p = 0.015$ ,  $d = 0.31$ ,  $CI = 33.8 - 357.7$ ). In addition, mean forces with

1 65% 1RM were significantly larger than mean forces with 30% ( $p = 0.015$ ,  $d = 0.26$ ,  $CI = 32.2 -$   
2  $332.2$ ) and 45% 1RM ( $p = 0.011$ ,  $d = 0.17$ ,  $CI = 24.5 - 204.8$ ). Mean forces with 30% and 45%  
3 1RM were not significantly different ( $p = 0.297$ ,  $d = 0.09$ ,  $CI = -30.7 - 165.7$ ) (Figure 6).

4  
5 (Figure 6 about here.)

6  
7 The HPC, JS, and HHP exercise and load interaction for load absorption mean force is displayed  
8 in Figure 7.

9  
10 (Figure 7 about here.)

11  
12 Significant exercise ( $F_{2,22} = 126.694$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $c = 1.00$ ) and exercise x load interaction ( $F_{3,02,$   
13  $33.24} = 7.901$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $c = 0.98$ ) effects existed for load absorption phase duration; however no  
14 significant load main effects existed ( $F_{1,78,19.54} = 0.330$ ,  $p = 0.698$ ,  $c = 0.093$ ). *Post hoc* analysis  
15 revealed that the load-averaged load absorption duration of the HHP ( $0.76 \pm 0.13$  s) was  
16 significantly longer compared to the HPC ( $0.27 \pm 0.13$  s;  $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 3.77$ ,  $CI = 0.35 - 0.58$ )  
17 and JS ( $0.22 \pm 0.05$  s;  $p < 0.001$ ,  $d = 5.48$ ,  $CI = 0.43 - 0.60$ ), while the HPC and JS were not  
18 significantly different ( $p = 0.573$ ,  $d = 0.51$ ,  $CI = -0.05 - 0.15$ ) (Figure 8).

19  
20 (Figure 8 about here.)

21  
22 The HPC, JS, and HHP exercise and load interaction for load absorption duration is displayed in  
23 Figure 9.

1

2 (Figure 9 about here.)

3

#### 4 **DISCUSSION**

5 This study compared the load absorption phase work, mean force, and duration differences of the  
6 HPC, JS, and HHP across a range of loads. The primary findings included 1) greater load  
7 absorption work was performed during the JS compared to the HPC and HHP, while greater  
8 work was also performed during the HHP compared to the HPC, 2) the JS produced greater load  
9 absorption mean forces compared to the HPC and HHP, and 3) the HHP produced a longer load  
10 absorption phase duration compared to the HPC and JS.

11

12 Because the work completed during the load absorption phase of weightlifting derivatives may  
13 improve an individual's capacity to absorb forces during impact tasks (14), examining the work  
14 completed during multiple derivatives may assist the practitioner in making programming  
15 decisions. The JS produced the largest magnitude of load absorption work compared to the HPC  
16 and HHP, with large practical effects being present. These findings are likely more attributed to  
17 the mean forces produced during the JS landing as opposed to the displacement. In contrast, the  
18 HHP produced the lowest magnitudes of mean force, but still achieved the second highest  
19 magnitude of work, resulting in large practical significance when compared to the HPC. It  
20 should be noted however that the barbell is traditionally caught before the barbell has any  
21 downward momentum by gravity during the HPC (32). As a result, the downward momentum to  
22 be absorbed during the HPC should be smaller than that of the JS and HHP. Our findings may  
23 have training implications, especially considering that the JS and HHP have previously been

1 shown to produce superior performance characteristics during the second pull or propulsion  
2 phase compared to the HPC (27, 29, 30). Collectively, it appears that the JS and HHP may  
3 benefit both the concentric and eccentric phases of a weightlifting derivative to a similar or  
4 greater extent, compared to the HPC. From a loading perspective, the exercise-averaged work  
5 during the load absorption phase at 80% 1RM was the largest; however, it should be noted that  
6 only trivial-small effects were present between all the loads examined.

7  
8 The largest load absorption phase mean forces were produced during the JS and were followed,  
9 in order, by the HPC and HHP. Large practical effects were present when comparing the JS and  
10 both the HPC and HHP, while only a small effect existed between the HPC and HHP. The JS is  
11 unique compared to the other weightlifting derivatives examined in the current study because it  
12 requires the individual to jump as high as possible (24). While this may enable high force,  
13 velocity, and power during the concentric phase (19, 29, 30), the results of this study suggest that  
14 the individual must absorb larger mean forces upon landing. This notion is supported by  
15 previous research that indicated that higher jump heights during the JS coincided with larger  
16 landing forces (28). Interestingly, the final load absorption phase deceleration position of the JS  
17 and HHP mimics the second pull position (i.e. mid-thigh position), which may enable the  
18 individual to effectively absorb forces in the strongest position that is achieved during  
19 weightlifting derivatives (6-8). While a purported benefit of a commonly prescribed  
20 weightlifting exercise (i.e. HPC) may be the rapid acceptance of an external load (22), our  
21 findings indicate that the JS may produce a greater training stimulus in this regard due to its  
22 shorter load absorption duration and larger mean forces. This suggests that the JS demands a  
23 greater eccentric rate of force development to decelerate an external load. Combining our

1 findings with previous research, the JS may enable the individual to further develop the  
2 magnitude and rate of force production during both the concentric (27, 29) and eccentric phases  
3 (28) of the lift. However, practitioners should note the training phase in which the JS is  
4 implemented because repetitive high force eccentric loading, such as that produced during  
5 landing activities from maximal jumps, has been noted as a mechanism of delayed onset muscle  
6 soreness (1). Therefore, it is important to implement the JS, as well as other weightlifting  
7 derivatives, in a progressive manner to prevent an excessive volume of eccentric loading during  
8 training periods where the dissipation of accumulated fatigue is important (e.g. competition  
9 phase). Regarding the loads examined, the greatest load absorption mean forces were present  
10 with the highest load (i.e. 80% 1RM). However, it should be noted that the effect sizes that  
11 existed between all loads produced trivial-small magnitudes of practical significance, indicating  
12 that the external load does not appear to have much of an effect on load absorption mean forces.  
13 This is likely due to the interaction between decreased loads and increased displacements. For  
14 example, a greater displacement would provide additional time for gravitational acceleration,  
15 potentially resulting in a similar force required to decelerate the system mass.  
16  
17 This is the first study that has compared the load absorption phase duration of weightlifting  
18 derivatives. Interestingly, the HHP produced the longest load absorption duration compared to  
19 the HPC and JS (both large effects). These findings may be due to the required constraints of  
20 each exercise. As opposed to the JS, the HPC and HHP require the elevation of the barbell  
21 following the second pull (20, 23). While the barbell elevation is similar between these  
22 exercises, it is likely that individuals performing the HPC will only elevate the bar to a height  
23 where they can drop under the bar and rack it across their shoulders. In contrast, the HHP

1 requires the individual to finish the movement with the barbell elevated to chest height while the  
2 triple extension of the hip, knee, and ankle (plantar flexion) joints is being completed (23).  
3 While this may emphasize the triple extension movement, it creates a larger displacement of the  
4 load and as a result, the individual must spend more time absorbing the external load as it is  
5 lowered from its maximum height and the bar returns to the mid-thigh position. The load  
6 absorption duration differences between the HPC and JS were not statistically significant (small  
7 effect). This may be due to similar landing techniques as both the HPC and JS require the  
8 individual to land in a stiff semi-squat position to absorb the load as it either decelerates from its  
9 maximum height following the second pull (HPC) or as the center of mass decelerates as it  
10 lowers from peak jump height (JS). From a practical standpoint, our findings indicate that the  
11 HPC and JS appear to affect the magnitude and duration of landing force the individual is  
12 exposed to. In contrast, the HHP may facilitate greater absorption of forces during the load  
13 absorption phase compared to the HPC and JS. The latter findings indicate that the HHP may  
14 allow an individual to effectively dissipate the magnitude of force experienced following the  
15 second pull, potentially leading to a decreased accumulation of stress during multiple sets and  
16 repetitions.

17  
18 A limitation of the current study may be the inclusion of load absorption phase variables only  
19 associated with the lifter plus bar system. While this limitation does not lessen the value of the  
20 results of the current study, future research should include the collection and analysis of three-  
21 dimensional kinetic and kinematic data to determine if similar trends exist at the joint level. The  
22 information within the current study combined with joint-level measurements may provide a  
23 better understanding of the similarities and differences between the load absorption phase of

1 weightlifting catching and pulling derivatives. A second possible limitation to the current study  
2 was the exclusion of the lowering phase of the barbell during the HPC. If an athlete is  
3 performing multiple HPC repetitions, they must lower the barbell from a racked position across  
4 their shoulders to the mid-thigh position before the subsequent repetition. However, it should be  
5 noted that this may also be accomplished by dropping the barbell onto training blocks. While  
6 this may add to the overall work performed by the individual, the focus of the current study was  
7 to compare the catch phase of the HPC with the landing phases of the HHP and JS. Additional  
8 analyses were outside of the scope of this study.

9

## 10 **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS**

11 Weightlifting pulling derivatives that exclude the catch phase may be used as effective training  
12 stimuli to improve force absorption following the second pull. Although a purported benefit of  
13 weightlifting catching derivatives is the rapid acceptance of an external load, the results of this  
14 study show that the exclusion of the catch does not diminish this effect, but rather increases it.  
15 The load absorption characteristics of each exercise may dictate what training phase may be the  
16 most appropriate. For example, the JS produced the greatest load absorption work and mean  
17 forces, while also producing the shortest load absorption phase duration. In order to prevent  
18 excessive eccentric loading from repetitive landing, but also effectively benefit from the JS's  
19 propulsion characteristics (19, 27, 29), the JS may be best implemented during a low volume,  
20 speed-strength training block. Finally, the external load prescribed does not appear to have much  
21 practical significance on the load absorption work, mean forces, or duration characteristics of the  
22 HPC, JS, or HHP. Therefore, practitioners may implement a variety of loads to train the load  
23 absorption characteristics of their athletes.

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**1 TABLE AND FIGURE LEGENDS**

2 **Table 1.** Reliability (ICC) of load absorption phase variables across exercises and loads.

3 **Figure 1.** Example hang power clean force-time and displacement-time curves. *Note: The*  
4 *shaded area denotes the load absorption phase duration.*

5 **Figure 2.** Example jump shrug force-time and displacement-time curves. *Note: The shaded area*  
6 *denotes the load absorption phase duration.*

7 **Figure 3.** Example hang high pull force-time and displacement-time curves. *Note: The shaded*  
8 *area denotes the load absorption phase duration.*

9 **Figure 4.** Load absorption work comparison between A) exercises and B) loads. \* = statistically  
10 greater than the HPC ( $p < 0.001$ ); # = statistically greater than the HHP ( $p < 0.001$ ); a =  
11 statistically greater than 30% ( $p < 0.05$ ); b = statistically greater than 45% ( $p = 0.033$ ); c =  
12 statistically greater than 65% ( $p = 0.001$ )

13 **Figure 5.** Exercise and load interaction for load absorption work ( $p = 0.001$ ). 1RM = one  
14 repetition maximum; HPC = hang power clean; JS = jump shrug; HHP = hang high pull.

15 **Figure 6.** Load absorption mean force comparison between A) exercises and B) loads. \* =  
16 statistically greater than the HPC ( $p < 0.001$ ); # = statistically greater than the HHP ( $p < 0.001$ );  
17 a = statistically greater than 30% ( $p < 0.05$ ); b = statistically greater than 45% ( $p < 0.05$ ); c =  
18 statistically greater than 65% ( $p = 0.015$ )

19 **Figure 7.** Exercise and load interaction for load absorption mean force ( $p < 0.001$ ). 1RM = one  
20 repetition maximum; HPC = hang power clean; JS = jump shrug; HHP = hang high pull.

21 **Figure 8.** Load absorption duration comparison between A) exercises and B) loads. \* =  
22 statistically greater than the HPC ( $p < 0.001$ ); # = statistically greater than the JS ( $p < 0.001$ )

- 1 **Figure 9.** Exercise and load interaction for load absorption duration ( $p < 0.001$ ). 1RM = one
- 2 repetition maximum; HPC = hang power clean; JS = jump shrug; HHP = hang high pull.

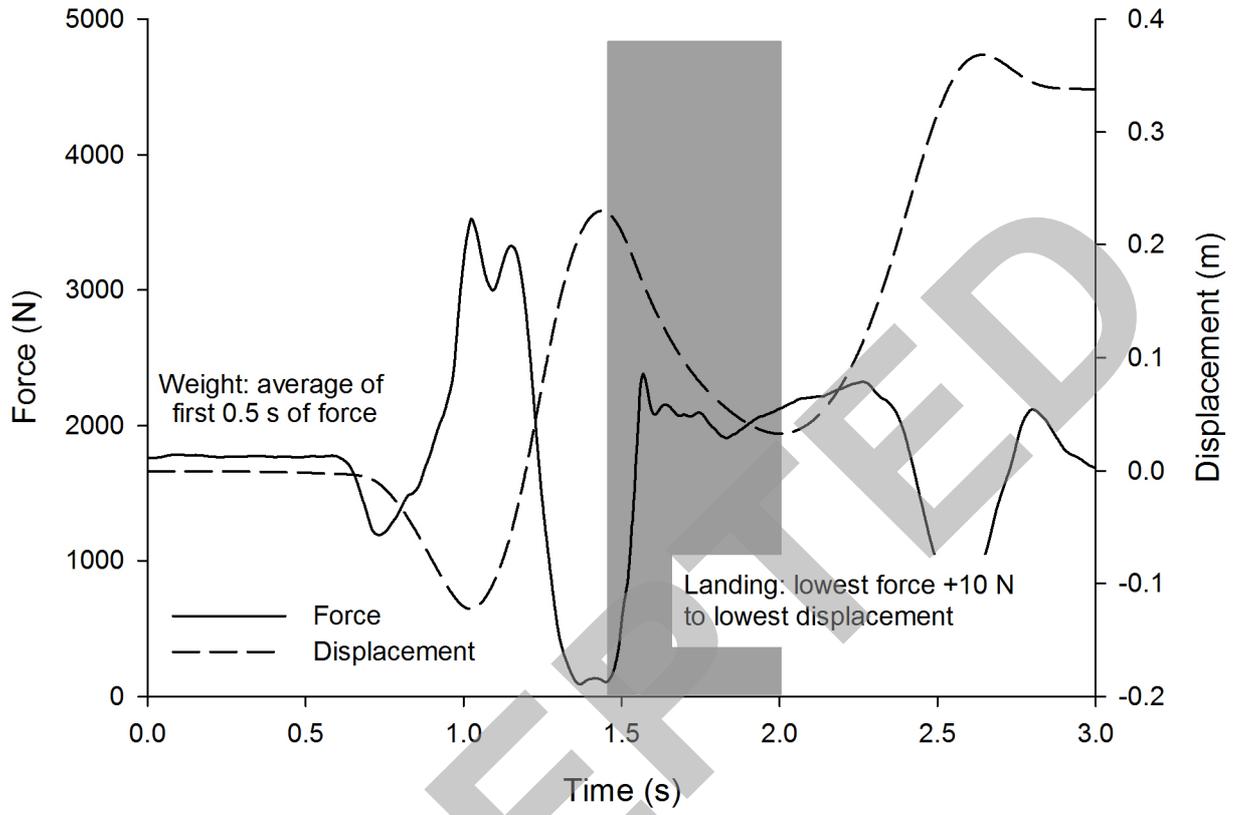
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**Table 1.** Reliability (ICC) of load absorption phase variables across exercises and loads.

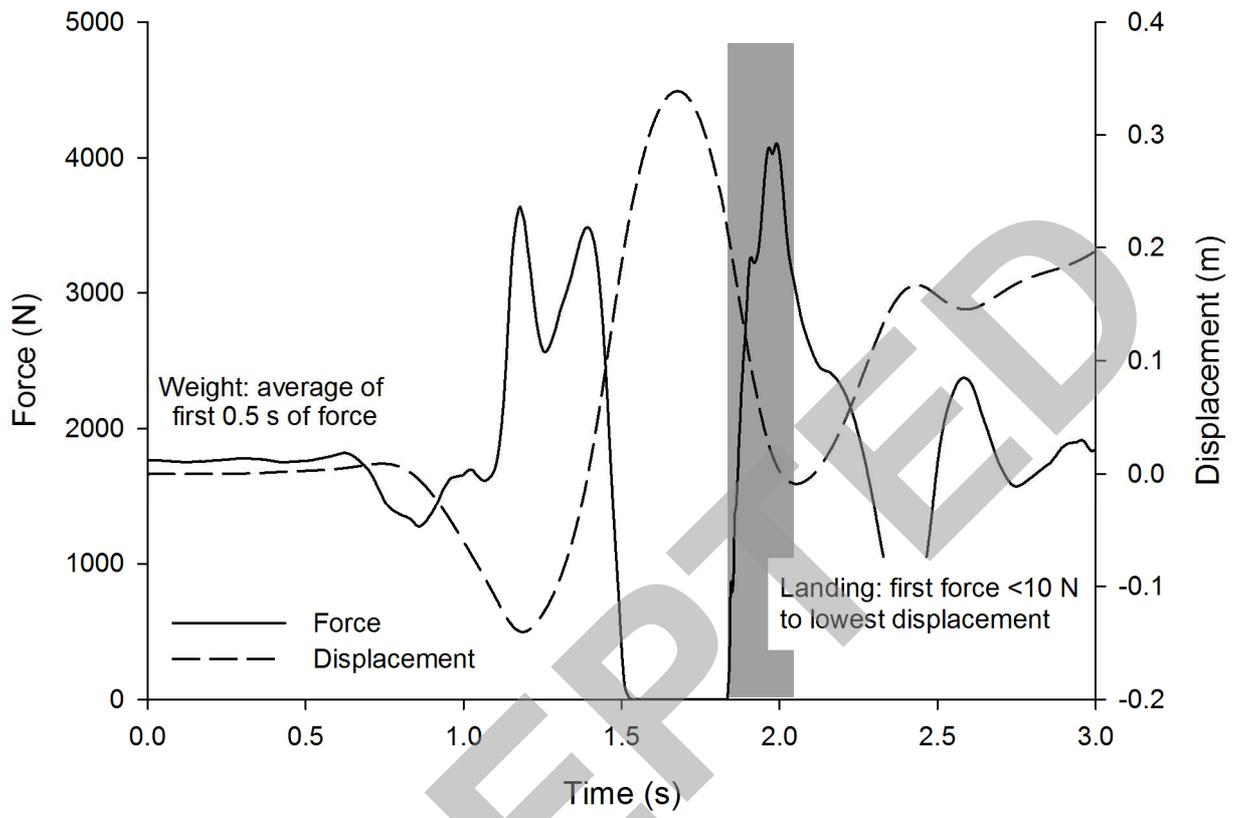
Exercise and Load (% 1RM HPC)	Load Absorption Work	Load Absorption Mean Force	Load Absorption Duration
<b>HPC</b>			
30%	0.97	0.98	0.96
45%	0.99	0.93	0.92
65%	0.99	0.96	0.98
80%	0.90	0.87	0.91
<b>JS</b>			
30%	0.94	0.91	0.79
45%	0.98	0.94	0.87
65%	0.98	0.96	0.94
80%	0.95	0.98	0.96
<b>HHP</b>			
30%	0.95	0.97	0.78
45%	0.94	0.96	0.96
65%	0.96	0.98	0.94
80%	0.96	0.98	0.85

*Notes:* HPC = hang power clean; JS = jump shrug; HHP = hang high pull

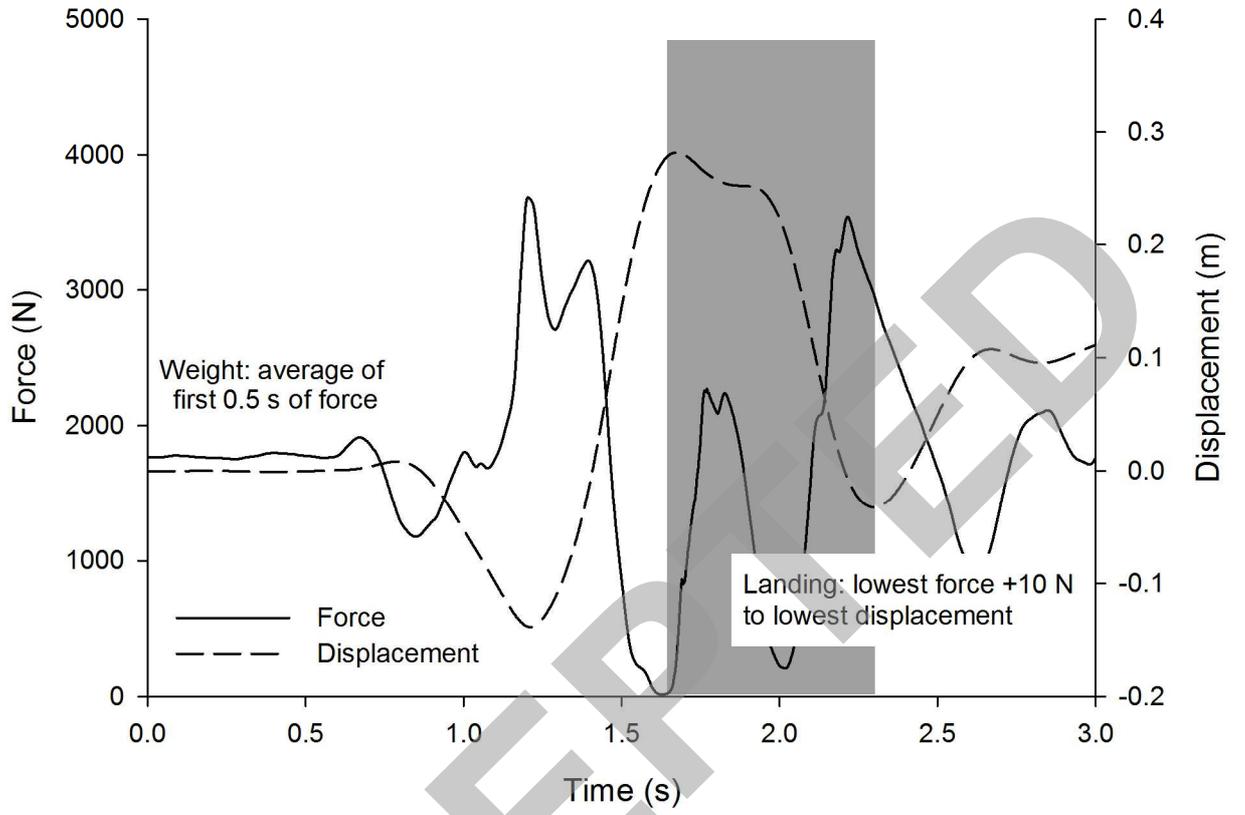
# Hang power clean

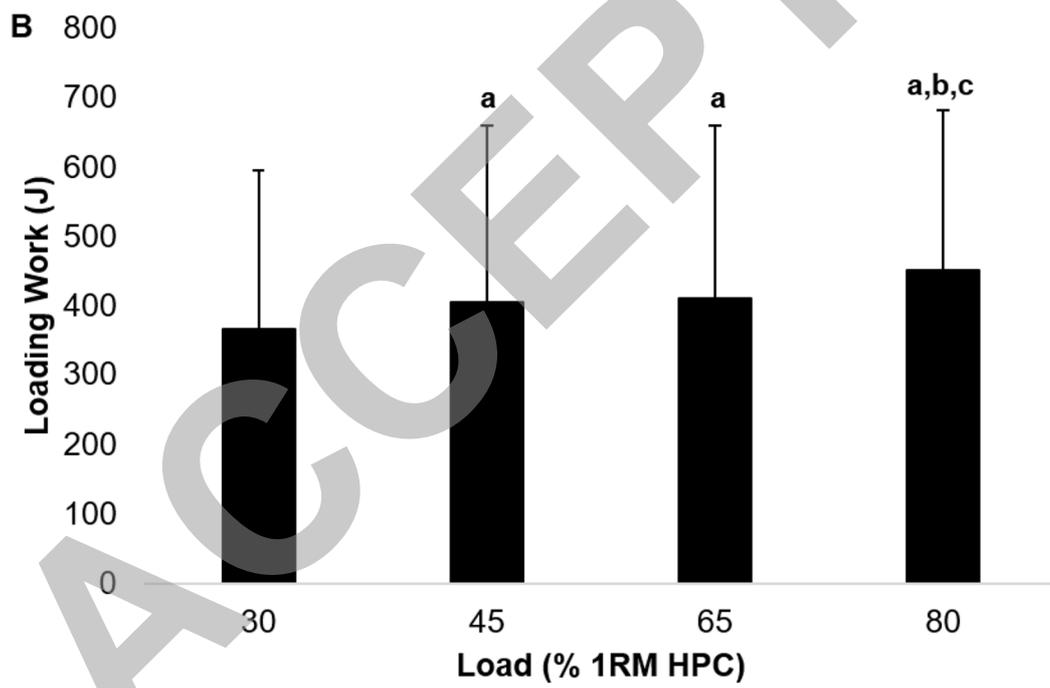
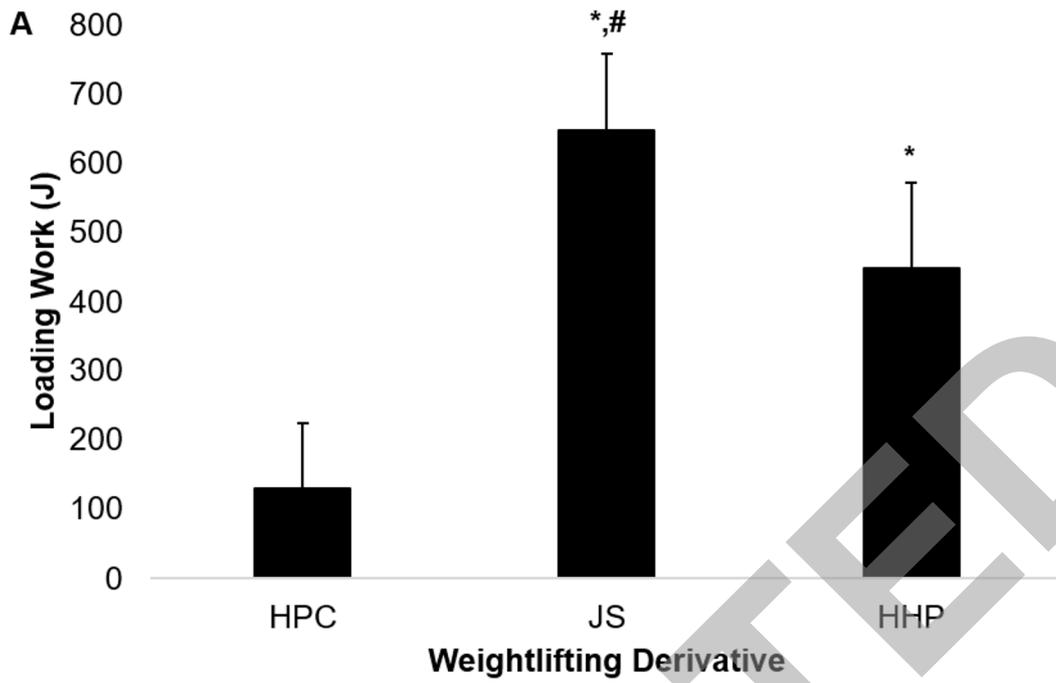


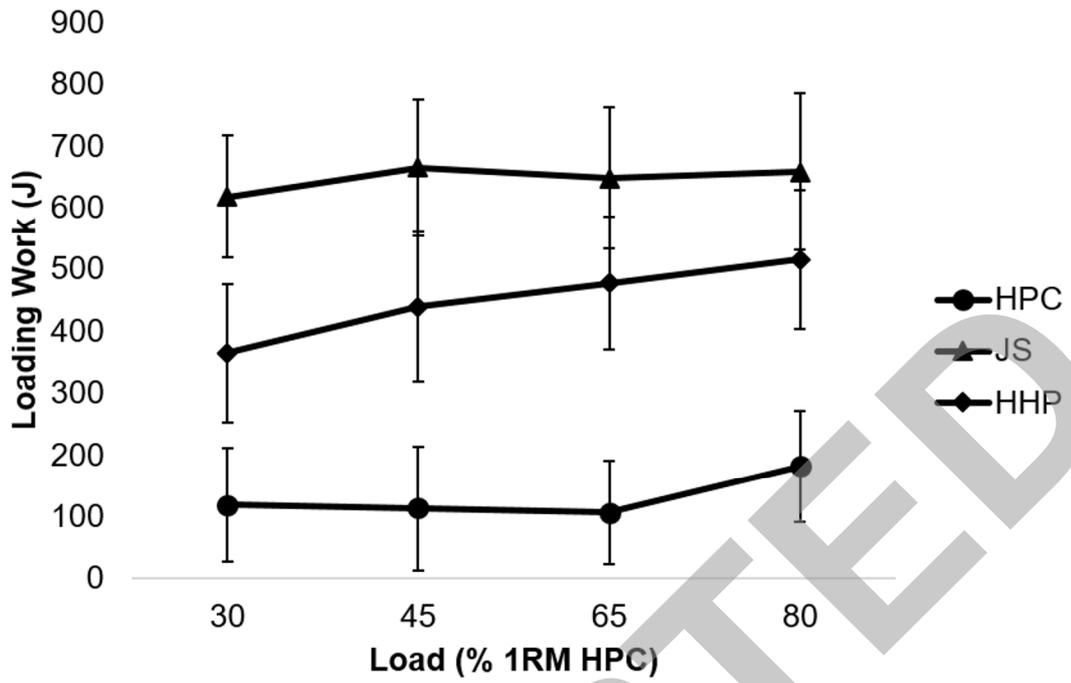
# Jump shrug

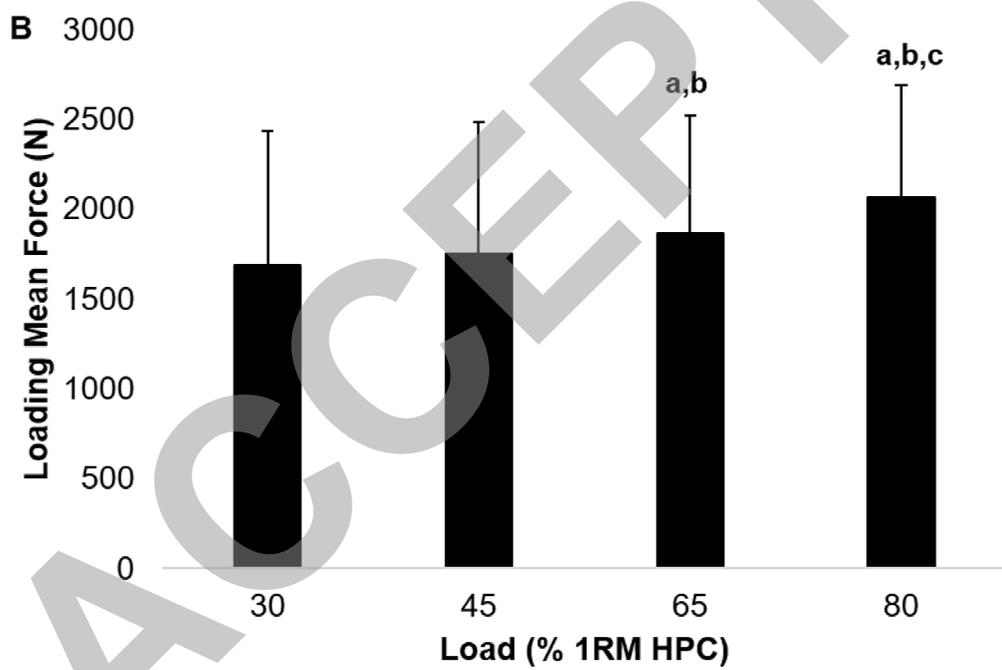
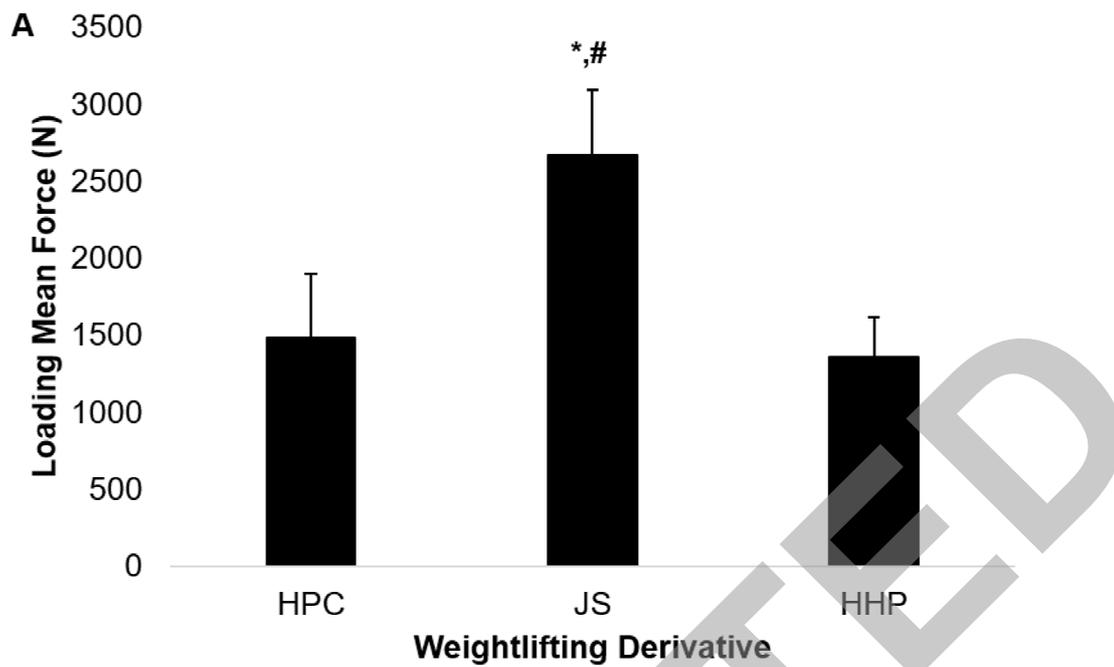


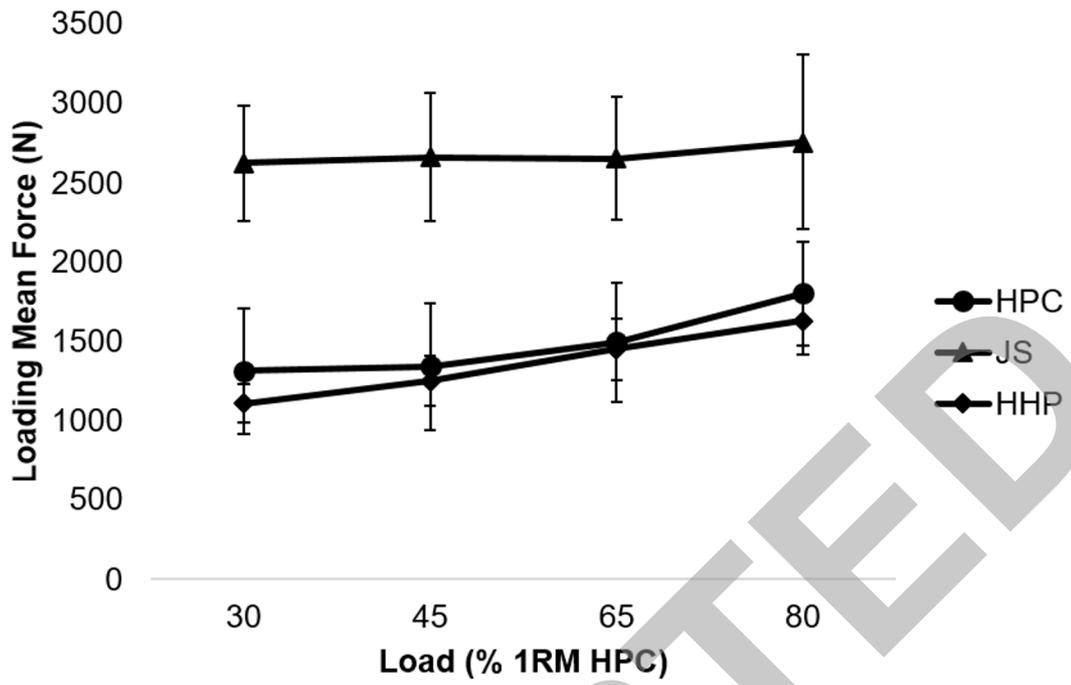
# Hang high pull











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