are kettlebell workouts good for you

Are Kettlebell Workouts Good For You? A Comprehensive Guide to Kettlebell Benefits

are kettlebell workouts good for you? The answer is a resounding yes, offering a unique blend of strength training, cardiovascular conditioning, and functional movement that can revolutionize your fitness journey. These cast-iron weights, with their distinctive handle, provide a dynamic approach to exercise that engages multiple muscle groups simultaneously, fostering robust physical development. This article delves deep into the multifaceted benefits of incorporating kettlebells into your routine, exploring their impact on strength, endurance, fat loss, and overall functional fitness. We will uncover why kettlebell training is not just a trend, but a highly effective method for achieving a powerful and resilient physique. From building lean muscle to enhancing your athletic performance, the advantages are extensive and well-documented.

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Understanding Kettlebell Workouts

Kettlebell workouts distinguish themselves from traditional weightlifting primarily through the unique design of the kettlebell itself and the compound, ballistic movements they facilitate. Unlike dumbbells or barbells, where the weight is centered directly below the handle, a kettlebell's center of mass extends beyond the handle. This offset weight distribution requires greater core engagement and stabilizer muscle activation throughout every exercise. This fundamental difference means that even seemingly simple kettlebell movements recruit more of your body's musculature, leading to a more efficient and comprehensive workout experience.

The nature of kettlebell exercises often involves dynamic, swinging motions. These are not static lifts but rather explosive, controlled movements that integrate strength, power, and coordination. This type of training challenges your body in a way that closely mimics real-world activities, enhancing your ability to perform everyday tasks with greater ease and less risk of injury. The versatility of kettlebells allows for a vast array of exercises, from

foundational swings and cleans to more advanced snatches and Turkish get-ups, catering to various fitness levels and goals.

The Cardiovascular Benefits of Kettlebell Training

One of the most significant advantages of kettlebell workouts is their potent cardiovascular conditioning capacity. Exercises like the kettlebell swing are inherently ballistic and demand a continuous supply of oxygen to fuel the working muscles. This sustained effort elevates your heart rate and breathing rate, providing an excellent cardiovascular challenge that can improve heart health, increase lung capacity, and boost overall stamina.

Unlike steady-state cardio such as jogging, kettlebell training offers a metabolic conditioning effect. The high-intensity nature of many kettlebell movements leads to a significant calorie burn during the workout itself. Furthermore, the "afterburn effect," or excess post-exercise oxygen consumption (EPOC), is often more pronounced with kettlebell training. This means your body continues to burn calories at an elevated rate for hours after you've finished your session, contributing significantly to improved cardiovascular fitness and weight management.

The integration of strength and cardio in a single kettlebell session makes it an incredibly time-efficient way to improve your cardiovascular system. You're not just getting your heart rate up; you're also building functional strength and lean muscle, which further enhances your metabolic rate. This dual benefit makes kettlebell workouts a powerful tool for anyone looking to improve their heart health and endurance.

Building Strength and Muscle with Kettlebells

While often celebrated for their cardio benefits, kettlebell workouts are also exceptionally effective for building both muscular strength and lean muscle mass. The unique grip and offset weight of a kettlebell demand constant stabilization from your forearms, shoulders, and core, leading to significant gains in these areas. Exercises like the kettlebell clean and press, for example, work your entire posterior chain, upper body, and core in a single, powerful movement.

The ability to progressively overload with kettlebells is also crucial for muscle growth. As you become stronger, you can increase the weight of the kettlebell, or increase the number of repetitions and sets, or reduce rest periods. This gradual increase in demand forces your muscles to adapt and grow stronger. The dynamic nature of kettlebell exercises, particularly the

swings and snatches, also develops explosive power, which is a key component of athletic strength.

The full-body nature of many kettlebell movements ensures that you are working multiple muscle groups simultaneously. This is highly efficient for building overall muscularity and functional strength. Instead of isolating individual muscles with traditional isolation exercises, kettlebell training promotes the development of integrated strength, where muscles work together synergistically, mimicking how they function in real-life activities and sports.

Kettlebells for Fat Loss and Calorie Burning

Kettlebell workouts are a powerhouse for fat loss and maximizing calorie expenditure. The combination of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) principles and compound, full-body movements inherent in kettlebell training leads to a dramatic increase in metabolic rate. A well-designed kettlebell circuit can elevate your heart rate into the fat-burning zone and keep it there for an extended period.

The ballistic nature of exercises like the kettlebell swing, clean, and snatch requires a significant amount of energy. This demand translates directly into a high number of calories burned during the workout. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, the EPOC effect ensures that your body continues to torch calories long after the workout is completed, making kettlebells a highly effective tool for creating a calorie deficit necessary for weight loss.

Building lean muscle mass with kettlebells also plays a vital role in fat loss. Muscle tissue is metabolically more active than fat tissue, meaning that even at rest, a greater amount of muscle burns more calories. By incorporating kettlebell training, you are not only burning calories during exercise but also increasing your resting metabolic rate, making it easier to achieve and maintain a healthy weight over the long term.

- High-intensity interval training format often employed with kettlebells.
- Compound movements engaging multiple muscle groups simultaneously.
- Significant calorie expenditure during the workout.
- Elevated post-exercise oxygen consumption (EPOC) for continued calorie burning.
- Increased lean muscle mass boosts resting metabolic rate.

Functional Fitness and Improved Mobility

Functional fitness refers to training that prepares your body for the activities of everyday life. Kettlebell workouts are exceptionally well-suited for developing functional strength and enhancing mobility. Exercises like the Turkish get-up, for example, require a coordinated movement through multiple planes of motion, improving your body's ability to transition from lying to standing with control and stability.

The swinging and dynamic nature of kettlebell exercises naturally improves your range of motion and flexibility. Movements such as the goblet squat and overhead press require good hip and shoulder mobility, respectively. By consistently performing these exercises, you can gradually increase your flexibility and joint mobility, reducing the risk of injury and improving your overall movement quality.

Kettlebell training also enhances proprioception — your body's awareness of its position in space. The unstable nature of the kettlebell and the dynamic movements required to control it force your neuromuscular system to work harder, improving coordination, balance, and agility. This translates to better performance in sports and a reduced likelihood of falls or missteps in daily life.

Kettlebell Training for Core Strength

The core is the powerhouse of the body, and kettlebell workouts are incredibly effective at building a strong and stable core. The offset weight of the kettlebell, combined with the dynamic and often anti-rotational nature of kettlebell exercises, forces your abdominal muscles, obliques, and lower back to work overtime to stabilize your torso.

Take the kettlebell swing, for instance. To generate power and control the swing, your core must contract powerfully to transfer force from your hips to your upper body. Similarly, exercises like the kettlebell carry (farmer's walk with a kettlebell) require intense core bracing to maintain an upright posture and prevent your torso from collapsing. This constant engagement of the core muscles leads to significant improvements in core strength and endurance.

The Turkish get-up is another prime example of a kettlebell exercise that profoundly develops core strength. This slow, controlled movement from the ground to a standing position and back down demands continuous engagement of the deep stabilizing muscles of the core, along with significant shoulder and

hip stability. Consistent practice of such exercises will result in a more resilient and powerful core.

Who Can Benefit from Kettlebell Workouts?

The beauty of kettlebell training lies in its adaptability, making it beneficial for a wide spectrum of individuals. Athletes seeking to improve power, conditioning, and functional strength can leverage kettlebells to gain a competitive edge. Their dynamic nature can enhance explosiveness for sports requiring quick bursts of energy and agility.

For individuals looking to lose weight and improve their cardiovascular health, kettlebell workouts offer an efficient and engaging method. The high calorie burn and metabolic boost are ideal for fat reduction. Furthermore, those aiming to build lean muscle and enhance overall body composition will find kettlebells to be an effective tool for strength development.

People seeking to improve their functional fitness and core strength for everyday life will also reap immense rewards. Whether you're a desk worker wanting to improve posture and reduce back pain, or an older adult looking to maintain balance and prevent falls, kettlebell training can provide the necessary conditioning. Even beginners can start with lighter weights and focus on proper form to gradually build strength and confidence.

Getting Started with Kettlebell Training

Embarking on your kettlebell journey requires a focus on proper form and gradual progression. It is highly recommended to start with a lighter kettlebell, typically one that allows you to comfortably perform 10-15 repetitions of basic exercises like the swing, clean, and goblet squat with good technique. Prioritize learning the fundamental movements correctly before attempting heavier weights or more complex variations.

Consider seeking guidance from a certified kettlebell instructor or a personal trainer experienced in kettlebell instruction. They can teach you the proper biomechanics of each exercise, ensuring you are performing them safely and effectively. Watching reputable instructional videos and practicing in front of a mirror can also be helpful for self-correction.

When designing your kettlebell workouts, aim for a mix of ballistic movements (like swings), grind movements (like presses and squats), and carries. A common approach is to incorporate circuits where you move from one exercise to the next with minimal rest, allowing for both strength and cardiovascular benefits. Start with 2-3 sessions per week, allowing adequate rest between

Safety Considerations for Kettlebell Use

Safety is paramount when incorporating kettlebell workouts into your fitness routine. The dynamic and often ballistic nature of kettlebell exercises necessitates a strong emphasis on proper form and control. Always begin by learning the fundamental movements with a lighter weight to master the technique. Never sacrifice form for more weight or speed; this is a common precursor to injury.

Ensure you have adequate space to perform your exercises without obstruction. This is especially important for swinging movements, where the kettlebell travels through a significant arc. Be mindful of your surroundings, including people, pets, and furniture, to avoid accidental collisions.

Listen to your body and don't push through pain. Soreness is a normal part of strength training, but sharp or persistent pain is a sign that something is wrong. Rest, proper warm-ups, and cool-downs are essential components of a safe and effective kettlebell program. If you have pre-existing medical conditions or injuries, consult with your doctor or a physical therapist before starting any new exercise program, including kettlebell training.

Q: Are kettlebell workouts too difficult for beginners?

A: Kettlebell workouts can be adapted for beginners. Starting with a lighter weight and focusing on mastering the fundamental movements like the swing and goblet squat with proper form is key. Many beginners find kettlebell training accessible and highly effective when guided by good instruction.

Q: How often should I do kettlebell workouts?

A: For most individuals, 2-3 kettlebell workout sessions per week are sufficient, allowing for adequate rest and recovery between sessions. The intensity and volume can be adjusted based on your fitness level and goals.

Q: Can kettlebell workouts help with weight loss?

A: Yes, kettlebell workouts are highly effective for weight loss due to their ability to burn a significant number of calories in a short period, their impact on boosting metabolism, and their contribution to building lean muscle mass.

Q: What are the main muscles worked in a kettlebell swing?

A: The primary muscles worked in a kettlebell swing include the glutes, hamstrings, erector spinae (lower back), core muscles (abdominals and obliques), shoulders, and forearms. It's a powerful posterior chain and full-body exercise.

O: Is it safe to do kettlebell workouts at home?

A: It can be safe to do kettlebell workouts at home, provided you prioritize proper form, have adequate space, and start with appropriate weights. Watching instructional videos and practicing in front of a mirror can help. However, seeking initial guidance from a qualified instructor is always recommended.

Q: Can kettlebell training replace my current cardio routine?

A: Kettlebell workouts offer a unique blend of cardiovascular and strength training, often referred to as metabolic conditioning. For many, they can effectively replace or supplement traditional cardio routines, providing a more comprehensive fitness stimulus.

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are kettlebell workouts good for you: Kettlebell: A Beginner's Guide to Strength Training and Effective Exercises for a Lean and Strong Physique (Easy and Effective Exercises and Workouts with Dumbbells to Burn Fat and Build Muscle) Alex Fox, 101-01-01 If you have ever wanted to learn how to use kettlebells the right way so you could get the best

results with them, then this is going to be the book you need After you have read this book. you will already be ahead of most people when it comes to learning the art of working out with kettlebells You will be able to know how to use them effectively and also know exalt what workouts to perform in order to get the fitness results that you desire. In the pages of this book, you'll discover: \cdot Colleen's story from overcoming mental blocks to breaking a world record \cdot Informative and practical basics of Hardstyle Kettlebell Technique \cdot Inspirational stories and testimonials from a diverse set of women \cdot Skill-building exercises and drills \cdot Whether or not the Kettlebell is right for you You might miss out on a fun and effective way to improve your overall well-being. Sure, there are other exercise options, but kettlebells offer a unique full-body workout that can be done at home with minimal equipment.

Exercises (The Ultimate Kettlebell Workouts for a Shredded Body) Bobbie Wright, 2022-01-13 The great thing about the kettlebell is that it allows you to perform resistance cardio. This means you are using cardiovascular training that increases your heartrate and helps you to burn fat. At the same time though, you are also lifting weight, which protects your muscle from breakdown and increases the challenge, thereby increasing the amount of calories burned and the amount of effort involved. What you will learn in this guide: The benefits of kettlebells How to purchase the right kettlebell How to make your own kettlebell cheaply The top kettlebell exercises that give you the best results Learn the best workouts that provide high intensity that will make you a kettlebell machine! Enter kettlebell training. In this book, you'll learn how it can help you get ripped and shredded and, more importantly, how to start with the right set of kettlebells, i.e., the right quality and weight. By the end of this short book, you'll be in a great position to start going for that ripped and shredded body you've always dreamed of using kettlebells. You have a great tool in your hands now. It's up to you if you'll use it to the hilt.

are kettlebell workouts good for you: Kettlebell Workouts And Challenges 4 Taco Fleur, 2023-08-17 Kettlebell workouts for AMRAP, FOR TIME, EMOM, Circuit, Interval, HIIT, and so much more. When you buy this book, you will get intelligently designed kettlebell workouts that deliver results for people at home with one or more kettlebells from beginner to advanced and always scalable. The book contains kettlebell strength workouts, AMRAP workouts, FOR TIME workouts, high-intensity interval workouts, flexibility and mobility workouts, endurance workouts, and so much more. The book contains many under 20 and 30-minute workouts for people who are limited on time. Just grab your kettlebell, pick a 12-minute workout, and get your calorie burn in for the day. You will also get strategies and plans to incorporate these workouts into a long-term progression for certain goals. For those who are not yet familiar with all kettlebell techniques, the book also includes tips on form and technique plus common mistakes. It's very rare that a double kettlebell workout from this book can't be performed with a single kettlebell and just performing the work on one side and then the other. Therefore, even if you have just one kettlebell, you can still complete the double kettlebell workouts and as you progress with your technique and strength, you can work your way up to double kettlebell work. Each of these workouts has been designed and completed by myself, they have been completed by other Cavemantrainers, and many of our private members. In other words, they have been tested before they got to you. When it comes to kettlebell challenges, usually, I include guite a few challenges in the book, this time, the book is full of workouts and I picked the best so that there was no need to include more than two challenges. There is so much info on one of the challenges that you really could spend the rest of your training days following the challenge and obtain some of the best results you've ever seen with your training. When I completed this challenge, I was in the best shape of my life. FORM AND TECHNIQUE FIRST WEIGHT AND REPS SECOND Cavemantraining, creating workouts since 2009. We have made it our mission to do things differently from the start and go against the grain. We're not stuck on one style or one way of doing things. We experiment, we analyze, we progress, and we create some of the best hybrid workouts out there. Cavemantraining is a pioneer in the kettlebell world. We've designed over one thousand unique and original kettlebell workouts. Each one has been carefully designed with a goal in mind,

so there's something for everyone looking to improve their strength through kettlebells. Since 2009, Cavemantraining has served over 18,000 online students, sold over 15,000 books, created videos with over 12 million views, and built online communities reaching over 150 thousand people. We hope you'll allow us to be a part of your journey as you discover and learn everything there is about the kettlebell. Who Will Benefit From Buying This Book? Literally, anyone who has at least one kettlebell and is interested in some of the world's best kettlebell workouts will benefit from buying this book. There are basic workouts, beginner workouts, complex, double kettlebell, and advanced exercises in this book, but it's for everyone. I provide clear instructions on how to perform two-kettlebell workouts if you only have one bell, and I explain alternatives and progressions so that you can complete the workout and work your way up to the more advanced exercise when they are used. This book is for those who are tired of performing boring workouts that just contain swings, presses, squats, and presses. This book is for those who want to venture further and expand their knowledge to see what's truly available in the kettlebell world. It's for people who want to benefit from endurance, cardio, strength, power, flexibility, mobility, hybrid workouts, and so much more exciting training.

are kettlebell workouts good for you: Kettlebell Workouts and Challenges V1.0 Taco Fleur, 2018-03-16 This book is targetted to at-home kettlebell enthusiasts, MMA and BJJ fighters, and crossfitters that use their open box time for kettlebell WODs. This book is even for budding trainers that want to know more about the Cavemantraining programs, and learn the basics on how to run them.programs, on how to run them. 40+ serious kettlebell workouts, 4 kettlebell challenges, many are paired with very detailed videos. - Beginners to advanced workouts. - How to score AMRAP workouts. - Finer details on many of the exercises. - Quality emphasis on warming-up and mobility. -Full details of the popular Thorax Workout included in this book. - Additional ideas on how to make your WODs even more popular and exciting. - Additional little tips and information for personal trainers. Each workout is 100% kettlebells, mixed with bodyweight, or mixed with other equipment. Some workouts will have alternatives, or progressions alternatives, or progressions. These are not shoddy quick workouts put together for a book, I've performed each and every workout listed in this book, and so have hundreds of others. -Taco Fleur This book is called Kettlebell Workouts and Challenges 1.0, obviously this book is then about the workouts and challenges, hence, I will be linking to a lot of external information rather than turning this into a book about kettlebell exercises, and / or technique, I I already have several books on those. This is not to say that this book does not contain technique or exercise information, but it is kept to a minimum, illustrated with many photos, while linking to more online info. The title is prefixed with 1.0 as we will be putting out plenty of more books with new workouts. BONUS: 1. Information for trainers on how to run your own Caveman Circuit, and Boot Camp. 2. Downloadable workout PDF that can be downloaded, printed and taken to the gym. 3. Downloadable kettlebell grip PDF that will improve your kettlebell training instantly. 4. Downloadable PDF that will improve your racking for resting and endurance. 5. Free kettlebell workouts mobile app for the Android.

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that yields amazing results.

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are kettlebell workouts good for you: Kettlebell: The Ultimate Kettlebell Workout to Lose Weight (The Exercise Guide for Women to Build Strength, Lean Muscle, and Self Confidence to Overcome Limiting Beliefs) David Gonzales, 101-01-01 You may have heard this already, but kettlebells have a strong reputation for being simply the best and most efficient fat burning tool, but the peculiar thing is that kettlebell workouts were never intended to be just for fat loss, for a long time kettlebell workouts were regarded as a formidable conditioning and training tool by athletes and special forces units. Just like them you can achieve the amazing results possible by kettlebell workouts, all the information is provided to you, in this book. You'll discover: • The correct weight, size, and number of kettlebells to use for any purpose • The top 30 kettlebell exercises, each fully illustrated, to get you into shape fast • The most effective kettlebell workouts for your abdomen to finally get that six-pack • How to automatically trigger muscle confusion to promote varied muscle development • The best diet plans for weight loss and optimum fat burning and much, much, more! This book will enable you to build lean muscle, burn calories, and gain a newfound sense of strength and confidence, regardless of your degree of exercise expertise. Discover the special advantages of kettlebell training for body transformation, muscular growth, and fat removal. Learn the fundamentals: Detailed instructions that walk you through the key kettlebell movements, guaranteeing proper form and optimizing results.

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beginners. By the end of this book, you will progress to the more skilled level and not just the beginner.

are kettlebell workouts good for you: Kettlebell Training Fundamentals Taco Fleur, 2018-03-01 What Will I Learn? - Use kettlebells safely and effectively for your own training, or that of others - Execute the four important movements in kettlebell training: swing, press, clean, and row - Understand all kettlebell grips that will bring your training to the next level - Learn the important things that are usually overlooked or rushed through - See a whole new world, not just white or black, learn that if it's safe, meet goals, it's good Contains hundreds of detailed photos, links to videos, and step by step instructions. Everything you need to learn kettlebell training, or how to teach others. Reviews: An extremely good read. Recommended. A kettlebell Great addition to any library users. I personally Have Gained more knowledge That will assist me with my journey using kettlebells as an enthusiast and an instructor. Bryan Trish (Kettlebell instructor and personal trainer) A great book for anyone wanting to integrate kettlebells into their workouts Taco covers a lot of information which will help you maximize your training. Links to videos are added bonus and assist with the technical aspects of kettlebell training. Mark Godwin (Director, Fit Biz UK)

are kettlebell workouts good for you: The Basics of Kettlebell Exercises M. Usman, John Davidson, 2015-09-06 Introduction Getting Started Chapter # 1: Know about kettlebell exercises Chapter # 2: Get the Ultimate Health Benefits Varieties of Kettlebell Exercises Chapter # 1: Introduction Chapter # 2: Double Kettlebell Squat Chapter # 3: Turkish Get Up Chapter # 4: Kettlebell Pushup Plus Chapter # 5: Russian Kettlebell Twist Workout for Burning Fat Chapter # 1: Introduction Chapter # 2: Double Handed Kettlebell Swing Chapter # 3: Clean Chapter # 4: Press Chapter #5: Push-Press Chapter #6: Single Leg RDL Chapter #7: Windmills Chapter #8: The Routine MMA Workout Kettlebell Duck Walk - 3x sets, 1 min break: Kettlebell Split Snatch - 3 sets, 5x reps each side: Kettlebell Split Jerk - 3x sets, 5x reps each: Conclusion References Author Bio Introduction In addition to being a fitness tool, the kettlebell has now become a very famous form of showmanship. It's a well-known fact that kettlebells pack a plethora of health benefits, but nowadays, kettlebells are becoming increasingly popular among sportsmen, fighters, wrestlers due to the countless muscular benefits they pack. Kettlebells offer one of the easiest and most affordable types of workout, and a large number of fitness experts and professionals are working on kettlebells. which makes the entire help and support process so much easier. This type of workout can be performed guite easily, as it does not require any kind of extra efforts to be put in. All you need is a medium sized kettlebell, some free space to workout in your home, and a firm concept about what you are going to do. If you want to know the basics about how kettlebell workouts operate and how you can be able to perform various workouts for getting ultimate health benefits, then you can take the advantage of this book, which will answer each and every query you have about the sport. You can take several actions while working with kettlebells, including pressing, floor pressing, overhead squats and rows, etc. All these postures will definitely help you out in getting what you want to achieve by making you able to practice all the types of workouts easily. In this book you will find all the ways by which you can do the workout without any problem. Not only this, but after going through this book, you will get to know the ultimate health benefits and the proven steps for getting the ultimate fat burning out of your body by doing some simple kettlebell workouts. This book will definitely help you in getting all the answers related to kettlebell workouts and the benefits related to it.

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and also to make notes. A whole online platform and social network for kettlebell enthusiasts is also included so that you can easily record your scoring for a workout, or you can be more specific and record against a task. You can also record notes for a workout, and you will collect all your favorite workouts in one easy-to-access place if you review/rate the workouts. The social network that is dedicated to kettlebell enthusiasts allows you to interact with others, create your kettlebell profile, find workout buddies, and so much more. In short, you are not just buying a book with the world's best kettlebell workouts. Who is this book for? This book is for anyone who is looking for exciting and effective routines with one kettlebell, two kettlebells, or hybrid workouts where kettlebell and bodyweight exercises are mixed. This book is for people who want to explore workouts that utilize mobility work for active recovery between intense tasks. Buy this book if you want to: Learn several workouts to incorporate into your routine Have your kettlebell workouts designed and in an easy-to-read format Have access to kettlebell workouts that focus on all types of goals Spice up your kettlebell training and achieve results Have workouts that you can scale to your level Be able to challenge yourself when ready Experience unique kettlebell workouts In this book, you will find short workouts, long workouts, easy workouts, hard workouts, fun workouts, mentally tough workouts, mobility workouts, power workouts, strength workouts, cardio workouts, and so much more. All workouts have been completed by myself, Anna, and many of our IKU™ members. Hence, they are not just some shoddy and quickly put-together scribbles that haven't been put to the test. As someone who is over half a century of age and what I consider trains tough, I am proud to say that I have never experienced any major injuries, no hip replacements or other surgeries, and pretty much never sick. I attribute this to training hard but training smart and becoming in tune with the body and mind. Of course, an important factor is also the right nutrition and mindset.

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