

1       **Using compositional analysis to explore the relationship between physical**  
2       **activity and cardiovascular health in children and adolescents with and**  
3       **without type 1 diabetes**

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40

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42 ZM conceived the study, collected the data, performed data and statistical analysis,  
43 and drafted the manuscript; MAM conceived the study, aided with physical activity  
44 data and statistical analysis and drafting of the manuscript; KM conceived the study,  
45 aided physical activity data and statistical analysis and drafting of the manuscript, JWG  
46 assisted in the design of the study, supported data collection and drafting of the  
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54 Declaration of Interest

55 The authors declare that they have no competing interests

56

57 Ethics approval statement

58 This study was approved by the National Health Service Research Ethics Committee  
59 (16/NE/0082 195492), with written informed assent and consent obtained prior to  
60 participation from all children and their parents/guardians, respectively.

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69 Abstract

70 The aim of this study was to use a compositional analysis approach to account for the  
71 inherent co-dependencies between behaviours and to explore how daily movement  
72 behaviours influence cardiovascular health in children with and without T1D.

73

74 Augmentation index, pulse wave velocity (PWV) and heart rate variability were  
75 measured in 20 children with (11.9±1.6 years) and 17 children without T1D (11.6±2.2  
76 years). Subsequently, physical activity and sleep were assessed at 20 Hz for 28  
77 consecutive days using a wrist-worn accelerometer. Compositional analyses were  
78 utilised to explore the relative effects of each movement behaviour and the overall  
79 movement complex on cardiovascular parameters, with predictive modelling used to  
80 explore the effects of reallocating 20 mins between behaviours.

81

82 Arterial stiffness markers were most influenced by the total movement composition,  
83 whereas autonomic function was most influenced by sedentary time and sleep relative  
84 to all other behaviours. Reallocation of time from moderate-to-vigorous physical  
85 activity (MVPA) to any other behaviour was predicted to negatively affect all  
86 cardiovascular measures, independent of disease status, whereas reallocating time to  
87 MVPA was consistently predicted to improve all outcome measures. Additionally, the  
88 same intensity of physical activity appeared to be more potent for cardiovascular  
89 health in T1D children compared to non-diabetic peers.

90

91 Intensity, rather than volume, of physical activity may be key in reducing risk of  
92 premature adverse changes in cardiovascular health, whereas increasing time in  
93 MVPA could potentially the slow progression of cardiovascular aging in children with  
94 diabetes.

95

96 *Introduction*

97 Physical activity research has predominantly explored the effect of isolated movement  
98 behaviours on health in various populations and for various health outcomes,  
99 particularly cardiovascular health <sup>1,2</sup>. Specifically, moderate-to-vigorous physical  
100 activity (MVPA), one of the most consistently explored movement behaviours, is well  
101 established to have a positive effect on cardiovascular health in both healthy <sup>3-5</sup> and  
102 clinical populations <sup>6,7</sup>, whereas prolonged periods spent in sedentary pursuits exert a  
103 negative influence, independent of physical activity <sup>8,9</sup>. However, the concentration of  
104 the majority of these studies on a single movement behaviour, which in the case of  
105 MVPA typically accounts for less than 4% of the day <sup>10</sup>, is not only unlikely to provide  
106 a representative insight into habitual physical activity behaviours, and indeed their  
107 relationship with health, but also fails to consider the inherent co-dependencies  
108 between behaviours <sup>10,11</sup>.

109

110 Recognising the importance of the inter-relationships between movement behaviours,  
111 compositional analyses have been used to explore the combined and relative effects  
112 of sedentary time, physical activities and sleep on various cardiometabolic health  
113 indicators <sup>10,11</sup>. Compositional analysis utilises log-ratio transformational techniques to  
114 determine the relative time spent in each movement behaviour as a proportion of the  
115 24-hour period <sup>10,11</sup>. The use of compositional analysis therefore accounts for the finite  
116 and bounded nature of movement behaviours within a day <sup>12</sup>, and more appropriately  
117 explores the relative associations with health outcomes. Compositional analysis is  
118 therefore highly valuable in providing an insight into the relative importance of daily  
119 movement behaviours for health. However, the majority of studies using compositional  
120 analyses to date have relied on a single week of movement behaviours which does  
121 not account for potentially meaningful variations in individual movement behaviours  
122 and their impact on health <sup>13,14,15,16</sup>. Indeed, the notion that physical activity within an  
123 individual may fluctuate around a mean, the ActivityStat hypotheses <sup>17,18</sup>, is an  
124 important concept that warrants further investigation using compositional analysis  
125 methods.

126

127 Movement behaviours such as moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) are  
128 widely accepted to be crucial factors in the disease management of type 1 diabetes  
129 (T1D)<sup>7</sup>, not least given its potent role in minimising the risk of cardiovascular disease

130 (CVD), the most prevalent long-term complication for those with T1D<sup>19</sup>. Pre-clinical  
131 markers for CVD risk include arterial stiffening and impaired cardiac autonomic  
132 function which may be evident as early as two years post diagnosis in children <sup>20-22</sup>. A  
133 greater volume of MVPA is associated with a more favourable central stiffening and  
134 cardiac autonomic activity in those with T1D <sup>23,24</sup>. However, children with T1D have  
135 been consistently reported to accrue less MVPA than their non-diabetic peers, with  
136 many studies finding that this population does not meet the recommended 60 minutes  
137 of MVPA per day deemed necessary to achieve these risk-reducing benefits <sup>25-27</sup>.  
138 Potentially as a compensation for these lower levels of MVPA, children with T1D  
139 demonstrate significantly greater volumes of light intensity physical activity (LPA) than  
140 non-diabetic peers <sup>27</sup>. In healthy children, LPA is beneficial for arterial stiffening and  
141 autonomic function, albeit to a lesser extent than MVPA <sup>8,28</sup>, indicating significantly  
142 greater volumes of LPA may be necessary to achieve the same health-associated  
143 benefits as 60 minutes of MVPA. However, no study to date has explored the relative  
144 effects of these behaviours in children with T1D.

145

146 Prolonged periods of sedentary time, increasingly observed in youth, are associated  
147 with greater insulin resistance and less favourable lipid profiles <sup>11,29,30</sup>, both of which  
148 have detrimental effects on glycaemic control and CVD risk in children with T1D <sup>31</sup>.  
149 Given that behaviours are known to track from childhood to adolescence, and beyond,  
150 the increasing sedentary time in children is especially concerning, potentially further  
151 exacerbating the risks of premature, and possibly preventable, deleterious changes in  
152 cardiovascular health <sup>32</sup>. Consequently, a much greater understanding of the effects  
153 of all movement behaviours in T1D is crucial to identify important targets for  
154 intervention, to provide recommendations for clinical teams and, ultimately, to reduce  
155 the risk of both short- and long-term complications.

156

157 Therefore, the primary aim of this study was to utilise compositional analyses to  
158 explore the associations of daily movement behaviours with markers of cardiovascular  
159 health in children with and their peers without diabetes. Furthermore, the secondary  
160 aims were to investigate how reallocating time between behaviours is predicted to  
161 influence key cardiovascular measures and to ascertain whether the composition of  
162 movement behaviours fluctuates across a four-week monitoring period.

163

164 *Methods*

165 In total, 48 children and adolescents ( $11.9 \pm 2.1$  years; 29 T1D; 20 girls) were recruited  
166 from paediatric diabetes clinics and local schools in South Wales, with all procedures  
167 conducted within local outpatient clinics or the research laboratories at Swansea  
168 University. Participants who expressed interest were referred by their paediatric  
169 diabetes team to the first author for additional information. Written informed consent  
170 and assent were obtained from parents/guardians and participants, respectively, with  
171 all assessments and measurements, other than physical activity, collected over a two-  
172 hour period. Physical activity was then monitored over 28-consecutive days. Ethics  
173 approval was obtained from National Health Service Research Ethics Committee  
174 (16/NE/0082 195492), with all procedures conducted in accordance with the  
175 Declaration of Helsinki. General exclusion criteria were any cardiovascular conditions,  
176 kidney or metabolic disease, or hypertension, with diabetes-specific criteria including  
177 a diabetes duration of less than one year or those identified by the respective diabetes  
178 team as unsuitable for participation due to complications or currently demonstrating  
179 poor glycaemic control ( $\text{HbA1c} \geq 80.0 \text{ mmol}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ ). Participants above this level were  
180 at a significantly increased risk of diabetic ketoacidosis and other complications <sup>33</sup>.  
181 Blood glucose control, according to glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c), was obtained from  
182 the latest reading present in medical records.

183

184 *Anthropometrics*

185 Height, sitting height and body mass were measured to the nearest 0.1 cm, 0.1 cm  
186 and 0.1 kg, with the use of a calibrated stadiometer (Holtain, Crymych Dyfed, UK), a  
187 sitting height stadiometer (Harpenden Sitting Height Table model 607VR, Holtain Ltd,  
188 Crymych, Pembrokeshire, UK), and electronic scales (Seca 803, Seca, Chino, CA,  
189 USA), respectively. Body mass index (BMI) was subsequently derived. An estimation  
190 of maturity was calculated using sex-specific maturity offset equations, which utilise  
191 height, sitting height, leg length and age to predict the approximate time in years away  
192 from the greatest rate of increase in height during puberty, or peak height velocity  
193 (PHV) <sup>34</sup>. The time away from PHV was then employed to classify participants as pre  
194 -PHV, peri-PHV or post-PHV <sup>34</sup>.

195

196 *Arterial stiffness*

197 A non-invasive assessment of arterial stiffness was conducted with all participants  
198 using an osillometric device (Vicorder, Skidmore Medical, Bristol, UK) and  
199 accompanying blood pressure cuffs (D.E.Hokanson Inc, Bellevue, WA, USA). The  
200 assessment was conducted after a five-minute resting period in a quiet environment,  
201 to ensure a stable heart rate and blood pressure, with the participant in the supine  
202 position. Pulse wave analysis (PWA) was conducted with a blood pressure cuff over  
203 the brachial artery on the upper left arm. Initially, a stable blood pressure was acquired  
204 to inform the inbuilt automated function. Subsequently, pulse pressure (PP) was  
205 derived with a transfer function employed to derive augmentation pressure (AP) and  
206 augmentation index (Alx), as an estimation of central stiffening. The AP was derived  
207 from the systolic waveform as the pressure difference between peaks one and two,  
208 whereas Alx was calculated as AP as a percentage of pulse pressure <sup>35</sup>. Aortic pulse  
209 wave velocity (aPWV) was assessed with a partial and brachial cuff placed over the  
210 carotid and femoral arteries, respectively. The distance between the sternal notch and  
211 the centre of the femoral cuff, via the umbilicus, was measured. The time taken for a  
212 pulse wave to travel between the two cuffs was recorded according to the carotid and  
213 femoral waveforms, giving PWV in  $\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ . Both processes were repeated a minimum  
214 of three times, or until at least two measures within 5 mmHg, 5% or  $0.5 \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  were  
215 obtained.

216

#### 217 Cardiac Autonomic Activity

218 A three-lead Reynolds CF Holter monitor (Spacelabs Medical Ltd, Hertford, UK),  
219 sampling at 1,024 Hz, was used to obtain a short-term, 12-bit electrocardiogram (ECG)  
220 recording from which RR intervals were obtained. Electrodes were positioned at three  
221 points - the manubrium and the V5 and V5R positions on the anterior of the torso, with  
222 placement verified by visually checking each of the three channels prior to recording.  
223 A 15-minute rest period in a supine position was followed by a five-minute recording  
224 of paced breathing at a rate of six breaths per minute. The ECG recording was  
225 processed to identify QRS cycles resulting from sinus node depolarisation,  
226 disregarding abnormal cycles, with the normal cardiac (RR) intervals extracted using  
227 the Reynolds Pathfinder ECG analysis system (Spacelabs Medical Ltd, Hertford, UK).  
228 The extracted RR intervals were then visually inspected to identify and remove any  
229 artefacts before being analysed using Kubios-HRV V3.0 (Biomedical Signal Analysis  
230 Group, Department of Applied Physics, University of Kuopio, Finland) to derive heart

231 rate variability (HRV) indices in the time and frequency domains. Specifically, the root  
232 mean square of successive differences (RMSSD), and low frequency (LF) and high  
233 frequency (HF), both absolute and normalised, were obtained to give an estimation of  
234 sympathetic and parasympathetic activation, respectively, at rest <sup>36</sup>.

235

### 236 *Habitual physical activity*

237 Participants were asked to wear a triaxial accelerometer sampling at 20 Hz  
238 (GENEActiv, Activinsights Ltd, Cambridgeshire, UK) on their right wrist for 28-  
239 consecutive days, 24-hours a day. The GENEActiv has been validated and reported  
240 to provide reliable representations of physical activity behaviours in children <sup>37,38</sup>.  
241 Accelerometer data was downloaded from each device utilising the GENEActiv PC  
242 software v2.2 (Activinsights Ltd, Cambridgeshire, UK), with the GGIR package  
243 (<https://cran.rproject.org/web/packages/GGIR/vignettes/GGIR.html>), built in R  
244 (<https://cran.r-project.org>), employed for signal processing to convert triaxial data to  
245 omnidirectional acceleration. This omnidirectional data was then processed using the  
246 Euclidian Norm Minus One ENMO; <sup>39</sup>, reduced to five second epochs and converted  
247 to milligravity-based acceleration <sup>40</sup>. Wear-time criteria was applied to the processed  
248 data with  $\geq 16$  hours per day over three weekdays and one weekend day required for  
249 inclusion in further analysis <sup>41</sup>. Raw acceleration thresholds, derived according to the  
250 Hildebrand et al. <sup>42</sup> predictive equations, were applied to classify sedentary time ( $\leq$   
251 23.5 mg), LPA ( $> 23.5$ -191.6 mg) and MVPA ( $\geq 191.6$  mg). Sleep was determined  
252 according to the Van Hees et al. <sup>43</sup> sleep algorithm as no arm angle change of  $> 5^\circ$   
253 for  $\geq$  five minutes.

254

### 255 *Data analysis*

256 Compositional analyses were conducted by converting the time spent in each  
257 behaviour to a proportion of the overall recorded time, providing the geometric mean  
258 for each behaviour and grouping as relative ratios of the overall composition. The  
259 pairwise log contrasts between the geometric means of all behaviour combinations  
260 was used to produce variation matrices for the total sample and each grouping.  
261 Isometric log ratios (ILRs) were produced by converting the overall composition of  
262 movement behaviours so all behaviour means added up one. The converted  
263 geometric means were then inputted into four sequential linear regression models for  
264 each cardiovascular measure, with one behaviour compared to the remaining



265 behaviours for in each model and covarying for age, sex, maturity and disease status  
266 for all models. The p-value for each set of models was obtained as the significance of  
267 the model, with the initial coefficient and p-value for each movement behaviour in  
268 sequential models taken as an indication of the effect and significance on the outcome  
269 measure. Predictive change models, conducted by back-transforming the mean of  
270 each behaviour produced in the ILRs to the geometric behavioural composition for  
271 each group, were then employed to explore the influence of reallocating 20 minutes  
272 from one behaviour to another on cardiovascular measures<sup>10</sup>.

273

274 Twenty minutes, as opposed to the 10 minutes used in previous studies <sup>10,11</sup>, was  
275 chosen to explore the impact of meeting physical activity guidelines for children with  
276 T1D, as substituting 20 minutes to MVPA would increase time in this behaviour to the  
277 recommended 60 minutes per day. Predictive changes were expressed as percentage  
278 change for each cardiovascular measure, based on the group mean, then compared  
279 to the percentage smallest worthwhile change (SWC%) to identify a meaningful and  
280 significant difference.

281

### 282 *Statistical analysis*

283 Statistical analyses were performed in IBM SPSS Version 22.0 (IBM SPSS Statistics  
284 for Macintosh, IBM, Portsmouth, UK) or the compositions package (V1.40), and its  
285 dependencies in R (<http://cran.r-project.org>). Significance was set as  $p \leq 0.05$ , with all  
286 data expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD, unless otherwise stated. The minimum clinically  
287 important difference (MCID) was identified as more representative of a significant  
288 change in cardiovascular measures than the typically employed one SD <sup>44</sup>. Therefore,  
289 the MCID for cardiovascular measures was represented by the smallest worthwhile  
290 change (SWC) and the percentage SWC (SWC%), calculated according to the mean  
291 of cardiovascular outcomes for each group <sup>44</sup>. Potential differences in all measures,  
292 according to disease status and sex, were explored with the use of a multivariate  
293 ANOVA with Bonferroni correction. The movement composition for both groups was  
294 derived for each separate week and for increasing measurement durations (14, 21  
295 and 28 days), with a repeated measures ANOVA with Bonferroni correction  
296 subsequently used to explore whether the compositions varied between weeks and/or  
297 with increasing measurement duration.

298

299 *Results*

300 The final sample consisted of 37 participants (20 T1D; 16 girls) following the exclusion  
301 of 11 participants (9 T1D and 2 non-diabetes) for monitor failure or failure to meet the  
302 weekly wear-time criteria. No significant differences were found between those  
303 included and excluded regarding age, anthropometrics, or maturity ( $p > 0.05$ ).  
304 Participant anthropometrics, physical activity outcomes and cardiovascular measures  
305 are presented in Table 1. Regardless of disease status, girls were more mature than  
306 boys (1.32 yrs,  $F_{1,33}=6.39$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and engaged in significantly less MVPA (-27.6  
307  $\text{min}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ ,  $F_{1,33}=4.66$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Furthermore, comparing by sex showed boys  
308 engaged in similar volumes of sedentary time and sleep, but more MVPA, relative to  
309 girls, regardless of disease status (Figure 1). The HbA1c level for all participants with  
310 T1D was above the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)  
311 recommended levels of  $48 \text{ mmol}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  <sup>45</sup>.

312

313 \*\*Insert Table 1 Here\*\*

314

315 \*\*Insert Table 2 Here\*\*

316

317 \*\*Insert Figure 1 Here\*\*

318

319 No significant differences were found between the daily average composition of  
320 movement behaviours for each week of the monitoring period ( $p > 0.05$ ). Therefore,  
321 subsequent analyses were completed using the daily average across all four weeks  
322 for all available physical activity data for each participant.

323

324 In the full sample, participants spent the majority of waking hours being sedentary or  
325 engaged in LPA, with MVPA accounting for less than 4% of waking time and sleep  
326 accounting for the greatest percentage of the 24-hour period (Table 3). According to  
327 the variation matrices (Table 4), LPA and sleep had the greatest co-dependence,  
328 followed by LPA with sedentary time and sedentary time with sleep, whereas MVPA  
329 showed the least co-dependence with all other behaviours. Furthermore, overall  
330 MVPA was found to account for 85% of the day-to-day variance in an average 24  
331 hours, despite only consisting of 3.5% of the day, further supporting the low co-  
332 dependence of this behaviour in comparison to the remaining behaviours.

333

334

**\*\*Insert Table 3 Here\*\***

335

336

**\*\*Insert Table 4 Here\*\***

337

338 Participants with T1D accrued significantly less time in MVPA and slept marginally  
339 less but engaged in significantly more LPA when compared to non-diabetic peers  
340 (Figure 2).

341

342

**\*\*Insert Figure 2 Here\*\***

343

344 The average composition of movement behaviours for the whole sample, accounting  
345 for sex, age and disease status, was a significant determinant of PP and PWV (Table  
346 5). Additionally, sleep and sedentary time were negatively associated with PP and  
347 RMSSD ( $p \leq 0.05$ ), respectively.

348

349

**\*\*Insert Table 5 Here\*\***

350

351 As shown in Table 6, the reallocation of time from MVPA to any other behaviour was  
352 predicted to negatively affect all cardiovascular measures, independent of disease  
353 status. In contrast, allocating time to MVPA from other behaviours was consistently  
354 predicted to improve all outcome measures. Specifically, the greatest percentage  
355 changes, deemed significant according to specific SWC%, were observed with the  
356 substitution of 20 minutes from MVPA to the remaining behaviours, which was  
357 associated with an increased PP, PWV, and LF, and decreased HF in children with  
358 T1D. Increases in PWV were also found with the reallocation of 20 minutes of MVPA  
359 to LPA or sleep and in LF with MVPA to sleep, for healthy peers (Table 6).

360

361

**\*\*Insert Table 6 Here\*\***

362

363 *Discussion*

364 The current study is the first to utilise compositional analysis to investigate the  
365 combined and individual effect of movement behaviours, relative to one another, on  
366 cardiovascular health in children with and without T1D. Overall, arterial stiffness

367 markers were most influenced by the overall average movement composition,  
368 whereas autonomic function was most influenced by sedentary time and sleep,  
369 relative to all other behaviours. Reallocation of time from MVPA to any other behaviour  
370 was predicted to negatively affect all cardiovascular measures, independent of  
371 disease status, whereas allocating time to MVPA was consistently predicted to  
372 improve all outcome measures. Additionally, the same intensity of physical activity  
373 may be more potent for cardiovascular health in T1D children, compared to non-  
374 diabetic peers.

375

376 An aim of the present study was to explore how the composition of habitual movement  
377 behaviours changed over a month, and to subsequently explore how the postulated  
378 fluctuations affected arterial and autonomic health. However, no significant differences  
379 in composition were evident between weeks for any habitual behaviour, irrespective  
380 of sex or disease status. This lack of significant variation over time may support the  
381 ActivityStat hypothesis, which postulates that physical activity behaviours fluctuate  
382 around a mean, with extremes above or below this mean followed by reciprocal  
383 changes to maintain an overall balance <sup>17</sup>. Conversely, studies have refuted the  
384 possible presence of an ActivityStat, with Dale et al. <sup>46</sup> and Saunders et al. <sup>30</sup> finding  
385 no compensatory increase in physical activity in children when school-based activities  
386 were restricted and sitting time increased. One potential reason for the equivocal  
387 findings regarding a compensatory effect in children may be the different time frames  
388 over which fluctuation and cycles of movement behaviours occur, both between and  
389 within individuals <sup>47</sup>. However, little research has sought to identify a typical time frame  
390 for such fluctuations in children and adolescents, likely due to accelerometer  
391 monitoring only relatively recently providing high-resolution acceleration data for  
392 durations longer than seven days <sup>48</sup>. Future research is therefore warranted to  
393 investigate the possible fluctuations and repetitive cycles in behavioural patterns and  
394 how these influence key health outcomes.

395

396 Research in children with T1D and the general paediatric population has found that,  
397 individually, MVPA and LPA may slow the rate of premature stiffening and decline in  
398 the ANS function, likely due to the anti-inflammatory effects of physical activity and/or  
399 to the stabilisation of glycaemic extremes <sup>24,49</sup>. Conversely, prolonged periods of  
400 sedentary time have been shown to increase insulin resistance and to be associated

401 with a deleterious lipid profile <sup>29,30</sup>. However, compositional analyses indicates that  
402 when these behaviours are considered as a proportional whole, they do not  
403 necessarily replicate the influences observed on health outcomes when considered in  
404 isolation <sup>10,11</sup>. Specifically, the present study found that the average behaviour  
405 composition was significantly associated with indicators of arterial stiffening but not  
406 HRV indices, highlighting that neither age, sex, disease status or movement  
407 behaviours fully explain the variances in autonomic function. Given the potent effect  
408 of cardiorespiratory fitness on ANS function <sup>28,50</sup>, future studies should consider its  
409 mediatory role in the relationship between movement and sleep behaviours and  
410 autonomic health.

411

412 An increased sedentary time, relative to other behaviours, was associated with lower  
413 central stiffening, although it had a significant deleterious effect on parasympathetic  
414 activity. This relationship between sedentary time and decreased central stiffening is  
415 discordant with previous research assessing the individual effects of sedentary time  
416 in children, which were unequivocally negative <sup>8,28,30</sup>. However, using a compositional  
417 approach, Carson et al. <sup>11</sup> found sedentary time had a limited influence on  
418 cardiometabolic markers, including blood pressure and lipid profile. Comparisons to  
419 the earlier studies using an isolated behaviour approach should be limited but the  
420 explanation for this unexpected finding is unclear. Whilst the potential role of a small  
421 sample size should not be discounted, this relationship may also reflect the complex  
422 interaction between activity and arterial health such that high levels of physical activity  
423 are not always associated with beneficial changes to arterial stiffness<sup>51-53</sup>.  
424 Alternatively, the observed relationship could reflect compensatory behaviours,  
425 whereby those who are more active have been found to subsequently compensate  
426 with high sedentary time<sup>54</sup>, therefore highlighting the need for future research including  
427 all movement behaviours. Discordant with previous research <sup>6,55</sup>, LPA was associated  
428 with an increased central stiffening. Indeed, previous research has shown that LPA in  
429 children with T1D is beneficial for health, potentially reducing insulin resistance <sup>6,55</sup>. In  
430 the current study, time in MVPA, but not LPA, showed more favourable trends for PP  
431 and aortic stiffness, which is in accord with previous research in people with T1D and  
432 indicates that intensity of physical activity may be key to preventing premature arterial  
433 stiffening <sup>49</sup>. Indeed, in T1D, MVPA is hypothesised to improve insulin sensitivity which  
434 is particularly important for adolescents, as puberty is associated with an increase in

435 insulin resistance, thereby increasing risk of glycaemic extremes and, in turn, stiffening  
436 and autonomic decline <sup>6,24,56</sup>. Taken together, these findings highlight the importance  
437 of exploring each behaviour as part of the daily movement continuum to identify  
438 important associations between daily behaviours and key health outcomes. Overall,  
439 this approach can aid future intervention development seeking to reduce disease  
440 burden and risk of future complications.

441

442 The greatest predicted change was observed when reallocating time to and from  
443 MVPA for all cardiovascular measures, with the most significant predicted changes  
444 observed in those with T1D. The significant change in cardiovascular measures with  
445 changes in MVPA is in line with previous research which found that less time in MVPA  
446 was associated with less favourable central stiffening and autonomic function in  
447 children with <sup>8,28,57</sup> and without T1D <sup>24,49</sup>. Improvements in cardiovascular measures  
448 with increases in MVPA, at the expense of other behaviours, further reinforces the  
449 importance of this behaviour for the management of T1D, especially as physical  
450 activity levels typically decline with age <sup>32</sup>, and are lower in T1D than their non-diabetic  
451 peers, irrespective of age <sup>58</sup>. This therefore highlights the importance of meeting the  
452 recommended 60 minutes of MVPA per day <sup>25</sup>, especially for children with T1D.

453

454 Discordant with Farabi et al. <sup>59</sup> and Monzon et al. <sup>60</sup>, who found that deprived sleep  
455 was associated with poor glucose control and an increased risk of cardiovascular  
456 complications, the present study found that reallocating sleep time to other behaviours  
457 was predicted to be associated with improvements in central stiffening and vagal  
458 modulation. Specifically, the present findings indicate that reallocating 20 minutes of  
459 sleep to MVPA may be associated with significant improvement for central stiffening  
460 and parasympathetic activity for children with T1D, thereby suggesting MVPA may be  
461 of equal, if not greater, importance than sleep. In addition, it is pertinent to note that  
462 the smaller changes from the reallocation of 20 minutes to and from LPA indicates that  
463 more than 20 minutes is likely necessary to elicit significant changes in cardiovascular  
464 health. Indeed, previous research in healthy children demonstrates that LPA can  
465 positively effect cardiometabolic and arterial health <sup>61-63</sup>, and has been suggested to  
466 be an alternative target to MVPA <sup>63</sup>. However, while LPA can positively influence  
467 health for children with T1D, the relative time that needs to be displaced is  
468 considerably larger than MVPA, and would most likely necessitate a reduction in

469 sedentary time, given the importance of sleep and MVPA in this population.  
470 Furthermore, the difference in findings between LPA and MVPA further emphasise  
471 that the intensity, and not total volume, of physical activity may be key to preventing  
472 premature increases in arterial stiffening and decline in autonomic function in T1D.

473

474 A major strength of the present study was the use of compositional analyses to explore  
475 how all daily movement behaviours influence cardiovascular health in a paediatric  
476 clinical population, rather than exploring these behaviours in isolation. Additionally, the  
477 use of predictive modelling regarding the possible effect of reallocating time from one  
478 behaviour to another was a key novelty in those with T1D and could inform targets for  
479 future interventions in similar populations. Furthermore, the inclusion of 28 days of  
480 habitual movement behaviours allowed us to account for potential behavioural  
481 variations and more reliably explore the relationship between physical activity and  
482 health. However, this study is not without limitations. Specifically, compositional  
483 analyses models may be susceptible to outliers, therefore the relatively small sample  
484 size included may limit generalisability. It is also pertinent to note that the analysis was  
485 limited to the whole sample, as opposed to each individual group for disease status  
486 and sex and therefore is an important area that warrants further investigation when  
487 possible. Furthermore, significant differences were evident in the maturity status of the  
488 participants, with healthy girls deemed pubertal, whereas all other remaining  
489 participants were pre-pubertal. This was statistically accounted for in the present study  
490 but future studies should consider the influence of maturity independently.  
491 Furthermore, while the predictive models provide valuable insight as to predictive  
492 change, they do not indicate whether the changes would be acute or chronic, nor how  
493 long the change in behaviour needs to be implemented in order for these changes to  
494 occur. It is also pertinent to note that the present subsample of children with T1D could  
495 be considered somewhat biased with regards to being more physically active and  
496 therefore this may have influenced glycaemic control. This is an important area for  
497 future research. Finally, the large variability observed in the cardiovascular measures  
498 is likely a consequence of the small sample size, nonetheless the variability of these  
499 measures is comparable to that reported elsewhere for those of a similar age<sup>64</sup>.

500

501 In conclusion, intensity, not just the overall volume, of physical activity may be a key  
502 factor in reducing risk of premature negative changes in autonomic and arterial health

503 for children, with and without T1D. Moreover, increasing time in MVPA, by substituting  
504 20 minutes from any other behaviour, has the potential to slow progression of  
505 autonomic decline and central arterial stiffening in children with T1D.

506



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694

695 **Table 1.** Participant anthropometric characteristics and glycaemic control, according  
 696 to disease status and sex.

	T1D (n = 20)		Non-Diabetes (n = 17)	
	Girls (n = 10)	Boys (n = 10)	Girls (n = 6)	Boys (n = 11)
Age (yrs)	12.1 ± 1.1	11.7 ± 2.0	11.8 ± 2.3	11.4 ± 2.0
BMI (kg·m <sup>-2</sup> )	21.8 ± 4.3	19.8 ± 3.8	19.0 ± 4.7	19.2 ± 4.2
BMIz	1.2 ± 0.8	0.6 ± 1.1	0.2 ± 1.2	0.5 ± 1.3
Maturity offset (yrs)	0.34 ± 1.46*	-1.76 ± 1.69	-0.30 ± 1.92*	-2.19 ± 1.75
HbA1c (mmol·mol <sup>-1</sup> )	76.3 ± 13.6	65.4 ± 11.9	-	-
HbA1c (%)	9.1 ± 1.3	8.1 ± 1.1	-	-
Total-c (mmol·l <sup>-1</sup> )	4.3 ± 0.4	4.1 ± 0.3	-	-
LDL-c (mmol·l <sup>-1</sup> )	2.5 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.3	-	-
Disease duration (yrs)	4.7 ± 3.5	5.4 ± 3.2	-	-

697 Data is presented as mean ±SD. Body mass index (BMI), glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c), total cholesterol (total-c), total  
 698 cholesterol (Total-c), low density lipoprotein (LDL-c). \* A significant difference between sexes within a disease group.  
 699

700 **Table 2.** Arterial and autonomic outcomes, according to disease status and sex.

	T1D		Non-Diabetes	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
PP (mmHg)	55 ± 11	59 ± 10	56 ± 16	58 ± 9
AIx (%)	15.1 ± 5.8	12.1 ± 7.1	17.3 ± 6.3	13.3 ± 5.9
MAP (mmHg)	84.3 ± 7.8	80.3 ± 5.2	84.1 ± 6.5	86.1 ± 4.7
PWV (m·sec <sup>-1</sup> )	5.24 ± 0.58	4.96 ± 0.66	4.66 ± 0.90	4.74 ± 0.66
RMSSD (ms)	53.5 ± 26.9	75.69 ± 37.46	76.6 ± 34.7	66.8 ± 53.6
LF (Hz)	6,519 ± 6,882	5,367 ± 2,976	4,860 ± 4,285	5,632 ± 8,503
HF (Hz)	1,349 ± 1545	3,468 ± 4050	1,430 ± 1279	2,577 ± 3,699
LF (nu)	79.2 ± 16.5	69.1 ± 24.9	75.1 ± 16.8	66.2 ± 19.4
HF (nu)	20.7 ± 16.4	30.8 ± 24.9	24.9 ± 16.7	33.8 ± 19.3

Data is presented as mean ±SD. Pulse pressure (PP), augmentation index (AIx), mean arterial pressure (MAP), pulse wave velocity (PWV), root mean square of successive standard deviations of NN intervals (RMSSD), low frequency (LF), high frequency (HF).

702 **Table 3.** Time spent in each movement behaviour and asleep according to disease  
 703 status, calculated as the arithmetic and geometric mean and as a percentage of a  
 704 given 24-hour period.

		SED	LPA	MVPA	SLEEP
Overall	Mean (min·day <sup>-1</sup> )	435.3	467.2	61.8	475.1
	Geometric Mean (min·day <sup>-1</sup> )	436.0	472.8	50.2	481.0
	Percentage of 24 hours (%)	30.3	32.8	3.5	33.4
T1D	Mean (min·day <sup>-1</sup> )	435.9	486.4	48.0	469.6
	Geometric Mean (min·day <sup>-1</sup> )	434.9	491.6	42.8	470.7
	Percentage of 24 hours (%)	30.2	34.1	3.0	32.7
Non-Diabetes	Mean (min·day <sup>-1</sup> )	434.6	444.6	78.1	481.6
	Geometric Mean (min·day <sup>-1</sup> )	436.5	450.7	60.5	492.4
	Percentage of 24 hours (%)	30.3	31.3	4.2	34.2

705 Sedentary time (ST), light physical activity (LPA), moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA).

706 **Table 4.** Pair-wise log-ratio variation matrix for sedentary time, LPA, MVPA, and sleep  
 707 for the overall sample and according to disease status.

		SED	LPA	MVPA	SLEEP
Overall	SED	-	0.021	-0.188	0.039
	LPA	0.021	-	-0.067	0.006
	MVPA	-0.188	-0.067	-	-0.103
	SLEEP	0.039	0.006	-0.103	-
T1D	SED	-	0.014	-0.096	-0.004
	LPA	0.014	-	-0.036	-0.003
	MVPA	-0.096	-0.036	-	-0.037
	SLEEP	-0.004	-0.003	-0.037	-
Non-Diabetes	SED	-	0.024	-0.298	0.091
	LPA	0.024	-	-0.082	0.014
	MVPA	-0.298	-0.082	-	-0.182
	SLEEP	0.091	0.014	-0.182	-

708 Sedentary time (SED), light physical activity (LPA), moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA).



709 **Table 5.** Compositional linear regression model showing the association of movement  
 710 and sleep behaviours and each measure of arterial health in the overall sample,  
 711 adjusted for age, sex, maturity and disease status.

712

	Model									
	p	$\gamma_{\text{SED}}$	p	$\gamma_{\text{LPA}}$	p	$\gamma_{\text{MVPA}}$	p	$\gamma_{\text{SLEEP}}$	p	
PP	0.06	3.31	0.32	6.87	0.11	-3.31	0.09	-6.87*	0.05	
Aix	0.52	-0.74	0.74	1.74	0.54	1.08	0.40	-2.08	0.36	
MAP	0.28	-1.97	0.35	-2.25	0.41	1.29	0.29	2.94	0.18	
PWV	0.06	-0.19	0.34	0.14	0.56	-0.14	0.27	0.17	0.44	
RMSSD	0.30	-28.94*	0.05	18.13	0.31	-3.06	0.70	13.87	0.35	
LF	0.17	-2.25	0.73	-8.09	0.34	-1.76	0.64	12.10	0.09	
HF	0.17	2.24	0.73	8.05	0.34	1.75	0.64	-12.04	0.09	

Sequential rotated ILR modelling for each arterial health measure, adjusted for age, sex, maturation and disease status. Beta-coefficient ( $\gamma$ ), Sedentary time (SED), light intensity physical activity (LPA), moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA), pulse pressure (PP), augmentation index (Aix), mean arterial pressure (MAP), pulse wave velocity (PWV), root mean square of successive standard deviations of NN intervals (RMSSD), low frequency (LF), high frequency (HF). Regression coefficients relate to the change in log-ratio for a given behaviour, relative to other behaviours. \* A Significant association between movement behaviour and cardiovascular measure.

713

714 **Table 6.** Effect on each cardiovascular health outcome of taking 20 minutes of time  
715 from the behaviour in the columns and reallocating it to the behaviour in the rows. The  
716 values represent the percentage change in the respective health outcome.

		<b>T1D</b>				<b>Non-Diabetes</b>			
		SED	LPA	MVPA	Sleep	SED	LPA	MVPA	Sleep
<b>PP</b>	SED	-	0.24	4.72*	1.67	-	0.19	2.95	1.66
	LPA	-0.30	-	4.46*	1.41	-0.25	-	2.73	1.44
	MVPA	-3.35	-3.08	-	-1.64	-2.48	-2.25	-	-0.78
	Sleep	-1.67	-1.40	3.09	-	-1.66	-1.43	1.32	-
<b>Alx</b>	SED	-	-2.58	2.22	0.86	-	-2.57	0.90	0.76
	LPA	2.53	-	4.72	3.36	2.51	-	3.39	3.24
	MVPA	-1.22	-3.83	-	-0.39	-0.56	-3.16	-	0.18
	Sleep	-0.78	-3.38	1.42	-	-0.69	-3.28	0.19	-
<b>PWV</b>	SED	-	-0.40	4.58*	-0.51	-	-0.46	2.68	-0.55
	LPA	0.40	-	4.97*	-0.12	0.46	-	3.13*	-0.10
	MVPA	-2.89*	-3.29*	-	-3.40*	-2.01	-2.48	-	-2.57
	Sleep	0.50	0.10	5.07*	-	0.55	0.07	3.21*	-
<b>RMSSD</b>	SED	-	-5.54	-6.27	-5.73	-	-5.11	-4.66	-5.10
	LPA	5.65	-	-0.80	-0.26	5.21	-	0.38	-0.06
	MVPA	5.60	-0.12	-	-0.31	4.55	-0.72	-	-0.71
	Sleep	5.83	0.11	-0.62	-	5.20	-0.08	0.37	-
<b>LF</b>	SED	-	-0.06	6.38*	-1.76	-	-0.03	3.68	-1.92
	LPA	0.10	-	6.46*	-1.68	0.07	-	3.73	-1.87
	MVPA	-3.95	-4.04	-	-5.73*	-2.71	-2.76	-	-4.65
	Sleep	1.72	1.64	8.08*	-	1.88	1.83	5.54*	-
<b>HF</b>	SED	-	0.19	-18.19*	4.99	-	0.08	-7.32	3.80
	LPA	-0.29	-	-18.42*	4.76	-0.16	-	-7.43	3.69
	MVPA	11.27	11.52	-	16.32*	5.38	5.50	-	9.23
	Sleep	-4.89	-4.64	-23.02*	-	-3.73	-3.61	-11.01	-

717 Predicted effects were based on the mean composition. Adjusted for age, sex and maturation. Sedentary time (SED), light  
718 intensity physical activity (LPA), moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA), pulse pressure (PP), augmentation index (Alx),  
719 pulse wave velocity (PWV). \* A percentage change greater than the SWC % for each arterial measure.