

## Comparison of Education-Only versus Group-Based Intervention in Promoting Weight Loss: A Randomised Controlled Trial

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journal or publication title	Obesity facts : the European journal of obesity
volume	4
number	3
page range	222-228
year	2011-06
権利	(C) 2011 S. Karger AG, Basel
URL	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2241/113563">http://hdl.handle.net/2241/113563</a>

doi: 10.1159/000329619

1 **Title Page**

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6 **Running head**

7 Education-only versus group-based intervention

8

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24

25 **Key words**

26 Behavioral interventions; Diet; Metabolic syndrome; Obesity; Physical activity

27

## 1 **Summary**

2 **Aim:** To compare the effectiveness of education-only versus group-based intervention in  
3 promoting weight loss.

4 **Methods:** Between April and October 2009, a 6-month randomised controlled trial was  
5 conducted at Mito Kyodo General Hospital in Japan (UMIN000001259). The participants  
6 were 188 overweight adults (145 women, 43 men) aged 40–65 years. They were randomly  
7 assigned to one of three groups: control, moderate or intensive intervention. A single  
8 motivational lecture was provided to all three groups, educational materials (textbooks,  
9 notebooks, and a pedometer) to the moderate and intensive intervention groups, and  
10 group-based support to the intensive intervention group. Amount of weight loss was the  
11 primary outcome measure. Secondary outcome measures were components of metabolic  
12 syndrome.

13 **Results:** Mean  $\pm$  SD weight loss of participants in the control, moderate and intensive  
14 intervention groups was  $2.9 \pm 4.1$ ,  $4.7 \pm 4.0$  and  $7.7 \pm 4.1$  kg, respectively. Bonferroni  
15 post-hoc comparisons revealed all between-group differences to be significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).  
16 Waist circumference decreased in the intensive intervention group more than in the other  
17 groups, whereas no significant differences were observed in the other secondary outcome  
18 measures.

19 **Conclusion:** Education-only intervention is a cost-effective method to promote weight  
20 loss. Adding group-based intervention further promotes weight loss.

## 1 **Introduction**

2           Prevention and treatment of obesity are still a challenge. A typical weight loss  
3 treatment entails multiple face-to-face counselling sessions on a wide range of lifestyle  
4 recommendations [1–4]. The core behavioural programme includes detailed and frequent  
5 monitoring of diet, exercise, and weight, with specific and quantified goals for energy  
6 intake and expenditure. In two well-controlled studies that included a lifestyle intervention  
7 arm diabetes could be delayed or prevented with only modest changes in weight, but  
8 considerable effort from well-trained staff was needed to achieve these behavioural changes  
9 [1–4]. A recent meta-analysis of the effectiveness of dietary counselling for weight loss  
10 reported its effectiveness but emphasized the importance of determining the factors that  
11 will afford more effective weight loss [5]. In most clinical and public health settings, costs  
12 in terms of time and physical effort are limited [3, 4]. With detailed evidence of the relative  
13 contributions of individual components in weight loss programmes, cost-effective  
14 approaches could be selectively used to promote weight loss.

15           We focused on providing educational materials (textbooks, notebooks, and a  
16 pedometer) and implementing group-based support as effective individual components of a  
17 weight loss programme. Providing a pedometer or informative materials has been shown to  
18 promote physical activity [6–8]. If education-only intervention is effective to promote  
19 weight loss, it could be a cost-effective approach. Implementing group-based intervention  
20 could be a reliable method with apparent effectiveness by comparison with the  
21 education-only intervention. In weight loss intervention trials, there is a possibility that  
22 characteristics of participants who are willing and motivated may have influenced the trial  
23 results [3, 9, 10]. Therefore, we set a control intervention group that was only given a single  
24 motivational lecture on weight loss.

25           Thus, we planned to implement a 6-month randomised controlled trial with three  
26 groups: control, moderate or intensive intervention. The control intervention group was  
27 given a single motivational lecture on weight loss, the moderate intervention group was  
28 additionally provided educational materials, and the intensive intervention group was

- 1 additionally provided group-based support during the 6-month trial. We determined the
- 2 effectiveness of each component in the weight loss programme and clarified their relative
- 3 contributions in promoting weight loss.

## 1 **Participants and Methods**

### 2 **Study design**

3           The trial methods have been described in detail elsewhere [11]; the protocol has  
4 been registered with the UMIN Clinical Trials Registry (UMIN000001259). This study was  
5 a 6-month randomised controlled trial conducted at Mito Kyodo General Hospital in Japan  
6 between April and October 2009. Assuming a  $2.5 \pm 4.0$  kg intervention-related difference in  
7 the amount of weight loss at the end of 6 months between the three groups, a two-sided  
8 alpha value of 0.0167 (with Bonferroni adjustment for post-hoc tests), power of 80%, and  
9 an average attrition rate of 10%, the required sample size was estimated to be more than 60  
10 participants in each group (180 participants in total). Participants received no financial  
11 compensation or gifts. The protocol was approved by the ethical committee of Mito Kyodo  
12 General Hospital and by the Industrial Review Board of the University of Tsukuba.

13

### 14 **Participants**

15           Participants were recruited through newspaper advertisements and attended a  
16 2-hour explanatory session. In this session, they were informed about the aim and design of  
17 the study, including random assignment and the importance of minimising dropout rate for  
18 maintaining the study quality. Their written informed consent was obtained, and the time  
19 for their baseline measurements was scheduled.

20           Within 4 weeks before the beginning of weight-loss intervention, participants were  
21 assessed for eligibility at the baseline measurement. The eligibility criteria for the  
22 participants included age between 40 and 65 years, BMI between 25 and  $40 \text{ kg/m}^2$  (BMI is  
23 calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters), and the  
24 presence of at least one of the following components involved in the diagnosis of metabolic  
25 syndrome according to the Japanese criteria [12]: i) waist circumference  $\geq 85$  cm in males  
26 and  $\geq 90$  cm in females, ii) systolic blood pressure  $\geq 130$  mm Hg, iii) diastolic blood  
27 pressure  $\geq 85$  mm Hg, iv) triglyceride level  $\geq 150$  mg/dl (1.70 mmol/l), v) high-density  
28 lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol level  $< 40$  mg/dl (1.04 mmol/l), or vi) fasting plasma glucose

1 level  $\geq$  110 mg/dl (6.11 mmol/l). The criteria for ineligibility included drug treatment for  
2 diabetes (to avoid a potential influence on weight change [5]), past history of coronary  
3 disease or stroke, or current or planned pregnancy. Participants whose cohabiting family  
4 member had participated in this study were also ineligible (to avoid contamination from the  
5 ripple effect on weight loss [13]).

6

### 7 **Motivational lecture**

8 At week 0, all participants attended a 2-hour group-based single motivational  
9 lecture (approximately 40–50 participants per subgroup, with four subgroups). They  
10 received typical behavioural weight control instructions on diet, exercise, and behavioural  
11 changes. Recommendations included a calorie-restricted diet of 1,200 and 1,600 kcal/day  
12 for women and men, respectively, and a minimum of 1,000 kcal/week of increased physical  
13 activity. All participants were encouraged to self-monitor their body weight. The same  
14 investigator gave the lecture using a standard slide presentation to ensure overall  
15 comparability of the different subgroups.

16

### 17 **Randomisation**

18 After the motivational lecture, the participants were randomly assigned to one of  
19 the following three groups by using simple randomisation procedures involving  
20 computerised random numbers: control, moderate, or intensive intervention group.  
21 Allocation data were generated by an investigator who had no contact with the participants  
22 or the other staff members and was maintained at a central secure location until completion  
23 of the motivational lecture.

24

### 25 **Interventions**

26 At week 1, following the announcement of the allocated groups through mail, the  
27 participants in the moderate and intensive intervention groups attended a group-based  
28 2-hour session (approximately 20–30 participants per subgroup, with four subgroups) in

1 which they were provided educational materials such as textbooks and notebooks  
2 containing information on daily diet and other lifestyle-related topics as well as a  
3 pedometer (FB-720; Tanita, Tokyo, Japan). The content of the textbooks and notebooks was  
4 based on prior work of the investigators [14, 15]. The goals of energy intake (1,200 and  
5 1,600 kcal/day for women and men, respectively) and increased energy expenditure (1,000  
6 kcal/week) were the same in all three groups and remained the same throughout the 6  
7 months. The participants in the moderate and intensive intervention groups were  
8 recommended to modify their diet along with the provided educational materials. The  
9 dietary programme is based on the Four-Food-Group Point Method [16]. According to this  
10 method food is organized into four food groups (FG) based on their nutrient contents: FG 1  
11 (eggs and dairy products), FG 2 (meat, fish, and soybean products), FG 3 (vegetables and  
12 fruits), and FG 4 (carbohydrates and oil). To calculate energy intakes and nutrient balances  
13 easily, a cluster of 80-kcal foods was translated into one point in the method. For  
14 consuming a well-balanced daily diet, each person chose 3-point foods from FGs 1 to 3 (9  
15 points in total) to take in the necessary nutrients. Then, depending on a participant's gender,  
16 the rest of the energy (6 and 11 in women and men, respectively) was obtained from FG 4.  
17 They were instructed to record their body weight, content of meals, and step counts on a  
18 daily basis in the notebook provided. They were also instructed to calculate their daily  
19 energy intake and check nutritional balance themselves using the textbooks provided. The  
20 same investigator gave the instructions on how to use the educational materials to ensure  
21 overall comparability of the different subgroups.

22 Furthermore, the participants in the intensive intervention group attended a  
23 group-based 2-hour weight loss support programme at weeks 2, 4, 6, 10, 14, 18, and 22  
24 (approximately 15–20 participants per subgroup, with four subgroups), during which a  
25 trained staff member gave lectures to explain the content of the textbooks and two other  
26 staff members reviewed participants' notebooks and advised them on their diet and other  
27 lifestyle factors. The same staff member gave each lecture to ensure overall comparability  
28 of the different subgroups.

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## **Study outcomes**

Data were collected at baseline and at months 3 and 6 in the hospital by trained hospital staff members who were masked to treatment assignment.

The primary outcome measure was an amount of weight loss from baseline to 6 months. Weight was measured in light clothes, without shoes, to the nearest 0.05 kg using a calibrated digital scale (WB-150; Tanita). Height was measured to the nearest 0.1 cm on a wall-mounted stadiometer at baseline for determination of BMI. The secondary outcome measures were waist circumference, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, levels of triglycerides, HDL cholesterol, and fasting plasma glucose. Waist circumference was measured to the nearest 0.1 cm at the umbilicus level, with the participants in the standing position, using a flexible plastic tape. Blood pressure was measured using a manual sphygmomanometer with the participants in the seated position after a 20-min rest period. Two readings of systolic and diastolic blood pressure were recorded, and the average was used for data analysis. Approximately 10 ml of blood was drawn from each participant between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. after fasting for more than 12 h. Fresh samples were used for enzymatic analysis of triglycerides, and fasting plasma glucose was assayed using glucose oxidase. Serum HDL cholesterol was measured using heparin-manganese precipitation. Venous blood was analysed by an independent laboratory (Kotobiken Medical Laboratories, Ibaraki, Japan).

We also measured dietary intake by 3-day food records and physical activity with a three-axis accelerometer (HJA-350IT; Omron Healthcare, Kyoto, Japan) [17]. Participants were asked to record everything that they ate and drank for 3 days—2 weekdays and 1 weekend day. Foods were measured using standard measuring cups, spoons, and digital scales. To ensure overall comparability, one skilled nutritionist who was masked to treatment assignment analysed all food records. Participants were also asked to wear the accelerometer which additionally includes a step-counting function for 14 consecutive days on their waist throughout the day except when sleeping, when engaged in a water-based

1 activity (e.g., taking a bath or swimming), or when engaged in certain activities, such as  
2 contact sports for safety reasons. Records obtained when wearing the device for at least 10  
3 h a day were defined as valid records [18]. If no acceleration signal was obtained over a  
4 10-s time interval for 20 min or more continuously, it was defined as “non-wear” [19]. If  
5 there are valid records for more than 2 weekdays and 1 weekend day, we estimated daily  
6 step counts and total daily minutes of moderate to vigorous ( $\geq 3$  metabolic equivalents)  
7 physical activity.

8

### 9 **Statistical analysis**

10 An intention-to-treat analysis, with missing data replaced by last observation  
11 carried forward (data at baseline or month 3), was applied to the measures of body weight  
12 and related outcome variables. One-way analysis of variance and Bonferroni’s post-hoc test  
13 was used to examine statistical significance of between-group differences. The chi-square  
14 test was used to compare proportions. Data were analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics 18  
15 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA), with the level of statistical significance set at 5%.

## 1 Results

2 Figure 1 shows the flow of participants through the study. We recruited 222  
3 participants between November 2008 and March 2009 and assessed 213 participants for  
4 eligibility (9 did not attend). After excluding 25 ineligible participants, 188 adults (145  
5 women and 43 men) were enrolled in the study and were assigned to one of three groups.

6 Table 1 provides baseline characteristics of the participants. The numbers of those  
7 with abdominal obesity, hypertension, lipidaemia and hyperglycaemia were 179 (95%), 102  
8 (54%), 59 (31%) and 22 (12%), respectively. The attrition rate was 3.7% (7/188) and 8.5%  
9 (16/188) at months 3 and 6, respectively (fig. 1). The numbers of those lost to follow-up at  
10 6 months were similar in the three groups ( $p = 0.63$ ). The medical reasons for which  
11 participants were lost to follow-up included influenza, hepatic disease, menopause  
12 syndrome, and hysteromyoma. No clinically significant adverse events occurred that were  
13 judged by the investigators to be related to participation in the trial. The attendance rate at  
14 the group-based support in the intensive intervention group ranged from 57.1% (36/63 at  
15 week 22) to 96.8% (61/63 at week 1), and the mean attendance rate was 80.8%.

16 The pattern of weight change is shown in figure 2. The mean  $\pm$  SD body weights  
17 of participants in the control, moderate, and intensive intervention groups declined by  $2.4$   
18  $\pm 2.9$  kg,  $3.9 \pm 3.1$  kg, and  $6.0 \pm 3.0$  kg at 3 months, and by  $2.9 \pm 4.1$  kg,  $4.7 \pm 4.0$  kg, and  
19  $7.7 \pm 4.1$  kg at 6 months, respectively, as determined by intention-to-treat analysis.  
20 Bonferroni post-hoc comparisons revealed all between-group differences to be significant.  
21 Mean weight loss at 6 months in the intensive intervention group was by 4.8 kg (95%  
22 confidence interval (95% CI) 3.1–6.6 kg;  $p < 0.01$ ) and 3.0 kg (95% CI 1.3–4.8 kg;  $p <$   
23  $0.01$ ) greater than those in the control and moderate intervention groups, respectively. Mean  
24 weight loss in the moderate intervention group was also 1.8 kg (95% CI 0.0–3.5 kg;  $p =$   
25  $0.04$ ) greater than that in the control group.

26 The mean percentages of initial body weight lost at 6 months were 4.1% (95% CI  
27 2.7–5.5%), 6.4% (95% CI 5.1–7.7%) and 10.5% (95% CI 9.2–11.8%) in the control,  
28 moderate and intensive intervention groups, respectively. The numbers of participants who

1 lost 5% or more of initial body weight were 18 (29%), 35 (56%), or 56 (89%), and the  
2 numbers who lost 10% or more were 10 (16%), 17 (27%), or 34 (54%) in the control,  
3 moderate, or intensive intervention groups.

4 Table 2 shows changes in the secondary outcome measures, dietary energy intake,  
5 and physical activity. The mean decrease in waist circumference in the intensive  
6 intervention group was by 5.2 cm (95% CI 3.2–7.1 cm;  $p < 0.01$ ) and 3.4 cm (95% CI  
7 1.5–5.4 cm;  $p < 0.01$ ) greater than those in the control and moderate intervention groups,  
8 respectively. No significant between-group differences were observed with regard to the  
9 other secondary outcome measures. The participants in the intensive intervention group  
10 decreased their dietary intake by 412 kcal/day (95% CI 241–583 kcal/day;  $p < 0.01$ ) and  
11 264 kcal/day (95% CI 92–436 kcal/day;  $p < 0.01$ ) more than the participants in the control  
12 and moderate intervention groups, respectively. Step counts and moderate to vigorous  
13 physical activity increased, while no significant between-group differences were observed.

## 1 **Discussion**

2           The 6-month randomised controlled trial provides evidence that using educational  
3 materials and group-based support are effective components of weight-loss programmes.  
4 Education-only intervention produced an additional weight loss of 1.8 kg compared with  
5 the single motivational lecture. Group-based intervention further increased weight loss by  
6 3.0 kg compared with the education-only intervention.

7           In weight loss intervention trials, well-designed randomised controlled trials are  
8 needed to avoid potential influences on the trial results by the characteristics of participants  
9 who are willing and motivated [3, 9, 10]. In this study, the participants in the control  
10 intervention group tried to lose weight only with self-help after a single motivational  
11 lecture. Indeed, they had a mean loss of 2.9 kg after 6 months. These changes may  
12 represent the effect of the single lecture and/or the characteristics of highly motivated  
13 individuals. In either case, we could not clearly show the effectiveness of providing educational  
14 materials and group-based support compared with the control intervention.

15           Providing a pedometer has been shown to promote physical activity and decrease  
16 BMI [6, 7]. Providing informative materials seems to also promote physical activity levels  
17 among inactive patients [8]. In the present study, education-only intervention as well as  
18 group-based intervention could not significantly increase physical activity compared with  
19 the control intervention, but could decrease body weight and dietary intake. Therefore, the  
20 significant differences in weight loss could be attributed to a greater reduction in dietary  
21 intake, and not to an increase in physical activity. This is probably the influence of the  
22 behavioural changes stimulated by our emphasising the importance of recording diet and  
23 checking nutritional balance themselves for achieving short-term weight loss using the  
24 textbook provided to the moderate and intensive intervention groups. Another strategy is  
25 needed to promote physical activity in addition to providing a pedometer for participants of  
26 the weight loss programme.

27           A need for effective behavioural interventions requiring less face-to-face contact  
28 has been created because of preferred alternatives to face-to-face treatment [20] as well as

1 limited costs [3, 4]. Recent studies have reported the effectiveness of an alternative method  
2 for promoting weight loss using the internet and e-mail [21–23], text messages via mobile  
3 phones [24], or diet counselling via the telephone [25]. In this regard, education-only  
4 intervention can be a cost-effective weight loss method that requires less face-to-face  
5 contact.

6 Group-based intervention has a greater extent of effectiveness in achieving weight  
7 loss than the education-only intervention. A recent randomised controlled trial showed the  
8 effectiveness of high-frequent (18 times in 6 months) face-to-face counselling (8.9% loss of  
9 initial body weight) compared with self-help (5.2%) or low-frequent (6 times in 6 months)  
10 face-to-face counselling (6.4%) along with sibutramine use; in contrast, the effectiveness of  
11 low-frequent face-to-face counselling was not statistically significant compared with  
12 self-help [25]. In the present study, the group-based intervention was not highly frequent (8  
13 times in 6 months including the instruction at week 1); however, the effectiveness (10.5%  
14 loss of initial body weight) was clearly shown compared with the control (4.1%) or  
15 education-only intervention (6.4%). The results may be attributed to different approaches:  
16 group versus individual. Group treatment appears to allow participants to interact with each  
17 other and bring short-term benefits in achieving weight loss [26]. From a cost-effective  
18 perspective as well, a group-based support appears to have some advantages [27], whereas  
19 further studies are needed to demonstrate the effectiveness of a group approach compared  
20 with an individual approach.

21 The major strength of this study is that it was a one-phase randomised trial in  
22 which all participants started simultaneously in a population at risk of metabolic syndrome.  
23 A low attrition rate as in the present study provides a more accurate estimate of the actual  
24 treatment effect because it reduces the potential effect of selection bias.

25 The present study includes some limitations. First, despite significant differences  
26 in weight loss between the three groups, the improvement in most secondary outcome  
27 measures was not statistically different. In part, this is a statistical issue because the study  
28 was powered to detect differences in the amount of weight loss, not in the secondary

1 outcome measures. Furthermore, the secondary outcome measures of most participants  
2 were in the normal range at baseline. Therefore, not much improvement could be obtained.  
3 Second, the study length of 6 months is short because the maintenance of weight loss is  
4 necessary for enduring health benefits. We have designed a 2-year follow-up  
5 no-intervention observation period and planned to implement annual follow-up  
6 measurements for participants in the moderate and intensive intervention groups; however,  
7 due to ethical concerns, we provided the group-based support to the control intervention  
8 group after the 6-month study period. Therefore, after the 2-year follow-up, we will report  
9 the long-term residual effectiveness in achieving weight maintenance of the intensive  
10 intervention group compared with the moderate intervention group. Another limitation is  
11 that the study population included only Japanese participants who are willing and motivated,  
12 which limits the generalisation of the results. Further studies are required to confirm the  
13 generalisation to other populations.

14 In summary, education-only intervention can be a cost-effective method for  
15 promoting weight loss that requires less face-to-face contact. This approach is potentially  
16 appropriate if costs in terms of time and physical effort are limited to implement intensive  
17 weight-loss intervention, or if participants prefer treatments requiring less face-to-face  
18 contact in clinical and public health settings. Group-based intervention further promotes  
19 weight loss, although it needs considerable effort from well-trained staff.

1 **Acknowledgments**

2           This study was supported by the Japan Agriculture Ibaraki Public Welfare  
3 Federation and partly funded by the Meiji Yasuda Life Foundation of Health and Welfare,  
4 2008. We wish to thank members of Mito Kyodo General Hospital for their cooperation in  
5 data acquisition and members of the Tsukuba Critical Path Research and Education  
6 Integrated Leading Center (CREIL) at the University of Tsukuba for their critical advice in  
7 conducting the study and data management during the study period. We owe special thanks  
8 to the participants of this study and are also grateful to Yuriko Sakairi for her excellent  
9 cooperation to implement the present study.

10

11 **Disclosure**

12 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

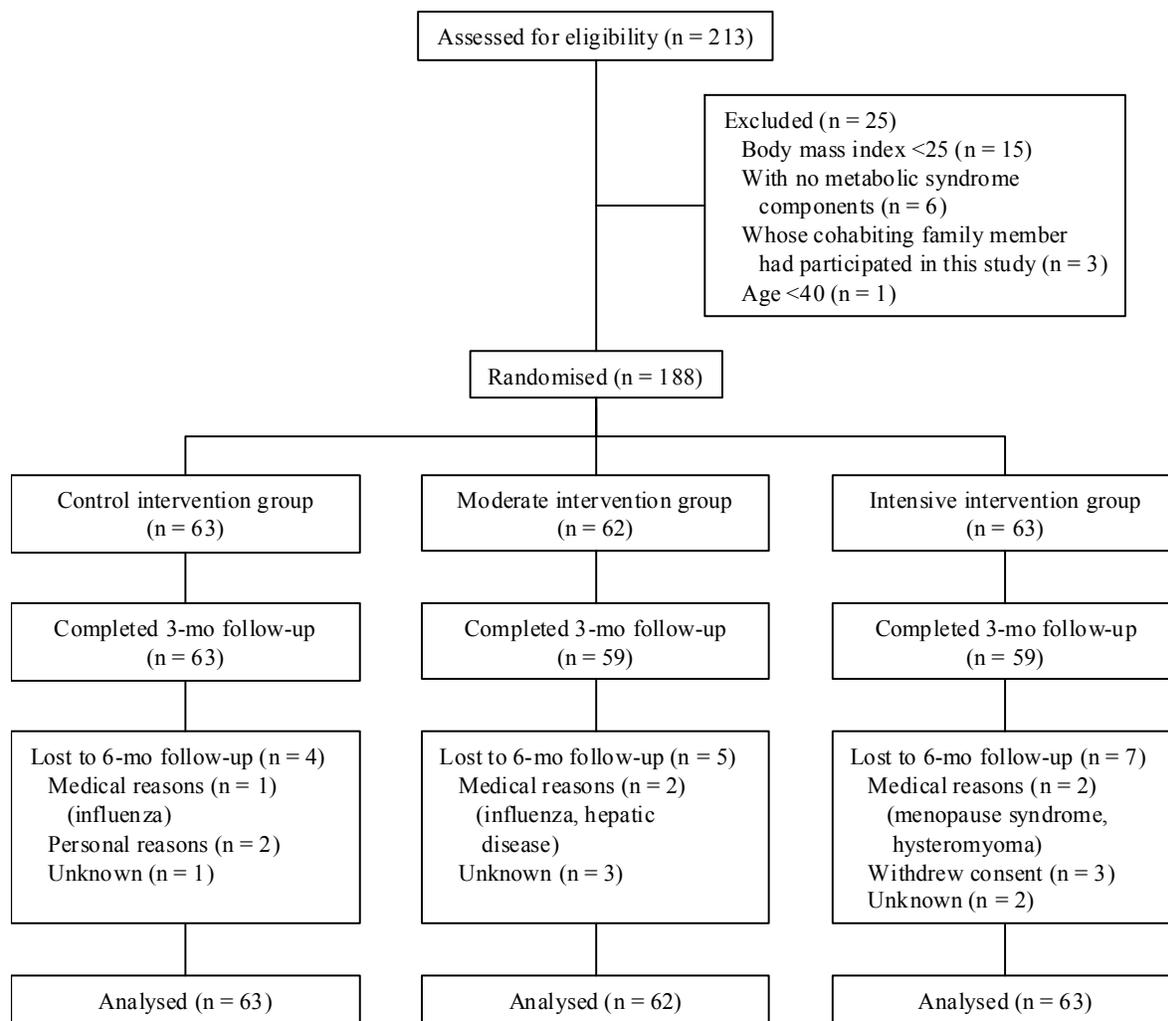
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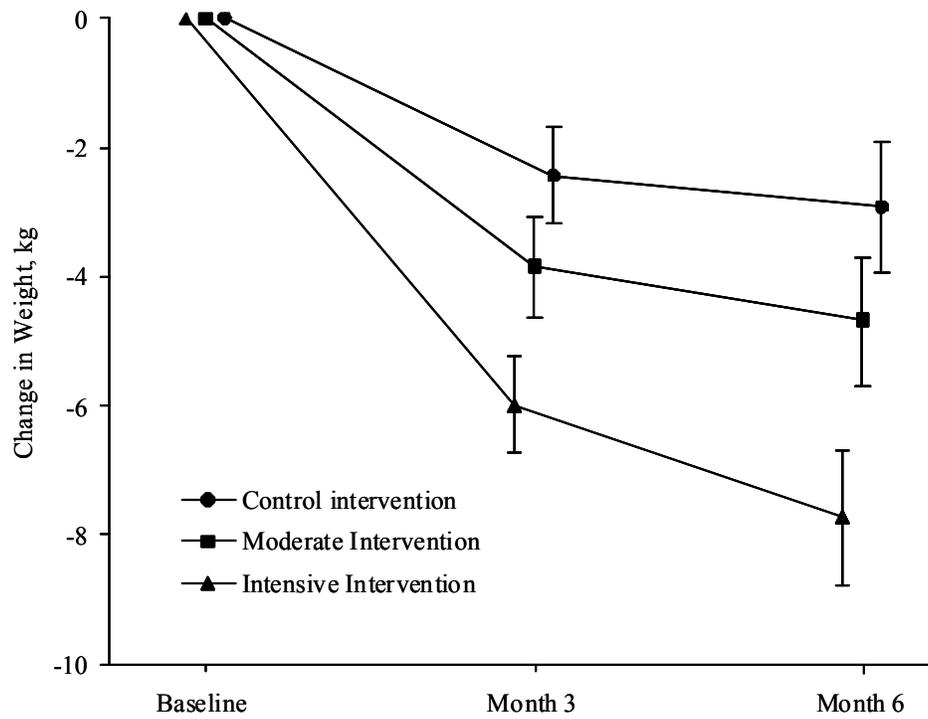
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**Fig. 1.** Flow diagram of participant progress through the phases of the 6-month randomised trial.



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3 **Fig. 2.** Pattern of change in body weight during 6-month intervention by treatment  
4 assignment. Each data point represents the mean value for all randomised participants with  
5 missing data replaced by the last observation carried forward. Error bars indicate 95%  
6 confidence intervals. Points and error bars are jittered horizontally to improve visibility.

**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics of eligible overweight adults by treatment assignment<sup>a</sup>

	Control intervention (n = 63)	Moderate intervention (n = 62)	Intensive intervention (n = 63)	Total (n = 188)
Age, years	51.6 (6.2)	51.7 (6.8)	50.7 (6.7)	51.3 (6.6)
Number of women (%)	53 (84)	41 (66)	51 (81)	145 (77)
Number of current smokers (%)	4 (6)	3 (5)	3 (5)	10 (5)
Number of lipid-lowering therapies (%)	8 (13)	9 (15)	7 (11)	24 (13)
Number of antihypertensive therapies (%)	15 (24)	18 (29)	11 (17)	44 (23)
Height, cm	157.2 (7.6)	160.0 (9.0)	159.1 (7.2)	158.8 (8.0)
Weight, kg	71.0 (10.1)	74.9 (12.1)	73.5 (9.9)	73.1 (10.8)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	28.6 (2.8)	29.2 (3.8)	29.0 (3.0)	28.9 (3.2)
Waist circumference, cm	98.7 (7.3)	100.7 (7.9)	99.2 (7.3)	99.5 (7.5)
Systolic blood pressure, mm Hg	131.5 (19.5)	131.2 (14.5)	131.9 (16.4)	131.6 (16.8)
Diastolic blood pressure, mm Hg	78.4 (10.6)	80.2 (7.4)	79.9 (10.2)	79.5 (9.5)
Triglycerides, mmol/l	1.67 (0.91)	1.80 (0.81)	1.45 (0.68)	1.64 (0.82)
HDL cholesterol, mmol/l	1.49 (0.37)	1.39 (0.34)	1.49 (0.31)	1.46 (0.35)
Fasting plasma glucose, mmol/l	5.35 (0.61)	5.50 (0.96)	5.25 (0.59)	5.37 (0.74)
Dietary intake, kcal/day	2050 (397)	2181 (417)	2169 (414)	2133 (411)
Step counts, step/day <sup>†</sup>	5677 (2565)	6198 (2740)	6435 (3016)	6100 (2782)
MVPA, min/day <sup>†</sup>	94 (34)	86 (30)	93 (35)	91 (33)

HDL = high-density lipoprotein; MVPA = moderate to vigorous physical activity.

<sup>a</sup>Data are presented as mean (SD) unless otherwise specified.

<sup>†</sup>Eligible data were available for 186 participants (63, 61, and 62 in the control, moderate, and intensive intervention groups, respectively).

**Table 2.** Changes in primary and secondary outcome measures, dietary intake, and physical activity during 6-month intervention\*

	Control intervention (n = 63)			Moderate intervention (n = 62)			Intensive intervention (n = 63)		
	baseline	month 6	change	baseline	month 6	change	baseline	month 6	change
Weight, kg	71.0 (10.1)	68.1 (10.5)	-2.9 (-3.9 to -1.9)	74.9 (12.1)	70.2 (12.6)	-4.7 (-5.7 to -3.7)	73.5 (9.9)	65.7 (9.5)	-7.7 (-8.8 to -6.7)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	28.6 (2.8)	27.5 (3.2)	-1.2 (-1.6 to -0.8)	29.2 (3.8)	27.4 (4.0)	-1.8 (-2.2 to -1.5)	29.0 (3.0)	25.9 (3.0)	-3.0 (-3.4 to -2.6)
WC, cm	98.7 (7.3)	95.8 (8.1)	-3.0 (-4.1 to -1.8)	100.7 (7.9)	96.0 (9.1)	-4.7 (-5.9 to -3.6)	99.2 (7.3)	91.1 (8.4)	-8.1 (-9.2 to -7.0)
SBP, mm Hg	131.5 (19.5)	122.9 (19.1)	-8.7 (-12.4 to -4.9)	131.2 (14.5)	120.5 (13.3)	-10.7 (-13.8 to -7.6)	131.9 (16.4)	119.6 (18.1)	-12.3 (-15.8 to -8.8)
DBP, mm Hg	78.4 (10.6)	72.9 (10.5)	-5.5 (-7.6 to -3.3)	80.2 (7.4)	73.2 (9.1)	-7.0 (-8.7 to -5.3)	79.9 (10.2)	71.3 (9.7)	-8.6 (-10.6 to -6.6)
TG, mmol/l	1.67 (0.91)	1.52 (0.93)	-0.15 (-0.34 to 0.04)	1.80 (0.81)	1.41 (0.79)	-0.39 (-0.56 to -0.23)	1.45 (0.68)	1.10 (0.50)	-0.35 (-0.51 to -0.19)
HDL-C, mol/l	1.49 (0.37)	1.52 (0.40)	0.03 (-0.03 to 0.09)	1.39 (0.34)	1.44 (0.35)	0.05 (-0.01 to 0.11)	1.49 (0.31)	1.56 (0.35)	0.07 (0.02 to 0.13)
FPG, mmol/l	5.35 (0.61)	5.03 (0.62)	-0.32 (-0.41 to -0.24)	5.50 (0.96)	5.16 (0.82)	-0.34 (-0.47 to -0.20)	5.25 (0.59)	4.91 (0.38)	-0.34 (-0.44 to -0.23)
Dietary intake, kcal/day	2050 (397)	1816 (361)	-234 (-340 to -128)	2181 (417)	1799 (440)	-382 (-470 to -294)	2169 (414)	1524 (354)	-646 (-751 to -540)
Step counts, step/day‡	5677 (2565)	6912 (3177)	1235 (706 to 1765)	6198 (2740)	7468 (3676)	1270 (682 to 1859)	6435 (3016)	7525 (3326)	1090 (590 to 1590)
MVPA, min/day‡	94 (34)	102 (41)	8 (2 to 15)	86 (30)	95 (37)	10 (4 to 16)	93 (35)	98 (36)	5 (0 to 11)

DBP = diastolic blood pressure; FPG = fasting plasma glucose; HDL-C = high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; MVPA = moderate to vigorous physical activity; SBP = systolic blood pressure; TG = triglycerides; WC = waist circumference.

\*Data at baseline and 6 months are presented as mean (SD). Changes from baseline are presented as mean (95% confidence interval). The numbers of completers are 59, 57, and 56 in the control, moderate, and intensive intervention groups, respectively. For intention-to-treat analysis, the missing data are replaced by the last observation carried forward.

‡Eligible data were available for 186 participants (63, 61, and 62 in the control, moderate, and intensive intervention groups, respectively).