# Effects of horseback riding for preventive care on the quality of life, the physical function, and the mental health of community-dwelling elderly

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# Background

65-year-old or more population **28.4%** in Japan.

The highest percentage in the world.

Maintaining and improving

Quality of life(QOL)

is important
in preventive care.



Effect on QOL??

#### Aims

- Evaluated the elderly participated in a horseback riding program.
  - 1.Health-related QOL (HRQOL) using the MOS 36-Item Short-Form Health Survey version2 (SF-36).
  - 2. Motor function using the 6 items.
  - 3. Psychological stress using the salivary alpha-amylase activity (sAA).
- Multiple linear regression models were used to determine which factors were associated with the HRQOL.

# **Participants**

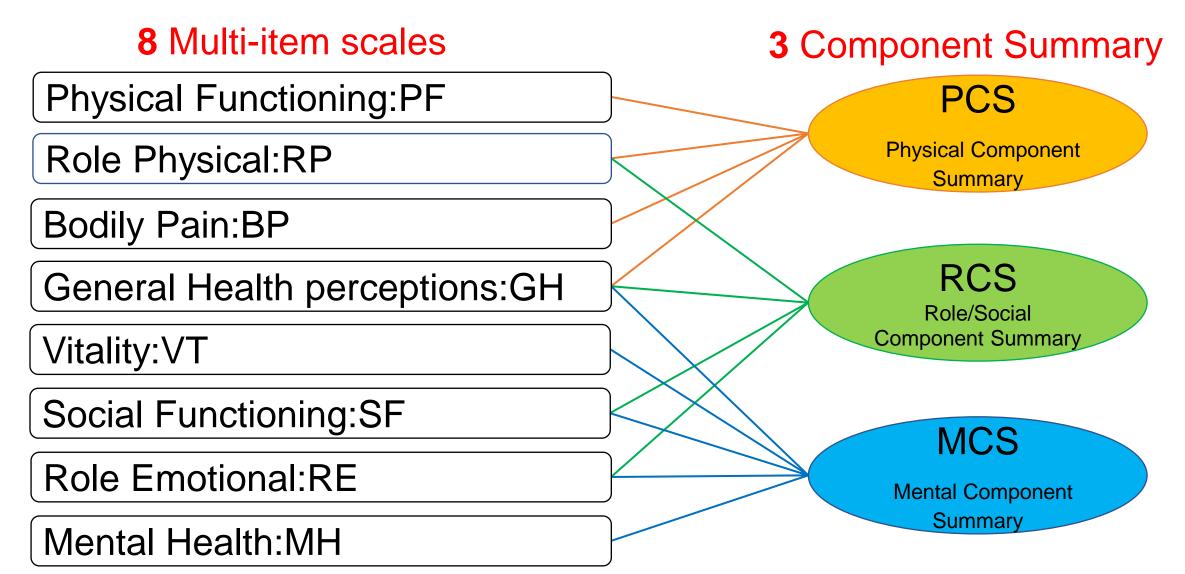
- The 13 community-dwelling the elderly (5 males and 8 females)
- Average age: 87.0±6.6 years old
- Activities of Daily Living (ADL) independent
- Consented to participate in the study



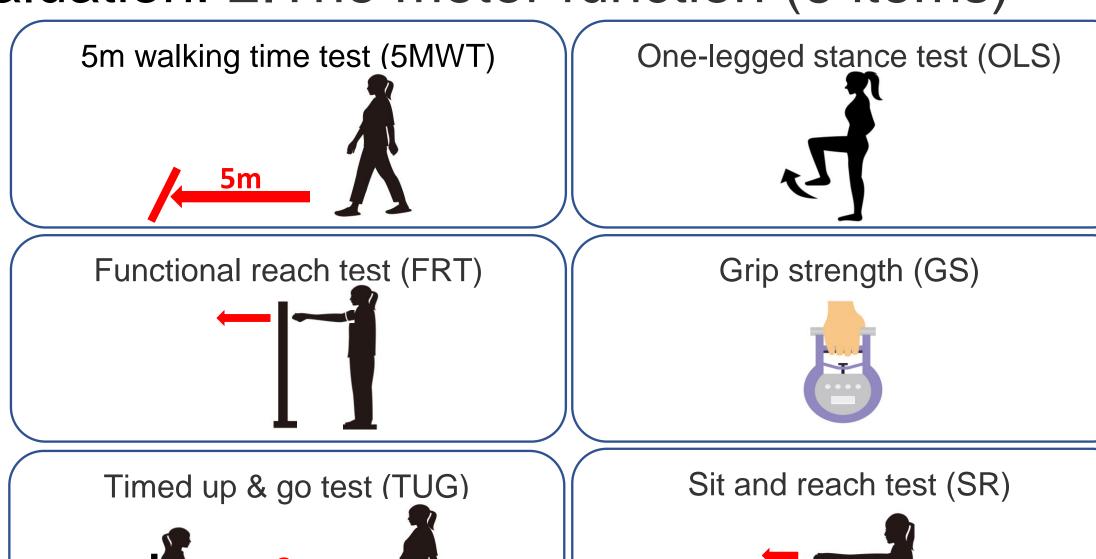


## **Evaluation: 1.HRQOL**

MOS 36-Item Short-Form Health Survey version2 (SF-36)



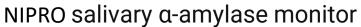
# Evaluation: 2.The motor function (6 items)



# Evaluation: 3.Psychological stress

The salivary alpha-amylase activity (sAA)

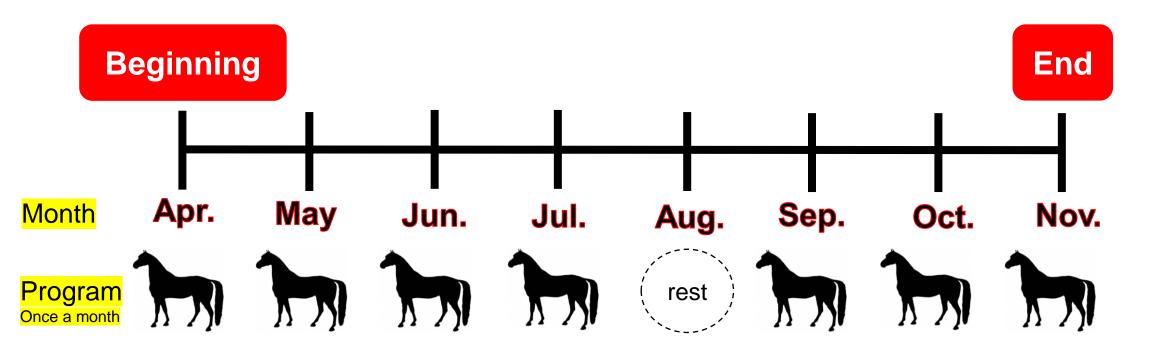






- Measuring stress levels from saliva.
- The higher the value, the higher the stress level.

#### Protocol

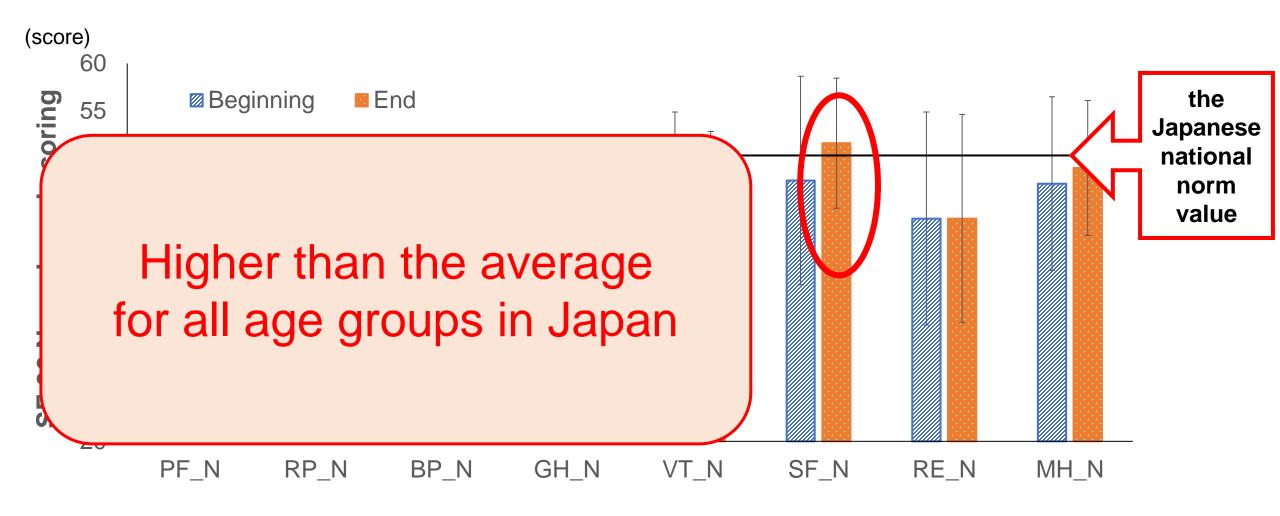




**Evaluation** 

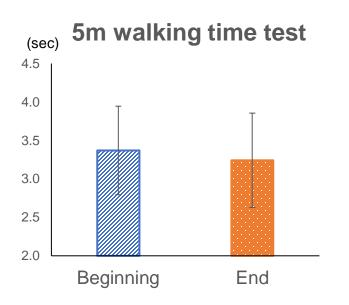
3.Psychological stress:sAA (before-after a riding session) 1.HRQOL:SF-36 2.Motor function: 5MWT, OLS, FRT,GS,TUG,SR

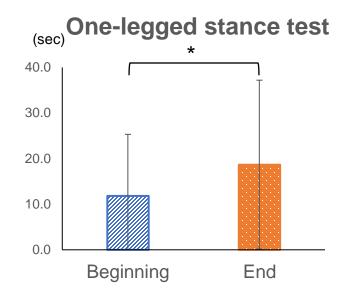
# Results: 1.HRQOL(SF-36)

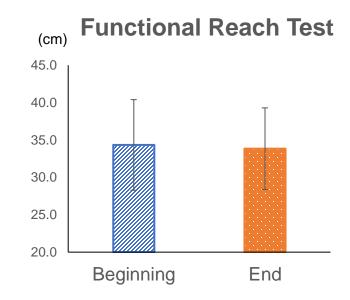


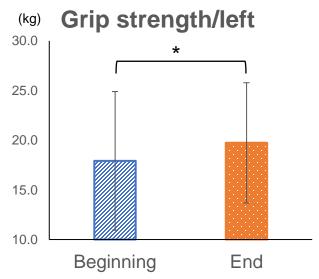
➤ The social functioning (SF) was higher than 50 score of the Japanese national norm value at the end.

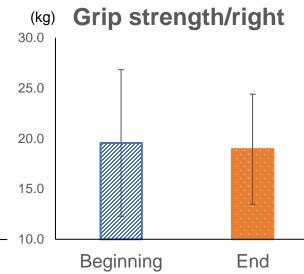
#### Results: 2.The motor function

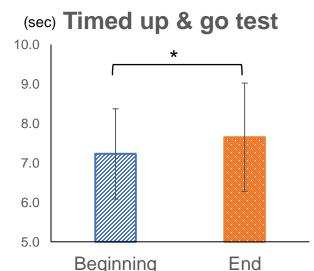


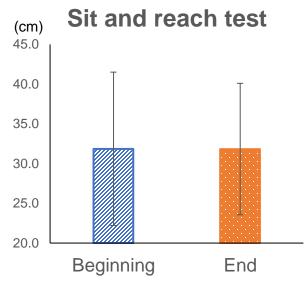






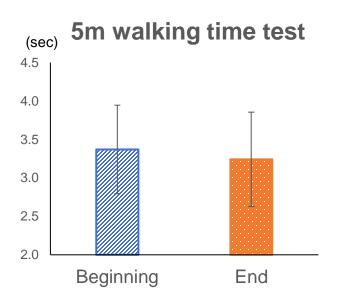


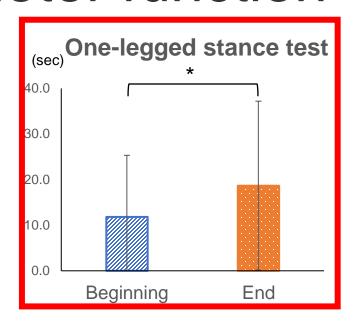


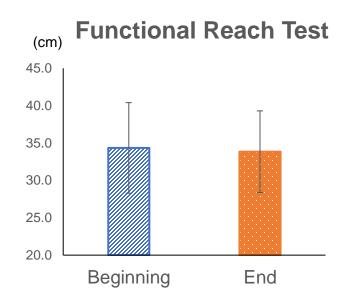


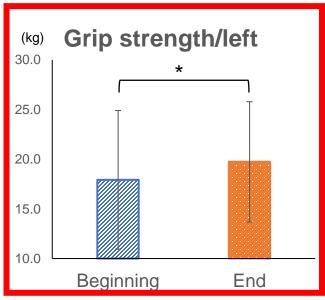
\*:p<0.05

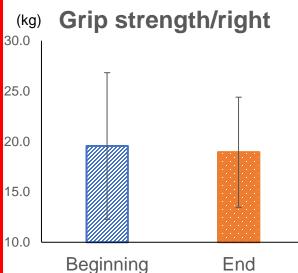
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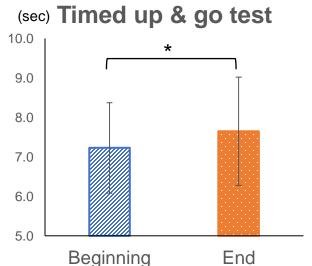


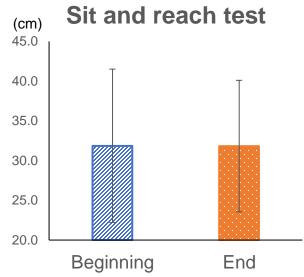






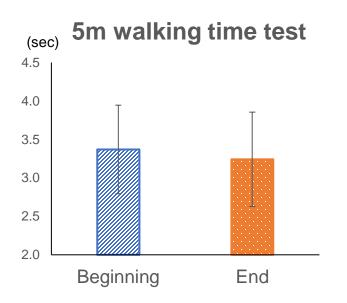


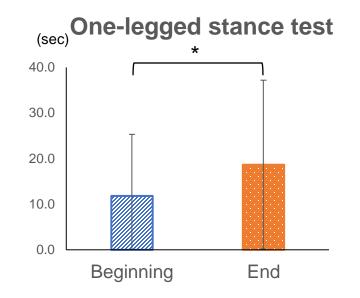


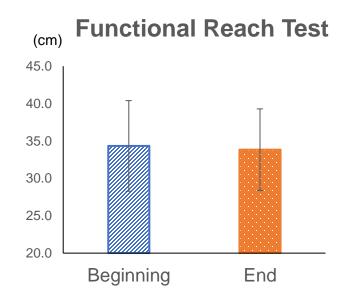


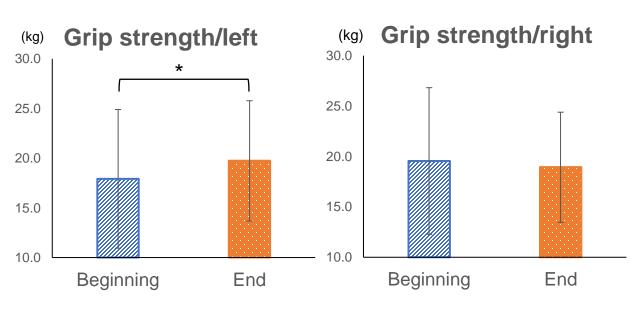
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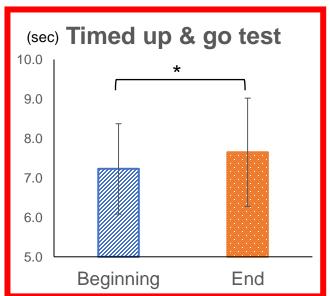
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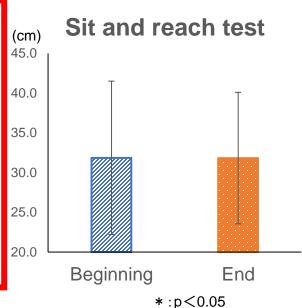






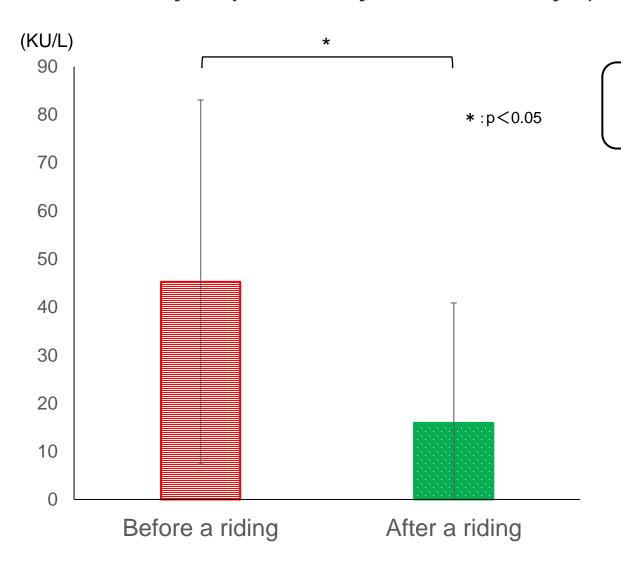






# Results: 3. The psychological stress

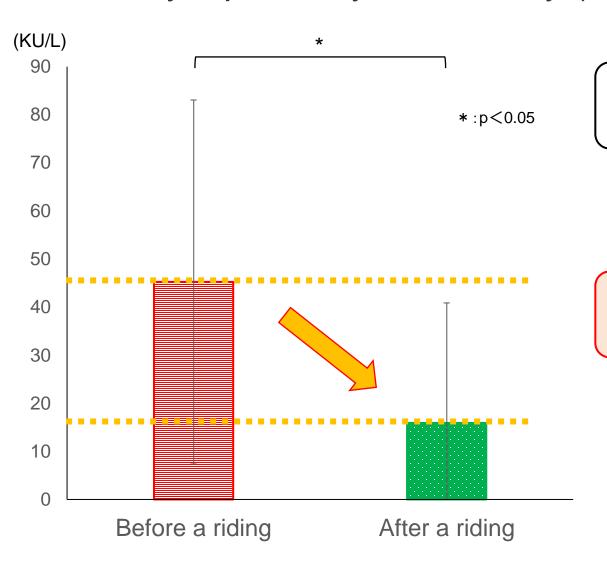
The salivary alpha-amylase activity (sAA)



>sAA significantly decreased.

# Results: 3. The psychological stress

The salivary alpha-amylase activity (sAA)



>sAA significantly decreased.

Stress levels were reduced.

#### **Dependent variable**

B	$\mathbf{A}$	$\sim$	ir	١r	٠i	n	$\sim$
	C	u					u

PC Physical Compo		Role/Social Comp		MCS Mental Component Summary		
	Partial regression coefficient					
Timed up & go test	-4.94**	(No sigr	nificant)	(No significant)		
One-legged stance test	0.28*					
	Partial regression coefficient		Partial regression coefficient			
Changes in the sAA	-0.37*	Number of horseback 3.23* riding		(No significant)		
One-legged stance test	0.48*	5m walking time test	-19.80*			

Only positive and significant associations

**Dependent variable** 

Ba	~i	n	n	in	$\sim$

Beginning

PC Physical Compo		RCS Role/Social Component Summary		MCS Mental Component Summary	
Timed up & go test	Partial regression coefficient -4.94**	(No significant)		(No significant)	
One-legged stance test	0.28*				
	Partial regression coefficient		Partial regression coefficient		
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<sup>○</sup>Significant difference: \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01

**Dependent variable** 

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### ≪Previous study≫

The community-dwelling elderly people might be enhanced HRQOL by participating in social activities.

#### Interaction with others



**Going out** 

#### Muscle activation



Mild exercise

**HRQOL** 



High Social functioning score

Postural control



Improve dynamic balance

Autonomic nerves



#### Interaction with others



**Going out** 

#### **Muscle activation**



Mild exercise

**HRQOL** 



High Social functioning score

Postural control



Improve dynamic balance

Autonomic nerves



Reduce psychological stress

#### Interaction with others



**Going out** 

#### **Muscle activation**



Mild exercise

**HRQOL** 



High Social functioning score

Postural control

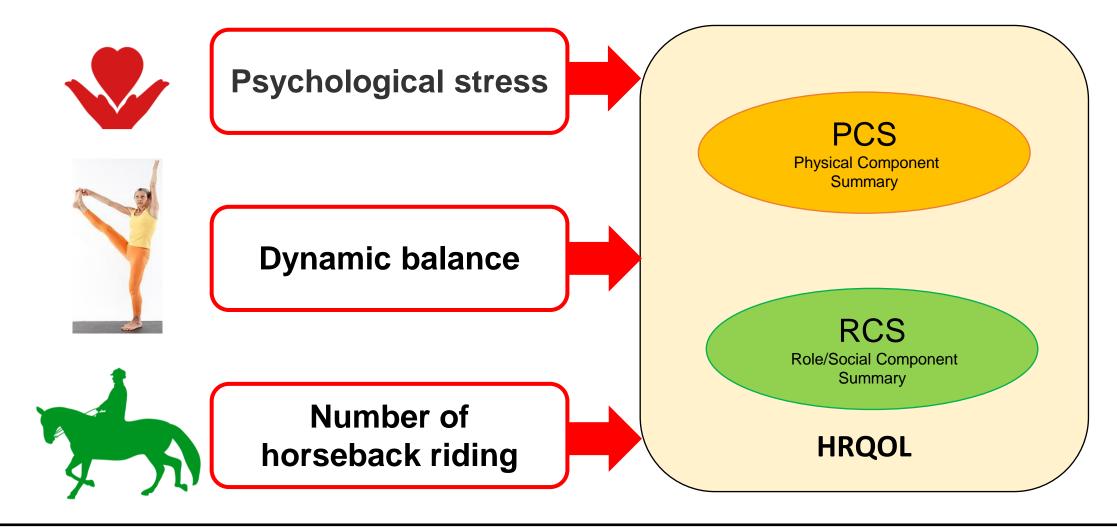


Improve dynamic balance

Autonomic nerves



Reduce psychological stress



Psychological stress, dynamic balance and the number of rides were related to **PCS** and **RCS** scores in SF-36.

#### Conclusions

- Olncreasing opportunities for social participation and improving dynamic balance.
  - ⇒Helping maintain and improve the HRQOL.
- ©Large sample size and age and gender matched control group should be required.
  - ⇒Clarify the effects of horseback riding on preventive care.







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