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**UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO NORTE**  
**CENTRO DE CIÊNCIAS DA SAÚDE**  
**PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS DA SAÚDE**

**COMPORTAMENTO DE MOVIMENTO**  
**DURANTE A GRAVIDEZ E DESFECHOS MATERNO-FETAIS**  
**EM MULHERES COM DIABETES GESTACIONAL**

**SÁVIO FERREIRA CAMARGO**

**Natal/RN**  
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Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências da Saúde da Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte como requisito para a obtenção do título de Mestre em Ciências da Saúde.

**Orientador: Prof. Dr. Eduardo Caldas Costa**

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Coordenador do Programa de Pós-graduação em Ciências da Saúde  
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## DEDICATÓRIA

À minha esposa Juliana,  
maior incentivadora dessa jornada acadêmica.

## **AGRADECIMENTOS**

À minha mãe, o ser humano mais forte que conheci na vida, pedra fundamental de minhas virtudes.

Aos meus irmãos, fontes infinitas de amor.

Ao meu pai, que foi só amor para os filhos, no curto período de vida compartilhada.

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Às gestantes diabéticas participantes da pesquisa, sem as quais o estudo não seria possível.

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“Aqueles que pensam que não têm tempo para atividade física,  
mais cedo ou mais tarde terão tempo para a doença”  
(Edward Smith-Stanley, 1º ministro britânico, em 1873)

## RESUMO

O diabetes mellitus gestacional (DMG) é uma das complicações de saúde mais comuns na gestação. O DMG pode resultar em importantes desfechos materno-fetais adversos, para os quais padrões adequados de comportamento de movimento (CM), ser fisicamente ativo e ter baixo comportamento sedentário (CS), podem se configurar em fator de proteção. As associações entre o CM, incluindo atividade física (AF) e CS, e os desfechos materno-fetais no DMG ainda não estão totalmente claros. O objetivo deste estudo foi investigar as associações entre CM e desfechos materno-fetais adversos em mulheres com DMG. Um total de 68 mulheres com DMG (20–35 semanas,  $32,1 \pm 5,8$  anos) foi incluído neste estudo de caso-controle. Os casos foram definidos pela presença de pelo menos um desfecho materno-fetal adverso entre nascimento pré-termo, recém-nascido grande para idade gestacional e hipoglicemia neonatal, o que foi denominado como desfecho composto. Os controles foram definidos como não ocorrência de desfecho composto. Intensidades e domínios de AF, número de passos por dia (pedômetro) e CS foram analisados. 35,3% das participantes apresentaram desfecho composto ( $n = 24$ ). Os controles mostraram um nível de AF de intensidade moderada maior que os casos (7,5, 95%CI 3,6-22,9 vs. 3,1, 95%CI 0,4-10,3 MET-h/semana;  $p = 0,04$ ). O nível de AF de intensidade moderada foi associado com um risco menor de desfechos materno-fetais adversos (OR 0,21, IC95% 0,05-0,91). Nenhuma associação significativa foi observada para outras medidas de AF e CS ( $p > 0,05$ ). Em conclusão, a AF de intensidade moderada durante a gravidez parece ter um papel protetor contra desfechos materno-fetais adversos em mulheres com DMG.

## ABSTRACT

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is one of the most common medical complications in pregnancy. GDM is associated with a higher risk for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes. Adequate movement behaviour (MB) (physically active and low sedentary behaviour (SB)) could be a health protect effect. Associations between MB, including physical activity (PA) and SB, and maternal–fetal outcomes on GDM are still unclear. The objective of this study was to investigate associations between MB and adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM. A total of 68 women with GDM (20–35 weeks,  $32.1 \pm 5.8$  years) were included in this pilot case-control study. The cases were defined by the presence of an adverse composite maternal–fetal outcome (preterm birth, newborn large for gestational age, and neonatal hypoglycemia). Controls were defined as no adverse maternal–fetal outcome. PA intensities and domains, steps/day (pedometer), and SB were analyzed. A total of 35.3% of participants showed adverse maternal–fetal outcomes ( $n = 24$ ). The controls showed a higher moderate-intensity PA level than the cases (7.5, 95%CI 3.6–22.9 vs. 3.1, 95%CI 0.4–10.3 MET-h/week;  $p = 0.04$ ). The moderate-intensity PA level was associated with a lower risk for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes (OR 0.21, 95%CI 0.05–0.91). No significant associations were observed for other PA and SB measures ( $p > 0.05$ ). In conclusion, moderate-intensity PA during pregnancy seems to have a protective role against adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM.

## LISTA DE SIGLAS

AF	Atividade física
AFMV	Atividade física moderada a vigorosa
AIG	Adequado para a idade gestacional
CM	Comportamento de movimento
CS	Comportamento sedentário
DMG	Diabetes mellitus gestacional
GIG	Grande para a idade gestacional
MEJC	Maternidade Escola Januário Cicco
MET	Equivalente metabólico
OMS	Organização Mundial da Saúde
PNAR	Pré-Natal de Alto Risco
PPAQ	Pregnancy Physical Activity Questionnaire

## SUMÁRIO

1 INTRODUÇÃO .....	13
2 OBJETIVOS .....	17
2.1 Objetivo geral .....	17
2.2 Objetivos específicos .....	17
3 JUSTIFICATIVA .....	16
4 MÉTODOS .....	17
5 ARTIGO PRODUZIDO .....	21
6 COMENTÁRIOS, CRÍTICAS E CONCLUSÕES.....	34
REFERÊNCIAS.....	37
APÊNDICE .....	41
Segundo artigo.....	41
ANEXOS .....	63
ANEXO 1 – PPAQ.....	64
ANEXO 2 – LASA-SBQ.....	68
ANEXO 3 – Questionário de hábitos alimentares .....	70
ANEXO 4 – Trabalhos apresentados em eventos científicos.....	72
ANEXO 5 – Curso ministrado .....	74

## 1 INTRODUÇÃO

A prevalência mundial de hiperglicemia durante a gestação de recém-nascidos vivos em 2019 foi de 15,8%, variando de acordo com o país, etnia e critérios de diagnóstico. Estima-se que 83,6% dos casos de hiperglicemia durante a gravidez sejam decorrentes de diabetes mellitus gestacional (DMG)<sup>1</sup>. DMG é uma das complicações de saúde mais comuns na gestação, sendo compreendido como qualquer grau de intolerância à glicose com início ou primeiro reconhecimento durante a gravidez<sup>2</sup>. O DMG está associado ao aumento da morbidade materno-fetal e complicações em longo prazo, como obesidade e diabetes tipo 2<sup>3-5</sup>.

Durante a gestação, a fim de privilegiar a nutrição do feto, os tecidos da gestante tornam-se progressivamente insensíveis à ação da insulina. Como resultado tem-se o aumento da concentração de glicose no sangue<sup>6,7</sup>. Acredita-se que isso seja causado em parte pelos hormônios placentários e em parte por outros fatores relacionados à obesidade e à gravidez que não são totalmente compreendidos<sup>8</sup>. Para manter um estado euglicêmico o organismo precisa aumentar a secreção de insulina em 200% a 250%. O DMG se desenvolve quando a gestante não é capaz de produzir uma resposta adequada para compensar a resistência à insulina desencadeada pelo estado gravídico<sup>8</sup>.

A hiperglicemia materna durante a gravidez conduz à hiperglicemia fetal transitória através da difusão placentária<sup>9</sup>. Níveis elevados de glicose fetal em circulação estimulam o pâncreas do feto para incrementar a produção de insulina, que atua como um potente hormônio de crescimento. O grau e a duração da hiperglicemia contribuem para a gravidade das consequências fetais<sup>9</sup>.

Para as mulheres com diagnóstico de DMG, manter níveis glicêmicos dentro dos limites saudáveis pode ajudar a prevenir distúrbios metabólicos no feto<sup>10</sup>, no recém-nascido<sup>10,11</sup> e no longo prazo<sup>4,5</sup>. Entre os desfechos perinatais destacados pela literatura, encontram-se parto pré-termo, ganho de peso fetal excessivo e hipoglicemia neonatal<sup>2,8</sup>.

O parto pré-termo configura-se como a causa de morte mais comum em recém-nascidos em todo o mundo<sup>12</sup>. O parto pré-termo está associado a uma série de morbidades induzidas pela maturidade fetal insuficiente como um todo. Suas complicações no curto prazo estão relacionadas com os sistemas cardiovascular e respiratório. Em longo prazo, está associado à paralisia cerebral e comprometimento do desenvolvimento neurológico<sup>13</sup>. Os recém-nascidos prematuros são mais

suscetíveis de desenvolver hipertensão, obesidade, e doenças cardiovasculares na idade adulta<sup>14</sup>.

O hiperinsulinemismo fetal induzido pela hiperglicemia materna faz aumentar o risco da hipoglicemia neonatal<sup>8,15</sup>, pois o fluxo contínuo de glicose é extinto, reduzindo bruscamente o substrato energético disponível para o neonato<sup>15</sup>. A hipoglicemia neonatal apresenta alta morbimortalidade, podendo provocar danos graves ao sistema nervoso central, como infarto de artéria cerebral média e hemorragias intraparenquimatosas, que, por sua vez, resultam em problemas como prejuízo do desenvolvimento cognitivo, convulsões<sup>16</sup>, paralisia cerebral e surdez<sup>17</sup>.

Para crescimento fetal excessivo são utilizados dois termos na literatura médica: i) grande para a idade gestacional (GIG) e ii) macrossomia. GIG é referido para um peso igual ou superior ao percentil 90 para a idade gestacional, enquanto o termo macrossomia fetal implica o registro de um peso absoluto de nascimento igual ou superior a 4.000 g, independentemente da idade gestacional<sup>18</sup>. Os fetos GIG têm um risco aumentado para morbidades como a distócia do ombro, lesão do plexo nervoso, fratura da clavícula, disfunções metabólicas e asfixia durante o parto. Além disso, os fetos GIG provocam um risco mais elevado de traumas perineais graves e lacerações em mulheres com parto por via vaginal<sup>5</sup>.

A gestão rigorosa dos níveis de glicose no sangue durante a gravidez em mulheres com DMG tem um grande impacto nos prognósticos do binômio materno-fetal<sup>8</sup>. Estudos demonstraram que mulheres fisicamente ativas antes da gravidez<sup>19,20</sup> e durante a gravidez<sup>21,22</sup> ganham menos peso e apresentam menor risco de DMG em comparação com seus pares fisicamente inativas.

Além disso, estudos recentes têm investigado a associação de diferentes aspectos do comportamento de movimento (CM), incluindo níveis de atividade física (AF) e comportamento sedentário (CS), sobre os desfechos materno-fetais no DMG<sup>23,24</sup>. As gestantes devem realizar pelo menos 150 min/semana de AF moderada a vigorosa (AFMV) para serem consideradas fisicamente ativas. O CS é definido como atividades executadas em posição sentada, inclinada ou deitada, com gasto energético de 1,5 ou menos equivalentes metabólicos (METs). O tempo gasto em CS é um importante fator de risco para DMG, enquanto a AFMV desempenha um papel protetor<sup>25</sup>.

Sabe-se que AFMV resulta em maior absorção de glicose por via independente da insulina, e também promove melhora da sensibilidade à insulina, o que resulta em

melhor controle glicêmico<sup>26</sup>. Como a hiperglicemia materna aumenta a secreção de insulina no pâncreas fetal, mulheres grávidas com glicemia bem controlada tendem a parir fetos de peso apropriado para a idade gestacional.

Além disso, o exercício regular durante a gravidez pode reduzir o risco de ganho excessivo de peso materno<sup>27</sup>. A redução da gordura corporal da mãe aumenta a transferência de oxigênio e reduz a difusão de dióxido de carbono através da placenta, com um impacto positivo no desenvolvimento fetal<sup>28</sup>. Este impacto reduz os fatores de risco para desfechos adversos no DMG<sup>29,30</sup>.

Estudos anteriores demonstraram que maior nível de AF e baixos níveis de CS durante a gravidez estão associados a um risco reduzido de desfechos materno-fetais adversos<sup>31-33</sup>. Entretanto, estudos que investigam a associação entre CM e desfechos de saúde, especificamente em mulheres com DMG, ainda são escassos<sup>34</sup>.

## 2 JUSTIFICATIVA

Diferentes componentes do CM podem influenciar na proteção contra desfechos adversos do DMG, principalmente por meio do atingimento do controle glicêmico e da redução do risco de ganho excessivo de peso materno. Portanto, o conhecimento sobre associações destes componentes com desfechos materno-fetais em mulheres com DMG pode ser de grande relevância para a orientação de programas de exercício físico que devem fazer parte da gestão da hiperglicemia durante a gestação.

Mais pesquisas ainda são necessárias neste sentido. Estudos anteriores, em geral, investigaram um único componente do CM de forma isolada<sup>6,7,11</sup>. De maneira oposta, nosso trabalho se propôs, mesmo que de modo exploratório, a uma investigação mais abrangente, examinando domínios (doméstico, ocupacional, lazer/exercício e transporte), intensidades, quantidade de passos e CS.

Estratégias preventivas e terapêuticas para melhorar a saúde materno-fetal ao longo da gestação e evitar complicações perinatais necessitam ser aprimoradas e valorizadas. Dessa forma, o conhecimento mais aprofundado sobre a relação entre componentes específicos do CM e desfechos no DMG pode auxiliar no manejo clínico dessa população.

### 3 OBJETIVOS

#### 3.1 Objetivo geral

Investigar as associações entre padrões de AF e CS durante a gravidez e desfechos materno-fetais adversos em mulheres com DMG.

#### 3.2 Objetivos específicos

- Caracterizar o nível da AF (intensidades, domínios, quantidade de passos) de mulheres com DMG durante a gestação;
- Determinar o nível de CS de mulheres com DMG durante a gestação;
- Analisar possíveis associações entre AF e CS de mulheres com DMG com:
  - i. ocorrência de parto pré-termo;
  - ii. peso ao nascer classificado como GIG; e
  - iii. registro de hipoglicemia neonatal.

## 4 MÉTODOS

O estudo observacional exploratório foi realizado no serviço Pré-Natal de Alto Risco (PNAR) da Maternidade Escola Januário Cicco (MEJC), vinculada à Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, na cidade de Natal-RN. Foi realizado entre junho de 2018 e dezembro de 2019, após aprovação do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa do Hospital Universitário Onofre Lopes (protocolo: 66795417.6.0000.5292). Setenta gestantes participaram da pesquisa. Todas as participantes estavam nas primeiras consultas no serviço especializado de Pré-Natal de Alto Risco para DMG.

Os critérios de inclusão no estudo foram: i) ser diagnosticada com DMG de acordo com os critérios da Organização Mundial da Saúde (OMS) de 2018<sup>35</sup>. A OMS define que a DMG deve ser diagnosticada a qualquer momento da gravidez se um ou mais dos seguintes critérios forem atendidos: a) glicose plasmática em jejum 5,1–6,9 mmol/L (92-125 mg/dL), b) glicose plasmática em 1 hora 10,0 mmol/L (180 mg/dL) após uma carga oral de glicose de 75 g, c) glicose plasmática de 2 horas 8,5-11,0 mmol/L (153-199 mg/dL) após uma carga oral de glicose de 75 g; ii) gestação única entre 20 e 35 semanas. Embora a triagem para DMG seja geralmente realizada entre 24 e 28 semanas de gestação, incluímos um período mais abrangente para compreender mais gestantes de 2º trimestre. Essa "janela" foi limitada à 35ª semana de gestação, a fim de evitar a perda de amostras devido a um parto antecipado para mulheres com DMG mal controlado<sup>36</sup>. Os critérios de exclusão foram: i) histórico de diabetes tipo 1 ou tipo 2; ii) não compreender adequadamente os questionários. Na análise do artigo principal foi considerado ainda como critério de exclusão: iii) infecção do trato urinário no pré-natal.

Todas as participantes foram submetidas aos seguintes procedimentos: i) triagem inicial e entrevista presencial, incluindo informações de idade, escolaridade, convívio com o parceiro (sim vs. não), peso pré-gestacional, peso atual, idade gestacional, insulino terapia (sim vs. não), diagnóstico de hipertensão arterial (sim vs. não) e índice de massa corporal pré-gestacional – utilizando o peso relatado e a altura medida no ambulatório; ii) avaliação do nível de AF (domínios e intensidades) utilizando o *Pregnancy Physical Activity Questionnaire* (PPAQ)<sup>37,38</sup> e do CS, aferido com o *Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam – Sedentary Behavior Questionnaire* (LASA-SBQ)<sup>39</sup>, considerando as atividades realizadas na semana anterior à entrevista; iv) nível de AF medido por pedômetro (número de passos por dia durante o período de uma semana); v) avaliação da frequência alimentar.

O nível de AF foi avaliado por domínio (doméstico, ocupacional, lazer/exercício e transporte) e intensidade (leve, moderada e vigorosa). Foi utilizada a versão em português validada do PPAQ<sup>37,38</sup>. O número de minutos gastos em todas as atividades relatadas no PPAQ foi multiplicado pelo equivalente metabólico (MET) da tarefa e depois somado para calcular METs por hora por semana (METs-h/wk). As atividades físicas também foram classificadas por domínios e os METs-h/wk foram calculados para cada domínio. As atividades domésticas incluíam limpeza e cuidados com crianças, idosos ou animais de estimação. As atividades ocupacionais incluíam atividades físicas realizadas durante o trabalho. O domínio lazer/exercício incluiu exercícios físicos e atividades realizadas por diversão. O domínio do transporte incluiu a atividade realizada para o deslocamento entre um lugar e outro.

Também avaliamos o nível de AF medido pelo pedômetro (número de passos por dia) de cada participante durante o período de uma semana. Todas as participantes retornaram ao serviço de pré-natal após uma semana para remoção do pedômetro. Os pedômetros (Omron®, HJ-321 Tri-Axis Alvita, EUA) foram ajustados individualmente para cada mulher com base no comprimento da passada, peso e altura, de acordo com as instruções do fabricante.

A ingestão alimentar das participantes foi avaliada em entrevista presencial, a fim de identificar o seu consumo alimentar habitual. Um questionário de frequência alimentar brasileiro validado<sup>40</sup>, incluindo 13 grupos alimentares diferentes (vegetais, legumes, verduras / frutas frescas, sucos de frutas / castanhas, nozes, oleaginosas / azeites, óleos vegetais / grãos, cereais integrais/ salsicha, linguiça, carne em conserva, embutidos / leite e derivados / peixes, fontes de omega 3 / carne vermelha com gordura aparente / refrigerantes, bebidas açucaradas; sorvetes/biscoitos doces e recheados; batata frita/ empanados e salgadinhos fritos; outros alimentos ultraprocessados), foi utilizado para avaliar o consumo alimentar das participantes durante o período de uma semana. O consumo alimentar foi classificado como "apropriado" ou "inadequado", de acordo com as orientações dietéticas para a população brasileira<sup>41</sup>.

Para a análise do artigo secundário, o peso fetal foi estimado por ultra-som (Philips®, Affiniti 50, Brasil) de acordo com a avaliação ultra-sonográfica da biometria fetal e o protocolo de crescimento estabelecido pela *International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*<sup>42</sup>. Todas as avaliações por ultra-som foram realizadas por um médico cegado. A avaliação ultra-sonográfica mais próxima da data

de coleta de dados foi considerada (máximo de quatro semanas). A classificação do peso fetal foi determinada com a utilização dos percentis para diferentes idades gestacionais de acordo com *World Health Organization Fetal Growth Charts*<sup>43</sup>. O corte usado para classificar o peso fetal foi: adequado para idade gestacional (AIG) = percentil 10 a 90, GIG = percentil > 90.

Após o parto, foram coletados os registros de hipertensão e insulinoterapia ocorridas após a triagem inicial e os dados de desfechos de saúde utilizados no artigo principal: parto pré-termo, peso ao nascer e hipoglicemia neonatal. As informações sobre os desfechos perinatais foram coletadas em 3 diferentes hospitais na cidade de Natal, onde as participantes realizaram seus partos: Maternidade Escola Januário Cicco, Hospital Dr. José Pedro Bezerra e Maternidade Municipal Dr. Araken Irerê Pinto. A amostra foi então dividida em dois grupos: i) pacientes sem registro de ocorrência de desfecho negativo; ii) pacientes com registro de pelo menos um dos desfechos investigados (desfecho combinado).

## 5 ARTIGO PUBLICADO

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Article

# Movement Behavior during Pregnancy and Adverse Maternal–Fetal Outcomes in Women with Gestational Diabetes: A Pilot Case-Control Study

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**Abstract:** Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is a major complication in pregnancy. GDM is associated with a higher risk for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes. Associations between movement behavior, including physical activity (PA) and sedentary behavior (SB), and maternal–fetal outcomes are still unclear. The objective of this study was to investigate associations between movement behavior and adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM. A total of 68 women with GDM (20–35 weeks, 32.1 ± 5.8 years) were included in this pilot case-control study. The cases were defined by the presence of an adverse composite maternal–fetal outcome (preterm birth, newborn large for gestational age, and neonatal hypoglycemia). Controls were defined as no adverse maternal–fetal outcome. PA intensities and domains, steps/day (pedometer), and SB were analyzed. A total of 35.3% of participants showed adverse maternal–fetal outcomes ( $n = 24$ ). The controls showed a higher moderate-intensity PA level than the cases (7.5, 95%CI 3.6–22.9 vs. 3.1, 95%CI 0.4–10.3 MET-h/week;  $p = 0.04$ ). The moderate-intensity PA level was associated with a lower risk for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes (OR 0.21, 95%CI 0.05–0.91). No significant associations were observed for other PA and SB measures ( $p > 0.05$ ). In conclusion, moderate-intensity PA during pregnancy seems to have a protective role against adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM.

**Keywords:** gestational diabetes; health outcomes; physical activity; sedentary behavior

## 1. Introduction

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is the most common complication in pregnancy. It is a risk factor for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes such as preterm birth, newborn large for gestational age (LGA), and neonatal hypoglycemia [1–3]. Previous studies have shown that physically active women before [4,5] and during pregnancy [6,7] have lower weight gain and risk of adverse maternal–fetal outcomes than their physically inactive peers. The clinical guidelines recommend that pregnant women, including those with GDM, perform 150 min/week of moderate–vigorous physical activity (MVPA) [8]. A recent meta-analysis conducted by Brown, Ceysens, and Boulvain [9], including 11 randomized controlled trials (RCTs), concluded that exercise interventions were associated with both reduced fasting and postprandial blood glucose concentrations compared to control interventions. However, the authors state that the current evidence is unclear due to the wide variety of exercise interventions, making it difficult to identify evidence of sufficiently high quality to be able to determine differences between the exercise and control groups for health outcomes in women with GDM.

Increasing physical activity (PA) levels may reduce the impact of poor glycemic control and excessive weight gain on adverse outcomes associated with GDM. Regular PA may reduce the maternal–fetal consequences associated with maternal hyperglycemia such as hypertension and macrosomia. Thus, PA benefits seem to occur not only for pregnant women who receive treatment, but also for subsequent generations [10,11]. Recent studies have investigated the influence of different aspects of movement behavior (PA and sedentary behavior) on maternal and child outcomes in GDM [12,13]. Sedentary behavior (SB) is defined as activities performed in a sitting, reclining, or lying posture with 1.5 or less metabolic equivalents (METs). SB is an important risk factor for GDM, while MVPA plays a protective role [14]. Previous studies have shown that higher PA and lower SB are associated with a reduced risk of adverse maternal–fetal outcomes [11,15,16]. However, further research is still needed to determine the benefits of the different movement behavior components on maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM. Therefore, this pilot study aimed to investigate the associations between PA (domains and intensities) and SB measures during pregnancy and the risk of adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Study Design

This is a pilot case-control study reported in accordance with the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) [17] statement. This study was conducted between June 2018 and December 2019 at the Maternity School Januário Cicco, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Natal, RN, Brazil. This study was approved by the Research Ethics Board at the Onofre Lopes University Hospital (protocol 66795417.6.0000.5292) and conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki. The participants were informed about all study procedures and provided written informed consent.

### 2.2. Participants

Data from delivery registration books of obstetric centers from the Januário Cicco Maternity School, Dr. José Pedro Bezerra Hospital, and the Dr. Araken Irerê Pinto Municipal Maternity of 68 women with GDM were obtained from October 2018 to December 2019 in order to assess the delivery

mode (i.e., vaginal or cesarean) and the occurrence of preterm birth, newborn LGA, and neonatal hypoglycemia. The cases were defined as at least one of the above-mentioned adverse maternal–fetal outcomes (i.e., preterm birth, newborn LGA, or neonatal hypoglycemia). The controls were defined as no adverse maternal–fetal outcome. These 68 participants were included in this pilot case-control study because they had participated in a previous cross-sectional study in which a detailed PA and SB assessment was conducted during their pregnancy (20–35 weeks of gestational age). All participants had been recruited in their first medical appointment in high-risk prenatal care at the Januário Cicco Maternity School, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Natal, RN, Brazil. The inclusion criteria were (i) being diagnosed with GDM according to the 2018 World Health Organization diagnostic criteria [18] and (ii) single gestation between 20 and 35 weeks. The exclusion criteria were (i) previous history of type 1 or type 2 diabetes and (ii) urinary tract infection in prenatal care.

### 2.3. Pregnancy Data

The information related to the pregnancy period of all participants was retrieved from medical records and face-to-face interviews which were performed with the participants between their 20 and 35 weeks of gestational age as part of a previous cross-sectional study. The following variables were considered for the present study: age, educational level, living arrangement with partner, family income, parity, previous preterm birth, previous GDM, maternal family history of diabetes, self-reported pregestational body mass index (BMI), maternal weight gain, gestational age, insulin therapy, hypertension diagnosis, number of prenatal visits, and dietary intake. All participants were assessed in a face-to-face interview in order to identify their usual dietary intake. A validated Brazilian food frequency questionnaire [19] including 13 different food groups (vegetables/legumes, fresh fruits/fruit juices, chestnuts/nuts/oilseeds, olive oil/vegetable oils, whole grains/cereals, sausage/canned meat/preserved meat/processed meats, milk/dairy products, fish/omega-3 sources, red meat with apparent fat, soft drinks/artificial beverages, ice cream/sweet cookies/stuffed cookies, chips/breaded pies/fried snacks, and other ultraprocessed foods) was used to assess the participants' dietary intake during a usual week period (see covariates in Table S1). The participants' dietary intake considering the 13 different food groups was classified as "appropriate" or "inappropriate" according to the dietary guidelines for the Brazilian population [20].

Similar to the above-mentioned variables, PA and SB measures were obtained during the 20 to 35 weeks of gestational age of all participants. Energy expenditure (MET-h/week) from different PA intensities (light, moderate, and vigorous) and domains (household/caregiving, occupational, sports/exercise, and transportation) were obtained from the validated Portuguese version of the Pregnancy Physical Activity Questionnaire (PPAQ) [21,22]. The following PA intensities were considered: (i) light, from 1.5 to <3.0 METs; (ii) moderate, from 3.0 to 6.0 METs; and (iii) vigorous, >6.0 METs [21,22]. The following PA domains were additionally considered: (i) household/caregiving activities including housekeeping and taking care of children, older adults, or pets; (ii) occupational activities including PA performed during work; (iii) sports/exercise PA including exercise and activities performed for fun; and (iv) transportation PA including walking to or from somewhere [21,22]. The pedometer-measured PA level (steps/day) was considered in addition to energy expenditure from PA intensities and domains in the present study. Pedometers (Omron, HJ-321

Tri-Axis Alvita, USA) were individually adjusted for the participants based on their stride length, weight, and height according to the manufacturer's instructions. The quantity of steps/day was assessed during a 1-week period for all participants. The SB was assessed by the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam Sedentary Behavior Questionnaire (LASA-SBQ) [23].

#### 2.4. Adverse Maternal–Fetal Outcomes

As previously mentioned, the presence of a composite adverse maternal–fetal outcome (including preterm birth and/or newborn LGA and/or neonatal hypoglycemia) was used as the criterion to define the cases. Preterm birth was defined as prior to 37 weeks of gestation according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) [24], large for gestational age implies a birth weight equal to or greater than the 90th percentile for a given gestational age according to ACOG [25], and neonatal hypoglycemia was defined as the occurrence of at least one report below 45 mg/dL during the first 24 h of life according to the Brazilian Pediatric Society [26].

#### 2.5. Statistical Analysis

Data normality was tested using the Shapiro–Wilk test. Results were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) for the parametric data and median and 25th to 75th percentiles for the nonparametric data. Categorical data were expressed as absolute and relative frequencies. Independent sample t-test or Mann–Whitney U test, chi-squared test, or Fisher's exact test was used in the preliminary analysis. As an exploratory analysis, when the movement behavior measure (PA domains and intensities, steps/day, and SB) was different between cases and controls, unadjusted and adjusted odds ratios (ORs) and their respective confidence intervals (CIs) for the composite adverse maternal–fetal outcome were calculated by logistic regression analysis. Thus, the whole sample was divided into tertiles for each movement behavior measure for this analysis (tertile 1 as reference for comparisons). The  $p < 0.20$  in the bivariate analysis was used as a criterion to include the variable as a confounding factor in the adjusted analysis. Parameter estimates were obtained using maximum likelihood techniques and their respective 95% CIs for the composite adverse maternal–fetal outcome. Statistical significance was set at 5%. Statistical procedures were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, v.25.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA).

### 3. Results

A total of 10 out of 92 potentially eligible participants declined to participate in the study, while 10 were excluded due to not presenting a compatible gestational age, and 4 more were excluded due to urinary tract infection. Thus, 68 participants were included in the final analysis. Table 1 shows the characteristics of case and control participants. The participants from the case and control groups showed similar overall characteristics. Supplementary Table 1 shows the prevalence of appropriate dietary intake from different food sources of case and control participants. No significant differences were found between the case and control participants ( $p > 0.05$ ). A total of 35.3% ( $n = 24$ ) of participants showed adverse maternal–fetal outcomes. The occurrence of preterm birth was 13.2% ( $n = 9$ ), newborn LGA was 11.8% ( $n = 8$ ), and neonatal hypoglycemia was 17.6% ( $n = 12$ ).

**Table 1.** Characteristics of case and control participants.

Variables	n	Total	Case	Control	<i>p</i> -Value
n, %			24 (35.3)	44 (64.7)	
Age, years	68	32.06 ± 5.81	31.46 ± 4.79	32.39 ± 6.33	0.533
At least high school education, n (%)	68	28 (40.2)	8 (33.4)	20 (45.4)	0.251
Living with partner, n (%)	68	57 (83.8)	22 (91.7)	35 (79.5)	0.195
Family income over 1 minimum wage, n (%)	68	25 (36.8)	12 (50.0)	13 (29.5)	0.095
Gestational age, weeks					
20–26 (second trimester)	68	23 (33.8)	9 (37.5)	14 (31.8)	0.636
27–35 (third trimester)		45 (66.2)	15 (62.5)	30 (68.2)	
Parity, n (%)					
No gestation before	68	16 (23.5)	4 (16.7)	12 (27.3)	0.613
One gestation before		16 (23.5)	6 (25.0)	10 (22.7)	
Two or more		36 (52.9)	14 (58.3)	22 (50.0)	
Previous preterm birth, n (%)	67	7 (10.4)	3 (12.5)	4 (9.3)	0.695
Previous GDM, n (%)	68	5 (7.4)	2 (8.3)	3 (6.8)	1.000
Maternal family history of diabetes, n (%)	67	47 (70.1)	17 (70.8)	30 (69.8)	0.927
Pregestational BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	68	28.50 (25.05–34.43)	29.20 (24.63–35.48)	28.50 (25.23–33.43)	0.734
Maternal weight gain (kg)	67	5.94 ± 7.18	6.04 ± 8.45	5.89 ± 6.53	0.934
Insulin therapy, n (%)	68	25 (36.8)	12 (50.0)	13 (29.5)	0.095
Hypertension, n (%)	68	25 (36.8)	12 (50.0)	13 (29.5)	0.095
Prenatal visits, n	64	9.38 ± 3.24	9.35 ± 3.79	9.39 ± 2.94	0.960
Mode of delivery					
Vaginal	68	25 (36.8)	10 (41.7)	15 (34.1)	0.536
Cesarean		43 (63.2)	14 (58.3)	29 (65.9)	

Abbreviations: GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; BMI, body mass index. Continuous data are expressed as mean ± SD or median (25th to 75th percentiles). Categorical data are expressed as absolute (n) and relative (%) frequency.

Table 2 shows the PA and SB measures of case and control participants. The case participants showed lower moderate-intensity PA levels than the control participants ( $p < 0.05$ ). The additional PA (domains, intensities, and steps/day) and SB (min/day) measures were not different between the case and control participants ( $p > 0.05$ ). Regarding the PA domains, 47, 3, 1, and 44 participants did not report leisure/exercise, transportation, household/domestic, and occupational activities, respectively. Regarding the PA intensities, all participants reported performing light PA, but 13 and 62 participants did not report performing moderate and vigorous PA, respectively. Five participants had technical issues with the pedometers and therefore their data were not included in the study.

**Table 2.** Physical activity and sedentary behavior measures during pregnancy of case and control participants.

Measures	Total		Case		Control		<i>p</i> -Value
	n		n		n		
<b>PA domains, MET-h/week</b>							
Leisure/exercise	21	0.00 (0.00–2.69)	5	0.00 (0.00–0.00)	16	0.00 (0.00–2.69)	0.160
Transportation	65	4.80 (1.50–7.53)	22	3.08 (1.50–7.15)	43	5.03 (1.73–8.66)	0.204
Household/domestic	67	52.37 (28.23–76.52)	24	46.22 (26.74–76.01)	43	55.61 (29.23–81.38)	0.492
Occupational	24	0.00 (0.00–48.00)	8	0.00 (0.00–66.72)	16	0.00 (0.00–48.00)	0.928
<b>PA intensities, MET-h/week</b>							
Light	68	67.75 (41.20–116.71)	24	58.35 (43.11–97.42)	44	71.38 (40.55–121.81)	0.457
Moderate	55	5.82 (1.92–19.88)	18	3.06 (0.45–10.30)	37	7.50 (3.63–22.87)	0.044*
Vigorous	6	0.00 (0.00–0.00)	2	0.00 (0.00–0.00)	4	0.00 (0.00–0.00)	0.907
<b>Pedometer-measured PA, steps/day</b>	63	3.673 (2.809–4.792)	23	3.156 (2.703–4.727)	40	3.930 (2.933–4.989)	0.250
<b>Sedentary behavior, min/day</b>	68	416 (243–568)	24	418 (287–644)	44	405 (229–567)	0.626

Abbreviation: PA, physical activity. Continuous data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD or median (25th to 75th percentiles). Categorical data are expressed as absolute (n) and relative (%) frequency. \*Significant difference between groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Table 3 shows the OR for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes according to tertiles of energy expenditure in moderate-intensity PA (MET-h/week). Participants with the highest moderate-intensity PA level showed lower risk (OR = 0.21, 95%CI 0.05–0.91) for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes compared to participants with the lowest moderate-intensity PA level in the multivariate-adjusted analysis.

**Table 3.** Association between moderate-intensity physical activity during pregnancy and adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with gestational diabetes mellitus.

Moderate PA (MET-h/week)	Case	Control	Unadjusted		Adjusted	
	n	n	OR (95%CI)	p-Value	OR <sup>‡</sup> (95%CI)	p-Value
Tertile 1 (0.00–3.60 MET-h/week)	12	11	Reference		Reference	
Tertile 2 (3.72–11.50 MET-h/week)	7	16	0.40 (0.12–1.34)	0.138	0.46 (0.12–1.80)	0.266
Tertile 3 (15.00–123.84 MET-h/week)	5	17	0.27 (0.07–0.98)	0.046*	0.21 (0.05–0.91)	0.037*

Abbreviations: PA, physical activity; CI, confidence interval. <sup>‡</sup>Analysis adjusted for insulin therapy, hypertension, and intake of olive/vegetable oil and ultraprocessed food (Table S1). \*Different from reference group ( $p < 0.05$ ).

#### 4. Discussion

This study investigated the associations between the measures of PA (intensities, domains, and step count) and SB during pregnancy and the risk for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM. The main finding was that the moderate-intensity PA level was negatively associated with the risk for adverse maternal–fetal outcomes.

Our study shows that the majority of women with GDM studied herein focused their activities on light intensity, followed by moderate PA and almost no vigorous PA. Based on previous data from the literature [27,28], the participants from our study had a low number of steps per day and high SB, with no differences between cases (those with adverse maternal–fetal outcomes) and controls (those without adverse maternal–fetal outcomes). The participants' PA data are similar to those seen in studies carried out in developing countries [29] and are different from those seen in studies conducted in developed countries. For example, the energy expenditure data (MET-h/week) from the present study are much lower at light (67.8 vs. 90.3), moderate (5.8 vs. 48.3), and vigorous (0.0 vs. 1.4) intensities compared to a Canadian study [30]. Regarding vigorous PA, a study carried out in Vietnam showed that 3.0% of pregnant women performed PA at the above-mentioned intensity. However, only six women (8.8%) reported performing vigorous PA in our study. In the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children [31] in England, 48.8% practiced vigorous PA. The most common PA during pregnancy reported by these women was brisk walking, followed by swimming and antenatal exercise.

A large amount of the registered PA in the present study was performed in the domestic domain, including housekeeping and taking care of children, older adults, or pets, followed by activities in the transportation domain. It is common for most of the PA of pregnant women to be concentrated in the domestic domain regardless of the development level of the researched region, as shown in a study involving 2030 pregnant women developed in Vietnam [29] and in the Pregnancy, Infection, and Nutrition Study which investigated PA among 1482 pregnant women in the USA [32]. A modest portion of our sample registered leisure/exercise (28.0%) or occupational PA (35.3%). The values in the Pregnancy, Infection, and Nutrition Study were 60.7% and 30.2%, respectively. The low record of leisure/exercise PA may explain the lack of evidence of a difference between cases and controls in our study in contrast to several studies that point to leisure/exercise PA as a health protection factor in the pregnant population [33].

Observational studies investigating the association between PA and health outcomes in women with GDM are still scarce [34]. Higher volumes of moderate-intensity PA are associated with greater chances of achieving glycemic control [35,36]. It is known that MVPA results in greater glucose uptake by insulin-independent routes, and insulin sensitivity is also improved compared to light intensity activity, which results in improved glycemic control [37]. Pregnant women with well-controlled blood glucose tend to generate fetuses of appropriate weight for gestational age, as maternal hyperglycemia increases insulin secretion in the fetal pancreas. Insulin works as an anabolic hormone responsible for weight gain and neonatal hypoglycemia [38]. In addition, exercise during pregnancy can reduce the risk of excessive maternal weight gain [39]. The reduction of the mother's body fat increases the transfer of oxygen and reduces the diffusion of carbon dioxide through the placenta, with a positive impact on fetal development [40]. This impact reduces the risk of LGA (without increasing the risk for small for gestational age) and the risk factors for adverse outcomes in GDM [36,41]. A recent umbrella review including 76 systematic reviews and meta-analyses on the benefits of PA during pregnancy points out strong evidence showing that moderate-intensity PA reduces the risk of excessive gestational weight gain [42], which supports the findings observed in the present study.

To date, light PA is less associated with potential benefits for the maternal–fetal binomial [43]. The main guidelines for PA delivered for pregnant women, such as the ACOG [44] and Canadian guidelines [45], recommend performing moderate-intensity PA. Our results did not register differences in light PA volume between cases and controls. Furthermore, we found no differences for vigorous PA, which can be explained by the almost total absence of records of vigorous PA in our sample. Physiological changes in pregnancy often make vigorous PA unviable [46]. In addition, clinicians usually recommend light aerobic activities for pregnant women such as light walking. Interestingly, there was no difference in the quantity of steps/day between cases and controls, which seems to suggest that the greater amount of moderate PA found in the controls is not necessarily related to the greater achievement of the most common type of PA during pregnancy, which is walking [31,40,47,48]. It is possible that the difference between the controls and the cases might be in the intensity and not in the volume of walking activities.

Our data also showed no differences in the PA domains. Recent studies claim that the current state of knowledge in the field is that prospective research is needed to establish the effects of specific types of exercise on maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM. Thus, effective methods of behavioral counseling on the ideal type, frequency, and intensity of exercises for women with different health conditions during pregnancy may be consolidated [47]. However, we can already consider that any type of PA with sufficient intensity and duration can have benefits for pregnant women with GDM [43,44]. Based on our findings in which moderate PA seems to protect against adverse maternal–fetal outcomes, it is clear that patients diagnosed with GDM need to be encouraged and instructed to be involved in PA in order to improve glycemic control and avoid excessive weight gain. After 22 weeks of an exercise program at moderate intensity three times a week in women with GDM, Barakat et al. [49] demonstrated that the exercise group had a 7% lower birth weight and a 12% lower maternal weight gain than the control group. The modest participation in moderate PA in the leisure/exercise domain in our study indicates that prenatal services for pregnant women with GDM should perform counseling/prescription

focusing on this intensity and domain, as this is what the most solid evidence suggests [5,33,35,40,43,50] and the guidelines recommend [44,45]. Some activities which would fit into this category would be brisk walking, swimming, or weight training, given the precautions established for PA in diabetics [51] and during pregnancy [44,45]. Bo et al. [50] demonstrated that a program with individual oral/written recommendations to support a healthy diet and a brisk walking intervention of at least 20 min every day reduced maternal/neonatal adverse outcomes (perinatal and postpartum mothers, preterm delivery, newborn LGA, and any neonatal conditions that required an extended hospital stay) by 50% among women with GDM. Although GDM management advocated in prenatal services usually consists of diet and insulin therapy, PA must be included as a clinical approach. A PA intervention may act as a protective factor against adverse maternal–fetal outcomes and also help to reduce costs in the health care system, mainly by reducing the use of medications and hospitalizations.

Although this pilot study presents a more comprehensive analysis about the association between the movement behavior and adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM, it has limitations that should be mentioned. The generalization of our findings should be interpreted with caution due to the inclusion of a sample recruited from only one reference center, which essentially serves the low-income population. No data were collected on impaired glucose tolerance during pregnancy, a variable that has a direct influence on adverse health outcomes in GDM. However, all participants were followed and treated during pregnancy from their first medical appointment in high-risk prenatal care. Those participants who did not maintain an appropriate glycemic control, including impaired glucose tolerance, were treated with insulin therapy (n = 25; 36.8% of the sample). It should be noted that the regression analysis in Table 3 includes insulin therapy as a confounding factor, which may reduce the uncertainty of our results regarding the absence of data of impaired glucose tolerance. The participants' food intake was assessed as the usual food consumption, which does not enable a determination of energy intake, an aspect that may be associated with glycemic control. Finally, the movement behavior was only assessed once during pregnancy over a wide range (20 to 35 weeks).

## 5. Conclusions

Our preliminary data show that moderate-intensity PA during pregnancy seems to have a protective role against adverse maternal–fetal outcomes in women with GDM. This finding reinforces the importance of a physically active lifestyle during pregnancy in this population.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online at [www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1](http://www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1), **Table S1:** Prevalence of appropriate dietary intake during pregnancy of case and control participants.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, S.F.C., M.D.C.M.C., and E.C.C.; data curation, S.F.C. and D.S.; formal analysis, J.D.C. and E.C.C.; investigation, S.F.C., D.S., and R.M.S.; methodology, S.F.C. and E.C.C.; project administration, S.F.C.; supervision, E.C.C.; writing—original draft, S.F.C. and J.D.C.; writing—review & editing, S.F.C., R.N.C., and E.C.C. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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## 6 COMENTÁRIOS, CRÍTICAS E CONCLUSÕES

No anteprojeto do estudo, idealizamos fazer uma coorte analisando as participantes em 4 estratos em função do nível de CM, combinando 2 a 2 os *status* (superior vs. inferior) de AF e de CS. A fase de coleta de dados nos impôs algumas dificuldades, causadas principalmente pelo baixo número de investigadores, bem como de pedômetros disponíveis. Isto resultou em um número de participantes inferior ao pretendido e, portanto, inviabilidade do projeto. Modificamos o desenho de estudo para uma abordagem de caso-controle, exploratória e piloto, dividindo as participantes em 2 grupos: com desfecho negativo vs. sem desfecho negativo. Com estas alterações, foi possível concluir o projeto no prazo estipulado, respondendo de forma parcial o que se pretendia no projeto original.

A coleta de dados da pesquisa se configurou como a parte mais desafiadora do mestrado. Número reduzido de equipamentos, participantes do interior do estado que não retornavam com os pedômetros na data marcada... uma série de acontecimentos que resultaram, por fim, em importantes contribuições para a formação do pesquisador. Neste ponto, foi fundamental o trabalho dos colegas de grupo de pesquisa Daniel Schwade e Raíssa Melo, além do apoio da professora Janaína Crispim Freitas, do Setor de Pesquisa da MEJC.

Nosso estudo se configura como uma perspectiva inicial, exploratória, ainda assim, tem relevância diante do atual cenário de informações. Nossos achados poderão contribuir para nortear a atuação de profissionais da saúde que lidam com o manejo clínico da hiperglicemia na gestação, no sentido de potencializar o CM para padrões nos quais possa representar fator de proteção para essa população.

Entendo o período do mestrado como uma etapa árdua, porém extremamente gratificante no meu processo de amadurecimento acadêmico-profissional. Desde a graduação, concluída no distante ano de 2001, eu havia me afastado do ambiente acadêmico. Ao me ver no cargo de profissional de educação física de um hospital universitário, ficou clara a necessidade de retomar os estudos. Desde o início deste processo, pude contar com o apoio do professor Eduardo Caldas Costa, que, posteriormente, viria a ser meu orientador no mestrado. Sob sua orientação, pude desenvolver um caminho próprio no sentido da evolução acadêmica. Com muita propriedade, meu orientador me auxiliou e instruiu pelos trilhos da ciência construída com dedicação, ética e responsabilidade.

Como resultado do estudo, um segundo artigo (apêndice) também foi produzido, no qual examinamos as associações dos níveis de AF e CS com a adequação do peso fetal (durante a gestação). Sob o título de “Fetal weight in pregnant women with gestational diabetes and physical activity and sedentary behavior levels” o manuscrito foi submetido à **Revista Einstein** (Qualis B3 em Medicina II, fator de impacto 0.718 em 2019). O estudo demonstra que mulheres com DMG com fetos AIG são mais ativas fisicamente, especialmente nos domínios de lazer/exercício e transporte, quando comparadas às mulheres com DMG com fetos GIG.

Vejo como importante mérito do estudo a sua repercussão para o serviço de educação física no pré-natal. A atuação do profissional de educação física nos hospitais vem ganhando corpo nos últimos anos, e nosso estudo, desenvolvido dentro dessa realidade, pode trazer contribuição para a área. Após a realização do estudo, em minhas consultas no PNAR, passei a dar maior ênfase às AF de intensidade moderada nos programas elaborados para as pacientes.

Ao longo do período do mestrado tive a grata oportunidade de me integrar ao Grupo de Pesquisa sobre Efeitos Agudos e Crônicos do Exercício, liderado pelo Prof. Eduardo. O processo de troca de conhecimentos dentro do grupo foi fundamental para o meu desenvolvimento acadêmico. Em 2019, passei a integrar, também, o Grupo de Pesquisa Cuidados com a saúde feminina e materno-infantil da MEJC, meu local de trabalho. Junto à Gerência de Ensino e Pesquisa, passei a instruir alunos dos programas de residência médica e multiprofissional na redação e desenvolvimento de projetos de pesquisa e atuo como preceptor de alunos da graduação em educação física. Atualmente, sou membro da Comissão de Avaliação de Pesquisa da MEJC, integro bancas de trabalhos de conclusão dos programas de residência e atuo como pesquisador responsável em um estudo multicêntrico envolvendo 12 hospitais da rede da Empresa Brasileira de Serviços Hospitalares. No último curso de elaboração de projetos de pesquisa, realizado pelo hospital, ministrei módulo intitulado Delineamentos de pesquisa e levantamento bibliográfico.

Nos últimos dois anos, também tive a oportunidade de apresentar resultados do estudo em diferentes eventos científicos, como I Congresso Interdisciplinar da Maternidade Escola Januário Cicco (2019), XXI Congresso Brasileiro de Ciências do Esporte (2019), II Simpósio Brasileiro de Ciências do Exercício e do Esporte (2019) e XV Simpósio Nordestino de Atividade Física e Saúde (2020).

Minha perspectiva, agora, é prosseguir os estudos no Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências da Saúde, aprofundando investigações sobre o CM em mulheres com hiperglicemia na gestação.

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## APÊNDICE

Artigo secundário:

**Fetal weight in pregnant women with gestational diabetes and physical activity and sedentary behavior levels**

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## **Fetal weight in pregnant women with gestational diabetes and physical activity and sedentary behavior levels**

Peso fetal em mulheres com diabetes gestacional e níveis de atividade física e comportamento sedentário

### **ABSTRACT**

**Aims:** To investigate the physical activity (PA) domains, intensities and sedentary behavior of women with gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) with appropriate-for-gestational-age (AGA) and large-for-gestational-age (LGA) fetus. **Methods:** A total of 67 women with GDM ( $31.9 \pm 5.9$  years) with 20–35 weeks of gestational age participated in this cross-sectional study. PA was determined by step count (pedometer) and self-reported PA domains (household/domestic, occupational, leisure/exercise, and transportation) and intensities (light, moderate, and vigorous) by questionnaire. Self-reported SB was assessed by questionnaire. Fetal weight was assessed by obstetric ultrasound. **Results:** Participants with AGA fetal weight ( $n = 51$ ) showed higher PA in the leisure/exercise ( $3.5 \pm 7.1$  vs.  $0.9 \pm 2.9$  MET-h/wk;  $p = 0.037$ ) and transportation ( $6.3, 1.5-9.0$  vs.  $2.4, 1.5-5.1$  MET-h/wk;  $p = 0.039$ ) domains compared to participants with LGA fetal weight ( $n = 16$ ). In addition, participants with AGA fetal weight showed higher participation in the leisure/exercise PA than the participants with LGA fetal weight ( $39.2$  vs.  $12.5\%$ ;  $p = 0.047$ ). **Conclusions:** Pregnant women with gestational diabetes and AGA fetal weight were more active in the leisure/exercise and transportation domains than those with LGA.

**Keywords:** Gestational Diabetes; Physical Activity; Sedentary Behavior; Fetal Weight.

## RESUMO

**Objetivos:** Investigar a atividade física (AF) (domínios e intensidades) e comportamento sedentário de mulheres com diabetes mellitus gestacional (DMG) com fetos classificados como de tamanho adequado para a idade gestacional (AIG) e grandes para a idade gestacional (GIG). **Métodos:** Um total de 67 mulheres com DMG (31,9±5,9 anos) entre 20 e 35 semanas de gestação participaram deste estudo transversal. AF foi determinada por contagem de passos (pedômetro), domínios (doméstico, ocupacional, lazer/exercício e transporte) e intensidades (leve, moderada e vigorosa) relatadas em questionário. CS foi avaliado por questionário. O peso fetal foi avaliado por ultrassonografia. **Resultados:** As participantes com fetos AIG (n = 51) apresentaram maior gasto energético em AF nos domínios lazer/exercício (3,5±7,1 vs 0,9±2,9 MET-h/sem.; p = 0,037) e transporte (6,3, 1,5-9,0 vs 2,4, 1,5-5,1 MET-h/sem.; p = 0,039) em comparação às participantes com fetos GIG (n = 16). Além disso, participantes com fetos AIG apresentaram maior participação em AF de lazer/exercício que participantes com fetos GIG (39,2 vs 12,5%; p = 0,047). **Conclusão:** Entre gestantes com DMG, as que apresentaram fetos AIG foram mais ativas nos domínios de lazer/exercício e transporte que aquelas com fetos GIG.

**Palavras-chave:** Diabetes gestacional; Atividade física; Comportamento sedentário; Peso fetal.

## Introduction

The prevalence of hyperglycemia during the gestation of alive newborns in 2019 was 15.8%, varying according to country, ethnicity and criteria for diagnosis. It is estimated that 83.6% of hyperglycemia cases during pregnancy are due to Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM).<sup>1</sup> GDM is associated with increased maternal-fetal morbidity and long-term complications for the mother and children<sup>2,3</sup> such as an increased risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes.<sup>4,5</sup> GDM-induced fetal hyperglycemia can also result in excessive weight gain for the fetus.<sup>5-7</sup> Maintaining an appropriate size for gestational age (AGA; 10<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup> percentile), especially in women with GDM, can help prevent metabolic disorders in the fetus<sup>6</sup> and newborn,<sup>6,7</sup> and in the long-term.<sup>3-5</sup> In addition to determining the risk of fetal macrosomia, evaluating fetal weight is clinically important due to the increased risk of excessive weight gain for labor abnormalities, shoulder dystocia, birth trauma, and permanent injury to the neonate.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, excessive fetal weight gain is an indicator to intensify clinical procedures to improve glycaemic control in order to normalize the fetal weight.<sup>9</sup>

Studies have shown that women who are physically active before<sup>10,11</sup> and during<sup>12,13</sup> pregnancy gain less weight and have a lower risk for GDM compared to their physically inactive peers. More recently, a meta-analysis conducted by da Silva et al.,<sup>7</sup> including both randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and cohort studies, investigated the effect of leisure-time physical activity (LTPA) during pregnancy on maternal-child outcomes. This meta-analysis of RCTs demonstrated that participation in LTPA was associated with lower weight gain during pregnancy, lower likelihood of GDM, and lower likelihood of delivering a large-for-gestational-age (LGA; >90<sup>th</sup> percentile) infant, while cohort studies systematic review showed associations with lower weight gain, lower likelihood of GDM, and lower risk of preterm delivery. However, only three studies were included in the meta-analysis of the RCTs regarding

the effect of LTPA on the risk of having an LGA infant. Therefore, little information is available about the effect of LTPA on this outcome. In addition, the relationship of LTPA in pregnancy with fetal weight is poorly understood. Since there is a strong association between fetal weight and birth weight,<sup>14</sup> it is important to investigate whether women with GDM with AGA and LGA fetal weight have different LTPA levels during pregnancy.

Despite the benefits of LTPA on maternal-child outcomes, there are several other PA domains such as household/domestic, occupational, and transportation.<sup>15,16</sup> Thus, it is important to investigate the association of physical activity (PA) performed in different domains with maternal-child outcomes, including fetal weight. In addition, it should be noted that studies in recent years have investigated the association of different aspects of movement behavior, including PA level and sedentary behavior (SB), on maternal-child outcomes in GDM.<sup>17,18</sup> Pregnant women should perform at least 150 min/week of moderate-vigorous PA (MVPA) to be considered physically active. Sedentary behavior is defined as activities performed while in a seated, inclined or supine position with an energy expenditure of 1.5 or less metabolic equivalents (METs). Time spent in SB is an important risk factor of GDM, while MVPA plays a protective role.<sup>19</sup> Previous studies have shown that higher PA and lower SB are associated with a reduced risk of having a LGA infant in women with GDM.<sup>20,21</sup> We sought to investigate whether good movement behavior patterns would also be associated with adequate fetal weight gain.

However, to the best of our knowledge, no comprehensive analysis about the movement behavior during pregnancy of women with GDM with AGA and LGA fetal weight including PA level performed in different domains, intensities and SB is available. Therefore, this study compared the PA and SB among pregnant women with gestational diabetes and AGA or LGA fetal weight in ultrasound assessment.

## **Material and Methods**

### ***Study design, setting and participants***

This cross-sectional study is reported in accordance with the STROBE (Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology) statement.<sup>22</sup> This study was conducted at the maternity hospital linked to a university in northeastern Brazil between June 2018 and July 2019, after receiving approval from the local Ethics Committee (Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa do Hospital Universitário Onofre Lopes, Protocol Number: 66795417.6.0000.5292, of May 9, 2017). All patients gave their informed consent for participation in the research study. Based on the population of pregnant women with GDM seen at the hospital outpatient clinic, a sample size of 87 patients was calculated based on a 95% confidence level and 10% error. However, we found difficulties in the participation of high-risk pregnant women. Despite the large deadline for the collections, only 67 participants completed the study (Figure 1). All participants were recruited in their first medical appointment at the specialized High Risk Prenatal Care service for GDM.

Inclusion criteria in the study were: i) being diagnosed with GDM according to the 2018 World Health Organization diagnostic criteria and classification of hyperglycaemia first detected in pregnancy,<sup>23</sup> which states that GDM should be diagnosed at any time in pregnancy if one or more of the following criteria are met: a) fasting plasma glucose 5.1–6.9 mmol/L (92–125 mg/dL), b) 1-hour plasma glucose 10.0 mmol/L (180 mg/dL) following a 75 g oral glucose load, c) 2-hour plasma glucose 8.5–11.0 mmol/L (153–199 mg/dL) following a 75 g oral glucose load; ii) single gestation between 20 and 35 weeks. Although the screening for GDM is generally performed at 24-28 weeks of gestation, we have included a more comprehensive period. This 'window' was limited to the 35<sup>th</sup> week of gestation in order to avoid sample

loss due to an earlier delivery for women with poorly controlled GDM;<sup>9</sup> iii) fetus classified as AGA or LGA, according to World Health Organization Fetal Growth Charts.<sup>24</sup> Exclusion criteria were: i) previous history of type 1 or type 2 diabetes; ii) not properly understanding the questionnaires.

### ***Procedures***

All participants were submitted to the following procedures: i) initial screening and face-to-face interview including information such as age, educational level, living arrangement with partner (yes vs. no), pre-gestational weight, current weight and gestational age, fasting glucose in the week before the interview (controlled vs. uncontrolled), insulin therapy (yes vs. no), hypertension diagnosis (yes vs. no), and pre-gestational body mass index using self-reported weight and ambulatory measured height; ii) assessment of PA level (domains and intensities) and SB using the Pregnancy Physical Activity Questionnaire (PPAQ),<sup>25</sup> considering activities performed in the week before the interview; iii) pedometer-measured PA level (number of steps per day over a 1-week period); iv) assessment of food frequency.

### ***Fetal weight status***

Fetal weight was assessed by ultrasound (Philips®, Affiniti 50, Brazil) according to the ultrasound assessment of fetal biometry and growth protocol established by the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology.<sup>26</sup> All ultrasound assessments were performed by a blinded medical doctor. The ultrasound assessment closest to the data collection date was considered for data analysis, within a maximum of four weeks. The classification of fetal weight (i.e. AGA or LGA) was determined using the percentiles for different gestational ages according to the World Health

Organization Fetal Growth Charts.<sup>24</sup> The cut-off used to classify AGA and LGA fetal weight was 10-90<sup>th</sup> percentile and > 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively.

### ***Physical activity and sedentary behavior***

PA level was assessed by domain (i.e. household/domestic, occupational, leisure/exercise, and transportation) and intensity (i.e. light, moderate, and vigorous). The validated Portuguese version of the PPAQ was used for the PA level regarding its domains and intensities.<sup>27</sup> The number of minutes spent in every activity reported in the PPAQ was multiplied by the metabolic equivalent (MET) of the task and then added up in order to calculate the weekly METs/hour. Physical activities were also classified by domains and the METs/hour/week was calculated for each PA domain. Household activities included housekeeping and taking care of children, older adults or pets. Occupational activities included physical activities performed during work. Leisure/exercise domain included exercise and activities performed for fun. The transportation domain included walking to or from somewhere. In addition to assessing the minutes spent in each PA domain and intensity (continuous data) in the present study, the participants were also asked about their participation (categorical data; yes vs. no) in each PA domain and intensity. We also assessed the pedometer-measured PA level (i.e. number of steps per day) of each participant over a 1-week period. All participants returned to prenatal care service following a 1-week period in order to remove the pedometer. Pedometers (Omron®, HJ-321 Tri-Axis Alvita, USA) were individually adjusted for the participants based on their stride length, weight and height according to the manufacturer's instructions. Participants were classified into two groups according to the number of steps per day: inactive (< 5,000 steps/day) and active (≥ 5,000 steps/day).<sup>28</sup> SB was measured as hours per day and consisted in time spent watching TV, seated, and watching TV plus seated (i.e. total SB) using the

validated Portuguese version of the PPAQ.<sup>27</sup> Low SB in the present study was defined as total SB values below the median of the full cohort.

### ***Dietary intake***

The dietary intake of all participants was assessed in a face-to-face interview in order to identify their usual food consumption. A validated Brazilian food frequency questionnaire,<sup>29</sup> including 13 different food groups (vegetables/legumes; fresh fruits/fruit juices; chestnuts/nuts/oilseeds; olive oil/vegetable oils; whole grains/cereals; sausage/canned meat/preserved meat/processed meats; milk/dairy products; fish/omega 3 sources; red meat with apparent fat; soft drinks/artificial beverages; ice cream/sweet cookies/stuffed cookies; chips/breaded pies/fried snacks; other ultra-processed foods) was used to assess the participants' food consumption during a usual one-week period. The participants' dietary intake, considering the 13 different food groups, was classified as 'appropriate' or 'inappropriate' according to the dietary guidelines for the Brazilian population.<sup>30</sup>

### ***Statistical analysis***

Data normality was tested using the Shapiro-Wilk test. Results are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) for the parametric data and median and 25-75<sup>th</sup> percentiles for the non-parametric data. Categorical data are expressed as absolute and relative frequencies. Independent sample t-test (parametric data) or Mann-Whitney U test (non-parametric data) was used to compare the continuous variables between the AGA fetal weight and LGA fetal weight groups. The Levene's test was used to verify the homogeneity of variances. Pearson's chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test was used to analyze categorical variables between the AGA fetal weight and LGA fetal weight groups. The significance level was set at  $p < 0.05$  for all analyses. All

data were analyzed using SPSS version 22.0 for Windows (Statistical Package for Social Sciences, Chicago, IL, USA).

## Results

Table 1 shows the characteristics of the participants according to fetal weight status (n = 67).

**Table 1.** Characteristics of the participants (n = 67).

	Fetal weight status		p
	AGA	LGA	
n, %	51 (76.1)	16 (23.9)	
Age, years	32.2 ± 6.3	31.2 ± 4.9	0.543
At least high school education, n (%)	22 (43.1)	5 (31.2)	0.398
Living with partner, n (%)	43 (84.3)	13 (81.3)	0.814
Family income over 1 minimum wage, n (%)	32 (64.0)	12 (75.0)	0.417
Gestational age, weeks	29 (24–32)	28 (23–32)	0.626
Obstetric ultrasound, weeks	29.2 ± 4.3	29.2 ± 5.5	0.956
Height, m	1.59 (1.53–1.63)	1.58 (1.54–1.66)	0.329
Pre-gestational weight, kg	74.2 ± 15.8	77.5 ± 16.4	0.475
Pre-gestational BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	29.8 ± 5.9	30.7 ± 7.2	0.639
Pre-gestational BMI classification, n (%)			0.554
Normal weight	11 (21.6)	5 (33.3)	
Overweight	16 (31.4)	3 (20.0)	
Obesity	24 (47.1)	7 (46.7)	
Previous deliveries, number	2 (0,7–2)	1,5 (1–2)	0.926
Fasting glucose, mg/dl	88 (85–96)	85 (80–103)	0.498
High fasting glucose, n (%)	37 (74.0)	10 (66.7)	0.578
Insulin therapy, n (%)	11 (28.2)	9 (64.3)	0.017*
Hypertension, n (%)	16 (31.4)	2 (12.5)	0.137

Continuous data are presented as mean ± SD or median (25-75<sup>th</sup> percentiles).

Categorical data are presented as absolute (n) and relative (%) frequency.

Abbreviations: appropriate size for gestational age (AGA), large-for-gestational-age (LGA).

\* Significant difference between the groups (p < 0.05).

No differences were observed between AGA and LGA groups, except the prevalence of insulin therapy, which was higher in the LGA compared to the AGA group ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Table 2 shows the frequency of 'appropriate' dietary intake of different food groups according to fetal weight status ( $n = 67$ )

**Table 2.** Appropriate dietary intake of different food groups according to fetal weight status ( $n = 67$ ).

Food groups	Fetal weight status		p
	AGA (51) (n, %)	LGA (16) (n, %)	
Vegetables	10 (19.6)	3 (18.8)	0.940
Fruit/natural juice	30 (61.2)	9 (56.2)	0.724
Nuts/chestnuts/oilseeds	5 (9.8)	1 (6.2)	1.000
Olive oil/vegetable oil	22 (43.1)	5 (31.2)	0.398
Whole grains	19 (37.3)	5 (33.3)	0.781
Sausages/canned meat/processed meats	49 (96.1)	14 (87.5)	0.239
Milk/dairy products	22 (43.1)	5 (31.2)	0.398
Fish (Omega 3 sources)	20 (39.2)	1 (6.2)	0.013*
Red meat with apparent fat	48 (96.0)	16 (100.0)	1.000
Soft drinks/artificial beverages	49 (96.1)	16 (100.0)	1.000
Ice cream/sweet cookies/stuffed cookies	49 (96.1)	15 (93.8)	0.565
Fries or chips/breaded pies/fried snacks	49 (98.0)	16 (100.0)	1.000
Other ultra-processed foods	42 (82.4)	12 (75.0)	0.516

Abbreviations: appropriate size for gestational age (AGA), large-for-gestational-age (LGA).

\* Significant difference between the groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

No differences in food consumption were observed between AGA and LGA in 12 different food groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). Only the consumption of fish sources of omega 3 was higher in the AGA group compared to the LGA group ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Table 3 shows the PA level and SB according to fetal weight status.

**Table 3.** Physical activity and sedentary behavior according to fetal weight status (n = 67).

	Fetal weight status		p
	AGA	LGA	
n, %	51 (76.1)	16 (23.9)	
<b>Physical activity domains</b>			
Leisure/exercise, MET-h/wk	3.5 ± 7.1	0.9 ± 2.9	0.037*
Transportation, MET-h/wk	6.3 (1.5 – 9.0)	2.4 (1.5 – 5.1)	0.039*
Household/domestic, MET-h/wk	52.2 (29.2 – 73.0)	68.9 (34.9 – 108.5)	0.154
Occupational, MET-h/wk	24.9 ± 38.9	20.8 ± 33.6	0.706
<b>Physical activity intensities</b>			
Light, MET-h/wk	68.3 (41.1 – 110.2)	64.7 (43.3 – 150.9)	0.453
Moderate, MET-h/wk	7.1 (2.4 – 22.5)	5.9 (1.8 – 18.9)	0.521
Moderate-Vigorous, MET-h/wk	7.5 (2.4 – 23.0)	5.9 (1.8 – 18.9)	0.474
<b>Pedometer-measured physical activity</b>			
Steps per day	3,795 (2,936–5,438)	3,382 (2,617–4,721)	0.440
<b>Sedentary time</b>			
Time watching TV, hours	4.0 (0.5 – 6.0)	4.0 (0.9 – 6.0)	0.677
Time spent sitting, hours	0.5 (0.1 – 3.1)	1.8 (0.1 – 3.8)	0.841
Total sedentary time, hours	6.0 (2.0 – 7.5)	6.0 (2.1 – 8.0)	0.702

Continuous data are presented as mean ± SD or median (25-75<sup>th</sup> percentiles).

Categorical data are presented as absolute (n) and relative (%) frequency.

Abbreviations: appropriate size for gestational age (AGA), large-for-gestational-age (LGA).

\* Significant difference between the groups (p < 0.05).

The AGA group showed a higher PA level in the leisure/exercise and transportation domains compared to the LGA group (p < 0.05). No differences between the groups were observed for household/domestic and occupational domains (p > 0.05). In addition, no differences between the groups were observed for PA intensities, pedometer-measured PA and SB (p > 0.05).

## Discussion

Studies investigating the association between PA and fetal weight in women with GDM are scarce and have reported this association at birth, but not during pregnancy.<sup>6,7,31</sup> To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report about the movement behavior of women with GDM analysing estimated fetal weight in pregnancy. The main findings of the study were that pregnant women with gestational diabetes and AGA fetal weight were more active in the leisure/exercise and transportation domains than those with LGA. Other potential confounding variables, such as maternal age, diet and parity, did not differ between groups.

LTPA and active transportation in the general population have shown to be associated with a reduction in glucose concentration.<sup>32,33</sup> Our findings suggest that this same benefit extends to improvements in fetal weight, meaning that women with GDM that accumulate more MET-h/wk in LTPA and active transportation seem to show a higher chance to have a healthy fetal weight status than their less active peers. One possible explanation for the significant difference in AGA fetuses among GDM pregnant women with better PA levels is better control of glucose metabolism,<sup>4,34</sup> which results in less insulin secretion, a hormone proven to be associated with fetal macrosomia when overproduced in pregnancy.<sup>2</sup> The PA level and participation by domains shows important information about the context of the PA practice by the women with GDM with AGA or LGA fetal weight, which allows us to understand the impact of each PA domain on fetal weight status. This information can additionally facilitate interventions to increase the PA level in specific domains in order to help women with GDM become more physically active, considering both structured (i.e. exercise) and non-structured (i.e. spontaneous) PA.

No differences in PA intensities (light, moderate, vigorous) were observed between the groups. However, it should be noted that AGA group showed a trend for

a higher vigorous PA compared to the LGA group, which may be associated to a higher leisure/exercise PA showed in the AGA group (Figure 2, Panel C). Maternal hyperglycemia increases insulin secretion in the fetal pancreas. Insulin functions as an anabolic hormone responsible for excessive fetal weight gain.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, women with better glycemic control tend to have AGA fetuses. MVPA provides higher glucose uptake when compared to mild PA. Higher PA intensities are associated with better glycemic control,<sup>35</sup> which may explain this trend found.

There were no differences between the groups regarding SB. Previous studies have shown conflicting results about the association between the SB of the pregnant women and birth weight. A meta-analysis conducted by Fazzi et al.<sup>36</sup> including observational studies investigated the association between SB in pregnancy and maternal-child outcomes found an association between SB and macrosomia, despite the included studies in this meta-analysis having reported non-significant and significant associations between SB and macrosomia. Therefore, future studies should be conducted in order to better clarify the association between SB with fetal weight and macrosomia in women with GDM, considering both objective measures of SB and also its contexts (e.g., work, leisure, TV watching, transportation).

The guidelines on prenatal healthcare recommend PA during pregnancy for women with no contraindications. The American Diabetes Association,<sup>37</sup> the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists<sup>38</sup> and the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics<sup>39</sup> also recommend PA for women with GDM. Indeed, LTPA is associated with better glycemic control in women with GDM.<sup>35</sup> Our findings reinforce the importance of LTPA for a healthy fetal weight in women with GDM. In addition, it should be noted that higher PA level in the transportation domain seems to play a role for a healthy fetal weight in this population. Taking both structured and non-structured PA together, which are two important components of healthy movement behavior,

should be encouraged in women with GDM in order to favour this population to have an AGA fetal weight,<sup>9,38</sup> which may prevent several adverse events during birth. For example, LGA fetuses have a higher risk for morbidities such as shoulder dystocia, nerve plexus injury, collarbone fracture, metabolic dysfunctions, and suffocation during birth.<sup>5,40</sup>

Women with LGA fetal weight showed a higher prevalence of insulin therapy than those from the AGA group. Appropriate glycemic control in women with GDM clearly decreases the risk of fetal macrosomia.<sup>6,8</sup> Therefore, it seems that the higher prevalence of insulin therapy in the LGA group occurred to achieve better maternal glycemic control and reduce the risk of fetal macrosomia. It should be noted that all participants were in their first medical appointments at the specialized High Risk Prenatal Care service for GDM, which suggests that they were in the beginning of the insulin therapy. However, we do not rule out the possibility of some influence of the insulin therapy on the fetal weight of the participants, especially those from the LGA group.

This study has some limitations which should be mentioned. As a cross-sectional study, it is not possible to establish causality between the aspects of movement behavior and fetal weight in women with GDM. The generalizability of our findings should be interpreted with caution due to the inclusion of a small sample size recruited in only one reference center for prenatal care of women with GDM. The dietary intake of the participants was assessed as their usual food consumption, which does not allow for determining the energy intake, constituting an aspect which can be associated with fetal weight. Both movement behavior and fetal weight were assessed during a specific period of gestation (20-35<sup>th</sup> week). Finally, despite the validity and reliability of the PPAQ<sup>18,36</sup> to assess PA intensities and SB, this is a self-reported instrument. Therefore, future studies should include objectively measured PA

intensities using accelerometry to better establish comparisons between women with GDM with AGA and LGA fetal weight status.

## **Conclusions**

Women with GDM and AGA fetal weight in ultrasound assessment had a higher PA level in the leisure/exercise and transportation domains than women with GDM and LGA. Future studies should investigate whether an intervention involving structured and/or non-structured PA can reduce and/or normalize the fetal weight of women with GDM and LGA fetal weight in ultrasound assessment to confirm a cause-effect relationship.

## **Declaration of competing interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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## FIGURES

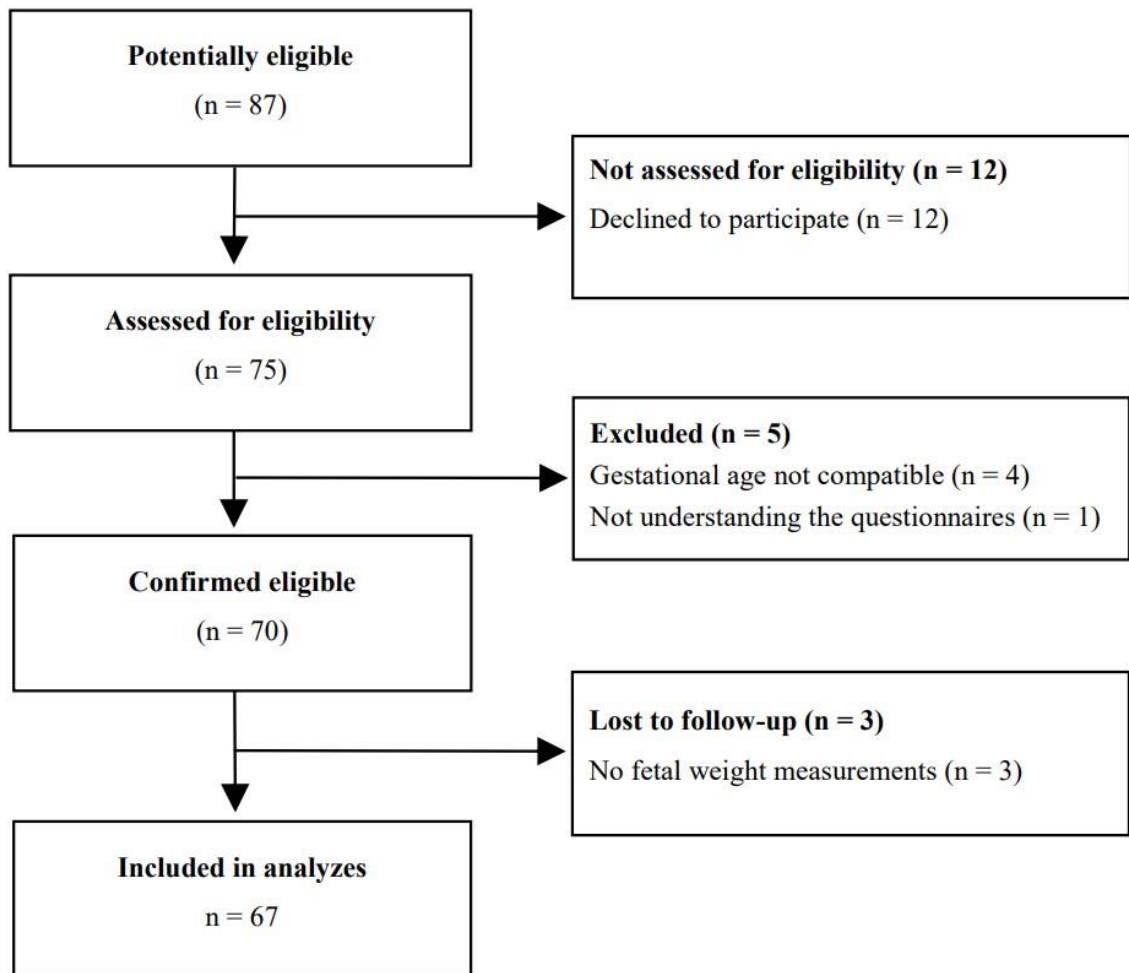
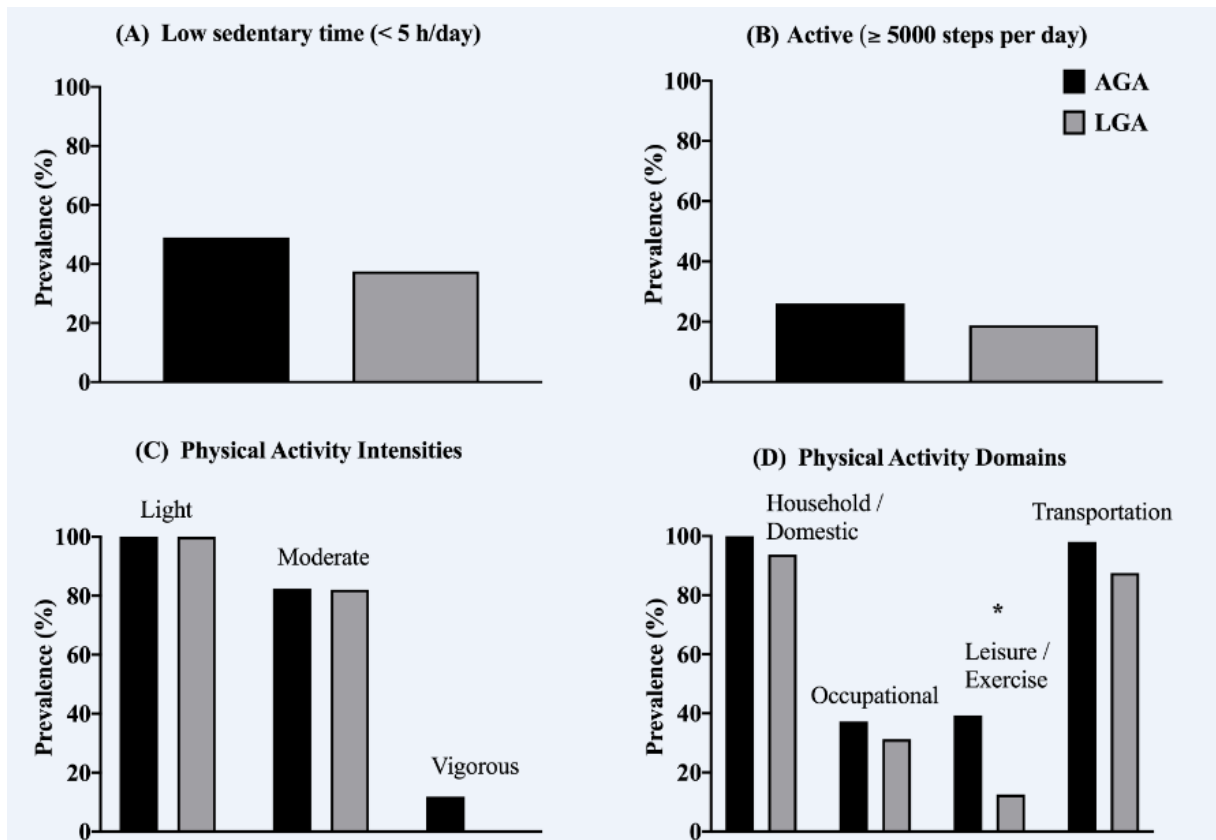


Figure 1. Flow diagram of study.



**Figure 2.** Prevalence of low sedentary time (Panel A), active status based on pedometer-measured physical activity (Panel B), participation in light-, moderate-, and vigorous-intensity physical activity (Panel C), and participation in different physical activity domains (Panel D) between appropriate-for-gestational-age (AGA) and large-for-gestational-age (LGA) groups.

\* Significant difference between groups ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## ANEXOS

## ANEXO 1 – PPAQ

Estudo NACDG-2018

Questionário de Atividade Física na Gestação (PPAQ)

Preenchimento realizado  
pelo pesquisador →

Código:

**INSTRUÇÕES:**

Não existem respostas certas ou erradas. Precisamos saber o tempo que você passa realizando diferentes atividades atualmente.

Você deverá escolher a resposta que corresponde ao período de tempo utilizado, em média, na realização das atividades de cada questão ao longo de um dia.

Se a pergunta for sobre uma atividade que você faz apenas uma vez por semana, divida o tempo gasto por 7, para que seja anotado o tempo gasto em média por dia.

É muito importante a sua honestidade em cada resposta, somente assim as informações irão refletir seu verdadeiro nível de atividade física, e serão úteis para o seu tratamento.

Se tiver algum comentário além das respostas dadas favor fazê-lo no final do questionário.

**QUESTÕES:**

1. Data de hoje   /   /

Dia                      Mês                      Ano

2. Data do primeiro dia da última menstruação   /   /

Dia                      Mês                      Ano

3. Data provável do parto   /   /

Dia                      Mês                      Ano

Durante este trimestre da gestação, quando você NÃO ESTÁ NO TRABALHO, quanto tempo você gasta, em média, realizando as seguintes atividades:

**4. Preparar refeições (cozinhando, colocando a mesa, lavando louças).**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia hora e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**5. Dar banho, vestir e alimentar criança, permanecendo na posição sentada.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia hora e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

Durante este trimestre da gestação, quando você NÃO ESTÁ NO TRABALHO, quanto tempo você gasta, em média, realizando as seguintes atividades:

**6. Dar banho, vestir e alimentar criança enquanto você está na posição de pé.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**9. Carregar criança (s).**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia



**14. Brincar com animais de estimação.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**7. Brincar com crianças, ficando de pé ou sentada.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**10. Cuidar de um adulto mais velho.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**12. Assistir TV ou vídeo.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**15. Realizar limpeza leve (arrumar camas, colocar roupas pra lavar, colocar lixo fora de casa).**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**8. Brincar com crianças, permanecendo caminhando ou correndo.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**11. Na posição sentada, usar um computador ou escrever, quando você não está no trabalho.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**13. Sentar e ler, conversar ou falar no telefone, enquanto não está no trabalho.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**16. Fazer compras (de alimentos, de roupas ou outros itens).**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

Durante este trimestre da gestação, quando você NÃO ESTÁ NO TRABALHO, quanto tempo você gasta, em média, realizando as seguintes atividades:

**17. Fazer faxina (esfregar e varrer chão, lavar janelas e banheiros, aspirar pó, lavar roupa na mão).**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**18. Cuidar de jardim usando apenas ferramentas pequenas.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**19. Capinar ou usar pá ou ancinho (ciscador) ou outro equipamento de jardinagem de grande porte.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

### ***Meio de transporte (deslocando-se entre um lugar e outro)***

Durante este trimestre da gestação, em média, quanto tempo você gasta...

**20. Andando a pé até um local (para o ponto de ônibus, para o trabalho/escola, para fazer uma visita, etc), caminhando devagar? Não considerar locomoção para diversão ou prática de exercício.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**21. Andando a pé até um local (para o ponto de ônibus, para o trabalho/escola, para fazer uma visita, etc), caminhando mais rápido? Não considerar locomoção para diversão ou prática de exercício.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**22. Andando de carro ou ônibus?**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

### ***Atividades de lazer ou para se exercitar***

Durante este trimestre da gestação, em média, quanto tempo você gasta...

**23. Caminhando devagar de forma recreativa ou se exercitando?**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**24. Caminhando rápido de forma recreativa ou se exercitando?**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**25. Caminhando em ladeira de forma recreativa ou se exercitando?**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

Durante este trimestre da gestação, em média, quanto tempo você gasta...

**26. Correndo em ritmo lento (trotando)?**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**27. Em aulas de exercícios para gestantes?**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**28. Nadando?**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**29. Dançando?**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**Fazendo outra atividade física recreativa ou para se exercitar?**

Por favor, conte-nos quais são elas.

**30.** \_\_\_\_\_

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**31.** \_\_\_\_\_

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

Por favor, se você tem trabalho remunerado (recebe salário), se trabalha como voluntário ou se estuda, preencha a próxima sessão. Se não trabalha nem estuda, você NÃO PRECISA completar esta última sessão.

## **Atividades no trabalho (ou escola)**

Durante este trimestre da gestação quanto tempo gastou em média com as seguintes atividades:

**32. Permanecer sentado no trabalho ou na sala de aula.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**33. De pé ou caminhando lentamente enquanto carrega algo que pese pelo menos 3 Kg.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**34. De pé ou caminhando lentamente sem carregar nada.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**33. De pé ou caminhando rapidamente enquanto carrega algo que pese pelo menos 3 Kg.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**34. De pé ou caminhando rapidamente sem carregar nada.**

- Nenhum
- Menos que meia hora por dia
- Entre meia e 1 hora por dia
- De 1 a 2 horas por dia
- De 2 a 3 horas por dia
- Mais que 3 horas por dia

**Muito  
obrigado!**

## ANEXO 2 – LASA-SBQ

Estudo NACDG-2018

*Questionário de comportamento sedentário***QUESTIONÁRIO LASA-SBQ adaptado**Código: **Instruções aos participantes:**

O questionário a seguir refere-se ao tempo que a Sra. fica sentada ou deitada durante um dia inteiro (24 horas) em cadeira, cama, rede ou sofá. Por favor, para cada atividade, responda as questões para um dia de semana normal/habitual (segunda a sexta-feira) e, em seguida, para um dia de final de semana normal/habitual (sábado e domingo). Se a Sra. não realiza determinada atividade, responda “0” (zero). Não conte o sono noturno ou habitual que passou na cama dormindo ou cochilando.

Observação: Se a Sra. realiza duas atividades ao mesmo tempo, como por exemplo, escutar música e realizar trabalhos manuais sentada, por favor considere apenas uma das atividades, a que seja mais frequente.

**Considere o enunciado a seguir para todas as perguntas:**

**A - Em média, nos dias de semana (segunda a sexta-feira), quantas horas/minutos por dia a Sra.:**  
**B - Em média, no final de semana (sábado e domingo), quantas horas/minutos por dia a Sra.:**

1)	<b>Lê livros, revistas ou outro material impresso, enquanto está sentada ou deitada?</b> (Não contabilizar o tempo de leitura em tela, a exemplo do computador, tablet ou celular)			
	A - Tempo do dia de semana		B - Tempo do dia de final de semana	
	Tempo em minutos:		Tempo em minutos:	

2)	<b>Realiza orações, escuta música/rádio enquanto está sentada ou deitada no domicílio ou casa de amigos?</b>			
	A - Tempo do dia de semana		B - Tempo do dia de final de semana	
	Tempo em minutos:		Tempo em minutos:	

3)	<b>Assiste televisão, vídeo ou DVD enquanto está sentada ou deitada?</b>			
	A - Tempo do dia de semana		B - Tempo do dia de final de semana	
	Tempo em minutos:		Tempo em minutos:	

4)	<b>Realiza alguma atividade que gosta enquanto está sentada, como fazer artesanato, costurar, tricotar, montar quebra cabeça, jogar bingo, jogos de tabuleiro, cartas ou dominó, fazer palavra cruzadas ou tocar um instrumento musical?</b>			
	A - Tempo do dia de semana		B - Tempo do dia de final de semana	
	Tempo em minutos:		Tempo em minutos:	

**A - Em média, nos dias de semana (segunda a sexta-feira), quantas horas/minutos por dia a Sra.**



## ANEXO 3 – Questionário de hábitos alimentares

Estudo NACDG-2018

**Questionário de hábitos alimentares**Código: 

Grupo de alimentos	Você consome?	Se sim, com que frequência?				
		Mais de uma vez por dia	1 vez por dia	5-6 dias por semana	3-4 dias por semana	1-2 dias por semana
<b>Vegetais, legumes e verduras.</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Frutas frescas e sucos de fruta.</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Castanhas, nozes e oleaginosas.</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Azeite e óleos vegetais (canola e linhaça)</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Grãos e cereais integrais</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Salsicha, linguiça, carnes em conserva e embutidos</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Leites e derivados</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Peixes fontes de ômega 3</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Carne vermelha com gordura aparente</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Refrigerantes e bebidas açucaradas</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Sorvetes, biscoitos doces e recheados</b>	( ) Sim ( ) Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						

<b>Batata frita, empanados e salgadinhos fritos.</b>	( <input type="checkbox"/> )Sim ( <input type="checkbox"/> )Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						
<b>Outros alimentos ultraprocessados</b>	( <input type="checkbox"/> )Sim ( <input type="checkbox"/> )Não					
Se sim, cite os alimentos:						

## ANEXO 4 – Trabalhos apresentados em eventos científicos





# II SIMBRACE

Simpósio Brasileiro de Ciências do Exercício e do Esporte

Tema Central: Exercício Físico e Desempenho Humano

**CERTIFICADO**

Certificamos que **Sávio Ferreira Camargo** apresentou o trabalho intitulado **ASSOCIAÇÃO ENTRE NÍVEL DE ATIVIDADE FÍSICA E COMPORTAMENTO SEDENTÁRIO E ADEQUAÇÃO DO PESO FETAL EM MULHERES COM DIABETES GESTACIONAL**, de autoria de *Sávio Ferreira Camargo; Juliana Dantas de A. S. Camargo; Daniel Schwade Araújo; Raissa de Melo Silva; Eduardo Caldas Costa e Phd.*, durante o **II Simpósio Brasileiro de Ciências do Exercício e do Esporte**, realizado de 14 a 16 de novembro de 2019, em João Pessoa-PB.

*Leonardo de Sousa Fortes*  
 Prof. Dr. Leonardo de Sousa Fortes  
 Organizador do II SIMBRACE

*Fabiano de Sousa Fonseca*  
 Prof. Dr. Fabiano de Sousa Fonseca  
 Presidente da Comissão Científica

**14 a 16 de novembro de 2019 | UNIPÊ | Centro Universitário de João Pessoa - PB**

**SIMBRACE 2019**  
 Obrigado pela participação!

**Realização**

 Universidade Federal da Paraíba

**Apoio**

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 WE

 MAILA FORTES

 acquiri

## ANEXO 5 – Curso ministrado

