

Cross-sectional and prospective associations between children's 24-h time use and their health-related quality of life: a compositional isotemporal substitution approach

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| 1 | Cross-sectional and prospective associations between children's 24-hour time use and |
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| 2 | their health-related quality of life: a compositional data analysis and isotemporal |
| 3 | substitution approach |
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- 36 Abstract

- 37 Background: Promoting children's movement behaviours may be an important approach to
- optimising their health-related quality of life (HRQoL). However, the relationships between
- 39 children's movement behaviours and HRQoL remain unclear.
- 40 **Methods:** We examined the cross-sectional and prospective associations between movement
- behaviours objectively assessed using accelerometers at ages 8 and 10 years and self-reported
- 42 HRQoL scores (physical and emotional well-being, self-esteem, relationship with family and
- 43 friends, and school functioning) at age 10 years among 370 children in a local birth cohort
- 44 using compositional data analysis and isotemporal substitution techniques.
- 45 **Findings:** Cross-sectionally, light and moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activities were
- positively associated with children's self-esteem (β=15.88, [2.64, 29.12]) and relationship
- with friends (β =10.23, [3.76, 16.71]) scores respectively. Prospectively, sleep showed a
- 48 positive trend with overall HRQoL (β=10.95, [-0.91, 22.81]) and school functioning
- 49 (β =17.33, [-0.66, 35.33]) scores, while inactivity was associated with lower overall HRQoL
- 50 (β =-10.12, [-19.26, -0.98]), relationship with friends (β =-16.74, [-31.93, -1.55]) and school
- functioning (β =-15.38, [-29.24, -1.52]) scores. Children's movement behaviours were not
- 52 associated with their physical and emotional well-being, or relationship with family scores.

- The isotemporal substitution analyses suggest that increasing time spent in physical activity
- and/or sleep at the expense of inactivity would benefit children's HRQoL.
- 55 Interpretation: Generally, sleep and physical activity were positively associated with
- 56 HRQoL, while inactivity was negatively associated with HRQoL. Our findings highlight the
- 57 complexity of the relationship between children's movement behaviours and HRQoL and
- form the basis for future research.
- 59 **Funding:** Singapore National Research Foundation, Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences,
- 60 Agency for Science Technology and Research.

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Introduction

- Research on health-related quality of life (HRQoL), a subjective multi-dimensional construct
- encompassing physical, psychological, and social health, [1,2] has been gaining traction. [3]
- Being a strong predictor of morbidity and mortality, [4,5] suboptimal HRQoL presents an
- 66 important public health concern, especially since awareness of the importance of optimal
- functioning beyond the absence of ill health is increasing. [6] Concerningly, HRQoL of
- children in various countries was observed to decline with age; [7-9] in Singapore, this decline
- was observed to occur from the age of 10 years. [8]
- 70 While this decline may be attributed to lesser leisure time, increased academic pressure, and
- 71 the transition into puberty as children grow older, [7] poorer HRQoL among older children
- may also be associated with their changes in sleep, inactivity, and physical activity (of light
- 73 and moderate-to-vigorous intensity) patterns, collectively referred to as movement
- behaviours. [10] Studies have found that children who were more active had better physical and
- 75 psychosocial functioning as they had healthier weight status, better self-esteem, opportunities
- for socialisation, and increased endorphin levels that promotes a sense of pleasure and well-
- being [11-13]. Sleep on the other hand was associated with mood and emotional regulation [14,15]
- 78 wherein inadequate sleep was associated with poorer HRQoL among children aged 9 to 11
- 79 years. [16] Though the mechanisms of inactivity on HRQoL were less explored, [10] it is
- 80 postulated that time spent in inactivity may displace physical activity and/or sleep, explaining
- 81 the negative associations with HRQoL. [10]

As children grow older and gain autonomy over their lifestyle aspects, they become less physically active and increasingly sedentary.^[17-22] A recent study in the Growing Up in Singapore Towards healthy Outcomes (GUSTO) cohort revealed that between the ages of 5.5 and 8 years, children's movement behaviours transitioned towards being more sedentary and less physically active.^[23] Other studies have found that particularly from the age of around 10 years, children tend to be more sedentary and have less physical activity and inadequate sleep as they transition into adolescence.^[16,24]

Promoting children's movement behaviours may therefore be an approach to improve their self-perceived well-being and functioning, leading to functional, optimal lives. Yet, the relationship between children's movement behaviours and their HRQoL remains unclear. To date, most studies have only examined single behaviours in association with HRQoL, without accounting for the interrelatedness of the movement behaviours in a constrained 24-hour day, [10] resulting in inaccurate estimates of association. [25,26] Further, existing studies have largely been cross-sectional by design and are thus susceptible to reverse causation, warranting prospective or longitudinal studies to confirm these trends. [10,11,27] HRQoL research in children have also been concentrated in Western contexts, with limited representation of Asian populations. [11,27] Since perception of HRQoL reflects one's life experiences [28] which could depend on political, social, economic, and environmental contexts. [19] findings from other populations have limited generalisability to other contexts.

The limitations of the existing literature warrants further investigations to bridge important knowledge gaps relating to children's movement behaviours and their HRQoL, particularly in the Asian context. The present study aimed to fill these gaps by examining the cross-sectional and prospective associations between children's movement behaviours at 10 and 8 years and their HRQoL at 10 years. To appropriately account for the compositional nature of 24-hour time-use and the interrelatedness of the movement behaviours, a compositional data analysis approach was implemented. We further predicted the change in HRQoL score at 10 years when 30 minutes is reallocated between the four movement behaviours at 10 and 8 years. These findings seek to contribute to the current evidence base regarding the movement behaviours of children in an Asian sample and their HRQoL.

112 Methods

- 113 Study design
- 114 Child participants in the present study were part of the GUSTO mother-offspring cohort.
- Details of the cohort have been published previously.^[30] In brief, the GUSTO study was
- started in 2009. Pregnant women were recruited from two major public maternity units in
- Singapore, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, and National University Hospital. To be
- eligible, they had to be aged at least 18 years, of Chinese, Malay, or Indian ethnicity with a
- same-ethnicity partner, Singapore citizens or permanent residents, and were intending to
- deliver in one of the two above-mentioned maternity units and remain in Singapore for the
- following five years. All participants provided written informed consent at enrolment. The
- study was ethically reviewed and approved by the National Healthcare Group Domain
- 123 Specific Review Board and the SingHealth Centralised Institutional Review Board.
- 124 Data collection
- 125 Covariates
- 126 Sociodemographic information was collected from medical records at birth, or via
- interviewer administered questionnaires administered at various stages of follow up. These
- included variables such as the child's sex, ethnicity, and maternal education at age 5 years,
- used as proxy for socioeconomic status. Child body mass index (BMI) was derived based on
- anthropometric measurements obtained at the follow up visit at age 8 years. Height and
- weight were measured up to thrice using a weighing scale (SECA model 803) and
- stadiometer (SECA model 213, Hamburg, Germany), respectively; repeated measures were
- averaged. BMI was calculated using the formula: weight (in kg) / squared height (in m²) and
- classified as underweight, normal weight, and overweight based on age- and sex-specific cut-
- offs for Singaporean children [31]. For participants with missing covariate information (n=39)
- for maternal education at age 5 years, n=2 for BMI at age 8 years), data from the preceding
- timepoint (pregnancy week 11 and age 7 years respectively) were used to impute missing
- information.
- 139 *24-h movement behaviours*
- During the follow up at ages 8 and 10 years, participants were asked to wear a triaxial
- accelerometer (ActiGraph wGT3X+-BT; ActiGraph Pensacola, FL, USA) on their non-
- dominant wrist using a non-removable strap to monitor their movement behaviours at both
- timepoints. Accelerometers were initialized with a sampling rate of 80 Hz, and were attached

to the child's non-dominant wrist with a non-removable strap during the clinic visits at both timepoints. Parents were instructed to remove the device from the child's wrist on the ninth day following the visit, allowing for 7 complete days of continuous, 24-hour data capture. Upon return of the device, raw data were extracted with the ActiLife software, then processed using the GGIR package available in R (version 2.0-0) according to a published protocol. [32] In brief, raw accelerometer signals were auto-calibrated and expressed as gravity-corrected vector magnitude units (Euclidean Norm Minus One [ENMO]). Non-wear time was estimated based on standard deviations and value range of each accelerometer axis at 60minute windows in 15-minute increments. To be considered valid and included for analyses, each participant's accelerometer data must have a minimum of 16 hours of valid wear time per day for at least three days (two weekdays and one weekend day). Of the valid days, nonwear time in blocks of 15 minutes were imputed based on the mean value from other valid days. [33] Time spent in sleep, inactivity (ENMO<35.0 mg), light intensity physical activity (LPA) (ENMO 35.0–200 mg), and moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity (MVPA) (ENMO>200 mg) were derived based on previously established protocols and acceleration thresholds according to van Hees, Hildebrand, and colleagues. [34-36] For the present study, inactivity was used as proxy for sedentary behaviour (defined as activities "\le 1.5 metabolic" equivalents while in a sitting, reclining or lying posture",[37]) since wrist-worn accelerometers cannot determine whole body posture. Sleep was quantified as the sum of night sleep and naps, defined as periods exceeding 15 minutes of sustained inactivity during wear time. Weekday and weekend day data were weighted using the ratio of 5:2 and averaged, such that the averaged data were representative of a full seven-day week.

166 Health-related quality of life

HRQoL was collected using the KINDL-Kid questionnaire administered to the child participants during their follow up at age 10 years. This questionnaire has been validated among local Singaporean children.^[38] It comprises 24 questions that assess six domains of HRQoL (four questions per domain, each question with five answer categories), namely physical well-being, emotional well-being, self-esteem, relationship with family, relationship with friends, and school functioning, which are summed to provide an overall HRQoL score. Domain-specific (original scale: 4 to 20) and overall HRQoL scores (original scale: 24 to 120) were transformed to a scale of 0 to 100 to facilitate interpretation.

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176 Statistical analyses

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Participants with complete data were included in the analyses. Test for differences in characteristics between included and excluded participants were conducted using Pearson's Chi-squared tests. Mean and standard deviation values described the distribution of movement behaviour durations and HRQoL scores among included participants.

Compositional data analysis was performed to explain the relationship between movement behaviour compositions and HRQoL^[26] based on previously developed methods by Dumuid and colleagues for epidemiological research. [39] Time spent in each movement behaviour at age 10 years was expressed as isometric log ratios (ilr) and transformed using sequential binary partitioning, [40] such that the first coordinate presented one movement behaviour (e.g., sleep) as the numerator, and the geometric mean of the remaining behaviours (i.e., inactivity, LPA, and MVPA) as the denominator. [25] This coordinate therefore contains information regarding one movement behaviour as a variable relative to the other three behaviours. [39] A total of four sets of ilr coordinates were purposefully created to ensure that each behaviour could be represented as a numerator relative to the remaining behaviours as the first coordinate. [39] As each set of ilr coordinates were included as predictors in a model, four models were generated for each of the four sets. The beta coefficients and 95% confidence interval from the regression models of the first coordinates of each set of ilr coordinates were interpreted as the positive or negative association between each movement behaviour, relative to the remaining behaviours, on each HRQoL outcome. The models were adjusted for the following potential confounders: sex, ethnicity, maternal education level, and the child's weight status at age 8 years. Given that the year in which children turned 10 years old coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic which may influence their HRQoL, we also accounted for whether the child was followed up at age 10 years before or after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Using the models created in the compositional data analysis, isotemporal substitution was performed to investigate the theoretical effects of replacing specific amounts of time in one behaviour with that of another, while time spent in other behaviours remained constant.^[41] For example, to increase time spent in sleep by 30 minutes, we decreased the time spent in MVPA by 30 minutes, with the time spent in inactivity and LPA remaining the same.

- To examine the prospective associations between the movement behaviours and HRQoL, the above analyses were repeated using movement behaviours at age 8 years as the exposure variable and HRQoL at 10 years as the outcome variable. Similarly, the models were adjusted for the following covariates: sex, ethnicity, maternal education level, child's weight status at age 8 years, and whether the participant was followed up before or after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic at age 10 years.
- All analyses were performed in RStudio (version 1.4.1717) using the compositions, robCompositions, and car^[45] packages.

Role of the funding source

- The funders had no role in study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, or writing of the report. The corresponding author had full access to all the data in the study and
- 218 had final responsibility for the decision to submit for publication.

220 Results

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- 221 Participant characteristics
- Of the 836 and 711 children followed up at ages 8 and 10 years, respectively, 370 children
- 223 with valid accelerometer data at both time points and complete KINDL questionnaire and
- covariate data were included in the present analyses (Figure 1). Most were girls (50.5%), of
- 225 Chinese ethnicity (58.4%), of mothers with at least a degree-level education (49.2%), of
- normal weight (78.9%), and completed their KINDL questionnaire after the onset of the
- 227 COVID-19 pandemic in Singapore (94.9%) (Table 1). Included and excluded participants did
- 228 not differ in characteristics significantly (Supplementary Table 1).
- 229 Children's time spent in sleep, inactivity, LPA and MVPA at ages 8 and 10 years, and their
- HRQoL scores at age 10 years were presented in Table 1.

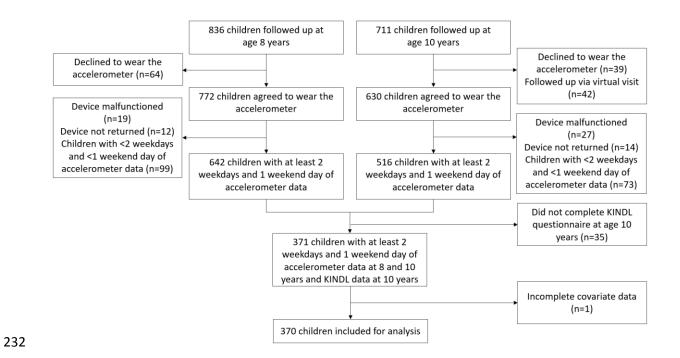


Figure 1. Flowchart of the GUSTO participants examined in the present study

| | Study sample (n=370) |
|--|----------------------|
| Sex, n (%) | |
| Boys | 183 (49.5) |
| Girls | 187 (50.5) |
| Ethnicity, n (%) | |
| Chinese | 216 (58.4) |
| Malay | 101 (27.3) |
| Indian | 53 (14.3) |
| Maternal education, n (%) | |
| No education/Primary/Secondary | 112 (30.3) |
| Post-secondary | 76 (20.5) |
| Degree and above | 182 (49.2) |
| Weight status at age 8 years, n (%) | |
| Underweight | 43 (11.6) |
| Normal weight | 292 (78.9) |
| Overweight | 35 (9.5) |
| Completion of KINDL questionnaire, n (%) | |
| After onset of COVID-19 pandemic | 351 (94.9) |
| Before onset of COVID-19 pandemic | 19 (5.1) |

Movement behaviours at age 8 years, mean (s.d.)

| Sleep, h/day | 8.8 (0.7) |
|--|-------------|
| Inactivity, h/day | 8.4 (1.1) |
| LPA, h/day | 5.6 (0.9) |
| MVPA, min/day | 71.5 (28.6) |
| Movement behaviours at age 10 years, mean (s.d.) | |
| Sleep, h/day | 8.5 (0.8) |
| Inactivity, h/day | 9.6 (1.2) |
| LPA, h/day | 5.0 (1.0) |
| MVPA, min/day | 49.6 (23.9) |
| HRQoL scores at age 10 years, mean (s.d.) | |
| Total HRQoL | 66.4 (12.8) |
| Physical well-being | 79.3 (14.7) |
| Emotional well-being | 74.1 (16.3) |
| Self-esteem | 46.0 (23.0) |
| Relationship with family | 71.3 (17.6) |
| Relationship with friends | 65.8 (21.5) |
| School functioning | 62.0 (19.7) |

Abbreviations: light intensity physical activity (LPA), moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity (MVPA), health-related quality of life (HRQoL)

- 240 Cross-sectional associations between movement behaviours and HRQoL
- Table 2 presents the association between each movement behaviour (e.g. sleep) relative to the
- remaining behaviours (i.e. inactivity, LPA, and MVPA).
- 243 Cross-sectionally, LPA was positively associated with self-esteem (β =15.88 [2.64, 29.12])
- and MVPA was positively associated with children's relationship with friends (β =10.23
- 245 [3.76, 16.71]). We found no cross-sectional association between movement behaviours and
- overall HRQoL, or with the domains of HRQoL relating to physical and emotional well-
- being, relationship with family, and school functioning at 10 years of age.
- 248 Isotemporal substitution analyses largely concurred with the previous findings on positive
- 249 associations between LPA and MVPA and self-esteem and relationship with friends
- respectively (Table 3). The analyses suggested that displacement of 30 minutes between sleep
- and LPA was associated with children's self-esteem: increasing time spent in sleep at the
- expense of LPA was negatively associated with self-esteem (β =-2.27 [-4.08, -0.46]), and the
- 253 inverse was observed when time spent in LPA was increased at the expense of sleep (β =2.18
- [0.43, 3.93]). There was also a trend where increasing time spent in inactivity at the expense
- of LPA was negatively associated with self-esteem (β =-1.39 [-2.85, 0.07]). Displacement of
- 30 minutes between LPA and MVPA did not influence children's self-esteem.
- For MVPA, increasing time spent in sleep (β =-9.86 [-16.26, -3.47]), inactivity (β =-10.02 [-
- 258 16. 03, -4.01), or LPA (β =-9.70 [-16.41, -3.00]) by 30 minutes at the expense of MVPA was
- 259 negatively associated with their relationship with friends. These associations were of greater
- 260 magnitude than the inverse, that is when MVPA was increased by 30 minutes at the expense
- of sleep (β =4.69 [1.49, 7.88]), inactivity (β =4.85 [2.09, 7.61]), or LPA (β =4.51 [0.96, 8.07]),
- suggesting that the relationship between MVPA and relationship with friends is not
- symmetrical.
- Additionally, we observed that increasing time spent in MVPA at the expense of inactivity
- was positively associated with physical well-being (β =2.02 [0.08, 3.96]), with the inverse
- observed when time is reallocated from inactivity to MVPA (β =-4.15 [-8.37, 0.08]).
- There were no association between any of the movement behaviours and overall HRQoL,
- 268 emotional well-being, relationship with family, and school functioning; displacing time
- between the movement behaviours did not influence these outcome variables (Table 3).

Table 2. Compositional time use at age 8 and 10 years and its association with HRQoL

| - | | Overall HRQoL | Physical well- being | Emotional well-being | Self-esteem | Relationship with family | Relationship with friends | School functioning |
|-------------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| G. | 10 years | -6.72 (-17.29, 3.85) | 0.60 (-11.67, 12.88) | -9.63 (-23.10, 3.83) | -16.54 (-35.58, 2.49) | -9.49 (-24.08, 5.10) | -3.19 (-20.64, 14.26) | -2.06 (-18.20, 14.07) |
| Sleep | 8 years | 10.95 (-0.91, 22.81) | 8.94 (-4.78, 22.67) | 4.61 (-10.50, 19.72) | 8.98 (-12.44, 30.40) | 10.72 (-5.56, 26.99) | 15.10 (-4.62, 34.83) | 17.33 (-0.66, 35.33) |
| | 10 years | -1.62 (-9.97, 6.73) | -3.45 (-13.14, 6.25) | 1.30 (-9.34, 11.93) | 1.68 (-13.36, 16.71) | 4.26 (-7.26, 15.78) | -7.12 (-20.91, 6.66) | -6.38 (-19.13, 6.36) |
| Inactivity | 8 years | -10.12 (-19.26, -0.98)* | -8.91 (-19.48, 1.66) | -6.12 (-17.75, 5.53) | -6.43 (-22.93, 10.06) | -7.13 (-19.67, 5.40) | -16.74 (-31.93, -1.55)* | -15.38 (-29.24, -1.52)* |
| T.D. | 10 years | 5.40 (-1.95, 12.75) | -1.37 (-9.91, 7.16) | 5.22 (-4.15, 14.59) | 15.88 (2.64, 29.12)* | 5.13 (-5.02, 15.27) | 0.08 (-12.05, 12.22) | 7.44 (-3.78, 18.67) |
| LPA | 8 years | -0.47 (-8.95, 8.00) | -1.26 (-11.07, 8.55) | 0.23 (-10.57, 11.02) | -0.33 (-15.64, 14.97) | -0.63 (-12.27, 10.99) | -1.84 (-15.94, 12.25) | 1.00 (-11.85, 13.86) |
| MVPA | 10 years | 2.94 (-0.98, 6.86) | 4.21 (-0.33, 8.77) | 3.12 (-1.88, 8.12) | -1.02 (-8.08, 6.04) | 0.10 (-5.30, 5.51) | 10.23 (3.76, 16.71)* | 1.00 (-4.98, 6.99) |
| | 8 years | -0.35 (-4.78, 4.07) | 1.22 (-3.89, 6.34) | 1.27 (-4.36, 6.90) | -2.21 (-10.20, 5.77) | -2.95 (-9.01, 3.12) | 3.48 (-3.87, 10.84) | -2.95 (-9.66, 3.75) |

Analysis performed using multivariable linear regression models with movement behaviours at 8 and 10 years added into separate models; results presented as β (95% confidence intervals). Models were adjusted for sex, ethnicity, maternal education level, child's categorical weight status at age 8 years, and whether the participant was followed up before or after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An asterisk ('*') denotes statistical significance (p<0.05).

Abbreviations: light intensity physical activity (LPA), moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity (MVPA), health-related quality of life (HRQoL)

Table 3. Reallocation of 30 minutes between pairs of movement behaviours at age 10 years and on the predicted change in HRQoL scores at age 10 years (95% confidence intervals)

| | Overall HRQoL | Physical well- being | Emotional well-being | Self-esteem | Relationship with family | Relationship with friends | School functioning |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Increase sleep | | | | | | | |
| Reduce inactivity | -0.25 (-1.11, | 0.19 (-0.80, | -0.53 (-1.62, | -0.88 (-2.42, | -0.66 (-1.84, | 0.17 (-1.24, | 0.19 (-1.11, |
| | 0.60) | 1.18) | 0.56) | 0.65) | 0.52) | 1.58) | 1.50) |
| Reduce LPA | -0.82 (-1.83, | 0.16 (-1.01, | -0.95 (-2.23, | -2.27 (-4.08, - | -0.94 (-2.32, | -0.16 (-1.82, | -0.79 (-2.32, |
| | 0.18) | 1.32) | 0.33) | 0.46)* | 0.45) | 1.49) | 0.75) |
| Reduce MVPA | -3.12 (-6.99, | -3.97 (-8.46, | -3.43 (-8.36, | 0.16 (-6.81, | -0.56 (-5.90, | -9.86 (-16.26, - | -1.05 (-6.96, |
| | 0.75) | 0.53) | 1.50) | 7.13) | 4.78) | 3.47)* | 4.86) |
| Increase inactivity | | | | | | | |
| Reduce sleep | 0.28 (-0.59, | -0.18 (-1.19, | 0.55 (-0.55, | 0.93 (-0.63, | 0.68 (-0.52, | -0.15 (-1.58, | -0.17 (-1.49, |
| | 1.14) | 0.82) | 1.66) | 2.49) | 1.87) | 1.28) | 1.15) |

| Reduce LPA | -0.57 (-1.38, 0.24) | -0.02 (-0.96, 0.92) | -0.42 (-1.46, 0.61) | -1.39 (-2.85, 0.07) | -0.29 (-1.40, 0.83) | -0.32 (-1.66, 1.02) | -0.96 (-2.20, 0.27) |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Reduce MVPA | -2.86 (-6.50, 0.78) | -4.15 (-8.37, 0.08) | -2.90 (-7.54, 1.73) | 1.04 (-5.51, 7.59) | 0.09 (-4.93, 5.11) | -10.02 (-16.03, - 4.01)* | -1.23 (-6.78, 4.33) |
| Increase LPA | | | | | | | |
| Reduce sleep | 0.80 (-0.18, 1.77) | -0.15 (-1.27, 0.98) | 0.93 (-0.31, 2.17) | 2.18 (0.43, 3.93)* | 0.92 (-0.42, 2.26) | 0.17 (-1.43, 1.78) | 0.73 (-0.76, 2.21) |
| Reduce inactivity | 0.52 (-0.24, 1.29) | 0.04 (-0.84, 0.93) | 0.37 (-0.60, 1.35) | 1.24 (-0.13, 2.62) | 0.23 (-0.82, 1.28) | 0.33 (-0.93, 1.59) | 0.91 (-0.25, 2.08) |
| Reduce MVPA | -2.34 (-6.40, 1.72) | -4.11 (-8.83, 0.60) | -2.53 (-7.70, 2.65) | 2.29 (-5.03, 9.60) | 0.33 (-5.28, 5.94) | -9.70 (-16.41, - 3.00)* | -0.33 (-6.53, 5.87) |
| Increase MVPA | | | | | | | |
| Reduce sleep | 1.65 (-0.29, 3.58) | 1.83 (-0.41, 4.08) | 1.88 (-0.59, 4.34) | 0.41 (-3.08, 3.89) | 0.54 (-2.13, 3.20) | 4.69 (1.49, 7.88)* | 0.55 (-2.40, 3.50) |
| Reduce inactivity | 1.37 (-0.30, 3.05) | 2.02 (0.08, 3.96)* | 1.32 (-0.81, 3.45) | -0.53 (-3.54, 2.48) | -0.15 (-2.46, 2.16) | 4.85 (2.09, 7.61)* | 0.74 (-1.82, 3.29) |
| Reduce LPA | 0.80 (-1.35, | 1.99 (-0.51, | 0.90 (-1.85, | -1.91 (-5.79, | -0.43 (-3.40, | 4.51 (0.96, | -0.24 (-3.53, |

Results are interpreted as the difference in HRQoL when time spent in one behaviour is increased at the expense of another, while the remaining two behaviours remain constant.

Analysis performed using multivariable linear regression models, results presented as β (95% confidence intervals). Models were adjusted for sex, ethnicity, maternal education level, child's categorical weight status at age 8 years, and whether the participant was followed up before or after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An asterisk ('*') denotes statistical significance (p<0.05).

Abbreviations: light intensity physical activity (LPA), moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity (MVPA), health-related quality of life (HRQoL)

- 266 Prospective associations between movement behaviours and HRQoL
- Prospectively, inactivity was negatively associated with overall HRQoL (β =-10.12 [-19.26, -
- 268 0.98]), relationship with friends (β =-16.74 [-31.93, -1.55]), and school functioning (β =-15.38
- [-29.24, -1.52]), while sleep showed a positive trend with overall HRQoL (β =10.95 [-0.91,
- 270 22.81]) and school functioning (β =17.33 [-0.66, 35.33]). There were no associations between
- 271 the movement behaviours and the domains of HRQoL relating to physical and emotional
- well-being, self-esteem, and relationship with family, though the direction of associations
- 273 suggested that sleep and inactivity were consistently positively and negatively associated
- with overall HRQoL and all HRQoL domains, respectively. LPA and MVPA were not
- associated with overall HRQoL and any of the HRQoL domains (Table 2).
- 276 Isotemporal substitution analyses suggested that increasing sleep at the expense of inactivity
- 277 may be positively associated with overall HRQoL (β =1.05 [0.06, 2.05]), relationship with
- friends (β =1.60 [-0.05, 3.25]), and school functioning (β =1.64 [0.13, 3.14]). The inverse was
- observed for overall HRQoL (β =-1.05 [-2.05, -0.06]), relationship with friends (β =-1.59 [-
- 280 3.25, 0.07]), and school functioning (β =-1.64 [-3.15, -0.12]) when inactivity was increased at
- the expense of sleep (Table 4).
- Displacing time between the movement behaviours did not influence physical well-being,
- emotional well-being, self-esteem, and relationship with family (Table 4).

Table 4. Reallocation of 30 minutes between pairs of movement behaviours at age 8 years and the predicted change in HRQoL scores at age 10 years (95% confidence intervals)

| | Overall HRQoL | Physical well- being | Emotional well-being | Self-esteem | Relationship with family | Relationship with friends | School functioning |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Increase sleep | | | | | | | |
| Reduce inactivity | 1.05 (0.06, | 0.90 (-0.25, | 0.54 (-0.72, | 0.77 (-1.02, | 0.89 (-0.47, | 1.60 (-0.05, | 1.64 (0.13, |
| | 2.05)* | 2.04) | 1.81) | 2.56) | 2.25) | 3.25) | 3.14)* |
| Reduce LPA | 0.56 (-0.50, | 0.53 (-0.70, | 0.20 (-1.15, | 0.45 (-1.47, | 0.56 (-0.90, | 0.87 (-0.90, | 0.74 (-0.87, |
| | 1.62) | 1.76) | 1.56) | 2.38) | 2.02) | 2.64) | 2.36) |
| Reduce MVPA | 0.71 (-1.77, | -0.21 (-3.07, | -0.44 (-3.59, | 1.57 (-2.89, | 2.04 (-1.35, | -1.09 (-5.19, | 2.36 (-1.39, |
| | 3.18) | 2.65) | 2.71) | 6.04) | 5.43) | 3.02) | 6.11) |
| Increase inactivity | | | | | | | |
| Reduce sleep | -1.05 (-2.05, - | -0.89 (-2.05, | -0.54 (-1.81, | -0.77 (-2.57, | -0.89 (-2.26, | -1.59 (-3.25, | -1.64 (-3.15, - |
| | 0.06)* | 0.26) | 0.73) | 1.03) | 0.47) | 0.07) | 0.12)* |
| Reduce LPA | -0.46 (-1.33, | -0.34 (-1.34, | -0.32 (-1.42, | -0.29 (-1.86, | -0.30 (-1.49, | -0.68 (-2.12, | -0.85 (-2.16, |
| | 0.40) | 0.66) | 0.78) | 1.27) | 0.89) | 0.76) | 0.47) |
| Reduce MVPA | -0.32 (-2.53, | -1.08 (-3.63, | -0.96 (-3.78, | 0.83 (-3.16, | 1.17 (-1.86, | -2.64 (-6.31, | 0.77 (-2.58, |

| | 1.89) | 1.48) | 1.85) | 4.81) | 4.20) | 1.04) | 4.12) |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Increase LPA | | | | | | | |
| Reduce sleep | -0.59 (-1.63, | -0.54 (-1.75, | -0.22 (-1.54, | -0.48 (-2.36, | -0.59 (-2.01, | -0.90 (-2.63, | -0.80 (-2.38, |
| | 0.45) | 0.66) | 1.11) | 1.40) | 0.84) | 0.83) | 0.78) |
| Reduce inactivity | 0.50 (-0.34, | 0.38 (-0.59, | 0.34 (-0.72, | 0.31 (-1.19, | 0.33 (-0.82, | 0.75 (-0.64, | 0.89 (-0.38, |
| | 1.33) | 1.34) | 1.40) | 1.82) | 1.47) | 2.13) | 2.15) |
| Reduce MVPA | 0.15 (-2.53, | -0.73 (-3.83, | -0.64 (-4.05, | 1.12 (-3.71, | 1.48 (-2.19, | -1.94 (-6.39, | 1.61 (-2.46, |
| | 2.83) | 2.37) | 2.77) | 5.95) | 5.15) | 2.51) | 5.67) |
| Increase MVPA | | | | | | | |
| Reduce sleep | -0.67 (-2.32, | -0.06 (-1.97, | 0.18 (-1.93, | -1.16 (-4.15, | -1.49 (-3.76, | 0.36 (-2.39, | -1.83 (-4.34, |
| | 0.99) | 1.86) | 2.29) | 1.82) | 0.78) | 3.11) | 0.69) |
| Reduce inactivity | 0.42 (-0.95, | 0.86 (-0.72, | 0.73 (-1.01, | -0.37 (-2.85, | -0.57 (-2.45, | 2.00 (-0.27, | -0.14 (-2.22, |
| | 1.79) | 2.45) | 2.48) | 2.10) | 1.31) | 4.28) | 1.94) |
| Reduce LPA | -0.08 (-1.96, | 0.50 (-1.68, | 0.39 (-2.00, | -0.69 (-4.08, | -0.90 (-3.48, | 1.27 (-1.86, | -1.03 (-3.89, |
| | 1.80) | 2.67) | 2.79) | 2.71) | 1.68) | 4.40) | 1.82) |

Results are interpreted as the difference in HRQoL when time spent in one behaviour is increased at the expense of another, while the remaining two behaviours remain constant.

Analysis performed using multivariate linear regression models, results presented as β (95% confidence intervals). Models were adjusted for sex, ethnicity, maternal education level, child's categorical weight status at age 8 years, and whether the participant was followed up before or after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An asterisk ('*') denotes statistical significance (p<0.05).

Abbreviations: light intensity physical activity (LPA), moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity (MVPA), health-related quality of life (HRQoL)

Discussion

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Our study is, to our knowledge, the first to examine the cross-sectional and prospective associations between the full movement spectrum of children and their overall and domain-specific HRQoL. We utilised objectively assessed movement behaviour data and self-reported HRQoL data from a sample of Asian children to better understand the complex relationships between children's movement behaviours and HRQoL. We found that specific behaviours were associated with specific aspects of HRQoL, wherein some relationships emerged cross-sectionally and others prospectively. Generally, our findings suggest that greater sleep and physical activity were associated with better HRQoL (overall and/or domain-specific scores), while spending more time in inactivity was associated with worse HRQoL. Isotemporal substitution analyses supported these findings, where HRQoL scores increased when sleep and/or physical activity displaced inactivity.

In the present study, we found positive cross-sectional associations between LPA and selfesteem, and between MVPA and the relationship with friends HRQoL domain. To further contextualise these findings, our isotemporal substitution analyses revealed that increasing LPA only at the expense of sleep was positively associated with self-esteem, with the inverse observed when sleep displaced LPA; LPA displacing or being displaced by inactivity or MVPA did not influence self-esteem scores. On the other hand, increasing MVPA, regardless at the expense of sleep, inactivity, or LPA, was positively associated with childrens' relationship with friends; an inverse, exponential, and non-symmetrical relationship was observed when MVPA was displaced. The asymmetrical trend observed for MVPA is in line with previous studies among children of a similar age group, [11,46] which may be attributed to already suboptimal MVPA durations in children, [47,48] whereby further reducing time in MVPA could exacerbate the outcomes (e.g., relationship with friends in the present sample) associated with low MVPA. Our findings support current evidence, with associations between physical activity and various measures of self-esteem and psychosocial well-being widely reported. The positive association between physical activity and self-esteem (and its constructs such as self-worth and self-concept)^[49-51] may be explained by physical activity contributing to the mastery of one's physique and perception of their physical appearance (i.e. body image). Physical activity also provides opportunities for socialisation, [12] promotes social skills, [52] reduces feelings of social isolation, [53] and increases perceived social acceptance, [54] all of which are associated with better psychosocial outcomes including social relationships.^[55] However, we note that associations in the present study were only observed for either physical activity intensity (i.e., either LPA or MVPA and not both). We postulate that there were differing contexts for the light and moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activities among children in the present study (e.g., active transport, active play, organised sport), contributing to the difference in HRQoL domains associated with these behaviours. Contextual information regarding physical activity was not examined in the present study and should be explored in future research. Further, we only observed these associations cross-sectionally and not prospectively, limiting causal inference. This suggests that the relationships may be bidirectional, wherein children with higher self-esteem and better relationship with their friends may instead be more inclined to partake in physical activity.^[56]

To our knowledge, there has not been a prospective or longitudinal study that investigated all four movement behaviours in relation to HRQoL whilst properly accounting for the interrelatedness of the movement behaviours. We bridge this gap by analysing prospectively and found that sleep was positively associated with overall HRQoL and school functioning, while inactivity was negatively associated with overall HRQoL, relationship with friends, and school functioning. The isotemporal substitution analyses revealed that increasing sleep at the expense of inactivity may benefit overall HRQoL, relationship with friends, and school functioning, with an inversed relationship of similar magnitude observed when inactivity displaced sleep. Current published evidence suggests that sleep may be associated with overall HRQoL, mood and emotional regulation, which could be postulated to influence social relationships and academic performance. [14,15,57-59] These would explain our observations that when sleep is displaced, there was a negative impact on these HRQoL domains and consequentially, overall HRQoL scores. However, existing studies, including the present, have only assessed total sleep duration without considering other sleep dimensions, such as sleep disturbances, patterns and quality, that could drive associations between sleep and HRQoL,[11,27,60] warranting future studies to examine the role of these dimensions in children's HRQoL more deeply. [61]

Interestingly, we identified that HRQoL is impacted significantly only when inactivity (and not LPA or MVPA) displaces sleep. Though we did not examine the context of the activities children engaged in, we postulate that these associations were driven by screen-viewing, which are typically sedentary in nature.^[62] Studies have found screen-viewing to be negatively associated with overall HRQoL, including HRQoL domains relating to children's

physical, psychosocial, mental, emotional, and/or school functioning,^[10] cross-sectionally^[63] and prospectively.^[56,64-66] Further, night-time screen-viewing has been negatively associated with sleep and HRQoL among children.^[67] Hence, the negative associations observed between inactivity and HRQoL in the present study may be attributed to screen-viewing during periods of inactivity. It is worth noting that these associations were only observed prospectively and not cross-sectionally. As we did not collect HRQoL information from children at the "baseline" of the present study (i.e. age 8 years), our ability to control for baseline HRQoL when assessing prospective relationships was limited. Findings therefore warrant cautious interpretation.

Other than the aforementioned findings, we did not observe any other association between the movement behaviours and HRQoL (overall and/or domain-specific scores). Notably, physical activity (i.e. LPA and MVPA) was not associated with overall HRQoL, and none of the four movement behaviours were associated with physical well-being, emotional well-being, and relationship with family, both cross-sectionally and prospectively. Engagement in physical activity has been thought to improve physical well-being, improve mood, and reduce symptoms associated with depression and anxiety. [12,68] However, findings on associations between physical activity and HRQoL have been equivocal, with some studies demonstrating a positive association and others none. [10,13,69] Even among studies that have found an association between physical activity and HRQoL, the beta coefficients often do not reach a minimally important difference. [13] Hence, more research is warranted to confirm associations and/or establish causal relationships between physical activity and HRQoL in children.

Regarding sleep, though previous studies have found positive associations between sleep and HRQoL, [70,71] these studies are sparse, with limited discussion on specific HRQoL domains such as physical or emotional well-being, or on the mechanisms underlying the associations. [59] Previous studies have also suggested that sleep may be associated with children's relationship with their family. Poor family relationships (e.g. marital conflicts, family conflicts) were found to negatively influence children's sleep, in particular, their sleep quality, [72] while secure parent-child relationships were associated with better sleep. [73] We did not observe significant associations between sleep and these HRQoL domains in the present study, which may be attributed to suboptimal sleep durations of children in our sample. In an earlier study of children in the same cohort, only a small proportion of children aged 8 years met the recommended sleep duration (9 – 11 hours). [23] We postulate that

children in our study sample (at both age 8 and 10 years) may not have achieved sufficient sleep to manifest positive impacts on these aspects of their HRQoL. Further, we did not consider other dimensions of sleep beyond duration in the present analyses, warranting future studies to bridge these knowledge gaps to enhance understanding of associations between sleep and HRQoL in children.

In relation to inactivity, previous studies have largely found negative associations between inactivity (or sedentary behaviour) and HRQoL in children, including physical and emotional well-being, [10,74] which we did not confirm. However, it is worth noting that these studies typically assessed screen-viewing behaviours as proxy for inactivity, which cannot be assessed objectively, and may not necessarily corroborate with total inactivity time. In the present analysis, we did not review screen-viewing as a component of children's 24-hour time use as the four behaviours examined were mutually exclusive parts of a 24-hour day [25] and screen-viewing would overlap with one or possibly more than one behaviour (e.g. inactivity and/or LPA such as using screen-based devices while walking), complicating the compositional data analysis technique implemented. Future research examining children's movement behaviours and HRQoL should explore accounting for screen-viewing duration and the context of screen-viewing behaviours in their analyses.

We also wish to highlight that differences in our findings compared to other studies may also be attributed to other factors that could have had bigger, more direct impacts on the HRQoL of children in our sample compared to their movement behaviours. In an earlier study among children aged 10 to 15 years in Singapore, ethnicity was found to be associated with children's HRQoL, with Malay children reporting lower HRQoL than their Chinese and Indian counterparts. [8] Previous studies examining the relationship between HRQoL and movement behaviours of children were largely conducted in homogenous samples. [11,27] In multi-cultural populations like Singapore, ethnic differences could play an important role in children's HRQoL, attenuating the role of movement behaviours in this relationship. Other factors including sex and SES may also influence children's movement behaviours and/or perceptions of their well-being. [8] Future studies investigating other factors influencing the associations between children's movement behaviours and their HRQoL, particularly in non-homogenous samples are therefore warranted.

The present study has several strengths. We assessed children's movement behaviours using accelerometers, reducing the risk of bias by allowing high quality data across the full

continuum of movement behaviours to be objectively collected. To the best of our knowledge, our study is the first to date to have examined the prospective associations between all four movement behaviours and HRQoL and HRQoL domains, allowing us to ascertain temporality of the observed relationships. Further, we implemented compositional data analysis techniques to fully account for the interrelatedness of the movement behaviours in our analyses. These strengthened our conclusions regarding children's movement behaviours and their HRQoL – our findings were largely in line with literature in that physical activity and sleep were positively associated with HRQoL, while inactivity was negatively associated with HRQoL. However, we also revealed that the relationships between children's movement behaviours and HRQoL were complex and that conclusions, at least in the present sample, could not be easily made. Notwithstanding, our findings contribute to current understanding of the relationships between children's movement behaviours and their HRQoL, especially in the less studied Asian context, and form the basis from which future research can be undertaken.

However, we acknowledge several limitations of our research. The magnitudes of some associations discussed were small with wide 95% confidence intervals. Though our findings provide early evidence on the possible associations between children's movement behaviours and their HRQoL, the modest sample size and variability within our sample lends that conclusions should be made with caution; future research is required to confirm our findings. The use of accelerometery for movement data collection meant that information on the context of activities such as location, type of activity (e.g., screen-viewing, organised sport, active transport), and other dimensions of sleep which may have had important implications on HRQoL could not be distinguished, undermining the associations (or lack thereof) observed. While the KINDL-Kid questionnaire was previously validated in the local context, [38] it was recommended for only the overall and not domain-specific scores to be interpreted as only the overall score demonstrated good internal consistency. Notwithstanding, we presented both overall and domain-specific HRQoL scores to provide insights on the potential associations between the movement behaviours and overall HRQoL and specific HRQoL domains. We also recognise that the results centred around statistical significance, which may not necessarily indicate minimally important difference. [75] However, as summarised in a review by Wu and colleagues, most studies to date only reported statistical significance when reporting the relationship between movement behaviours and HRQoL.[10] The minimally important difference criterion differs by

instrument used to assess HRQoL, and such criteria were rarely applied in healthy populations.^[10] In regard to HRQoL, we acknowledge that examining the various domains of HRQoL as separate outcomes increases the risk of type 1 error due to multiple testing. However, as our analyses were meant to be exploratory, we did not perform any correction for multiple testing to not increase the risk of type 2 error. We also acknowledge that the children of the GUSTO cohort were followed up at age 10 years in unique times that coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have influenced our findings. COVID-19 may have impacted children's HRQoL negatively such as increased feelings of loneliness and isolation, wherein effects are disproportional for different social groups (e.g., those of lower socio-economic positions). [76,77] Further, the pandemic may also impact children's movement behaviours through restrictions that vary over time (e.g. full versus partial lockdown and the gradual transition towards endemic COVID-19).^[78] We adjusted for this by accounting for whether the participants were followed up before or after the onset of the pandemic, but this measure is limited in measuring behavioural changes caused by the pandemic and we cannot rule out residual confounding. We also wish to mention that although included and excluded participants of the present study did not differ significantly in characteristics (Supplementary Table 1), the overall GUSTO cohort is not representative of the Singapore population.^[30] hence our findings should be extrapolated to the Singapore or other general population with caution.

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Conclusion

Our study is novel in that it is, to our knowledge, the first that examined the cross-sectional and prospective associations between the full movement spectrum of children and their overall and domain-specific HRQoL, in the less studied Asian population. Generally, we found that sleep and physical activity were positively associated with HRQoL, while inactivity was negatively associated with HRQoL, though our findings also highlight the complexity of these relationships. These findings contribute to existing literature on children's movement behaviours and their HRQoL and form the basis from which future research can be undertaken.

Declarations

- 477 Author contributions
- 478 Authorship: MF-FC and FMR designed the research; YSC, KMG, KHT, and JGE designed
- and led the GUSTO study; JYT and NP conducted research and/or collected the GUSTO
- data; SYXT performed the statistical analysis with guidance from JYB, CST, and FMR;
- 481 SYXT drafted the manuscript; NP, JYB, CST, MF-FC, and FMR critically reviewed the
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Institute for Clinical Sciences, Agency for Science Technology and Research, during the conduct of the study; has a patent Vitamin B12 and its use for gestational diabetes pending; has a patent Myo-inositol and one or more probiotics for use in type 2 diabetes pending; has a patent Vitamin B12 and for use in type 2 diabetes pending; and owns a patent for Myo-inositol and one or more probiotics for gestational diabetes. All other authors declare no competing interests.

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