

The A-list - Supplements with Evidence Basis

Multivitamin

EFFECTIVE DOSE

Low-dose multi may aid deficiencies if dieting, not normally needed if gaining.

NOTES:

Blood test and/or nutrition screen to assess deficiencies before use is ideal.

EPA and DHA

EFFECTIVE DOSE

1-2 g/day EPA + DHA advised by health organizations for benefits.

NOTES:

Unnecessary if eating fatty fish 2x/ week+.

Vitamin D3

EFFECTIVE DOSE

9–36 IU/Ib (20-80 IU/kg): typical daily dose if 25(OH)D < 75 nmol/L (30 ng/ml)

NOTES:

If dark-skinned get "free" 25(OH) D levels checked if available.

Creatine Monohydrate

EFFECTIVE DOSE

Daily 0.02 g/lb (0.04 g/kg) dose to reach and sustain elevated creatine levels.

NOTES:

Non-monohydrate, loading, and carb co-ingestion unnecessary.

Caffeine

EFFECTIVE DOSE

Daily dose to suppress tiredness: 0.5-1.4 mg/lb (1-3 mg/kg).

As ergogenic aid: 1.8-2.7 mg/lb (4-6 mg/kg) 1 hr pre-training.

NOTES:

Tolerance may mildly reduce ergogenic effects, limit use (2x/wk) to preserve.

The B-list - Conditionally Effective or Mixed Evidence Supplements

Beta-alanine

EFFECTIVE DOSE

3-4 g/day can improve performance in 1 min+ efforts or when rest is restricted.

NOTES:

Unlikely to aid powerlifting, weightlifting or most bodybuilding training.

Citrulline-Malate

FFFECTIVE DOSE

1 hr prior to lifting 8 g dose may aid work capacity or strength endurance.

NOTES:

Evidence mixed, preferably wait until meta-analysis confirms efficacy.