

HEALTHY AGEING AND FRAILTY

What is frailty?

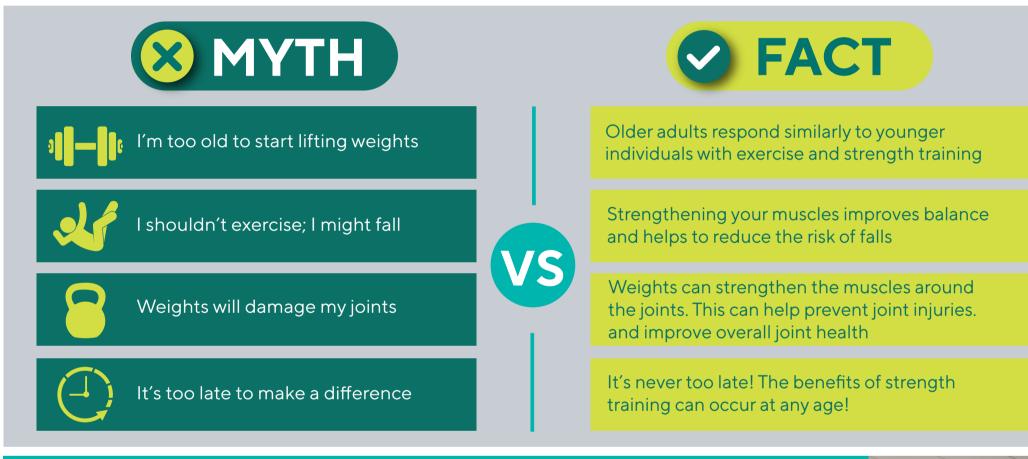
Anyone can experience frailty due to inactivity, disease, trauma, or persistent pain, however it is more common in older age.

Around 12% of people globally aged 50 years and over are diagnosed as having frailty and around 46% as being pre-frail, however the prevalence of frailty varies throughout the world.

Symptoms of frailty

- feeling **exhausted**
- feeling weak
- moving around slowly
- having trouble with balance
- losing weight without trying

Frailty is not an inevitable part of ageing - it is a long-term condition that can be made better or worse.



How can physiotherapy help?

Physiotherapy can help you be as active as possible – people who are more active are up to 41% less likely to have frailty.

A physiotherapist can develop an exercise programme for you and show you how to gradually increase the resistance and intensity to prevent and treat frailty. This will help to prevent loss of strength and muscle (sarcopenia) and make you fitter by increasing your aerobic and lung capacity. A physiotherapist can help you:

• move better and improve your mobility

• return to the **activities you enjoy** doing



improve your balance and strength

 find an aerobic exercise you enjoy and recommend the length of time you should be doing it • manage any acute and chronic pain

address any fears you may have about exercising

A physiotherapist will also work with other members of your health team, such as medical doctors, occupational therapists, nutritionists and counsellors, to find the right services and treatment for you.

People receive benefit from strength training at all ages. Speak to a physiotherapist about how to strength train safely.





#WorldPTDay 8 September www.world.physio/wptday