

Muscle Soreness - DOMS [Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness]

Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness is seen after Intense Resistance training. Learn what it means, the causes, and how to prevent & reduce the muscle pain and get on with your workouts.

Muscle Soreness is a common complaint, especially among beginners or if you are training after a long interval.

Almost every bodybuilder has experienced it at one time or another and its your body's normal response to Intense Weight Training. In this article you will discover why it happens, how to prevent and reduce it and common questions regarding training while sore.

In exercise physiology terms it is called Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness or **D.O.M.S.**

What causes D.O.M.S.?

Although D.O.M.S. resembles the pain and discomfort you feel during exercises, it is different from the muscle pain you experience during your workouts. Muscle pain during workouts is due to the irritation of pain nerve ending by metabolic by-products of exercise metabolism and is different from Muscle Soreness of Delayed onset.

D.O.M.S. is typically experienced 24-48 hours after your training. On rare occasions it might extend for up to 96 hours { some studies have reported that DOMS may last up to 10 days}. DOMS is a multi-factorial condition and is due to a combination of one or more of the following factors,

- The micro trauma to the Muscle fibers{ muscle cells are called Muscle fibers }
- Increased Free radicals which damage the muscle tissue.
- Increase calcium leakage from muscle cells and accumulation of Inflammatory mediators like prostaglandins and leukotrienes.
- Eccentric Muscle contraction called negatives causes more muscle damage and therefore more soreness.
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Muscle soreness may or may not be an indication of growth.

Symptoms - How does Muscle Soreness manifest?

Muscle Soreness usually is a discomfort and pain in the affected muscles. But it may also show muscle tenderness [muscle pains on touch], swelling called edema and limited range of motion. Any effort to move the muscles, even normal activities evoke pain.

This pain is however dull aching in nature, compare this to a sharp pain of muscle injury.

How to prevent Muscle Soreness?

Proper Warm Ups and Cool Downs will help prevent Muscle soreness.

Advanced Trainers - Although DOMS is common in beginners, advanced Weight Trainers are prone to develop muscle soreness if there is a sudden progression of intensity or change of exercises. When I started incorporating more than one Advanced Weight Training Exercise techniques in to my training routines at a time I did notice muscle soreness. So if you are adding newer techniques to your workouts add one intensity principle at a time, master it and then move on to the next principle. It will not only reduce Muscle soreness but will also allow to gauge the effectiveness of your newer training regime.

Many Bodybuilders including Ronnie Coleman have claimed that even though they train with high intensity consistently they never experience soreness and attribute it to their bodies getting used to the muscle overload over a period of time. That is their bodies have been conditioned to muscular overload. Exercise Physiology studies have shown that trained athletes have a better buffering of muscle pH as their muscles improve in their abilities to tolerate higher levels of lactic acid and free radicals.

Treatment of Muscle Soreness.

As Muscle Soreness is a normal response of your body no active intervention is necessary. Proper rest and recuperation is enough.

If soreness is very annoying aspirin will help. Also you can try cryotherapy. Its fancy term for ice packs.

Muscle Soreness, when mild, is NOT an indication to stop exercising.