

EPO's Used to Increase Athleticism rather than treating rare and severe diseases
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Erythropoietin (EPO) is a type of protein found in kidneys to produce red blood cells and can also be found in bone marrow. Production of EPO can also lead to a higher blood oxygen capacity. Recombinant forms of this protein have been used to treat anemia and cancer as well as other types of rare and severe diseases. EPO has also been found in many professional athletes to increase endurance and strength. In 1998, two Tour de France cyclists were found with EPO. A study developed EPO and implanted autologously into patients with anemia of chronic renal failure. Results showed that EPO levels increased from the beginning of the process and grew until the follow-up (14 days). It is proven that athletes are using EPO and it is important to consider this in competitions either to be more strict or lenient on the matter.

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