Development of bioelectrical impedance analysis prediction equations for body composition with the use of a multicomponent model for use in epidemiologic surveys1–4

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ABSTRACT

Background: Previous studies to develop and validate bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) equations to predict body composition were limited by small sample sizes, sex specificity, and reliance on reference methods that use a 2-component model.

Objective: This study was designed to develop sex-specific BIA equations to predict total body water (TBW) and fat-free mass (FFM) with the use of a multicomponent model for children and adults.

Design: Data from 5 centers were pooled to create a sample of 1474 whites and 355 blacks aged 12–94 y. TBW was measured by dilution, and FFM was estimated with a multicomponent model based on densitometry, isotope dilution, and dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry.

Results: The final race-combined TBW prediction equations included stature2/resistance and body weight (R2 = 0.84 and 0.79 and root mean square errors of 3.8 and 2.6 L for males and females, respectively; CV: 8%) and tended to underpredict TBW in black males (2.0 L) and females (1.4 L) and to overpredict TBW in white males (0.5 L) and females (0.3 L). The race-combined FFM prediction equations contained the same independent variables (R2 = 0.90 and 0.83 and root mean square errors of 3.9 and 2.9 kg for males and females, respectively; CV: ≈6%) and tended to underpredict FFM in black males (2.1 kg) and females (1.6 kg) and to overpredict FFM in white males (0.4 kg) and females (0.3 kg).

Conclusion: These equations have excellent precision and are recommended for use in epidemiologic studies to describe normal levels of body composition. Am J Clin Nutr 2003;77:331–40.

KEY WORDS Bioelectrical impedance analysis, prediction equations, total body water, fat-free mass, multicomponent model, epidemiologic surveys

INTRODUCTION

Assessment of human body composition includes the measurement of fat, fat-free mass (FFM), and total body water (TBW). FFM may be further separated into lean soft tissue, including water, and bone. Excesses or depletions of fat and FFM are associated with an increased risk of some chronic diseases. The amount of FFM is considered to be directly correlated with health and longevity (1) and is an important predictor of survival in some critical illnesses and malignancies (2). A significant component of the change in body weight with aging is attributable to an increase in body fat or a decrease in TBW secondary to a decrease in muscle or body cell mass (3–5). Overweight and obesity are associated with morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular disease (6), and their prevalence has increased at all ages in the US population (7–9). Currently, assessment and screening of overweight and obesity frequently rely on the use of anthropometry in the form of the body mass index (BMI), skinfold thicknesses, and body circumferences. One limitation of this anthropometric approach is the reduced ability to differentiate levels of fatness and leanness among individuals (10, 11).

An alternative method for body-composition assessment is bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA). This method has practical features similar to anthropometry (eg, safety, cost-effectiveness, convenience for the patient, and ease of use), and it has been used in large-scale studies of body composition and assessment of body

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fluid status (12). BIA measures of resistance and impedance are proportional to body water volume, if body electrolyte status is normal, and to the length of the conductor or stator (eg, stature²/resistance). This method uses regression analysis to derive prediction models to estimate TBW and FFM (12–14).

A limitation of previous BIA prediction equations has been the use of the 2-component model (fat and fat-free) as the reference method. Methods such as hydrometry (15), hydrodensitometry (16), and whole-body counting of ⁴⁰K (17) assume a constant composition of the fat-free body and thus are limited in discriminating differences in body composition when factors such as physical activity, illness, and aging affect a person. However, these limitations can be overcome with a multicompartamental model of human body composition that considers interindividual differences in the chemical composition of the fat-free body (18).

This report describes the results of a multicenter study to develop and validate BIA equations to predict body composition. These broadly applicable equations for TBW and FFM are to be used to provide estimates of body composition for children and adults in the United States from the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III) (19, 20). This information will address the interests in characterizing the increasing prevalence of obesity in the United States and overcome some of the limitations of BMI and anthropometry to discriminate differences in body composition.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

Study sample

Data from 5 independent research centers were used to develop the prediction equations. The New York data set was from the Obesity Research Center, St Lukes Hospital, New York; the North Dakota data set was from the US Department of Agriculture, Grand Forks, ND; the Fels Longitudinal Study data were from the Lifespan Health Research Center, Kettering, OH; the Chicago data set was from the University of Chicago; and the US Army data set was from the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, Natick, MA. These groups had been recruited previously as participants in body-composition studies at these institutions. At the time of this earlier testing, the participants resided near each of their respective study sites, except for the participants in the Fels Longitudinal Study, ~25% of whom resided in the midwest, northeast, southern, and far western regions of the continental United States. All of the black subjects were from the New York, Chicago, and US Army study sites. The number of white participants was relatively large compared with the number of black participants: 116 white and 14 black children between 12 and 18 y of age.

Measured variables

Descriptions of the 5 separate studies and their body-composition and research methods were published previously (15, 16, 18, 21, 22). Stature and weight were measured at all study locations with the use of standardized techniques (23). Resistance and reactance were measured at 50 kHz with an RJL BIA instrument (model 101; RJL Systems, Inc, Detroit) at all of the study sites. The tetrapolar resistance and reactance measurements were collected in a standardized manner in each study between the right wrist and the right ankle with the participant supine. The impedance index (stature²/resistance; in cm²/Ω) was calculated for each person.

TBW (in L) was measured by deuterium dilution corrected for natural abundance and isotope exchange (24), except for a small number of participants at New York who were evaluated with the use of equivalent tritium dilution (25). Body density (BD; in g/cm³) was determined by hydrostatic weighing corrected for residual volume (26). Total-body bone mineral content (BMC; in g) was measured with the use of dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) machines with version 3.6 software (Lunar Inc, Madison, WI) at each study site, except at North Dakota, where a QDR 2000 DXA (Hologic, Inc, Bedford, MA) was used with software version 5.71. These measured values were used in the following multicomponent body-composition model (18). This model is derived by the combination of 4-compartment models for body weight and body volume that assume known and constant densities for each component (27).

\[
TBF = 2.513 \times BV - 0.739 \times TBW + 0.947 \times \frac{BMC}{1000} - 1.79 \times \text{(weight)}
\]

where TBF is total body fat, BV is body volume (in L) calculated as body weight divided by BD from hydrostatic weighing, BMC is from DXA, and TBW is from measured TBW. The FFM of each person was calculated as weight − TBF.

Statistical methods

Descriptive statistics including means and SDs were calculated for age, stature, weight, BMI, resistance, stature²/resistance, BD, BMC, TBW, and FFM for each sex and racial group with the use of SAS (28). Comparisons of the means among race and sex groups were made by using a two-factor general linear model (SAS PROC GLM) with class variables: sex and race for the validation sample. The interaction between sex and race was included in the GLM procedure. The GLM is equivalent to analysis of variance if the number of observations is equal among the groups. If a significant interaction between sex and race was observed, comparisons were made between sex, within race, and vice versa. Similar analyses were performed for the cross-validation sample.

The combined data in the total sample from these 5 study sites were separated into validation and cross-validation samples. These 2 subsamples were used to select the independent variables and formulate the preliminary prediction equations for TBW and FFM and to evaluate their performance. Precision is the ability to explain the variation of the dependent variable within the sample from which it was derived. Accuracy measures the performance of a prediction equation when it is applied to an independent sample. The precision and accuracy of a prediction equation are affected by the measurement errors of the independent and dependent variables, the biological relation of the dependent variable with the independent variables and the size and the nature of the sample. After the independent variables were selected and the preliminary equations formulated and cross-validated, a set of final prediction equations was refitted to data from the total sample.

Variable selection and preliminary equation development

The validation sample consisted of data from 1304 participants: 412 white males, 622 white females, 114 black males, and 156 black females aged 12–94 y from 3 of the New York, North Dakota, and Fels study centers (Table 1). Three participants whose ratio of TBW to weight was >0.8 L/kg were excluded from the analysis because they were assumed to be outside of the normal...
physiologic range (3–5). The New York sample was used in the validation sample because it contained the largest number of black subjects. The Fels data contained the largest number of white subjects, and they were included in both the validation and cross-validation samples.

The cross-validation sample consisted of 525 participants: 182 white males, 258 white females, 26 black males, and 59 black females aged 12–69 y from the Chicago, US Army, and Fels study centers (Table 1). There were 188 participants in the Chicago study, but the variables necessary to calculate FFM from the multicompartment body-composition model were not available in the Chicago study. Therefore, the Chicago data were used only to develop the TBW prediction equations. In the US Army study, 6 participants had TBW-weight ratios > 0.8 L/kg and were excluded; data from the remaining 107 Army participants were analyzed. The Chicago and US Army samples were used in the cross-validation sample because they contained black subjects.

GLM was used for sex and race differences in the variables age, stature, weight, BMI, resistance, stature^2/resistance, BD, BMC, TBW, and FFM. In addition to main effects of sex and race differences, the interaction effects between sex and race were considered also. If the variables had significant interaction effects, the race- or sex-associated differences were compared, stratified by race and sex, respectively.

An all-possible-subsets regression analysis was performed separately for TBW and FFM, with the possible independent variables of age, weight, stature, BMI, stature^2/resistance, resistance, and reactance included in each analysis. This procedure develops and evaluates the preliminary equations that contain all the possible combinations of independent variables, ie, 2^p+1 equations, when there are p potential independent variables (29). The preliminary equations were selected by measures of goodness-of-fit statistics, including the R^2 values adjusted for the df, root mean square error (RMSE), and Mallows’ Cp statistic (30). R^2, the coefficient of determination, is the proportion of the total variance in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variables in an equation. The larger the R^2 value, the better the equation fits the data. In general, as the number of independent variables in an equation increases, the precision of the equation improves, but the rate of improvement in precision decelerates as the number of independent variables increases. Mallows’ Cp statistic is an index of the appropriate number of independent variables in an equation. Ideally, one selects a prediction equation (from a set of possible prediction equations) with the Cp value that is close to the number of independent variables.

A variance inflation factor for each independent variable was also calculated to evaluate multicollinearity (29). In the presence of multicollinearity, prediction equations are sensitive to the addition or deletion of a variable or subject. Such equations tend to be sample specific and will not perform well when applied to independent samples. As a result, the developed equations that contained both weight and BMI were not considered further, as were those equations where the independent variables had nonsignificant regression estimates.

Cross-validation is the application of a prediction equation to a sample independent from the one used to construct the equation. Pure error is a measure of the performance of a prediction equation when applied to an independent sample (14). Pure error is calculated as the square root of the sum of squared differences between the observed and the predicted values divided by the number of subjects in the cross-validation sample. The smaller the pure error, the greater the accuracy of the equation. There is no criterion value for the pure error that indicates successful cross-validation, but the pure error should be similar to the value of the RMSE of the same equation from its validation. The selected preliminary equations were cross-validated by using the independent samples from Chicago, the US Army, and the Fels study, and the pure error was used to evaluate the cross-validation results from these independent samples.

The final equations

To derive the final race-combined equations, the independent variables determined from the preliminary equations were used in a regression analysis on the total data set from the combined 5 samples. These final race-combined equations were statistically validated by the PRESS (prediction of sum of squares) statistics for whites and blacks in the sample separately and for both races combined, ie, the total sample (29). The PRESS statistic is a measure of how well an equation performs when applied to independent samples. This cross-validation procedure is used when insufficient independent data are available (29). The PRESS statistic is obtained by 1) fitting a regression equation with one observation excluded, 2) obtaining the predicted value of the excluded observation, 3) calculating the residual for that predicted value (observed – predicted), 4) repeating steps 1–3 for all observations, 5) taking the sum of squares of all residuals, and 6) deriving the PRESS statistic by taking the square root of the sum of squares of the residuals divided by the total number of observations. To obtain a PRESS statistic, the square root of the sum of squares of the residuals was used. Validation using the PRESS procedure is similar to applying the equation to an independent sample independent from the one used to construct the equation.
RESULTS

Descriptive statistics

In the validation sample in Table 2, black males and females were significantly older than whites. Black males and females were also significantly heavier ($P < 0.05$) than whites, and males were heavier than females. Males were significantly taller than females, and white females were slightly but significantly taller than black females. Blacks had significantly larger mean BMIs than did whites, and black females had larger mean BMIs than did black males. Whites had larger mean resistance values than did blacks, and females had larger mean resistance values than did males. Males had larger mean stature/resistance values than did females. Blacks had significantly larger mean FFM and TBW values than did whites, and males had significantly larger mean FFM and TBW values than did females. Mean BMD values were significantly larger for males than for females, and white females had larger mean BMD values than did black females. Blacks had significantly larger mean BMC values than did whites, and males had significantly larger mean BMC values than did females.

In the cross-validation sample in Table 2, blacks were again significantly ($P < 0.05$) older than whites. As in the validation sample, blacks were significantly heavier than whites, males were heavier than females, and males were significantly taller than females. Blacks females had significantly larger mean BMIs than did white females and black males. White females had significantly larger mean resistance values than did black females and white males, and black females had significantly larger mean resistance values than did black males. Blacks had significantly larger mean stature/resistance, FFM, TBW, BMD, and BMC values than did whites, and females had significantly larger mean values than did males.

Variable selection and preliminary equation development

Two sets of preliminary equations were developed for TBW and FFM from the validation sample for each sex. A race-combined set of preliminary equations for males and females included both whites and blacks, whereas the other set of preliminary equations was for whites only. The race-combined TBW equations were not significantly different from the corresponding white-only TBW equation when a statistical test similar to that of the $F$ ratio was used to test for the equality of variance, ie, RMSE. There were significant differences in the parameter estimates between the female race-combined TBW preliminary equation and the TBW equation for white females only.

The race-combined preliminary FFM equations for males and females differed from the corresponding FFM preliminary equations for whites only in that age and resistance were included in the latter equations, and there was no difference in RMSE from the $F$ test. There were again some significant differences in the...
corresponding parameter estimates for weight for the preliminary
FFM equations for females.

The race-combined TBW equations for males and females had
stature²/resistance and weight as independent variables, and the
independent variables for the race-combined FFM equations for
males and females were stature²/resistance, weight, and resistance
for both sexes. In both the TBW and FFM equations, stature²/
resistance as a single independent variable had the highest
value of all the possible independent variables (Table 3). The R²
values for stature²/resistance with TBW ranged from 0.73 to 0.80
and from 0.75 to 0.86 with FFM for males and females,
respectively. Body weight had the second highest R² values with TBW
and FFM in both sexes, with R² ranging from 0.53 to 0.68 with
TBW and from 0.61 to 0.74 with FFM for males and females,
respectively. The R² for resistance, the third most important inde-
pendent variable, was 0.39–0.58 with TBW and was 0.39–0.61
with FFM for females and males, respectively.

The race-combined preliminary equations for TBW and FFM
for males and females were more parsimonious than were the corre-
sponding equations for whites only, and the RMSE values of the
race-combined preliminary equations were not significantly dif-
ferent from those of the white-only equations. The cross-validation
results of the preliminary race-combined TBW and FFM equa-
tions are presented in Table 4. There were few blacks in the cross-
validation sample; therefore, the results are presented as a race-
combined sample only. The TBW values for the RMSE were 3.6 L
for males and 2.6 L for females. The average TBW for males was
44.5 L, resulting in a CV of 8%. The mean TBW for females was
32.9 L and the corresponding CV was also 8%. Although the
RMSE value of the TBW equations was larger for males than for
females, the precision was similar for each, ≈8%. The RMSE val-
ues for FFM were 3.7 kg for males and 2.8 kg for females. The mean
FFM for males was 59.6 kg and for females was 44.0 kg.
The corresponding CVs for the FFM equations were ≈6% for
both sexes.

The pure errors from the cross-validation results are also pre-
sented in Table 4. When the selected race-combined prediction
equations were applied to the cross-validation sample, the result-
ing pure errors of prediction were only slightly larger than the cor-
responding RMSE. The pure errors for the TBW and FFM equa-
tions were 4.2 L and 4.5 kg for males, respectively, and 3.2 L and
3.4 kg for females, respectively; the corresponding RMSE values
were 3.6 L and 3.7 kg and 2.6 L and 2.8 kg, respectively (Table 4).
The CVs were larger for the cross-validation sample than for the
validation sample. The race-combined equations slightly overpre-
dicted TBW by ≈0.7 and 0.6 L and FFM by ≈0.3 and 0.6 kg for
males and females, respectively. For comparison purposes, the dif-
fferences in the pure errors between race-combined equations and
the white-only equations for TBW and FFM were not statistically
significant with the F-ratio test (P < 0.05). These results indicate
that when the preliminary equations in Table 4 are applied to inde-
pendent samples, there should be little if any trend in the residu-
als, and the predictive errors should be approximately equivalent
to the pure errors. This comparison illustrates that the perform-
ance of these TBW and FFM equations, when applied to an inde-
pendent sample, should be similar to this level of performance.

Final prediction equations

The final race-combined prediction equations for TBW and
FFM are presented in Table 5. The TBW equation for males used
712 participants (574 whites and 138 blacks) and that for females
used 1089 participants (875 whites and 214 blacks). The final
TBW equation for males had an R² of 0.84 and an RMSE of 3.8
L; the corresponding values for females were an R² of 0.79 and an
RMSE of 2.6 L. Both equations had a CV of 8%.

These final equations were validated by the PRESS statistics
for blacks and whites separately and for the total sample. The
PRESS statistics indicated that, overall, the cross-validation
performance of the TBW equations was excellent (Table 5). The
PRESS statistics for the TBW equation for males were 3.7 L for

### TABLE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total body water</th>
<th>Fat-free mass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total body water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stature²/resistance (cm²/tt)</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance (tt)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat-free mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stature²/resistance (cm²/tt)</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance (tt)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group (n)</th>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>R²</th>
<th>RMSE</th>
<th>Mean residual</th>
<th>Pure error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males (515)</td>
<td>TBW = 0.87 + 0.43 stature²/resistance + 0.20 weight</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>3.6 L</td>
<td>-0.7 L</td>
<td>4.2 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females (775)</td>
<td>TBW = 3.27 + 0.45 stature²/resistance + 0.12 weight</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>2.6 L</td>
<td>-0.6 L</td>
<td>3.2 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males (512)</td>
<td>FFM = -9.88 + 0.65 stature²/resistance + 0.26 weight + 0.02 resistance</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>3.7 kg</td>
<td>-0.3 kg</td>
<td>4.5 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females (776)</td>
<td>FFM = -11.03 + 0.70 stature²/resistance + 0.17 weight + 0.02 resistance</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>2.8 kg</td>
<td>-0.6 kg</td>
<td>3.4 kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1TBW is in L, FFM is in kg, stature²/resistance is in cm²/tt, and resistance is in tt. RMSE, root mean square error.*
The purpose of this study was to develop broadly applicable prediction equations for TBW and FFM in a wide variety of white and black persons with normal body composition with the use of selected BIA and anthropometric measurements. BIA is a simple, easy-to-use method of estimating body composition in large-scale epidemiologic studies, and whole-body BIA measures at 50 kHz are frequently used in combination with anthropometry to predict body composition (13, 31, 32). The final race-combined prediction equations are to be applied to the BIA data from NHANES III for each subject aged 12–80 y so that TBW, FFM, TBF, and percentage body fat can be calculated.

NHANES III included participants with a broad range of body types, ages, racial-ethnic groups, and health conditions. Thus, it was necessary to develop the prediction equations from samples that are as representative of the population as possible. The final prediction equations were derived with the use of data from a large number of participants (734 males and 1095 females) representing a broad range of age and body sizes from 5 study sites. This combination of data from 5 separate samples shown in Table 1...
increased the age, sex, and race distributions of the variables used (Table 2). The investigators at these sites have established long-term collaboration and interactions, and the data-collection protocols at the sites are very similar.

Variable selection and preliminary equation development

The selection of the variables used in the preliminary equations was based in part on their association with TBW and FFM. As shown in Table 3, of all the independent variables, stature²/resistance had the highest $R^2$ and the lowest RMSE values with TBW and FFM. Preliminary prediction equations containing only anthropometric measures as independent variables were developed by the all-possible-subsets regression procedure as part of the total of 1024 developed equations. These “anthropometry only” prediction equations were not considered further in this analysis because these equations had smaller $R^2$ and larger RMSE and $C_p$ values than did the BIA preliminary equations. The prediction equations with BIA values as independent variables had higher $R^2$ and smaller RMSE and $C_p$ values than did those equations that contained anthropometry only.

The independent variables selected for the TBW prediction equations included stature²/resistance and weight for both males and females (Table 4). The inclusion of these variables is not surprising because water is the most abundant compound in the body, making up 40–60% of body weight depending on the sex, race, and age of the person (4, 11). The independent variable stature²/resistance is a major contributor in predicting TBW because the BIA current is conducted by the aqueous compartment of the body. The positive regression coefficients for body weight are the partial correlations after the consideration of stature²/resistance.

The independent variables for the FFM equations included stature²/resistance, weight, and resistance for males and females (Table 4). Compared with the TBW equations, the best FFM equations included resistance as an additional variable (Table 4). The measure of stature²/resistance is an index of TBW that constitutes 73% of the FFM, although this percentage varies among persons (33). Inclusion of resistance in addition to weight and stature²/resistance in the FFM prediction equations is an indication that stature²/resistance may have undercorrected for resistance, which, in turn, exaggerated the conductivity of the FFM.

Final prediction equations

The regression analyses was repeated with use of the total available sample by using the variables selected in the preliminary equation development. The sample for the final equations included 712 males and 1089 females for TBW and 669 males and 944 females for FFM, all of whom were 12–94 y of age. The final BIA equations were developed with the use of both the black and white samples combined. With such a large number of participants, these final race-combined prediction equations were more robust when applied to an independent sample than were the preliminary equations developed with fewer participants. The final race-combined equations for TBW had a high $R^2$ value, and the RMSE values were 3.8 L for males and 2.6 L for females (Table 5). The final race-combined prediction equations for FFM also fit the data well. The $R^2$ values were 0.90 for males and 0.83...
for females, and the corresponding RMSE values were 3.9 kg for males and 2.9 kg for females.

Most of the published BIA prediction equations are limited, due in part to a narrow age range and specificity to the racial makeup of their samples. Among the published equations, there are wide variations in the goodness-of-fit measure and RMSE for TBW and FFM. The RMSE for TBW ranged from 1.3 to 8.7 L and for FFM it ranged from 1.1 to 4.6 kg (22, 29, 30, 33). In these published equations, the number of subjects, in general, was small except for the equations of Deurenberg et al (34) and Roubenoff (31). Also, most of the published equations were derived for whites only.

Most of the published prediction equations for FFM and body fat use BIA and body-composition models from a 2-component model or DXA as the criterion measure, with a few exceptions (13, 32). There are several limitations of the 2-component and the DXA methods of determining lean and fat tissues. The 2-component model is most suited to young adult white males. The DXA algorithms for soft tissue assume a constant hydration of the FFM (ie, 73% of water in FFM), which is erroneous (33). The present final FFM prediction equations are possibly the first to use a multicomponent body-composition model with direct measures of body density from isotope dilution for children and adults.

The cross-validation results for the development of the TBW and FFM equations indicated pure errors of 4.0 L for males and 3.0 L for females and 4.5 kg for males and 3.4 kg for females (Table 4). To further validate the present final equations, the PRESS procedure was used (Table 5). The race-combined PRESS statistics were similar to the RMSE values for the TBW and FFM equations, and the mean PRESS residuals were approximately zero, indicating their overall excellent performance. The PRESS statistics were also calculated separately by race and were similar to the RMSE values of the final equations (Table 5). These mean PRESS residuals were also close to zero, except that in whites TBW was slightly overpredicted (by ≈0.3 L for males and by ≈0.5 L for females), and FFM was overpredicted (by ≈0.4 kg for males and by ≈0.3 kg for females).

These final BIA race-combined prediction equations did not perform as well in the blacks as in the whites. The PRESS statistics were only slightly higher than the race-combined RMSE values, but the mean PRESS residuals in the blacks indicated an underprediction of TBW by 2.0 L in males and by 1.4 L in females and an underprediction of FFM by 2.0 kg in males and by 1.6 kg in females. As a result of the systematic prediction bias in the blacks and because these equations were derived from predominately white data, the equations are more valid for whites than for blacks. We attempted to include data for as many blacks as possible, but there have been too few body-composition studies that included blacks, Mexican-Americans, and other ethnic groups of the US population. However, we did use a multicomponent body-composition model to account for age, sex, and race differences in the density of FFM as much as was possible. Nevertheless, it appears that even with the application of a multicomponent model, for good biological reasons there were residual racial differences for BIA and weight-based predictions of TBW and FFM (35).

From our evaluation, we anticipate that when these final equations are applied, the means for sex- and age-specific groups should be close to the true values for whites, but underpredicted TBW and FFM for blacks because of a systematic prediction bias. Because the equations do not capture all the sources of variability in body composition, the SDs of the estimates from these equations will tend to be lower than the true SDs in the population. The random errors in the body-composition prediction will tend to attenuate the relations of body composition with risk factors for disease for both whites and blacks. The systematic bias of the predicted value for blacks could affect comparisons between blacks and whites. However, the systematic bias should not affect multivariate relations for blacks if measurement error models are applied to correct for these biases (26).

The final race-combined equations for TBW and FFM provided reasonable prediction for persons at the extremes of the distribution, as can be seen from the plots of the PRESS residuals (Figures 1–8). The PRESS residuals appear to be randomly located about the horizontal line of zero. There is only a slight trend of overprediction at the lower end of the distribution and of underprediction at the upper end of the distributions. These problems were noted in previous studies and were attributed to the criterion method of underwater weighing (36). However, in the obese, in clinical cases, or in those groups with greater-than-normal amounts of adipose tissue, the errors of prediction from these equations will be exacerbated; thus, these equations are not applicable to such groups.

The present equations were developed with the use of data from children as young as 12 y of age. It is possible that the prediction for children may be compromised as a function of the differences in levels of maturation between children, specifically their level of sexual maturation. In the development of these equations, we assumed that the relations of TBW and FFM with the independent variables used were parallel for the various stages of sexual maturation.
development among the children. When the final equations were applied to the children younger than 20 y of age, the $R^2$ and RMSE values were similar if only slightly better than the corresponding values for the total sample of subjects. However, the use of these equations with data from children between the age of 12 y and the age of maturity should be done cautiously because maturational development can vary greatly between children depending on their age and sex.

**Conclusion**

Two sets of prediction equations were validated and cross-validated for TBW and FFM by using 5 sets of BIA and body-composition data for males and females separately and for the races combined at all ages. There are recognized racial-ethnic differences in body composition; thus, it was likely that the equation that used data from whites only would perform less satisfactorily when applied to blacks than would the race-combined equations. The final sex-specific, age- and race-combined equations were selected as the most accurate and precise for predicting TBW and FFM. These findings indicate the utility of BIA in large-scale epidemiologic studies, for which more sophisticated body-composition methods are impractical because of their cost and the time involved.

The present BIA prediction equations have several advantages over published equations. The criterion methods for body composition were used in a multicomponent model that accounts for variations in bone, water, and fat. The final equations are derived from data from 5 study sites that constitute subjects with a wide age range, 2 races, and both sexes. The statistical procedure, all-possible-subsets regression analysis, evaluated every possible combination of the independent variables in the prediction of the dependent variables. This produces the best equations by allowing the simultaneous comparison among the set of possible equations. In conjunction with the Cp statistic, the minimum RMSE, and the significance of the regression estimates, the all-possible-subsets regression analysis ensures that the appropriate number of independent variables is included in the equation, and the criteria of the minimum RMSE and the significance of the regression estimates results in parsimonious equations. The equations are reasonably generalizable for groups with body-composition values at the extremes of the distribution, as assessed with the use of the PRESS procedure.

**REFERENCES**


