

Re: diving hominids?

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- *From:* Rich Travsky <traRvEsky@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Cj wrote:

If there's much debate about homo swimming in water perhaps some physiology is worth considering. For example the diving reflex is well established in humans. When the face is immersed in water the heart rate drops (bradycardia) and peripheral blood circulation is clamped down to increase blood levels in the thorax. In most humans the facial immersion reduces heart rates by about 20%. Quite interestingly this depression of heart rate is gradually increased when one does a significant amount of diving and starts to look a bit more like the diving reflex of seals. I suspect most mammals exhibit a diving reflex to some degree but in man it is markedly enhanced with repetitive stimulation (diving). The reflex suggests that humans developed some responses to immersion in water early in their evolution.

Here is a tiger with diving reflexes:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvgsrT8Z924>

SAN FRANCISCO, USA: Odin, the white Bengal Tiger, in his enclosure in San Francisco. British keeper Lee Munro has been training Odin, who is the top new attraction at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in San Francisco, since he was just 6. The park is one of the only places in the world where people can see a tiger diving for food.

I doubt that "repetitive stimulation" plays any role. Millions of humans do not dive.

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