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**OCCUPATION EXPOSURE-RELATED ABNORMALITY FOR HAIRDRESSERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS IN TAIWAN**

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**Objectives** To understand prevalence of occupation-related disease and promote the recognition of occupation hazard exposure for hairdresser and cosmetologist.

**Methods** Anonymous questionnaires were surveilled in 467 female and 46 male workers of aged 15 to 64 ( $33.9 \pm 10.4$  y) in Kaohsiung City.

**Results** Overwork daily hours in 86%, burnout in 30%, and work satisfaction in 57% could be noted. More frequent in fatigue and low satisfaction was in younger workers. There were work-related asthma (n=6), rhinitis (n=19), hand eczema (7.2%), hand injury (3.7%), carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) (3.5%), neck-shoulder pain (22.2%), low back pain (9.7%). Skin disorder occurred more in hair-washing ( $p=0.013$ ), injury ( $p=0.004$ ) and CTS ( $p=0.013$ ) in hair cutting and design, neck-shoulder pain ( $p=0.006$ ) and low back pain ( $p=0.04$ ) also in hair-designers. Near 15% to 20% of workers did not know about irritant/allergic components in products for hair-washing, colour agents, nail agents, and did not wear protective masks or gloves. More than 30% knew nothing about chemical exposure in their workplace and health-hazard effect. Eighty percent of workers knew the risk of transmission of tuberculosis, but less than 60% had protective practice. Most (90%) knew the viral-transmission hazards of blood-contaminated instruments and sterile procedures, but no protective measures during chemical sterilisation. Less knowledge about chemical hazards and opposition against mask-wearing could be noted in older workers, trainees, and employees than bosses or managers. About 60% thought their pain came from work-related condition, but their work-station was not ergonomically suitable.

**Conclusions** Highly prevalent overwork and occupation-related disorders were noted. Education program to promote recognition of chemical hazards and protective measures should be reinforced.