LONG-TERM DAY-AND-NIGHT ROTATING SHIFT WORK POSES A BARRIER AGAINST THE NORMALISATION OF LIVER FUNCTION

Yu-Cheng Lin, 1Chun Hsieh, 2Pau-Chung Chen. 1En Chu Kong Hospital, Department of Occupational Medicine, New Taipei, Taiwan; 2Institute of Occupational Medicine and Industrial Hygiene, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan; 3Taiwan Adventist Hospital, Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan

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Objectives To evaluate the impact of day-and-night rotating shift work (RSW) on liver health, we analysed the association between long term RSW exposure and the normalisation of plasma alanine transaminase (ALT) levels over a five-year period.

Method The data from physical examinations, blood tests, abdominal sonographic examinations, personal histories, and occupational records were collected from a cohort of workers in a semiconductor manufacturing company. The sample population was divided into three subgroups for analysis: persistent daytime workers, workers exposed intermittently to RSW (i-RSW), and exposed to persistent RSW (p-RSW).

Results Records were analysed for 1196 male workers with an initial mean age of 32.5 years (SD 6.0 years), of whom 821 were identified as rotating shift workers, including 374 i-RSW and 447 p-RSW workers. At the beginning of the follow-up, 275 were found to have elevated ALT (e-ALT): 25.1% day-time workers, 23.0% i-RSW workers and 21.3% p-RSW workers. Of these with e-ALT at the beginning, 101 workers showed normalised serum ALT levels at the end of five-year follow-up: 10.7% of day-time workers, 8.6% of i-RSW workers, and 6.5% of p-RSW workers. (P = 0.016). By performing multivariate logistic regression analyses, and comparing with the persistent daytime co-workers, after controlling for confounding variables, analysis indicated that the workers exposed to p-RSW were 46% less likely (OR, 0.54; 95% CI, 0.30–0.95; P = 0.03) to attain normal ALT levels within a five-year interval.

Conclusions Persistent day-and-night RSW pose a vigorous obstacle to the normalisation of e-ALT among workers with pre-existing abnormal liver function.

OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS DUE TO CO-EXPOSURE TO NOISE AND OTOTOXIC AGENTS

Zoubida Belhaj, Chahezad Kandouci, Baderedine Abdelkrim Kandouci. UDL Sidi Bel Abbes, Sidi Bel Abbes, Algeria

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Objectives In order to estimate the hearing impairment in occupational environment due to the co-exposure to noise and solvents, we have undertaken a cross-sectional study to evaluating the prevalence of hearing loss due to the co-exposure to both solvents and noise.

Method We recruited 144 workers, working in electronic materials manufacturing plant, one group is exposed to solvents alone, and the other one exposed to both noise and solvents. In another hand, we followed two other groups in a construction company of farm implements. 136 workers exposed to noise, 96 administrative workers none exposed. The data were collected by means of questionnaire and of an introductory tonal audiometry between 0,125 and 8 KHz.

Results The prevalence of hearing loss of more 20dB in the group exposed to the noise and solvents was mush greater (57.8%) than that of the noise alone (35.3%), and that of administrative workers (27.7%) (P < 0.0001).

Multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that the solvents and noise group had an estimated risk for hearing loss >20 dB about 4.4 times higher than that of the noise group.

Hearing impairment was greater for speech frequency than for high frequency.

Conclusions Our results suggest that solvents increase potentially the hearing loss in a noisy environment, with a higher impact on the speech frequencies.
Method Changes in ventilatory and haemodynamic parameters during occupational exposure to ultrafine particles summers studied using a survey-type retrospective cohort exposed unexposed conducted in a company producing agricultural equipment for a period of five month period from January 1 to May 30, 2013 in 139 subjects, including 107 exposed men and 3 unexposed.

The survey consisted of a questionnaire (WHO), a complete physical examination with measurement of blood pressure before and after the job, a spirometer before and after the job.

Results 18.7% were presented, a type of respiratory symptoms in chronic bronchitis against only 6.3% of non-exposed with a statistically significant difference (P = .04).

The prevalance of chronic bronchitis was significantly higher in smokers than in nonsmokers with 23.3% against 7.6% respectively. (P = .01).

The papers have a higher incidence of lung disease than unexposed with 83.2% of restrictive lung disease after exposure in exposed against 78.1% in the unexposed.

Smokers with normal spirometry is less than non-smokers before and after exposure with the following frequencies after exposure: 12.1% in non-smokers against only 4.1% in smokers.

On haemodynamic parameters was noticed an increase in TAP (47.87 mmHg), FC (76.16 mm Hg) after exposure in exposed.

Conclusions Our results have demonstrated the harmful effects of ultrafine particles on changes in ventilatory and haemodynamic parameters.