

Poster Presentation

Musculoskeletal

0080 MEASUREMENT OF PHYSIOLOGICAL WORKLOAD AND MUSCULOSKELETAL FATIGUE AMONG NURSING ATTENDANTS IN TAIWAN

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Introduction During the process of caring for patients, nursing attendants frequently require to help patients with lifting/transferring, patting/turning and rehabilitation. Nursing attendants are required to exert forceful and awkward postures for extended periods of time that caused musculoskeletal disorders. This study is to survey the work situation, physiological workloads, and musculoskeletal disorders associated with prolonged nursing attendance tasks in nursing attendants.

Method The self-administered questionnaires are assessed via a cross-sectional study of 190 female workers in Taiwan. Information is obtained on demographics, job characteristics, health status, and physiological workload.

Results and Discussion The observational result shows that the most common prevalence of physical discomfort was lower back (69.5%), followed by right shoulder (47.9%), left shoulder (44.2%), and neck (37.9%). Meanwhile, the most pronounced tired is to help patients with lifting/transferring (79.2%), followed by patting/turning (55.1%). The anticipated results of this study could be a workplace task design reference for improvement of musculoskeletal fatigue and disorders among nursing attendants.

Poster Presentation

Respiratory

0081 CHANGE IN RESPIRATORY HEAT FLOWS IN RESPONSE TO WEARING HALF-MASK RESPIRATORS IN HOT-AND-HUMID ENVIRONMENT

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Objectives When using a respirator a microenvironment develops around the nasal cavity. The heat load in this microenvironment deviates from that in the ambient air, shifting the paradigm of metabolic heat transfer via respiratory heat flows. This study determined the change in respiratory heat flows among users of half-mask respirators under different thermal conditions.

Methods Twenty-five participants (13 males and 12 females) were required to wear two models of half-mask respirators (one filtering facepiece without exhalation valve and one elastomeric facepiece with valve) and walked on stairs (130–200 W/m²) for 30 min in a climatic chamber. Combinations of air temperature (25, 29, and 33°C) and relative humidity (55% and 75%) were applied to develop various levels of heat stress.

Results The temperature of the respired air taken inside the filtering facepiece was greater than the level inside the elastomeric facepiece. Using the ISO/TS 16976–5 model, a reduction in the respiratory convective and evaporative heat flows was observed when the heat load in the ambient air was raised ($R^2=0.447$ and 0.470 , respectively). The difference between the respiratory heat flow via convection and that via evaporation decreased as the heat stress from the ambient air increased when the filtering facepiece was used (0.721).

Conclusions The metabolic heat built up in the microenvironment inside a respirator without an exhalation valve could alter the development of respiratory heat flows. Caution should be exercised to prevent imbalance in thermoregulation when using these respirators in hot-and-humid conditions.

Poster Presentation

Other

0083 MARKET VARIABILITY- SAFETY FLUCTUATIONS. MINERAL PRICES AND OHS AMONG BOLIVIAN COOPERATIVE MINERS

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Drawing on a combination of quantitative and ethnographic data this presentation explores the relationship between commodity prices and work-related injuries and fatalities among Bolivian cooperative miners. The presentation describes the short term health and safety impacts of rises and falls in mineral prices together with their complex pathways of influence before analysing the long term OHS impacts of market variability. Inviting reflection about the role of global trade relations and interdependencies in shaping workplace health and safety this presentation demonstrates that a focus on exposure assessment calculations and workplace interventions is not enough for improving OHS. I suggest that greater attention is to be paid to understanding the macro-economic determinants of OHS in order to identify locally-relevant policy points of action.

Poster Presentation

Policy/Impact

0084 OVERWORK AND ITS IMPACT ON WORKERS' HEALTH: A CROSS-COUNTRY COMPARISON OF OVERWORK-RELATED CARDIOVASCULAR MORTALITIES AND ITS REFLECTION IN THE TAIWANESE SITUATION

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Many Asian countries experienced the rapid change in industrial structure, which has resulted in a notable increase in occupational diseases, particularly overwork-related cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). "Overwork" or "Karoshi" has since been a major

health concern for workers in Asia. Taiwan is the third country in the world after Japan and Korea where national governments announced criteria to recognise overwork-related CVDs. However, the public's worries persisted, as the criteria seemed unable to solve the problem of long working hours in these countries. In the December 2016 and early 2017, a series of regulatory changes in Taiwan has received significant attentions, triggered by increasing social criticism indicating that Taiwanese regulations lagged behind international labour standards and many highly industrialised countries. As a result, increases in research addressing overwork-related CVDs issues and in the reported CVD cases could be a good reflection of the national policy change. We first compared the trends of research focus in Taiwan with those in Japan and Korea, respectively. We further collected 10 year data for Taiwan and Japan to investigate the impact of introducing a new policy. We found consistent and plausible correlations between the implementation of new policy and the number of recognised overwork-related CVDs. On the other hand, our results of Taiwan suggested a systematic problem of under-recognition of occupational diseases. Although the industrial development contributed to the country's economic growth substantially, the country will need to keep bearing the underlying burden of overwork-related CVDs.

Oral Presentation

Injuries

0085 INJURY REPORTING, EMPLOYER LODGEMENT AND COMPENSATION PAYMENT DELAYS AND DURATION OF WAGE REPLACEMENT IN INJURED WORKERS

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Objective To determine if delays in the workers' compensation process, indicated by failures in claim filing, adjudication and provision of wage replacement (WR), are associated with poorer RTW outcomes.

Methods This study examined standard workers' compensation claims with an injury date between January 2007 and December 2012, with at least one-day of WR, and which were not terminated for reasons other than RTW within the first 12 months of the claim (n=80,322). Logistic regression models explored the association between: i) delays in the injured workers (IWs) claim lodgement, the IWs employer's lodgement of the claim with the insurer, and receipt of first compensation payment, and accumulating 52 weeks of WR; and ii) socio-demographic/economic, occupational, and injury-related factors and the aforementioned delays.

Results All delays were associated with increased odds of reaching 52 weeks of WR. The more delays, the greater odds of a long-term claim. Different factors were associated with each different delay.

Conclusions The predictive ability of delays in claim lodgement and processing and receipt of compensation payments demonstrate where improved claims management and adjudication could reduce the proportion of workers on long term WR.

Oral Presentation

Shift Work

0086 SHIFTWORK, CIRCADIAN DISRUPTION AND BREAST CANCER: A FIRST APPLICATION OF THE CHRONOBIOLOGICAL THEORY AND PRACTICAL CHALLENGES WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN BCEE STUDY

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Background In 2007, the International Agency for Research on Cancer [IARC] classified shiftwork involving circadian disruption [CD] as probably carcinogenic to humans. We hypothesised that CD occurs if individuals work during their preferred sleep time (i.e. their biological nights).

Objective We intended to refine the measure of exposure to shiftwork involving CD within the Breast Cancer, Environment and Employment Study (BCEES).

Methods For each participant, we classified jobs with regard to whether their work times overlapped with their individual biological night. Preferred sleep times were obtained through the first two questions of the Horne-Östberg morningness-eveningness questionnaire [MEQ] ("perfect day" approach Groß et al., *Medical Hypotheses*2017).

Results Re-classifications were confined to shifts which include work - in part or in full - between midnight and 7 am. Circadian disruption was defined as an overlap of the preferred sleep time and the assessed shift times (+2 hours e.g. for travelling). We found a small, non-statistically significant association between shiftwork involving CD and breast cancer risk not different from prior results (Fritschi et al., *British Journal of Cancer*2013). Assessment of total CD was limited as numbers of chronodisrupted shifts associated with work between 0000–0700 and working times such as 0800–1600 or 1400–2200 could not be assessed.

Conclusions Whether accumulated CD doses due to variable work times during variable individual biological nights are carcinogenic must remain open at this stage. To provide interpretable answers, information on all shifts during the working life with potential CD for individuals with different biological nights must be considered.

Oral Presentation

Policy/Impact

0087 THE IMPACT ON LABOUR MARKET AFFILIATION OF CHANGES IN SICKNESS ABSENCE BENEFIT LEGISLATION USING A NEWLY DEVELOPED DANISH REGISTER ON SALARY AND SOCIAL PAYMENTS, 2010–2014

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Objectives January 2012 the Danish law on sickness absence benefit was regulated in terms of the employer period. The