industrial fields. Our aim in this study is to draw attention to the increasing number of health problems of forklift operators, caused by working conditions and by structural features and usage of the forklift machines.

Material and Method 140 forklift operators working in industrialised cities of Marmara region were included in the study. As a control group, 140 workers from the same working fields and with similar demographic features were included. All the participants were male and married. Necessary ethical permission was obtained. The first section described the demographic properties of the workers; the second and third sections contained the information about health problems of applied questionnaire.

Results The significant differences in this study, which was conducted on a questionnaire basis, were the number of pre-delivery, FGR (fetal growth restriction), interval to conceive, the number of stillbirths, congenital anomalies and newborn malignancies. In addition, the incidence of musculoskeletal system disorders, chronic diseases and the incidence of being under treatment currently were also significantly higher among forklift operators.

Conclusion Related to occupational environment, structural and functional features of the machines used, physical and chemical risk factors, there is an adverse impact on the health of forklift operators the number of whom are increasing every day because of industrialization. The results have achieved shows that the studies evaluating reproductive health and musculoskeletal system of the forklift operators should continue incrementally.

Poster Presentation

Intervention Studies

A PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF RETURN-TO-WORK COORDINATORS IN GETTING INJURED WORKERS BACK ON THE JOB

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Background Globally, 313 million missed at least four days of work in 2010 due to a work-related injury. Extended periods of work absence are costly and associated with poor health outcomes. Interventions that include return-to-work (RTW) Coordinators improve RTW outcomes, though they have often been investigated as part of a larger intervention package. We investigated whether Coordinator impact varies based on the stressfulness of interactions and whether it goes above and beyond functional aspects of their role and other workplace factors.

Methods A prospective cohort study of 632 workers in Victoria, Australia with more than ten days of compensation due to work-related injury. Participants rated the stressfulness of their Coordinator interactions, dichotomised into good and poor, and said whether they had a RTW plan. RTW plans are a functional responsibility of Coordinators. We analysed responses at baseline and six-month follow-up using logistic regression analyses, adjusting for demographic and workplace factors.

Results At baseline, RTW plans doubled odds of RTW and attenuated the impact of good Coordinator interactions, which had been associated with better RTW outcomes. At follow-up, the reverse was found: good interactions doubled odds of RTW while RTW plans were non-significant.

Conclusion The findings suggest that different aspects of Coordinator intervention have varied impacts on injured workers’ RTW outcomes depending on their trajectory. Functional benefits improved outcomes among shorter-duration claims, while interpersonal intervention improved outcomes among longer-duration claims. There are implications for how Coordinators target and interact with injured workers and other ways of improving their effectiveness.