Methods Retrospective descriptive study of doctors referred to the occupational medicine consultation of the Charles Nicolle hospital in Tunis for a medical opinion on fitness for work during the period from January to November 2022.

Results A total of 22 patients were included. The mean age was 49.68 ± 8.78 years. A female predominance was noted with a sex ratio (M/F) of 0.38. The doctors included, all of whom practised in the public sector, were general practitioners in 11 cases. The average professional seniority was 17.4 ± 8.74 years. The main reasons for consultation were psychiatric (12 cases) and neurological (three cases) pathologies. At the end of the medical aptitude consultation, eight patients were considered fit to continue their usual professional activity. Temporary unfit was pronounced for ten of the patients, and permanent unfit for four patients. Two patients were recommended for professional reclassification to an administrative position. One doctor was proposed for disability retirement (IPP=80%) and one radiologist was proposed for remote work.

Conclusion The physician’s job is subject to specific professional constraints. In order to guarantee a good quality of care and services, it is essential to periodically re-evaluate the practitioners’ ability to work.

Carcinogens/Cancer

P-168 ABILITY TO WORK AMONG CANCER SURVIVOR’S TEACHERS
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Introduction Although cancer is the most lethal and mortal illness worldwide, early detection and progress in treatment regimes have drastically improved the prognosis for many cancer patients. Subsequently, the growing number of cancer survivors arise critical topics concerning work ability and social reintegration. This study aims to assess the ability to work among teachers who suffered from cancer.

Materials and Methods A cross-sectional study was carried out at the occupational department of Charles Nicolle hospital from October 31st, 2022 to November 11th, 2022. We studied medical records and data concerning medical disability, and long-term illness among teachers with cancer diseases who postulated for office work reclassification.

Results A total of 120 patients were included in this study. Nineteen patients suffered from cancer diseases with a sex ratio (M/F) of 0.1. The average age was 51.26 years [40–61 years]. Cancer survivors had long-term sickness estimated at 532 days (SD: 582 days). Breast cancer dominated with eight patients, followed by cerebral neoplasm in three cases, two cases of gastrointestinal and two pulmonary neoplasms. A professional reclassification to office work positions was recommended for 8/19 patients whereas 8/19 cancer survivors were fitted to continue teaching. One case of nasopharyngeal carcinoma complicated by dysphonia and two cases of metastatic breast cancers was suggested for early retirement on grounds of disability. Age (p: 0.5) was significantly associated with an unfit to work meanwhile, long-term sickness absence (p: 0.42) and sex (p: 0.55) were not statistically related to fitness to teach.

Conclusion Most cancer survivors were able to continue working after their treatment. It has been claimed that cancer survivors were more compelled to remain at work to maintain their health insurance coverage. Being a teacher is demanding both on the physical and the mental level justifying that most of the teachers were reclassified to a lower demanding position.

Respiratory effects/Diseases

P-173 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IN WORKPLACE WHEN AN EMPLOYEE IN DIAGNOSED WITH TUBERCULOSIS

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Introduction The aim of this study was to describe the management strategy in workplace adopted when an employee is diagnosed with tuberculosis.

Methods A prospective intervention study was carried out in a Tunisian Occupational Medicine Group (OMG) after declaration of a baciliferous tuberculosis case in a private sector company. Data was collected from the medical files of the index case and work colleagues. Surveys were carried out by the OMG, the Direction of Medical Inspection and Safety at Work (DMISW), the Anti-Tuberculosis Dispensary (ATD) and the Regional Health Directorate (RHG).

Results A 24-year-old employee was diagnosed with tuberculosis. The employee was diagnosed with baciliferous tuberculosis on the basis of X-ray images and the positivity of Koch’s bacillus in the sputum. He was hospitalized and treated. As soon as the diagnosis was confirmed, the case was reported to the DMISTW territorially competent, then to the RHG and the ATD. A survey within the company was carried by the occupational physician in order to identify the close contacts. The index case was a trainer in a garment factory with 1500 employees. The ventilation in the enterprise was artificial. The employee was working two shifts (2x8). The duration of the study was of five months and still continuing. The number of close contacts was 63 with two suspected cases. A prevention campaign for close contacts and screening process was carried out. Contacts were divided into groups of 10 people for consultations at ATD while continuing their work. They underwent a chest X-ray, Koch’s bacillus in sputum, tuberculin skin test (TST) and a Quantiferon test. One colleague was diagnosed with tuberculosis.

Conclusion The role of the occupational physician is crucial in the early detection of this disease in collaboration with all the stakeholders specializing in the management of pulmonary tuberculosis.