



Abstract

Job instability of Labor Market and Preplacement Health Examination ;  
the Case of Hearing Loss

Sang Baek Koh<sup>1)</sup>, Kyoo Sang Kim<sup>2)</sup>, Sei Jin Chang<sup>3)</sup>, Bong Suk Cha<sup>3)</sup>, Jong Ku Park<sup>3)</sup>,  
Dong Mug Kang<sup>4)</sup>, Jai Young Kim<sup>5)</sup>, Soo Keun Kim<sup>6)</sup>, Hong Ryul Choi<sup>7)</sup>

Department of Occupational medicine, Suncheon Hospital<sup>1)</sup>, Industrial Safety and Health Research Institute, KOSHA<sup>2)</sup>, Department of Preventive Medicine and Institute of Occupational Medicine, Wonju College of Medicine, Yonsei University<sup>3)</sup>, Department of Occupational medicine, College of Medicine, Inje University<sup>4)</sup> Department of Health Research, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs<sup>5)</sup>, Department of Preventive Medicine, College of Medicine, Dongguk University<sup>6)</sup>, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Daewoo General Hospital<sup>7)</sup>

**Objectives** This study examines the problem of the preplacement health examination in terms of hearing loss case, where workers have been experiencing job instability in the labor market.

**Methods** : In order to measure the 2-year job retention rate of employees in 79 shipbuilding subcontracted companies in Kyongnam province, we utilized the same methods as those used by Neumark et al(1999), and Bernhardt et al(1999). We surveyed 79 health and safety personnel from the companies with a questionnaire to evaluate the present status of the preplacement health examination. We reviewed the preplacement health certificates(result of audiometric hearing thresholds) of 1,818 recruits issued by Daewoo hospital from January 1 to June 30, 2001.

**Results** : The job retention rate was 40.3 %(male 38.53 %, female 52.01 %). Of the 79 health and safety personnel of companies, 44(55.7 %) perceived the preplacement health examination as a tool for the selection of recruits, 3(3.8 %) as a procedure for job fitting and 31(39.2 %) as both. Most of them were against the acceptance of recruits with hearing loss, spinal disease and hepatitis. Among the 1,818 workers who underwent the preplacement health examination, 530(29.1 %) were examined after employment, but 1,096(60.3 %) were examined before employment. The number with previous job experience was 1,591(87.5 %). In the audiometric hearing threshold results, the prevalence of hearing loss was positively correlated with age. There was a significant difference in the prevalence of hearing loss depending on previous job and number of quitting at 4,000 Hz.

**Conclusions** The comparison of 2-year job retention rates before and after the Korean economic crisis of 1997 suggests that job stability has been aggravated especially for cohorts of long tenure, irregular job, and old age. This evidence shows that previous job and age play a role in determining worker employment based on perceived results from the preplacement health examination. This result suggests that a pre-employment health examination be substituted for the preplacement health examination based on the essential job functions and reasonable accommodation. Because it has little relevance in a wide range of employment and minor health problems, the results of this examination should not debar applicants from employment.

**Key Words** : Job instability, Preplacement health examination, Hearing loss





ANSI S3.1

2

	1000 Hz	30dB	4000 Hz	65 (82.3 %)	79 100	100	14
40dB			(abnor	(17.7 %)		가 62 (78.5 %)	가
mal)							17
				(12.7 %)			가 10
1.				(8.9 %)			가 7
		1998	2000				가 44
2	40.3 %	(	38.53 %	(55.7 %)		가 3 (3.8 %)	
	52.01 %).						
	2						
	40	U				가 31 (39.2 %)	
		가	2				
		(Table 1).					

62 (78.5 %)

Table 1. The 2-year job retention rate of companies surveyed by sex and age (unit; %)

sex	age	2-year job retention rate (1998 ~ 2000)	(32.9 %)	가	, 26
Total			(45.6 %)	62	, 36
	~ 29	31.52		24.1 %	
	30 ~ 39	39.48		, 75.9 %	
	40 ~ 49	46.51			가
	50 ~	48.69		(	)
	total	40.30			
Male			92.4 %	가	,
	~ 29	31.10	87.3 %	36.7 %	(Table 2).
	30 ~ 39	39.71	3.		
	40 ~ 49	41.75			
	50 ~	47.73		1,818	
	total	38.53			
Female			1,096 (60.3 %)		
	~ 29	37.50			
	30 ~ 39	32.00	530 (29.1 %)		192 (10.6 %)
	40 ~ 49	58.33			1,591 (87.5 %)
	50 ~	50.85			
	total	52.01		가 231 (14.5 %)	, 1 325

(20.4 %), 2 445 (28.0 %), 3 312 (19.6 %), 4 78 (4.9 %), 5 183 (11.5 %), 956 (60.1 %), 가 , 가 ( 1,2). 140 , 81 , 40 . 1) 1 가 799 (50.2 %) 가 , 367 (23.1 %) , 1,305 (71.8 %) , 293 (16.1 %) 가 2-3 (Table 3). 가 ( 1).

Table 2. The opinion of preplacement health examination perceived by health and safety personnels

Content	Number	%
Time of preplacement health examination		
- On preemployment	62	78.5
- On preplacement	7	8.9
- On postplacement	10	12.6
Objectives of preplacement health examination		
- Selection of employee	44	55.7
- Job fitting	3	3.8
- Selection of employee and job fitting	31	39.2
- Others	1	1.3
Presence of selection criteria		
- Present	62	78.5
- Not present	15	19.0
- Missing	2	2.5
Presence of appointed medical facility		
- Present	66	83.5
- Not present	13	16.5
Payment of preplacement health examination		
- By employers	19	24.1
- By employees	60	75.9
Unacceptable disease		
- Hearing loss	73	92.4
- Spinal disease	69	87.3
- Hepatitis	29	36.7
- Other disease	48	60.8

2) 2 가 가  
 . 4,000 Hz 50dB 가  
 45dB , ,  
 . 가 .  
 가 ( 2). ( 3).  
 , 3) 3

Table 3. Characteristics of workers who had taken preplacement health examination

Content	Numbers	%
1. Time of preplacement health examination		
- On preemployment	1,096	60.3
- On preplacement	261	14.3
- On postplacement	269	14.8
- Missing	192	10.6
2. Presence of previous job		
- Present	1,591	87.5
Previous employment type		
Regular worker	956	60.1
Irregular worker	635	39.9
Number of quitting		
0	231	14.5
1	325	20.4
2	445	28.0
3	312	19.6
4	78	4.9
5 and more	183	11.5
missing	17	1.1
Cause of quitting		
Closing down or unstable of factories	367	23.1
Economical problem	799	50.2
Health	19	1.2
Others	259	16.3
missing	147	9.2
- Not present	138	7.6
- Missing	89	4.9
3. Payment of preplacement health examination		
- By employees	1,305	71.8
- By employers	293	16.1
- Missing	220	12.1

가 (Table 4).

( 3).

가 4

5.

KHz / 14.4 % / 14.4 %  
6.9 % / 6.2 %

가 (30 )

, 1,000Hz 30dB

(40 )

4,000Hz 40dB

(Table 5).

4

KHz

12.7 % / 10.4 %

1,725

1,359

가

가

가

366

가 5

22.0 % / 16.9 %

20 가 가

가

(Table 6).

Table 4. The distribution of hearing loss by age

Unit: persons ( %)

Age	Right				Left			
	1 KHz*		4 KHz*		1KHz*		4KHz*	
	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal
~29	669(99.3)	5(0.7)	633(93.9)	41(6.1)	667(99.0)	7(1.0)	638(94.7)	36(5.3)
30~39	609(97.3)	17(2.7)	522(85.0)	94(15.0)	610(97.4)	16(2.6)	541(86.4)	85(13.6)
40~49	337(96.0)	14(4.0)	279(79.5)	72(20.5)	329(93.7)	22(6.3)	258(73.5)	93(26.5)
50~	68(91.9)	6(8.1)	41(55.4)	33(44.6)	67(90.5)	7(9.5)	39(52.7)	35(47.3)

Abnormal: Hearing threshold levels were more than 30 dB at 1,000Hz or more than 40dB at 4000Hz

\*: P < 0.05

Table 5. The distribution of hearing loss by age and presence of previous job

Unit: persons ( %)

Age	Previous job	Right				Left			
		1 KHz		4 KHz*		1KHz		4KHz*	
		Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal
Total									
	Yes	1476(97.7)	34(2.3)	1292(85.6)	218(14.4)	1467(97.2)	43(2.8)	1292(85.6)	218(14.4)
	No	128(98.5)	2(1.5)	122(93.8)	8( 6.2)	125(96.2)	5(3.8)	121(93.1)	9( 6.9)
~39									
	Yes	1123(98.3)	20(1.7)	1019(89.2)	124(10.8)	1123(98.3)	20(1.7)	1032(90.3)	111(9.7)
	No	113(99.1)	1(0.9)	107(93.9)	7( 6.1)	112(98.2)	2(1.8)	108(94.7)	6( 5.3)
40~									
	Yes	353(96.2)	14(3.8)	273(74.4)	94(25.6)	344(93.7)	23(6.3)	260(70.8)	107(29.2)
	No	15(93.8)	1(6.3)	15(93.8)	1( 6.3)	13(81.3)	3(18.8)	13(81.3)	3(18.8)

Abnormal: Hearing threshold levels were more than 30 dB at 1,000Hz or more than 40dB at 4000Hz

\*: P < 0.05

4,000Hz

(Table 7).

가

Table 6. The distribution of hearing loss by number of quitting

Unit: persons ( %)

Age	Number of quitting	Right				Left			
		1 KHz		4 KHz		1KHz		4KHz*	
		Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal
total	0	217( 98.2)	4( 1.8)	198(89.6)	23(10.4)	214( 96.8)	7(3.2)	193(87.3)	28(12.7)
	1	306( 98.4)	5( 1.6)	272(87.5)	39(12.5)	303( 97.4)	8(2.6)	272(87.5)	39(12.5)
	2	413( 97.6)	10( 2.4)	366(86.5)	57(13.5)	407( 96.2)	16(3.8)	368(87.0)	55(13.0)
	3	278( 95.2)	14( 4.8)	251(86.0)	41(14.0)	286( 97.9)	6(2.1)	251(86.0)	41(14.0)
	4	71( 98.6)	1( 1.4)	60(83.3)	12(16.7)	71( 98.6)	1(1.4)	57(79.2)	15(20.8)
	5 and more	175( 98.9)	2( 1.1)	147(83.1)	30(16.9)	171( 96.6)	6(3.4)	138(78.0)	39(22.0)
-39	0	176( 98.9)	2( 1.1)	162(91.0)	16( 9.0)	173( 97.2)	5(2.8)	162(91.0)	16( 9.0)
	1	235( 97.9)	5( 2.1)	204(85.0)	36(15.0)	237( 98.8)	3(1.3)	216(90.0)	24(10.0)
	2	338( 98.3)	6( 1.7)	309(89.8)	35(10.2)	334( 97.1)	10(2.9)	311(90.4)	33( 9.6)
	3	210( 97.2)	6( 2.8)	195(90.3)	21( 9.7)	215( 99.5)	1(0.5)	197(91.2)	19( 8.8)
	4	52(100.0)	-	48(92.3)	4( 7.7)	52(100.0)	-	46(88.5)	6(11.5)
	5 and more	104( 99.0)	1( 1.0)	96(91.4)	9( 8.6)	105(100.0)	-	91(86.7)	14(13.3)
40-	0	41( 95.3)	2( 4.7)	36(83.7)	7(16.3)	41( 95.3)	2(4.7)	31(72.1)	12(27.9)
	1	71(100.0)	-	60(84.5)	11(15.5)	66( 93.0)	5(7.0)	56(78.9)	15(21.1)
	2	75( 94.9)	4( 5.1)	57(72.2)	22(27.8)	73( 92.4)	6(7.6)	57(72.2)	22(27.8)
	3	68( 89.5)	8(10.5)	56(73.7)	20(26.3)	71( 93.4)	5(6.6)	54(71.1)	22(28.9)
	4	19( 95.0)	1( 5.0)	12(60.0)	8(40.0)	19( 95.0)	1(5.0)	11(55.0)	9(45.0)
	5 and more	71( 98.6)	1( 1.4)	51(70.8)	21(29.2)	66( 91.7)	6(8.3)	47(65.3)	25(34.7)

Abnormal: Hearing threshold levels were more than 30 dB at 1,000Hz or more than 40dB at 4000Hz

\*: P &lt; 0.05

Table 7. The distribution of hearing loss by type of employment

Unit: persons ( %)

Age	Type of employment	Right				Left			
		1 KHz		4 KHz		1KHz		4KHz*	
		Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal	Normal	Abnormal
total	Regular	896(97.7)	21(2.3)	789(86.0)	128( 4.0)	892(97.3)	25(2.7)	784(85.5)	133(14.5)
	Irregular	534(97.8)	12(2.2)	463(84.8)	83(15.2)	531(97.3)	15(2.7)	460(84.2)	86(15.8)
-39	Regular	714(98.5)	11(1.5)	650(89.7)	75(10.3)	712(98.2)	13(1.8)	650(89.7)	75(10.3)
	Irregular	376(98.2)	7(1.8)	349(91.1)	34( 8.9)	380(99.2)	3(0.8)	350(91.4)	33( 8.6)
40-	Regular	182(94.8)	10(5.2)	139(72.4)	53(27.6)	180(93.8)	12(6.3)	134(69.8)	58(30.2)
	Irregular	158(96.9)	5(3.1)	114(69.9)	49(30.1)	151(92.6)	12(7.4)	110(67.5)	53(32.5)

Abnormal: Hearing threshold levels were more than 30 dB at 1,000Hz or more than 40dB at 4000Hz

가 55.7 % , 가 39.2 %

(2001)

(1995) 60.3 %가

가 placement health examination pre-

가 (1995) 48.8 %

(1997) 41.2 % 78.5 %

가

( , 가

, 1995; de Kort , 1991; Herrington, 1994) pre-employment health examination

(1997)

(2000)

, 1995 ~ 1997 1997 ~ 1999

2 68.8 %

54.5 %

2

( , 2001).

가

가 ,

(1995)

29.7 15.1

30 2

70 % 50 %

가

가 2

가 40.3 %

가 3.8 %

가

가

가

가

가

가 (Niland Zenz, 1994).

가 (Henderson, 1993; , 2000).

가 (additive) (Corso, 1980; Mills, 1992),

1990 (Americans with Disability Act, 1990)

가

가

가

20 가 가

가

가

가 4 KHz / 12.7 %/10.4 %

가

가 5 22.0 %/16.9 %

가 ( 1,305 (71.8 %) )

가

가

(job redesign)가

가 , 가

가 , 4000 Hz

가 , 가

가 , 가 ( , 2000; , 2001).

가 :

가 : , Neumark (1999), D1 Bernhardt (1999)

가 , 79

2001 1 1 2001 6 30  
1,818

가 : 40.3 % ( 38.53  
( ) %, 52.01 %). 79  
가 44  
(55.7 %)

가 3 (3.8 %)

가 31 (39.2 %)

가 ,  
1,818

1,096 (60.3 %)

530 (29.1 %)

가 1,591 (87.5 %)

가 가

