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3) ,  
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**Abstract**

**Risk Factor Assessment Using Surface Electromyography and Electrogoniometer among Automobile Part Manufacturers**

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**Objectives:** As automobile part manufacturing is characterized by high speed and high repetition, observation methods which are usually utilized for static posture are inappropriate to evaluate musculoskeletal risk factors. This study quantified the risk factors of musculoskeletal disorders on the forearm and suggested exposure limits by estimating the risk factors using surface electromyography (EMG) and electrogoniometer.

**Methods:** Ten percent of the total workers at 3 automobile part manufacturing factories were randomly selected, and 99 male workers were recruited as study subjects. The study was conducted during May 2003 to September 2004. The workers were equipped with electrogoniometers on the wrist and the elbow, surface EMGs on the skin of the flexor digitorum superficialis (FDS) and extensor carpi radialis (ECR) muscles, and the heart beat recorder during work as indicators of joint movement, local muscle tension and physical work load, respectively.

**Results:** After controlling for age, body mass index and job stress, wrist flexion maximum angle, FDS relative activity (RA) and ECR RA were significantly associated with forearm musculoskeletal symptoms. The odds ratios of the forearm were 5.0(95% CI: 1.1-22.7), 14.0(95% CI: 1.5-128.8) and 7.3(95% CI: 1.1-49.4) for wrist flexion maximum angle more than 76 °, FDS RA more than 2.8%, and ECR RA more than 3.5%, respectively.

**Conclusions:** Joint angle and focal muscle activity were associated with forearm musculoskeletal symptoms. To reduce forearm musculoskeletal symptoms among automobile part manufacturers, the wrist flexion angle, and FDS and ECR activity need to be reduced below the guidelines recommended in this study.

**Key Words:** Automobile, Musculoskeletal disorders, Surface electromyography, Electrogoniometer

가 , ,  
 가  
 (work-related musculoskeletal disorders: WMSDs)  
 가 (Yoon & Lee, 1999; Kim, 2001; Kim et al, 2001; Kim et al, 2002; Nelson et al, 1992; Engstrom, 1999; Punnett et al, 2004).  
 가 , 10%  
 WMSDs 가 가 (Li & Buckle, 1999), Rapid Upper Limb Assessment (RULA) (McAtamney & Corlett, 1993)  
 가 가 Burdorf(1992, 1995) 120 4 가 가 17 99 2003  
 Chen (1989) 5 2004 9  
 2.  
 가 , 가 (goniometric system), (optical scanning system), (sonic system), (electromagnetic system) 가 (1) (1) (accelerometer-based system) (Li & Buckle, 1999).  
 가  
 WMSDs 가 가 Job Content Questionnaire (Karasek , 1988) 가 ( , 2001) 가 5 , 9 8 4 Likert , 0 3 Karasek (1988) Cronbach

가 0.60, 0.66, 0.79  
(2)

30

(National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health: NIOSH)

1 1 1

NIOSH

4

3) 가

(electrogoniometer)

가

2

(SG type DataLogII, Biometrics Ltd, Gwent, UK)

2) 가

가

1

(Q type DataLogII, Biometrics Ltd, Gwent, UK)

가 Pre-amplifier (type no. SX230 DataLogII, Biometrics Ltd, Gwent, UK)

Soderberg

(Soderberg, 1992)

peak to peak

50 /

가 1

pre-amplifier

30

20~450 Hz

4)

(1)

가

가

(Aerobike 75XL II, Combi Co., Japan)

15

5

10

가

가

(sampling rate) 1,000 /

가

(flexor digitorum

superficialis: FDS)

(extensor carpi

radialis: ECR)

가

가

가 가

( )

가

Miyashita (Miyashita

et al, 1985)

75%

(normalization)

Maton (1980)

(relative activity)

EMG

0 가

Relative Activity = (Task EMG - Rest EMG) / (Maximum EMG - Rest EMG)

가

가

가

(maximum voluntary contraction: MVC)

가

(isometric contraction) 3

가

(2)

(µV) root mean square

(RMS)

1

(gold standard)

(Haskell et al,

1993; Luke et al, 1997; Strath et al, 2000; Rennie et al, 2001).

(Polar Electro Co, Finland, S810 )

0.0

6)

가

1° , 0.1%

cut off point cut off point

가 cut off point가

Jonsson(1978)

(relative heart ratio:

Sjogaard (1986) 1

RHR)

5% , 1 Jonsson(1978)

$$RHR (\%) = [(HR_{work} - HR_{rest}) / (HR_{max} - HR_{rest})] \times 100$$

Rapid Upper Limb Assessment (McAtamney & Corlett, 1993) 2%

RHR : relative heart ratio

Aaras(1998)가 1%

HRmax : maximum heart rate

HRwork : heart rate at work

HRrest : heart rate at rest

RHR

1.

37.6 ,

23.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>,

13.3 ,

5)

58.1

(Table 1).

2.

NIOSH 가 1 1

1

50.7°,

NIOSH 가 ' '

42.5°,

criteria)

NIOSH (intensified NIOSH

3.6° ,

15

(freq/min)

63.5°,

64.5°,

6.7° ,

/

가

21.8 (freq/min)

**Table 1.** Characteristics of study subjects (N=99)

Variables	Mean	S.D.
Age (yrs)	37.6	7.2
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.2	2.6
Work year (yrs)	13.3	6.2
Work hour/week (hrs)	58.1	6.7

SAS v8.1

0.05

p-

103.2°, 38.1°, 3. 17.4(freq/min) 5.4% 6.4% 4.9 54.6% NIOSH NIOSH NIOSH Kcal/min, 19.5% (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Joint movement, muscle activity and energy consumption results estimated by electrogoniometer, electromyography and heart rate monitor (N=99)

Variables	Mean	S.D.
Wrist ulnar deviation maximum (°)	50.7	12.6
Wrist radial deviation maximum (°)	42.5	15.1
Wrist deviation mean (°)	3.6	6.9
Wrist deviation frequency (frequency/min)	15.0	6.1
Wrist flexion maximum (°)	63.5	13.6
Wrist extension maximum (°)	64.5	12.9
Wrist flexion mean (°)	6.7*	9.3
Wrist flexion frequency (frequency/min)	21.8	7.4
Elbow flexion maximum (°)	103.2	20.2
Elbow flexion mean (°)	38.1	12.6
Elbow flexion frequency (frequency/min)	17.4	6.8
Flexor digitorum superficialis muscle relative activity (%)	5.4	4.6
Extensor carpi radialis muscle relative activity (%)	6.4	6.7
Energy expenditure at work (Kcal/min)	4.9	0.7
Relative heart ratio	19.5	10.4

\* minus means extension

**Table 3.** Odds ratios of risk factors of musculoskeletal symptoms on forearm (N=99)

Risk factors	O.R.	95%	C.I.
Age (yrs)	1.039	0.963	1.121
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )**	1.307	1.040	1.642
Work year (yrs)	1.010	0.925	1.104
Work hour/week (hrs)**	1.096	1.005	1.196
Job demand score	1.044	0.950	1.148
Job control score	0.999	0.952	1.049
Social support score	1.004	0.870	1.157
Wrist ulnar deviation maximum (°)	1.006	0.962	1.052
Wrist radial deviation maximum (°)	1.011	0.975	1.049
Wrist deviation mean (°)	0.969	0.886	1.060
Wrist deviation frequency (frequency/min)*	0.884	0.770	1.015
Wrist flexion maximum (°)**	1.062	1.010	1.116
Wrist extension maximum (°)*	0.956	0.909	1.004
Wrist flexion mean (°)**	1.076	1.008	1.149
Wrist flexion frequency (frequency/min)*	0.917	0.831	1.013
Elbow flexion maximum (°)	0.992	0.968	1.017
Elbow flexion mean (°)	0.975	0.936	1.016
Elbow flexion frequency (frequency/min)*	0.904	0.811	1.006
Flexor digitorum superficialis muscle relative activity (%)**	1.147	1.033	1.273
Extensor carpi radialis muscle relative activity (%)**	1.082	1.001	1.170
Energy expenditure at work (Kcal/min)	1.708	0.775	3.765

\* p< 0.1, \*\* p< 0.05

15.2%

(Model I)

(Model II)

4

1°

0.1%

가 가  
가 (Table 3).

Model I II

76°

(Table 4).

model

4.3(95% CI; 1.1-17.4)

5.0(95% CI; 1.1-12.7)

I ( : 1.1),  
( : 1.2)

가 2.8%

9.8(95% CI; 1.2-80.5) 14.0(95%  
CI; 1.5-128.8)

model II

(

Model I

가

: 1.1), ( : 1.2)  
( : 1.1)

3.8 %

5.9(95% CI; 1.0-34.3)

Model II  
7.3(95% CI; 1.1-49.4)  
가

가 3.5%

5.

(Table 5).

90가

가 2.7%

가

(>999.999), 95%  
(<0.001->999.999),

**Table 4.** Odds ratios of risk factors of musculoskeletal symptoms on forearm after adjusting variables

Risk factors	Model I <sup>a</sup>			Model II <sup>b</sup>		
	O.R.	95%	C.I.	O.R.	95%	C.I.
Work year (yrs)	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.1
Work hour/week (hrs)	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2
Ulnar wrist deviation maximum (°)	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
Radial wrist deviation maximum (°)	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
Wrist deviation mean (°)	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1
Wrist deviation frequency (frequency/min)	0.9*	0.7	1.0	0.9**	0.7	1.0
Wrist flexion maximum (°)	1.1**	1.0	1.1	1.1**	1.0	1.1
Wrist extension maximum (°)	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0
Wrist flexion mean (°)	1.1*	1.0	1.1	1.1*	1.0	1.2
Wrist flexion frequency (frequency/min)	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0
Elbow flexion maximum (°)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Elbow flexion mean (°)	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0
Elbow flexion frequency (frequency/min)	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0
Flexor digitorum superficialis muscle relative activity (%)	1.2***	1.0	1.3	1.2***	1.1	1.4
Extensor carpi radialis muscle relative activity (%)	1.1*	1.0	1.2	1.1**	1.0	1.2
Energy expenditure at work (Kcal/min)	1.6	0.7	3.7	1.7	0.7	4.0

<sup>a</sup> after adjusting age and body mass index, <sup>b</sup> after adjusting age, body mass index and job stress factors including job demand, job control and social support, \* p<0.1, \*\* p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.01

2x2 가 ( 18.4% Engstrom(1999) 25.5% ) . 41% , Yoon & Lee(1999)가 50.9% , Johansson(1994) 65% Engstrom(1999) 가 가 WMSD가 가 가 (Table 6). 54.6% Kim(2001) , 30.9% 29.5%, Punnet(2004)

**Table 5.** Forearm symptom<sup>a</sup> odds ratios of risk factors categorized by high and low group according to cut off point after adjusting age and body mass index (N=99)

Risk factors	cut off point	Model I <sup>b</sup> O.R.	95% C.I.		Model II <sup>c</sup> O.R.	95% C.I.	
			lower	upper		lower	upper
Wrist flexion maximum (°): high vs low	60	2.4	0.6	9.9	2.4	0.6	10.2
	70	1.2	0.3	4.3	1.2	0.3	4.4
	74	2.1	0.6	7.9	2.2	0.6	8.3
	75	3.1	0.8	12.1	3.4*	0.8	14.5
	76 <sup>de</sup>	4.3**	1.1	17.4	5.0**	1.1	22.7
	77	4.9**	1.2	20.9	5.6**	1.2	25.7
	78	6.3**	1.4	29.1	7.0**	1.4	33.7
	80	10.4***	2.1	52.3	13.7***	2.4	78.7
	90	>999.999	<0.001	>999.999	>999.999	<0.001	>999.999
Flexor digitorum superficialis muscle relative activity (%): high vs low	2.0	>999.999	<0.001	>999.999	>999.999	<0.001	>999.999
	2.5	>999.999	<0.001	>999.999	>999.999	<0.001	>999.999
	2.7	>999.999	<0.001	>999.999	>999.999	<0.001	>999.999
	2.8 <sup>de</sup>	9.8**	1.2	80.5	14.0**	1.5	128.8
	2.9	9.8**	1.2	80.5	14.0**	1.5	128.8
	3.0	13.7**	1.6	114.4	31.0***	2.9	332.9
	3.5	17.8***	2.1	150.5	35.3***	3.3	373.5
	4.0	15.5***	2.5	96.5	37.6***	3.9	365.8
	5.0	5.5***	1.5	19.6	8.3***	1.8	37.6
Extensor carpi radialis muscle relative activity (%): high vs low	2.0	3.4	0.4	29.9	3.6	0.4	32.0
	3.0	5.0*	0.9	28.3	8.1*	0.9	73.0
	3.5 <sup>e</sup>	6.5*	0.8	55.3	7.3**	1.1	49.4
	3.6	5.0*	0.9	28.3	7.3**	1.1	49.4
	3.7	5.8*	1.0	34.2	7.7**	1.1	52.1
	3.8 <sup>d</sup>	5.9**	1.0	34.3	8.2**	1.2	54.7
	3.9	6.3**	1.1	35.9	9.0**	1.4	59.4
	4.0	6.4**	1.1	35.9	9.0**	1.4	58.9
	5.0	4.2**	1.0	16.9	6.3**	1.3	30.9

<sup>a</sup> NIOSH criteria intensified by symptom above medium intensity, <sup>b</sup> after adjusting age and body mass index, <sup>c</sup> after adjusting age, body mass index and job stress factors including job, <sup>d</sup> suggested limit value by Model I, <sup>e</sup> suggested limit value by Model II job demand, job control and social support. \* p<0.1, \*\* p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.01

가 가 , , Armstrong (1999) WMSDs 가 , 가 , Sporrong (1999) 가 (De Krom, 1992), (Nordstrom, 1997) (Cannon et al, 1981; Silverstein et al, 1986a; Silverstein et al, 1986b; Amstrom et al, 1987; Rempel et al, 1992) (Knava, 1985) Yim (2000) VDT 가 (Yoon & Lee, 1999; Kim, 2001; Kim et al, 2001; Kim et al, 2002; Nelson et al, 1992; Engstrom, 1999; Punnett et al, 2004) 가 1 가 76%, 3.5% 3.8% 2.8%, 가 WMSDs p p , 95% 가 90가 가 2.7% Christensen(1999) 가 , Yen 2x2 가 Radwin(2000) ( ). Cook (2002) 가 2x 2

**Table 6.** Comparison of prevalence of musculo-skeletal symptom on the forearm among studies

Data source	Kim(2001)		Yoon & Lee (1999)	Punnet (2004)		Engstrom (1999)	Johansson (1994)
	car assembly	truck assembly	seat assembly	stamping plant	engine plant	car assembly	truck assembly
Criteria	NIOSH <sup>a</sup>	NIOSH <sup>a</sup>	NIOSH <sup>a</sup>	Questionnaire <sup>b</sup>	Questionnaire <sup>b</sup>	NMQ <sup>c</sup>	NMQ <sup>c</sup>
Hand/wrist	30.9	29.5	50.9	25.5	18.4	41	65

<sup>a</sup> National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety in U.S.A.

<sup>b</sup> compatible with NIOSH criteria

<sup>c</sup> standardized Nordic Questionnaire by Kuorinka (1987)



가 ,

가

: 가

가

95%

가

(convergence)

: 10% , 99

p- 가 95%

2003 5

2004 9

Sjogaard (1986)

5%

가

Jonsson(1982)

1

5%,

2%

, McAtamney Corlett(1993) RULA

2%

가 가

76° 5.0(95% CI: 1.1-22.7),

Aaras(1998)

1

가

가 2.8%

14.0(95% CI:

MVC 1%

1.5-128.8),

가 3.8%

가

7.3(95% CI: 1.1-49.4)

가

가

가

가

1

가

. Available: [http://laborstat.molab.go.kr/cgi-bin/sws\\_999.cgi](http://laborstat.molab.go.kr/cgi-bin/sws_999.cgi) [cited 28 November 2004].

가

. 2001

가

가

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