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Abstract

Job Stress, Heart Rate Variability and Metabolic Syndrome

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Objective: A growing body of literature has documented that job stress is associated with the development of cardiovascular disease. Nevertheless, the pathophysiological mechanism of this association remains unclear. Therefore, we tried to elucidate the relationship between job stress, heart rate variability and metabolic syndrome.

Method: The study design was cross-sectional, and 169 industrial workers were recruited. A structured-questionnaire was used to assess the general characteristics and job characteristics (work demand, decision latitude). Heart rate variability (HRV) was recorded using SA-2000 (medi-core). HRV was assessed by time-domain and by frequency-domain analyses. Time domain analysis was performed for SDNN (Standard Deviation of NN interval), and spectral analysis for low-frequency (LF), high-frequency (HF) and total frequency power. Metabolic syndrome was defined on the basis of clustering of risk factors, when three or more of the following cardiovascular risk factors were included in the fifth quintile: glucose, systolic blood pressure, HDL-cholesterol (bottom quintile), triglyceride and waist-hip ratio.

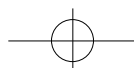
Results: The results showed that job characteristics were not associated with cardiovascular risk factors. The high strain group had a less favorable cardiovascular risk profile with higher levels of blood pressure, glucose, homocysteine, and clotting factor than the lower strain group (low strain+passive+active group), but the difference was not statistically significant. The SDNN of HRV was significantly lower in the high strain group than in the low strain group. The prevalence of metabolic syndrome in the low strain, passive, active and high strain groups was 9.7%, 13.9%, 14.9% and 23.8%, respectively. In the high strain group, the metabolic syndrome was significantly related to a decreased SDNN. However, we could not find a significant association in LF/HF ratio.

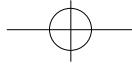
Conclusion: This result suggests that decreased HRV does not play a role in the development of disease; however, it can induce cardiovascular abnormalities or dysfunctions related to the onset of heart disease among high risk groups.

Key Words: Stress, Heart rate variability, Metabolic syndrome

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가 (Green Johnson, 1990; Piper , 1989; Schnell , 1992). (Factor VII, Factor VIII) (Frimerman , 1997; Chang , 2002), (fibrinogen) , tissue plasminogen activator(t-PA) (fibrinolysis) 가 가 (Harlan Manolio, 1992; Ishizaki , (Thoits, 1983; 1996). Cooper Davidson, 1987).

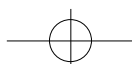
가 (Seward, 1990). (, 1998; Alfthan , 1994; Lolin , 1996).

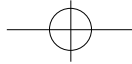
가 (overactivity) 가 (Wolf, 2000).

(Krantz 가 (HRV; heart rate variability) Manuck, 1984; Rozanski , 1988), (Manuck , 가 1986).

(Threorell, 1992), 가 가 가 (Karasek , 1988; Ishizaki , 1996).

가 가 (Bosner Kleiger, 1995). 가 1/5(가





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1/5) (Brunner , ,
1997) (metabolic syndrome)
, Gardell 5
(1983)

가 ,
가
(Belkic, 2000).

2.
1) ()
Karasek (1988) (US
Quality of Employment Survey)
(Job Content Questionnaire:
JCQ)
가 (,
2001). 5 ,
(decision authority)(3)
(skill discretion)(6) 9 14

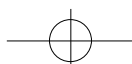
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Karasek

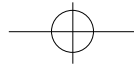
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(1) (Time domain analysis)
SDNN (Standard Deviation of NN
interval); RR
RMSSD (the square Root of the Mean
Squared Differences of successive NN
interval); RR

30 (2) (Frequency domain
analysis)
SA-2000E(medi-core, 2002) HRV (High Frequency





component, HF), (Low Frequency component, LF), (Very Low Frequency, VLF) 가 (Fig.2),

VLF, LF, HF

TP (total power) . 5 Normalized LF normalized HF, LF / HF ratio

95%

3) (metabolic syndrom)

가

1.

(Davey Smith ,

1996).

40

가

가

Brunner (1997)

(HDL)

,

3가

가

5

3.

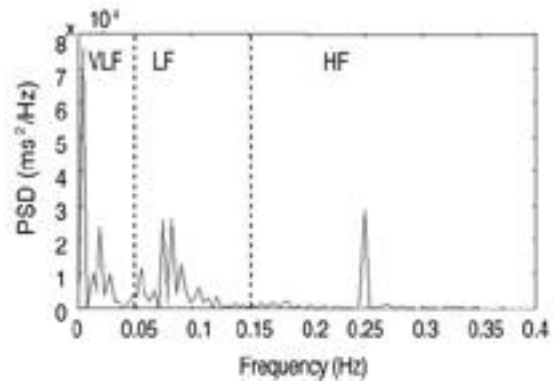


Fig. 2. Power Spectrum of HRV

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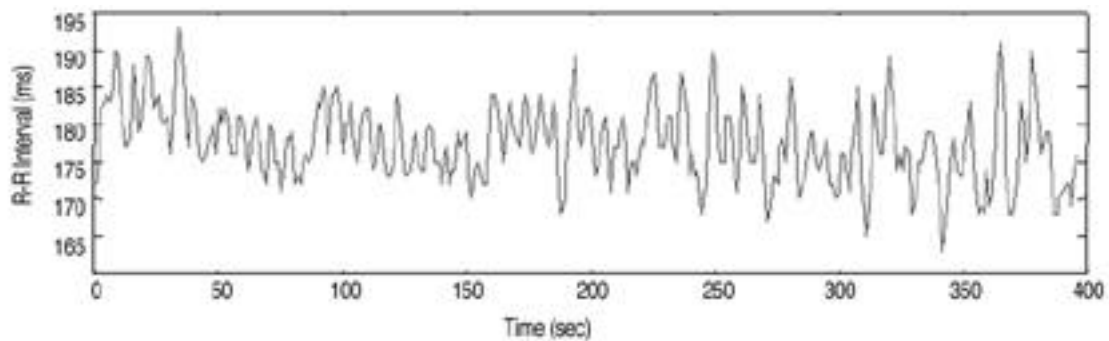
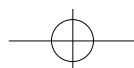
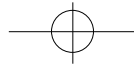


Fig. 1. The case of HRV





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46.7 , 40 ~ 44 2.

가 26.9%, 45 ~ 49 가 50.3%, 50 ~ 54 가 19.2%, 55 3.6% .

17.1%, 61.0%, 21.9% . 가

127 (67.2%) ,

6 , 19 , 9 , 가

. 41 (21.7%) , SDNN RMSSD TP

. 29 , 11 , 2 . (total power) VLF, LF, HF

57.1%,

50.9% . SDNN . 5 Normalized

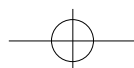
32 (19.2%), 50 (29.9%), 39 (29.4%), LF normalized HF, LF / HF ratio

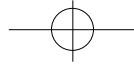
46 (27.5%) (Table 1).

Normalized LF , LF / HF SDNN (Table 2).

Table 1. General characteristics and job characteristics of study subjects

Variables	Number	%
Age(year)		
40~44	45	26.9
45~49	84	50.3
50~54	32	19.2
55	6	3.6
Occupation		
Field worker	127	67.2
Office worker	41	21.7
Job demand		
Low	72	42.9
High	96	57.1
Decision latitude		
Low	85	50.9
High	82	49.1
Social support		
Low	70	41.9
High	97	58.1
Job strain		
Low strain group	32	19.2
Passive group	50	29.9
Active group	39	23.4
High strain group	46	27.5





3. 9.7%, 13.9%, 14.9%, 23.8% (OR; 2.92, 95% CI; 0.73-11.67)(Table 4).

가 5.

SDNN

가 LF/HF 가 SDNN, total power, (Table 3).

4. LF/HF 가 (Table 5).

(11.8%) (19.4%) (OR; 1.77, 95% CI; 0.72-4.38).

SDNN (19.2%) (12.8%) (OR; LF/HF 가 가 (Table 6).

0.62, 95% CI; 0.26-1.48).

Table 2. Correlation coefficients among the time and frequency domain of heart rate variability

	SDNN*	RMSSD	TP	VLF	LF	HF	LFNorm	HFNorm	LF/HF	log(Tp)	log(Vlf)	log(Lf)
RMSSD [†]	0.74*											
TP [‡]	0.85*	0.60*										
VLF [§]	0.70*	0.34*	0.89*									
LF	0.67*	0.47*	0.78*	0.48*								
HF [¶]	0.71*	0.86*	0.67*	0.35*	0.54*							
LFNorm**	0.13	0.50*	0.01	0.04	0.29*	0.45*						
HFNorm ^{††}	0.13	0.50*	0.01	0.04	0.29*	0.45*	1.00*					
LF/HF ^{§§}	0.12	0.38*	0.01	0.03	0.30*	0.31*	0.76*	0.76*				
log(Tp)	0.87*	0.58*	0.90*	0.81*	0.71*	0.54*	0.07	0.07	0.06			
log(Vlf)	0.74*	0.38*	0.81*	0.89*	0.48*	0.33*	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.90*		
log(Lf)	0.64*	0.44*	0.66*	0.41*	0.87*	0.42*	0.42*	0.42*	0.36*	0.76*	0.49*	
log(Hf)	0.70	0.87*	0.59*	0.34*	0.47*	0.79*	0.58*	0.58*	0.51*	0.61*	0.37*	0.48*

*SDNN; Standard deviation of all NN interval,

[†]RMSSD; The square root of the mean of the sum of squares of differences between adjacent, NN intervals

[‡]TP; Total power, [§]VLF; Very low frequency, LF; Low frequency, [¶]HF; High frequency,

**LF Norm; Normalized low frequency(LF/LF+HF), ^{††}HF Norm; Normalized high frequency(HF/LF+HF),

^{§§}LF/HF; index of cardiac sympathetic activity, log; log transformation

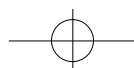


Table 3. Mean values of cardiovascular risk factors by job strain

Variables	mean (S.D.)		
	Lower strain group*	High strain	p value
Age	46.5 (3.8)	47.2 (4.0)	0.32
Body mass index	23.6 (2.6)	23.7 (2.8)	0.76
Glucose	96.1 (24.7)	99.1 (24.4)	0.49
Hemoglobin	14.8 (0.8)	14.7 (0.9)	0.63
Total cholesterol	186.2 (36.4)	186.7 (33.8)	0.92
HDL cholesterol	49.7 (10.4)	48.0 (10.3)	0.35
LDL cholesterol	112.7 (32.3)	115.7 (32.3)	0.59
Triglyceride	117.7 (72.0)	114.6 (55.8)	0.80
Homocystein	10.8 (5.0)	11.2 (5.5)	0.69
Coagulation factor VII	110.7 (21.8)	110.4 (12.7)	0.93
Coagulation factor VIII	76.0 (25.5)	78.8 (40.1)	0.60
Systolic blood pressure	119.5 (12.7)	123.1 (16.5)	0.15
Diastolic blood pressure	78.9 (8.9)	81.9 (9.3)	0.06
SDNN [†]	38.4 (11.3)	34.6 (9.5)	0.06
log(Tp [‡])	6.9 (0.6)	6.7 (0.5)	0.12
log(Vlf [§])	6.3 (0.7)	6.1 (0.7)	0.07
log(Lf)	5.6 (0.8)	5.5 (0.7)	0.72
log(Hf [¶])	4.9 (0.9)	4.7 (0.7)	0.24
LF/HF ratio**	2.5 (2.9)	2.9 (2.4)	0.63

*Lower strain group; low strain+passive group+Active group

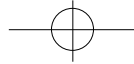
[†]SDNN; Standard deviation of all NN interval,

[‡]TP; Total power, [§]VLF; Very low frequency, LF; Low frequency, [¶]HF; High frequency,

**LF/HF; index of cardiac sympathetic activity, log; log transformation

Table 4. Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for metabolic syndrome by job strain

Variables	Metabolic syndrome			OR (95% C.I.)
	No	Yes	p value	
Job demand				
Low	60 (88.2)	8 (11.8)	0.21	1.00
High	72 (80.9)	17 (19.4)		1.77 (0.72~ 4.38)
Decision latitude				
Low	63 (80.8)	15 (19.2)	0.27	1.00
High	68 (87.2)	10 (12.8)		0.62 (0.26~ 1.48)
Job strain				
Low strain group	28 (90.3)	3 (9.7)	0.12	1.00
Passive group	31 (86.1)	5 (13.9)		1.51 (0.39~ 6.87)
Active group	40 (85.1)	7 (14.9)		1.63 (0.33~ 6.88)
High strain group	32 (76.2)	10 (23.8)		2.92 (0.73~11.67)



(preclinical
(Schulte, 1993).

가 stage)

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Table 5. Mean values of heart rate variability by metabolic syndrome

Variables	Metabolic syndrome		p value
	No	Yes	
SDNN*	38.3 (11.0)	33.6 (9.6)	0.08
log(Tp [†])	6.9 (0.6)	6.7 (0.5)	0.12
log(Vlf [‡])	6.3 (0.7)	6.0 (0.6)	0.06
log(Lf [§])	5.6 (0.8)	5.5 (0.5)	0.62
log(Hf)	4.9 (0.9)	4.7 (0.8)	0.44
LF/HF ratio [¶]	2.7 (3.0)	2.9 (2.6)	0.31

*SDNN; Standard deviation of all NN interval,

[†]TP; Total power, [‡]VLF; Very low frequency,

[§]LF; Low frequency, HF; High frequency,

[¶]LF/HF; index of cardiac sympathetic activity, log; log transformation

Table 6. Relationships between job strain, metabolic syndrome and heart rate variability

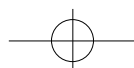
Variables	mean (S.D.)				p value
	Lower strain* +Normal	Lower strain +metabolic syndrome	High strain +Normal	High strain +metabolic syndrome	
SDNN [†]	39.6 (11.3)	35.9 (10.2)	35.1 (9.8)	31.1 (8.4)	0.04
log(Tp [‡])	7.0 (6.1)	6.8 (0.4)	6.7 (0.6)	6.6 (0.5)	0.09
log(Vlf [‡])	6.4 (0.6)	6.1 (0.5)	6.1 (0.6)	5.9 (0.7)	0.04
log(Lf [§])	5.6 (0.7)	5.5 (0.6)	5.5 (0.7)	5.5 (0.4)	0.87
log(Hf)	4.9 (0.8)	4.9 (0.9)	4.8 (0.8)	4.4 (0.4)	0.45
LF/HF ratio [¶]	2.4 (3.1)	2.8 (1.6)	2.9 (2.9)	2.9 (0.7)	0.21

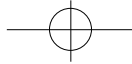
*Lower strain group; low strain+passive group+Active group

[†]SDNN; Standard deviation of all NN interval,

[‡]TP; Total power, [§]VLF; Very low frequency, LF; Low frequency, [¶]HF; High frequency,

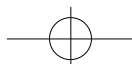
**LF/HF; index of cardiac sympathetic activity, log; log transformation Lower strain group;

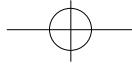




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가 가 HRV가 , , ,
 가 , , ,
 LF HF
 , HRV가 . Kageyama (1998)
 가 , , 가
 HRV , Vrijkotte (2000)
 가
 RMSSD가
 (Kleiger , 1987, Rich , 1988, Frey , 1993).
 가
 가
 SDNN ,
 LF/HF (ratio)가 가
 가
 LF/HF (ratio) 가
 HRV ,
 SDNN , , ,
 RMSSD ,
 RMSSD RR (Reaven, 1993; McEwen,
 가 , 1998).
 LF/HF (ratio) 가
 SDNN total , , ,
 power, HF, LF , - , ,
 3가 5 가
 (Brunner , 1997).
 가
 (Dishman ,
 2000; Task Force, 1996). (Davey Smith , 1996).
 , 9.7%, 13.9%,
 , van Amelsvoort 14.9%, 23.8%
 (2000) SDNN .
 ,
 %LF가 가 . Dishman (2000)
 가 ,





SDNN

LF/HF 가

(HDL)

5

가

가

:

가

가

(Podrid, 1990).

가

가

SDNN

24

5

VLF

가

9.7%, 13.9%, 14.9%,

23.8%

가

2.92

95%

0.73 ~ 11.67

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SDNN

LF/HF 가

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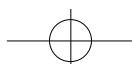
1998;

31(4):719-27.

SA-2000E (medi-core)

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SDNN
LF, HF total power



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