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Abstract

**Assessment of Neurobehavioral Performance
Among Rotogravure Printing Workers Exposed to Toluene**

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Objectives: The aims of this study were to investigate the occupational exposure level to toluene among rotogravure printers and neurobehavioral effects among them.

Methods: Fifty rotogravure printers and 147 controls participated in this study. Environmental and biological monitoring was performed for the investigation of toluene exposure level, and neurobehavioral performance test were performed by using the Behavioral Assessment and Research System with Korean language instructions(BARS-K).

Results: The major results were as follows;

1. Geometric mean toluene concentrations in the ambient air of 5 rotogravure printing workplaces were 10.5 (GSD 5.9) 181.9 (GSD 17.7), with a grand total of 56.7 (GSD60.9) ppm.
2. The geometric mean urinary hippuric acid level for rotogravure printers of 5 workplaces were 0.31 (GSD 0.11) 5.14 (GSD 0.55), with the grand total of 1.87 (GSD 2.06) g/g creatinine.
3. There was a linear correlation between hippuric acid levels in urine and the exposed toluene in air: urine hippuric acid (g/g creatinine)=0.03 toluene (ppm) + 0.15 (r=0.899, p<0.01, n=50).
4. After adjustment for confounders, significant associations were found between toluene exposure and Digit span forwards, Digit span backwards, Tapping preferred hand, Symbol digit and Selective attention trials.

Conclusions: 1. Rotogravure printers were occupationally exposed to relatively high concentration to toluene, and their neurobehavioral performances were decreased.

2. The BARS neurobehavioral testing program, which minimizes the use of text in the instructions, was very effective in overcoming the cultural barriers in neurobehavioral testing.

Key Words: Toluene, Hippuric acid, Neurobehavioral performance, BARS-K.

1997; , 1998; , 2000; , 2002)

가

(volatile organic compounds, VOCs) 90% (Wadden , 2001),

가

가 (Moon , 2001)

(WHO, 1985;

Singer, 1990).

가 1980

(Husman, 1980)

(Cherry , 1985)

WHO NIOSH가 Neurobehavioral Core Test Battery (WHO, 1986)가

(Linz, 1986; Fieldman, 1999)

(1991), (1993), (1995)

Neurobehavioral Evaluation System (NES), Swedish Performance Evaluation System (SPES), Behavioral Assessment and Research System (BARS)

1985).

1970

(WHO,

SPES가 (1994), (1994)

(Gerr

F

Letz, 1992)

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(Singer, 1990).

(1990)

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. 2000

(, 1994).

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가,

(, 2000)

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BARS

(Digit

Span),

(Simple Reaction Time),

(, 가

(Finger Tapping),

(Symbol Digit),
Attention) 57가

(Selective

가

6

가

1.

1)

2001 3 9

6

50

(Model LFS 113DC, Gaillian, USA)

, 0.1~0.2 /min

147

NIOSH

(1996) ' Method

1998

1501

(, 1999)

2)

130

(High Density Polyethylene)

21

60 ml

가

5 (2 , 3

(1)

) 50

. 5 60

{(n-tetrabutylammoni

50 25 가 A

um bromide 5.5 g+KH₂PO₄ 1.5 g/1 L DDW) :

MeOH (10 : 6, v/v)} 0.2 μm

6

(high performance liquid chromatography)

, B E 19 가

(2)

4 , 6

가 , C

8 7 , D 17

COBAS

14

INTEGRA 400 (Roche, Switzerland)

7

3)

2.

(Oregon Health Science University)

introduction

BARS-

Korean version (BARS-K)

(Rholma

, 2003). 5가 (Digit (motor performance) Span), (Simple Reaction Time), (Symbol Digit) (Selective Attention), 가 1~9 9 (Finger Tapping), (Symbol-Digit) 20

1~9 가 ms 가 (Digit Span) 가 가 가 3 9 1 가 (Digit Span), (Simple Reaction Time), (Selective Attention), 가 (Finger Tapping), (Symbol-Digit) 30 (Simple Reaction Time) 50 5 ms 가 가 (Selective Attention) 가 5 가 3.

SPSS for Windows V10.0

650 45~55% . 5

가 가 (Finger Tapping) t-test

250 (dominant hand) (non-dominant hand) ()

가 , ,

가

1 ~ 2
30.0%, 31.3%,
6.0%,
15.6% 가
(p<0.05).

56.0%, 83.2% 가
(p<0.05)(Table 1).

2.

1.

5
56.7(GSD 60.9) ppm
가 (p<0.01). 100 ppm
33.7 35.7 10
(Table 2).

6 16 11.4 , 5
12.7 가 1.87(GSD 2.06) g/g creatinine
64
62 가 (p<0.01).
2.5 g/g creatinine
22.0%, 8.8% 2 14 (Table 2).
가 10.5 ppm
1 1 ~ 3
42.0%, 44.2% , 0.33 g/g creatinine, 가 181.9

Table 1. General characteristics of gravure printers and controls (%)

Characteristic	Gravure printers (n=50)	Controls (n=147)	p-value
Age (yr)	33.7 ± 8.0	35.7 ± 8.2	NS
Education (yr)	11.4 ± 1.3	12.7 ± 3.1	NS
Working duration (month)	64.0 ± 99.1	61.7 ± 67.0	NS
Alcohol			
Yes	4-5/wk 11 (22.0)	13 (8.8)	<0.05
	1-3/wk 21 (42.0)	65 (44.2)	
	1-2/month 15 (30.0)	46 (31.3)	
No	3 (6.0)	23 (15.6)	
Computer family			
Yes	28 (56.0)	122 (83.2)	<0.05
No	22 (44.0)	25 (16.8)	

NS; not significant. mean ± standard deviation.

ppm 5.14 g/g creatinine

가 가

가 (Table 2),

0.899(p<0.01)

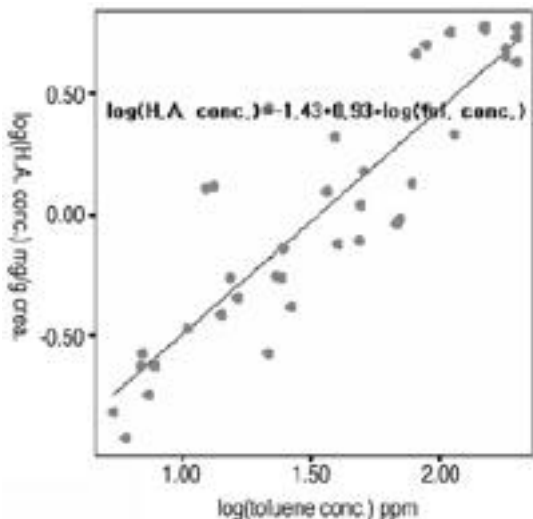


Fig 1. Relationship between the concentration of toluene in breath zone air and the concentration of hippuric acid in urine (n=50, p<0.01). H.A.: hippuric acid

$\log(\text{hippuric acid conc.}) = 0.93 \times \log(\text{toluene conc.}) - 1.43$
(p<0.01)(Fig. 1).

() 147
50

0.11(GSD

0.12) g/g creatinine, 1.87(GSD 2.06) g/g creatinine

가 (p<0.01)(Table 3).

3.

, , 가

(p=0.011), 가

(p=0.020)

(Table 4).

Table 2. Airborne toluene concentrations and urinary hippuric acid concentrations between cases

Case	No. of subjects	Toluene (ppm)			Hippuric acid (g/g crea)		
		GM	GSD	F	GM	GSD	F
A	19	38.9	27.7		1.21	1.10	
B	4	14.8	7.8		0.31	0.11	
C	7	181.9	17.3	110.35*	5.14	0.55	60.29*
D	14	10.5	5.9		0.33	0.14	
E	6	102.2	13.4		4.74	1.33	
Total	50	56.7	60.9		1.87	2.06	

* p-value<0.01. GM: geometric mean. GSD: geometric standard deviation.

Table 3. Comparison of urinary hippuric acid concentrations between gravure printers and controls

Group	Number	GM	GSD	t	p-value
Gravure printers	50	1.87	2.06		
Controls	147	0.11	0.12	-6.043	<0.01

GM: geometric mean. GSD: geometric standard deviation.

4.

()

Table 4. Comparison of neurobehavioral performances between gravure printers and controls

Performance		Gravure printers		Controls		p-value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Digit span	Forward (correct score)	6.12	1.78	7.08	1.58	0.011*
	Backward (correct score)	5.12	1.94	5.40	2.15	NS
Reaction time (msec)		353.87	45.78	341.46	79.84	NS
Finger tapping	Pref. hand (No. of taps)	107.22	18.41	119.77	22.32	0.020*
	Non-pref. hand (No. of taps)	99.84	20.48	108.76	18.96	0.060
Symbol Digit (msec)		2049.65	462.04	2015.30	498.87	NS
Selective Attention	Trials (No. of correct)	269.42	38.65	276.43	46.15	NS

* p-value<0.05. SD: standard deviation, NS: not significant.

Table 5. Neurobehavioral performance test results of gravure printers and controls to the general characteristic differences.

Characteristics	Digit span		Reaction time (msec)	Finger tapping		Symbol- Digit (msec)	Selective attention Trials (No. of correct)
	Forward (correct score)	Backward (correct score)		Pref. hand (No. of taps)	Non-pref hand (No. of taps)		
Age (yr)							
<35	7.15	5.93*	330.17*	127.25*	113.76*	1814.66*	295.46*
35	6.73	4.78	375.08	109.42	101.53	2236.50	255.71
Education (yr)							
<12	5.29*	3.55*	383.09*	109.45*	104.32	2580.52*	236.41*
12	7.19	5.63	347.17	119.74	108.19	1939.93	281.67
Alcohol							
No	7.21	5.54	356.56	121.33	108.58	2059.84	275.18
Yes	6.89	5.19	350.34	117.79	108.84	1968.72	278.33
Computer							
No	6.04*	3.94*	374.95*	107.52*	101.23*	2378.65*	246.62*
Yes	7.34	6.08	341.17	124.14	111.92	1838.29	290.16

* p-value<0.05.

() , ()
 (Table 5). 가 가
 20.4%, 29.0% .
 5. () ,
 ()
 20.5%, 11.7% .
 BARS-K 7가 ()
 , 가 , 가 , , ,
 , 가 가

Table 6-1. Multiple regression analysis neurobehavioral performance test of gravure printers and controls

Performance	Variable		S.E.	p-value	R ² (adjusted)
Digit span forward (correct score)	Education	0.289	0.208	0.000	0.204
	Exposure	-0.256	0.181	0.000	
	Computer	0.257	0.342	0.010	
	Age (yr)	0.073	0.022	0.481	
	Alcohol	0.015	0.141	0.836	
Digit span backward (correct score)	Education	0.329	0.262	0.000	0.290
	Computer	0.264	0.431	0.005	
	Exposure	-0.168	0.228	0.034	
	Alcohol	0.134	0.177	0.059	
	Age (yr)	-0.077	0.027	0.430	
Simple reaction time (msec)	Age (yr)	0.208	1.120	0.065	0.053
	Education	-0.050	10.767	0.595	
	Computer	-0.054	17.700	0.617	
	Exposure	-0.023	9.375	0.725	
	Alcohol	0.019	7.285	0.820	
Finger tapping dominant hand (number of taps)	Age (yr)	-0.308	0.290	0.003	0.205
	Exposure	-0.208	2.426	0.006	
	Computer	0.149	4.581	0.134	
	Education	-0.034	1.885	0.652	
	Alcohol	-0.009	2.786	0.914	
Finger tapping non-dominant. hand (number of taps)	Age (yr)	-0.226	0.261	0.038	0.117
	Computer	0.175	4.130	0.095	
	Education	-0.137	2.512	0.133	
	Exposure	-0.120	2.187	0.142	
	Alcohol	-0.066	1.700	0.402	

S.E.: standard error.

36.3%, 27.9% 가

(Table 6-1, 6-2).

7. 가

BARS-K 가

(1997)

() , () (styrene), (ethyl benzene)

() (Table 7).

(, 1987), (, 1991), (, 1996) 가

가 1987; , 1991), (, 1987), 0.899

5 (1987) 0.868, (1991) 0.8302 , (1988) 0.684, , A (1995) 0.66 ,

Table 6-2. Multiple regression analysis neurobehavioral performance test of gravure printers and controls

Performance	Variable		S.E.	p-value	R ² (adjusted)
Symbol digit (msec)	Education	-0.314	52.975	0.000	0.363
	Computer	-0.254	87.091	0.005	
	Age (yr)	0.229	5.510	0.014	
	Exposure	0.155	98.790	0.029	
	Alcohol	-0.107	35.846	0.112	
Selective attention trials (no. of correct)	Education	0.262	5.357	0.002	0.279
	Age (yr)	-0.271	0.557	0.006	
	Exposure	-0.163	4.665	0.038	
	Computer	0.193	8.808	0.042	
	Alcohol	0.052	3.625	0.468	

S.E.: standard error.

0.084 (± 2001
 0.167) mg/g crea
 1.87(GSD 2.06) g/g creatinine
 {Y(, g/g creati-
 nine)=0.03*(, ppm)+0.145}
 (100 ppm)
 3.15 g/g creatinine ACGIH
 (1991)† (2.5 g/g
 creatinine)
 가 (, 1991:
 , 1992) 가
 (Walker , 1993).
 50 ppm
 가 (Painters syndrome)
 (McMichael, 1988) (Cherry, 1985)가 a , Juntunen
 (1980) 90%
 5 가
 0.01 Hanninen (1976)
 ppm 22

Table 7. Multiple regression analysis neurobehavioral performance test of gravure printers

Performance	Variable		S.E.	p-value	R ² (adjusted)
Digit span backward (correct score)	Exposure	-0.483	0.485	0.049	0.328
	Work duration	-0.423	0.005	0.102	
	Computer	0.180	0.878	0.463	
	Alcohol	0.026	0.416	0.893	
	Education	-0.031	0.684	0.898	
	Age (yr)	-0.013	0.052	0.959	
Finger tapping pref. hand (number of taps)	Age (yr)	-0.642	0.611	0.031	0.180
	Exposure	0.317	8.022	0.247	
	Computer	-0.260	10.290	0.339	
	Education	0.317	8.022	0.247	
	Work duration	0.051	0.062	0.855	
	Alcohol	-0.075	4.880	0.728	
Selective attention trials (no. of correct)	Alcohol	0.444	8.734	0.034	0.309
	Computer	0.366	18.419	0.149	
	Exposure	-0.317	10.182	0.202	
	Work duration	0.189	0.112	0.461	
	Age(yr)	-0.151	1.093	0.561	
	Education	-0.122	14.359	0.622	

S.E.: standard error.

가

가

가 (1994)

(Fidler , 가 (1991)

1987), Benton

가

(WHO,

1986). (,

가) () ,

BARS ()

(1991), (1994)

가 ()

(Cherry , 1985), (,)

가 ()

(BARS-K) 가

(,), (), 1994; , 2000a; (, 2000b;

Kang, 2000) 가

(Rohlman et al., 2003)

가 가

(1993) 가

Benton 가

가 (1997)

가 가

가 가

가 , 가 .
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 () (BARS-K) 147 (,),
 () (, 가 (,),
) , () .
 : .
 , 1. 5
 가 . 56.7(GSD60.9) ppm
 10.5(GSD5.9)
 181.9(GSD17.7)ppm 가
 , 100 ppm
 10 .
 가 2. 5
 1.87(GSD2.06) g/g creatinine
 BARS-K
 0.31(GSD0.11) 5.14(GSD0.55) g/g creatinine
 , 2.5 g/g creatinine
 14 .
 가 가 가 3. r=0.899(p<0.01)
 (, 1997),
 . 가 4. (BARS-K)
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