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Abstract

Risk Factors for Musculoskeletal Symptoms in Aviation Maintenance Technicians

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Objectives: To identify risk factors for musculoskeletal symptoms in aviation maintenance technicians in order to provide basic information for intervention programs to prevent and manage musculoskeletal symptoms for these technicians.

Methods: Between October 18 and 25, 2004, 286 aviation maintenance technicians answered a self-administered questionnaire, which included general characteristics, Karasek's Job Content Questionnaire for psychosocial characteristics, and work-related characteristics. The musculoskeletal symptoms were evaluated using the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) surveillance criteria. Statistical analysis included means and standard deviation, χ^2 -test, t-test, and logistic regression.

Results: A quarter (25.8%) of the workers reported musculoskeletal symptoms in more than one body region. The prevalence of symptoms was 12.9% in the lower back, 10.2% in the shoulders, 9.4% in the legs/feet, 9% in the neck, 5.9% in the hands/wrists/fingers, and 2.7% in the arms/elbows. General characteristics were not found to influence musculoskeletal symptoms, except that workers practicing regular exercise reported fewer lower back symptoms ($p=.038$). Low social support ($p=.001$), and low supervisory support ($p=.000$) were significant factors for increased musculoskeletal symptoms whereas decisions latitude, psychological job demands, and co-worker support were not found to have significant associations, with the exception of low decision latitude which was significantly associated with increased legs/feet symptoms ($p=.034$). More than two thirds (69.6%) of the workers whose perceived physical load was very high complained of symptoms. This rate was eight times higher than for workers whose perceived load was very low ($p=.000$). The workers highly exposed to both physical and psychosocial risk factors were more likely to report musculoskeletal symptoms than workers highly exposed to only one of these factors ($p=.000$). The odds ratios for very high-perceived physical load (OR 13.9) and low supervisory support (OR 2.9) were clearly increased.

Conclusions: The results of this study suggest that consideration for perceived physical load and psychosocial characteristics as important determinants is necessary to prevent musculoskeletal symptoms in aviation maintenance technicians. To develop effective intervention programs to prevent musculoskeletal symptoms, a comprehensive and systematic approach should be the basic premise. Such an intervention program should consist of ergonomic, managerial and behavioral interventions to reduce physical load and psychosocial factors.

Key Words: Musculoskeletal symptoms, Risk factors, Aviation maintenance technicians

가 (U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1997; Hoogendoorn, 2000; Heo, 2003; Kim, 2004; , 2004).

가 (O'Donnell, 2002). 1986 (VDT) 가 가가 (, 2004). 2003 9,130 2002 5,417 69% 가 4,532 50% 4 13 가 (, 2004).

(Park, 1989; Cheong, 1997), (Yoon Lee, 1999; Kim, 2001), (Chae, 2002; Park, 2003), (Kang, 1999; Park, 2000), (Uh, 2001), (Jeon, 2001), (Lee, 1997; Sung, 2000), VDT (Kwon, 1996; Kim, 2003) 가 (Han, 2003) (Melhorn, 1996)

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Karasek(1985) Job Content

Questionnaire(JCQ) 4

'4 , '3 ,

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Karasek(1985)

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(Table 1).
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 31 ~ 35 가 40.2% 가 10.8, 11.8
 35.7 (Table 2).
 78%, 가 가 73.5% 9.2 6
 60.7% 가 75.0%, 12
 172.3 cm, 가 59.8% 가
 70.3 kg, 23.7 kg/m² 53.1%, 28.9%
 9.0%
 66.3% (Table 1).
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Table 1. General characteristics of the subjects

Variables	Category	N(%)	Range	Mean ± SD
Age	30	41 (16.1)	23~52	35.7 ± 5.66
	31~35	102 (40.2)		
	36~40	63 (24.8)		
	>40	48 (18.9)		
Marital status	Non-married	56 (22.0)		
	Married	199 (78.0)		
Household working	<1 hour	186 (73.5)		
	1 hour	67 (26.5)		
Injury history	Yes	99 (39.3)		
	No	53 (60.7)		
Anthropometry	Height		160~192	172.3 ± 5.09
	Weight		50~95	70.3 ± 8.15
	BMI		18.4~32.1	23.7 ± 2.46
Smoking	None smoker	72 (29.1)		
	Ex-smoker	92 (37.2)		
	Smoker	83 (33.6)		
Drinking	Yes	113 (53.1)		
	No	100 (46.9)		
Exercise	Yes	127 (50.0)		
	No	127 (50.0)		
Duration of the job	5 yr	56 (25.0)	1.5~26	9.2 ± 53.18
	6~10 yr	75 (33.5)		
	>10 yr	93 (41.5)		
Type of the duty	Day time	95 (37.1)		
	Day & night shift	153 (59.8)		
	Others	8 (3.1)		
Physical burden	None	23 (9.0)		
	Moderate	136 (53.1)		
	Hard	74 (28.9)		
	Very hard	23 (9.0)		

2. , 25.8% . 12.9%, 10.2%, / 9.4%, 9.0%, / / 가 5.9%, / (Table 4).

2.4 가

4가

2.2 2.6, 2.4, 2.3, 가

3.0, 2.9, 2.7, 가 . 가

2.6, 2.5, 2.5, 가 , 가

2.5

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2.9, 2.7, 32.6% 13.3% (p=.001), 가

2.6, 2.3 . 가

3.1, 35.1% (p=.000),

3.0, 2.9, 2.8

1 16 , 가 6.8 가 가 5 가

7.2, 6.7, 6.3, 5.4 . 가

8.0, 7.2, 69.6%

6.9 (Table 3). 8.7% 8

(p=.000).

3. (2.5), (2.8) (7.1)가

가 NIOSH (Table 5).

Table 2. Psychosocial characteristics of the subjects

Variables		Mean ± SD	Median
Job control		63.1 ± 8.45	63.2
	High	69.5 ± 5.37	
Job demand	Low	56.5 ± 5.39	33.2
		33.2 ± 4.43	
Social support	High	36.7 ± 3.01	23.1
	Low	29.8 ± 2.58	
Supervisor support		22.6 ± 2.76	11.2
	High	24.6 ± 1.95	
Coworker support	Low	21.2 ± 2.32	11.9
		10.8 ± 2.23	
	High	12.3 ± 1.82	
	Low	9.5 ± 1.74	
		11.8 ± 1.16	
	High	12.3 ± 0.70	
	Low	10.3 ± 1.26	

5.

가 39.7% 가 ,
가
11.8% 가 (p=.001)(Table 6).

Table 3. Strenuousness, frequency, and resultant score of aviation maintenance works

Variables	Strenuousness (M ± SD)	Frequency (M ± SD)	Resultant score (M ± SD)
Whole maintenance work (n=217)	2.4 ± 0.64	2.7 ± 0.86	6.8 ± 3.10
Line maintenance (n=118)	2.4 ± 0.65	2.6 ± 0.88	6.3 ± 3.14
Check	2.2 ± 0.84	2.8 ± 1.11	6.6 ± 4.01
Damage correction	2.1 ± 0.78	2.2 ± 1.15	4.9 ± 3.68
Parts Exchange	3.0 ± 0.82	2.0 ± 1.06	6.1 ± 3.87
Aircraft Towing	2.0 ± 0.85	2.9 ± 1.21	6.2 ± 4.29
Structures Maintenance (n=77)	2.6 ± 0.62	2.7 ± 0.87	7.2 ± 3.15
Scheduled Maintenance	2.6 ± 0.65	2.6 ± 1.00	6.9 ± 3.50
Heavy Maintenance	2.7 ± 0.66	3.0 ± 1.03	8.0 ± 3.71
Major repair & modification	2.9 ± 0.69	2.3 ± 1.11	6.7 ± 3.68
Sheet metal work	2.5 ± 0.74	2.5 ± 1.20	6.5 ± 3.99
Mechanical fabrication	2.3 ± 0.96	2.1 ± 1.02	5.1 ± 3.39
Painting	2.4 ± 0.98	1.7 ± 0.91	4.2 ± 3.04
Welding	2.4 ± 1.09	1.8 ± 1.19	4.3 ± 2.56
Equipment maintenance	2.4 ± 0.87	1.9 ± 0.80	4.4 ± 2.50
Tool shop control	1.9 ± 0.83	2.1 ± 1.17	4.4 ± 3.39
Component maintenance (n=41)	2.2 ± 0.66	2.9 ± 1.03	6.7 ± 3.30
Component maintenance & repair	2.3 ± 0.75	3.1 ± 0.92	7.2 ± 3.16
Simulator maintenance	1.7 ± 0.95	1.9 ± 1.21	4.1 ± 4.56
Pressure bottle handling	1.8 ± 0.58	2.3 ± 1.07	4.7 ± 3.20
Electric & electronic component	2.5 ± 0.66	2.4 ± 1.04	6.1 ± 3.35
Inspection (n=27)	2.3 ± 0.81	2.3 ± 0.91	5.4 ± 3.08
Aircraft maintenance inspection	2.0 ± 0.69	2.4 ± 1.04	4.4 ± 1.58
Component inspection	2.0 ± 0.78	2.1 ± 1.00	4.2 ± 2.67
Acceptance sampling	2.0 ± 0.95	1.5 ± 0.91	2.8 ± 1.29
Non-destructive inspection	2.5 ± 0.99	2.3 ± 1.14	5.9 ± 3.73

Table 4. Musculoskeletal symptoms by part of the body based on NIOSH surveillance criteria

Region	n	Complaint rate	
			%
Total(At least one region)	66		25.8
Neck	23		9.0
Shoulders	26		10.2
Arms/elbows	7		2.7
Hands/wrists/fingers	15		5.9
Back	33		12.9
Legs/foots	24		9.4

Table 5. Relation between musculoskeletal symptoms and general, psychosocial, and work-related characteristics

Variables	Category	Musculoskeletal symptoms		x ²	P
		Yes n(%)	No n(%)		
Age	30	12 (29.3)	29 (70.7)	2.008	0.571
	31~35	29 (28.4)	73 (71.6)		
	36~40	15 (23.8)	48 (76.2)		
	>40	9 (18.8)	39 (81.3)		
Marital status	Non married	15 (26.8)	41 (73.2)	0.006	0.938
	Married	50 (25.1)	149 (74.9)		
Household working	<1 hour	45 (24.2)	141 (75.8)	0.961	0.327
	1 hour	21 (31.3)	46 (68.7)		
Injury history	Yes	29 (29.3)	70 (70.7)	0.764	0.382
	No	36 (23.5)	117 (76.5)		
BMI	Normal	48 (27.6)	126 (72.4)	2.459	0.292
	Overweight	14 (20.6)	54 (79.4)		
	Obesity	2 (50.0)	2 (50.0)		
Smoking	Non smoker	18 (25.0)	54 (75.0)	1.813	0.404
	Ex-smoker	29 (31.5)	63 (68.5)		
	Smoker	19 (22.9)	64 (77.1)		
Drinking	Yes	31 (27.4)	82 (72.6)	0.172	0.678
	No	24 (24.9)	76 (76.0)		
Exercise	Yes	28 (22.0)	99 (78.0)	1.323	0.250
	No	37 (29.1)	90 (70.9)		
Job demand	High	24 (19.7)	98 (80.3)	2.842	0.092
	Low	35 (29.9)	82 (70.1)		
Job control	High	33 (28.0)	85 (72.0)	1.023	0.312
	Low	26 (21.5)	95 (78.5)		
Social support	High	13 (13.3)	85 (86.7)	10.636	0.001
	Low	46 (32.6)	95 (67.4)		
Supervisor	High	13 (12.0)	95 (88.0)	15.738	0.000
	Low	46 (35.1)	85 (64.9)		
Coworker	High	42 (22.2)	147 (77.8)	2.351	0.125
	Low	17 (34.0)	33 (66.0)		
Duration of the job (yr)	5	16 (28.6)	40 (71.4)	0.915	0.633
	6~10	21 (28.0)	54 (72.0)		
	>10	21 (22.6)	72 (77.4)		
Type of the duty	Day time	22 (23.2)	73 (76.8)	0.567	0.753
	Day & night	42 (27.5)	111 (72.5)		
	Others	2 (25.0)	6 (75.0)		
Physical burden	None	2 (8.7)	21 (91.3)	29.311	0.000
	Moderate	27 (19.9)	109 (80.1)		
	Hard	21 (28.4)	53 (71.6)		
	Very hard	16 (69.6)	7 (30.4)		
Maintenance work	Strenuousness	2.5 ± 0.64	2.4 ± 0.64	-0.240	0.810
	Frequency	2.8 ± 0.81	2.7 ± 0.88	-0.962	0.337
	Resultant score	7.1 ± 3.12	6.7 ± 3.10	-0.815	0.416

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 (p=.024), (p=.006), (p=.004), /
 가 / / 가 (p=.031) (Table 7).
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 (p=.038).
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 (p=.018), (p=.028), (p=.042) (p=.004). 13.9
 가 2.9
 가 (p=.001), (p=.009), (p=.013), / (p=.003)(Table 8).
 (p=.046) 가
 . 가 가
 가 25.8% .
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Table 6. Interaction between physical and psychosocial factors for musculoskeletal symptoms

Variables	Musculoskeletal symptoms			P
	Yes n (%)	No n (%)	χ^2	
Low physical low psychosocial	10 (11.8)	75 (88.2)	15.980	0.001
Low physical high psychosocial	16 (24.2)	50 (75.8)		
High physical low psychosocial	8 (32.0)	17 (68.0)		
High physical high psychosocial	25 (39.7)	38 (60.3)		

Table 8. Odds ratios of related factors for musculoskeletal symptoms

Variables	B	S.E.	Odds Ratio	95% C.I.	P	
Supervisor support	High		1.0			
	Low	1.069	.364	2.9	1.4-5.9	.003
Physical burden	None		1.0			
	Moderate	0.631	.788	1.9	0.4-8.8	.424
	Hard	1.060	.805	2.9	0.6-14.0	.188
	Very hard	2.630	.911	13.9	2.3-82.7	.004

Table 7. Relation between musculoskeletal symptoms by part of the body and general, psychosocial, and work-related characteristics

Variables	Category	Neck		Shoulders		Arms/Elbows		Hands/Wrists /Fingers		Back		Legs/Feet	
		n (%)	χ^2	n (%)	χ^2	n (%)	χ^2	n (%)	χ^2	n (%)	χ^2	n (%)	χ^2
Exercise	Yes	10 (7.9)	0.191	10 (7.9)	0.710	2 (1.6)	0.588	9 (7.1)	0.283	10 (7.9)	4.326 [†]	12 (9.4)	0.000
	No	13 (10.2)		15 (11.8)		5 (3.9)		6 (4.7)		22 (17.3)		12 (9.4)	
Job control	High	10 (8.2)	0.010	12 (9.8)	0.000	1 (0.8)	1.671	5 (4.1)	0.823	12 (9.8)	0.520	6 (4.9)	4.482 [†]
	Low	11 (9.4)		11 (9.4)		5 (4.3)		9 (7.7)		16 (13.7)		16 (13.7)	
Job demand	High	9 (7.6)	0.157	13 (11.0)	0.252	2 (1.7)	0.146	9 (7.6)	0.765	13 (11.0)	0.017	12 (10.2)	0.082
	Low	12 (9.9)		10 (8.3)		4 (3.3)		5 (4.1)		15 (12.4)		10 (8.3)	
Social support	High	3 (3.1)	5.637 [†]	4 (4.1)	4.835 [†]	0 (0.0)	2.716	3 (3.1)	1.575	6 (6.1)	4.149 [†]	5 (5.1)	2.566
	Low	18 (12.8)		19 (13.5)		6 (4.3)		11 (7.8)		22 (15.6)		17 (12.1)	
Supervisor	High	2 (1.9)	10.297*	4 (3.7)	6.746*	0 (0.0)	3.375	3 (2.8)	2.447	6 (5.6)	6.183 [†]	5 (4.6)	3.987 [†]
	Low	19 (14.5)		19 (14.5)		6 (6.0)		11 (8.4)		22 (16.8)		17 (13.0)	
Coworker	High	15 (7.9)	0.386	15 (7.9)	2.102	4 (2.1)	0.062	11 (5.8)	0.000	20 (10.6)	0.659	17 (9.0)	0.000
	Low	6 (12.0)		8 (16.0)		2 (4.0)		3 (6.0)		8 (16.0)		5 (10.0)	
Physical burden	None	1 (4.3)	9.414 [†]	1 (4.3)	12.422*	0 (0.0)	6.254	1 (4.3)	4.654	0 (0.0)	13.409*	1 (4.3)	8.900 [†]
	Moderate	11 (8.1)		10 (7.4)		5 (3.7)		5 (3.7)		16 (11.8)		10 (7.4)	
	Hard	5 (6.8)		8 (10.8)		0 (0.0)		8 (10.8)		9 (12.2)		7 (9.5)	
	Very hard	6 (26.1)		7 (30.4)		2 (8.7)		1 (4.3)		8 (34.8)		6 (26.1)	

*p<0.01, [†]p<0.05.

56.8% 75.1%(, 2001), 2003).
77.2%(Park , 2003),
30.8%(Kim, 2003), 59.3%(Lee, 2001),
44.9%(Heo , 2003)

가

가 , 가

(p=.038).

가 가 12.9% 가

가

가 . NIOSH(1993) Hughes
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가 (p=.001),

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62.6,

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(10.2%), / (9.4%), (9%), / / 가
(5.9%), / (2.7%)

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(Kang , 1999), (65.1%),

(61.7%), (56.7%) (Lee,
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2001) (41.9%), (40.1%),

control Karasek(1979) Job demand and
가 가 가

(35.2%), (33.5%), / (33.5%), /

가 가

(23.6%)

. JCQ

가

가

(Krause , 1997).

가

(Lee, 2001; Han, 2003; Xiao , 2004),

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가

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 가 :
 가 25.8% .
 가 (12.9%), (10.2%), / (9.4%), (9%),
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 Devereux (2002)
 69.6%
 8.7% 8
 (OR 13.9), 가 (p=.000). / / 가
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(Han, 2003)

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