

# VDT

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## Abstract

### Effects of Thoracic Spinal Exercise Program in VDT Workers : Pain Relief and Increased Flexibility

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**Objectives:** The purpose of this study of the Thoracic Spinal Exercise Program was to evaluate its effects on VDT workers. These effects were found to include a decrease thoracic kyphosis, increase thoracic spine mobility and decrease in the VAS (visual analog scale). These measures provide a means of assessing the muscle endurance and muscle strength of the subjects.

**Methods:** This study was conducted during the period from July 1 to August 31, 2003, and involved 58 VDT workers belonging to a company located in Seoul who were working seated in front of a computer for most of the day. After applying the thoracic exercise program, we examined the changes in the of thoracic kyphosis angle, spinal length (C7-S3), TFED (thoracic flexibility in the extension direction), MEBH (maximal elevation with both hands in the overhead direction) and CE (chest expansion).

**Results:** Obtained from this study are as follows.

1. A significant reduction in the VAS was observed in the exercise group (pre-exercise 5.90 ± 0.88 points, post-exercise 4.23 ± 0.82 points), as compared with the control group (pre-exercise 6.00 ± 0.90 points, post-exercise 5.93 ± 0.81 points).

2. A significant reduction in thoracic kyphosis (pre-exercise 36.97 ± 7.49, post-exercise 31.83 ± 5.90) and a significant increase in thoracic flexibility in the extension direction (pre-exercise 7.47 ± 2.30, post-exercise 11.77 ± 3.65) were observed in the exercise group. The thoracic

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\* 2004

kyphosis angle showed a significant reduction in the exercise group, as compared to the control group. The thoracic flexibility in the extension direction showed a significant increase in the exercise group, as compared to the control group.

3. There was a significant increase in the spinal length in the exercise group (pre-exercise 494 ± 27.66 mm, post-exercise 518.60 ± 27.95 mm).

**Conclusions:** The Thoracic Spinal Exercise Program results in an increase in thoracic spine mobility and a decrease in pain. In practical terms, the effects of the exercise program are good health and posture.

**Key Words:** Thoracic spinal exercise, Thoracic kyphosis, VAS (visual analog scale), VDT workers

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(Work-Related

Musculoskeletal Disorders: WMSD)

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(Edmonston Singer, 1997).

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가,

(Singer Glies, 1990).

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(Visual Display Terminal: VDT)

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가,

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가,

(VAS)

(forward head posture)

가,

가 가

,

가

(round

shoulder)

(vital capacity)

(thoracic cavity)

가

H

90

2%

(Cailliet, 1991).

64

60

(facet joint)

가

가

8

(mobility in extension direction)  
(mobility in flexion direction),  
(total mobility)  
(C7 S3),

3)

( )

6

58

가

(1)

(exercise group) 30

(normal lordotic curve)

(control group) 28

14

16

13

15

(heel) 3 가

2003 7 1

8 30

8

(2) (chest expansion)

3

1

(intercostal) 가  
(Edmondston Singer, 1997).

2

(C7~S3),

(C7 S3) 가

2. (Assignment to the exercise)

1. 가

가 (Assessment Procedures)

가

가

2

가 (hamstring), (hip flexor),  
(upper trapezius), (levator  
scapulae), / (pectoralis major/minor)

1)

(shortening) / (middle/lower

10

(VAS)

trapezius), (erector spinae),

2)

가 (Timothy,  
1996).

Spinal mouse (Idag, Swiss)

. Spinal mouse

C7 S3

가

(seg-

mental angles),

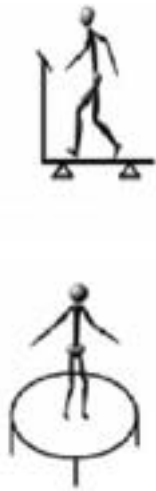
(curvature),

1

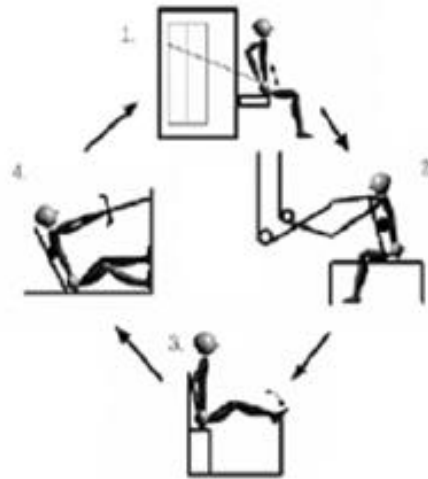
(vertebrae)

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1. Warming up



2. Exercise using training device



3. Cool down and stretching exercise



Fig. 1. Prescribed exercise to increase endurance.

1. Dips, 2. Sitting on an angle bench, 3. Leg press.

Four different kinds of equipment (Lojer, Finland) were used. Intensity was resting time in between the sets was one minute. Slow speed (Based on Lasse thue and Eyjenth 's theory).

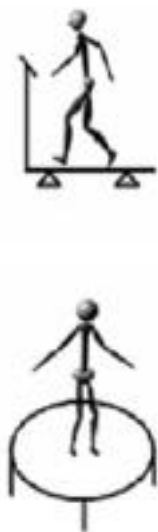
up) . (warm-  
 , 10 가  
 (trampoline) 5  
 .  
 (exercise using traing device)  
 47가 (Lojer, Finland) 20  
 40 (cool down)  
 5 , 5  
 10 (Fig. 1). 가

가 .  
 3.  
 8 가  
 (VAS)

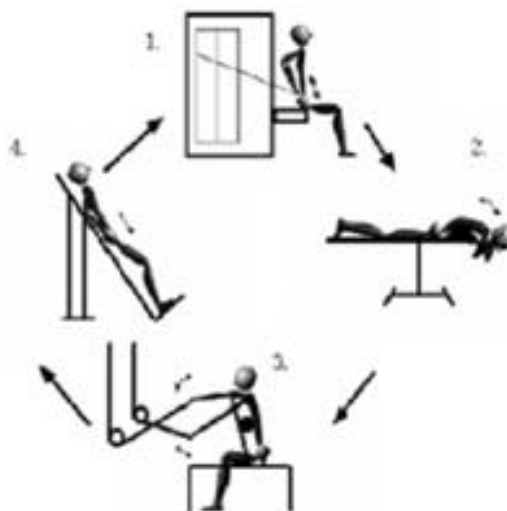
(Fig. 2).

student t-test

1. Warming up



2. Exercise using training device



3. Cool down and stretching exercise

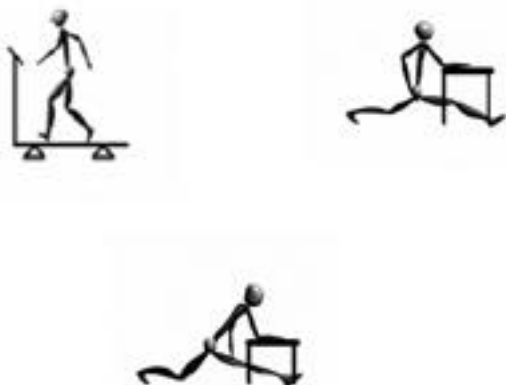


Fig. 2. Prescribed exercise to increase strength.

1.Dips, 2. Back trainer, 3. Sitting on an angle bench, 4. Jumper shuttle.

Four pieces of equipment were used. Intensity (weight) was 60% of maximum strength, 40 to 50 % of maximum strength, repetition: 20 times; number of sets: 6; repetitions: 10 times; number of sets: 5; resting time in between sets: 3 minutes. Slow speed (Based on Lasse thue and Evjenth 's theory)

	paired t-test	(46.7%),	16 (53.3%)
		13 (46.4%),	15 (53.6%)
	pearson	20	40
0.05		20	20 ~ 29 가 18 (60.0%),
		30 ~ 39 가 10 (33.3%),	40 2 (6.7%)
			29.2 ± 5.58 (
		22 ~ 44 )	20 1
1.		(3.6%),	20 ~ 29 가 16 (57.2%),
		30 ~ 39 가 9	(32.1%),
		40	2 (7.1%)
			29.5 ± 6.37 ( 17 ~ 45 )
1)		가	.
	14	24 (80.0%),	6 (20.0%)

**Table 1.** The general characteristics of subjects

		Exercise group	Control group	p-value
Sex	Male	14 (46.7)	13 (46.4)	p=0.999
	Female	16 (53.3)	15 (53.6)	
Age	< 20 year	-	1 ( 3.6)	p=0.776
	20 ~ 29	18 (60.0)	16 (57.2)	
	30 ~ 39	10 (33.3)	9 (32.1)	
	40 year	2 ( 6.7)	2 ( 7.1)	
Education	College	24 (80.0)	19 (67.8)	p=0.508
	University	6 (20.0)	8 (28.6)	
	Graduate	-	1 ( 3.6)	
Marital status	Married	15 (50.0)	11 (39.3)	p=0.441
	Single	15 (50.0)	17 (60.7)	

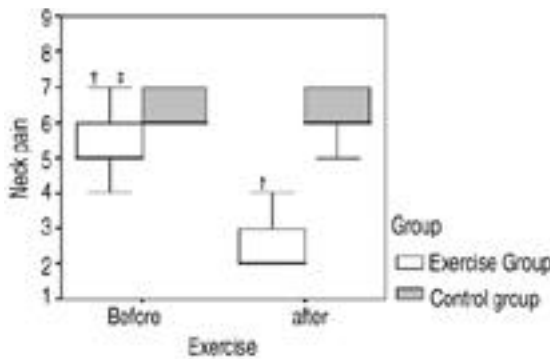
19 VAS 6~7  
 (67.8%), 8 (28.6%), 6 VAS가 13 (59.1%) 가  
 1 (3.6%) . 가 가 . VAS 3~7  
 15 (50.0%), 15 (50.0%), 6 VAS가 11 (52.3%) 가  
 11 (39.3%), 17 (60.7%) VAS 5~8 7  
 . VAS가 10 (47.6%) 가  
 가 가 .  
 ) VAS 6.00±0.90 8 가  
 VAS 5.93±0.81

2) 가 .  
 Table 2 VAS  
 (VAS) VAS 가 (p>0.05),  
 4~8 5 VAS가 10 (41.7%) VAS  
 가 . VAS 5~7 6 (p<0.05).  
 VAS가 11 (64.7%) 가 .  
 VAS 5~8 7 VAS가 9  
 (40.9%) 가 . , , ,  
 VAS 5.90±0.88 . ' ' ,  
 8 VAS VAS  
 VAS 2~4 2 VAS가 8 가  
 (66.7%) 가 . VAS 2~4 .  
 3 VAS가 6 (66.7%) 가  
 . VAS 2~4 2  
 VAS가 7 (53.8%) 가 .  
 VAS 4.23±0.82 5.90±0.88 2.

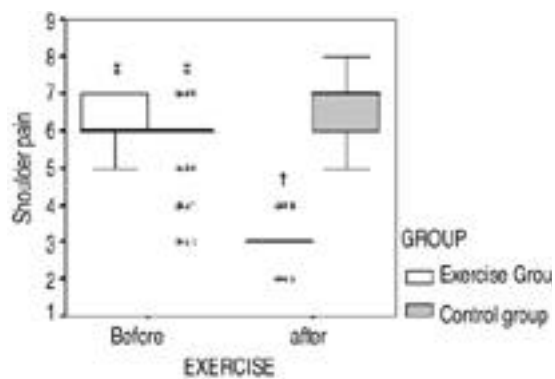
VAS,

**Table 2.** The change of pain scale before and after exercise program

		Before frequency (%)			After frequency (%)		
		Exercise group	Control group	p-value	Exercise group	Control group	p-value
Neck	2	-	-	p=0.000	8 (66.7)	-	p=0.000
	3	-	-		3 (25.0)	-	
	4	3 (12.5)	-		1 ( 8.3)	-	
	5	10 (41.7)	-	-	1 ( 4.4)		
	6	6 (25.0)	13 (59.1)	-	-	11 (47.8)	
	7	3 (12.5)	9 (40.9)	-	-	11 (47.8)	
	8	2 ( 8.3)	-	-	-	-	
	Total	24 (100.0)	22 (100.0)		12 (100.0)	23 (100.0)	
Shoulder	2	-	-	p=0.625	1 (11.1)	-	p=0.000
	3	-	1 ( 4.8)		6 (66.7)	-	
	4	-	1 ( 4.8)		2 (22.2)	-	
	5	1 ( 5.9)	3 (14.3)	-	-	2 ( 9.5)	
	6	11 (64.7)	11 (52.3)	-	-	6 (28.6)	
	7	5 (29.4)	5 (23.8)	-	-	11 (52.4)	
	8	-	-	-	-	2 ( 9.5)	
	Total	17 (100.0)	21(100.0)		9 (100.0)	21 (100.0)	
Back & low back	2	-	-	p=0.648	7 (53.8)	-	p=0.000
	3	-	-		6 (46.2)	-	
	4	-	-		-	-	
	5	5 (22.7)	2 ( 9.5)	-	-	3 (13.6)	
	6	7 (31.8)	7 (33.4)	-	-	5 (22.7)	
	7	9 (40.9)	10 (47.6)	-	-	12 (54.6)	
	8	1 ( 4.6)	2 ( 9.5)	-	-	2 ( 9.1)	
	Total	22 (100.0)	21 (100.0)		13 (100.0)	22 (100.0)	



**Fig. 3.** The comparative analysis of neck VAS between exercise group and control group : †Independent t-test, ‡ paired t-test



**Fig. 4.** The comparative analysis of shoulder VAS between exercise and group control group : † Independent t-test, ‡paired t-test

**Table 3.** The comparative analysis between exercise group and control group before exercise program

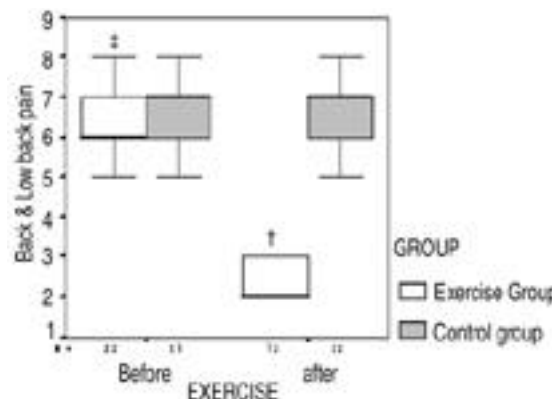
Variable	Exercise group (n=30)	Control group (n=28)	p value
VAS	5.90 ± 0.88	6.00 ± 0.90	NS
TK	36.97 ± 7.49	38.00 ± 7.29	NS
TFED	7.47 ± 2.30	6.86 ± 1.99	NS
CE	80.43 ± 7.00	81.04 ± 5.93	NS
MEBH	200.88 ± 5.30	204.41 ± 10.93	NS
SL (C <sub>7</sub> S <sub>3</sub> )	494.0 ± 27.66	503.79 ± 25.44	NS

Values are mean ± SD. 1. VAS; visual analog scale, 2. TK; thoracic kyphosis, 3. TFED; thoracic flexibility in extension direction, 4 CE; chest expansion, 5. MEBH; maximal elevation with both hand in overhead direction, 6. SL; spinal length, 7. NS; not significant

**Table 4.** The comparative analysis between before and after exercise program in exercise group

Variable	Pre-exercise (n=30)	Post-exercise (n=30)	p value
VAS	5.90 ± 0.88	4.23 ± 0.82	<0.05
TK	36.97 ± 7.49	31.83 ± 5.90	<0.05
TFED	7.47 ± 2.30	11.77 ± 3.65	<0.05
CE	80.43 ± 7.00	82.48 ± 7.65	<0.05
MEBH	200.88 ± 5.30	203.56 ± 5.54	<0.05
SL(C <sub>7</sub> S <sub>3</sub> )	494.0 ± 27.66	518.60 ± 27.95	<0.05

Values are mean ± SD. 1. VAS; visual analog scale, 2. TK; thoracic hyphosis, 3. TFED; thoracic flexibility in extension direction, 4. CE; chest expansion 5. SL: spinal length 6. MEBH; maximal elevation with both hand in overhead direction.



**Fig. 5.** The comparative analysis of back & low back VAS between exercise group and control group :  
 † Independent t-test, ‡ paired t-test

(Table 3).

가

VAS

가 (Table 4).

VAS

가

(Table 5).

VAS

가

가

(C<sub>7</sub> S<sub>3</sub>)

VAS,

가



**Table 5.** The comparative analysis before and after in control group

Variable	Pre-exercise (n=28)	Post-exercise (n=28)	p value
VAS(point)	6.00 ± 0.90	5.93 ± 0.81	NS
TK(angle)	38.00 ± 7.29	39.07 ± 6.61	<0.05
TFED(angle)	6.86 ± 1.99	6.11 ± 1.61	<0.05
CE(cm)	81.04 ± 5.93	80.44 ± 5.74	<0.05
MEBH(cm)	204.41 ± 10.93	203.25 ± 10.79	<0.05
SL(C7 S3)	50.79 ± 25.44	502.04 ± 25.76	<0.05

Values are mean ± SD. 1. VAS; visual analog scale, 2. TK; thoracic kyphosis, 3. TFED; thoracic flexibility in extension direction, 4. CE; chest expansion, 5. SL; spinal length, 6. MEBH; maximal elevation with both hand in overhead direction, 7. NS; not significant.

**Table 6.** The comparative analysis between exercise group and control group after exercise program

Variable	Exercise group (n=30)	Control group (n=28)	p value
VAS (point)	4.23 ± 0.82	5.93 ± 0.81	<0.05
TK (angle)	31.83 ± 5.90	39.07 ± 6.61	<0.05
TFED (angle)	11.77 ± 3.65	6.11 ± 1.61	<0.05
CE (cm)	82.48 ± 7.65	80.44 ± 5.74	NS
MEBH (cm)	203.56 ± 5.54	203.25 ± 10.79	NS
SL (mm)	518.60 ± 27.95	502.04 ± 25.76	<0.05

Values are mean ± SD. 1. VAS; visual analog scale, 2. TK; thoracic kyphosis, 3. TFED; thoracic flexibility in extension direction, 4. CE; chest expansion, 5. MEBH; maximal elevation with both hand in overhead direction, 6. SL; spinal length, 8. NS; not significant.

**Table 7.** The correlation of among various exercise groups after exercise program

	TFED	CE	MEBH	SL(C <sub>7</sub> ~S <sub>3</sub> )
TK	-0.612**	-0.109	-0.311*	0.116
TFED		0.253	0.306	0.118
CE			0.441*	0.477**
MEBH				0.582**

1. TK; thoracic kyphosis, 2. TFED; thoracic flexibility in extension direction, 3. CE; chest expansion, 4. MEBH; maximal elevation with both hand in overhead direction, 5. SL; spinal length. \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01,

가 (Table 6). (p<0.01), 가 (p<0.05) (Table 7). 가 (p<0.01), (C7 S3), 가 가

· VDT 가

가 가 , 가

(Kendal, 1993).  
(hypomobility)가 가(hypermobility)가

가 가 가 (instability)  
(Stefani, 1999).  
(forward head posture)

가 가 가 가 (Gonzalez  
(C7 S3)가 가 Mann, 1996; Huggare Cooke, 1994).  
가 가 가

가 가 가

가 가 (Kaltenborn, 1985), 가 (Lee , 1992; Voss ,  
1999). 가 가

가 가 가 (Kaltenborn, 1993). 가

가 가 가 (Fon , 1980; Singer Glip, 1990) 가

가 가 (Lasse, 1997;  
Olaf Jern, 1989).

가 가 (posterior lig.), 가 (Abumi  
(long extensor) , 1990).  
(hypertone) (Assmussen, 1960; Macintosh 가  
Bogduk, 1991; White, 1969).

(shoulder gir-  
dle) (Edmondston ,  
Singer 1997). 가  
(flexibility)

가 ,  
(Edmondston Singer, 1997; Itoi,  
(Timothy . 1996). 1991)

가 ,

(segmental angle) (mobility) VDT  
 spinal mouse (Idiag, Swiss) 가  
 (David, 1997). 가  
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 가 : VDT  
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 가 가  
 31.83±5.90 36.97±7.49  
 가 가  
 7.47±2.30  
 11.77±3.65 가  
 2. 가  
 80.43±7.00 cm 82.48±7.65 cm  
 VDT 가  
 200.88±5.30 cm 203.56±5.54  
 가  
 VDT 3. (C7  
 S3) 494.0±27.66 mm  
 VDT 518.60±27.95 mm 가  
 (VAS) 5.90±0.88  
 가 4.23±0.82  
 4.  
 가 (C7 S3)  
 가  
 6.00±0.90  
 , 5.93±0.81  
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