

, 가 1)  
1) . 1) . 1)

## Abstract

### Predictors of Return to Work in Occupational Injured Workers

Won-Mee Jeong, Chung-Yill Park<sup>1)</sup>, Jung-Wan Koo<sup>1)</sup>, Young Man Roh<sup>1)</sup>

*Department of Occupational Therapy, Dongnam Health College*

*Department of Preventive Medicine, Industrial Medical Center, The Catholic University of Korea<sup>1)</sup>*

**Objectives:** In order to obtain information useful in setting up occupational rehabilitation programs, an evaluation was conducted to determine predictive factors of workers' return to work after an occupational injury.

**Methods:** 13,903 records of registered occupationally injured cases identified to have received disability compensation in 1998 were collected from the 36 branch of Korean Labor Welfare Corporation (KLWC). Through simple systematic sampling, a total of 3,658 cases were selected as final subjects. Status of return to work, general characteristics, workplace characteristics, disability characteristics and disability outcome characteristics were collected from the KLWC and National Health Insurance Corporation records (NHIC). For statistical analyses, chi-square test and stepwise multiple logistic regression analysis were applied using the SAS software package program.

**Results:** Negatively affecting significant predictive factors for return to work were included the female gender, age of 50 years or older, 6 month or less of work duration, 1 or less family dependents, workplace with 200 or less employees, electric · gas · waterwork companies, foot injuries compared to finger injuries, fall from elevation, high degree of disability claims (1-4 grade), and period of medical care more than 181 days.

**Conclusions:** The results suggest that the poor rate return to work in occupationally injured workers' is particularly affected by female gender, older-aged employees, and workers employed by electric · gas · waterwork companies. Also, it was more difficult to return to work for workers who received injuries from a fall from elevation and who had longer period of medical care (more than 181days). It is strongly recommended that more efficient and systematic occupational rehabilitation programs be set up, taking into consideration the above mentioned factors.

**Key Words:** Return to work, Occupationally injured workers, Predictive factor

(Cheadle et al, 1994),

, 가 (Melhorn et al, 1999)

가 (Hess et al, 2000). Lisa (2000)

가

가

가

가

가 , ,

Hogg-Johnson (1994)

가

2

, 가

87%가 , 30 81% 가

가 ( , 2001),

가 81.6%( ( , 1993),

, 1998) ( , 1996),

( , 1998),

( , 1996,

1998)

가

(1988)

(Cheadle et al, 1994),

26.6% ,

가

가

(Infante-Rivard &

Lortie, 1996). 가 가 (12.3%)

(Volinn et al, 1991). , 45.5%가 1 가

(Hogg-Johnson et al, 1994),

가 가 가 50

50

(Lisa et al, 2000). , ( , 2001).

가 , 5

(1)

30

1. 가

1998 1 1 12 31 (2)  
26,367 (2001)

2001 1 3 3 13,903

36

291 (3)

227

13,385  
3,658

17

13

11 (USA Standard Institute,  
1963; Lee et al, 1984; , 2000).

2.

(4)

1)

가 1 14

(1~4 ), (5~9 ),

(10~14 ) 3 (

, 2000; 1999).

3.

3,658

3,658

Chi-Square

Cochran-Armitage

가

trend test

(multiple logistic regression

2)

analysis)

1. 가 54.4% 가 40.2  
 140 가 3 5  
 가 3  
 가 92.2% 7.8% 30 가 33.2% 가

**Table 1.** Status of return to work by general characteristics

General Characteristics		Status of return to work			RW <sup>†</sup> (%)
		No	Yes	Total	
Gender	male	2,097(92.0)	1,275(92.5)	3,372(92.2)	37.8
	female	183(8.0)	103(7.5)	286(7.8)	36.0
		x <sup>2</sup> = 0.36			
Age(year)	29	271(11.9)	309(22.4)	580(15.9)	53.3
	30~39	618(27.1)	457(33.2)	1,075(29.4)	42.5
	40~49	681(29.9)	349(25.3)	1,030(28.2)	33.9
	50	710(31.2)	263(19.1)	973(26.6)	27.0
		x <sup>2</sup> =122.64***			Z=-60.66**
Area	capital	541(23.7)	205(14.9)	746(20.4)	27.5
	5 metropolitans	672(29.5)	535(38.8)	1,207(34.0)	44.3
	Kyonggido	250(11.0)	142(10.3)	392(10.7)	36.2
	Kangwondo	166(7.3)	59(4.3)	225(6.2)	26.2
	Chungchungdo	223(9.8)	130(9.4)	353(9.7)	36.8
	Chonrado	180(7.9)	103(7.5)	283(7.7)	36.4
	Kyungsangdo	231(10.1)	200(14.5)	431(11.8)	46.4
	Chejudo	17(0.7)	4(0.3)	21(0.6)	19.0
		x <sup>2</sup> =7.02***			
Salary (10,000 won)	99	418(18.3)	406(29.5)	824(22.5)	49.3
	100~149	507(22.2)	474(34.4)	981(26.8)	48.3
	150~199	522(22.9)	301(21.8)	823(22.5)	36.6
	200	833(36.5)	197(14.3)	1,030(28.2)	19.1
		x <sup>2</sup> = 21.82***			Z=-10.91**
Employment duration (month)	6	630(27.6)	321(23.3)	951(26.0)	34.8
	6~11	304(13.4)	199(14.4)	503(13.8)	39.6
	12~23	324(14.2)	219(15.9)	543(14.8)	40.2
	24~59	462(20.3)	310(22.5)	772(21.1)	40.3
	60	560(24.6)	329(23.9)	889(24.3)	37.0
		x <sup>2</sup> =2.58			Z=1.29
Dependent	1	1,288(56.5)	302(21.9)	1,590(43.5)	19.0
	2~3	508(22.3)	460(33.4)	968(26.5)	47.5
	4	484(21.2)	616(44.7)	1,100(30.1)	56.0
		x <sup>2</sup> =29.31***			Z=11.14***
Total		2,280(100.0)	1,378(100.0)	3,658(100.0)	37.7

\*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001, † Return to work

Unit : parenthesis indicated percentage indicate the distribution of subjects in each column in each characteristics

**Table 2.** Status of return to work by workplace characteristics

Workplace	Status of return to work			RW <sup>†</sup> (%)	
	No	Yes	Total		
Number of employees	29	1,308(57.4)	607(44.0)	1,915(52.0)	31.7
	30~49	171(7.5)	109(7.9)	280(7.7)	38.9
	50~99	201(8.8)	150(10.9)	351(9.6)	42.7
	100~199	228(10.0)	172(12.5)	400(10.9)	43.0
	200~299	78(3.4)	69(5.0)	147(4.0)	47.0
	300	294(12.9)	271(19.7)	565(15.4)	48.0
		$\chi^2=18.39^{***}$		$Z=9.19^{***}$	
Industries	Mining	78(3.4)	29(2.1)	107(2.9)	27.0
	Manufacturing	1,208(53.0)	907(65.8)	2,115(57.7)	42.9
	Constructing	214(9.4)	88(6.4)	302(8.3)	29.1
	Electric, Gas, Waterwork	57(2.5)	18(1.3)	75(2.1)	24.0
	Drive, Warehouse, Communication	251(11.0)	102(7.4)	353(9.7)	28.9
	Others	472(20.7)	234(17.0)	706(19.3)	33.1
		$\chi^2=20.66^{***}$			
Workplace area	Large	1,185(52.0)	734(53.3)	1,919(52.5)	38.2
	Medium	844(37.0)	531(38.5)	1,375(37.6)	38.6
	Small	251(11.0)	113(8.2)	364(9.9)	31.0
		$\chi^2=0.98$		$Z=-0.49$	
Total		2,280(100.0)	1,378(100.0)	3,658(100.0)	37.7

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ , † Return to work

Unit : parenthesis indicated percentage indicate the distribution of subjects in each column in each characteristics

100 ~ 149 , 5 2.  
 가 4 가  
 (Table 1). ( )  
 29 가 52.0%,  
 36.0% 37.8% 57.7%, 가 52.5% 가  
 50 29 ,  
 27.0% 가 가 (Table 2).  
 (p<0.001). 가  
 (19.0%가 가 , .가 .  
 (p<0.001)(Table 2).  
 (p<0.01). 6  
 34.8% 가 3.  
 . 가 가  
 .(p<0.001)(Table 1). 1)  
 가 27.5%  
 가 , , .

**Table 3.** Status of return to work by parts of body

Parts of body	Status of return to work			RW <sup>†</sup> (%)
	No	Yes	Total	
Head	18(0.8)	16(1.2)	34(0.9)	47.1
Face	27(1.2)	28(2.0)	55(1.5)	50.9
Eye	59(2.6)	42(3.0)	101(2.8)	41.6
Neck	47(2.1)	25(1.8)	72(2.0)	34.7
Shoulder	47(2.1)	12(0.9)	59(1.6)	20.3
Arm	70(3.1)	47(3.4)	117(3.2)	40.2
Hand	98(4.3)	54(3.9)	152(4.2)	35.5
Finger	516(22.6)	489(35.5)	1005(27.5)	48.7
Back	13(0.6)	5(0.4)	18(0.5)	27.8
Spine	482(21.1)	261(18.9)	743(20.3)	35.1
Trunk	12(0.5)	12(0.9)	24(0.9)	50.0
Leg	223(9.8)	122(8.9)	345(9.4)	35.4
Foot	284(12.5)	95(6.9)	379(10.4)	25.1
Toe	31(1.4)	14(1.0)	45(1.2)	31.1
Multiple parts	215(9.4)	91(6.6)	306(8.4)	29.7
Internal organ	10(0.4)	9(0.7)	19(0.5)	47.4
Others	128(5.6)	56(4.1)	184(5.0)	30.4
$\chi^2=110.79^{***}$				
Total	2,280(100.0)	1,378(100.0)	3,658(100.0)	37.7

\*\*\* p<0.001, † Return to work

Unit : parenthesis indicated percentage indicate the distribution of subjects in each column in each characteristics

가 (35.5%), (18.9%), (8.9%) 가 (Table 5). 20.3% 가 (Table 3). 4) 10-14 72.7% 2) 가 , 5-9 41.0% 180 (66.7%) 가 . 가 , , 10-14 (77.1%), , , 181 (55.8%) 가 . 23.3% 가 (p<0.001)(Table 6). (Table 4). 4. 3) 42.1% 가 , , 50.8% 가 , , Table 7 .

**Table 4.** Status of return to work by nature of injury

Nature of injury	Status of return to work			RW <sup>†</sup> (%)
	No	Yes	Total	
Fracture	1,060(46.5)	441(32.0)	1,501(41.0)	29.4
Puncture	35(1.5)	29(2.1)	64(1.7)	45.3
Contusion	136(6.0)	114(8.3)	250(6.8)	45.6
Amputation	291(12.8)	284(20.6)	575(15.7)	49.4
Asphyxia	0(0.0)	1(0.1)	1(0.0)	100.0
Scratches	2(0.1)	4(0.3)	6(0.2)	66.7
Cut, laceration	2(0.1)	1(0.1)	3(0.1)	33.3
Burn	39(1.7)	54(3.9)	93(2.5)	58.1
Concussion-brain	10(0.4)	8(0.6)	18(0.5)	44.4
Visual injury	34(1.5)	20(1.5)	54(1.5)	37.0
Multiple injuries	66(2.9)	20(1.5)	86(2.4)	23.3
Hernia-spine	339(14.9)	270(19.6)	609(16.6)	44.3
Others	266(11.7)	132(9.6)	398(10.9)	33.2
		$\chi^2=129.09^{***}$		
Total	2,280(100.0)	1,378(100.0)	3,658(100.0)	37.7

\*\*\* p<0.001, <sup>†</sup> Return to work

Unit : parenthesis indicated percentage indicate the distribution of subjects in each column in each characteristics

**Table 5.** Status of return to work by accident type

Accident type	Status of return to work			RW <sup>†</sup> (%)
	No	Yes	Total	
Fall from elevation	114(26.5)	29(7.6)	143(17.6)	20.3
Fall on same level	25(5.8)	20(5.2)	45(5.5)	44.4
Struck against	3(0.7)	5(1.3)	8(1.0)	62.5
Struck by objects	48(11.1)	37(9.7)	85(10.5)	43.5
Caught in, under, or between	148(34.3)	194(50.8)	342(42.1)	56.7
Contact with Electric current	14(3.2)	13(3.4)	27(3.3)	48.1
Fire, explosion	4(0.9)	4(1.0)	8(1.0)	50.0
Overexertion	25(5.8)	26(6.8)	51(6.3)	51.0
Contact with temperature	2(0.5)	5(1.3)	7(0.9)	71.4
Contact with noxious	1(0.2)	6(1.6)	7(0.9)	85.7
Others	47(10.9)	43(11.3)	90(11.1)	47.8
		$\chi^2=61.55^{***}$		
Total	431(100.0)	382(100.0)	813(100.0)	47.0

\*\*\* p<0.001, <sup>†</sup> Return to work

Unit : parenthesis indicated percentage indicate the distribution of subjects in each column in each characteristics

**Table 6.** Status of return to work by disability outcomes

Disability outcome		Status of return to work			RW <sup>†</sup> (%)
		No	Yes	Total	
Disability grades	1~4	58(2.5)	20(1.5)	78(2.1)	25.6
	5~9	626(27.5)	295(21.47)	921(25.1)	32.0
	10~14	1,596(70.0)	1,963(77.1)	2,659(72.7)	40.0
		$\chi^2=27.92^{***}$			$Z= 26.93^{***}$
Duration of treatment (day)	90	200(8.8)	271(19.7)	471(12.9)	57.5
	91-180	409(17.9)	338(24.5)	747(20.4)	45.2
	181	1,671(73.3)	769(55.8)	2,440(66.7)	31.5
		$\chi^2=76.65^{***}$			$Z=-31.35^{***}$
Total		2,280(100.0)	1,378(100.0)	3,658(100.0)	37.7

\*\*\* p<0.001, † Return to work

Unit : parenthesis indicated percentage indicate the distribution of subjects in each column in each characteristics

6 가 2 5 가 4 (Volinn et al, 1991; Gatchel et al, 1995b; Harris, 1997)

가 1 가 4 가 29

200 가 (Rossignol et al, 1988; Gatchel et al, 1995a).

가 가 (Gatchel et al, 1995b; Infante-Rivard & Lortie, 1996; David et al, 2000)

14 1-4 가 10- 21 -30 30

180 181 가 1.43

(Table 7). Infante-Rivard Lortie(1996)

15% 가 6 (Dasinger et al, 2000).

가 가 5 가 가

가 2 2

Infante-Rivard Lortie(1996)

2 2 1.49

**Table 7.** Multiple logistic regression on return to work by general, work and disability characteristics

Variable		Parameter estimate	Odds Ratio*	95% CI	
General Characteristics	Gender	female		1.00	
		male	1.4758	3.37	2.87-6.65
	Age(year)	50		1.00	
		40~49	0.4556	1.57	1.08-2.29
		30~39	0.6485	1.91	1.31-2.77
		29	1.1045	3.01	1.84-4.95
	Salary (10,000 won)	200		1.00	
		150~199	0.9905	1.05	0.93-1.15
		100~149	0.2794	1.08	0.84-1.22
	Employment duration(month)	99	0.4212	1.08	0.95-1.34
		6		1.00	
		6~11	0.3570	1.43	0.92-2.20
		12~23	0.4736	1.52	0.89-1.94
		24~59	0.5749	1.77	1.14-2.75
	Dependents	60	0.1807	1.19	0.76-1.87
		1		1.00	
2~3		0.2836	1.33	0.91-1.93	
Workplace Characteristics	No. of Employees	4	0.8205	2.27	1.51-3.40
		29		1.00	
		30~49	0.3454	1.41	0.88-2.24
		50~99	0.4579	1.58	0.77-3.23
		100~199	0.4584	1.58	0.93-2.68
		200~299	0.4840	1.62	1.24-2.63
	300	0.4665	1.59	1.03-2.44	
	Industries	Electric • Gas • Waterwork		1.00	
		Mining	0.0789	1.08	0.32-3.61
		Drive • Warehouse • Communicationon	0.0961	1.10	0.38-3.14
Construction		0.0359	1.47	0.92-2.72	
Others		0.6903	1.99	0.73-5.42	
Workplace area	Manufacturing	0.6970	2.00	1.55-5.26	
	Small		1.00		
	Large	0.2884	1.33	0.82-2.16	
Disability Characteristics	Parts of body	Medium	0.3775	1.45	0.89-2.38
		Foot		1.00	
		Multiple parts	0.1667	1.04	0.86-1.38
		Spine	0.1089	1.11	0.59-2.07
		Finger	0.4468	1.56	1.06-2.97
		Face	0.0547	1.63	0.73-4.07
Others	0.0584	1.05	0.77-1.63		

Table 7. -Continued

Variable		Parameter estimate	Odds Ratio*	95% CI
Nature of injury	Fracture		1.00	
	Hernia	0.2101	1.06	0.42-1.49
	Contusion	0.2274	1.08	0.52-1.24
	Amputation	0.2827	1.20	0.68-2.11
	Others	0.6093	1.84	1.19-2.83
Accident type	Fall from elevation		1.00	
	Fall on same level	0.0876	1.01	0.41-2.47
	Caught in, under, or between	0.1090	1.16	0.24-3.42
	Others	0.2472	1.28	0.45-3.63
Disability outcome Characteristics	Disability grades		1.00	
	1~4			
	5~9	0.6571	1.94	0.86-4.34
Duration of treatment	10~14	1.0997	3.00	1.40-3.45
	181		1.00	
	91~180	0.6252	1.86	1.27-2.73
	90	1.0106	2.74	1.62-4.65

가 . 가 (Infante- Rivard & Lortie, 1996) .

3 2.8 , 가 ,

Baldwin (1996) Lehmann (1993) 가 가

가 ( , 2001). 가

가 (Cheadle et al, 1994; 가 40.5% 20.2% 가

Infante-Rivard & Lortie, 1996; Oleinick et al, 1996; Harris, 1997) .

가 가 , 가 , 가 .

(Russell, 1974; Cheadle et al, 1994) , 가 , 가

. 가 . , , 가 가

( , 2001) 가 가

가 (Harris, 1997) .

가 Butterfield (1998) Cheadle (1994) 가

181 가

6 가 2000

1 가 180

가 가 38.8% 가 10-

가 가 (1998) 14 64.5% 가

(2000) 1998

30

14.1% 50

6.5% 가

가 가 (stratified proportionate sampling)

가 가

가 가

3,658 가

( , 1998) 2,845 (77.8%) 가

가 , 50% 가

( , 1998) 가 가

2000 가 가 가

가 가 가

가 가

79.6%가 가 가

가 가

가 가

1-4 가

1998.

1998;10(3):379-87.

, 1993.

. 2000 3/4

, 2000.

5

, 2001.

. 1999 . , 2000.

. 2000 . , 2001.

: 36 2001 1 , 1996.

3 13,903 가

, 1999.

13,385

3,658

, 1996.

3,658

, 1998.

Baldwin ML, Johnson W, Butler RJ. The error of using returns-to-work to measure the outcomes of health care. *Am J Ind Med* 1996;29:632-41.

Butterfield PG, Spencer PS, Redmond N, Feldstein A, Perrin N. Low back pain: predictors of absenteeism, residual symptoms, functional impairment, and medical costs in Oregon workers compensation recipients. *Am J Ind Med* 1998;34:559-67.

2~6

6

Cheadle A, Franklin G, Wolfhagen C, Savarino J, Liu PY, Salley C, Weaver M. Factors influencing the duration of work-related disability: a population-based study of Washington State Workers Compensation. *Am J Public Health* 1994;84:190-6.

가 200

29

가

.가 .

가 가

Dasinger LK, Krause N, Deegan LJ, Brand RJ, Rudolph L. Physical workplace factors and return to work after compensated low back injury: a disability phase-specific analysis. *J Occup Environ Med* 2000;42:323-33.

10~14

1-4

180

가

:

.가 .

David W, David L, William O, Michael T. Predictors for Return Work After Spinal Cord Injury. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 2000;81:359-63

Gatchel R, Polatin P, Kinney R. Predicting outcome of chronic back pain using clinical predictors of psychopathology: a prospective analysis. *Health Psychol* 1995a;14:415-20.

- Gatchel RJ, Polatin PB, Mayer TG. The dominant role of psychosocial risk factors in the development of chronic low back pain disability. *Spine* 1995b;20:2702-9.
- Harris K. Defining, measuring, & predicting return to work in Florida. Division of Worker's Compensation Florida Department of Labor & Employment Security 1997.
- Hess DW, Ripley DL, McKinley WO, Tewksbury M. Predictors for return to work after spinal cord injury: A 3-year multicenter Analysis *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* 2000;81:359-63
- Hogg-Johnson S, Frank JW, Rael E. Prognostic risk factor models for low back pain: why they have failed and a new hypothesis. Toronto: Ontario Workers Compensation Institute. Working Paper, 1994:19
- Infante-Rivard C, Lortie M. Prognostic factors for return to work after a first compensated episode of back pain. *Occup Environ Med* 1996;53:488-94.
- Lee SH, Park CY, Chung CK, Lee BK. Causative factors of occupational injuries in manufacturing industries of Korea. Institute of Industrial Medicine Catholic Industrial Medical Center 1984:1-94
- Lehmann TR, Sprati KF, Lehmann KK. Predicting long-term disability in low back injured workers presenting to a spine consultant. *Spine* 1993;18:1103-12.
- Lisa K, Niklas K, Leo J, Richard J, Linda R. Physical Workplace Factors and Return to Work After Compensated Low Back Injury. *J Occup Environmental Med* 2000;42:323-33
- Melhorn JM, Wilkinson L, Gardner P, Horst WD, Silkey B. An outcomes study of an occupational medicine intervention program for the reduction of musculoskeletal disorders and cumulative trauma disorders in the workplace. *J Occup Environ* 1999;41:833-44
- Oleinick A, Gluck JV, Guire K. Factors affecting first return to work following a compensable occupational back injury. *Am J Ind Med* 1996;30:540-55.
- Rossignol M, Suissa S, Anenhaim L. Working disability due to occupational back pain: three-year follow-up of 2,300 compensated workers in Quebec. *J Occup Med* 1988;30:502-5.
- Russell LB. Safety incentives in workmen's compensation insurance. *J Hum Resources* 1974;9:361-75
- USA Standards Institute, USA standard: USA Standards Institute, 1963.
- Volinn E, Van Koevering D, Loeser JD. Back sprain in industry: the role of socioeconomic factors in chronicity. *Spine* 1991;16:542-8.