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Abstract

Predictors of Return to Work in Occupational Injured Workers

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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)

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Hogg-Johnson (1994)

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87%가 , 30 81% 가

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(Cheadle et al, 1994),

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(Infante-Rivard &

Lortie, 1996). 가 가 (12.3%)

(Volinn et al, 1991). , 45.5%가 1 가

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

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Chi-Square
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Table 1. Status of return to work by general characteristics

General Characteristics		Status of return to work			RW [†] (%)
		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
		$\chi^2=0.36$			
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
		$\chi^2=122.64^{***}$			$Z=-60.66^{**}$
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
		$\chi^2=7.02^{***}$			
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
		$\chi^2=21.82^{***}$			$Z=-10.91^{**}$
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
		$\chi^2=2.58$			$Z=1.29$
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
		$\chi^2=29.31^{***}$			$Z=11.14^{***}$
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 [†] (%)	
	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

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

Parts of body	Status of return to work			RW [†] (%)
	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 Table 7 . , , 50.8% 가 ,

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

Nature of injury	Status of return to work			RW [†] (%)
	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, [†] 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 [†] (%)
	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, [†] 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 [†] (%)
		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).

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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			
	1~4		1.00	
	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) .

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Baldwin (1996) Lehmann (1993) 가

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가 (Cheadle et al, 1994; 가 40.5% 20.2% 가 Infante-Rivard & Lortie, 1996; Oleinick et al, 1996; Harris, 1997) .

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3,658 가

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79.6%가 가 가

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