

Abstract

A Study on Karoshi to Make Application for
Industrial Accident Compensation in Busan

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Objectives : Karoshi is a word meaning death from work-overload. Work-related diseases due to continuous overwork are primarily cerebro- and cardio-vascular in nature. In Korea, despite an increase in the incidence of Karoshi, it is not easy to recognise by workmen's compensation in Korea. This study intended to establish basic information concerning the incidence of Karoshi.

Methods : 219 cases were collected based on workers' compensation records of three Busan Regional Centers of Labor Welfare Corporation from 1991 to 1999. The size of workplace, occupation, daily working time, type of working schedule, job tenures, characters of work-overload and duration of work-overload were investigated according of subgroups of general characteristics. Both univariate and multiple logistic regression analyses were used to estimate the relationship between risk factors and a recognition of Karoshi.

Results : 1. 61.6 % of total cases were recognized as Karoshi. 30.6 % occurred in a small workplace of less than 50 workers, 34.7 % were drivers or guards, and 48.8 % were more than 50 years old. Additionally, 29.6 % worked more than 12 hours, 37.5 % were irregular hours and shift workers and 21.5 % of the total had been on the job less than 6 months.

2. Of the causes of death, 49.8 % was cerebro-vascular diseases and it was more than cardio-vascular ones. And 80.4 % of total cases was belonged to the recognition-category of the Labour Ministry's Law. The previous disease history was found on 49.8 % of all cases. Of them, hypertension was most common as 21.9 %.

3. 53.9 % of patients were exposed to job hazards such as driving, monitoring, guarding, risky jobs and frequent long-term official trips. 64.7 % recorded a increased work-overload of job contents and working hours. Of the several types of work-overload, 42.5 % displayed long-term physical and psychotic work-overload and 22.2 % exhibited job characteristic work-overload.

4. In this study, work-overload was associated with the incidence of Karoshi in 76.3 % of cases. This rate was higher than the recognition of Workmen's compensation recorded by the Korea Labor Welfare Corporation. Of these, 43.6 % belonged to sufficient factors, 10.4 % partial factors, and 22.3 % were due to aggravating factors.

5. Logistic regression demonstrated that death due to cerebro- and cardio-vascular disease, short-tenure within 6 month was significantly associated with a recognition of Karoshi ($p=0.034$, $OR=3.00$, $CI=1.09 \sim 8.30$, $p=0.016$, $OR=6.76$, $CI=1.43 \sim 32.07$ respectively) and that an increase of work-overload was also associated, but its statistical significance was slightly lower ($p=0.081$, $OR=2.02$, $CI=0.91 \sim 4.46$). However, no association was found between this recognition and overtime work, hazardous job, irregular work schedule, low-income, injury-onset place, or small size of workplace. The elderly group (>50years old) and those with a previous disease history were negatively associated with recognition although the statistical association was low.

Conclusions : Karoshi in Busan occurred frequently in a small workplace of less than 50 workers, especially drivers or guards. Additionally, these cases worked more than 12 hours, were irregular hours and shift workers. The death due to cerebro- and cardio-vascular disease, short-tenure within 6 month was significantly associated with a recognition of Karoshi. However Karoshi in this study occurred frequently in overtime work and high risk groups of work-overload. Therefore, for prevention of Karoshi, work-overload and overtime work need improved and controlled.

Key Words : Karoshi, Work-overload, Shift work, Overtime work, Cerebro- and cardiovascular disease, Industrial accident compensation

6

1.

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(1991 1999

12

가 가 219

가

50

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3.

(1999)

219

(1999)

SPSS Window Ver 10.0

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219

135 (61.6 %)
 84 (38 %)
 가 114 (52.0 %) 가
 가 73 (33.3 %)
 32 (14.7 %) 219
 가 200 (91.3 %) 가
 96
 50
 가 (Table 1).

2.
 50 67
 (30.6 %) 가 , 100~499
 55 (25.1 %) 50~99
 500 25 (11.4 %)
 65 (29.7 %) 가
 40
 (18.3 %) 36 (16.4 %) (Table 2).

Table 1. Distribution of the subjects for the situation of developments

Characteristics	Number(%)
Compensation	
Yes	135 (61.6)
No	84 (38.4)
Regional distribution	
Choryang	114 (52.0)
Dongrae	32 (14.7)
Sasang	73 (33.3)
Distribution by year	
1991 ~ 95	16 (7.3)
1996	52 (23.7)
1997	52 (23.7)
1998	51 (23.3)
1999	48 (22.0)
Distribution by month	
Jan. ~ Feb.	38 (17.4)
Mar. ~ Apr.	32 (14.6)
May ~ Jun.	36 (16.4)
Jul. ~ Aug.	39 (17.8)
Sep. ~ Oct.	40 (18.2)
Nov. ~ Dec.	34 (15.6)
Total	219 (100.0)

3.
 130 (64.8 %)
 10
 , 8~10 70 (32.0)
 100
 47.9 %
 가 128 (58.4 %) 가

37.5 %
 가 21.5 % 가 1
 6
 (Table 3).

4.
 가
 40 가 72 (32.9 %)
 가 50 가 68 (31.0 %)
 , 60 30 가 39 (17.8 %)
 33 (15.1 %) 30
 7 (3.2 %)
 197 (90.0 %) 가

Table 2. Distribution of the subjects by size of workplace and occupation

Characteristics	Number(%)
Size of workplace (persons)	
Under 50	67 (30.6)
50~99	25 (11.4)
100~499	55 (25.1)
Over 500	25 (11.4)
Missing value	47 (21.5)
Occupation	
Manufacturing	65 (29.7)
Professional driver	40 (18.3)
Guard	36 (16.4)
Construction	24 (11.0)
Police	2 (0.9)
Broadcasting	2 (0.9)
Others	50 (22.8)
Total	219(100.0)

Table 3. Distribution of the subjects by working condition

Characteristics	Number(%)
Daily working time (hrs.)	
Under 8	7 (3.2)
8 ~ 9	70 (32.0)
10 ~ 11	65 (29.7)
12 ~ 13	36 (16.4)
Over 14	29 (13.2)
Missing value	12 (5.5)
Monthly personal income (unit:10,000won)	
< 100	105 (47.9)
100 ~ 150	56 (25.6)
> 150	51 (23.3)
Missing value	7 (3.2)
Type of working schedule	
Day time work	128 (58.4)
Shift work	55 (25.1)
Fixed night work	3 (1.4)
All day work for 24 hr	8 (3.7)
Irregular work	5 (2.3)
Others	10 (4.6)
Missing value	9 (4.1)
Job tenures	
Within 5 mon	47 (21.5)
6 ~ 12 mon	20 (9.0)
13 ~ 23 mon	33 (15.1)
2 ~ 4 years	38 (17.4)
5 ~ 9 years	39 (17.8)
Over 10 years	37 (16.9)
Missing value	5 (2.3)
Total	219 (100.0)

Table 4. General characteristics of the subjects

Characteristics	Number(%)
Sex	
Men	200 (91.3)
Women	19 (8.7)
Age (yrs.)	
< 30	7 (3.2)
30 ~ 39	33 (15.1)
40 ~ 49	72 (32.9)
50 ~ 59	68 (31.0)
60	39 (17.8)
Marital status	
Single	9 (4.1)
Married	197 (90.0)
Divorced/Bereaved Causes of death	13 (5.9)
Causes of death	
Cerebral hemorrhage	71 (32.4)
Subarachnoid hemorrhage	14 (6.4)
Cerebral infarction	17 (7.8)
Hypertensive encephalopathy	3 (1.4)
Cerebrovascular accident	4 (1.8)
Myocardial infarction	73 (33.3)
Angina pectoris	5 (2.3)
Sudden death	6 (2.7)
Sepsis	4 (1.8)
Others	22 (10.0)
Previous diseases	
None	116 (51.1)
Yes	103 (48.9)
Hypertension	61 (27.9)
Hyperlipidemia	7 (3.2)
Cerebral vascular disease	6 (2.7)
Coronary vascular disease	5 (2.3)
Angina pectoris	8 (3.7)
Cardiac valve disease	8 (3.7)
Other cardiac disease	8 (3.7)
Diabetes mellitus	12 (5.5)
Others	30 (13.7)
Total	219 (100.0)

13 (5.9 %) 9
 (4.1 %) .
 73 (33.3 %) 가
 109 (49.8 %)
 .
 71 (32.4 %) 가 , 61 (27.9 %)
 17 (7.8 %) 14 가 , , ,
 (6.4 %) . 가
 4 (1.4 %) , 6 (2.7 %) 가
 103 (48.9 %)

(Table 4).

Table 5. Distribution of the subjects by smoking and drinking habit

Variables	Number(%)
Smoking status	
Current smoking	114 (52.1)
Non-smoking	60 (27.4)
Ex-smoking	11 (5.0)
Missing value	34 (15.5)
Drinking frequency	
None	79 (36.1)
2~3(/month)	63 (28.8)
1~2(/week)	30 (13.7)
3~4(/week)	18 (8.2)
Daily	5 (2.3)
Missing value	24 (11.0)
Total	219 (100.0)

Table 6. Distribution of the subjects by risk factors of Karoshi

Variables	Number(%)
Harzard job	
Professional driver	37 (16.9)
Guard, monitoring job	58 (26.5)
Risky job	14 (6.4)
Long-term official trip	9 (4.1)
Others	33 (15.1)
Missing value	68 (31.1)
Outbreak	
None	180 (82.2)
Yes	39 (17.8)
Physical strain	19 (8.7)
Mental strain	16 (7.3)
Both	4 (1.8)
Outbreak - Onset duration (hrs.)	
Within 0.5	11 (5.0)
1.0	4 (1.8)
3.0	4 (1.8)
Over 3.0	20 (9.1)
None	180 (82.2)
Sx-Onset place	
Within workplace	
Normal duty	85 (38.8)
Night residual work	17 (7.8)
Rest	14 (6.4)
Outside workplace	
On the attendance/leaving	21 (9.6)
On the official dining/training	7 (3.2)
Home	
Pre-sleeping	13 (5.9)
Sleeping	31 (14.2)
Others	26 (11.9)
Missing value	5 (2.3)
Total	219 (100.0)

5. 가
 114 (52.1 %) 가
 60 (27 %) ,
 116 (52.9 %) ,
 79
 (36.1 %) (Table 5).
 6. 가
 68 (31.1 %) ,
 가 95 (62.9
 %) .
 39 (17.8 %) .
 3 118 2
 20 (19.1 %) , 160
 가 116 (52.6 %) 가 103
 가 44 (20.1 %) (Table 6). 64.7 % ,
 가 30 (18.8 %) 가
 7. 가
 101 (46.1 %) 가 41 (18.7 %)

Table 7. Characterization and classification of work-overload

Variables	Number(%)
Characteres of work-overload	
Increase on job contents	35 (21.9)
Increase on working hour	68 (42.5)
Increase on job difficulty	21 (13.1)
Increase on job intensity	9 (5.6)
Change on duty, right on work	11 (6.9)
Change on working condition	16 (10.0)
Duration of work-overload	
Within 3 day	15 (6.8)
4~7 day	14 (6.4)
2~4 week	39 (17.8)
1~5 mon	28 (12.8)
Over 6 mon	41 (18.7)
None	82 (37.4)
Classification of work-overload	
Short term physical work-overload	50 (23.6)
Short term mental work-overload	22 (10.4)
Long term physical work-overload	58 (27.6)
Long term mental work-overload	35 (16.5)
Work-overload by job characterization (shift work, professional driver, night shift work)	47 (22.2)

Table 8. Evaluation for contributing degree of work-overload

	Job-Relatedness					Total
	Yes			No		
	Sufficient factor	Partial factor	Aggravating factor	On the duty	Off the duty	
Recognized	79 (39.1)	13 (6.4)	28 (13.9)	9 (4.5)	0 (0.0)	129 (63.9)
Unrecognized	9 (4.5)	8 (4.0)	17 (8.4)	19 (9.4)	20 (9.9)	73 (36.1)
Total	88 (43.6)	21 (10.4)	45 (22.3)	28 (13.9)	20 (9.9)	212 (100.0)

2~4 가 8. 가
 37 (17.8 %) . 가
 54 2 가 212
 가 6 가 154 76.3
 가 가 , % 63.9 % .
 가 88 (43.6 %), 가 21
 47 (22.2 %) (Table 7). (10.4 %), . 가 45 (22.3
 %) ,
 가 28 (13.9

Table 9. Association of some factors with recognition of Karoshi by univariate analysis

Independent variables	Odds ratio	95 % CI	p value [#]
Old age (over 50)	1.41	0.81 ~ 2.44	0.224
With harzard job (professional driver, guard etc)	1.14	0.59 ~ 2.17	0.698
Small workplace scale (< 50 men)	0.89	0.48 ~ 1.65	0.707
Salarymen job	1.04	0.48 ~ 2.26	0.918
Irregular and shift work duty	0.83	0.46 ~ 1.50	0.536
Long working hour (> 10 hrs)	1.79	1.00 ~ 3.18	0.047
Occuring within workplace	1.96	1.10 ~ 3.49	0.022
Short tenures (<6 mon)	2.15	1.04 ~ 4.44	0.036
Low-income (< 1,000,000 won)	1.01	0.58 ~ 1.76	0.974
Within category of cardiovascular disease	3.36	1.54 ~ 7.33	0.002
With previous disease	0.56	0.32 ~ 0.98	0.041
With outbreak	0.89	0.44 ~ 1.81	0.747
With increasing work-overload	1.96	1.13 ~ 3.42	0.017
With harzard factors (driver, monitoring, risky job, frequent official trip)	1.22	0.55 ~ 2.70	0.622

: by χ^2 - test

Table 10. Association of some factors with recognition of Karoshi by multiple logistic regression analysis

Independent variables	B	S.E.	p value	Odds ratio	95 % CI
Old age (50, <50)	- 0.099	0.418	0.812	0.91	0.40 ~ 2.05
Long working hour (10, <10)	0.516	0.423	0.223	1.67	0.73 ~ 3.84
Place (workplace, others)	0.189	0.424	0.656	1.21	0.53 ~ 2.77
Tenures (<6Mon, 6Mon)	1.911	0.794	0.016	6.76	1.43 ~ 32.07
Morbid disease (CVD, other)	1.098	0.519	0.034	3.00	1.09 ~ 8.30
Previous disease (yes, no)	- 0.216	0.396	0.586	0.81	0.40 ~ 1.87
Work-overload (yes, no)	0.704	0.404	0.081	2.02	0.92 ~ 4.46
Harzard factors (yes, no)	0.152	0.493	0.758	1.16	0.44 ~ 3.06

%) (Table 8).

0.56 (p=0.041)

(Table 9).

9. 가
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10. 가
()

가 3.36 6 가 6.76
(p=0.002), 6 가 (p=0.016),
2.15 (p=0.036), 가가 가 3.00
가 1.96(p=0.017), (p=0.034)
가 가 1.96(p=0.022), 가가 가 2.02
10 가 1.79 (p=0.081). 50
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(Table 10).

Neuerstrom (1988)

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(Steenland, 2000)

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가

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가

34.7 %

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(Bøggliid et al, 1999).

가

. Belkic

(1994)

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가 , , 가 151
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(Pieper et al, 1993). (27.6 %).
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3
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1 가 ,
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1999; Spurgeon et al, 1997), 가가 42.5 % 가 가 21.9
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1.79(p=0.047) (1999)
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가 6.76(p=0.016), 가
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2.02(p=0.081) , ,
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가 : 1991
, 1999 가 219
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1991 1999
가
:1. 219 135 (61.6 %)가

96 50
30.6 %가 50
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(p=0.081). 50 細川 汀, 上畑鐵之丞, 田尻俊一郎. 過勞死, 3rd ed. 勞
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