

# 가

, 가 1),  
2), 3),  
1) . 2) . 2) . 3) .

## Abstract

### Analysis of the Effect of Job Stress on Occupational Low Back Pain Among Shipyard Workers Using Survival Analysis

Dong-Hee Koh, Hyung-Ryoul Kim<sup>1)</sup>, Sei-Jin Chang<sup>2)</sup>, Sang-Baek Koh<sup>2)</sup>,  
Seong-Kyu Kang<sup>3)</sup>, Jong-Uk Won, Jae-Hoon Roh

*Institute for Occupational Health, Yonsei University College of Medicine,  
Department of Preventive Medicine and Industrial Medical Center, The Catholic University of Korea<sup>1)</sup>, Department of  
Preventive Medicine and Institute of Occupational Medicine, Wonju College of Medicine, Yonsei University<sup>2)</sup>  
Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency<sup>3)</sup>*

**Objectives:** Occupational low back pain is a major cause of morbidity and the increases of medical and industrial costs. Efforts to control occupational low back pain have been largely unsuccessful, and further understanding of the risks including the psychological factors is needed. This retrospective study was designed to identify the effect of job stress on occupational low back pain among shipyard workers.

**Methods:** The study group consisted of 976 male workers who were working at a Korean shipyard. A structured self-reported questionnaire was used to assess the participants' physical work factors, job stress and general characteristics. Job stress was measured using Karasek's JCQ(Job Content Questionnaire). Occupational low back pain was identified according to the NIOSH symptom survey criteria. Physical work factors were assessed using the Quick Exposure Check. Since the work duration can affect the relationship of physical work factors and job stress to occupational low back pain, we analyzed this association by dividing workers into two groups by work duration: 1) all workers, and 2) less than 5 years. Cox's proportional hazard model was used to elucidate the relationship of job stress with occupational low back pain in these two groups. Data were analysed with SAS 8.1.

**Results:** In the all workers group, job demand, bending or twisting of the back, and carrying heavy materials were associated with an increased the risk of occupational low back pain. In the workers with less than 5 years work experience, people with high job demand were more likely to experience occupational low back pain than those with low job demand.

**Conclusions:** These results suggest that job stress as well as physical work factors can raise the risk of occupational low back pain. Especially, in the workers with less than 5 years work duration, job stress played a more crucial effect on the occurrence of occupational low back pain than physical work factors did.

**Key Words:** Job stress, Low back pain, Musculoskeletal diseases





**Table 2.** Log-rank test for the relation between low back pain and relevant variables.

variable	non-LBP		LBP*		median survival <sup>†</sup>	95% CI	p-value <sup>‡</sup>
	N	%	N	%			
current smoking							
no	221	37.91	161	40.97	17	15-20	0.1961
yes	362	62.09	232	59.03	18	16-	
regular exercise							
no	332	56.95	239	60.81	17	16-19	0.8084
yes	251	43.05	154	39.19	18	16-	
posture							
neutral(<20 °)	118	20.24	40	10.18			<0.0001
bent( 20 °)	465	79.76	353	89.82	16	15-18	
repetition							
infrequent(<3/min)	375	64.32	233	59.29	19	17-	0.1559
frequent(>8/min)	208	35.68	160	40.71	16	15-18	
force							
light( 5 kg)	102	17.50	36	9.16			0.0002
heavy(>5 kg)	481	82.50	357	90.84	17	16-18	
vibration							
low	164	28.13	84	21.37	19	18-	0.0085
more than medium	419	71.87	309	78.63	16	15-19	
demand							
low	282	48.37	150	38.17	19	17-	0.0098
high	301	51.63	243	61.83	16	15-18	
control							
low	259	44.43	200	50.89	16	15-18	0.0068
high	324	55.57	193	49.11	19	15-	
support							
low	262	44.94	202	51.40	18	16-	0.1457
high	321	55.06	191	48.60	17	15-19	

\* low back pain

† median survival time(year)

‡ log-rank test

**Table 3.** Survival analysis for the occurrence of occupational low back pain with all workers.

variable	coeff*	SE <sup>†</sup>	HR <sup>‡</sup>	95% CI	
work duration	-0.207	0.016	0.813	0.788	0.839
body mass index	-0.044	0.023	0.957	0.914	1.002
smoking    yes	-0.136	0.106	0.873	0.709	1.074
exercise   no	0.114	0.106	1.121	0.911	1.379
posture    bent( 20 °)	0.478	0.171	1.613	1.153	2.256
repetition   frequent(>8/min)	0.150	0.105	1.162	0.946	1.426
force       heavy(>5 kg)	0.461	0.179	1.585	1.117	2.250
vibration   more than medium	0.021	0.127	1.021	0.796	1.309
demand      high	0.244	0.105	1.276	1.039	1.568
control     low	0.115	0.105	1.121	0.913	1.378
support     low	0.108	0.105	1.115	0.907	1.370

\* regression coefficient

† standard error of the coefficient

‡ hazard ratio

가

vival rate) 0.52(95% CI; 0.45-0.60)

가

가

3)

20  
 , 6 kg 가  
 가  
 5  
 가  
 가  
 Miettinen(1985)  
 가

(Fig. 1) 5

(Fig. 2)

5

(Lee et al, 1999).

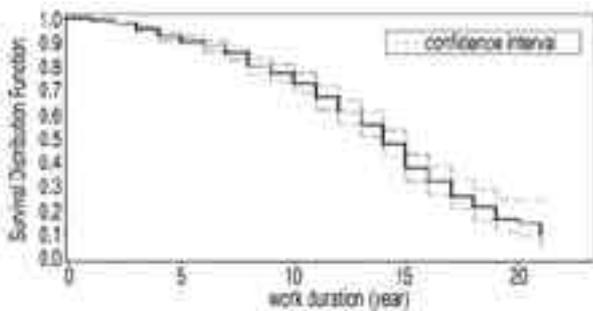
90%

가 5

52%

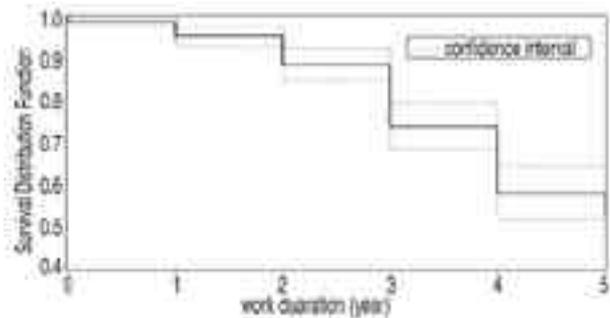
70%

가



median survival time: 13 years

5 year survival rate: 0.90(95% CI; 0.88-0.92)



5 year survival rate: 0.52(95% CI; 0.45-0.60)

**Fig. 1.** Survival curve for the occurrence of occupational low back pain with all workers.

**Fig. 2.** Survival curve for the occurrence of occupational low back pain with workers less than 5 years work duration.

**Table 4.** Survival analysis for the occurrence of occupational low back pain with workers less than 5 years work duration.

variable	coeff*	SE <sup>†</sup>	HR <sup>‡</sup>	95% CI	
work duration	-0.273	0.159	0.761	0.558	1.039
body mass index	-0.028	0.045	0.972	0.890	1.063
smoking	yes	-0.120	0.234	0.887	1.402
exercise	no	0.340	0.212	1.405	2.128
posture	bent( 20 °)	0.448	0.381	1.566	3.303
repetition	frequent(>8/min)	-0.045	0.226	0.956	1.489
force	heavy(>5 kg)	-0.211	0.350	0.810	1.609
vibration	more than medium	0.541	0.288	1.718	3.023
demand	high	0.485	0.212	1.624	2.460
control	low	0.257	0.217	1.292	1.979
support	low	0.327	0.216	1.386	2.111

\* regression coefficient

<sup>†</sup> standard error of the coefficient

<sup>‡</sup> hazard ratio

(Marras, 2000). 1.4 (95% CI: 1.0-1.9) , 가  
 2,223 1.3 (95% CI; 0.9-1.8)  
 가 . 가  
 가 133 가  
 976 가  
 . 40.94 , 가  
 14.15 가 가  
 . 가  
 43.97% 가 가  
 가 가 small, low-threshold  
 motor unit , ,  
 가 (Lundberg, 1999). Hales  
 (1994) 가 가  
 low voltage contraction  
 . 가  
 peak CO2  
 pH 가 가 (Schleifer  
 Ray, 1994). Veiersted (1993)  
 EMG gap(very low muscular electrical activity)  
 가 , Flor (1991)  
 (myofascial pain syndrome)  
 (EMG reactivity)  
 가 . Indahl (1997)  
 가 ' - - ' ,  
 . Frankenhauser Johansson(1986)  
 가 Skov  
 (1996) 가 가  
 가 가 가 1.43~1.47 가  
 가 가 , 1.81-  
 2.04 가 가  
 가 가 가 1.44  
 Hagen (1998) 가 가 2.03 (p<0.001)  
 가 ,  
 . Macfarlane (2000)  
 , 가  
 가 가  
 가 4.7 (95% CI; 2.2-10) 가  
 가 . Power (2001)  
 가 2.52  
 (95% CI; 1.65-3.86) 가 ,  
 Andersen (2002) 가 가  
 1.8 (95% CI; 1.2-2.7) , 가 DeGood (1994)

Cronbach alpha  
0.5524, 0.5982, 0.8809  
가  
가  
( ) 가  
가  
(recall bias)가  
가  
가  
4  
(quadrant model),  
interaction model),  
(main effects model)

가  
:  
가  
976  
NIOSH  
Karasek JCQ(Job Contents Questionnaire)  
QEC(Quick Exposure Check)  
5  
Cox  
20  
6 kg 가 가 5  
가 가 1.6

NIOSH  
Hales (1994)

QEC(Quick  
Exposure Check)  
가가  
가  
(Probst Brubaker, 2001)

Ahn YS, Choi YH, Kang SK, Chung HK. Work-related musculoskeletal disease by approved Korea Labor Welfare Corporation in 1999. Korean J Occup Environ Med 2002;14(2):154-68.(Korean)

Andersen JH, Kaergaard A, Frost P, Thomsen JF, Nils F, Vilhelm B, Sigurd M. Physical, psychosocial, and individual risk factor for neck/shoulder pain with pressure tenderness in the muscles among workers performing monotonous, repetitive work. Spine 2002;27(6):660-7.

Bigos SJ, Battie MC, Spengler, DM, Fisher LD, Fordyce WE, Hansson T, Nachemson Alf L, Zeh J. A longitudinal, prospective study of industrial back injury reporting. Clin Orthop 1992;279:21-34.

Bongers PM, de Winter CR, Kompier MAJ, Hildebrandt VH. Psychosocial factors at work and musculoskeletal disease. Scand J Work Environ Health 1993;19: 297-312.

Chang SJ, Cha BS, Koh SB, Kang MK, Koh SY, Park JK. Association between job characteristics and psychosocial distress of industrial workers. Korean J Occup Environ Med 1997;30(1):129-44.(Korean)

- Cohen AL, Gjessing CC, Fine LJ, Bernard BP, McGlothlin JD. Elements of ergonomics program: A primer based on workplace evaluations of musculoskeletal disorders. NIOSH, 1997. pp 87-8.
- Croft PR, Rigby AS. Socioeconomic influence on back problems in the community in Britain. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 1994;48:166-70.
- DeGood DE, Stewart WR, Adams LE. Paraspinal EMG and autonomic reactivity of patients with back pain and controls to personally relevant stress. *Percept Mot Skills* 1994;79:1399-409.
- Erdil M, Dickerson OB, Glackin E. Diagnosis and medical management of work related low back pain. In Erdil M, Dickerson OB, ed. *Cumulative trauma disorders; Prevention, evaluation, and treatment*. Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York. 1997. pp621-51.
- Flor H, Birbaumer N, Schulte W, Roos R. Stress-related electromyographic responses in patients with chronic temporomandibular pain. *Pain* 1991;46: 145-52.
- Frankenhauser M, Johansson G. Stress at work: Psychobiological and psychosocial aspects. *Int Rev Appl Psych* 1986;35:287-99.
- Hagen KB, Magnus P, Vetlesen K. Neck/shoulder and low-back disorders in the forestry industry: Relationship to work tasks and perceived psychosocial job stress. *Ergonomics* 1998;41(10):1510-8.
- Hales RE, Sauter SL, Peterson MR. Musculoskeletal disorders among visual display terminal users in a telecommunications company. *Ergonomics* 1994;37: 1603-21.
- Hong YC, Ha EH, Park HS. The Risk Factors of Industrial Low Back Pain among Shipyard Workers. *Korean J Prev Med* 1996;29(1):91-102.(Korean)
- Hoogendoorn WE, Bongers PM, de Vet HC, Houtman IL, Ariens GA, van Mechelen W, Bouter LM. Psychosocial work characteristics and psychological strain in relation to low-back pain. *Scand J Work Environ Health* 2001;27(4):258-67.
- Houtman ILD, Bongers PM, Smulders PGW, Kompier MAJ. Psychological stressor at work and musculoskeletal problems. *Scand J Work Environ Health* 1994;20: 139-45.
- Indahl A, Kaigle AM, Reikeras O. Interaction between the porcine lumbar intervertebral disc, zygapophysial joints and paraspinal muscle. *Spine* 1997;22: 2834-40.
- Karasek R, Theorell T. *Healthy Work: Stress, productivity, and the reconstruction of working life*. Basic, New York. 1990. pp1-75.
- Kim IR, Kim JY, Park JT, Choi JW, Kim HJ, Yom YT. The relationship between psychosocial stress and work-related musculoskeletal symptoms of assembly line workers in the automobile industry. *Korean J Occup Environ Med* 2001; 13(3):220-31.(Korean)
- Kim JY, Kwon HJ, Ju YS, Cho SH, Kang DH, Sung JH, Choi SW, Choi JW, Kim JY, Kim DK. Development of work-related musculoskeletal disorder questionnaire using Receiver Operating Characteristic analysis. *Korean J Prev Med* 1999; 32(3):361-73.(Korean)
- Lee CH, Park JR, Cha AR, Koh KU, Kim YU, Lee SI. A study on the risk factors of Low Back Pain in computer terminal operators. *Korean J Occup Environ Med* 1996;11(2):264-75.(Korean)
- Leino PI, Hanninen V. Psychosocial factors at work in relation to back and limb disorders. *Scand J Work Environ Health* 1995;21:134-42.
- Levy BS, Wegman DH. *Occupational Health: Recognizing and preventing work-related disease and injury*. 4th ed. Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins. 1999.
- Li G, Buckle P. A practical method for the assessment of work-related musculoskeletal risks-quick exposure check(QEC). *Proceedings of the human factors and ergonomics society 42nd annual meeting*, 1998. pp1351-5.
- Linton SJ. A review of psychological risk factors in back and neck pain. *Spine* 2000;25(2):1148-56.
- Lundberg U, Kadefors K, Melin B. Psychophysiological stress and EMG activity of the trapezius muscle. *Int J Behav Med* 1994;4:354-7.
- MacDonald LA, Karasek RA, Punnett L, Scharf T. Covariation between workplace physical and psychosocial stressors: Evidence and implications for occupational health research and prevention. *Ergonomics* 2001;44(7):696-718.
- Macfarlane GJ, Hunt IM, Silman AJ. Role of mechanical and psychosocial factors in the onset of forearm pain: Prospective population based study. *BMJ* 2000; 321:676-9.
- Magni G, Marchetti M, Moreschi C, Merskey H, Luchini SR. Chronic musculoskeletal pain and depressive symptoms in the national health and nutrition examination: I. Epidemiological follow-up study. *Pain* 1993;53:163-8.
- Marras WS. Occupational low back disorders causation and control. *Ergonomics* 2000;43(7):880-902.
- Miettinen OS. *Theoretical epidemiology: Principles of occurrence research in medicine*. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 1985.
- Power C, Frank J, Hertzman C, Schierhout G, Li L. Predictors of low back pain onset in a prospective British study. *Am J Public Health* 2001;91(10): 1671-8.
- Probst TM, Brubaker TL. The effects of job insecurity on employee safety outcomes: Cross-sectional and longitudinal explorations. *J Occup Health Psych* 2001;6:139-59.
- Schleifer LM, Ley R. End-tidal PCO<sub>2</sub> as an index of psychophysiological activity during VDT data-entry work and relaxation. *Ergonomics* 1994;37:245-54.
- Skov T, Borg V, Orhede E. Psychosocial and physical factors for musculoskeletal disorders of the neck, shoulders and

lower back in salespeople. *Occup Environ Med* 1996;53(5):351-6.

Song HH, Chung KD, Lee WC. *Survival analysis*. Chungmungak, Seoul. 1996. pp 85-159.

Song KI, Ahn JU. *Survival analysis*. SPSS Academy, Seoul. 1999. pp 134-58.

Veiersted KB, Westgaard RH, Anderson P. Electromyographic evaluation of muscular work pattern as a predictor of trapezius myalgia. *Scand J Work Environ Health* 1993;19:284-90.

Walsh K, Varnes N, Osmond C. Occupational causes of low-back pain. *Scand J Work Environ Health* 1989;15:54-9.