

Nº 12

Boletín LADEP

Boletín Nº12 - 3º Trimestre 2011

Nº11

Boletín LADEP

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laboratorio  bservatorio
de Enfermedades Profesionales de Andalucía

Boletín LADEP

Boletín Nº12 - 3º Trimestre 2011 (Julio - Septiembre)

Boletín Editado por: Juan Luis Cabanillas Moruno

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REVISTAS INTERNACIONALES CONSULTADAS

- AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE
- ARCHIVES BELGES
- INDIAN JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE
- INDUSTRIAL HEALTH
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Artículo Nº1

Revista: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE - 54:499-509, 2011

Título

Breast cancer risk by occupation and industry: Analysis of the CECILE study, a population-based case-control study in France (*Riesgo de cáncer de mama por ocupación e industria: análisis del estudio CECILE, un estudio de casos y controles de base poblacional en Francia*)

Autores

Villeneuve S., Févotte J. and Anger A.

Antecedentes

Background. It has been suggested that certain occupational exposures may play a role in breast cancer etiology. The recognition of high-risk occupations may give clues about potential mammary carcinogens in the work place.

Métodos

Methods. We conducted a population-based case-control study in France including 1,230 breast cancer cases and 1,315 population controls with detailed information on lifetime work history. Odds ratios for women ever employed in an occupation or industry were adjusted for well-established risk factors for breast cancer.

Resultados

Results. Adjusted odds ratios were marginally increased in some white-collar occupations, as well as in textile workers (2.4; 95% CI [0.9-6.0]), rubber and plastics product makers (1.8; 95% CI [0.9-3.5]), and in women employed for more than 10 years as nurses (1.4; 95% CI [0.9-2.1]) and as tailors/dressmakers (1.5; 95% CI [0.9-2.6]). The incidence of breast cancer was increased among women employed in the manufacture of chemicals, of non-metallic mineral products, and decreased among women in agriculture.

Conclusiones

Conclusion. These findings suggest a possible role of occupational exposures in breast cancer, including night-shift work, solvents and endocrine disrupting chemicals and require further studies with detailed assessment of occupational exposures.

Artículo Nº2

Revista: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE - 54:618-627, 2011

Título

Elevated serum liver enzymes and fatty liver changes associated with long driving among taxi drivers (Elevación sérica de las enzimas hepáticas y cambios grasos hepáticos asociados a conducción prolongada en taxistas).

Autores

Lippmann SJ, Richardson DB and Chen J-Ch.

Antecedentes

Background. Previous studies suggested increased morbidities and mortalities of liver diseases in drivers.

Métodos

Methods. To examine whether driving (monthly driving distance; tenure) is associated with elevated alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), or chronic fatty liver (FL) changes, we performed a cross-sectional, secondary analysis of the Taxi Drivers' Health Study (n = 1,355), adjusting for clinical, demographic, and lifestyle factors.

Resultado

Results. Prevalence of elevated ALT, elevated AST, and fatty liver changes were 22.0%, 5.1%, and 9.3%, respectively. Driving distance had a positive association with elevated ALT with a prevalence ratio of 1.35 (95% CI: 0.98, 1.89) comparing the highest versus lowest driving quartile. This association differed by alcohol use, with a corresponding prevalence ratio of 2.08 (95% CI: 1.30, 3.33) among "past/current" drinkers but no association among "never" drinkers. Similar patterns were found for AST, but estimates were less stable. We found a curvilinear response pattern for fatty liver changes; prevalence first increased with years as a taxi driver and then receded in the highest ranges of driving tenure, regardless of the alcohol history.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Our results provide evidence that long driving is associated with both short-term and chronic liver insults, although alcohol use appears to modify this putative effect.

Artículo Nº3

Revista: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE - 54 (9):672-680, 2011

Título

The impact of the World Trade Center attack on FDNY firefighter retirement, disabilities, and pension benefits (Impacto del ataque a las Torres Gemelas en la jubilación, discapacidades y beneficios en las pensiones de los bomberos de Nueva York).

Autores

Niles JK, Webber MP, Gustave J et al.

Antecedentes

Background. Our goal was to examine the effect of the World Trade Center (WTC) attack and subsequent New York City Fire Department (FDNY) rescue/recovery activities on firefighter retirements. We also analyzed the financial impact associated with the increased number and proportion of service-connected “accidental” disability retirements on the FDNY pension system.

Métodos

Methods. A total of 7,763 firefighters retired between 9/11/1994 and 9/10/2008. We compared the total number of retirements and the number and proportion of accidental disability retirements 7 years before and 7 years after the WTC attack. We categorized WTC-related accidental disability retirements by medical cause and worked with the New York City Office of the Actuary to approximate the financial impact by cause.

Resultado

Results. In the 7 years before 9/11 there were 3,261 retirements, 48% (1,571) of which were accidental disability retirements. In the 7 years after 9/11, there were 4,502 retirements, 66% (2,970) were accidental disability retirements, of which 47% (1,402) were associated with WTC-related injuries or illnesses. After 9/11, the increase in accidental disability retirements was, for the most part, due to respiratory-related illnesses. Additional increases were attributed to psychological-related illnesses and musculoskeletal injuries incurred at the WTC site. Pension benefits associated with WTC-related accidental disability retirements have produced an increased financial burden of over \$826 million on the FDNY pension system.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. The WTC attacks affected the health of the FDNY workforce resulting in more post-9/11 retirements than expected, and a larger proportion of these retirees with accidental disability pensions.

Artículo Nº4

Revista: INDUSTRIAL HEALTH - 2011, 49: 89-94.

Título***Respiratory Morbidity Induced by Occupational Inhalation Exposure to Formaldehyde***
*(Morbilidad respiratoria inducida por inhalación laboral de formaldehído).***Autores**

Neghab M, Soltanzedh M, Choobineh A.

Resumen

Abstract. The potential of formaldehyde to produce chronic respiratory tract disease remains a controversial issue.

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the respiratory effects, if any, of long term occupational exposure to formaldehyde. This cross-sectional study was carried out at a local melamine-formaldehyde resin producing plant. The study population consisted of seventy exposed and 24 non-exposed (referent) employees. Using respiratory questionnaire, data on respiratory symptoms were gathered. Atmospheric concentrations of formaldehyde were measured at different contaminated areas of the plant. Similarly, the parameters of pulmonary function were measured at the beginning (preshift) and at the end (postshift) of the first working day of the week.

The results showed that airborne concentrations of formaldehyde exceeded current permissible levels. Additionally, significant decrements in some preshift and postshift parameters of pulmonary function of exposed workers were noted. However, a relative recovery in lung functional capacity observed following temporary cessation of exposure (preshift values). Furthermore, exposed workers had higher prevalence rates of regular cough, wheezing, phlegm, shortness of breath, chest tightness and episodes of chest illness associated with cold. The findings of this study collectively indicate that exposure to formaldehyde may induce respiratory symptoms, acute partially reversible and chronic irreversible functional impairments of the lungs.

Artículo Nº5

Revista: JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY - 2011; 6:21

Título

Lung function in asbestos-exposed workers, a systematic review and meta-analysis (Función pulmonar en trabajadores expuestos a asbestos, una revisión sistemática y meta-análisis).

Autores

Wilken D, Garrido M, Manuwald U, Baur X.

Antecedentes

Background. A continuing controversy exists about whether, asbestos exposure is associated with significant lung function impairments when major radiological abnormalities are lacking. We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis in order to assess whether asbestos exposure is related to impairment of lung function parameters independently of the radiological findings.

Métodos

Methods. MEDLINE was searched from its inception up to April 2010. We included studies that assessed lung function parameters in asbestos exposed workers and stratified subjects according to radiological findings. Estimates of VC, FEV₁ and FEV₁/VC with their dispersion measures were extracted and pooled.

Resultados

Results. Our meta-analysis with data from 9,921 workers exposed to asbestos demonstrates a statistically significant reduction in VC, FEV₁ and FEV₁/VC, even in those workers without radiological changes. Less severe lung function impairments are detected if the diagnoses are based on (high resolution) computed tomography rather than the less sensitive X-ray images. The degree of lung function impairment was partly related to the proportion of smokers included in the studies.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Asbestos exposure is related to restrictive and obstructive lung function impairment. Even in the absence of radiological evidence of parenchymal or pleural diseases there is a trend for functional impairment.

Artículo Nº6

Revista: JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY - 2011; 6:23

Título

Comparative analysis of induced sputum and bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) profile in asbestos exposed workers (Análisis comparativo del perfil del esputo inducido y del fluido de lavado broncoalveolar en trabajadores expuestos a asbesto)

Autores

Alexopoulos E, Bouros D, Dimadi M, Serbescu A, Bakoyannis G and Kokkinis F.

Antecedentes

Background. Biological monitoring of healthy workers exposed to hazardous dusts lack validated screening tools. Induced sputum (IS) cellular profile was compared with bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) profile in asbestos exposed workers in order to assess its usefulness in monitoring workers exposed to asbestos for a long period of time.

Métodos

Methods. IS and BALF analysis was performed in 39 workers of a car brakes and clutches factory that uses chrysotile asbestos. Selection criteria were an employment history of > 15 years and the absence of a diagnosis of pneumoconiosis. The type of cells, the existence of dust cells, of iron laden macrophages and of asbestos bodies were assessed and compared between IS and BALF samples.

Resultados

Results. 35 IS samples (90%) had dust cells, 34 (87%) iron laden macrophages and in 8 samples (21%) asbestos bodies were found. In most samples neutrophils were dominated. Samples with asbestos bodies (ABs) had significantly higher lymphocytes and lower neutrophils count compared with the samples without ABs. Macrophages and neutrophils in IS and BALF exhibited significant inter-relations (Spearman's rho: 0.26-0.29, $p < 0.05$) while IS lymphocytes count showed an inverse relation with BALF neutrophils (Spearman's rho: -0.36). Neutrophils and dust cells were highly correlated between the samples (Spearman's rho: 0.35, $p < 0.05$) while IS dust cells and lymphocytes were inversely related (Spearman's rho: -0.36, $p < 0.05$). More years of employment in the company was related with more neutrophils (Spearman's rho: 0.26) and less lymphocytes (Spearman's rho: -0.33) count. In multivariate analysis the presence of AB in IS samples was strongly related to the presence of asbestos bodies and lymphocytes count in BALF samples.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. IS and BALF analysis showed a similar cellular profile indicating that IS sampling in exposed workers to asbestos as a less invasive and expensive method may be useful in providing an insight both for inhalation of dusts and inflammatory processes in the lung.

Artículo Nº7

Revista: MEDICINA DEL LAVORO - 2011; 102, 3: 262-274

Título

Obesity and work: proposal for a multidisciplinary intervention model for prevention and its application in an engineering plant (Obesidad y trabajo: propuesta de un modelo de intervención multidisciplinaria para la prevención y su aplicación en una planta de ingeniería).

Autores

L. Vigna, G.M. Agnelli, A.S. Tirelli et al.

Introducción

Introduction. Obesity is often particularly burdensome for subjects at work and leads to hypertension and diabetes preceded by a low grade of inflammation. Measures to promote health at the workplace can be achieved through periodic health surveillance. Simple parameters such as height, weight, body mass index (BMI), waist circumference (CV), blood pressure (BP), as well as taking into account the type of work and tasks, shift work and smoking, are in fact sufficient to identify the most significant features of the working population so as to adequately design the type of intervention required. The paper describes how a health promotion programme aimed at preventing overweight and obesity was implemented based on analysis of the health surveillance data routinely collected by the occupational physician in an engineering plant in northern Italy.

Sujetos y Métodos

Subjects and Methods. Data on weight, height and BMI were collected for 301 workers with different jobs and shifts in an engineering plant; 32 of these workers, (mean age 44±8.4) agreed to undergo a diagnosis and treatment programme at the Obesity and Work Centre of the Clinica del Lavoro in Milan.

Resultados

Results. A higher incidence of overweight and obesity was found compared to the national average for similar age classes, therefore meetings were organized at the plant on awareness and information on correct lifestyle and diet targeted for shift workers. The workers who had followed the diagnosis and treatment programme had a mean BMI of 32.6 (SD 2.7) and, considering the parameters investigated, the presence of metabolic syndrome was found in a greater proportion of subjects (62.5%) than the average in our practice (46%) and particularly in workers with three day shifts.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. The intervention programme began with assessment of the information obtained in the course of routine periodic health surveillance according to the occupational hazards under study. On the basis of this information it was possible to implement the first awareness campaigns. On completion of the multidisciplinary intervention, which was conducted in collaboration with the occupational physician, two major initiatives were taken: one in the canteen with the aim of improving the nutritional content and type of meals offered to suit the dietary needs of overweight or obese workers, and the other consisted of an agreement with local gyms so as to motivate workers to exercise more. A prerequisite for this type of initiative is the willingness and understanding of the management to recognize the health of the worker as a priority value.

Artículo Nº8

Revista: OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE - 2011; 68:487-493

Título

HLA class II DPB1 and DRB1 polymorphisms associated with genetic susceptibility to beryllium toxicity (Polimorfismos HLA clase II DPB1 y DRB1 asociados con predisposición genética a la toxicidad del berilio).

Autores

Rosenman K, Rossman R, Hertzberg V, Reilly M et al.

Objetivos

Objectives. Chronic beryllium disease (CBD) is a hypersensitivity granulomatous pulmonary disease caused by exposure to the metal beryllium (Be^{2+}). Our objective was to extend current knowledge of the genetics of beryllium disease by examining all HLA-DPB1 and HLA-DPR1 gene polymorphisms and the interactions between them.

Métodos

Methods. DNA-based typing of HLA-DPB1 and HLA-DRB1 loci at the allele level was performed on 65 CBD, 44 beryllium sensitised (BeS) but without CBD and 288 non-affected, beryllium exposed controls.

Resultados

Results. The DPBE69 residue regardless of zygosity, but particularly if present on non-*0201 alleles, was of primary importance for the development of CBD and BeS, while other negatively charged residues DPBDE55, 56 and DPBDE84, 85 incrementally increased, although not independently, the risk. The DPBE69 positive alleles with charge -7 or -9 were associated with both CBD and BeS. The polymorphic residues DPBE69, DPBDE55, 56 and DPBDE84, 85 were responsible for the -9 charge and the first two residues for the -7 charge.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. In the absence of DPBE69, DRBE71 is a risk factor for CBD and BeS. DPBE69 and DRBE71 are adjacent to other amino acids that are also negatively charged, suggesting that the positively charged Be^{2+} modifies the local environment of the epitopes in a way that promotes interactions between peptides and T cells and results in CBD. Finally, the protective effect of the DPB1*0201 positive haplotype may involve particular polymorphisms outside of the DPB1 gene.

Artículo Nº9

Revista: OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE - 2011; 68:570-574

Título

Exposure to temporary employment and job insecurity: a longitudinal study of the health effects (Exposición a empleo temporal e inseguridad laboral: estudio longitudinal de efectos sobre la salud).

Autores

Virtanen P, Janler U and Hammarström A.

Objetivos

Objective. This study analysed interactions between job insecurity and temporary employment and health. We tested the violation hypothesis (whether permanent employment increases the health risk associated with job insecurity) and the intensification hypothesis (whether temporary employment increases the health risk associated with job insecurity) in a longitudinal setting. Previous research on this topic is scarce and based on cross-sectional data.

Métodos

Methods. A population cohort (n=1071) was surveyed at age 30 and age 42. Exposure to temporary employment during this 12-year period was elicited with a job-time matrix and measured as the score of 6-month periods. Exposure to job insecurity was measured according to the perceived threat of unemployment. Health at follow-up was assessed as optimal versus suboptimal self-rated health, sleep quality and mental health. In addition to sociodemographics and baseline health, the analyses were adjusted for exposure to unemployment, non-employment and self-employment during the 12-year period.

Resultados

Results. 26% of participants had been exposed to temporary employment. The effect of job insecurity on health was the same in the exposed and unexposed groups, that is the violation hypothesis was not supported. Non-significant interactions between the exposures and all health outcomes also indicated null findings regarding the intensification hypothesis.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. These findings suggest that perceived job insecurity can lead to adverse health effects in both permanent and temporary employees. Policies should aim to improve work-related well-being by reducing job insecurity. Efforts towards 'flexicurity' are important, but it is equally important to remember that a significant proportion of employees with a permanent contract experience job insecurity.

Artículo Nº10

Revista: OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE - 2011; 68:611-617

Título

Under-estimation of self-reported occupational exposure by questionnaire in hospital workers (Infraestimación de la exposición laboral autopercebida mediante cuestionarios en trabajadores hospitalarios).

Autores

Donnay C, Denis MA, Magis R et al.

Objetivos

Objectives. The aim of the study was to determine whether self-reported occupational exposure to cleaning/disinfecting agents in hospital workers is accurate, in comparison to expert assessment, taken to be the gold standard.

Métodos

Methods. In the Epidemiological Study of the Genetics and Environment of Asthma (EGEA), participants were interviewed on occupation with a specific questionnaire for hospital workers regarding tasks and cleaning/disinfecting agents. Two estimates of exposure were available: self-report and expert assessment. The expert assessment involved a standardised procedure to estimate intensity, frequency and probability of exposure for each job. The present analysis focused on eight exposures: formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, bleach/chlorine, alcohol, quaternary ammonium components, ammonia, sprays and latex gloves. Agreement and differences between self-reported and expert estimates were studied by kappa and phi coefficients and McNemar tests, respectively.

Resultados

Results. In the survey of 1571 adults, 176 ever hospital workers (327 occupations) with both self-reported and expert exposure assessments were studied. An underestimation of self-reported exposure was observed especially for formaldehyde (26.5% vs 32.7%, $p=0.01$), ammonia (7.4% vs 18.8%, $p<0.0001$), alcohol (64.9% vs 93.0%, $p<0.0001$) and quaternary ammonium components (16.6% vs 70.9%, $p<0.0001$), compared to expert assessment.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Occupational exposure to disinfecting/cleaning agents is common and high in hospitals. A large underestimation of self-reported exposure and a lack of knowledge of product components was observed. Our results show the relevance of expert assessment in epidemiological studies to limit measurement bias. This work underlines the need for health education programmes on the occupational risks induced by these types of products.

Artículo Nº11

Revista: OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE - 2011; 68:666-673

Título

Dual role of physical workload and occupational noise in the association of the metabolic syndrome with risk of coronary heart disease: findings from the Helsinki Heart Study (Doble papel de la carga física de trabajo y ruido laboral en la asociación del síndrome metabólico con el riesgo de enfermedad coronaria: hallazgos del Estudio de Helsinki del Corazón).

Autores

Koskinen HL, Kauppinen T, Tenkanen L et al.

Objetivos

Objectives. Previous evidence indicates that occupational exposure to physical workload or noise entails development of hypertension and risk of coronary heart disease (CHD). However, vigorous physical activity lessens the risks of the metabolic syndrome (MetS) and CHD. We explored this issue by studying the joint effect of physical workload or noise and MetS on risk of CHD.

Métodos

Methods. This 18-year follow-up study comprised 1502 middle-aged men employed in industry who participated in the second screening for the Helsinki Heart Study but were not treated with gemfibrozil, the trial drug. The CHD endpoints (ICD-9 codes 410-414 and ICD-10 codes 120-125) were obtained from official Finnish registers. The Finnish job-exposure matrix FINJEM provided information on occupational exposures. The joint effect of baseline MetS levels and both occupational exposures was estimated using Cox's regression models.

Resultados

Results. Workload and noise increased CHD risk due to increased blood pressure, glucose or body mass index (BMI), separately or combined: the joint effect of workload and MetS defined using these three components yielded an RR of 5.21 (95% CI 2.70 to 10.05). However, when MetS was defined using elevated BMI, high triglycerides and low high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, an RR of 2.19 (95% CI 1.11 to 4.30) among those with MetS only reduced to 1.20 (95% CI 0.61 to 2.35) if concurrently exposed to workload.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Occupational exposure to workload or noise modifies CHD risk differently depending on which definition of MetS is used. In the presence of physical workload or noise, hypertension and blood glucose were the best predictors.

Artículo Nº12

Revista: SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF WORK ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH - 2011; 37(4):325-331

Título

Lung function, bronchial hyperresponsiveness, and atopy among firefighters (Función pulmonar, hiperreactividad bronquial y atopia en bombeos).

Autores

Greven F, Krop E, Spithoven J, Rooyackers J, Kerstjens H, Heederik D.

Objetivos

Objective. The aim of this study was to determine associations between lung function, bronchial hyperresponsiveness (BHR), and atopy with exposure to fire smoke among firefighters.

Métodos

Methods. The study was comprised of 402 firefighters, a randomly chosen subset of a previous survey among firefighters in the Netherlands. Subjects underwent spirometry and methacholine provocation, and blood samples were taken to assess atopy. Exposure to fire smoke was registered by a questionnaire.

Resultados

Results. Hyperresponsiveness expressed as dose-response slope (DRS) was positively and significantly associated with the number of fires fought in the last 12 months with and without adjustments for smoking, gender, atopy, age, and exposure in the main job held. Limiting the analysis to firefighters without exposure within 7 days of testing did not change any of the associations. The association between the number of fires and the DRS was stronger among atopics, and hyperresponsiveness expressed as PD₂₀ was also significantly associated, indicating that atopics are at higher risk of developing BHR as a result of smoke exposure. Respiratory protection devices were not optimally used.

Conclusiones

Conclusion. It is recommended that awareness be heightened among firefighters to avoid exposure to all fire smoke and that management be sensitive to the adequate use of self-contained breathing apparatuses by their personnel.

Artículo Nº13

Revista: SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF WORK ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH - 2011; 37(4):298-306

Título

Comparison of research case definitions for carpal tunnel syndrome (Comparación de definiciones de caso de investigación en síndrome del túnel carpiano).

Autores

Descatha A, Dale A-M, Franzblau A, Coomes J, Evanoff B.

Objetivos

Objective. The aim of this study was to assess agreement between different case definitions of carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) for epidemiological studies.

Métodos

Methods. We performed a literature search for papers suggesting case definitions for use in epidemiological studies of CTS. Using data elements based on symptom questionnaires, hand diagrams, physical examinations, and nerve conduction studies collected from 1107 newly-hired workers, each subject in the study was classified according to each of the case definitions selected from the literature. We compared each case definition to every other case definition, using the Kappa statistic to measure pair-wise agreement on whether each subject met the case definition.

Resultados

Results. We found six unique papers in a 20-year period suggesting a case definition of CTS for use in population-based studies. We extracted seven case definitions. Definitions included different parameters: (i) symptoms only, (ii) symptoms and physical examination, (iii) symptoms and either physical examination or median nerve conduction study, and (iv) symptoms and nerve conduction study. When applied to our study population, the prevalence of CTS using different case definitions ranged from 2.5-11.0%. The percentage of misclassification was between 1-10%, with generally acceptable levels of agreement (kappa values ranged from 0.30-0.85).

Conclusiones

Conclusion. Different case definitions resulted in widely varying prevalences of CTS. Agreement between case definitions was generally good, particularly between those that required very specific symptoms or the combination of symptoms and physical examination or nerve conduction. The agreement observed between different case definitions suggests that the results can be compared across different research studies of risk factors for CTS.

Artículo Nº14

Revista: SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF WORK ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH - 2011;37(4):288-297

Título

Effect of job maintenance training program for employees with chronic disease - a randomized controlled trial on self-efficacy, job satisfaction, and fatigue (Efecto del programa de capacitación para el trabajo de mantenimiento para los empleados con enfermedades crónicas - un ensayo controlado aleatorio en la auto-eficacia, la satisfacción en el trabajo y la fatiga).

Autores

Varekamp I, Verbeek JH, de Boer A, van Dijk FJH.

Objetivos

Objective. Employees with a chronic physical condition may be hampered in job performance due to physical or cognitive limitations, pain, fatigue, psychosocial barriers, or because medical treatment interferes with work. This study investigates the effect of a group-training program aimed at job maintenance. Essential elements of the program are exploration of work-related problems, communication at the workplace, and the development and implementation of solutions.

Métodos

Methods. Participants with chronic physical diseases were randomly assigned to the intervention (N=64) or the control group (N=58). Participants were eligible for the study if they had a chronic physical disease, paid employment, experienced work-related problems, and were not on long-term 100% sick leave. Primary outcome measures were self-efficacy in solving work- and disease-related problems (14-70), job dissatisfaction (0-100), fatigue (20-140) and job maintenance measured at 4-, 8-, 12- and 24-month follow-up. We used GLM repeated measures for the analysis.

Resultados

Results. After 24 months, loss to follow-up was 5.7% (7/122). Self-efficacy increased and fatigue decreased significantly more in the experimental than the control group [10 versus 4 points (P=0.000) and 19 versus 8 points (P=0.032), respectively]. Job satisfaction increased more in the experimental group but not significantly [6 versus 0 points (P=0.698)]. Job maintenance was 87% in the experimental and 91% in the control group, which was not a significant difference. Many participants in the control group also undertook actions to solve work-related problems.

Conclusiones

Conclusion. Empowerment training increases self-efficacy and helps to reduce fatigue complaints, which in the long term could lead to more job maintenance. Better understanding of ways to deal with work-related problems is needed to develop more efficient support for employees with a chronic disease.

Artículo Nº15

Revista: SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF WORK ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH - 2011;37(5):427-436

Título

Pesticide exposure and risk of Parkinson's disease - a population-based case-control study evaluating the potential for recall bias (Exposición a pesticidas y riesgo de enfermedad de Parkinson - un estudio de casos y controles de base poblacional para evaluar el potencial de sesgo de recuerdo).

Autores

Rugbjerg K, Harris MA, Shen H, Marion SA, Tsui JKC, Teschke K.

Objetivos

Objective. The aim of this study was to investigate whether pesticide exposure was associated with Parkinson's disease in a population-based case-control study in British Columbia, Canada.

Métodos

Methods. Patients reimbursed for anti-parkinsonian agents were identified and screened for eligibility as cases. Controls were selected from the universal health insurance database, frequency-matched to the case sample on birth year, gender, and geographic region. A total of 403 cases and 405 controls were interviewed about their job, medical and personal habits histories, and beliefs about disease risk factors. Among those reporting pesticide exposure, an occupational hygiene review selected participants exposed "beyond background" (ie, above the level expected in the general population). Unconditional logistic regression was used to estimate associations for different pesticide categories.

Resultados

Results. Of the cases, 74 (18%) self-reported pesticide exposure and 37 (9%) were judged to be exposed beyond background. Self-reported exposure was associated with increased risk [odds ratio (OR) 1.76, 95% confidence interval (95% CI) 1.15–2.70], however the risk estimate was reduced following the hygiene review when restricted to those considered exposed (OR, 1.51, 95% CI, 0.85–2.69). When agricultural work was added to the model, the risk for hygiene-reviewed pesticide exposure was not elevated (OR 0.83, 95% CI 0.43–1.61), but agricultural work was (OR 2.47, 95% CI 1.18–5.15). More than twice as many cases as controls thought chemicals cause Parkinson's disease.

Discusión

Discussion. This study provides little support for pesticide exposure as a cause of Parkinson's disease. The observed pattern of step-wise decreases in risk estimates might indicate differential recall by case status. The relationship to agricultural jobs suggests that farming exposures - other than pesticides - should be considered as risk factors for Parkinson's disease.

Artículo Nº16

Revista: SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF WORK ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH - 2011;37(5):394-401

Título

Risk factors for de Quervain's disease in a French working population (Factores de riesgo de la enfermedad de De Quervain en una población laboral francesa).

Autores

Petit Le Manac'h A, Roquelaure Y, Ha C, Bodin J, Meyer G, Bigot F, Veaudor M, Descatha A, Goldberg M, Imbernon E.

Objetivos

Objective. De Quervain's disease (DQD) is a significant cause of musculoskeletal pain among workers. The aim of this study was to assess the relative importance of personal and occupational risk factors for DQD in a working population.

Métodos

Methods. A total of 3710 workers from a French region were randomly included in the cross-sectional study between 2002-2005. There were 45 subjects with DQD (of these, 5 subjects had a bilateral condition), diagnosed by 83 trained occupational physicians performing a standardized physical examination. Individual factors and work exposure were assessed by a standardized physical and a self-administered questionnaire. Statistical associations between DQD and individual and occupational factors were analyzed using logistic regression modeling in the whole sample and among women.

Resultados

Results. The prevalence rates of uni- or bilateral DQD for the whole, male and female working populations were 1.2% [95% confidence interval (95% CI) 0.9-1.6], 0.6% (95% CI 0.3-0.9) and 2.1% (95% CI 1.4-2.8), respectively. Personal risk factors for DQD were mainly age (1.1 for 1-year increase in age) and female gender [odds ratio (OR) 4.9, 95% CI 2.4-10.1]. Work-related factors were workplace dependent on (i) technical organization (OR 2.0, 95% CI 1.0-4.0), (ii) repeated or sustained wrist bending in extreme posture (OR 2.6, 95% CI 1.3-5.3) and (iii) repeated movements associated with the twisting or driving of screws (OR 3.4, 95% CI 1.7-7.1). No association was found with psychosocial factors.

Conclusión

Conclusion. Personal and work-related factors were associated with DQD in the working population; wrist bending and movements associated with the twisting or driving of screws were the most significant of the work-related factors.

Artículo Nº17

Revista: THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE - 2011; 365:1075-1077

Título*Health Care Policy in an Age of Austerity (Políticas de salud en época de austeridad).***Autores**

Oberlander J.

Abstract

As they focus on the budget deficit, policymakers eye savings from federal health programs. Fiscal concerns may enhance the prospects for stronger cost controls, but they may also produce “reforms” that are mere exercises in cost shifting.

Acceso a artículo completo<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1109352>

Artículo Nº18

Revista: ARCHIVOS DE PREVENCIÓN DE RIESGOS LABORALES - 2011; 14 (3): 147-149

Título*Adaptación de un puesto de trabajo con tareas de reconstitución de citostáticos para una trabajadora sanitaria alérgica al látex.***Autores**

Sol J, LosadaN, Catalán T, Castellás C.

Resumen

Se describe un caso de mejora del puesto de trabajo para la adaptación de las condiciones de trabajo de una trabajadora sanitaria en una unidad de hospitalización. La trabajadora presentaba alergia grave por contacto con las proteínas de látex, con desarrollo de angioedema y broncoespasmo. Por promoción interna, la trabajadora demanda el puesto de trabajo en hospital de día y reconstitución de citostáticos en farmacia, donde se planteó la dificultad para la adaptación del nuevo puesto de trabajo, especialmente de las tareas para la reconstitución de citostáticos en las que se utilizaban guantes de látex. Con la introducción de guantes sintéticos, estériles, libres de látex y tiuranos, aptos para la reconstitución de citostáticos en cabina de seguridad, hemos adaptado y mejorado las condiciones de trabajo en el caso de la enfermera, disminuyendo también la probabilidad de sensibilización a las proteínas de látex en el área de trabajo para el resto de trabajadores de la unidad.

Artículo Nº19

Revista: REVISTA DE MEDICINA DEL TRABAJO - 2011; 20 (1): 14-20

Título*Nivel de riesgo personal a partir de la evaluación de riesgos y vigilancia de la salud.***Autores**

Errazkin A, Collazos A, Galíndez I.

Resumen

Como resultado de la vigilancia de la salud, el servicio médico realiza un análisis del trabajador y del puesto a ocupar, emitiendo el certificado de aptitud, que puede contemplar restricciones para determinados puestos.

Este proceso conlleva una decisión que en los casos más complicados suele generar dudas en su análisis y conclusiones diferentes entre diferentes médicos e incluso en el mismo profesional. Se presenta una herramienta y una sistemática de actuación que permite valorar el nivel de riesgo personal para cada trabajador y puesto de trabajo, aportando a su vez criterios objetivos que reducen la variabilidad intra e interobservador, facilitando el análisis, tanto de la decisión sobre la aptitud del trabajador, como en la evaluación y propuestas de mejora.