

Work-related respiratory symptoms and pulmonary function tests in Iranian printers

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Abstract

Objectives: To assess lung function tests and self-reported frequency of work related respiratory and allergic symptoms among subjects working as printers. **Methods:** This study was carried out from June to October 2007 in Mashhad city, Iran. The frequency of work-related respiratory and allergy symptoms was studied in a sample of 77 printers (group I), and 77 matched controls (group II) using a questionnaire in the past year. Pulmonary function tests (PFT) were also measured in group I and group II. **Results:** A total of 30 (39%) subjects from group I reported work-related respiratory symptoms. Breathlessness (30%) and cough (27%) was the most common symptoms, and 16.0% in group I reported wheezing during work. All respiratory symptoms in group I were significantly greater than those in group II ($p=0.004$ to $p=0.002$). Allergic symptoms (except urticaria) were also significantly greater in group I than those in group II ($p=0.048$ to $p=0.009$). In addition, respiratory and allergic symptoms were greater during work compared with the rest period, which was significant for cough, breathlessness, and runny nose ($p<0.01$ to $p<0.009$ for all cases). All PFT values were also significantly lower in group I compared to group II ($p=0.006$ to $p<0.0001$). **Conclusion:** Printing work is associated with a high frequency of work related respiratory and allergic symptoms particularly during work period. The PFT values were also significantly reduced among subjects in group I.

Indexed Keywords

EMTREE medical terms: adult; article; controlled study; coughing; dyspnea; eye irritation; human; industrial worker; Iran; lung function test; major clinical study; male; occupational allergy; occupational disease; printing; questionnaire; respiratory tract disease; rhinorrhea; self report; sneezing; symptom; urticaria; wheezing

MeSH: Adult; Case-Control Studies; Cross-Sectional Studies; Humans; Iran; Male; Occupational Exposure; Respiratory Function Tests; Respiratory System

Medline is the source for the MeSH terms of this document.

ISSN: 1329-0284 **CODEN:** SAMJ **Source Type:** Journal **Original language:** English

PubMed ID: 1970262 **Document Type:** Article