

Pulmonary function tests and work-related respiratory and allergic symptoms in Iranian bakers

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Abstract

Bakers are frequently exposed to various irritant chemicals during work which can induce respiratory problems. In this study, pulmonary function tests and self-reported respiratory and allergic symptoms in bakers were compared with matched control subjects. The frequency of respiratory and allergic symptoms was evaluated in a sample of 20 Iranian bakers and 20 control subjects using a questionnaire. Pulmonary function tests (PFT) were also measured in all participants. All respiratory symptoms were significantly higher in bakers than control group ($p < 0.05$ to $p < 0.005$). All allergic symptoms in bakers were also significantly greater than control group ($p < 0.05$ to $p < 0.005$). In addition, all respiratory (except sputum) and allergic (except urticaria) symptoms were significantly higher in bakers compared to rest period ($p < 0.05$ to $p < 0.01$) during work. Most PFT values except MEF_{75} were also significantly lower in bakers than control subjects ($p < 0.05$ to $p < 0.01$). These results showed that bakers have a higher frequency of work related respiratory symptoms and to a lesser extend allergic symptoms particularly during the work period. PFT values were also significantly reduced among bakers. Copyright© 2009, Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Allergic symptoms; Bakers; Pulmonary function test; Respiratory symptoms

Indexed Keywords

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