# THE INFLUENCE OF WORKING CONDITIONS, HEALTH STATUS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF WORKERS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF WORKPLACE INJURIES

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Workplace injuries represent an important medical, social and economic burden. The aim of this study was to analyze the impact of harmful workplace conditions and gender, age and other characteristics of workers, on the occurrence of workplace injuries. The studied (case) group included 1950 workers who had at least one workplace injury in the period of one year (January-December, 2011). The control group consisted of 1450 workers who had no workplace injuries in the same period of time, and who had similar jobs (factory workers). For both groups, hazards and risks were measured at their workplaces (microclimate factors, illumination, noise, dust, air pollution, chemical hazards). For all workers, the data about gender, age, total length of employment, work characteristics, education, marital status were collected, as well as their working, personal, family and social anamnesis, and detailed clinical examination and additional analyses (laboratory, electrocardiography, spirometry, audiometry and anthropometry) were performed. There was a higher prevalence of neuroses, arterial hypertension, eye diseases, hearing disturbances, and overweight and obesity in the exposed group compared to controls. The factors such as inadequate working conditions, younger age of workers, less working experience, lower level of education, and presence of specific health conditions and diseases, are significantly related to the occurrence of workplace injuries.
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**Key words:** workplace injury, noise, air pollution, professional risk, worker health condition