

Conclusions:

The results of the study show significantly worse health status for the unemployed, although the reemployed also have worse health in comparison to the survivors, who in turn have worse health than the general population. These results could be direct or indirect consequences of company restructuring.

Key messages:

- Company restructuring can be associated with poorer health, especially mental health, for all employees affected.
- When comparing different groups of employees affected by restructuring, the unemployed are the group with the poorest health.

Working with depression is experienced as a constant balancing act that includes presenteeism

Angelique De Rijk

L Keijsers¹, I Houkes¹, S Stock², A de Rijk¹

¹Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands

²University Hospital of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Contact: A.deRijk@BEOZ.unimaas.nl

Background:

Depression is an important reason for work disability. However, employees diagnosed with depression can still work. An estimated 7-10% of the Dutch working force suffers from depression. Research shows not only increased sickness absence but also increased sickness presence (presenteeism) in employees with depression. Research tends to emphasize the costs compared to healthy employees rather than the advantages of participating in paid work by those with long-lasting medical conditions. The aim was to study how Dutch employees with diagnosed depression experience presenteeism and absenteeism, and to what extent the Health Productivity Questionnaire (HPQ) taps their experiences.

Methods:

Semi-structured interviews were held with a purposive sample of 13 employees diagnosed with depression, transcribed verbatim and analyzed thematically.

Results:

Having depression is experienced as a constant balancing act around three decisions: (1) to seek help for depression or not, (2) to disclose about depression or not, and (3) to be present at work or not. Decisions are made in the context of workplace support. The balancing act affects the depression and work functioning. Presenteeism reflects either ignoring symptoms or a deliberate decision supported by the workplace. Workplace support includes: 1) supervisors creating work adjustments (work structure, content and social environment); 2) occupational physicians advising about work adjustments, and monitoring and supporting the employee. The HPQ is easily misunderstood by these employees with depression, leading to distortion or social desirable answers.

Conclusions:

Workplace support for employees with depression includes work adjustments and a positive social environment. Still, this support will not decrease the constant decision-making or presenteeism. The study sheds new light on the experience and measurement of presenteeism in employees diagnosed with depression.

Key messages:

- Workplace support for employees with depression includes work adjustments and a positive social environment but does not decrease the constant decision-making about work attendance nor presenteeism.
- The Health Productivity Questionnaire was easily misunderstood by employees with depression, leading to distortion or social desirable answers.

Contamination in stethoscopes, a retrospective review

Gioia Fineschi

G Messina¹, G Fineschi¹, MA Battaglia², JAH Oliver³, N Nante¹

¹Post Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Molecular and

Developmental Medicine, University of Siena, Italy, Siena, Italy

²Post Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Life Sciences,

University of Siena, Italy, Siena, Italy

³University of Granada, Granada, Spain

Contact: fineschi16@student.unisi.it

Background:

The contamination of healthcare workers' stethoscopes is a well known and proven fact that has been assessed widely in the latest years. Considering that these devices are frequently in contact with patients's skin, they become fomites for both pathogenic and non pathogenic bacteria, protozoos and, less frequently, viruses. The aim of this review was to evaluate the contamination of stethoscopes in terms of frequency, quantity and type of microorganisms in the existent literature.

Methods:

Articles related in English, Spanish and Italian from 1996 to 2018 were searched in virtual library of SAS (Servicio Andaluz de Salud) and Pubmed using the following keywords: 'Stethoscope contamination', 'Stethoscope and nosocomial infection', 'Stethoscope and HCAI' and 'Stethoscope microbiology'.

Results:

The literature search yielded a total number of - articles; - were discarded because they were not in line with the aim of our review. Coagulase Negative Staphylococci (CoNS) and Staphylococcus Aureus were the main microorganisms found. A higher percentage of contamination was found in the studies from third world countries.

Conclusions:

Stethoscopes have an high contamination of microorganisms. Some of them are also involved in Hospital Acquired Infections. The frequency of use of this tool and its abitual contamination suggest the application of a disinfection procedure.

Key messages:

- Stethoscopes as an important fomite per both pathogenic and non pathogenic bacteria, protozoos and viruses.
- Lack of standardized protocols: this can spread the problem.

Quality of life in patients with achalasia: a systematic review

Claudia Cuccaro

C Cuccaro¹, G Troiano¹, N Nante¹, F Cocchi², F Moirano³, G Messina¹

¹Post Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Molecular and

Developmental Medicine, University of Siena, Siena, Italy

²Staff Training Unit, LHA Umbria, Perugia, Italy

³General Management, LHA Sardinia, Sassari, Italy

Contact: claudia.cuccaro@student.unisi.it

Background:

Achalasia is a primary motility disorder of esophagus; nowadays all the available treatments are only palliative. Quality of Life (QoL) is an important, although indirect, indicator to compare different therapeutic modalities. We performed a systematic review in order to study the changes in QoL in patients with achalasia who underwent several kind of surgery or invasive treatments.

Methods:

In January-February 2018, we searched studies in PubMed using the key search terms "quality of life, achalasia". We included case control, cohort, prospective and retrospective studies in English.

Results:

The research yielded 156 publications: after title, abstract and full text's analysis, 32 manuscripts were included in this review. The studies were conducted from 1995 to 2017 in USA, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Portugal, UK, France, Netherlands, Sweden, China and included from 19 to 244 patients.

Many scores were used like Short Form-36, Eckardt score, Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease Health Related questionnaire and the results showed the existence of a relationship between the severity of symptoms and QoL. Many aspects of QoL significantly improved after treatment and they were not significantly deteriorated by presence of residual, mild

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Plenary Sessions
3. Parallel Programme
4. Poster Walks
5. Poster Displays

