

Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders



M.H. Vaziri M.D,MPH,PhD Health Promotion Specialist Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

What Does Ergonomics Mean?

* Make the work fit the person, not the person fit the work"

WORK-RELATED MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS WMSDs are sometimes referred to using other unfamiliar terms such as :

- 1. Cumulative Trauma Disorders CTD
- 2. Repetitive Trauma Disorders RTD
- 3. Repetitive Strain Injuries RSI
- 4. Repeated Motion Disorders RMD
- 5. Overuse Syndromes

Signs or Symptoms of WMSDs

Painful joints

- Pain in wrists, shoulders, forearms, knees, etc.
- Pain, tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- Fingers or toes turning white
- Shooting or stabbing pains in arms or legs
- Back or neck pain
- Swelling or inflammation
- Stiffness
- Burning sensations
- Weakness or clumsiness in hands; dropping things

ERGONOMICS

Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WMSDs) are occupational disorders that involve soft tissues such as muscles, tendons, ligaments, joints, blood vessels and nerves



Ergonomical (Job) Risk Factors

Sustained or Repeated Application of Force

- Sustained Awkward Postures
 Rapid, Repeated Motion
- > Vibration
- Mechanical Contact Stress
- Cold Temperatures
- Static Postures

What is The Musculoskeletal System?

The Musculoskeletal System includes the following:

- **1.** Bones The load-bearing structure of the body
- 2. Muscles- Tissue that contract to create movement
- **3.** Tendons Tissues that connect muscles to bones
- 4. Ligaments Tissues that connect bones to bones
- 5. Cartilage Tissue that provides cushioning and reduces friction between bones
- 6. Nerves Communication system that links muscles, tendons and other tissue with the brain
- 7. Blood Vessels Tubes that circulate nutrients throughout the body

What Are Examples of WMSDs?

- 1. Sprain Overstretching or overexertion of a ligament that results in a tear or rupture of the ligament
- 2. Strain Overstretching or overexertion of a muscle or tendon
- 3. Tendonitis Inflammation of the tendon inside the sheath
- 4. Tenosynovitis Inflammation of the sheath around the tendon
- 5. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Compression of the median nerve as it passes through the carpal tunnel in the heel of the hand

What are Examples of WMSDs?

- 6. Tennis elbow or Golfer's elbow Medical term is Epicondylitis – inflammation of the tendons at the elbow.
- 7. Trigger Finger Common term for tendonitis or tenosynovitis that causes painful locking of the finger(s) while flexing
- 8. Pitcher's Shoulder Rotator cuff tendonitis inflammation of one or more tendons at the shoulder
- 9. White Finger Medical term is Reynaud's Phenomenon constriction of the blood vessels in the hands and fingers
- **10. Digital Neuritis Compression of the nerves along the sides of the fingers or thumbs**

Injury in the Sport











Examples of work











Anatomy of a Tendon



Tendonitis

- Tendon function:
 - Transmit force from muscle to bone
- Micro tears of tendon occur daily
- Typically repair themselves
- With repeated loading repair is not adequate
- Pain / Inflammation

Carpal Tunnel



Carpal Tunnel

- Best known MSD
- Compression of the median nerve at the wrist
- Tunnel made up of nine flexor tendons and one peripheral nerve
- Numbness and tingling on the thumb side of the hand



Transverse carpal ligament: This very strong ligament forms the "roof" of the carpal tunnel.

Carpal tunnel: The -space in the center of the wrist containing the flexor tendons and the median nerve. Carpal bones: A U-shaped cluster of eight bones at the base of the palm forms the floor and two sides of the tunnel.

Flexor tendons: These tendons encircle the median nerve and form the major contents of the tunnel.



Surgical Release of Tunnel



The ligament is released and the tunnel springs open, easing pressure on the nerve.

Tennis Elbow Syndrome









Micro-tearing at the Elbow

















Cubital Tunnel Syndrome Symptoms



Reynaud's Phenomenon or "White Finger"

 Caused by operating vibrating machinery – especially in cold, damp weather





Hand-Arm Vibration







What are the Symptoms?



Who is at Risk?



- Those with a disease that reduces blood flow
- Workers in cold and damp conditions

Who is at Risk?



Workers using vibrating tools

Workers in contact with cold tools

Prevention

Low vibration tools Use the right tool for the job **Tool maintenance Reduce amount of time using the tool Keep hands & handles warm** New approach to your job **Anti-vibration gloves**

Twisting at the waist while lifting or holding a heavy load . . . this frequently happens when using a shovel



Reaching and lifting . . . over your head, across a table, or out the back of a truck



Working in awkward, uncomfortable positions . . .



Sitting or standing too long in one position . . . sitting can be very hard on the lower back



It is also possible to injure your back slipping on a wet floor or ice . . .



Prevent Back Injuries

- Avoid lifting and bending whenever you can
- Place objects up off the floor
- Raise/lower shelves.
- Use carts and dollies
- Use cranes, hoists, lift tables, and other liftassist devices whenever you can
- Test the weight of an object before lifting by picking up a corner
- Get help if it's too heavy for you to lift it alone

Thanks for your attention