

The Effects of vocational rehabilitation for occupational accidents labor

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Background

According to the Ministry of Labor statistics in 2016, there were 52198 cases with work-related injuries and illness in Taiwan. We established a vocational rehabilitation center in our hospital to help occupational accidents labor. The purpose of the program was to provide individuals with occupational injuries instant information and to assist workers to return to their workplace.

Methods

The center mainly recruited patients suspected with workplace-related injury via other medical departments referral. After referral, we ensured the diagnosis and established personal archives. For those whose recovery time was over one month, we provided health education, information of social services and referral to the Kaohsiung City Government Labor Affairs Bureau. When workers' condition improved, we provided interventions included evaluation and facilitation of ability to work, social adjustment counseling, and occupational accommodation. This study summarized the characteristics of labor we provided interventions as aforementioned from September 2016 to August 2017.

Results

Sixty workers completed screening from September 2016 to August 2017 and was introduced to our services. Forty employees received evaluation and facilitation of ability to work. During our follow up at one, three and six months after intervention, 33 returned to their job.(Figure 1) Seven cases remained unemployed for reasons as listed in table 1.

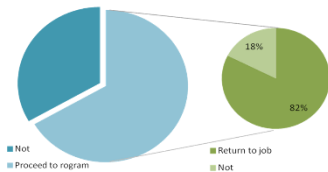


Figure 1. Demographics of respondents

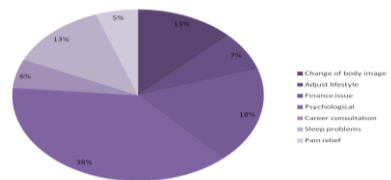


Figure 2. Reasons for seeking counseling services

For social adjustment counseling, fourteen cases were referred to counseling after screening. However, four of whom refused our intervention. The ten cases who underwent counseling were satisfied with the service (table 2). During our interview, six cases said they had more ideas in coping problems. All ten cases were satisfied with the counseling services.

Labor return to workplace	Reason	Number
Former job	Job content unchanged	21
	Job content changed	6
New job	Job content unchanged	2
	Job content changed	4
Not returned to job	Ready to return	3
	Personal reason	2
	Wage agreement	1
	WDA referral	1

Number	Question	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1	I feel the therapist care about me	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(10%)	9(90%)
2	I understand my situation	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(20%)	8(80%)
3	I have more practical strategies	0(0%)	0(0%)	4(40%)	6(60%)
4	I could cope with my problems	0(0%)	0(0%)	6(60%)	4(40%)
5	I am satisfied with the counseling	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	10(100%)

Table 1. Analysis of labor's return to work

Table 2. Satisfaction questionnaire analysis

Five cases had the need for occupational accommodation in our study. If the current working environment or equipment was not eligible for the workers, we informed the government bureau for occupational accommodation. Through the service program, we helped the workers adjust to their work via ways of the use of orthosis or accessory devices. Furthermore, in corporation with the government, we made suggestions to promote equipment, safety at work. With the support of Occupational safety and health administration, ministry of labor, Taiwan, we established a more integrated and more comprehensive service delivery system for patients with occupational injury.

