

The assessment of work endurance in European countries



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Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

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DISCLOSURE

I have no potential conflict of interest to report



Agenda

- Introduction
- Aims
- Method
- Results
- Conclusion
- Next step



Introduction



Definition:

Work endurance is the number of hours per day and per week a (disabled) person is able to work.

An insurance physician assesses the amount of reduction of work endurance by ill-health.

An incorrect assessment may lead to over- or underestimation of a persons workability.

There is a discussion on the definition of work endurance and on the lack of a scientific basis for methods to assess it.



Aims

- to explore whether the assessment of work endurance is part of the assessment of work disability in other European countries
- if so, how impaired work endurance is measured
- contribute to an inventory of knowledge about the practice of work disability assessment in European countries



Method

Design:

- survey study

Sample:

- 35 representatives at the EUMASS council from 19 member states

Instrument:

- web based questionnaire (Unipark)
- 14 semi-structured questions
- 9 open ended questions



Method

Survey topics:



- (1) Sample (country, profession, work)
- (2) Work endurance (part of assessment, rules, working hours)
- (3) Accepted causes for restricted work endurance
- (4) Who performs disability assessment
- (5) Methods of work endurance assessment
- (6) Controversy on work endurance assessment



Sample

- 24 respondents (69%)
from 16 countries (84%)
completed the questionnaire
- 13 insurance physicians (54%)
- 6 medical advisors (25%)
- 5 other (21%)

- 18 (75%) perform disability assessments
- 6 (25%) involved other way



Work endurance

- Is assessment of work endurance part of disability assessment:
Yes: 18 (75.0%)
No : 6 (25.0%)
- Formal rules/ guidelines for assessment of work endurance:
Yes: 14 (58.0%)
No : 10 (42.0%)
- What is seen as normal working hours per day:
mean: 7.9 (SD 0.2)
range: 7.4 – 8.3
- What is seen as normal working hours per week:
mean: 39.2 (SD 1.7)
range: 35.0 – 42.0

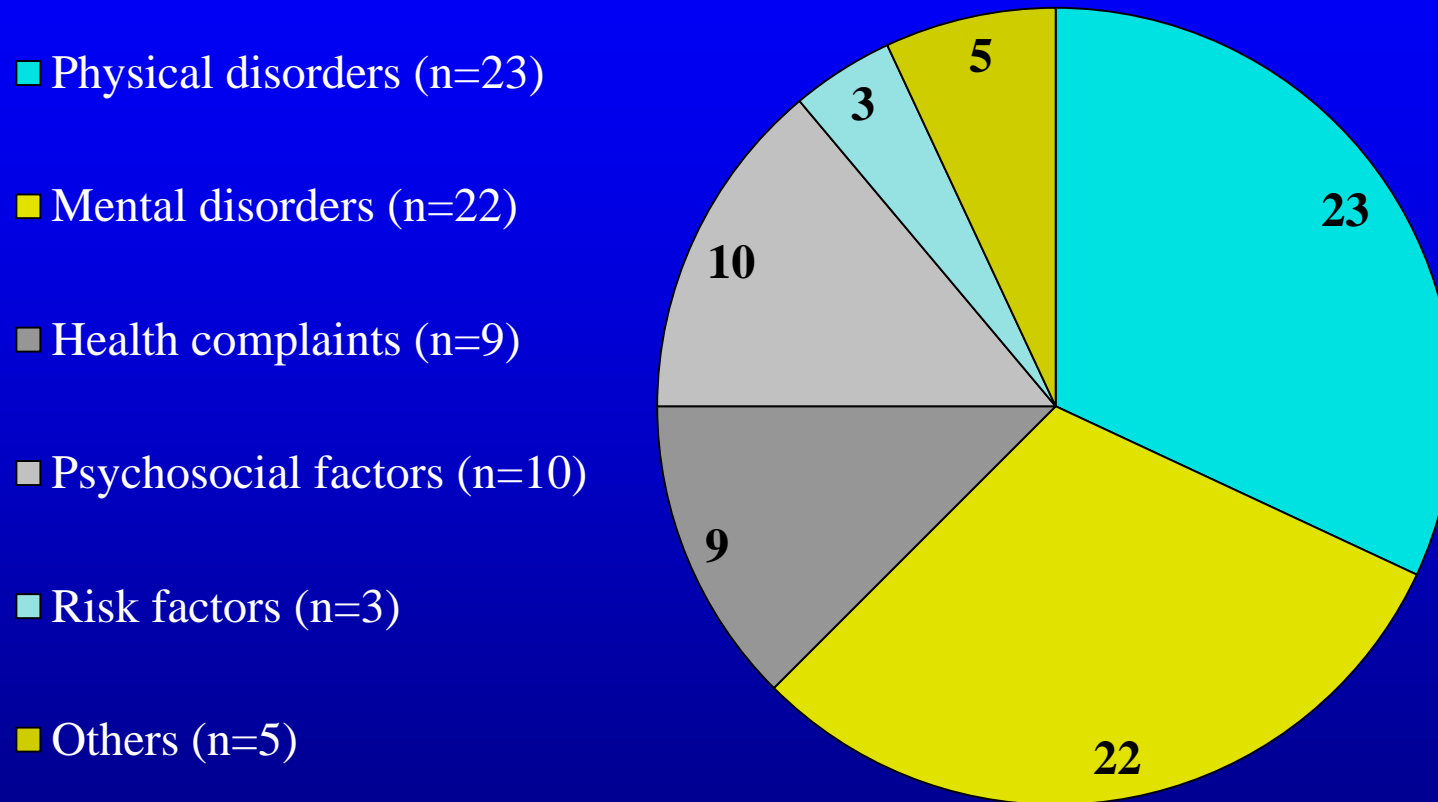


Work endurance assessment per country

Country	Part of disability assessment	Formal rules or guidelines
Belgium	yes	no
Croatia	yes	no
Czech Republic	yes	yes
Finland	no	no
France	yes	yes
Germany	yes	yes
Italy	yes	no
Norway	yes	yes
Poland	no	yes
Romania	yes	yes
Slovakia	yes	yes
Slovenia	yes	yes
Sweden	yes	yes
Switzerland	yes	no
The Netherlands	yes	yes
United Kingdom	no	no

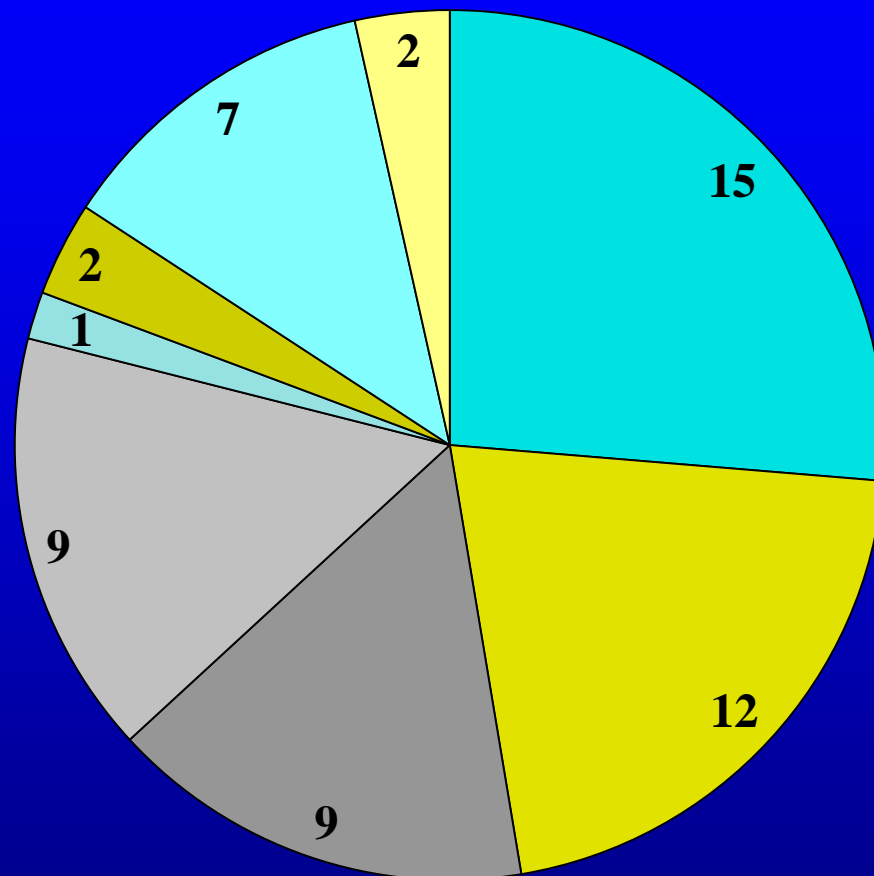


Accepted causes for restricted work endurance



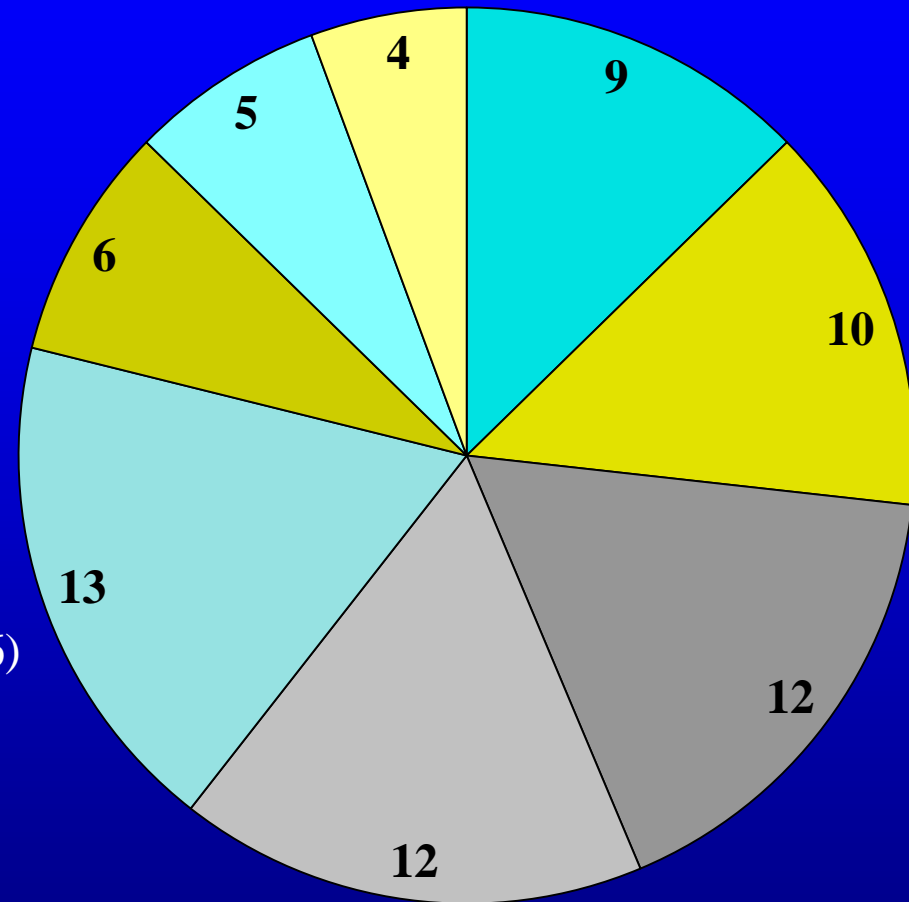
Assessment work endurance by

- Insurance Physician (n=15)
- Occupational Physician (n=12)
- General Practitioner (n=9)
- Medical Specialist (n=9)
- Labour Expert (n=1)
- Case Manager (n=2)
- Rehabilitation Specialist (n=7)
- Other (n=2)



Methods of work endurance assessment

- Semi structured interview (n=9)
- Ergometric test (n=10)
- Functional capacity evaluation (n=12)
- Psychological test (n=12)
- Clinical test (n=13)
- Assessment in rehabilitation center (n=6)
- Self-report questionnaire (n=5)
- Other (n=4)



Assessment methods per country

Land	Semi-struct. interview	Ergometric test	FCE	Psychol. test	Clinical test	Assessment Rehabilitat.	Self-report questionnaire	Other
Belgium	Not used	Not used	Used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used
Croatia	Used	Not used	Not used	Used	Used	Used	Not used	Not used
Czech Rp	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Not used	Not used	Not used
Finland	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed
France	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Used	Not used	Not used	Not used
Germany	Not used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Not used	Not used
Italy	Not used	Not used	Used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used
Norway	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Used
Poland	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed
Romania	Not used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Not used	Not used	Used
Slovakia	Used	Used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used	Not used
Slovenia	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Not used
Sweden	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used
Switzerl.	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Used	Not used
Netherl.	Used	Not used	Not used	Used	Used	Not used	Used	Used
UK	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed	Not assessed

- Not used
- Used
- Not assessed



Controversy

Controversy on the assessment of work endurance:

Yes: 14 representatives from 10 countries

No : 10 representatives from 6 countries

For example:

- Diverging opinions legitimate reason to be off work
- Nonexistence of formal rules and guidelines
- Too medical
- Controversy between findings and information from patients



Conclusions

- 18 (of 24) representatives from 13 (of 16) countries report assessment of work endurance being part of assessment of work disability.
- In 10 (of 16) countries formal rules and guidelines are used.
- Physical and mental disorders are accepted causes.
- Methods of work endurance assessment differ per country.
- In more than half of the countries a controversy is reported.



Next step

Selected representatives will be contacted by telephone for more in-depth interviewing on work endurance

- definition
- assessment methods
- controversy





Thank you for your attention

Any questions or remarks?

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Research Center for Insurance Medicine: collaboration between AMC-UMCG-UWV-VUmc