

Criteria per la trattazione e la classificazione di casi di malattia da sovraccarico biomeccanico degli arti superiori nell'ambito della medicina del lavoro. Documento di consenso di un gruppo di lavoro nazionale

DANIELA COLOMBINI, OLGA MENONI, E. OCCHIPINTI, N. BATTEVI, MARIA GRAZIA RICCI, SILVIA CAIROLI, CLAUDIA SFERRA**, G. CIMAGLIA**, M. MISSERE***, F. DRAICCHIO****, A. PAPALE****, G. DI LORETO *****, E. UBIALI *****, C. BERTOLINI*****, DIANA BARBARA PIAZZINI *****,

EPM CEMOC, Milano

**INAIL

***U.O. Medicina del Lavoro - Nuovo Ospedale di Sassuolo

****ISPESL, Roma

****INPS, Roma

***** SINC (Società Italiana di Neurofisiologia Clinica)

***** SIMFER (Società Italiana di Medicina Fisica e Riabilitazione)

KEY WORDS

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SUMMARY

«Criteria for classification of upper limb work-related MSDs due to biomechanical overload in occupational health. Consensus document by an Italian working group». Background and objective: In a preliminary consensus document the authors proposed criteria and methods to identify upper limb work-related MSDs due to biomechanical overload. With this document they intend to define severity according to shared models and procedures so as to fit behaviours to diagnostic procedures and their medical-legal assessment. This becomes especially important in view of Ministerial Decree of April 27 2004 fixing the new lists of diseases having a possible work-related origin that must be reported by law in accordance with art. 139 of law n. 1124, and also on account of the impact of such diseases which, for the first time in Italy, are regulated by law. **Contents:** The working group, which included INAIL and ISPESL experts and was fully supported by SIMFER (Italian Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) and SINC (Italian Society of Clinical Neurophysiology), defined a general clinical procedure (anamnesis, objective examination and instrumental assessment) regarding each portion of the concerned upper limb (shoulder, elbow and wrist/hand). Once the presence and characteristics of anatomic and functional damages are established, the results allow a classification scheme to be proposed of upper limb diseases (tendon disorders and entrapment neuropathy) divided into 6 increasing severity stages: initial, medium, medium-severe, severe and extremely severe. Special attention was paid to two instrumental examinations that proved to be of great clinical interest, at least in occupational health: echography of soft tissues (in appendix) and electroneurography for entrapment neuropathy. The

limitations of this proposal are discussed but the main goal was achieved: to standardize terms and provide homogeneous criteria to achieve classification of upper limb damage due to biomechanical overload for increasing severity levels. The working group's research activity is part of a research project funded by ISPESL.