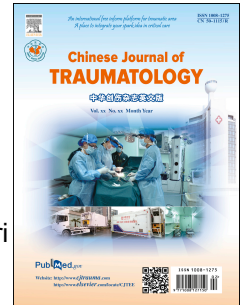


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Original article

Return to work after trauma: a survival analysis

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Abstract

Purpose: To evaluate the return to work (RTW) rate, time and predictors among trauma patients using survival analysis.

Method: This cohort study was conducted with a three-month follow-up on 300 trauma patients hospitalized in Shahid Beheshti Hospital, Kashan, Iran in 2014. The data were collected through conducting interviews and referring to patients' medical records during their hospital stay and follow-up information at one & three months after getting discharged from hospital. Patients who died during the study ($n=12$) or were not accessible during the three-month follow-up period ($n=15$) were excluded. Final analysis was conducted on the data retrieved from 273 patients. Data were analyzed by chi-square test, Mann-Whitney U test and survival analysis method.

Results: The rate of RTW at the end of the first and the third follow-up months was respectively 21.6% and 61.2%. Survival analysis showed that the RTW time (Time between admission to first return to work) was significantly longer among patients who were illiterate, drug abuser, and hospitalized in intensive care unit, had low socioeconomic status, no insurance coverage, longer hospital stay, suffered from multiple and severe injuries and patients with severe disability.

Conclusion: Our findings indicated that trauma has profound effects on the rate and time of RTW. Besides disability, many personal and clinical factors can affect the outcome of RTW.

Keywords: Return to work; Wounds and injuries; Survival; Disability

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