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# BMJ Open

## The impact of fatigue and sleep deprivation on physician and patient outcomes: A systematic review

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Journal:                      | <i>BMJ Open</i>   |
| Manuscript ID                 | bmjopen-2018-021967   |
| Article Type:                 | Research  |
| Date Submitted by the Author: | 26-Jan-2018   |
| Complete List of Authors:     | Gates, Michelle; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Wingert, Aireen; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Featherstone, Robin; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Samuels, Charles; Centre for Sleep and Human Performance<br>Simon, Christopher; Canadian Medical Association<br>Dyson, Michele; University of Alberta, Pediatrics |
| Keywords:                     | Health & safety < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT,<br>Risk management < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION &<br>MANAGEMENT, SLEEP MEDICINE  |
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3 **The impact of fatigue and sleep deprivation on physician and patient outcomes: A systematic review**  
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43 **Word count (main text): 4,853**  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** For physicians in independent practice, we aimed to synthesize evidence relevant to the Canadian context on two questions: (1) what are the impacts of sleep loss and fatigue on physician health and performance, and patient safety; (2) what is the effectiveness of interventions that target sleep loss and fatigue, in terms of physician and patient outcomes?

**Design:** We conducted a systematic review of online literature. Following a pilot phase, one reviewer independently selected studies by title and abstract; full texts were then reviewed in duplicate. One reviewer extracted data; another independently assessed a random 10% sample. Two reviewers assessed risk of bias. We synthesized results narratively.

**Data sources:** We searched Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL and PubMed for published studies in April 2016; we updated the Medline search in November 2017. To locate unpublished studies, we searched Embase for conference proceedings since 2000, and hand-searched relevant meeting abstracts and association and foundation websites.

**Eligibility criteria for selecting studies:** English or French language primary research studies of any design published from 2000 to 2017 that examined the effect of fatigue or sleep-related exposures or interventions on any outcome among physicians in independent practice and their patients were eligible.

**Results:** We included 47 quantitative studies of variable quality. 28 studies showed associations between fatigue or sleep deprivation and physician health and well-being, specifically burnout, stress, adverse mental health outcomes, and reduced life satisfaction. 21 studies showed no impact on surgical performance, and mixed findings for psychomotor performance, work performance, and medical errors. Six cohort studies showed little to no effect on patient outcomes related to surgical or obstetric procedures.

**Conclusions:** Fatigue and sleep deprivation have detrimental effects on the health of physicians in independent practice. Due to numerous methodological shortfalls, the current body of evidence is inadequate to inform strong practice recommendations.

**STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY**

- This rigorously conducted and transparently reported systematic review is the first to synthesize evidence on the effects of fatigue and sleep loss on physicians in independent practice.
- The review is timely, given recent calls for research into individual and organisational solutions for burnout, and an increased focus on physician health.
- While we have identified a diverse body of evidence, we could not draw definitive conclusions due to methodological weaknesses and heterogeneous outcome measures in the included studies.
- We have focused on evidence from high income countries; our findings may not be generalizable to other settings.

## BACKGROUND

The working hours of physicians, which have been historically long and unpredictable, have been a topic of debate for many years.[1] Beginning in the late 1980s, evidence indicating that medical resident fatigue could negatively impact their cognitive functioning and performance, resulting in an increased risk of medical error, began to accumulate.[2] In response, by the early 2000s physicians' regulatory bodies worldwide began to take action toward restricting the work hours of medical residents and ensuring adequate time for recovery between shifts.[3-5] Since their implementation in the United States by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the impact of work hour regulations has been widely researched. Still, evidence for impacts on patient care, resident training and wellbeing remains equivocal.[6-9] This is likely because work hours are only one of many contributors to fatigue and physician wellbeing. In fact, the ACGME has recently reversed the 2011 changes that limited resident work hours to 16 hours per shift and the requirement for 8 hours of time off between shifts. This decision was made in favour of promoting "flexibility" for residency training program work hours and scheduling.

The focus on medical trainees has left physicians in independent practice as a relatively neglected group in research and policy. In Canada, there is no concrete regulation on the hours or patterns in which physicians choose to work.[10] In the absence of clear policies, physicians trained under traditional systems (i.e., prior to resident work hour regulations) may find it difficult to work shorter hours or take more frequent breaks.[1] Indeed, more than 40% of practicing physicians in the United States work in excess of 80 hours per week.[11] While long work hours remain a cultural norm in medicine, in comparable high-risk industries (e.g., aviation), work patterns and work hours are tightly regulated.[12] The need for similar evidence-based policies in medicine has become a topic of increased interest. Exemplar of this, an evidence-based guideline for fatigue risk management in emergency medical services,[13] informed by a comprehensive set of systematic reviews, has recently been published. For physicians, it has been argued that there is a need to adapt healthcare systems and provide support in identifying the signs of fatigue and mitigating its risks.[1]

Besides potentially affecting patient outcomes, fatigue can impact the health and wellbeing of physicians themselves. Burnout, just one outcome related to fatigue, has been described as epidemic among physicians[14-16] and ultimately affects recruitment and retention of physicians both in community and acute care settings. While the effect of physician wellbeing on the sustainability of

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3 healthcare systems has recently received increased attention,[17] evidence-based solutions to burnout  
4 remain relatively elusive.[18] What is clear, is that comprehensive organisational-level efforts are  
5 necessary to fully address the issue.[19] Research addressing the factors that influence burnout and  
6 overall physician wellness is needed to inform system- and individual-level strategies.[20, 21] To date,  
7 evidence of the effects of fatigue and the role of chronic sleep restriction on physicians in independent  
8 practice has not been synthesized, making it unclear what gaps in knowledge remain unaddressed.  
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15 Given this void, we undertook a systematic review of primary research relevant to the Canadian context,  
16 to examine the effects of fatigue and chronic sleep restriction on physicians in independent practice,  
17 and on interventions to combat these effects. Our review was guided by the following research  
18 questions: Among physicians in independent practice, (1) what are the impacts of fatigue and chronic  
19 sleep restriction on physician health, physician performance, and patient safety; and (2) what is the  
20 effectiveness of interventions that target fatigue and chronic sleep restriction loss, in terms of improving  
21 physician and patient outcomes?  
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## 28 **METHODS**

### 29 **Review conduct**

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31 The conduct of this systematic review was guided by Cochrane standards.[22] The research team  
32 convened to plan the key research questions and methodology but did not register a formal protocol.  
33 The findings are reported in adherence with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and  
34 Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Statement.[23] Ethical approval was not required for this study.  
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### 40 **Patient involvement**

41 Patients were not involved.  
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### 45 **Literature search**

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47 An information specialist developed a search strategy that included concepts related to physicians,  
48 fatigue and sleep. On 13 April 2016 we searched the following online databases with coverage in the  
49 biomedical sciences and psychology: Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL and PubMed, limited to  
50 English and French language articles published from 2000 to 2016 (Medline search updated in  
51 November 2017). Though fatigue among physicians is not a new phenomenon,[2] we limited our search  
52 to articles published post-2000 to include studies relevant to current physician practice. Work hour  
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3 limitations have existed in European countries since 1993, but implementation in the United States  
4 (2003)[5] and Canada (2013) for residents is more recent.[24] We aimed to include studies published in  
5 this era of increased awareness about the potential impacts of long work hours. To locate unpublished  
6 studies, we searched Embase for conference proceedings since 2000 and hand-searched meeting  
7 abstracts of the Canadian Conference on Physician Health and the International Conference on Physician  
8 Health (2012 to 2016). We also searched the following association and foundation websites: American  
9 Medical Association, Australian Medical Association, British Medical Association, Canadian Medical  
10 Association, European Medical Association, National Sleep Foundation, Ontario Medical Association and  
11 the World Medical Association. The complete search strategy undertaken is reported in Supplementary  
12 file 1.  
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### 22 **Inclusion criteria**

23 Primary studies (quantitative or qualitative) of fatigue- or sleep-related exposures or interventions  
24 among physicians in independent practice were eligible for inclusion. We included physicians practicing  
25 in any medical specialty and in any healthcare setting within a high income country,[25] to identify  
26 practices comparable to the Canadian setting. Studies including physicians-in-training were included  
27 only if data for physicians in independent practice could be isolated. Exposures of interest included  
28 fatigue, sleep restriction, or sleepiness. We also included studies of any intervention that aimed to  
29 reduce fatigue or sleep restriction with any comparator (or no comparator). All reported outcomes,  
30 measured at any time, were eligible for inclusion.  
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38 We excluded commentaries, letters, editorials and dissertations. Systematic reviews, health technology  
39 assessments, economic evaluations and practice guidelines were excluded, although the reference lists  
40 were scanned for potential primary studies for inclusion. Studies that focused solely on physicians-in-  
41 training (e.g., trainees, residents, fellows, interns, medical students, junior doctors, registrars) were  
42 ineligible. To maintain the focused scope of the review, we excluded work hours, work load, and any  
43 other exposure or intervention that was indirectly related to fatigue or sleep restriction.  
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### 50 **Study selection**

51 Two reviewers piloted the selection criteria for title and abstract screening in duplicate on 300 records.  
52 Following the pilot phase, the reviewers applied the criteria independently to the remaining records.  
53 Then, we retrieved all records classified as “include” or “unsure” and the two reviewers assessed their  
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3 full text for eligibility, in duplicate. Disagreements during the full-text screening phase were resolved by  
4 discussion or the involvement of a third reviewer, when needed.  
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### 8 **Data extraction**

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10 Reviewers used a standardized form to extract data in Microsoft Office Excel (v. 2016, Microsoft  
11 Corporation, Redmond, WA). One reviewer independently extracted data from each included study and  
12 a second reviewer verified a random 10% sample. Since no major errors or omissions were noted, we  
13 did not undertake further verification.  
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18 We extracted the following data: country of publication; funding source; study design; inclusion and  
19 exclusion criteria; population characteristics (i.e., sample size, age and gender distribution, physician  
20 specialty); setting (i.e., physician workplace, urban or rural); exposure or intervention; definition of  
21 fatigue or sleep loss; sleep and fatigue scales used and timing of measurement; comparators (if  
22 applicable); and outcomes.  
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### 28 **Risk of bias appraisal**

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30 Two reviewers independently assessed the risk of bias in each included study using standard tools.  
31 Disagreements were resolved via discussion or by consulting a third reviewer. We used the Cochrane  
32 Risk of Bias tool[22] to assess randomised controlled trials across seven domains: sequence generation;  
33 allocation concealment; blinding of participants and personnel; blinding of outcome assessors;  
34 incomplete outcome reporting; selective outcome reporting; and other sources of bias. Adapted  
35 versions of the tool developed by the Effective Practice and Organization of Care group[26] were used to  
36 assess before-after and time series studies. We used the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment  
37 Scale[27] to appraise cohort studies across three domains: sample selection; comparability; and  
38 outcome assessment. We adapted the scale to assess cross-sectional studies and the one non-  
39 comparative study.  
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### 48 **Evidence synthesis**

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50 We found insufficient homogeneity in populations, exposures or interventions, and outcomes to pool  
51 the data via meta-analysis. We have presented the findings narratively and in summary tables.  
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## RESULTS

We identified 16,083 unique records via the database searches, 56 grey literature sources, and 15 additional records in reference lists of systematic reviews. We excluded 15,016 citations by title and abstract, and another 1,091 by full text. Forty-seven studies[28-74] were eligible for inclusion. Figure 1 shows the flow of studies through the selection process.

### Included study characteristics

A summary of the study characteristics is provided in Table 1. Supplementary file 2 presents descriptive information for each included study. There were 45 observational studies[28-34, 36-69, 71-74] and two intervention studies.[35, 70] All studies were quantitative. Nearly half (n = 20/47, 43%) of the studies took place in North America,[29, 31-33, 36, 40, 43, 52-55, 57, 58, 60-63, 67, 72, 74] and slightly more than one-third (n = 16/47, 34%) in Europe.[28, 30, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42, 45-48, 56, 59, 68, 70, 71]

**Table 1.** Summary characteristics of the included studies

| Study characteristics     | n  | %  | Physician characteristics                | n         | %  | Exposures, interventions and outcomes        | n         | %         |
|---------------------------|----|----|--|-----------|----|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Study design</b>       |    |    | <b>Gender</b>                            |           |    | <b>Exposures (observational)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>45</b> | <b>96</b> |
| Cross-sectional           | 34 | 72 | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 38        | 81 | Fatigue                                      | 15        | 32        |
| Cohort                    | 6  | 13 | >50% male                                | 30        | 79 | Sleep deprivation                            | 37        | 79        |
| Before-after              | 3  | 6  | <b>Age</b>                               |           |    | Overnight or extended shifts                 | 18        | 38        |
| RCT                       | 2  | 4  | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 38        | 81 | <b>Interventions (experimental)</b>          | <b>2</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| Time series               | 1  | 2  | Range (years)                            | 20 to >70 |    | <b>Outcomes</b>                              |           |           |
| Non-comparative           | 1  | 2  | <b>Specialty area<sup>c</sup></b>        |           |    | Physician health and wellbeing               | 28        | 60        |
| <b>Region and country</b> |    |    | Surgeons                                 | 13        | 28 | Work and life satisfaction                   | 9         | 19        |
| North America             | 20 | 43 | Anesthesiologists                        | 10        | 21 | Burnout                                      | 7         | 15        |
| US                        | 15 | 32 | Generalists                              | 7         | 15 | Stress                                       | 8         | 17        |
| Canada                    | 4  | 9  | ED or ICU physicians                     | 3         | 6  | Mental health and wellbeing                  | 7         | 15        |
| Canada, US & Mexico       | 1  | 2  | Oncologists                              | 2         | 4  | Other health-related outcomes                | 5         | 11        |
| Europe                    | 16 | 34 | Obstetrician-gynecologists               | 1         | 2  | Physician performance, risk of error         | 21        | 45        |
| France                    | 4  | 9  | Mixed groups                             | 14        | 30 | Psychomotor performance                      | 7         | 15        |
| Finland                   | 3  | 6  | <b>Work setting<sup>d</sup></b>          |           |    | Work ability and quality of care             | 5         | 11        |
| Spain                     | 2  | 4  | Hospitals                                | 37        | 78 | Incidence of medical errors                  | 5         | 11        |
| Austria                   | 2  | 4  | Private practice                         | 13        | 28 | Surgical efficiency, effectiveness           | 5         | 11        |
| Norway                    | 2  | 4  | Primary care centres, outpatient clinics | 7         | 15 | Patient outcomes                             | 6         | 13        |
| Denmark                   | 1  | 2  | Academic practice, training programs     | 5         | 11 |  |           |           |
| Germany                   | 1  | 2  | Other (e.g., industry, military)         | 11        | 23 |  |           |           |
| Malta                     | 1  | 2  | Not reported                             | 3         | 6  |  |           |           |
| Japan                     | 4  | 9  | <b>Urban or rural</b>                    |           |    |  |           |           |
| Australia                 | 2  | 4  | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 16        | 34 |  |           |           |
| Israel                    | 2  | 4  | Urban                                    | 12        | 75 |  |           |           |
| New Zealand               | 2  | 4  | Rural                                    | 2         | 13 |  |           |           |
| United Kingdom            | 1  | 2  | Mixed                                    | 2         | 13 |  |           |           |

ED: emergency department; ICU: intensive care unit; RCT: randomised controlled trial; US: United States of America

<sup>a</sup>Exposures that have been directly related to an outcome. Some studies included multiple exposures.

<sup>b</sup>Percentages presented using the total number of studies where the outcome was reported as the denominator.

<sup>c</sup>Anesthesiologists include physician anesthetists; generalists include primary care physicians, internists, and general practitioners; mixed groups refers to studies including more than one physician group or specialty (usually large-scale surveys). In some studies, multiple distinct groups were represented.

<sup>d</sup>As defined by the authors. Values for the settings will exceed 100% because studies may occur in more than one setting.

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3 The 47 studies reported outcomes for 36,190 (range = 6 to 7,905) physicians and 69,809 (range = 270 to  
4 38,978) adult patients. About half reported on surgeons (n = 13/47, 28%),[28, 33, 36, 40, 43, 49, 53, 57,  
5 58, 61, 70, 72, 74] or anesthesiologists/physician anesthetists (n = 10/47, 21%).[30, 31, 34, 38, 39, 45-47,  
6 54, 55] Where it was reported, the samples tended to be predominantly male (n = 30/38, 79%) and  
7 physician age varied widely. Hospitals were the most common setting (n = 37/47, 79%).[28-31, 33-38,  
8 40-42, 44-47, 49, 52-56, 58-65, 68-70, 72-74] In the studies where it was reported (n = 16/47, 34%),[28,  
9 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, 60, 71, 72, 74] all but four studies[50, 51, 72, 74] took place in  
10 solely an urban setting.  
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18 Fifteen (32%) studies reported on fatigue exposure,[29, 35, 40, 43, 52, 58-66, 68] while others (n =  
19 37/47, 79%) reported on sleep deprivation or reduced sleep quality.[28, 30-42, 44-51, 53-57, 59, 62, 66,  
20 67, 69-74] A few (n = 5/47, 11%) reported on both.[35, 40, 59, 62, 66] In some cases (n = 18/47, 38%),  
21 fatigue or sleep loss were related to overnight work or long on-call shifts.[28, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40, 41,  
22 45, 46, 48, 53-55, 58, 70, 72, 74] Measured outcomes varied widely and were ultimately organised into  
23 physician physical and mental health, physician performance and risk of error, and patient outcomes.  
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### 30 **Risk of bias appraisal**

31 The overall quality of the body of research was poor; 72% (n = 34/47) of studies were rated at unclear or  
32 high risk of bias. Of the two randomised controlled trials, one was rated as unclear overall risk of  
33 bias[70] and one as high risk.[35] All cohort studies were at low risk of bias (mean score: 8.4/9, range: 8-  
34 9).[33, 36, 53, 58, 72, 74] All of the before-after studies were rated as high risk of bias.[28, 40, 45] The  
35 single time series study was assessed at high risk of bias.[46] The cross-sectional studies varied in  
36 performance (mean score: 3.0/5, range: 1-4); only one-third (n = 12/34, 35%) were at low risk of  
37 bias.[34, 37, 39, 42, 47, 54, 55, 64, 65, 67, 69, 71] The one non-comparative study was at unclear risk of  
38 bias.[38] Detailed assessments for each study are shown in Supplementary file 3.  
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### 47 **Physician health and wellbeing outcomes**

48 Twenty-eight studies reported on physician health and wellbeing-related outcomes,[29, 30, 32, 34, 35,  
49 37, 41-43, 45-52, 55, 57, 59, 62, 63, 65-67, 69, 71, 73] including burnout (n = 7), stress (n = 8), mental  
50 health and wellbeing (n = 7), life and job satisfaction (n = 9) and other markers of health (n = 5)  
51 (Supplementary file 4).  
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3 Seven cross-sectional studies demonstrated links between sleep deprivation and burnout among  
4 surgeons,[49, 57] anesthesiologists,[34] generalists[71] and other mixed groups.[65, 67, 69] Two studies  
5 reported on surgeons; the larger (n = 2,564, low risk of bias) study of neurosurgeons showed increased  
6 odds of burnout with sleep deprivation (OR 0.84, 95% CI 0.75-0.94, P = 0.002).[49] Among  
7 anesthesiologists one study (n = 565, low risk of bias) indicated that burnout was more prevalent among  
8 the sleep-deprived (47.6% vs. 16.3%, P < 0.001).[34] In one small (n = 11) study of generalists, those with  
9 burnout had poorer Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index scores (7.24±4.17 vs. 2.72±2.22, P < 0.001).[71] In the  
10 two larger studies of mixed physician groups (low risk of bias), burnout was more prevalent among  
11 those who were sleep deprived (39.6% vs. 26.4%, P < 0.05),[67] and physical fatigue was correlated with  
12 burnout (r = 0.88, P < 0.05).[65]  
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22 Seven observational studies of varying methodological quality[29, 41, 42, 45, 47, 57, 59] and one  
23 intervention study at high risk of bias[35] reported on stress outcomes among surgeons,[57]  
24 anesthesiologists,[45, 47] emergency physicians,[35, 59] internal medicine physicians,[41] and mixed  
25 groups.[29, 42] In a small sample (n=20) of internal medicine physicians, a 24-hour call shift had no  
26 effect on biochemical or physiological stress parameters, except levels of thyroid stimulating hormone,  
27 which was higher post-shift (P = 0.049, data not reported).[41] The remaining observational studies  
28 suggested that there was a link between sleep deprivation or fatigue and stress. The one study of  
29 orthopedic surgeons (n = 264, high risk of bias) showed that sleep deprivation and psychological distress  
30 were correlated (data not reported, P < 0.001).[57] The two reports on anesthesiologists were of varied  
31 quality; the larger (n = 328) study that was at low risk of bias showed that stress symptoms were  
32 predicted by sleep deprivation ( $\beta = -0.269$ , P < 0.001).[47] Among the two studies reporting on mixed  
33 groups of physicians, the larger (n = 1,541, low risk of bias) study showed an association between sleep  
34 problems and psychological distress ( $\beta = 0.18$ , P < 0.001).[42] One RCT assessed the impact of sleep  
35 deprivation from shift work, showing that stress among emergency physicians (n = 17) was higher  
36 following the shift as compared to a control day (data not reported, P < 0.05).[35]  
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48 Seven cross-sectional studies of varying methodological quality reported on aspects of mental health  
49 including addiction or substance misuse,[30, 48, 66] depression,[73] thoughts of suicide,[47] mood  
50 disturbance[55, 66] and overall wellbeing.[62] One study,[48] which was at high risk of bias, showed no  
51 association between hours of sleep when on call and hazardous drinking behaviours. Meanwhile, the six  
52 other studies all showed deleterious effects of sleep deprivation and fatigue on mental health. Three  
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3 studies reported on anesthetists,[30, 47, 55] with two large surveys showing increased odds of tobacco  
4 (OR 1.42, 95% CI 1.04-1.94) and tranquilizer/hypnotics (OR 3.26, 95% CI 2.12-5.02) dependency being  
5 predicted by sleep deprivation,[30] and sleep disturbance being associated with thoughts of suicide (P =  
6 0.009).[47] A small study (n = 21) showed greater mood disturbance following a 17-hour night shift than  
7 a usual day (Profile of Mood States score 42.57±15.26 vs. 70.90±6.91, P < 0.001).[55] Among oncologists  
8 (n = 241), overall wellbeing was predicted by lower levels of fatigue after controlling for personal and  
9 professional characteristics (P = 0.002).[62] A large (n = 3,862, unclear risk of bias) study of physicians  
10 showed that sleep deprivation was associated with increased odds of depression (OR 2.70, 95% CI 1.82-  
11 4.03 for men; OR 2.38, 95% CI 1.11-5.10 for women).[73] In open-ended questions, senior physicians in  
12 one study (unclear risk of bias) attributed the development of mental illness to tiredness and stress at  
13 work.[66]

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23 Nine cross-sectional studies of varying methodological quality reported on outcomes related to job  
24 satisfaction,[37, 42, 43, 50, 67, 69] life satisfaction[32, 57, 67] or work-life balance.[63, 67] All but  
25 two[37, 67] of these studies showed that sleep deprivation and fatigue were associated with reductions  
26 in satisfaction. The six studies that investigated job satisfaction were all at low risk of bias and generally  
27 included mixed groups of physicians[42, 67, 69]; one study reported on general practitioners,[50] and  
28 another on surgeons.[43] Three studies showed that reductions in sleep duration and/or quality[42, 43,  
29 69] were associated with reduced job satisfaction. Meanwhile one showed no association between  
30 sleep deprivation and career satisfaction,[67] and another showed no relationship between earlier sleep  
31 disturbance and later job demands or job control.[37] A single study (n = 92) reporting on rural general  
32 practitioners indicated that frequent sleep disturbance predicted the intention to retire early (OR 2.91,  
33 95% CI 1.11-7.6, P < 0.05).[50]

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43 The three studies that reported on life satisfaction were of variable quality, but all demonstrated links  
44 between sleep deprivation or fatigue and reductions in life satisfaction.[32, 57, 67] Of two studies  
45 among mixed physician groups,[32, 67] the one larger (n = 840) study showed that sleep deprivation  
46 (less than 7 hours per day) was a predictor of reduced life satisfaction (OR 0.44, 95% CI 0.29-0.67, P <  
47 0.05).[67] One study at high risk of bias reported on orthopedic surgeons (n = 264), showing that sleep  
48 deprivation was correlated with lower marital satisfaction (data not reported, P < 0.001).[57] Two large  
49 studies at low or unclear risk of bias reported on work-life balance.[63, 67] Among oncologists (n =  
50 1,117), reduced satisfaction with work-life balance was predicted by high levels of fatigue, even when  
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3 controlling for personal and work-related factors and burnout (OR 0.489, 95% CI 0.337-0.710,  $P <$   
4 0.001).[63] Among a mixed group of physicians ( $n = 840$ , low risk of bias), sleep deprivation predicted a  
5 reduced perception of having balanced personal and professional commitments (OR 0.46, 95% CI 0.31-  
6 0.71,  $P \leq 0.05$ ).[67]  
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11 Five cross sectional studies at high or unclear risk of bias[32, 51, 52, 66] and one time series study at  
12 high risk of bias[46] reported on other health-related outcomes. Among a mixed group of physicians ( $n =$   
13 180), one study at high risk of bias showed that Epworth Sleepiness Scale scores were higher among  
14 physicians who worried about having a car accident while driving home (7.0 vs. 5.4,  $P < 0.001$ ).[32]  
15 Among generalists ( $n = 578$ ), almost 1 in 10 (8.7%) admitted to falling asleep while driving due to  
16 fatigue.[52] Also among generalists ( $n = 92$ ), those with frequent work-related sleeping problems were  
17 at increased odds of sickness presenteeism (OR 2.92, 95% CI 1.19-7.16,  $P = 0.02$ ).[51] The one time  
18 series study concluded that a single 24-h shift did not cause major chronodisruption among anesthetists  
19 ( $n = 10$ ).[46] Meanwhile, open-ended comments from a large sample ( $n = 3,550$ ) of senior physicians  
20 suggests that they attributed the development of physical health problems to a lifestyle of sleep  
21 deprivation, poor eating habits and lack of exercise imposed by their jobs.[66]  
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### 31 **Physician performance and risk of errors**

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33 Twenty-one studies reported on physician performance and safety-related outcomes,[28, 31-33, 36, 38-  
34 42, 44, 45, 54, 56, 60, 61, 64, 66, 68, 70, 74] including surgical efficiency and effectiveness ( $n = 5$ ),  
35 psychomotor performance ( $n = 7$ ), work ability and quality of care ( $n = 5$ ) and incidence of medical  
36 errors ( $n = 5$ ) (Supplementary file 5).  
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42 Three cohort studies at low risk of bias,[33, 36, 74] one before-after study at high risk of bias[28] and  
43 one randomized controlled trial at high risk of bias[70] examined the effects of sleep deprivation from  
44 overnight work or extended shifts, during surgeries[33, 36, 74] or laparoscopic simulations.[28, 70] The  
45 cohort studies, which reported on 49,776 surgical procedures, found no adverse effects on any measure  
46 of surgical efficiency or effectiveness.[33, 36, 74] The small ( $n = 29$ ) before-after study showed no  
47 impact of sleep deprivation from shift-work nor of sleep hours on performance on a laparoscopic  
48 simulation.[28] One small ( $n = 64$ ) intervention study compared a 24-hour shift to a usual work day, also  
49 finding no detriment to performance on a laparoscopic simulation despite diminished sleep hours while  
50 working on-call.[70]  
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5 Two before-after studies at high risk of bias[40, 45] and five cross-sectional studies of variable  
6 methodological quality[31, 38, 41, 54, 56] reported on psychomotor performance outcomes among  
7 surgeons,[40] anesthesiologists,[31, 38, 45, 54] emergency physicians,[56] and internal medicine  
8 physicians.[41] Four studies[38, 40, 45, 54] showed an overall reduction in psychomotor performance in  
9 the fatigued state while the others had mixed results.[31, 56] Among a small group of surgeons (n = 9),  
10 performance on a virtual ring transfer task deteriorated after an on-call shift (data not reported, P <  
11 0.05).[40] The four studies among anesthetists reported mixed findings. One small (n = 11) before-after  
12 study showed longer reaction times (690.8±73.4 vs. 746.5±113.7 milliseconds) and reduced  
13 concentration ability (26.4±23.5 vs. 56.3±23.0 on a 100-point scale, P = 0.007) following a 24-hour shift  
14 with sleep deprivation[45]; Two others found that sleep loss was associated with slower reaction  
15 times.[38, 54] Conversely, a small study (n = 11) found no effect of overnight shiftwork with sleep  
16 deprivation on any measure of psychomotor performance except Hopkin's Verbal Learning Test (t-score  
17 of 48.6±7.6 vs. 41.5±9.9, P = 0.04).[31] Among emergency physicians (n = 18), one study (unclear risk of  
18 bias) those who were sleep deprived had a reduced performance on most but not all psychomotor  
19 tests,[56] while among internal medicine physicians (n = 20, low risk of bias), neurocognitive parameters  
20 did not seem to worsen post-call.[41]

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33 Five cross-sectional studies of variable methodological quality reported on associations between sleep  
34 deprivation or fatigue and work ability or perceived performance, all among mixed groups of  
35 physicians.[32, 42, 60, 64, 66] The two large studies at low risk of bias showed that sleep problems and  
36 fatigue had a negative impact on physicians' work.[42, 64] Among 1,541 physicians in Finland, sleeping  
37 problems were inversely associated with scores on the Work Ability Index ( $\beta = -0.29$ , P < 0.001),[42]  
38 while a study of 890 physicians from Israel demonstrated that perceived quality of care was predicted by  
39 fatigue even after controlling for components of burnout ( $\beta = 0.17$ , P < 0.05).[64] Similarly, in one study,  
40 comments from senior physicians suggested that continual tiredness and exhaustion negatively affected  
41 their competence.[66] The two studies[32, 60] that were at high risk of bias had conflicting findings.

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50 Five cross-sectional studies of variable methodological quality reported on associations between sleep  
51 deprivation, fatigue and self-reported medical errors among surgeons,[61] anesthesiologists[39] and  
52 mixed groups of physicians.[32, 44, 68] Two studies showed that sleep disturbance was associated with  
53 an increased risk of errors,[39, 44] while the findings of the other studies were mixed.[32, 61, 68] A large  
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3 (n = 7,905) study at unclear risk of bias showed that only 6.9% of surgeons reported fatigue as the most  
4 important contributor to medical errors.[61] Among anesthesiologists, a smaller study (n = 183) at low  
5 risk of bias showed that the risk of fatigue-related errors increased with more nights of work-related  
6 sleep disturbance (RR 1.25, 95% CI 1.06-1.49).[39] Two of the studies reporting on mixed groups of  
7 physicians had conflicting results,[32, 44] while another reported that physicians' opinions on the  
8 association between fatigue and prescribing errors differed by work setting.[68] One-third (34%) of  
9 community-based, 96% of hospital-based, and 8% of office-based physicians believed that there was a  
10 high or very high association between fatigue and prescribing errors (P < 0.05).[68]  
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### 18 **Patient Outcomes**

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20 Six large (n = 270 to 38,978) cohort studies at low risk of bias reported on patient outcomes, all related  
21 to surgical[33, 36, 53, 58, 72, 74] or obstetric[53] procedures (Supplementary file 6). In these studies,  
22 sleep deprivation or fatigue were typically defined as overnight work prior to a daytime procedure[36,  
23 53, 58, 72, 74]; though two studies measured sleep hours[33] or 'sleep opportunity'.[53] Overall there  
24 appeared to be little[33] to no[36, 58, 72, 74] effect of sleep deprivation from overnight work on  
25 adverse patient outcomes such as operative complications, length of stay, and mortality. One study  
26 showed that nighttime work prior to a daytime procedure did not affect complication rates, but that  
27 shorter sleep opportunity increased the odds of operative (OR 2.70, 95% CI 1.13-6.48, P = 0.03) but not  
28 obstetric complications.[53]  
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### 37 **DISCUSSION**

38 Fatigue and chronic sleep restriction are two potential drivers of reduced physician wellbeing[17, 19]  
39 that have thus far been understudied in physicians in independent practice. Burnout is becoming  
40 increasingly prevalent among physicians,[14-16] and recent research indicates that comprehensive  
41 individual- and system-level strategies are needed to address the problem.[6-9, 19, 21] We have  
42 systematically reviewed evidence from a heterogeneous array of available studies reporting on diverse  
43 outcomes related to physicians in independent practice and their patients. The included studies were  
44 often at high or unclear risk of bias, included small samples of physicians, and inconsistently measured  
45 and reported exposures and outcomes. As a result of these methodological shortcomings, the currently  
46 available evidence is inadequate to inform practice or policy recommendations.  
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3 Traditionally, much of the fatigue-related research has focused on hazards to patients. The current  
4 review included five cohort studies showing that sleep loss and/or fatigue did not seem to jeopardize  
5 patient safety. Despite these findings, evidence for psychomotor performance, surgical skills and errors  
6 suggest that there is indeed a potential for negative outcomes. The studies, like many of the others in  
7 this and other systematic reviews,[75] employed indirect definitions that make it difficult to classify  
8 sleep deprived physicians with certainty. In recent years there has been a shift away from the singular  
9 focus on patient safety toward a more comprehensive view that also considers the detrimental effects  
10 of fatigue, sleep loss and other occupational hazards on physician wellness.[76] Evidence from this  
11 review supports the negative effects that fatigue and sleep loss may have on physician health and  
12 wellbeing. It is now recognized that health systems cannot be sustained by a workforce that is facing an  
13 epidemic of burnout.[19, 77, 78]

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23 In light of high rates of burnout, the ongoing dialogue about the need for a cultural shift in the practice  
24 of medicine[79, 80] is now more important than ever. Recognition of the potential effects of physician  
25 fatigue on patients, physicians, and healthcare systems as a whole must be emphasized at a systemic  
26 level, encouraging a shift in which the risks are viewed as unacceptable.[1, 20, 76] Likewise, although  
27 research to date has focused largely on individual-level approaches to address burnout, it is now clear  
28 that placing the burden of a system-level problem solely on the individual is unlikely to bring about  
29 significant and lasting change.[81] Recent research has highlighted physician burnout as a system-driven  
30 issue that will require corresponding national-scale multicomponent solutions.[1, 19, 77, 78] As such, in  
31 the past several years both the American and Canadian Medical Associations have developed policies  
32 and programs that address physician health.[77, 82] The Canadian Medical Association's new policy on  
33 physician health calls on broad stakeholder groups (e.g., policymakers, regional health authorities,  
34 governments) to take shared responsibility for the health of physicians and to make meaningful and  
35 concerted efforts towards promoting a healthy and sustainable workforce.[77]

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47 Our systematic review indicates that the current evidence base is inadequate to inform decision-making.  
48 Correspondingly, a 2016 research summit on physician wellness and burnout outlined the need for  
49 timely, relevant and methodologically robust research to inform practice and policy.[21] We identified  
50 only two intervention studies, which supports the assertion that novel interventions with realistic  
51 budgets and timelines at both individual and organisation levels need to be tested.[21] The vast array of  
52 tools used by current studies to measure sleep, fatigue and various outcomes impedes evidence  
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3 synthesis. It will be important to make use of existing validated measures[83-85] consistently in future  
4 research. Identifying outcomes of importance to physicians and their patients should be prioritized, such  
5 that these may be collected within intervention studies. Reporting these consistently will allow for  
6 effective synthesis of findings and reduce research waste.[86] Integrated knowledge translation  
7 strategies involving multiple stakeholder groups (e.g., physicians, patients, medical schools, physicians'  
8 associations and governing bodies, policymakers) may help to ensure that the research is relevant and  
9 facilitates decision-making.[87]  
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### 16 **Strengths and Limitations**

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18 Our systematic review is the first to synthesize evidence on the effects of fatigue and sleep loss on  
19 physicians in independent practice. The review is timely, given recent calls for research into individual  
20 and organisational solutions for burnout,[20, 21] and an increased focus on physician health.[76, 77]  
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22 While we have identified a diverse body of evidence, we could not draw definitive conclusions due to  
23 methodological weaknesses and heterogeneous outcome measures in the included studies. The findings  
24 may have been influenced by publication bias, and may not be generalized to all settings, given our  
25 restriction to high income countries. Rigorously conducted and reported studies will be required to  
26 determine with confidence the potential impacts of fatigue on physicians and their patients, and to  
27 inform reasonable and sustainable solutions to the problem.  
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### 35 **CONCLUSION**

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37 The evidence synthesized in this review suggests some detrimental impacts of fatigue and sleep  
38 deprivation on physician health and wellbeing, and mixed evidence for potential impacts on  
39 performance and safety outcomes. The evidence overall did not indicate any impact on patient  
40 outcomes. Our overall confidence in the findings is low, owing to a body of research that is hindered by  
41 methodological weaknesses, including small sample sizes and inconsistent measurement of fatigue  
42 exposure and outcomes. Further methodologically robust research that includes consistent outcomes  
43 that are of interest to physicians and their patients is needed to inform strong practice  
44 recommendations and policy decisions.  
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### 52 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

53 We would like to thank Dr. Meghan Sebastianski and Andrea Milne for assistance with screening, and Dr.  
54 Allison Gates for screening, data verification, and quality assessment of the French studies.  
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### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf) and declare: Dr. Christopher Simon is employed by the Canadian Medical Association, who provided financial support for the research; there are no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work.

### **CONTRIBUTOR STATEMENT**

All authors contributed to the conception and design of the project. MG and AW contributed to the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of the data, and drafted the manuscript. RF contributed to acquisition of data. CSa, CSi and MPD contributed to interpretation of data and revised the manuscript for important intellectual content. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript as submitted.

### **FUNDING STATEMENT**

This research was supported by the Canadian Medical Association. The funder had no role in the study design; collection, analysis and interpretation of data; the writing of the report; and the decision to submit the article for publication.

### **ROLE OF FUNDERS**

Dr. Christopher Simon is employed by the Canadian Medical Association. The remaining authors are independent from the funders. The funders had no role in the study design; in the collection, analysis,

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3 and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; or in the decision to submit the article for  
4 publication.  
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### 8 **TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION**

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10 The lead author (MG) affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the  
11 study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and all discrepancies from  
12 the study as planned have been explained.  
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### 16 **DATA SHARING STATEMENT**

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18 All authors, external and internal, had full access to all of the data in the study and can take  
19 responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the interpretation.  
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### 23 **DATA SHARING STATEMENT**

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25 The data pertaining to this systematic review are available from the corresponding author upon  
26 reasonable request.  
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### 30 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

31 **Figure 1.** Flow of records through the selection process  
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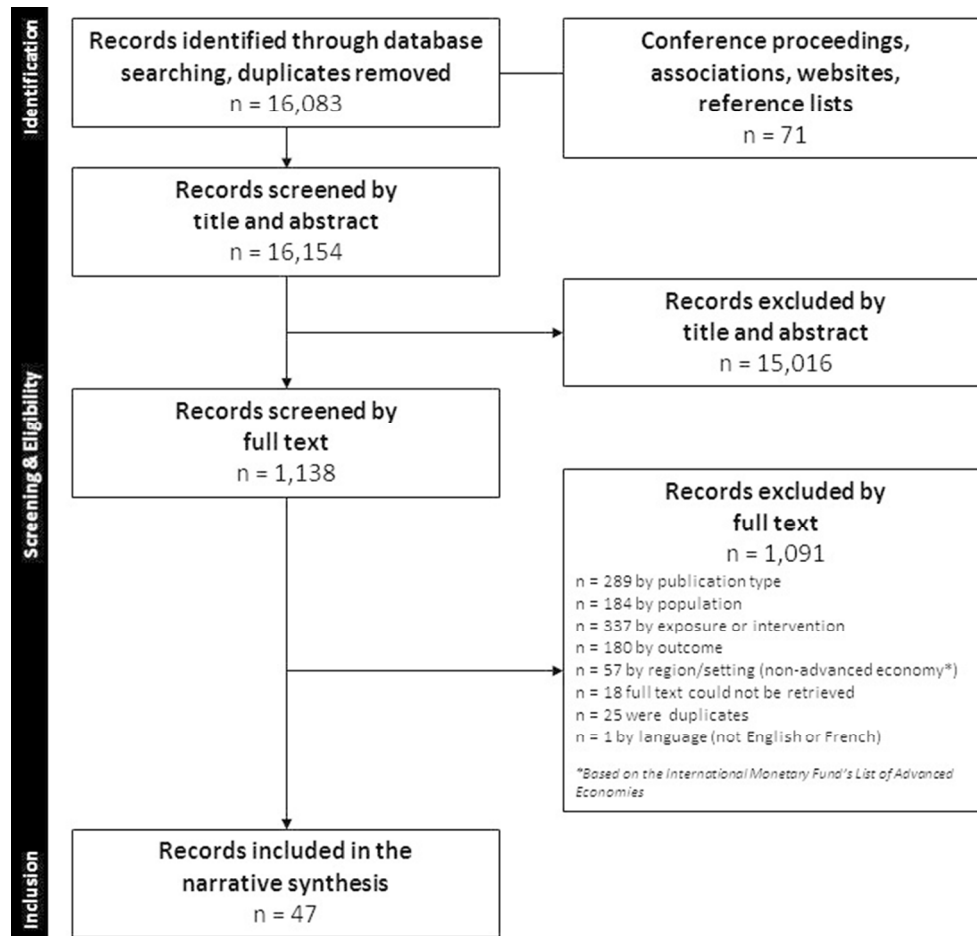
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## Search Strategy

**Database:** In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present

**Date searched:** 13 April 2016, updated 7 November 2017

**Records retrieved:** 5068 and 1442 in the update (removed duplicates retrieved in previous search)

1. Medical Staff, Hospital/
2. Physician Impairment/
3. exp Physicians/
4. allergist\*.ti.
5. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.
6. cardiologist\*.ti.
7. clinician\*.ti.
8. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
9. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
10. dermatologist\*.ti.
11. endocrinologist\*.ti.
12. doctor\*.ti.
13. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
14. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
15. family practitioner\*.ti.
16. gastroenterologist\*.ti.
17. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.
18. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.
19. geriatrician\*.ti.
20. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.

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- 3 21. h?ematologist\*.ti.
- 4
- 5 22. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
- 6
- 7 23. hospitalist\*.ti.
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- 9 24. (house staff\* or housestaff\*).ti.
- 10
- 11 25. intensivist\*.ti.
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- 13 26. internist\*.ti.
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- 15 27. medical professional\*.ti.
- 16
- 17 28. obstetrician\*.ti.
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- 19 29. oncologist\*.ti.
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- 21 30. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
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- 23 31. orthop?edist\*.ti.
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- 25 32. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
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- 27 33. neonatologist\*.ti.
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- 29 34. nephrologist\*.ti.
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- 31 35. neurologist\*.ti.
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- 33 36. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
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- 35 37. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
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- 37 38. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
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- 39 39. perinatologist\*.ti.
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- 41 40. physician\*.ti.
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- 43 41. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 44 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 45 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
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- 47 42. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or
- 48 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
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- 50 43. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
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- 52 44. psychiatrist\*.ti.
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- 54 45. pulmonologist\*.ti.
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- 56 46. rheumatologist\*.ti.
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- 58 47. surgeon\*.ti.
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- 3 48. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
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- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
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- 8 49. traumatologist\*.ti.
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- 10 50. urologist\*.ti.
- 11
- 12 51. or/1-50 [Combined MeSH, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13 52. Burnout, Professional/
- 14 53. exp Circadian Rhythm/
- 15 54. exp Fatigue/
- 16 55. Occupational Health/
- 17 56. Rest/ph, px [Physiology, Psychology]
- 18 57. Sleep Deprivation/
- 19 58. Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm/
- 20 59. Sleep Wake Disorders/
- 21 60. exp Stress, Psychological/
- 22 61. Workload/px [Psychology]
- 23 62. Work Schedule Tolerance/
- 24 63. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw,kf.
- 25 64. biological rhythm\*.tw,kf.
- 26 65. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw,kf.
- 27 66. circadian misalignment.tw,kf.
- 28 67. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw,kf.
- 29 68. exhaust\*.tw,kf.
- 30 69. fatigu\*.tw,kf.
- 31 70. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw,kf.
- 32 71. tired\*.tw,kf.
- 33 72. weariness.tw,kf.
- 34 73. or/52-72 [Combined MeSH and text words for fatigue]
- 35 74. and/51,73 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
- 36 75. animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
- 37 76. 74 not 75
- 38 77. (comment or editorial or letter).pt.
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9 81. remove duplicates from 80

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11 **Database: Ovid Embase 1996 to 2016 Week 15**

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13 Date searched: 13 April 2016

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15 Records retrieved: 8859

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18 1. medical staff/  
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20 2. exp physician/  
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22 3. allergist\*.ti.  
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24 4. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.  
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26 5. cardiologist\*.ti.  
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28 6. clinician\*.ti.  
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30 7. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
31 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
32 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

33 8. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
34 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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36 9. dermatologist\*.ti.  
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38 10. endocrinologist\*.ti.  
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40 11. doctor\*.ti.  
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42 12. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
43 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
44 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.  
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46 13. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
47 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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49 14. family practitioner\*.ti.  
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18. geriatrician\*.ti.
19. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.
20. h?ematologist\*.ti.
21. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
22. hospitalist\*.ti.
23. (house staff\* or housestaff\*).ti.
24. intensivist\*.ti.
25. internist\*.ti.
26. medical professional\*.ti.
27. obstetrician\*.ti.
28. oncologist\*.ti.
29. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
30. orthop?edist\*.ti.
31. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
32. neonatologist\*.ti.
33. nephrologist\*.ti.
34. neurologist\*.ti.
35. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
36. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
37. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
38. perinatologist\*.ti.
39. physician\*.ti.
40. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
41. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.
42. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
43. psychiatrist\*.ti.
44. pulmonologist\*.ti.
45. rheumatologist\*.ti.
46. surgeon\*.ti.

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- 3 47. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
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- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
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- 8 48. traumatologist\*.ti.
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- 10 49. urologist\*.ti.
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- 12 50. or/1-49 [Combined Emtree, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13
- 14 51. burnout/
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- 16 52. circadian rhythm/
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- 18 53. circadian rhythm sleep disorder/
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- 20 54. fatigue/
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- 22 55. mental stress/
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- 24 56. occupational health/
- 25
- 26 57. sleep deprivation/
- 27
- 28 58. sleep waking cycle/
- 29
- 30 59. work capacity/
- 31
- 32 60. work schedule/
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- 34 61. working time/
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- 36 62. workload/
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- 38 63. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw.
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- 40 64. biological rhythm\*.tw.
- 41
- 42 65. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw.
- 43
- 44 66. circadian misalignment.tw.
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- 46 67. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw.
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- 48 68. exhaust\*.tw.
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- 52 70. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw.
- 53
- 54 71. tired\*.tw.
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- 56 72. weariness.tw.
- 57
- 58 73. or/51-72 [Combined Emtree and text words for fatigue]
- 59
- 60 74. and/50,73 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
75. animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
76. 74 not 75

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3 77. (conference\* or editorial or letter or proceeding).pt.  
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5 78. 76 not 77

6 79. limit 78 to yr="2000-Current"  
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8 80. limit 79 to (english or french)  
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10 81. limit 80 to embase  
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13 **Database: Ovid PsycINFO 1987 to April Week 1 2016**

14 Date searched: 13 April 2016

15 Records retrieved: 2094  
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20 1. exp Physicians/  
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22 2. allergist\*.ti.  
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24 3. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.  
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26 4. cardiologist\*.ti.  
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28 5. clinician\*.ti.  
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31 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
32 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

33 7. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
34 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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36 8. dermatologist\*.ti.  
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38 9. endocrinologist\*.ti.  
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42 11. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
43 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
44 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.  
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46 12. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
47 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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49 13. family practitioner\*.ti.  
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17. geriatrician\*.ti.
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20. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
21. hospitalist\*.ti.
22. intensivist\*.ti.
23. internist\*.ti.
24. medical professional\*.ti.
25. obstetrician\*.ti.
26. oncologist\*.ti.
27. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
28. orthop?edist\*.ti.
29. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
30. neonatologist\*.ti.
31. nephrologist\*.ti.
32. neurologist\*.ti.
33. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
34. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
35. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
36. perinatologist\*.ti.
37. physician\*.ti.
38. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
39. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.
40. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
41. psychiatrist\*.ti.
42. pulmonologist\*.ti.
43. rheumatologist\*.ti.
44. surgeon\*.ti.

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- 3 45. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
- 6
- 7
- 8 46. traumatologist\*.ti.
- 9
- 10 47. urologist\*.ti.
- 11
- 12 48. or/1-47 [Combined thesaurus, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13 49. Compassion Fatigue/
- 14
- 15 50. Fatigue/
- 16
- 17 51. Human Biological Rhythms/
- 18 52. Occupational Health/
- 19 53. Occupational Stress/
- 20 54. Sleep/
- 21 55. Sleepiness/
- 22 56. Working Conditions/
- 23 57. Work Rest Cycles/
- 24 58. Work Week Length/
- 25 59. Work Scheduling/
- 26 60. Workday Shifts/
- 27 61. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw.
- 28 62. biological rhythm\*.tw.
- 29 63. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw.
- 30 64. circadian misalignment.tw.
- 31 65. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw.
- 32 66. exhaust\*.tw.
- 33 67. fatigu\*.tw.
- 34 68. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw.
- 35 69. tired\*.tw.
- 36 70. weariness.tw.
- 37 71. or/49-70 [Combined thesaurus and text words for fatigue]
- 38 72. and/48,71 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
- 39 73. limit 72 to yr="2000-Current"
- 40 74. limit 73 to (english or french)
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**Database: CINAHL Plus with Full Text (1937 to the present) via EBSCOhost**

Date searched: 14 April 2016

Records retrieved: 3378

S1. (MH "Medical Staff, Hospital+")

S2. (MH "Physicians+")

S3. TI allertist\*

S4. TI (anesthetist\* or anaesthetist\* or anesthesiologist\* or anaesthesiologist\*)

S5. TI cardiologist\*

S6. TI clinician\*

S7. clinician\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or "work\* hour\*" or "work life balance")

S8. clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)

S9. TI dermatologist\*

S10. TI endocrinologist\*

S11. TI doctor\*

S12. doctor\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or "work life balance")

S13. doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)

S14. TI "family practitioner\*"

S15. TI gastroenterologist\*

S16. TI ("general practitioner\*" or GP\*)

S17. TI (general N2 physician\*)

S18. TI geriatrician\*

S19. TI (gynaecologist\* or gynecologist\*)

S20. TI (haematologist\* or hematologist\*)

S21. TI hospitalist\*

S22. TI ("house staff\*" or housestaff\*)

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3 S23. TI intensivist\*  
4  
5 S24. TI internist\*  
6  
7 S25. TI obstetrician\*  
8  
9 S26. TI oncologist\*  
10  
11 S27. TI ophthalmologist\*  
12  
13 S28. TI (orthopaedist\* or orthopedist\*)  
14  
15 S29. TI (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*)  
16  
17 S30. TI neonatologist\*  
18  
19 S31. TI nephrologist\*  
20  
21 S32. TI neurologist\*  
22  
23 S33. TI neuropsychiatrist\*  
24  
25 S34. TI neurosurgeon\*  
26  
27 S35. TI (paediatrician\* OR pediatrician\*)  
28  
29 S36. TI perinatologist\*  
30  
31 S37. TI physician\*  
32  
33 S38. physician\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
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35 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
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37 "work\* hour\*" or "work life balance")  
38  
39 S39. physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\*  
40  
41 or suburb\* or urban\*)  
42  
43 S40. TI "primary care practitioner\*"  
44  
45 S41. TI psychiatrist\*  
46  
47 S42. TI pulmonologist\*  
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49 S43. TI rheumatologist\*  
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51 S44. TI surgeon\*  
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53 S45. surgeon\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
54  
55 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
56  
57 work\* hour\* or "work life balance")  
58  
59 S46. TI traumatologist\*  
60  
S47. TI urologist\*  
S48. S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR  
S15 OR S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27 OR S28



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3 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR  
4 S42 OR S43 OR S44 OR S45 OR S46 OR S47

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6 S49. (MH "Circadian Rhythm")

7  
8 S50. (MH "Fatigue")

9  
10 S51. (MH "Impairment, Health Professional")

11  
12 S52. (MH "Mental Fatigue")

13  
14 S53. (MH "Occupational Health")

15  
16 S54. (MH "Shiftwork")

17  
18 S55. (MH "Sleep Deprivation")

19  
20 S56. (MH "Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm")

21  
22 S57. (MH "Sleep-Wake Transition Disorders")

23  
24 S58. (MH "Stress, Occupational+")

25  
26 S59. (MH "Stress, Psychological")

27  
28 S60. ("24 hour\*" or "24 hr\*" or "twenty four hour\*" or "twentyfour hour\*") N1 rhythm\*

29  
30 S61. "biological rhythm\*"

31  
32 S62. "burn out\*" or "burned out\*" or "burnt out\*" or burnout\*

33  
34 S63. "circadian misalignment"

35  
36 S64. (circadian or diurnam or ultradian) N1 rhythm\*

37  
38 S65. exhaust\*

39  
40 S66. fatigu\*

41  
42 S67. sleep\* N3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)

43  
44 S68. tired\*

45  
46 S69. weariness

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48 S70. S49 OR S50 OR S51 OR S52 OR S53 OR S54 OR S55 OR S56 OR S57 OR S58 OR S59 OR S60 OR S61 OR  
49 S62 OR S63 OR S64 OR S65 OR S66 OR S67 OR S68 OR S69

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51 S71. S48 AND S70

52  
53 S72. S48 AND S70 Limiters - Published Date: 20000101-20161231; Publication Type: Clinical Trial, Journal  
54 Article, Meta Analysis, Meta Synthesis, Practice Guidelines, Randomized Controlled Trial, Research,  
55 Review, Systematic Review; Language: English, French  
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**Database: PubMed via NCBI Entrez**

Date searched: 14 April 2016

Records retrieved: 92

((("Medical Staff, Hospital"[mh:noexp] OR "Physician Impairment"[mh:noexp] OR "Physicians"[mh] OR allergist[ti] OR allergists[ti] OR anaesthetist[ti] OR anaesthetists[ti] OR anaesthesiologist[ti] OR anaesthesiologists[ti] OR anesthetist[ti] OR anesthetists[ti] OR anesthesiologist[ti] OR anesthesiologists[ti] OR cardiologist[ti] OR cardiologists[ti] OR clinician[ti] OR clinicians[ti] OR ((clinician[tiab] OR clinicians[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR ((clinician[tiab] OR clinicians[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR dermatologist[ti] OR dermatologists[ti] OR endocrinologist[ti] OR endocrinologists[ti] OR doctor[ti] OR doctors[ti] OR ((doctor[tiab] OR doctors[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR ((doctor[tiab] OR doctors[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR "family practitioner"[ti] OR

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2  
3 "family practitioners"[ti] OR gastroenterologist[ti] OR gastroenterologists[ti] OR "general practice  
4 physician"[ti] OR "general practice physicians"[ti] OR "general practitioner"[ti] OR "general  
5 practitioners"[ti] OR geriatrician[ti] OR geriatricians[ti] OR gynaecologist[ti] OR gynaecologists[ti] OR  
6 gynecologist[ti] OR gynecologists[ti] OR haematologist[ti] OR haematologists[ti] OR hematologist[ti] OR  
7 hematologists[ti] OR "health care professional"[ti] OR "health care professionals"[ti] AND "health care  
8 provider"[ti] OR "health care providers" OR "health professional"[ti] OR "health professionals"[ti] OR  
9 "health provider"[ti] OR "health providers"[ti] OR "healthcare professional"[ti] OR "healthcare  
10 professionals"[ti] OR "healthcare provider"[ti] OR "healthcare providers"[ti] OR hospitalist[ti] OR  
11 hospitalists[ti] OR "house staff"[ti] OR "house staffs"[ti] OR housestaff[ti] OR housestaffs[ti] OR  
12 intensivist[ti] OR intensivists[ti] OR internist[ti] OR internists[ti] OR "medical professional"[ti] OR  
13 "medical professionals"[ti] OR obstetrician[ti] OR obstetricians[ti] OR oncologist[ti] OR oncologists[ti] OR  
14 ophthalmologist[ti] OR ophthalmologists[ti] OR orthopaedist[ti] OR orthopaedists[ti] OR orthopedist[ti]  
15 OR orthopedists[ti] OR otolaryngologist[ti] OR otolaryngologists[ti] OR otorhinolaryngologist[ti] OR  
16 otorhinolaryngologists[ti] OR neonatologist[ti] OR neonatologists[ti] OR nephrologist[ti] OR  
17 nephrologists[ti] OR neurologist[ti] OR neurologists[ti] OR neuropsychiatrist[ti] OR neuropsychiatrists[ti]  
18 OR neurosurgeon[ti] OR neurosurgeons[ti] OR paediatrician[ti] OR paediatricians[ti] OR pediatrician[ti]  
19 OR pediatricians[ti] OR perinatologist[ti] OR perinatologists[ti] OR physician[ti] OR physicians[ti] OR  
20 ((physician[tiab] OR physicians[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR  
21 absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR  
22 burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR  
23 distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR  
24 fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR  
25 impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR  
26 satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR  
27 wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life  
28 balance"[tiab])) OR ((physician[tiab] OR physicians[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR  
29 community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR  
30 north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR  
31 suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR "primary care practitioner"[ti] OR "primary care  
32 practitioners"[ti] OR psychiatrist[ti] OR psychiatrists[ti] OR pulmonologist[ti] OR pulmonologists[ti] OR  
33 rheumatologist[ti] OR rheumatologists[ti] OR surgeon[ti] OR surgeons[ti] OR ((surgeon[tiab] OR  
34 surgeons[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR  
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 3 "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR burnouts[tiab] OR  
 4 "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR  
 5 distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR  
 6 fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR  
 7 impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR  
 8 sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR  
 9 wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR  
 10 traumatologist[ti] OR traumatologists[ti] OR urologist[ti] OR urologists[ti] AND ("Burnout,  
 11 Professional"[mh:noexp] OR "Circadian Rhythm"[mh] OR "Fatigue"[mh] OR "Occupational  
 12 Health"[mh:noexp] OR "Rest/physiology"[mh:noexp] OR "Rest/psychology"[mh:noexp] OR "Sleep  
 13 Deprivation"[mh:noexp] OR "Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm"[mh:noexp] OR "Stress,  
 14 Psychological"[mh] OR "Workload/psychology"[mh] OR "Work Schedule Tolerance"[mh:noexp] OR "24  
 15 hour rhythm"[tiab] OR "24 hour rhythms"[tiab] OR "24 hr rhythm"[tiab] OR "24 hr rhythms"[tiab] OR  
 16 alertness[tiab] OR "biological rhythm"[tiab] OR "biological rhythms"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR  
 17 "burned out"[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR "circadian misalignment"[tiab] OR  
 18 "circadian rhythm"[tiab] OR "circadian rhythms"[tiab] OR "diurnal rhythm"[tiab] OR "diurnal  
 19 rhythms"[tiab] OR exhausted[tiab] OR exhaustion[tiab] OR exhausting[tiab] OR exhausts[tiab] OR  
 20 fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR ("Sleep"[mh:noexp] OR  
 21 sleep[tiab] OR sleeping[tiab]) AND (deprivation[tiab] OR deprive[tiab] OR deprived[tiab] OR  
 22 deprives[tiab] OR depriving[tiab] OR disorder[tiab] OR disorders[tiab] OR lack[tiab] OR lacked[tiab] OR  
 23 lacking[tiab] OR lacks[tiab] OR loss[tiab] AND insufficient[tiab] OR problem[tiab] OR problems[tiab])) OR  
 24 tired[tiab] OR tiredness[tiab] OR "twenty four hour rhythm"[tiab] OR "twenty four hour rhythms"[tiab]  
 25 OR weariness[tiab] OR "ultradian rhythm"[tiab] OR "ultradian rhythms"[tiab])) NOT (((Animals[MESH]  
 26 OR Animal Experimentation[MESH] OR "Models, Animal"[MESH] OR Vertebrates[MESH]) NOT  
 27 (Humans[MESH] OR Human experimentation[MESH])) OR (((animals[tiab] OR animal model[tiab] OR  
 28 rat[tiab] OR rats[tiab] OR mouse[tiab] OR mice[tiab] OR rabbit[tiab] OR rabbits[tiab] OR pig[tiab] OR  
 29 pigs[tiab] OR porcine[tiab] OR swine[tiab] OR dog[tiab] OR dogs[tiab] OR hamster[tiab] OR  
 30 hamsters[tiab] OR chicken[tiab] OR chickens[tiab] OR sheep[tiab]) AND (publisher[sb] OR inprocess[sb]  
 31 OR pubmednotmedline[sb])) NOT (human[ti] OR humans[ti] OR people[ti] OR children[ti] OR adults[ti]  
 32 OR seniors[ti] OR patient[ti] OR patients[ti]))) NOT (editorial[pt] OR comment[pt] OR letter[pt] OR  
 33 newspaper article[pt])) AND ((publisher[sb] NOT pubstatusnihms NOT pubstatuspmcsd NOT pmcbook)  
 34 OR (pubstatUSheadofprint))

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Filters activated: Publication date from 2000/01/01 to 2016/12/31, English, French.

For peer review only

**Supplementary table 1.** Descriptive characteristics of the included studies

| Study<br>Country                               | Physician and patient characteristics   |                                     |   |   | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures  | Outcomes  |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|--|---|
|  | Type  | n=                                  | Sex (% male)  | Age   | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |  |   |
| <b>Observational (exposure) studies (n=45)</b> |   |                                     |   |   |   |                      |  |   |
| <b>Cohort design</b>                           |   |                                     |   |   |   |                      |  |   |
| Chu, 2011 [33]<br>Canada                       | Surgeons<br>Patients: cardiac surgery cases                                       | 6<br>4,047                          | NR<br>NR  | Range: 32-55y<br>NR   | Tertiary care academic<br>hospital  | Urban                | Sleep deprivation due to work on the night preceding surgery             | Surgeon operative efficiency; patient postoperative mortality, adverse outcomes, length of stay                     |
| Ellman, 2004 [36]<br>US                        | Surgeons<br>Patients: adult cardiac surgery cases                                 | NR<br>6,751                         | NR<br>70%   | NR<br>S: 63.4±0.7y<br>C: 63.5±0.1y  | University hospitals  | Urban                | Sleep deprivation due to work on the night preceding surgery             | Surgeon operative efficiency; patient complications, in-hospital mortality, length of stay, need for blood products |
| Govindarajan, 2015 [74]<br>Canada              | Surgeons<br>Patients: surgical cases  | 1,448<br>38,978                     | NR<br>NR  | 46.3±8.7<br>56.4±16.6y  | Academic and non-academic hospitals   | Mixed                | Sleep deprivation due to work on the night preceding a daytime surgery   | Duration of surgery; Patient complications, mortality, readmissions, length of stay                                 |
| Rothschild, 2009 [53]<br>US                    | Surgeons<br>Obstetrician/gynecologists<br>Patients: surgical and obstetrics cases | 220<br>Surg.: 4,471<br>Obst.: 4,902 | Surgeons: 84%<br>OB/GYNs: 28%<br>Surg.: 25%<br>C: 28%<br>Obst.: 0%<br>C: 0% | Surgeons: 42.0±7.6y<br>OB/GYNs: 42.0±9.0y<br>Surg.: 49.1±16.3y<br>C: 50.0±16.3y<br>Obst.: 32.9±5.2y<br>C: 33.5±5.0y | Tertiary care academic trauma centre/referral centre for high-risk obstetrics | Urban                | Sleep deprivation due to work on the night preceding a daytime procedure | Patient complications, preventable complications  |
| Schieman, 2007 [58]<br>Canada                  | Colorectal surgeons<br>Patients: undergoing anterior resection for rectal cancer  | NR<br>270                           | NR<br>NR  | NR<br>S: 64.5y<br>C: 64.4y  | University teaching hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue due to work on the night preceding surgery                       | Patient operative complications, length of stay, mortality, cancer recurrence                                       |

| Study<br>Country                     | Physician and patient characteristics                       |               |                         |   | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures  | Outcomes   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|-------------------------|---|---|----------------------|--|--|
|                                      | Type  | n=            | Sex (% male)            | Age   | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |  |  |
| Vinden, 2014 [72]<br>Canada          | General surgeons<br>Patients: Elective<br>cholecystectomies | 331<br>10,390 | 83%<br>S: 27%<br>C: 26% | 48±10y<br>S: 49±16y<br>C: 49±16y                      | Community hospitals   | Mixed                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to overnight work<br>preceding daytime<br>surgery | Patient mortality,<br>operative complications                                    |
| <b>Before-after design</b>           |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Amirian, 2014 [28]<br>Denmark        | Surgeons  | 29            | 55%                     | Median: 35y<br>Range: 27-49y                          | Academic hospital   | Urban                | 17-h night shift with<br>sleep deprivation                                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities on a<br>laparoscopic simulation           |
| Gerdes, 2008 [40]<br>US              | Surgeons  | 9             | NR                      | NR  | University Hospital   | Urban                | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation from<br>overnight call shift                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities   |
| Lederer, 2006 [45]<br>Austria        | Senior anesthetists   | 11            | 82%                     | 49.0±2.0y   | Hospital  | Urban                | Sleep deprivation from<br>24-h call shift                                  | Concentration ability;<br>reaction time;<br>performance on<br>psychometric tasks |
| <b>Time series design</b>            |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Leichtfried, 2011<br>[46]<br>Austria | Anesthetists  | 10            | 100%                    | Mean: 32y<br>Range: 29-35y                            | University Hospital   | Urban                | Sleep deprivation from<br>24-h shift; sleepiness,<br>sleep hours           | Melatonin metabolite<br>profile  |
| <b>Cross-sectional design</b>        |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Aziz, 2004 [29]<br>US                | Family medicine physicians<br>Various specialties           | 153           | NR                      | NR  | Hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue  | Stress   |
| Beaujouan, 2005<br>[30]<br>France    | Anesthesiologists   | 3,476         | 64%                     | ≤35y: 9%<br>36-45y: 28%<br>46-55y: 49%<br>56-65y: 13% | Public sector<br>General hospitals<br>University hospitals<br>Private hospitals | NR                   | Sleep deprivation  | Substance abuse  |
| Chang, 2013 [31]<br>US               | Anesthesiologists   | 11            | 64%                     | Mean: 38y<br>IQR: 34-48y                              | Level 1 trauma centre   | NR                   | Sleep deprivation due<br>to 15-h overnight call<br>shift; sleepiness       | Cognitive performance;<br>reaction time  |
| Chen, 2008 [32]<br>US                | Psychiatrists<br>Internists                                 | 180           | 77%                     | Academic:<br>79% 36-55y                               | Medical school<br>Private practices   | Urban                | Sleep deprivation;<br>sleepiness   | Impact on personal and<br>professional life;                                     |

| Study<br>Country                   | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              |   | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures               | Outcomes  |
|------------------------------------|---|-------|--------------|---|---|----------------------|---|---|
|                                    | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |   |   |
|                                    | General practitioners<br>Surgeons<br>Obstetrician-gynecologists<br>Radiologists<br>Pediatricians<br>Other |       |              |   | Private<br>practice:<br>73% 36-65y  |                      |   | perceived risk of errors  |
| Doppia, 2011 [34]<br>France        | Anesthesiologists   | 565   | 64%          | <35y: 11%<br>35-54y: 63%<br>>55y: 25%   | Public hospitals<br>Private hospitals<br>Work-health<br>environments<br>Public health units | NR                   | Sleep deprivation                           | Burnout   |
| Elovaino, 2015 [37]<br>Finland     | Physicians in various<br>specialties  | 1,524 | 40%          | Median: 49.7y<br>Range: 24-69y  | Hospitals<br>Primary care<br>Private practice<br>Other unspecified                          | NR                   | Sleep difficulties                          | Job demands and control   |
| Gander, 2000 [39]<br>New Zealand   | Anesthetists  | 183   | NR           | Mean: 46y   | Combined public/private<br>practice<br>Other unspecified                                    | NR                   | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance           | Risk of fatigue-related<br>errors                                       |
| Harbeck, 2015 [41]<br>Germany      | Internists  | 20    | 45%          | Median: 32y<br>Range: 26-42y  | Hospital  | NR                   | Sleep disturbance due<br>to a 24-call shift | Biochemical and<br>physiological parameters;<br>neurocognitive function |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br>[42]<br>Finland | Physicians in various<br>specialties<br>Non-specialized physicians  | 1,541 | 40%          | 49.80±9.49y,<br>Range: 24-67y   | Hospitals<br>Primary care clinic<br>Private practice<br>Other unspecified                   | NR                   | Sleep difficulties                          | Job satisfaction; work<br>ability; psychological<br>distress            |
| Jackson, 2017 [43]<br>US           | Surgeons in various<br>subspecialties   | 993   | 61%          | More; less<br>satisfied:<br>30-39y:<br>23%;24%<br>40-49y:<br>32%;36%<br>50-59y: | Academic practice<br>Non-academic practice  | NR                   | Not feeling well rested                     | Job satisfaction  |



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| Study<br>Country                 | Physician and patient characteristics  |                             |              | Setting   |   | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes   |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--|
|                                  | Type   | n=                          | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location  |                               |  |
|                                  |  |                             |              | 23%;27%   |   |                               |  |
|                                  |  |                             |              | ≥60y:   |   |                               |  |
|                                  |  |                             |              | 23%;14%   |   |                               |  |
| Kanieta, 2011 [44]<br>Japan      | Internists<br>Surgeons<br>Orthopedics<br>Pediatricians<br>Obstetrician-gynecologists<br>Psychiatrists<br>Dermatologists<br>Urologists<br>Ophthalmologists<br>Otorhinolaryngologists<br>Other | 3,486                       | 66%          | 20-39y: 11%<br>40-49y: 25%<br>50-59y: 28%<br>60-69y: 16%<br>≥70y: 21% | Hospitals<br>Clinics<br>Other unspecified                                   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation and<br>difficulties; insomnia<br>Medical incidents |
| Lindfors, 2006 [47]<br>Finland   | Anesthetists   | 328                         | 53%          | 47±7.8y<br>Range: 32-69y  | University hospitals<br>Central and district<br>hospitals<br>Private sector | NR                            | Sleep disturbances;<br>sleepiness<br>Stress; suicidal tendencies     |
| Mahmood, 2016<br>[48]<br>Norway  | Generalists<br>Internists<br>Pediatricians<br>Surgical specialties<br>Anesthesiologists  | 450<br>(all time<br>points) | 41%          | 43y±2.8y  | Public health system<br>Private practice                                    | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due<br>to on-call shifts<br>Alcohol misuse         |
| Nishimura, 2014<br>[49]<br>Japan | Neurosurgeons and<br>neurologists  | 2,564                       | NR           | NR  | Stroke care centres<br>Teaching hospitals                                   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Burnout   |
| Pit, 2014 [50]<br>Australia      | General practitioners  | 92                          | 60%          | 50±10.7y  | NR  | Rural                         | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance<br>Early retirement<br>intentions  |
| Pit, 2016 [51]<br>Australia      | General practitioners  | 92                          | 60%          | 50±10.7y  | Private (solo) practice<br>Group practice                                   | Rural                         | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance<br>Sickness presenteeism           |
| Roberts, 2014 [52]<br>US         | General internists<br>Internal medicine  | 578                         | 58%          | Hospitalists:<br>46.9±12.4y   | Private practice<br>Academic medical  | NR                            | Fatigue<br>Falling asleep while<br>driving                           |

| Study<br>Country                                 | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              |  | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures                     | Outcomes  |
|--|---|-------|--------------|--|---|----------------------|---|---|
|  | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age  | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |   |   |
|  | hospitalists  |       |              | Generalists:<br>53.6±10.2y                                 | centre<br>Veterans hospital<br>Military practice<br>Other                         |                      |   |   |
| Saadat, 2016 [55]<br>US                          | Anesthesiologists   | 21    | 71%          | 30-40y: 57%<br>41-50y: 19%<br>51-55y: 24%<br>Range: 32-56y | Tertiary care academic<br>children's hospital                                     | NR                   | Sleep deprivation due<br>to 17-h night call shift | Mood disturbances   |
| Saadat, 2017 [54]<br>US                          | Anesthesiologists   | 21    | 65%          | Range: 32-56<br>years                                      | Tertiary care academic<br>children's hospital                                     | NR                   | Sleep deprivation due<br>to 17-h night call shift | Reaction time   |
| Sanches, 2015 [56]<br>Spain                      | Emergency medicine<br>physicians  | 18    | 28%          | 29.2±2.6y  | Central hospital  | NR                   | Sleep deprivation                                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities                      |
| Sargent, 2009 [57]<br>US                         | Orthopedic surgeons   | 264   | 92%          | NR   | Orthopedic surgery<br>training programs   | NR                   | Sleep deprivation                                 | Burnout; psychological<br>distress; marital<br>satisfaction |
| Sende, 2012 [59]<br>France                       | Emergency physicians  | 318   | 62%          | 39±8y  | Hospitals<br>Mobile emergency<br>services<br>Other unspecified                    | NR                   | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation                     | Stress  |
| Sexton, 2001 [60]<br>US                          | Consulting physicians:<br>Surgeons<br>Anesthesiologists<br>Pulmonary physicians<br>Cardiologists<br>Pediatricians | 271   | NR           | NR   | Teaching and non-<br>teaching hospitals   | Urban                | Fatigue   | Perceived performance<br>effectiveness                      |
| Shanafelt, 2005<br>[62]<br>US, Canada,<br>Mexico | Oncologists   | 241   | 85%          | >50y: 51%  | Community clinics<br>Hospitals<br>Private practice<br>Academic medical<br>centres | NR                   | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation                     | Quality of life/well-being                                  |
| Shanafelt, 2010                                  | Surgeons  | 7,905 | 87%          | Median: 51y  | Private practice  | NR                   | Fatigue   | Perceived major medical                                     |

| Study<br>Country              | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              |                         | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures           | Outcomes   |
|-------------------------------|---|-------|--------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|
|                               | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age                     | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |   |  |
| [61]<br>US                    |   |       |              | Q1: 43y<br>Q2: 59y      | Academic medical<br>centres Veterans<br>hospital<br>Active military practice<br>Retired or not in<br>practice Other |                      |   | errors   |
| Shanafelt, 2014<br>[63]<br>US | Oncologists   | 1,117 | 52%          | Median: 52y             | Private practice<br>Academic practice<br>Veteran's hospital<br>Industry, other                                      | NR                   | Fatigue                                 | Satisfaction with work-life<br>balance   |
| Shirom, 2006 [64]<br>Israel   | Ophthalmologists<br>Dermatologists<br>Otolaryngologists<br>Gynecologists<br>General surgeons<br>Cardiologists   | 890   | 80%          | Median: 52y<br>SD: 7.2y | Community clinics<br>Acute care hospital<br>outpatient clinics  | NR                   | Physical fatigue                        | Perception of quality of<br>patient care   |
| Shirom, 2010 [65]<br>Israel   | Ophthalmologists<br>Dermatologists<br>Otolaryngologists<br>Gynecologists<br>General surgeons<br>Cardiologists   | 890   | 80%          | Median: 52y<br>SD: 7.2y | Community clinics<br>Acute care hospital<br>outpatient clinics  | NR                   | Physical fatigue                        | Burnout  |
| Smith, 2017 [66]<br>UK        | General practitioners<br>Surgeons<br>Other unspecified<br>specialties   | 3,550 | 63%          | NR                      | NR (varied)   | NR                   | Perceived fatigue,<br>sleep deprivation | Physical and mental<br>health; competence  |
| Starmer, 2016 [67]<br>US      | General pediatricians<br>Pediatric surgeons<br>Pediatric hospitalists<br>Pediatric specialists<br>(unspecified) | 840   | 40%          | NR                      | NR (some in private<br>practice)  | NR                   | Sleep deprivation                       | Burnout; balanced<br>personal and professional<br>commitments; life and<br>career satisfaction |
| Tanti, 2017 [68]              | Physicians (unspecified)  | 204   | 62%          | Median: 41y             | Hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue                                 | Prescribing errors   |

| Study<br>Country                    | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              | Setting   |                                      | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes  |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
|                                     | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location                             |                               |   | Urban<br>or<br>rural  |
| Malta                               |   |       |              |   | Community<br>Office-based            |                               |   |   |
| Tokuda, 2009 [69]<br>Japan          | Hospital physicians:<br>Generalists<br>Other unspecified<br>specialties             | 236   | 75%          | 40.9±7.8y<br>Range: 26-76y                            | Hospitals with ≥20<br>inpatient beds | NR                            | Sleep deprivation   | Burnout; job satisfaction   |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008<br>[71]<br>Spain   | Primary care physicians   | 113   | 27%          | 41.4±8.0y   | Primary care centres                 | Urban                         | Sleep problems,<br>insomnia   | Burnout   |
| Wada, 2010 [73]<br>Japan            | Physicians (unspecified)  | 3,862 | 78%          | M: 75% 30-<br>59y<br>F: 85% 30-59y                    | Hospitals                            | NR                            | Sleep deprivation   | Depressive symptoms   |
| <b>Non-comparative design</b>       |   |       |              |   |                                      |                               |   |   |
| Gander, 2008 [38]<br>New Zealand    | Anesthetists  | 20    | 85%          | Median: 44y   | Hospitals                            | Urban                         | Sleep disturbance<br>from consecutive<br>working days or on-<br>call work               | Psychomotor<br>performance  |
| <b>Intervention studies (n=2)</b>   |   |       |              |   |                                      |                               |   |   |
| <b>Randomized controlled trials</b> |   |       |              |   |                                      |                               |   |   |
| Dutheil, 2013 [35]<br>France        | Emergency physicians  | 17    | 35%          | 39.1y±6.9y  | University hospital                  | Urban                         | Fatigue related to 14-h<br>and 24-h shifts; sleep<br>deprivation; low sleep<br>quality; | Perceived stress; urine<br>interleukine-8                               |
| Uchal, 2005 [70]<br>Norway          | Surgeons<br>Gynecologists<br>Orthopedic surgeons<br>Urologists<br>Vascular surgeons | 64    | 67%          | Median:<br>Post-call:<br>33.0y<br>Post-work:<br>38.0y | Government hospitals                 | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due<br>to 24-h call shift   | Product quality,<br>procedure effectiveness<br>of a surgical simulation |

C: control group; F: female; h: hour(s); IQR: interquartile range; M: male; NR: not reported; S: study group; SD: standard deviation; Surg: surgical; Obst: obstetric; Q: quartile; UK: United Kingdom; US: United States of America; y: year(s)

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**Supplementary table 2.** Summary of risk of bias assessments for randomized controlled trials (n=2)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Random sequence generation | Allocation concealment | Blinding of participants and personnel | Blinding of outcome assessment | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias | Overall risk of bias <sup>b</sup> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dutheil, 2013      | Low                        | Unclear                | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                  | High                              |
| Uchal, 2005        | Low                        | Low                    | Unclear                                | Low                            | Low                     | Low                 | Low                   | Unclear                           |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Cochrane Collaboration’s Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

**Supplementary table 3.** Summary of quality assessments for cohort studies (n=6)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Selection                               |                                    |                              |                                 |          | Comparability               |          | Outcome                  |                                 |                                  | Total Score <sup>b</sup> /9 |   |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
|                    | Representativeness of exposed cohort /1 | Selection of non-exposed cohort /1 | Ascertainment of exposure /1 | Outcome not present at start /1 | Total /4 | Comparability of cohorts /2 | Total /2 | Assessment of outcome /1 | Adequate length of follow-up /1 | Adequate follow-up of cohorts /1 |                             |   |
| Chu, 2011          | 1                                       | 1                                  | 0                            | 1                               | 3        | 2                           | 2        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                           | 8 |
| Ellman, 2004       | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 1                           | 1        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                           | 8 |
| Govindarajan, 2015 | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 2                           | 2        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                           | 9 |
| Rothschild, 2009   | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 2                           | 2        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                           | 9 |
| Schieman, 2008     | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 1                           | 1        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                           | 8 |
| Vinden, 2014       | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 1                           | 1        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                           | 8 |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 7 to 9 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 4 to 6 as unclear risk of bias, and 3 or less as high risk of bias

**Supplementary table 4.** Summary of risk of bias assessments for before-after studies (n=3)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Random sequence generation <sup>b</sup> | Allocation concealment <sup>b</sup> | Blinding of participants and personnel | Blinding of outcome assessment | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias <sup>c</sup> | Overall risk of bias <sup>d</sup> |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amirian, 2014      | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |
| Gerdes, 2008       | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |
| Lederer, 2006      | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) Review Group's criteria for before-after studies, adapted from the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Assessed as 'not applicable' (NA) when the studies did not include a control group

<sup>c</sup>Assessed as High due to lack of a control group

<sup>d</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

**Supplementary table 5.** Summary of risk of bias assessments for time series studies (n=1)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Intervention independent of other changes | Intervention effect pre-specified | Intervention unlikely to affect data collection | Allocation concealment <sup>a</sup> | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias <sup>c</sup> | Overall risk of bias <sup>d</sup> |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Leitchfried, 2011  | Low                                       | High                              | Low   | NA                                  | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) Review Group's criteria for interrupted time series studies, adapted from the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Assessed as not applicable (NA) when the studies did not include a control group

<sup>c</sup>Assessed as High due to lack of a control group

<sup>d</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

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**Supplementary table 6.** Summary of quality assessments for cross-sectional studies (n=34)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Selection                         |  |             | Outcome                     |  |                     |             | Total Score <sup>b</sup><br>/5 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                    | Adequacy of case definition<br>/1 | Representativeness of the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Assessment of outcome<br>/1 | Same method of ascertainment for entire sample<br>/1 | Response rate<br>/1 | Total<br>/3 |                                |
| Aziz, 2004         | 0                                 | 0                                      | 0           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 1                              |
| Beaujouan, 2005    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Chang, 2013        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Chen, 2008         | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Doppia, 2011       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Elovaino, 2015     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Gander, 2000       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Harbeck, 2015      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Heponiemi, 2014    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Jackson, 2017      | 0                                 | 0                                      | 0           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 1                              |
| Kanieta, 2011      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Lindfors, 2006     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Mahmood, 2017      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Nishimura, 2014    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Pit, 2014          | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Pit, 2016          | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Roberts, 2014      | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Saadat, 2016       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Saadat, 2017       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Sanches, 2015      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Sargent, 2009      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |

| First Author, Year | Selection                         |  |             | Outcome                     |  |                     |             | Total Score <sup>b</sup><br>/5 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                    | Adequacy of case definition<br>/1 | Representativeness of the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Assessment of outcome<br>/1 | Same method of ascertainment for entire sample<br>/1 | Response rate<br>/1 | Total<br>/3 |                                |
| Sende, 2010        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Sexton, 2001       | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Shanafelt, 2005    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Shanafelt, 2010    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Shanafelt, 2014    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Shirom, 2006       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Shirom, 2010       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Smith, 2016        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Starmer, 2016      | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Tanti, 2017        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Tokuda, 2009       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008   | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Wada, 2010         | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, adapted for cross-sectional studies

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 4 to 5 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 3 as unclear risk of bias, and 2 or less as high risk of bias. For response rate, ≥50% was used as the criterion to be awarded a star



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**Supplementary table 7.** Summary of quality assessments for non-comparative studies (n=1)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author,<br>Year | Selection                               |  |             | Exposure                          |             | Outcome                        |  |                            |             | Total<br>Score <sup>b</sup> |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
|                       | Adequacy<br>of case<br>definition<br>/1 | Representat-<br>iveness of<br>the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Ascertain-<br>ment of<br>exposure | Total<br>/1 | Assessment<br>of outcome<br>/1 | Same method<br>of assessment<br>for entire<br>sample<br>/1 | Loss to<br>follow-up<br>/1 | Total<br>/3 |                             |
| Gander, 2008          | 1                                       | 1  | 2           | 0                                 | 0           | 0                              | 1  | 1                          | 2           | 4                           |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, adapted by the authors to be suitable to the non-comparative design

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 5 to 6 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 3 to 4 as unclear risk of bias, and 2 or less as high risk of bias

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**Supplementary table 8.** Physician health and wellness outcomes and associations with fatigue

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)          | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |   | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|---|---|
|                                      |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |   |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                      |                 |  |   |   |   |
| Jackson, 2017<br><br>RoB: high       | CS              | Not feeling well rested: self-reported as 'unhealthy'<br><br>Time points NR  | 71% healthy, 28% unhealthy in terms of being well rested  | Job satisfaction: Abridged Job in General Scale; grouped into more or less satisfied using the median<br><br>Time points NR | Job satisfaction in those more vs. less satisfied: Healthy (well rested): 85% vs. 58%, p<0.001; Unhealthy (not well rested): 15% vs. 42%, p<0.001.  |
| Nishimura, 2014<br><br>RoB: unclear  | CS              | Sleep hours/night: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Time points NR  | Mean±SD sleep: 5.94±1.08h   | Burnout: Japanese MBI (severe: EE >4.0 and either DP >2.6 or PE <4.17)<br><br>Time points NR                                | 1) Mean±SD sleep for not burned out vs. mild to moderate vs. severe: 6.07±1.15 vs. 5.88±0.94 vs. 5.63±0.94, p<0.05;<br>2) Association between sleep and burnout (OR (95% CI)): bivariate 0.67 (0.61-0.73), p<0.001; multivariate including work characteristics and mental health: 0.84 (0.75-0.94), p=0.002. |
| Sargent, 2009<br><br>RoB: high       | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported on a 4-point scale (none, a little, quite a bit, a lot)<br><br>Time points NR   | 21% none, 48% a little, 23% quite a bit, 8% a lot   | Burnout: MBI (norms NR); Marital satisfaction: RDAS; Psychological morbidity: GHQ-12 score ≥4<br><br>Time points NR         | 1) Positive correlation between sleep deprivation and EE, DP, psychological distress, lower marital satisfaction, all p<0.001. No relationship with PA.   |
| <b>Anesthesiologists<sup>a</sup></b> |                 |  |   |   |   |
| Lederer, 2006<br><br>RoB: high       | BA              | 24-h shift with on-call duty; Sleep hours and interruptions: self-reported; Tiredness: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty | Mean±SD sleep: 4.1±1.7h; Number of interruptions: 0.8±1.1; Tiredness pre- vs. post-duty: 30.9±27.5 vs. 59.5±18.9, p=0.01. | Stress during duty: 4-point scale from 'calm' to 'very demanding'<br><br>Assessed post-duty                                 | 1) Mean stress score during duty: 2.1.  |
| Leitchfried, 2011<br><br>RoB: high   | TS              | 24-h shift; Sleepiness: ESS (range: 0-24); Sleep hours: self-reported  | ESS (mean (range)): 7.4 (4-12); Mean±SD sleep hours: 1) pre-study: 7.74±1.35h; 2) Pre-24-h shift (11h00 on day            | aMT6-s: urinalysis<br><br>Assessed at 4-h intervals from 07:00 to 11:00   | 1) aMT6-s over shift, mean (95% CI): higher at 11:00AM pre- (12.2 (6.3-8.1)) and post-shift (9.3 (3.7-14.9)) vs. during, p=0.016;<br>2) Correlations between sleep and aMT6-s (data   |

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|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
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|                                  |                 | (continuous)<br><br>Sleepiness assessed pre-shift, sleep hours pre, during and post-shift                                       | 1: 0.13±0.35h, 19:00 on day 1: 6.99±0.68h);<br>3) During the 24-h shift (07h00 on day 2: 0.0±0.0h, 19h00 on day 2, 5.49±1.95h);<br>4) Post-24-h shift (11h00 on day 3: 0.5±0.71h, 19h00 on day 3: 7.06±1.18h). |  | NR): mild for sleep duration the night prior with aMT6-s at 3PM the following day; sleep on night 2 with aMT6-s at 3PM the next day; total sleep with aMT6-s at 11AM on third day; moderate for sleep on first night with aMT6-s at 7AM and 11AM pre-shift, 11PM during 24-h shift and 11AM post-shift; total sleep pre-shift and nocturnal sleep during 24-h shift with aMT6-s at 11PM during shift; total sleep with aMT6-s at 3PM on first and second day, 11PM on second day;<br>3) Correlations between ESS and aMT6-s: moderate for aMT6-s at 7AM during shift, 11AM on day off. |
| Beaujouan, 2005<br><br>RoB: high | CS              | Sleep deprivation: 4-point scale (always, frequently, rarely, never)<br><br>Time points NR                                      | 48.8% always or frequently feel sleep deprived   | Substance abuse: 93-item addiction and substance abuse questionnaire<br><br>Time points NR                                     | 1) 60.6% with drug dependence vs. 46.0% of those without reported sleep difficulties, p<0.001.<br>2) OR (95% CI) of addiction for frequently/always vs. rarely/never sleep deprived: tobacco 1.42 (1.04-1.94); tranquilizer/hypnotics 3.26 (2.12-5.02).  |
| Doppia, 2011<br><br>RoB: low     | CS              | Insufficient sleep: 4-point scale (no, not really, sort of, yes)<br><br>Time points NR  | 28.9% reported insufficient sleep during work time   | Burnout: CBI (mild: 1-2.4, moderate: 2.5-3.5, severe: 3.6-5)<br><br>Time points NR   | 1) Frequency of burnout by response for sleep sufficiency: 47.6% for no/not really, 16.3% for sort of/yes, p<0.001.  |
| Lindfors, 2006<br><br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep hours/day: self-reported to the nearest 0.5h;<br>Adequacy of sleep and rest: self-reported (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR | Sleep hours (mean (range)): 7 (5-9)  | Stress: MOSQ on a 3-point scale (no, to some extent, clearly);<br>Thoughts of suicide: 4-point scale ('never' to 'have tried') | 1) Sleep sufficiency predicted stress symptoms: bivariate $\beta=-0.362$ , p<0.001; multivariate including gender, sick leave, suicide $\beta=-0.269$ , p<0.00; 2) Sleep disturbance associated with thoughts of suicide, p=0.009.   |
| Saadat, 2015                     | CS              | Sleep deprivation (<7h/24-h) due to 17-h overnight shift;   | Mean±SD sleepiness on a regular day vs. post-call day:   | Simple cognitive tests: VAS from 0 (not at all) to 100   | Regular day v. post-call day, mean±SD scores:<br>1) Simple cognitive tests: energetic 6.04±2.27 vs.  |

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| RoB: low                    |                 | Sleepiness and alertness:<br>VAS from 0 (not at all) to<br>100 (extremely)  | 2.99±2.18 vs. 6.79±2.30,<br>p<0.001  | (extremely);<br>Mood disturbance: PMS<br>(scoring NR)  | 2.53±1.87, confident 7.03±1.83 vs. 4.98±2.29,<br>irritable 2.03±1.94 vs. 4.86±2.16, sleepy 2.99±2.18<br>vs. 6.79±2.30, talkative 4.46±1.74 vs. 2.41±1.97, all<br>p<0.001; jittery 1.44±1.74 vs. 3.12±2.34, p=0.003;<br>anxiousness ns;<br>2) PMS: tension 13.48±2.71 vs. 15.43±4.46,<br>p=0.049; anger 15.24±4.41 vs. 18.14±5.92,<br>p=0.005; fatigue 10.14±2.63 vs. 20.05±6.87,<br>p<0.001; confusion 10.57±1.69 vs. 12.57±4.24,<br>p=0.025; vigor 24.05±6.75 vs. 16.67±5.70, p<0.001;<br>depression: ns; total mood disturbance:<br>42.57±15.26 vs. 70.90±6.91, p<0.001.                        |
| <b>ER or ICU physicians</b> |                 |   |  |  |   |
| Dutheil, 2013<br>RoB: high  | RCT             | 14-h or 24-h shift;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported<br>sleep and wake time;<br>Sleep quality: VAS from 1<br>(low) to 100 (high);<br>Mental and physical fatigue:<br>VAS from 1 (low) to 100<br>(high) | 1) Sleep duration and quality<br>lower during shifts (14h and<br>24h) than any other day, and<br>lower during the 24-h vs. 14-h<br>shift (p<0.05);<br>2) Mental and physical fatigue<br>higher after 14-h and 24-h shift<br>vs. control day (data NR). | Stress: VAS from 0 (low) to<br>100 (high);<br>IL-8: urinalysis<br>Assessed at 08:30 and 18:30<br>on each day of protocol                           | 1) Stress: higher following 14-h and 24-h shifts vs.<br>the control day, p<0.05 (data NR);<br>2) IL-8: higher following 24-h shift vs. control<br>(p=0.007) and 14-h shift (p=0.015); ns difference<br>between 14-h shift and control day;<br>3) Correlations with IL-8: sleep hours pre-24-h<br>shift, r=-0.627, p=0.007; poor sleep quality during<br>14-h and 24-h shifts, r=0.452, p=0.031;<br>4) Multivariable regression: 24-h shift increased IL-<br>8 by 1.9ng vs. control day, p=0.007; ns association<br>with 14-h shift, mental or physical fatigue, sleep<br>deprivation, 14-h shift. |
| Sende, 2012<br>RoB: high    | CS              | Fatigue and sleep<br>deprivation as sources of<br>stress<br><br>Time points NR  | NR   | Most important sources of<br>stress among 4 categories<br>(work-related, patient-<br>related, organizational,<br>individual)<br><br>Time points NR | 1) 78% indicated that sleep loss and fatigue were<br>sources of stress.   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)       | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|---|--|
|                                   |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
| <b>Generalists<sup>b</sup></b>    |                 |  |  |   |  |
| Harbeck, 2015<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | 24-hours on-call shift with sleep disturbance: self-reported number of sleep disturbances and hours of sleep per night<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | 1) Sleep hours on a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: <2 hours: 0 vs. 5.9%; 2-4 hours: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 4-6 hours: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; >6 hours: 82.4% vs. 11.8%<br><br>2) Number of sleep disturbances a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: 0: 82.4% vs. 11.8%; 1: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; 2: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 3: 0% vs. 5.9%; 4: 0% vs. 0%; >4: 0% vs. 0% | Biochemical (laboratory values) and physiological (heart rate variability, skin resistance, blood pressure) stress parameters<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | Before a normal shift vs. after overnight call shift:<br>1) Biochemical parameters: no changes in any parameter except for thyroid stimulating hormone which was higher after the on-call shift (p = 0.049, data NR);<br>2) Physiological parameters: no significant changes in any parameter  |
| Pit, 2014<br><br>RoB: unclear     | CS              | Work-related sleep disturbance: 7-point scale from 'never' to 'every day'<br><br>Time points NR  | Work-related sleep disturbance: 41% never, 59% a few times a year to every day   | Early retirement (<65 years) intentions (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR  | For sleep disturbance a few times a year to every day vs. never:<br>1) Intention to retire early: 74% vs. 26%, p<0.01;<br>2) Association with intention to retire early (OR (95% CI)): univariate 3.6 (1.47-8.80), p<0.01; multivariate including work, occupational, individual factors 2.91 (1.11-7.6), p<0.05;<br>4) RR (95% CI) for intention to retire early: 2.0 (1.18-3.49); attributable fraction: 50.0%; population attributable fraction: 37.1%. |
| Pit, 2016<br><br>RoB: unclear     | CS              | Work-related sleep disturbance: 7-point scale from 'never' to 'every day'<br><br>Time points NR  | Work-related sleep disturbance: 41% never, 59% a few times a year to every day   | Sickness presenteeism: 'yes' response indicated 1 or more days<br><br>Assessed for the past 12 months   | For sleep disturbance a few times a year to every day vs. never:<br>1) Sickness presenteeism: 32% vs. 68%, p=0.018;<br>2) Association with sickness presenteeism (OR (95% CI)): 2.92 (1.19-7.16), p=0.02.  |

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|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
|                                 |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |   |
| Roberts, 2014<br>RoB: unclear   | CS              | Fatigue: LAS from 0 (low) to 10 (high)<br><br>Assessed for the past week  | Mean (SD) score: 5.8 (2.4) for hospitalists; 5.9 (2.4) for general internists  | Impact of fatigue on daily activities (falling asleep while driving) (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR | 1) 8.7% of hospitalists and 4.3% of outpatient general internists had fallen asleep while driving due to fatigue.   |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008<br>RoB: low    | CS              | Sleep Quality: PSQI (Spanish): score $\geq 5$ indicates low quality (range; 0 to 21);<br>Insomnia: DSM-IV criteria<br><br>Time points NR; insomnia symptoms in past month | Prevalence (% (95% CI)):<br>1) Sleep-onset latency $>30$ minutes: 8.4 (4.8-11.9);<br>2) Wake time after sleep onset $>30$ minutes: 15.4 (10.8-19.9);<br>3) Early morning awakening: 22.5 (19.5-30.4);<br>4) Nonrestorative sleep: 22.5 (17.2-27.7);<br>5) Daytime impairment for $\geq 5$ days in past month: 14.2 (9.7-18.6);<br>6) Insomnia: 18.8 (13.8-23.7). | Burnout: PBM with a 7-point scale from 1 (never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR                | Low vs. high burnout, mean $\pm$ SD:<br>1) Global PSQI: 2.72 $\pm$ 2.22 vs. 7.24 $\pm$ 4.17, $p<0.001$ ;<br>2) PSQI subscores: sleep quality: 0.54 $\pm$ 0.57 vs. 1.40 $\pm$ 0.83, $p<0.001$ ; sleep latency: 0.51 $\pm$ 0.80 vs. 1.38 $\pm$ 1.03, $p=0.002$ ; sleep duration: 0.45 $\pm$ 0.64 vs. 1.16 $\pm$ 0.92, $p=0.003$ ; sleep efficiency: 0.21 $\pm$ 0.57 vs. 0.77 $\pm$ 0.98, $p=0.018$ ; sleep disturbance: ns; use of medication: 0.14 $\pm$ 0.49 vs. 0.57 $\pm$ 0.83, $p=0.032$ ; daytime dysfunction: 0.52 $\pm$ 0.73 vs. 1.57 $\pm$ 0.88, $p=0.002$ .<br>3) Prevalence (95% CI) of insomnia symptoms: sleep latency: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 21.1% (10.5-31.6%), $p=0.015$ ; wake time $>30$ min after sleep onset: 9.4% (1.6-17.1%) vs. 25.5% (14.2-37.7%), $p=0.029$ ; early awakening: 14.5% (5.1-23.8%) vs. 45.6 (32.7-58.4%), $p<0.001$ ; somewhat/very dissatisfied with sleep: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 50% (37.1-62.8%), $p<0.001$ ; day impairment: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 38.2% (25.6-50.7%), $p<0.001$ ; insomnia: 7.3% (0.4-14%) vs. 39.7% (27.1-52.2%), $p<0.001$ . |
| <b>Oncologists</b>              |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Shanafelt, 2005<br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Fatigue: LASA QOL $\leq 7$ ;<br>Sleep deprivation: 10-point Likert scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (stressful as can be)<br><br>Time points NR                            | 75% had a high level of fatigue;<br>Mean $\pm$ SD sleep score: 4.5 $\pm$ 2.65.   | Wellbeing: 10-item LASA QOL, high $\geq 8$ vs. low $\leq 7$<br><br>Time points NR                   | 1) Sleep deprivation for high vs. low overall well-being (mean $\pm$ SD): 3.9 $\pm$ 2.57 vs. 5.1 $\pm$ 2.60, $p=0.0004$ ;<br>2) Lower fatigue predicted overall wellbeing in a multivariate model including personal and professional characteristics, $p=0.002$ .  |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)         | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|---|
|                                     |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
| Shanafelt, 2014<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Fatigue: 10-point LAS (lower scores indicate greater fatigue)<br><br>Time points NR                                      | Mean±SD fatigue score: 5.7±2.4                               | Satisfaction with WLB: 5-point Likert scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'<br><br>Time points NR   | 1) OR (95%CI) of lower satisfaction predicted by high fatigue (vs. not) in multivariate model including personal and work-related factors, and burnout: 0.489 (0.337-0.710), p<0.001.   |
| <b>Mixed groups of physicians</b>   |                 |  |  |  |   |
| Aziz, 2004<br><br>RoB: high         | CS              | Working while fatigued: 5-point scale from 'extreme' to 'a little'<br><br>Time points NR                                 | NR   | Stress: 47-item questionnaire with a 5-point scale from 'extreme' to 'a little'<br><br>Time points NR  | 1) Sources of stress: working while fatigued had a mean±SD score of 2.44±1.20, factor loading: 0.653, in factor analysis;<br>2) Inverse correlation between stress and working while fatigued: r=-0.270 (significance level NR).  |
| Chen, 2008<br><br>RoB: high         | CS              | Sleepiness: ESS score ≥11<br><br>Time points NR  | Mean±SD ESS score: 7.8±4.0, range: 0-20, 23% had scores ≥11. | Impact on work and personal life: Impact Questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree)<br><br>Time points NR            | 1) Impact score correlated with ESS, r=0.31, p<0.05;<br>2) ESS score was higher among physicians who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: worried about having a car accident while driving home post-call: 5.4 vs. 7.0, p<0.001; sleep loss has a major impact on personal life: 8.4 vs. 7.0, p=0.01;<br>3) Higher ESS scores predicted by impact score in multivariate regression including personal and work-related factors: β=0.11, p=0.005. |
| Elovaino, 2015<br><br>RoB: low      | CS              | Sleeping problems: Jenkins Scale with a 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night)<br><br>Assessed in 2006 and 2010 | Mean±SD score: 2006: 2.30 (1.00); 2010: 2.35 (1.05).         | Jobs demands: 5 items scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree);<br>Job control: 3 items derived from the Karasek Job Questionnaire | There was no association between sleeping problems in 2006 and job demands or control in 2010.  |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br><br>RoB: low     | CS              | Sleeping problems: Jenkins Scale <sup>81</sup> with a 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every                           | Mean±SD (range) score: 2.30±1.00 (1-6)                       | Psychological distress: GHQ-12 with a 4-point scale (low to high);   | 1) Sleeping problems associated with job satisfaction, β=-0.12, p<0.001, psychological distress, β=0.18, p<0.001;   |

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|                                 |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
|                                 |                 | night)<br><br>Assessed in 2006   |   | Job satisfaction: JDS with a Likert scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)<br><br>Assessed in 2010  | 2) Total indirect effect of on-call duty through two mediators (sleeping problems, work interference with family) ( $R^2$ (95% CI)): job satisfaction 0.06 (-0.059, -0.016), $p < 0.001$ ; psychological distress 0.16 (0.023, 0.081), $p < 0.001$ .                   |
| Mahmood, 2016<br><br>RoB: high  | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported mean hours of sleep when on call<br><br>Assessed at 4 years, 10 years, and 15 years post-graduation   | Mean±SD hours:<br>4 years: 4.52 (2.79);<br>10 years: 5.38 (6.36);<br>15 years: 6.41 (7.14). | Alcohol use disorders:<br>Modified 9-item version of the Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) $\geq 6$ for men and $\geq 5$ for women.<br><br>Assessed at 4 years, 10 years, and 15 years post-graduation | There was no association between hours of sleep when on call and hazardous drinking behaviours ( $p = 0.732$ )   |
| Shirom, 2010<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Tiredness and exhaustion: SMBM Physician Fatigue Subscale on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR | NR  | Burnout: SMBM on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)  | 1) Correlation between physical fatigue subscale and overall burnout: 0.88, $p < 0.05$ ;<br>2) In a predictive structural model for burnout, physical fatigue accounted for unique variance in the burnout items, not accounted for by total burnout ( $R^2 = 0.24$ ). |
| Smith, 2017<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR   | NR  | Mental and physical illness: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR  | Some physicians reported developing mental illness (e.g., bipolar disorder, alcohol misuse) due to tiredness and stress at work; others developed physical health problems due to sleep deprivation, poor eating habits and lack of exercise.                          |
| Starmer, 2016<br><br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep deprivation: $< 7$ hours sleep in a typical 24-h period (self-reported)<br><br>Time points NR                                    | 27.7% sleep deprived  | Burnout, satisfaction with career and life, balanced personal and professional commitments: Each on a 5-point Likert scale (strongly  | $\geq 7$ -h vs. $< 7$ -h sleep:<br>1) Burnout (% strongly agree/agree): 26.4% vs. 39.6%, $p < 0.05$ ; career satisfaction (% strongly agree/agree): ns; life satisfaction (% completely/very satisfied): 76.4% vs. 55.9%,  |



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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |   | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|---|
|                                |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |   |
|                                |                 |   |   | agree to strongly disagree)<br><br>Time points NR   | p<0.05; balanced personal and professional commitments (% completely/very satisfied): 49.7% vs. 26.1%.<br><br>2) <7-h sleep (vs. ≥7-h) (OR, 95% CI) associated with life satisfaction 0.44 (0.29-0.67), p<0.05; balanced personal/professional commitments 0.46 (0.31-0.71), p≤0.05, in a model including work and personal factors.  |
| Tokuda, 2009<br><br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep hours/day: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Time points NR (included weekday and weekends)             | Mean±SD (range) sleep hours/day: 6±0.9 (3-8)  | Burnout: MBI (Japanese) with a 7-point Likert scale: 0 (none) to 6 (every day);<br>Job satisfaction: JHPSS <sup>86</sup> with a 5-point Likert scale: 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)<br><br>Time points NR | Maximum likelihood estimates±SE:<br>1) Sleeping time to job satisfaction: group 0.990±0.458, p=0.031; ns for men; women 1.711±0.805, p=0.034;<br>2) Sleeping time to EE: group -0.219 ±0.070, p=0.002; men -0.215±0.082, p=0.009; ns for women.   |
| Wada, 2010<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Sleep hours/day: Self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Assessed for past month when not completing overnight work | <5 hours: 8.7% men, 9.9% women; 5 to <6 hours: 32.3% men, 34.6% women; 6 to <7 hours: 46.0% men, 43.7% women; ≥7 hours: 13.0% men, 11.8% women. | Depression: QIDS-SR; Japanese score <5 (no symptoms) to >20 (very severe symptoms)<br><br>Assessed for past 7 days  | 1) Sleep hours for those with vs. without depressive symptoms: <5: 18.7% vs. 7.7% men, 20.5% vs. 8.7% women; 5 to <6: 33.7% vs. 32.2% men, 38.6% vs. 34.2% women; 6 to <7: 35.1% vs. 46.9% men; 31.8% vs. 45.1% women;<br>2) Association between <5h sleep (vs. 6-7h) and depressive symptoms (OR (95% CI)): univariate 2.79 (1.96-3.95) for men, 2.65 (1.47-4.78) for women; multivariate (including age and workload factors) 2.70 (1.82-4.03) for men, 2.38 (1.11-5.10) for women. |

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies of anesthetists, where these were physicians.  
<sup>b</sup>Includes primary care physicians, internal medicine physicians, and general practitioners.

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3 AM: morning; aMT6-s: melatonin metabolite; BA: before-after; CI: confidence interval; CBI: Copenhagen Burnout Inventory; CS: cross-sectional; DP: depersonalization; DSM:  
4 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; EE: emotional exhaustion; ER: emergency; ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale; GHQ: General Health Questionnaire; h: hour(s);  
5 ICU: intensive care unit; IL-8: interleukin-8; JDS: Job Diagnostic Survey; JHPSS: Japanese Hospital Physicians Satisfaction Scale; LAS: linear analog scale; LASA: linear analog  
6 assessment scales; MBI: Maslach Burnout Inventory; MOSQ: Modified Occupational Stress Questionnaire; min: minute(s); NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; ns: not  
7 statistically significant; OR: odds ratio; PA: personal achievement; PBM: Pines Burnout Measure; PE: professional efficacy; PM: afternoon; PMS: Profile of Mood States; PSQI:  
8 Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; QIDS-SR: Quick Inventory Depressive Scale – Self-Reported; QOL: Quality of Life; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RDAS: Revised Dyadic  
9 Adjustment Scale; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; SMBM: Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; TS: time series; US: United States of America; VAS:  
10 visual analog scale; vs.: versus; WLB: work-life balance  
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**Supplementary table 9.** Performance and safety outcomes related to fatigue or sleep loss among physicians in independent practice

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)        | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
|                                    |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                    |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Uchal, 2005<br><br>RoB: unclear    | RCT             | Sleep deprivation from a 24-h call shift vs. 8-h work;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous);<br>Sleepiness: ESS (moderate: 10-15, severe: ≥16) | Median (range) sleep hours: 1.5 (0-3) post-call vs. 6.5 (5-9) post-work, p<0.05;<br>Median ESS score: 7.0 post-call vs. 5.5 post-work, ns.         | Surgical performance: laparoscopic surgical simulator for product quality, procedure effectiveness<br><br>Assessed post-call and post-work | Post call vs. post-work:<br>1) Product quality: no difference in accuracy error, tissue damage, leak rate;<br>2) Procedure effectiveness: no difference in goal-directed actions, non-goal directed actions, operating time. |
| Chu, 2011<br><br>RoB: low          | CO              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported hours, moderate (3-6h) or severe (<3h)<br><br>Assessed the night before surgery                                     | Of 4,047 procedures, 83 (2.1%) performed by severely sleep-deprived and 1,595 (39.4%) moderately sleep-deprived surgeons                           | Surgical performance: CABG, ACC<br><br>Assessed during surgery   | For 0-3 vs. 3-6 vs. >6 hours of sleep: no difference in CABG or ACC.   |
| Ellman, 2004<br><br>RoB: low       | CO              | Sleep deprivation: performed a case starting 22:00 to 05:00, or ending 22:00 to 07:30 and another case in the next 24-h                              | Of 6,751 procedures, 339 (5%) performed by sleep-deprived surgeons   | Surgical performance: CABG, ACC<br><br>Assessed during surgery   | Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in CABG or ACC.   |
| Govindarajan, 2015<br><br>RoB: low | CO              | Sleep deprivation: treated patients from midnight to 07:00 and performed a subsequent case on the same day   | NR   | Surgical performance: duration of surgery  | Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in duration of surgery, even after stratification by type of procedure.   |
| Amirian, 2014<br><br>RoB: high     | BA              | 17-h night call shift;<br>Sleep hours during the shift:<br>Wrist-mounted Micro-Mini-Motionlogger;<br>Sleepiness: KSS                                 | Naps pre-call: 11 (37%) napped for median (IQR) 90 (58-128) min;<br>Median (IQR) sleep: 91 (62-123) min on the pre-call night vs. 430 (329-449) on | Surgical performance: LapSimGyn laparoscopic simulation for time, blood loss, instrument path; D2 test of attention and concentration      | Pre- vs. post-call:<br>1) LapSimGyn: no difference in total time, blood loss, instrument path length, instrument angular path; napping did not affect performance;<br>2) D2 test: improvement in concentration,              |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)          | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
|                                      |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |   |
|                                      |                 | Assessed on pre-call and on-call day; sleepiness assessed during shift  | the on-call night, $p < 0.001$ ;<br>Sleep on-call: 12 (40%) slept for median (IQR) 98 (39-135) min;<br>Significant development of sleepiness during shift ( $p < 0.001$ ), plateau score of 7 at 04:00 to 08:00. | Assessed on pre-call and on-call day  | $p < 0.05$ . No changes in any other parameters;<br>3) ns difference in laparoscopic simulation time in those who slept during the shift vs. not.   |
| Gerdes, 2008<br>RoB: high            | BA              | On-call shift;<br>Fatigue: questionnaire designed by Behrenz & Monga, 1999;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Assessed in 3 sessions pre- and post-call | Fatigue differential from pre- to post-call (range): 1-7 (units unclear);<br>Sleep during call (range): 1-5h   | Psychomotor performance: virtual ring transfer task for gesture-level proficiency, hand movement smoothness, tool movement smoothness, elapsed time<br><br>Assessed in 3 sessions pre- and post-call                        | 1) Pre- to post-call: decrease in all measures of psychomotor proficiency ( $p < 0.05$ , data NR) except elapsed time; no change in number of psychomotor errors; increase cognitive errors ( $p < 0.05$ , data NR);<br>2) Cognitive errors increased exponentially as fatigue ratings increased ( $R^2 = 0.9219$ ) and as hours of sleep declined ( $R^2 = 0.933$ ).   |
| Shanafelt, 2010<br>RoB: high         | CS              | Degree of fatigue as a contributor to errors (self-reported)<br><br>Assessed for the past 3 months  | NR   | Perceived recent major medical errors (self-reported)<br><br>Assessed for the past 3 months   | 1) Prevalence of perceived recent major medical error: 8.9%;<br>2) Of those reporting an error, 6.9% listed degree of fatigue as the greatest contributing factor.  |
| <b>Anesthesiologists<sup>a</sup></b> |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Lederer, 2006<br>RoB: high           | BA              | 24-h shift, on-call duty;<br>Sleep hours and interruptions: self-reported;<br>Tiredness: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty              | Mean $\pm$ SD sleep: 4.1 $\pm$ 1.7h;<br>Number of interruptions: 0.8 $\pm$ 1.1;<br>Tiredness pre- vs. post-duty: 30.9 $\pm$ 27.5 vs. 59.5 $\pm$ 18.9, $p = 0.01$ .   | Psychomotor performance: reaction time, critical flicker fusion, response measure, peripheral awareness;<br>Concentration ability: scale of 0 (low tiredness) to 100 (maximum tiredness)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty | Pre- vs. post-duty, mean $\pm$ SD:<br>1) Psychometric testing: recognition reaction time (ms): 439.6 $\pm$ 50.8 vs. 480.3 $\pm$ 58.9; motor reaction time (ms): 252.8 $\pm$ 39.3 vs. 465.4 $\pm$ 65.0; total reaction time (ms): 690.8 $\pm$ 73.4 vs. 746.5 $\pm$ 113.7; critical flicker fusion (Hz): 29.0 $\pm$ 2.3 vs. 28.7 $\pm$ 3.7; response measure (pixels): 647.8 $\pm$ 126.7 vs. 598.3 $\pm$ 138.1, peripheral awareness task recognition time: 58.9 $\pm$ 59.2 vs. |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                  |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline  |  |  |
|                                  |                 |   |   |  | 51.6±47.5;<br>2) Concentration ability: 26.4±23.5 vs.<br>56.3±23.0, p=0.007.   |
| Chang, 2013<br><br>RoB: unclear  | CS              | 15-h in-house overnight call;<br>Sleepiness pre-call: ESS ≥9;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported<br>(continuous)<br><br>Sleepiness assessed pre-call,<br>sleep hours during call | Median (IQR) ESS: 9 (9), 64%<br>scored ≥9;<br>Median (IQR) hours slept<br>during shift: 1 (0-3).  | Psychomotor performance:<br>reaction time; CCPT II; N-<br>back; HVLT (3 trials of 12<br>words)<br><br>Assessed at baseline and pre-<br>and post-call | 1) Afternoon baseline vs. pre-call: no difference<br>in reaction time, CCPT, N-back, of HVLT;<br>Morning baseline vs. post-call:<br>1) No change in auditory or visual reaction time;<br>2) CCPT (t-scores): No change in detectability,<br>response style, hit reaction time,<br>omissions/commissions;<br>3) N-back % accuracy: no change for auditory,<br>visual, or mean N-value;<br>4) HVLT (t-score): mean for trials 1-3: 48.6±7.6<br>vs. 41.5±9.9 (p=0.04); delayed recall: ns;<br>5) No correlation between ESS scores pre-call or<br>sleep during shift and any measure of<br>psychomotor performance. |
| Gander, 2000<br><br>RoB: low     | CS              | Nights of work-related sleep<br>disturbance: self-reported<br>(continuous)<br><br>Assessed for the past 6<br>months   | NR  | Risk of fatigue-related errors:<br>questionnaire modelled after<br>Gravenstein et al., 1990<br><br>Assessed for the past 6<br>months                 | 1) Risk of fatigue-related errors increased with<br>increasing nights of work-related sleep<br>disturbance: RR: 1.25, 95% CI: 1.06-1.49.   |
| Saadat, 2017<br><br>RoB: low     | CS              | Sleep deprivation due to an<br>overnight call shift   | NR  | Reaction time: PVT<br><br>Assessed after an overnight<br>call shift and the morning of a<br>regular (non-call) day                                   | Mean (SD) reaction time was slower post-call<br>(297.76 (83.75)) vs. on a regular day (266.58<br>(38.35)), p=0.047.  |
| Gander, 2008<br><br>RoB: unclear | NC              | Sleep loss across consecutive<br>working days or on-call<br>work: Wrist-mounted<br>Actiwatch (Mini Mitter,<br>Bend, Oregon, US), sleep                                      | ≥2 hours sleep <baseline: 8%<br>of 24-h periods that included<br>day work vs. 14% that<br>included day + call;<br>Sleep hours: mean 0.6h less | Psychomotor performance:<br>PVT<br><br>Assessed within 2 hours pre-<br>and post-call   | 1) In fixed model analysis for reaction time<br>including sleep, time since waking, work hours:<br>acute sleep loss associated with slower median<br>reaction time, $F_{(1,184)}=5.70$ , $p<0.05$ ; longer time<br>since waking associated with poorer   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)       | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention  |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|---|--|
|                                   |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
|                                   |                 | and duty diary<br><br>Assessed over a 2-week<br>period including a weekend<br>of rostered shifts or on-call  | sleep when working day<br>shifts (p=0.014) and 0.8h less<br>sleep when working day<br>shifts + call (p=0.013) vs. off.   |   | performance on the slowest 10%, $F_{(1,185)}=5.13$ ,<br>p<0.05;<br>2) Reaction time across 12 consecutive work<br>days: no change in pre-duty reaction times but<br>post-duty reaction times slowed linearly,<br>median -3.38, p<0.001; decline in performance<br>across 10 minutes became progressively<br>steeper both pre- and post-duty, p=0.020.  |
| <b>ER or ICU physicians</b>       |                 |  |  |   |  |
| Sanches, 2015<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Acute sleep deprivation (<5h<br>of night sleep after a night<br>shift of 12h)<br><br>Sleep hours: 7-day<br>Actigraphy via SenseWear®<br>Pro2 Armband;<br>Sleepiness: ESS;<br>Sleep quality: PSQI<br><br>Assessed the week and night<br>before the psychomotor<br>tests | Non-sleep deprived vs. sleep<br>deprived:<br><br>PSQI >5: 0% vs. 33%, ns;<br>ESS≥10: 11% vs. 67%<br>Sleep time (mean±SD) in<br>week before tests: duration<br>and number of naps higher<br>in sleep deprived group, but<br>diurnal sleep hours lower,<br>428.6±30.1 vs. 375.8±55.9,<br>p=0.038;<br>Sleep quality (mean±SD):<br>week before tests: 3.3±0.7<br>vs. 2.6±0.3, p=0.013;<br>night before tests: 3.1±0.8<br>vs. 1.9±1.0, p=0.020. | Psychomotor performance<br>via Battery Test Reaction 5<br>(v1): StimulTest, InstrucTest,<br>MovemTest; TP test of visual<br>attention<br><br>Assessed on morning after<br>night shift 8 | Sleep deprived group vs. non-sleep deprived,<br>mean±SD:<br>1) InstrucTest: correct answers: 169.4 (16.0) vs.<br>148.3 (28.3), p=0.070; wrong answers: ns;<br>perfection index (%): 99.6 (0.3) vs. 98.9 (1.3),<br>p=0.021; response latency (sec/click): ns;<br>2) StimulTest: correct answers: 170.7 (21.9) vs.<br>145.1 (17.9), p=0.022; wrong answers: ns;<br>perfection index (%): ns; response latency<br>(sec/click): 1.06 (0.1) vs. 1.24 (0.1), p=0.022;<br>3) MovemTest: ns for any parameter;<br>4) TP: omitted symbols: 34.2±18.4 vs.<br>62.7±44.0, p=0.034; concentration index (%):<br>14.1±8.9 vs. 30.0±25.9, p=0.019; quality index<br>(%): 13.8±8.6 vs. 29.2±26.4, p=0.031;<br>correct/wrong symbols: ns;<br>Correlations between sleep and tests:<br>1) TP for sleep hours nights 1-6: omitted<br>symbols: r=-0.686, p=0.011 for non-sleep-<br>deprived, ns for sleep-deprived; concentration<br>index (%): r=-0.359, p=0.037 for sleep-deprived,<br>ns for non-sleep deprived; r=-0.359, p=0.037 for<br>the group; no other significant correlations;<br>2) No correlation between PSQI, ESS and any of |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)                       | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|---|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
|   |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
| the psychomotor tests.                            |                 |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Generalists<sup>b</sup></b>                    |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Harbeck, 2015                                     | CS              | 24-hours on-call shift with sleep disturbance: self-reported number of sleep disturbances and hours of sleep per night<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | 1) Sleep hours on a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: <2 hours: 0 vs. 5.9%; 2-4 hours: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 4-6 hours: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; >6 hours: 82.4% vs. 11.8%<br><br>2) Number of sleep disturbances a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: 0: 82.4% vs. 11.8%; 1: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; 2: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 3: 0% vs. 5.9%; 4: 0% vs. 0%; >4: 0% vs. 0% | Neurocognitive parameters: computerized attentional test (vigilance, alertness); D2 letter cancellation test (divided attention); Trail Making Test (visual attention, task switching); Digit Span, Digit Symbol Substitution Test, Weschler Memory Scale (memory functions)<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | Intrinsic alertness, focused attention and vigilance were similar on both occasions; Phasic alertness improved following the on-call shift: mean (SD) 24.8 (15.6) vs. 38.3 (21.5), p = 0.022.  |
| <b>Mixed specialties or undefined populations</b> |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Chen, 2008  | CS              | Sleepiness: ESS score ≥11<br><br>Time points NR  | Mean±SD ESS score: 7.8±4.0, range: 0-20, 23% had scores ≥11.   | Impact on work and personal life: Impact Questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree)<br><br>Time points NR  | 1) Impact score correlated with ESS, r=0.31, p<0.05;<br>2) ESS score was higher among physicians who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: written an incorrect order: 8.8 vs. 7.3, p=0.02; might fall asleep while examining a patient: 13.2 vs. 7.7, p=0.001; look forward to sleeping at grand rounds: 10.4 vs. 7.4, p=0.002;<br>3) No difference in ESS score for those who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: work is unaffected by sleep loss and fatigue, thinking is unaffected by sleep loss, sleep loss and fatigue affect my medical decisions, have heard of others making medical errors due to sleep loss and fatigue, never make errors in prescriptions |

| Study           | Study design | Exposures or intervention  |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|-----------------|--------------|--|--|---|--|
|                 |              | Assessment measure and time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and time points  |  |
| Heponiemi, 2014 | CS           | Sleeping problems: 4-item Jenkins Scale on 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night)   | Mean±SD (range) score: 2.30±1.00 (1-6)   | Work ability: Work Ability Index on scale from 1 (could not work at all) to 10 (best work ability)                        | on post-call days, have made medical errors because of sleep loss and fatigue;<br>4) Higher ESS scores predicted by impact score in multivariate regression including personal and work-related factors: $\beta=0.11$ , $p=0.005$ .  |
| RoB: low        |              | Assessed in 2006   |  | Assessed in 2010  | 1) On-call duty had an indirect effect on work ability ( $R^2=0.11$ , 95% CI: -0.122, -0.031, $p<0.001$ ) through two mediators (work interference with family, sleeping problems);<br>2) Sleeping problems inversely associated with work ability, $\beta=-0.29$ , $p<0.001$ .  |
| Kanieta, 2011   | CS           | Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br>Sleepiness and sleep difficulties: 5-point scale from 1 (never) to 5 (always);<br>Insomnia: $\geq 3$ sleep difficulties | Insufficient rest: 32.5%;<br>Daytime sleepiness: 3.5%;<br>Insomnia: 20.0%;<br>Sleep time (mean±SD min): 279.8±60.9 | Self-reported medical incidents: 4-point scale from 1 (never) to 4 (often)  | 1) Prevalence of medical incidents (% (95% CI)): sleep deprived (26.8% (24.2, 29.4)) vs. not (15.2% (13.7, 16.7)), $p<0.01$ ; insomnia (24.8% (21.6, 28.0)) vs. not (17.6% (16.2, 19.0)), $p<0.01$ ; $\geq 6$ h sleep (18.3% (16.8, 19.8)) vs. $<6$ h (21.7% (18.8, 24.6)), $p=0.03$ ;<br>2) Predictors of medical incidents in multivariate model including personal and work-related factors (OR (95% CI)): lacking rest due to sleep deprivation vs. not (1.65 (1.33-2.04)), $p<0.01$ ; insomnia vs. not (1.45 (1.16-1.82)), $p<0.01$ ; ns for sleep hours. |
| RoB: unclear    |              | Assessed for the past month  |  | Assessed for the past month   |  |
| Sexton, 2001    | CS           | Fatigue as a factor impacting performance  | NR   | Performance effectiveness measured by 1 question: agree, neutral, disagree  | 1) "When fatigued, I perform effectively during critical phases of operations/patient care": Anesthetic: 47% agree; 15% neutral; 38% disagree;<br>Surgical: 70% agree; 12% neutral; 18% disagree.  |
| RoB: high       |              | Time points NR   |  | Time points NR  |  |
| Shirom, 2006    | CS           | Tiredness and exhaustion: SMBM Physician Fatigue Subscale on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)   | NR   | Quality of care: Adapted 15-item SERVQUAL with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (very small extent) to 5 (very large extent) | 1) Quality of care positively predicted by fatigue in a model incorporating several other components of burnout, $\beta=0.17$ , $p<0.05$ .   |
| RoB: low        |              |  |  |   |  |



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| Study         | Study design | Exposures or intervention   |          | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|---------------|--------------|---|----------|--|---|
|               |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline | Assessment measure and time points   |   |
|               |              |   |          | Time points NR   |   |
| Smith, 2017   | CS           | Sleep deprivation: self-reported via open-ended comments  | NR       | Perceived competence: self-reported via open-ended comments  | Some physicians indicated that continual tiredness and exhaustion led to concerns that it would affect their competence; some felt that professional performance was compromised at times of physical and mental fatigue.   |
| RoB: moderate |              |   |          | Time points NR   |   |
| Tanti, 2017   | CS           | Fatigue: questionnaire on contributors to prescribing errors, with a 5-point Likert scale (very high to very low association) | NR       | Prescribing errors: questionnaire on contributors to prescribing errors, with a 5-point Likert scale (very high to very low association) | Perception of the contribution of fatigue to prescribing errors differed by physician type (p<0.05): 34% of community doctors, 96% hospital doctors, 8% of office-working doctors perceived a very high or high association between fatigue and prescribing errors. |
| RoB: high     |              |   |          | Time points NR   |   |

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies of anesthetists, where these were physicians.  
<sup>b</sup>Includes primary care physicians, internal medicine physicians, and general practitioners.  
ACC: aortic cross-clamp time; BA: before-after; CABG: cardiopulmonary bypass time; CCPT II: Connor’s Continuous Performance Test II; CI: confidence interval; CO: cohort; CS: cross-sectional; ER: emergency; ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale; h: hour(s); HVLT: Hopkin’s Verbal Learning Task; Hz: Hertz; ICU: intensive care unit; IQR: interquartile range; KSS: Karolinska Sleep Scale; min: minutes; ms: millisecond(s); N-back: Dual N-back test; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; ns: not statistically significant; OR: odds ratio; PSQI: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; PVT: Psychomotor vigilance Performance Task; RR: risk ratio; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; SERVQUAL: Service Quality Measure; SMBM: Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; TP: Toulouse-Piéron test; TS: time series; US: United States of America; vs.: versus

**Supplementary table 10.** Patient outcomes related to fatigue or sleep restriction among physicians in independent practice

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures  |  | Outcome Measures   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
|                                |                 | Intervention or assessment<br>scale and time points  | Baseline   | Assessment scale and time<br>points  |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Chu, 20<br>RoB: low            | CO              | Sleep deprivation: moderate (3-6 h) or severe (<3-h) sleep deprivation the night before surgery (self-reported hours)                  | Of 4,047 procedures, 83 (2.1%) performed by severely sleep-deprived, 1,595 (39.4%) by moderately sleep-deprived surgeons | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery              | 1) 0-3 vs. 3-6 vs. >6 hours of sleep: No difference in incidence of mortality, incidence of 10 major complications (except septicemia, 3.6% vs. 0.9% vs. 0.8%, p=0.03), ICU length of stay; in-hospital length of stay (days): 7.0 vs. 6.0 vs. 7.0, p<0.001.   |
| Ellman, 2004<br>RoB: low       | CO              | Sleep deprivation: performed a case starting 22:00 to 05:00, or ending 22:00 to 07:30 and performed a subsequent case in the next 24-h | Of 6,751 procedures, 339 (5%) were performed by sleep deprived surgeons  | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery              | 1) Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in mortality, need for blood products, complications (operative, neurologic, renal, infectious, pulmonary), in-hospital length of stay.  |
| Govindarajan, 2015<br>RoB: low | CO              | Sleep deprivation: treated patients from midnight to 07:00 and performed a subsequent case on the same day                             | NR   | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, readmission, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery | 1) Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in mortality, surgical complications, readmissions within 30 days, or length of stay.  |
| Rothschild, 2009<br>RoB: low   | CO              | Sleep deprivation: daytime procedures following an overnight procedure; Sleep opportunity: 0-6h, <6h                                   | NR   | Chart review: frequency of adverse surgical complications<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery                    | 1) Post-nighttime vs. control: no difference in number of procedures with complications, total number of complications, preventable complications, type of complications;<br>2) Operating room procedures with complications, OR (95% CI): 8.5% for 0-6h sleep vs. 3.1% for >6h sleep, 2.70 (1.13-6.48), p=0.03;<br>3) All procedures with complications, OR (95% CI): 6.2% for 0-6h sleep vs. 3.4% for >6h sleep, 1.72 (1.02-2.89), p=0.04. |
| Schieman, 2007<br>RoB: low     | CO              | Fatigue: surgeon billed for clinical work after 22:00 the night before surgery   | Of 270 procedures, 22 (8%) were performed by fatigued surgeons   | Chart review: surgical complications, length of stay, mortality, cancer recurrence                                   | 1) Fatigued vs. non-fatigued surgeons: no difference in intra- or post-operative complication rate, length of stay, in-hospital  |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures   |  | Outcome Measures  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
|                                  |                 | Intervention or assessment<br>scale and time points   | Baseline   | Assessment scale and time<br>points   |   |
|                                  |                 |   |  | Assessed during and post-surgery  | length of stay, cancer recurrence.  |
| Vinden, 2014<br><br>RoB: low     | CO              | Sleep deprivation (at risk):<br>surgeon worked 00:00 to<br>07:00 and performed surgery<br>07:00 to 18:00      | Of 94,183 surgeries,<br>2,078 (2.2%) were<br>performed by surgeons<br>who were 'at risk' | Chart review: conversion to<br>open procedure (from<br>laparoscopic), iatrogenic injuries,<br>mortality<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery | 1) At risk vs. not at risk surgeon: no difference<br>in incidence of conversion to open procedure,<br>iatrogenic injuries, mortality, in either<br>univariate or multivariate analyses.   |
| <b>Obstetricians</b>             |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Rothschild, 2009<br><br>RoB: low | CO              | Sleep deprivation: daytime<br>procedures following an<br>overnight procedure;<br>Sleep opportunity: 0-6h, <6h | NR   | Chart review: frequency of<br>adverse obstetric complications<br><br>Assessed during and post-delivery  | 1) Post-nighttime vs. control: no difference in<br>number of procedures with complications,<br>total complications, preventable<br>complications, type of complications;<br>2) No association between sleep deprivation<br>and proportion of procedures with<br>complications, nor difference for 0-6h vs. >6h<br>of sleep opportunity. |

CI: confidence interval; CO: cohort; h: hours; NR: not reported; OR: odds ratio; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; US: United States of America; vs.: versus



## Appendix 1. PRISMA checklist

| Section/topic                      | #  | Checklist item  | Reported on page #   |
|------------------------------------|----|---|----------------------|
| <b>TITLE</b>                       |    |   |                      |
| Title                              | 1  | Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.   | 1                    |
| <b>ABSTRACT</b>                    |    |   |                      |
| Structured summary                 | 2  | Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number. | 2                    |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>                |    |   |                      |
| Rationale                          | 3  | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.  | 4-5                  |
| Objectives                         | 4  | Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).  | 5                    |
| <b>METHODS</b>                     |    |   |                      |
| Protocol and registration          | 5  | Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.   | 5                    |
| Eligibility criteria               | 6  | Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.  | 6                    |
| Information sources                | 7  | Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.  | 5                    |
| Search                             | 8  | Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.   | Supplementary file 1 |
| Study selection                    | 9  | State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).   | 6                    |
| Data collection process            | 10 | Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.  | 6-7                  |
| Data items                         | 11 | List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.   | 7                    |
| Risk of bias in individual studies | 12 | Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.  | 7                    |
| Summary measures                   | 13 | State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).   | 7                    |
| Synthesis of results               | 14 | Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis.   | 7, no meta-analysis  |



## Appendix 1. PRISMA checklist

| Section/topic                 | #  | Checklist item   | Reported on page #                  |
|-------------------------------|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| Risk of bias across studies   | 15 | Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).   | 7                                   |
| Additional analyses           | 16 | Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.   | Not applicable                      |
| <b>RESULTS</b>                |    |  |                                     |
| Study selection               | 17 | Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.  | 7, Figure 1                         |
| Study characteristics         | 18 | For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.   | 7-10, Table 1, Supplementary file 2 |
| Risk of bias within studies   | 19 | Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).  | 10, Supplementary file 3            |
| Results of individual studies | 20 | For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot. | Supplementary files 4-6             |
| Synthesis of results          | 21 | Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.  | 10-15 (no meta-analysis)            |
| Risk of bias across studies   | 22 | Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).  | Not applicable                      |
| Additional analysis           | 23 | Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).  | Not applicable                      |
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>             |    |  |                                     |
| Summary of evidence           | 24 | Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).                     | 15-17                               |
| Limitations                   | 25 | Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).  | 17                                  |
| Conclusions                   | 26 | Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.  | 17                                  |
| <b>FUNDING</b>                |    |  |                                     |
| Funding                       | 27 | Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.   | 18                                  |

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43 From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(7): e1000097.  
 44 doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

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For more information, visit: [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org) Page 2 of 2  
 For peer review only: <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/guidelines.xhtml>

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# BMJ Open

## The impact of fatigue and sleep restriction on physician and patient outcomes: A systematic review

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Journal:                        | <i>BMJ Open</i>   |
| Manuscript ID                   | bmjopen-2018-021967.R1  |
| Article Type:                   | Research  |
| Date Submitted by the Author:   | 27-Apr-2018   |
| Complete List of Authors:       | Gates, Michelle; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Wingert, Aireen; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Featherstone, Robin; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Samuels, Charles; Centre for Sleep and Human Performance<br>Simon, Christopher; Canadian Medical Association<br>Dyson, Michele; University of Alberta, Pediatrics |
| <b>Primary Subject Heading</b>: | Occupational and environmental medicine   |
| Secondary Subject Heading:      | Evidence based practice, Health services research, Medical education and training, Occupational and environmental medicine  |
| Keywords:                       | Health & safety < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, Risk management < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, SLEEP MEDICINE  |
|                                 |   |

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3 **The impact of fatigue and sleep restriction on physician and patient outcomes: A systematic review**  
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6 Michelle Gates, Aireen Wingert, Robin Featherstone, Charles Samuels, Christopher Simon, Michele P  
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43 **Word count (main text): 5,929**  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** For physicians in independent practice, we synthesized evidence on the (a) impacts of sleep restriction and fatigue on health and performance, and patient safety; (b) effectiveness of interventions targeting sleep restriction and fatigue.

**Design:** We systematically reviewed online literature. After piloting, one reviewer selected studies by title and abstract; full texts were then reviewed in duplicate. One reviewer extracted data; another verified a random 10% sample. Two reviewers assessed risk of bias. We pooled findings via meta-analysis when appropriate, or narratively.

**Data sources:** We searched Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL and PubMed for published studies in April 2016; Medline was updated in November 2017. We searched Embase for conference proceedings, and hand-searched meeting abstracts, association and foundation websites.

**Eligibility criteria for selecting studies:** English or French language primary research studies published from 2000-2017 examining the effect of fatigue or sleep-related exposures or interventions on any outcome among physicians in independent practice and their patients.

**Results:** Of 16,154 records identified, we included 47 quantitative studies of variable quality. 28 studies showed associations between fatigue or sleep restriction and physician health and well-being outcomes. 21 studies showed no association with surgical performance, and mixed findings for psychomotor performance, work performance, and medical errors. We pooled data from six cohort studies for patient outcomes. For sleep deprived versus non-sleep deprived surgeons, we found no difference in patient mortality (n = 60,436, RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.84 to 1.15, p = 0.82, I<sup>2</sup> = 0%), intraoperative complications (n = 19,798, RR 1.35, 95% CI 0.82 to 2.21), postoperative complications (n = 60,201, RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.95 to 1.03) or length of stay (n = 50,046, MD -0.33, 95% CI -1.03 to 0.36).

**Conclusions:** Fatigue and sleep deprivation may be associated with negative physician health outcomes. Current evidence is inadequate to inform practice recommendations.



**STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY**

- The review was informed by the methods outlined by Cochrane and is reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.
- The review was limited by the quality of the included studies, which was often poor. We could not draw definitive conclusions due to methodological weaknesses and heterogeneous outcome measures in the included studies.
- We have focused on evidence from high income countries; our findings may not be generalizable to other settings.

For peer review only

## BACKGROUND

The working hours of physicians have been a topic of debate for many years.[1] Beginning in the late 1980s, evidence indicating that medical resident fatigue could negatively impact their cognitive functioning and performance, resulting in an increased risk of medical error, began to accumulate.[2] In response, by the early 2000s physicians' regulatory bodies worldwide began to take action toward restricting the work hours of medical residents and ensuring adequate time for recovery between shifts.[3-5] Since their implementation in the United States by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the impact of work hour regulations has been widely researched. Still, evidence for impacts on patient care, resident training and wellbeing remains equivocal.[6-9] This is likely because work hours are only one of many contributors to fatigue and physician wellbeing. In fact, the ACGME has recently reversed the 2011 changes that limited resident work hours to 16 hours per shift and the requirement for 8 hours of time off between shifts. This decision was made in favour of promoting "flexibility" for residency training program work hours and scheduling.

The focus on medical trainees has left physicians in independent practice as a relatively neglected group in research and policy. In Canada, there is no concrete regulation on the hours or patterns in which physicians choose to work.[10] In the absence of clear policies, physicians trained under traditional systems may find it difficult to work shorter hours or take more frequent breaks.[1] Indeed, more than 40% of practicing physicians in the United States work in excess of 80 hours per week.[11] While long work hours remain a cultural norm in medicine, in comparable high-risk industries (e.g., aviation), work patterns and work hours are tightly regulated.[12] The need for similar evidence-based policies in medicine has become a topic of increased interest. Exemplar of this, an evidence-based guideline for fatigue risk management in emergency medical services,[13] informed by a comprehensive set of systematic reviews, has recently been published. For physicians, it has been argued that there is a need to adapt healthcare systems and provide support in identifying the signs of fatigue and mitigating its risks.[1]

Besides potentially affecting patient outcomes, fatigue can impact the health and wellbeing of physicians themselves. Burnout, just one outcome related to fatigue, has been described as epidemic among physicians[14-16] and ultimately affects recruitment and retention of physicians both in community and acute care settings. While the effect of physician wellbeing on the sustainability of healthcare systems has recently received increased attention,[17] evidence-based solutions to burnout

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3 remain relatively elusive.[18] What is clear, is that comprehensive organisational-level efforts are  
4 necessary to fully address the issue.[19] Research addressing the factors that influence burnout and  
5 overall physician wellness is needed to inform system- and individual-level strategies.[20, 21] To date,  
6 evidence of the effects of fatigue and the role of chronic sleep restriction on physicians in independent  
7 practice has not been synthesized, making it unclear what gaps in knowledge remain unaddressed.  
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13 Given this void, we undertook a systematic review focusing broadly on primary research relevant to the  
14 Canadian context as a fundamental starting point to examine the effects of fatigue and chronic sleep  
15 restriction on physicians in independent practice, and on interventions to combat these effects. Our  
16 review was guided by the following research questions: Among physicians in independent practice, (1)  
17 what are the impacts of fatigue and chronic sleep restriction on physician health, physician  
18 performance, and patient safety; and (2) what is the effectiveness of interventions that target fatigue  
19 and chronic sleep restriction loss, in terms of improving physician and patient outcomes?  
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## 26 **METHODS**

### 27 **Review conduct**

28 The conduct of this systematic review was guided by Cochrane standards.[22] The research team  
29 convened to plan the key research questions and methodology but did not register a formal protocol.  
30 The findings are reported in adherence with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and  
31 Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Statement.[23] Ethical approval was not required for this study.  
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### 38 **Patient involvement**

39 Patients were not involved.  
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### 43 **Literature search**

44 An information specialist developed a search strategy that included concepts related to physicians,  
45 fatigue and sleep. On 13 April 2016 we searched the following online databases with coverage in the  
46 biomedical sciences and psychology: Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL and PubMed, limited to  
47 English and French language articles published from 2000 to 2016. We updated the Medline search in  
48 November 2017, as this database offered the highest precision. Though fatigue among physicians is not  
49 a new phenomenon,[2] we limited our search to articles published post-2000 to include studies relevant  
50 to current physician practice. Work hour limitations have existed in European countries since 1993, but  
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3 implementation in the United States (2003)[5] and Canada (2013) for residents is more recent.[24] We  
4 aimed to include studies published in this era of increased awareness about the potential impacts of  
5 long work hours. To locate unpublished studies, we searched Embase for conference proceedings since  
6 2000 and hand-searched meeting abstracts of the Canadian Conference on Physician Health and the  
7 International Conference on Physician Health (2012 to 2016). We also searched the following  
8 association and foundation websites: American Medical Association, Australian Medical Association,  
9 British Medical Association, Canadian Medical Association, European Medical Association, National  
10 Sleep Foundation, Ontario Medical Association and the World Medical Association. The complete search  
11 strategy undertaken is reported in Supplementary file 1.  
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### 20 **Inclusion criteria**

21 Primary studies (quantitative or qualitative) of fatigue- or sleep-related exposures or interventions  
22 among physicians in independent practice were eligible for inclusion. We included physicians practicing  
23 in any medical specialty and in any healthcare setting within a high income country,[25] to identify  
24 practices comparable to the Canadian setting. Studies including physicians-in-training were included  
25 only if data for physicians in independent practice could be isolated. Exposures of interest included  
26 fatigue, sleep restriction, or sleepiness. We also included studies of any intervention that aimed to  
27 reduce fatigue or sleep restriction with any comparator (or no comparator). All reported outcomes,  
28 measured at any time, were eligible for inclusion.  
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37 We excluded commentaries, letters, editorials and dissertations. Systematic reviews, health technology  
38 assessments, economic evaluations and practice guidelines were excluded, although the reference lists  
39 of these as well as the included studies were scanned for potential primary studies. Studies that focused  
40 solely on physicians-in-training (e.g., trainees, residents, fellows, interns, medical students, junior  
41 doctors, registrars) were ineligible. To maintain the focused scope of the review, we excluded work  
42 hours, work load, and any other exposure or intervention that was indirectly related to fatigue or sleep  
43 restriction.  
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### 50 **Study selection**

51 The study team piloted the selection criteria, which were then applied by two independent reviewers  
52 following a two-phase process. We first screened titles and abstracts for potential relevance. Then, we  
53 retrieved all records classified as “include” or “unsure” and reviewed their full text for eligibility. Any  
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3 disagreements between reviewers were resolved by discussion or third-reviewer consultation when  
4 necessary.  
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### 8 **Data extraction**

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10 Reviewers used a standardized form to extract data in Microsoft Office Excel (v. 2016, Microsoft  
11 Corporation, Redmond, WA). One reviewer independently extracted data from each included study and  
12 a second reviewer verified a random 10% sample. Since no major errors or omissions were noted, we  
13 did not undertake further verification.  
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18 We extracted the following data: country of publication; funding source; study design; inclusion and  
19 exclusion criteria; population characteristics (i.e., sample size, age and gender distribution, physician  
20 specialty); setting (i.e., physician workplace, urban or rural); exposure or intervention; definition of  
21 fatigue or sleep loss; sleep and fatigue scales used and timing of measurement; comparators (if  
22 applicable); and outcomes.  
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### 28 **Risk of bias appraisal**

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30 Two reviewers independently assessed the risk of bias in each included study using standard tools.  
31 Disagreements were resolved via discussion or by consulting a third reviewer. We used the Cochrane  
32 Risk of Bias tool[22] to assess randomised controlled trials. Adapted versions of the tool developed by  
33 the Effective Practice and Organization of Care group[26] were used to assess before-after and time  
34 series studies. We used the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale[27] to appraise cohort studies.  
35 We adapted the scale to assess cross-sectional studies and the one non-comparative study.  
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### 42 **Evidence synthesis**

43 We considered clinical and methodological heterogeneity in our decision on whether to proceed with  
44 meta-analysis for the outcomes identified. For most outcomes, we found insufficient homogeneity in  
45 study design, populations, exposures or interventions, and outcome measures to pool the data via  
46 meta-analysis. Thus, we have presented the findings for most outcomes narratively and in summary  
47 tables.  
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53 When statistical pooling was appropriate, this was undertaken using Review Manager (RevMan v.5.3,  
54 Copenhagen: The Nordic Cochrane Centre, the Cochrane Collaboration, 2014) via pairwise meta-analysis  
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3 using the DerSimonian and Laird random effects model (given expected heterogeneity).[28] We pooled  
4 dichotomous outcomes using the relative risk (95% confidence interval (CI)) and continuous outcomes  
5 using the mean difference (95% CI) since the units across studies were consistent (i.e., minutes). When  
6 meta-analysis was conducted, we assessed statistical heterogeneity using the chi-square test (using  $P =$   
7  $0.05$  as the threshold for significance), and quantified the extent of heterogeneity using the  $I^2$   
8 statistic.[29] Subgroup and sensitivity analyses were conducted when appropriate to explore  
9 heterogeneity. We intended to assess small study bias visually by inspecting funnel plots and statistically  
10 using Egger's regression test, but did not due to the small number (i.e., less than 8) of studies included in  
11 the meta-analyses.[30]

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20 When data were not presented in the format required for meta-analysis, we estimated means or  
21 standard deviations (SDs) using standard equations. We used the median instead of the mean for one  
22 study[31] for the outcomes of length of stay and operating time. Additionally, for one study[32] in the  
23 length of stay analysis where the SD could not be estimated, we substituted the mean variance of other  
24 studies within the meta-analysis.[33]

## 30 RESULTS

31 We identified 16,083 unique records via the database searches, 56 grey literature sources, and 14  
32 additional records in reference lists of systematic reviews. We excluded 15,016 citations by title and  
33 abstract, and another 1,090 by full text. Forty-seven studies[31, 32, 34-78] were eligible for inclusion,  
34 and 6[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] were included in meta-analysis for the outcomes of operating time, intra-  
35 and post-operative complications, patient mortality and length of hospital stay. Figure 1 shows the flow  
36 of studies through the selection process.

### 43 Included study characteristics

44  
45 A summary of the study characteristics is provided in Table 1. Supplementary file 2 presents descriptive  
46 information for each included study. There were 45 observational studies[31, 32, 34-39, 41-74, 76-78]  
47 and two intervention studies.[40, 75] All studies were quantitative. Nearly half ( $n = 20/47$ , 43%) of the  
48 studies took place in North America,[31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 41, 45, 48, 57-60, 62, 63, 65-68, 72, 77] and  
49 slightly more than one-third ( $n = 16/47$ , 34%) in Europe.[34, 36, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 50-53, 61, 64, 73, 75,  
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**Table 1.** Summary characteristics of the included studies

| Study characteristics     | n  | %  | Physician characteristics                | n         | %  | Exposures, interventions and outcomes        | n         | %         |
|---------------------------|----|----|--|-----------|----|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Study design</b>       |    |    | <b>Gender</b>                            |           |    | <b>Exposures (observational)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>45</b> | <b>96</b> |
| Cross-sectional           | 34 | 72 | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 38        | 81 | Fatigue-related                              | 15        | 32        |
| Cohort                    | 6  | 13 | >50% male                                | 30        | 79 | Sleep-related                                | 37        | 79        |
| Before-after              | 3  | 6  | <b>Age</b>                               |           |    | Overnight or extended shifts                 | 18        | 38        |
| RCT                       | 2  | 4  | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 38        | 81 | <b>Interventions (experimental)</b>          | <b>2</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| Time series               | 1  | 2  | Range (years)                            | 20 to >70 |    | <b>Outcomes</b>                              |           |           |
| Non-comparative           | 1  | 2  | <b>Specialty area<sup>c</sup></b>        |           |    | Physician health and wellbeing               | 28        | 60        |
| <b>Region and country</b> |    |    | Surgeons                                 | 13        | 28 | Work and life satisfaction                   | 9         | 19        |
| North America             | 20 | 43 | Anesthesiologists                        | 10        | 21 | Burnout                                      | 7         | 15        |
| US                        | 15 | 32 | Generalists                              | 7         | 15 | Stress                                       | 8         | 17        |
| Canada                    | 4  | 9  | ED or ICU physicians                     | 3         | 6  | Mental health and wellbeing                  | 7         | 15        |
| Canada, US & Mexico       | 1  | 2  | Oncologists                              | 2         | 4  | Other health-related outcomes                | 5         | 11        |
| Europe                    | 16 | 34 | Obstetrician-gynecologists               | 1         | 2  | Physician performance, risk of error         | 21        | 45        |
| France                    | 4  | 9  | Mixed groups                             | 14        | 30 | Psychomotor performance                      | 7         | 15        |
| Finland                   | 3  | 6  | <b>Work setting<sup>d</sup></b>          |           |    | Work ability and quality of care             | 5         | 11        |
| Spain                     | 2  | 4  | Hospitals                                | 37        | 79 | Incidence of medical errors                  | 5         | 11        |
| Austria                   | 2  | 4  | Private practice                         | 13        | 28 | Surgical efficiency, effectiveness           | 6         | 13        |
| Norway                    | 2  | 4  | Primary care centres, outpatient clinics | 7         | 15 | Patient outcomes                             | 6         | 13        |
| Denmark                   | 1  | 2  | Academic practice, training programs     | 5         | 11 |  |           |           |
| Germany                   | 1  | 2  | Other (e.g., industry, military)         | 11        | 23 |  |           |           |
| Malta                     | 1  | 2  | Not reported                             | 3         | 6  |  |           |           |
| Japan                     | 4  | 9  | <b>Urban or rural</b>                    |           |    |  |           |           |
| Australia                 | 2  | 4  | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 16        | 34 |  |           |           |
| Israel                    | 2  | 4  | Urban                                    | 12        | 75 |  |           |           |
| New Zealand               | 2  | 4  | Rural                                    | 2         | 13 |  |           |           |
| United Kingdom            | 1  | 2  | Mixed                                    | 2         | 13 |  |           |           |

ED: emergency department; ICU: intensive care unit; RCT: randomised controlled trial; US: United States of America

<sup>a</sup>Exposures that have been directly related to an outcome. Some studies included multiple exposures.

<sup>b</sup>Percentages presented using the total number of studies where the outcome was reported as the denominator.

<sup>c</sup>Anesthesiologists include physician anesthetists; generalists include primary care physicians, internists, and general practitioners; mixed groups refers to studies including more than one physician group or specialty (usually large-scale surveys). In some studies, multiple distinct groups were represented.

<sup>d</sup>As defined by the authors. Values for the settings will exceed 100% because studies may occur in more than one setting.

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3 The 47 studies reported outcomes for 36,190 (range = 6 to 7,905) physicians and 69,809 (range = 270 to  
4 38,978) adult patients. About half reported on surgeons (n = 13/47, 28%),[31, 32, 34, 41, 45, 48, 54, 58,  
5 62, 63, 66, 75, 77] or anesthesiologists/physician anesthetists (n = 10/47, 21%).[36, 37, 39, 43, 44, 50-52,  
6 59, 60] Where it was reported, the samples tended to be predominantly male (n = 30/38, 79%) and  
7 physician age varied widely. Hospitals were the most common setting (n = 37/47, 79%).[31, 32, 34-37,  
8 39-43, 45-47, 49-52, 54, 57-61, 63-70, 73-75, 77, 78] In the studies where it was reported (n = 16/47,  
9 34%),[31, 32, 34, 38, 40, 41, 43, 45, 50, 51, 55, 56, 58, 65, 76, 77] all but four studies[31, 55, 56, 77] took  
10 place in solely an urban setting.  
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18 Fifteen (32%) studies reported on fatigue-related exposures (e.g., as a source of stress, exhaustion,  
19 physical fatigue; hereafter referred to as 'fatigue'),[35, 40, 45, 48, 57, 63-71, 73] while others (n = 37/47,  
20 79%) reported on sleep-related exposures (e.g., sleep hours, sleep restriction, sleep deprivation, sleep  
21 disruption, sleepiness; hereafter referred to as 'sleep restriction').[31, 32, 34, 36-47, 49-56, 58-62, 64,  
22 67, 71, 72, 74-78] A few (n = 5/47, 11%) reported on both.[40, 45, 64, 67, 71] In some cases (n = 18/47,  
23 38%), fatigue or sleep restriction were related to overnight work or long on-call shifts.[31, 32, 34, 37, 40,  
24 41, 43, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, 58-60, 63, 75, 77] Measured outcomes varied widely and were ultimately  
25 organised into physician physical and mental health, physician performance and risk of error, and  
26 patient outcomes.  
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### 35 **Risk of bias appraisal**

36 The overall quality of the body of research was poor; 62% (n = 29/47) of studies were rated at unclear or  
37 high risk of bias. Of the two randomised controlled trials, one was rated as unclear overall risk of  
38 bias[75] and one as high risk.[40] All cohort studies were at low risk of bias (mean score: 8.4/9, range: 8-  
39 9).[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] All of the before-after studies were rated as high risk of bias.[34, 45, 50] The  
40 single time series study was assessed at high risk of bias.[51] The cross-sectional studies varied in  
41 performance (mean score: 3.0/5, range: 1-4); only one-third (n = 12/34, 35%) were at low risk of  
42 bias.[39, 42, 44, 47, 52, 59, 60, 69, 70, 72, 74, 76] The one non-comparative study was at unclear risk of  
43 bias.[43] Detailed assessments of the sources of bias per study are shown in Supplementary file 3.  
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### 55 **Physician health and wellbeing outcomes**

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3 Twenty-eight studies reported on physician health and wellbeing-related outcomes,[35, 36, 38-40, 42,  
4 46-48, 50-57, 60, 62, 64, 67, 68, 70-72, 74, 76, 78] including burnout (n = 7), stress (n = 8), mental health  
5 and wellbeing (n = 7), life and job satisfaction (n = 9) and other markers of health (n = 5) (Supplementary  
6 file 4).  
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11 Seven cross-sectional studies reported on burnout (5 low[39, 70, 72, 74, 76], 1 unclear[54], 1 high risk of  
12 bias[62]) among surgeons,[54, 62] anesthesiologists,[39] generalists,[76] and other mixed groups.[70,  
13 72, 74] Two studies reported on surgeons; the larger (n = 2,564, low risk of bias) study of neurosurgeons  
14 showed increased odds of burnout with sleep deprivation (hours of sleep per night; OR 0.84, 95% CI 0.75  
15 to 0.94, P = 0.002).[54] Among anesthesiologists one study (n = 565, low risk of bias) indicated that  
16 burnout (measured via Maslach Burnout Inventory) was more prevalent among the sleep-deprived ('lack  
17 of sleep' on one question; 47.6% vs. 16.3%, P < 0.001).[39] In one small (n = 11) study of generalists,  
18 those with burnout (measured via Pines Burnout Measure) had poorer Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index  
19 scores (7.24±4.17 vs. 2.72±2.22, P < 0.001).[76] In the two larger studies of mixed physician groups (low  
20 risk of bias), burnout (measured via 5-point scale) was more prevalent among those who were sleep  
21 deprived (<7 hours of sleep per 24 hours; 39.6% vs. 26.4%, P < 0.05),[72] and physical fatigue ('feeling  
22 tired' on a 7-point scale) was correlated with burnout (Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; r = 0.88, P <  
23 0.05).[70] In summary, evidence from 7 cross-sectional studies (71% at low risk of bias), showed  
24 associations between sleep restriction and burnout.  
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37 Six cross-sectional studies (2 low[47, 52], 1 unclear[46], 3 high risk of bias[35, 62, 64]), one uncontrolled  
38 before-after study (high risk of bias[50]), and one intervention study (high risk of bias[40]) reported on  
39 stress outcomes among surgeons,[62] anesthesiologists,[50, 52] emergency physicians,[40, 64] internal  
40 medicine physicians,[46] and mixed groups.[35, 47] In a small sample (n = 20) of internal medicine  
41 physicians, sleep restriction related to a 24-hour call shift showed no association with biochemical or  
42 physiological stress parameters, except levels of thyroid stimulating hormone, which was higher post-  
43 shift (P = 0.049, data not reported).[46] The remaining observational studies suggested that there was  
44 an association between sleep restriction or fatigue and stress. The one study of orthopedic surgeons (n =  
45 264, high risk of bias) showed that sleep restriction (measured on a 3-point scale) and psychological  
46 distress (measured via General Health Questionnaire-12) were correlated (data not reported, P <  
47 0.001).[62] The two reports on anesthesiologists were of varied quality; the larger (n = 328, low risk of  
48 bias) study showed that stress symptoms (measured via Modified Occupational Stress Questionnaire)  
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3 were predicted by sleep sufficiency (self-reported on one question,  $\beta = -0.269$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[52] Among  
4 the two studies reporting on mixed groups of physicians, the larger ( $n = 1,541$ , low risk of bias) study  
5 showed an association between sleep problems (4 questions derived from Jenkins scale) and  
6 psychological distress (General Health Questionnaire-12;  $\beta = 0.18$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[47] One RCT assessed the  
7 impact of sleep restriction from shift work (14-hour or 24-hour shifts), showing that stress (on a visual  
8 analog scale) among emergency physicians ( $n = 17$ ) was higher following the shift as compared to a  
9 control day (data not reported,  $P < 0.05$ ).[40] In summary, evidence from one intervention study at high  
10 risk of bias and all but one of the 7 observational studies (29% at low risk of bias) identified supported  
11 an inverse association between fatigue or sleep deprivation and stress.  
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20 Seven cross-sectional studies (2 low,[52, 60] 3 unclear,[67, 71, 78] 2 high risk of bias[36, 53]) reported on  
21 aspects of mental health including addiction or substance misuse,[36, 53, 71] depression,[78] thoughts  
22 of suicide,[52] mood disturbance,[60, 71] and overall wellbeing.[67] One study,[53] which was at high  
23 risk of bias, showed no association between hours of sleep when on call and hazardous drinking  
24 behaviours (via Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test). Meanwhile, the six other studies all showed  
25 associations between sleep restriction and fatigue and reduced mental health. Three studies reported  
26 on anesthetists,[36, 52, 60] with two large surveys showing increased odds of tobacco (OR 1.42, 95% CI  
27 1.04 to 1.94) and tranquilizer/hypnotics (OR 3.26, 95% CI 2.12 to 5.02) dependency being predicted by  
28 sleep deprivation (measured by one question),[36] and sleep disturbance being associated with  
29 thoughts of suicide (using a 4-point scale;  $P = 0.009$ ).[52] A small study ( $n = 21$ ) showed greater mood  
30 disturbance following a 17-hour night shift than a usual day (Profile of Mood States score  $42.57 \pm 15.26$   
31 vs.  $70.90 \pm 6.91$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[60] Among oncologists ( $n = 241$ ), overall wellbeing was predicted by lower  
32 levels of fatigue after controlling for personal and professional characteristics (assessed via linear analog  
33 scale quality of life survey,  $P = 0.002$ ).[67] A large ( $n = 3,862$ , unclear risk of bias) study of physicians  
34 showed that sleep restriction (lower sleep hours when not at work in the past month) was associated  
35 with increased odds of depression (Quick Inventory Depressive Scale; OR 2.70, 95% CI 1.82 to 4.03 for  
36 men; OR 2.38, 95% CI 1.11 to 5.10 for women).[78] In open-ended questions, senior physicians in one  
37 study (unclear risk of bias) attributed the development of mental illness to tiredness and stress at  
38 work.[71] In summary, 7 cross-sectional studies (29% at low risk of bias) were identified, and of these 6  
39 supported an association between sleep restriction or fatigue and negative mental health outcomes.  
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3 Nine cross-sectional studies (4 low,[42, 47, 72, 74] 2 unclear,[55, 68] 3 high risk of bias[38, 48, 62])  
4 reported on outcomes related to job satisfaction,[42, 47, 48, 55, 72, 74] life satisfaction,[38, 62, 72] or  
5 work-life balance.[68, 72] The six studies that investigated job satisfaction were all at low risk of bias  
6 and generally included mixed groups of physicians;[47, 72, 74] one study reported on general  
7 practitioners,[55], another on surgeons,[48] and one on mixed specialties.[42] Three studies showed  
8 that reductions in sleep duration and/or quality[47, 48, 74] were associated with reduced job  
9 satisfaction. Meanwhile one showed no association between sleep restriction (<7 hours per 24-hour  
10 period) and career satisfaction (measured on a 5-point Likert scale),[72] and another showed no  
11 relationship between earlier sleep disturbance (Jenkins Scale) and later job demands or job control  
12 (measured via 5-point scale).[42] A single study (n = 92) reporting on rural general practitioners  
13 indicated that frequent sleep disturbance (measured on a 7-point scale) predicted the intention to retire  
14 early (OR 2.91, 95% CI 1.11 to 7.6, P < 0.05).[55] In summary, 6 cross-sectional studies (all at low risk of  
15 bias) were identified, and all but two[42, 72] of these studies showed that sleep restriction and fatigue  
16 were associated with reductions in satisfaction.  
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28 The three studies reported on life satisfaction.[38, 62, 72] Of two studies among mixed physician  
29 groups,[38, 72] the one larger (n = 840) study showed that sleep restriction (< 7 hours per day) was a  
30 predictor of reduced life satisfaction (measured on a 5-point Likert scale; OR 0.44, 95% CI 0.29 to 0.67, P  
31 ≤ 0.05).[72] One study at high risk of bias reported on orthopedic surgeons (n = 264), showing that sleep  
32 deprivation (measured via 3-point scale) was correlated with lower marital satisfaction (Revised Dyadic  
33 Adjustment Scale; data not reported, P < 0.001).[62] Two large studies at low or unclear risk of bias  
34 reported on work-life balance.[68, 72] Among oncologists (n = 1,117), reduced satisfaction with work-  
35 life balance (measured on a 5-point Likert scale) was predicted by high levels of fatigue (measured via  
36 10-point visual analog scale), even when controlling for personal and work-related factors and burnout  
37 (OR 0.489, 95% CI 0.337 to 0.710, P < 0.001).[68] Among a mixed group of physicians (n = 840, low risk of  
38 bias), sleep restriction (<7 hours in a typical 24-hour period) predicted a reduced perception of having  
39 balanced personal and professional commitments (5-point Likert scale; OR 0.46, 95% CI 0.31 to 0.71, P ≤  
40 0.05).[72] In summary, 3 cross-sectional studies (all unclear or high risk of bias) supported an association  
41 between sleep restriction or fatigue and reduced life satisfaction, and 2 cross-sectional studies (50% low  
42 risk of bias) supported an association with reduced work-life balance.  
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3 Four cross sectional studies (3 unclear,[56, 57, 71] 1 high risk of bias[38]) and one time series study (high  
4 risk of bias[51]) reported on other health-related outcomes. Among a mixed group of physicians (n =  
5 180), one study at high risk of bias showed that Epworth Sleepiness Scale scores were higher among  
6 physicians who worried about having a car accident while driving home (7.0 vs. 5.4,  $P < 0.001$ ).[38]  
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8 Among generalists (n = 578), almost 1 in 10 (8.7%) admitted to falling asleep while driving due to  
9 fatigue.[57] Also among generalists (n = 92), those with frequent work-related sleep disturbance  
10 (measured on a 7-point scale) were at increased odds of sickness presenteeism (OR 2.92, 95% CI 1.19 to  
11 7.16,  $P = 0.02$ ).[56] The one time series study concluded that a single 24-h shift did not cause major  
12 chronodisruption (based on serum melatonin measurement) among anesthetists (n = 10).[51]  
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14 Meanwhile, open-ended comments from a large sample (n = 3,550) of senior physicians suggests that  
15 they attributed the development of physical health problems to a lifestyle of sleep restriction, poor  
16 eating habits and lack of exercise imposed by their jobs.[71] In summary, 5 cross sectional studies (0% at  
17 low risk of bias) supported associations between sleep restriction and fatigue and varied deleterious  
18 health outcomes (i.e., car accidents, sickness presenteeism, physical health problems). One time series  
19 study at high risk of bias did not support such a relationship.  
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### 30 **Physician performance and risk of errors**

31 Twenty-one studies reported on physician performance and safety-related outcomes,[31, 32, 34, 37, 38,  
32 41, 43-47, 49, 50, 59, 61, 65, 66, 69, 71, 73, 75] including surgical efficiency and effectiveness (n = 6),  
33 psychomotor performance (n = 7), work ability and quality of care (n = 5) and medical errors (n = 5)  
34 (Supplementary file 4).  
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40 Four cohort studies (all low risk of bias[31, 32, 41, 63]), one before-after study (high risk of bias[34]) and  
41 one randomized controlled trial (high risk of bias[75]) examined the effects of sleep restriction from  
42 overnight work or extended shifts, during surgeries[31, 32, 41] or laparoscopic simulations.[34, 75] We  
43 pooled the data from these studies[31, 32, 41, 63] via meta-analysis, which showed no difference in  
44 operating time (sometimes referred to as surgeon efficiency) between sleep deprived and non-sleep  
45 deprived surgeons (Figure 2; n = 50,046, MD -0.14, 95% CI -1.60 to 1.33,  $P = 0.86$ ,  $I^2 = 0\%$ ). Of studies not  
46 meta-analysed, the small (n = 29) before-after study showed no impact of sleep deprivation from shift-  
47 work nor of sleep hours on performance on a laparoscopic simulation (LapSimGyn).[34] One small (n =  
48 64) intervention study compared a 24-hour shift to a usual work day, also finding no detriment to  
49 performance on a laparoscopic simulation (Minimally Invasive Surgical Trainer-Virtual Reality) despite  
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3 diminished sleep hours while working on-call.[75] In summary, pooled data from 4 cohort studies (100%  
4 low risk of bias) showed no effect of sleep restriction on surgical efficiency. Additional data from one  
5 RCT (high risk of bias) and one before-after study (high risk of bias) also showed no association between  
6 sleep restriction and performance on laparoscopic simulations.  
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11 Two before-after studies (high risk of bias[45, 50]) and five cross-sectional studies (2 low,[43, 59] 3  
12 unclear,[37, 46] 1 high risk of bias [61]) reported on psychomotor performance outcomes among  
13 surgeons,[45] anesthesiologists,[37, 43, 50, 59] emergency physicians,[61] and internal medicine  
14 physicians.[46] Among a small group of surgeons (n = 9), performance on a virtual ring transfer task  
15 deteriorated after an on-call shift (data not reported,  $P < 0.05$ ).[45] The four studies among anesthesiologists  
16 reported mixed findings. One small (n = 11) before-after study showed longer reaction times  
17 (690.8±73.4 vs. 746.5±113.7 milliseconds) and reduced concentration ability (26.4±23.5 vs. 56.3±23.0 on  
18 a 100-point scale,  $P = 0.007$ ) following a 24-hour shift with sleep restriction;[50] Two others found that  
19 sleep restriction due to overnight shifts was associated with slower reaction times.[43, 59] Conversely, a  
20 small study (n = 11) found no effect of overnight shiftwork with sleep restriction on any measure of  
21 psychomotor performance except Hopkin's Verbal Learning Test (t-score of 48.6±7.6 vs. 41.5±9.9,  $P =$   
22 0.04).[37] Among emergency physicians (n = 18), one study (high risk of bias) showed that those who  
23 were sleep deprived (<5 hours sleep after a 24-hour shift) had a reduced performance on most but not  
24 all psychomotor tests (Battery Test Reaction 5),[61] while among internal medicine physicians (n = 20,  
25 low risk of bias), neurocognitive parameters did not seem to worsen post-call.[46] In summary, two  
26 before-after (0% low risk of bias) and 5 cross-sectional studies (40% low risk of bias) showed mixed  
27 results for the association between fatigue or sleep restriction and psychomotor performance.  
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42 Five cross-sectional studies (2 low,[47, 69] 1 unclear,[71] 2 high risk of bias[38, 65]) reported on  
43 associations between sleep deprivation or fatigue and work ability or perceived performance, all among  
44 mixed groups of physicians.[38, 47, 65, 69, 71] The two large studies at low risk of bias showed that  
45 sleep problems and fatigue were inversely associated with physicians' perceived quality of work.[47, 69]  
46 Among 1,541 physicians in Finland, sleeping problems (measured by 4 questions from the Jenkins Scale)  
47 were inversely associated with scores on the Work Ability Index ( $\beta = -0.29$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ),[47] while a study  
48 of 890 physicians from Israel demonstrated that perceived quality of care was predicted by fatigue (1  
49 item on the Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure) even after controlling for components of burnout ( $\beta =$   
50 0.17,  $P < 0.05$ ).[69] Similarly, in one study, comments from senior physicians suggested that continual  
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3 tiredness and exhaustion negatively affected their perceived competence.[71] The two studies[38, 65]  
4 that were at high risk of bias had conflicting findings. In summary, 5 cross-sectional studies (40% at low  
5 risk of bias) reported on perceived work performance; those that were at low risk of bias supported an  
6 association between fatigue or sleep restriction and reduced performance.  
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11 Five cross-sectional studies (1 low,[44] 2 unclear,[49, 66] 2 high risk of bias[38, 73]) reported on  
12 associations between sleep restriction or fatigue and self-reported medical errors among surgeons,[66]  
13 anesthesiologists[44] and mixed groups of physicians.[38, 49, 73] A large (n = 7,905) study at unclear risk  
14 of bias showed that only 6.9% of surgeons reported fatigue as the most important contributor to  
15 medical errors.[66] Among anesthesiologists, a smaller study (n = 183) at low risk of bias showed that  
16 the risk of self-reported fatigue-related errors increased with more nights of work-related sleep  
17 disturbance (RR 1.25, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.49).[44] Two of the studies reporting on mixed groups of  
18 physicians had conflicting results,[38, 49] while another reported that physicians' opinions on the  
19 association between fatigue and prescribing errors differed by work setting.[73] One-third (34%) of  
20 community-based, 96% of hospital-based, and 8% of office-based physicians believed that there was a  
21 high or very high association between fatigue and prescribing errors (P < 0.05).[73] In summary, 5 cross-  
22 sectional studies (20% at low risk of bias) reported on self-reported errors, and these showed mixed  
23 findings for associations with fatigue or sleep restriction.  
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### 35 **Patient Outcomes**

36 Six large (n = 270 to 38,978) cohort studies at low risk of bias reported on patient outcomes, all related  
37 to surgical[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] or obstetric[58] procedures (Supplementary file 4). In these studies,  
38 sleep restriction or fatigue were typically defined as overnight work prior to a daytime procedure[31, 41,  
39 58, 63, 77]; though two studies measured sleep hours[32] or 'sleep opportunity'.[58] We pooled data  
40 for procedures performed by sleep deprived versus non-sleep deprived surgeons (or obstetrician-  
41 gynecologists in one case[58]). Analyses showed no difference in the rate of intra-operative  
42 complications (Figure 3, 3 studies,[58, 63, 77] n = 19,798, RR 1.35, 95% CI 0.82 to 2.21, p=0.24, I<sup>2</sup> = 82%),  
43 post-operative complications (Figure 4; 5 studies,[31, 32, 41, 63, 77] n = 60,201, RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.95 to  
44 1.03, p = 0.51, I<sup>2</sup> = 0%), patient mortality (Figure 5; 5 studies,[31, 32, 41, 63, 77] n = 60,436, RR 0.98, 95%  
45 CI 0.84 to 1.15, p = 0.82, I<sup>2</sup> = 0%), or length of hospital stay in days (Figure 6; 4 studies,[31, 32, 41, 63] n =  
46 50,046, MD -0.33, 95% CI -1.03 to 0.36, p = 0.35, I<sup>2</sup> = 86%). One study[77] in the mortality analysis  
47 reported the number of deaths only as ≤5. We assumed 2 events for this study (midpoint between 0 and  
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3 5); sensitivity analysis using the lowest (i.e., 0) and highest (i.e., 5) possible number of events did not  
4 change the overall result (Supplementary file 5). We imputed the average variance for one study[32] in  
5 the length of stay analysis; sensitivity analysis using either the highest or lowest SD did not change the  
6 results (Supplementary file 5). Subgroup analysis by type of surgery did not explain the substantial  
7 between-study heterogeneity detected for length of stay, nor intraoperative complications, though it  
8 may be noted that the types of complications reported varied by study.  
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## 15 **DISCUSSION**

16 Fatigue and chronic sleep restriction are two potential drivers of reduced physician wellbeing[17, 19]  
17 that have thus far been understudied in physicians in independent practice. Burnout is becoming  
18 increasingly prevalent among physicians,[14-16] and recent research indicates that comprehensive  
19 individual- and system-level strategies are needed to address the problem.[6-9, 19, 21] We have  
20 systematically reviewed evidence from a heterogeneous array of available studies reporting on diverse  
21 outcomes related to physicians in independent practice and their patients. The included studies were  
22 often at high or unclear risk of bias, included small samples of physicians, and inconsistently measured  
23 and reported exposures and outcomes. The key message gleaned from this review is that despite  
24 growing interest in the topic of physician wellness, the robust evidence needed to inform individual and  
25 systems-level fatigue management strategies is lacking.  
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35 Traditionally, much of the fatigue-related research has focused on hazards to patients. The current  
36 review included six cohort studies showing that sleep restriction and/or fatigue did not seem to result in  
37 increased rates of patient mortality, operative complications, or length of hospital stay. Despite these  
38 findings, evidence for psychomotor performance, surgical skills and errors suggest that there is indeed a  
39 potential for negative outcomes. The included studies, like many of the others in this and other  
40 systematic reviews,[79] employed indirect definitions that make it difficult to classify sleep deprived  
41 physicians with certainty. In recent years there has been a shift away from the singular focus on patient  
42 safety toward a more comprehensive view that also considers the detrimental effects of fatigue, sleep  
43 loss and other occupational hazards on physician wellness.[80] Evidence from this review supports that  
44 fatigue and sleep restriction may be negatively associated with physician health and wellbeing. It is now  
45 recognized that health systems cannot be sustained by a workforce that is facing an epidemic of  
46 burnout.[19, 81, 82]  
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3 In light of high rates of burnout, the ongoing dialogue about the need for a cultural shift in the practice  
4 of medicine[83, 84] is now more important than ever. Recognition of the potential effects of physician  
5 fatigue on patients, physicians, and healthcare systems as a whole must be emphasized at a systemic  
6 level, encouraging a shift in which the risks are viewed as unacceptable.[1, 20, 80] Likewise, although  
7 research to date has focused largely on individual-level approaches to address burnout, it is now clear  
8 that placing the burden of a system-level problem solely on the individual is unlikely to bring about  
9 significant and lasting change.[85] Recent research has highlighted physician burnout as a system-driven  
10 issue that will require corresponding national-scale multicomponent solutions.[1, 19, 81, 82] As such, in  
11 the past several years both the American and Canadian Medical Associations have developed policies  
12 and programs that address physician health.[81, 86] The Canadian Medical Association's new policy on  
13 physician health calls on broad stakeholder groups (e.g., policymakers, regional health authorities,  
14 governments) to take shared responsibility for the health of physicians and to make meaningful and  
15 concerted efforts towards promoting a healthy and sustainable workforce.[81]

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27 The most salient finding of this review is that the current evidence is insufficient to inform policy and  
28 practice. Correspondingly, a 2016 research summit on physician wellness and burnout outlined the need  
29 for timely, relevant and methodologically robust research to inform practice and policy.[21] The  
30 findings herein may be used by researchers and practitioners to develop and design methodologically  
31 strong research programs related to physician fatigue, inform successful research grant proposals, and  
32 lobby healthcare organizations to increase the focus on physician fatigue management programs. It will  
33 be important to make use of existing validated measures[87-89] consistently in future research.  
34 Identifying outcomes of importance to physicians and their patients should be prioritized, such that  
35 these may be collected within intervention studies. Reporting these consistently will allow for the  
36 effective synthesis of findings and reduce research waste.[90] Integrated knowledge translation  
37 strategies involving multiple stakeholder groups (e.g., physicians, patients, medical schools, physicians'  
38 associations and governing bodies, policymakers) may help to ensure that the research is relevant and  
39 facilitates decision-making.[91]

### 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 **Strengths and Limitations**

51 Our systematic review is the first to synthesize evidence on the effects of fatigue and sleep restriction on  
52 physicians in independent practice. The review is timely, given recent calls for research into individual  
53 and organisational solutions for burnout,[20, 21] and an increased focus on physician health.[80, 81]

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3 While we have identified a diverse body of evidence, we could not draw definitive conclusions due to  
4 methodological weaknesses (e.g., 62% at high risk of bias, reliance primarily on cross-sectional designs  
5 and uncontrolled studies, subjective measurement of exposures and outcomes, small sample sizes,  
6 inclusion of predominantly male physicians within urban settings) and heterogeneous outcome  
7 measures in the included studies. Given that the 2017 update search was limited to one database, it is  
8 possible that a small number of relevant studies could have been missed. We believe that the likelihood  
9 that these might alter the conclusions of the review is low. The findings may have been influenced by  
10 publication bias, and may not be generalized to all settings, given our restriction to high income  
11 countries.  
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## 20 **CONCLUSION**

21 The evidence synthesized in this review suggests that fatigue and sleep restriction are associated with  
22 some detrimental physician health and wellbeing outcomes; the evidence for potential associations with  
23 performance and safety outcomes was mixed. Meta-analyses for patient outcomes did not show any  
24 significant associations with physician sleep deprivation. Our overall confidence in the findings is low,  
25 owing to a body of research that is hindered by methodological weaknesses. Further methodologically  
26 robust research that includes consistent outcomes that are of interest to physicians and their patients is  
27 needed to inform strong practice recommendations and policy decisions.  
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## 35 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

36 We would like to thank Dr. Meghan Sebastianski and Andrea Milne for assistance with screening, and Dr.  
37 Allison Gates for screening, data verification, and quality assessment of the French studies.  
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### COMPETING INTERESTS

All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf) and declare: Dr. Christopher Simon is employed by the Canadian Medical Association, who provided financial support for the research; there are no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work.

### CONTRIBUTOR STATEMENT

All authors contributed to the conception and design of the project. MG and AW contributed to the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of the data, and drafted the manuscript. RF contributed to acquisition of data. CSa, CSi and MPD contributed to interpretation of data and revised the manuscript for important intellectual content. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript as submitted.

### FUNDING STATEMENT

This research was supported by the Canadian Medical Association. The funder had no role in the study design; collection, analysis and interpretation of data; the writing of the report; and the decision to submit the article for publication.

### ROLE OF FUNDERS

Dr. Christopher Simon is employed by the Canadian Medical Association. The remaining authors are independent from the funders. The funders had no role in the study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; or in the decision to submit the article for publication.

### TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION

The lead author (MG) affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and all discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained.

### DATA ACCESS STATEMENT

All authors, external and internal, had full access to all of the data in the study and can take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the interpretation.

## DATA SHARING STATEMENT

The data pertaining to this systematic review are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

## FIGURE CAPTIONS

**Figure 1.** Flow of records through the selection process

**Figure 2.** Forest plot for operating time among sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

**Figure 3.** Forest plot for intra-operative complications among procedures performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons or obstetrician-gynecologists

**Legend:** Rothschild 2009 reported the total number of procedures with complications; Schieman 2008 reported the intraoperative complication rate; Vinden 2013 reported conversion to open procedure

**Figure 4.** Forest plot for post-operative complications among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

**Legend:** Vinden 2013 reported iatrogenic injuries; Schieman 2008, Govindarajan 2015, and Chu 2011 reported post-operative complication rate; Ellman 2004 reported post-operative complications (other types of complications reported not included in the analysis)

**Figure 5.** Forest plot for patient mortality among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

**Figure 6.** Forest plot for patient length of hospital stay (days) among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

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30  
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34  
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37  
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39 cholecystectomies performed by surgeons who operated the night before. *Obstet Gynecol Surv*  
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41  
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43 the number of off duty and on-call, and sleep hours among physicians working in Japanese hospitals:  
44 a cross sectional study. *BMC Public Health* 2010;10:127. doi: 10.1186/1471-2458-10-127  
45  
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47 outcomes: a systematic review. *ANZ J Surg* 2011;81(7-8):502-9.  
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3 80. Wallace JE, Lemaire JB, Ghali WA. Physician wellness: a missing quality indicator. *Lancet*  
4 2009;374(9702):1714-21.  
5  
6 81. Canadian Medical Association. CMA policy: physician health. Ottawa, Canada: Canadian Medical  
7 Association, 2017. <http://policybase.cma.ca/dbtw-wpd/Policypdf/PD18-01.pdf> (accessed 12 Jan  
8 2018).  
9  
10 82. Shanafelt T, Goh J, Sinsky C. The business case for investing in physician well-being. *JAMA Intern*  
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12  
13 83. Gaba DM, Howard SK. Fatigue among clinicians and the safety of patients. *N Engl J Med*  
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15  
16 84. Ward S, Outram S. Medicine: in need of culture change. *Intern Med J* 2016;46(1):112-6.  
17  
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19 physicians: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Intern Med* 2017;177(2):195-205.  
20  
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23  
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25 10.1093/occmed/kqu168  
26  
27 88. Chalder T, Berelowitz G, Pawlikowska T, et al. Development of a fatigue scale. *J Psychosom Res*  
28 1993;37(2):147-53.  
29  
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31 psychometric qualities of an instrument to assess fatigue. *J Psychosom Res* 1995;39(3):315-25.  
32  
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34 conduct, and analysis. *Lancet* 2014;383(9912):166-75.  
35  
36 91. Gagliardi AR, Berta W, Kothari A, Boyko J, Urquhart R. Integrated knowledge translation (IKT) in  
37 health care: a scoping review. *Implement Sci* 2016;11:38. [https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-016-0399-](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-016-0399-1)  
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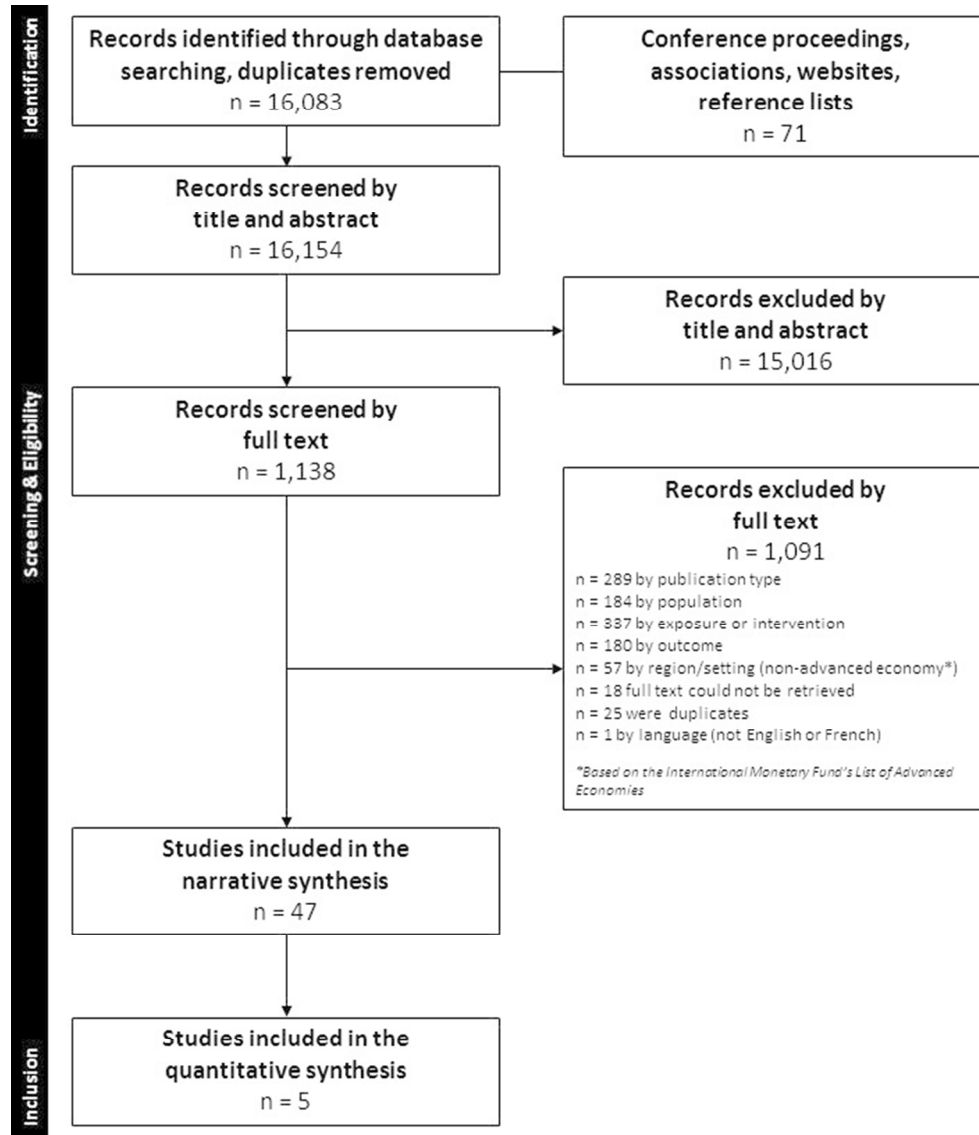


Figure 1. Flow of records through the selection process

60x69mm (300 x 300 DPI)

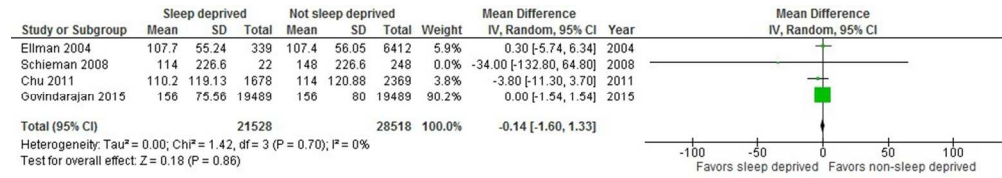


Figure 2. Forest plot for operating time among sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

262x46mm (96 x 96 DPI)

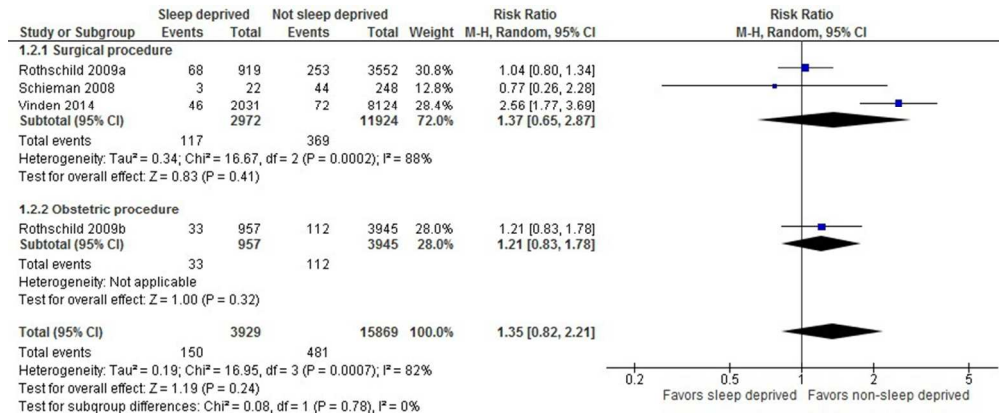


Figure 3. Forest plot for intra-operative complications among procedures performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons or obstetrician-gynecologists

239x97mm (96 x 96 DPI)

Peer review only

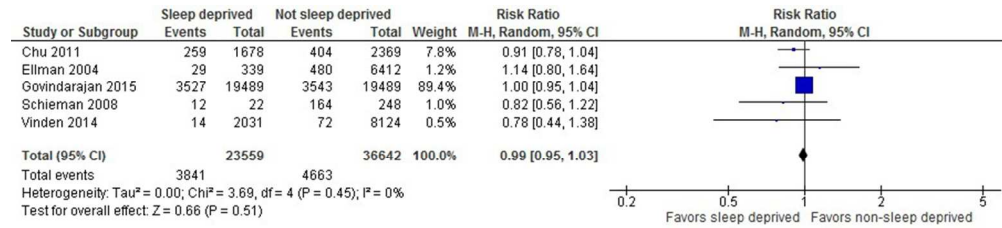


Figure 4. Forest plot for post-operative complications among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

239x55mm (96 x 96 DPI)

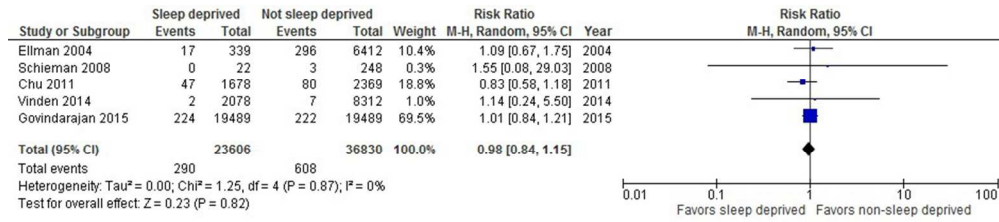


Figure 5. Forest plot for patient mortality among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

249x55mm (96 x 96 DPI)



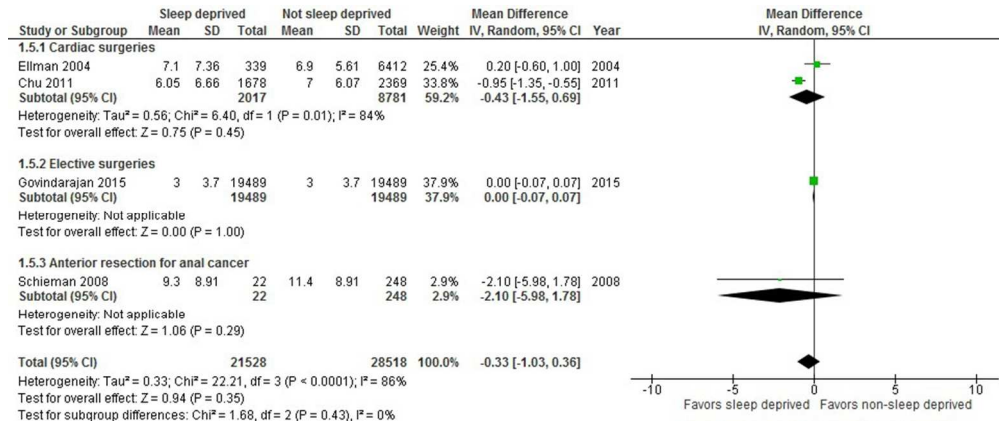


Figure 6. Forest plot for patient length of hospital stay (days) among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

254x105mm (96 x 96 DPI)

**Supplementary file 1. Search Strategy****Database:** In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present**Date searched:** 13 April 2016, updated 7 November 2017**Records retrieved:** 5068 and 1442 in the update (removed duplicates retrieved in previous search)

1. Medical Staff, Hospital/
2. Physician Impairment/
3. exp Physicians/
4. allergist\*.ti.
5. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.
6. cardiologist\*.ti.
7. clinician\*.ti.
8. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
9. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
10. dermatologist\*.ti.
11. endocrinologist\*.ti.
12. doctor\*.ti.
13. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
14. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
15. family practitioner\*.ti.
16. gastroenterologist\*.ti.
17. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.
18. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.
19. geriatrician\*.ti.
20. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.

- 1
- 2
- 3 21. h?ematologist\*.ti.
- 4
- 5 22. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
- 6
- 7 23. hospitalist\*.ti.
- 8
- 9 24. (house staff\* or housestaff\*).ti.
- 10
- 11 25. intensivist\*.ti.
- 12
- 13 26. internist\*.ti.
- 14
- 15 27. medical professional\*.ti.
- 16
- 17 28. obstetrician\*.ti.
- 18
- 19 29. oncologist\*.ti.
- 20
- 21 30. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
- 22
- 23 31. orthop?edist\*.ti.
- 24
- 25 32. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
- 26
- 27 33. neonatologist\*.ti.
- 28
- 29 34. nephrologist\*.ti.
- 30
- 31 35. neurologist\*.ti.
- 32
- 33 36. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
- 34
- 35 37. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
- 36
- 37 38. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
- 38
- 39 39. perinatologist\*.ti.
- 40
- 41 40. physician\*.ti.
- 42
- 43 41. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 44 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 45 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
- 46
- 47 42. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or
- 48 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
- 49
- 50 43. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
- 51
- 52 44. psychiatrist\*.ti.
- 53
- 54 45. pulmonologist\*.ti.
- 55
- 56 46. rheumatologist\*.ti.
- 57
- 58 47. surgeon\*.ti.
- 59
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- 3 48. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
- 6
- 7
- 8 49. traumatologist\*.ti.
- 9
- 10 50. urologist\*.ti.
- 11
- 12 51. or/1-50 [Combined MeSH, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13 52. Burnout, Professional/
- 14 53. exp Circadian Rhythm/
- 15 54. exp Fatigue/
- 16 55. Occupational Health/
- 17 56. Rest/ph, px [Physiology, Psychology]
- 18 57. Sleep Deprivation/
- 19 58. Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm/
- 20 59. Sleep Wake Disorders/
- 21 60. exp Stress, Psychological/
- 22 61. Workload/px [Psychology]
- 23 62. Work Schedule Tolerance/
- 24 63. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw,kf.
- 25 64. biological rhythm\*.tw,kf.
- 26 65. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw,kf.
- 27 66. circadian misalignment.tw,kf.
- 28 67. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw,kf.
- 29 68. exhaust\*.tw,kf.
- 30 69. fatigu\*.tw,kf.
- 31 70. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw,kf.
- 32 71. tired\*.tw,kf.
- 33 72. weariness.tw,kf.
- 34 73. or/52-72 [Combined MeSH and text words for fatigue]
- 35 74. and/51,73 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
- 36 75. animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
- 37 76. 74 not 75
- 38 77. (comment or editorial or letter).pt.
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3 78. 76 not 77

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5 79. limit 78 to yr="2000-Current"

6  
7 80. limit 79 to (english or french)

8  
9 81. remove duplicates from 80

10  
11  
12 **Database: Ovid Embase 1996 to 2016 Week 15**

13 **Date searched: 13 April 2016**

14  
15 **Records retrieved: 8859**

16  
17  
18 1. medical staff/  
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20 2. exp physician/  
21

22 3. allergist\*.ti.  
23

24 4. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.  
25

26 5. cardiologist\*.ti.  
27

28 6. clinician\*.ti.  
29

30 7. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
31 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
32 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

33 8. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
34 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
35

36 9. dermatologist\*.ti.  
37

38 10. endocrinologist\*.ti.  
39

40 11. doctor\*.ti.  
41

42 12. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
43 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
44 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.  
45

46 13. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
47 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
48

49 14. family practitioner\*.ti.  
50

51 15. gastroenterologist\*.ti.  
52

53 16. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.  
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55 17. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.  
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18. geriatrician\*.ti.
19. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.
20. h?ematologist\*.ti.
21. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
22. hospitalist\*.ti.
23. (house staff\* or housestaff\*).ti.
24. intensivist\*.ti.
25. internist\*.ti.
26. medical professional\*.ti.
27. obstetrician\*.ti.
28. oncologist\*.ti.
29. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
30. orthop?edist\*.ti.
31. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
32. neonatologist\*.ti.
33. nephrologist\*.ti.
34. neurologist\*.ti.
35. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
36. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
37. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
38. perinatologist\*.ti.
39. physician\*.ti.
40. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
41. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.
42. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
43. psychiatrist\*.ti.
44. pulmonologist\*.ti.
45. rheumatologist\*.ti.
46. surgeon\*.ti.

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- 3 47. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
- 6
- 7
- 8 48. traumatologist\*.ti.
- 9
- 10 49. urologist\*.ti.
- 11
- 12 50. or/1-49 [Combined Emtree, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13
- 14 51. burnout/
- 15
- 16 52. circadian rhythm/
- 17
- 18 53. circadian rhythm sleep disorder/
- 19
- 20 54. fatigue/
- 21
- 22 55. mental stress/
- 23
- 24 56. occupational health/
- 25
- 26 57. sleep deprivation/
- 27
- 28 58. sleep waking cycle/
- 29
- 30 59. work capacity/
- 31
- 32 60. work schedule/
- 33
- 34 61. working time/
- 35
- 36 62. workload/
- 37
- 38 63. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw.
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- 40 64. biological rhythm\*.tw.
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- 42 65. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw.
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- 44 66. circadian misalignment.tw.
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- 46 67. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw.
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- 50 69. fatigu\*.tw.
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- 52 70. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw.
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- 54 71. tired\*.tw.
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- 56 72. weariness.tw.
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- 58 73. or/51-72 [Combined Emtree and text words for fatigue]
- 59
- 60 74. and/50,73 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
75. animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
76. 74 not 75

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3 77. (conference\* or editorial or letter or proceeding).pt.  
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5 78. 76 not 77

6 79. limit 78 to yr="2000-Current"  
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8 80. limit 79 to (english or french)  
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10 81. limit 80 to embase  
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13 **Database: Ovid PsycINFO 1987 to April Week 1 2016**

14  
15 **Date searched:** 13 April 2016

16  
17 **Records retrieved:** 2094  
18

19  
20 1. exp Physicians/  
21

22 2. allergist\*.ti.  
23

24 3. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.  
25

26 4. cardiologist\*.ti.  
27

28 5. clinician\*.ti.  
29

30 6. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
31 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
32 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

33 7. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
34 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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36 8. dermatologist\*.ti.  
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38 9. endocrinologist\*.ti.  
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40 10. doctor\*.ti.  
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42 11. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
43 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
44 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.  
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46 12. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
47 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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49 13. family practitioner\*.ti.  
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51 14. gastroenterologist\*.ti.  
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53 15. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.  
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55 16. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.  
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17. geriatrician\*.ti.
18. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.
19. h?ematologist\*.ti.
20. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
21. hospitalist\*.ti.
22. intensivist\*.ti.
23. internist\*.ti.
24. medical professional\*.ti.
25. obstetrician\*.ti.
26. oncologist\*.ti.
27. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
28. orthop?edist\*.ti.
29. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
30. neonatologist\*.ti.
31. nephrologist\*.ti.
32. neurologist\*.ti.
33. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
34. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
35. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
36. perinatologist\*.ti.
37. physician\*.ti.
38. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
39. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.
40. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
41. psychiatrist\*.ti.
42. pulmonologist\*.ti.
43. rheumatologist\*.ti.
44. surgeon\*.ti.

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- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
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- 10 47. urologist\*.ti.
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- 12 48. or/1-47 [Combined thesaurus, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13
- 14 49. Compassion Fatigue/
- 15 50. Fatigue/
- 16 51. Human Biological Rhythms/
- 17 52. Occupational Health/
- 18 53. Occupational Stress/
- 19 54. Sleep/
- 20 55. Sleepiness/
- 21 56. Working Conditions/
- 22 57. Work Rest Cycles/
- 23 58. Work Week Length/
- 24 59. Work Scheduling/
- 25 60. Workday Shifts/
- 26 61. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw.
- 27 62. biological rhythm\*.tw.
- 28 63. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw.
- 29 64. circadian misalignment.tw.
- 30 65. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw.
- 31 66. exhaust\*.tw.
- 32 67. fatigu\*.tw.
- 33 68. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw.
- 34 69. tired\*.tw.
- 35 70. weariness.tw.
- 36 71. or/49-70 [Combined thesaurus and text words for fatigue]
- 37 72. and/48,71 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
- 38 73. limit 72 to yr="2000-Current"
- 39 74. limit 73 to (english or french)
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3 **Database: CINAHL Plus with Full Text (1937 to the present) via EBSCOhost**

4  
5 **Date searched:** 14 April 2016

6  
7 **Records retrieved:** 3378

8  
9  
10 S1. (MH "Medical Staff, Hospital+")

11 S2. (MH "Physicians+")

12 S3. TI allertist\*

13 S4. TI (anesthetist\* or anaesthetist\* or anesthesiologist\* or anaesthesiologist\*)

14 S5. TI cardiologist\*

15 S6. TI clinician\*

16 S7. clinician\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
17 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
18 "work\* hour\*" or "work life balance")

19 S8. clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
20 suburb\* or urban\*)

21 S9. TI dermatologist\*

22 S10. TI endocrinologist\*

23 S11. TI doctor\*

24 S12. doctor\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue or  
25 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
26 work\* hour\* or "work life balance")

27 S13. doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
28 suburb\* or urban\*)

29 S14. TI "family practitioner\*"

30 S15. TI gastroenterologist\*

31 S16. TI ("general practitioner\*" or GP\*)

32 S17. TI (general N2 physician\*)

33 S18. TI geriatrician\*

34 S19. TI (gynaecologist\* or gynecologist\*)

35 S20. TI (haematologist\* or hematologist\*)

36 S21. TI hospitalist\*

37 S22. TI ("house staff\*" or housestaff\*)

- 1  
2  
3 S23. TI intensivist\*
- 4  
5 S24. TI internist\*
- 6  
7 S25. TI obstetrician\*
- 8  
9 S26. TI oncologist\*
- 10  
11 S27. TI ophthalmologist\*
- 12  
13 S28. TI (orthopaedist\* or orthopedist\*)
- 14  
15 S29. TI (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*)
- 16  
17 S30. TI neonatologist\*
- 18  
19 S31. TI nephrologist\*
- 20  
21 S32. TI neurologist\*
- 22  
23 S33. TI neuropsychiatrist\*
- 24  
25 S34. TI neurosurgeon\*
- 26  
27 S35. TI (paediatrician\* OR pediatrician\*)
- 28  
29 S36. TI perinatologist\*
- 30  
31 S37. TI physician\*
- 32  
33 S38. physician\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
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35 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
36  
37 "work\* hour\*" or "work life balance")
- 38  
39 S39. physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\*  
40  
41 or suburb\* or urban\*)
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43 S40. TI "primary care practitioner\*"
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45 S41. TI psychiatrist\*
- 46  
47 S42. TI pulmonologist\*
- 48  
49 S43. TI rheumatologist\*
- 50  
51 S44. TI surgeon\*
- 52  
53 S45. surgeon\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
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55 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
56  
57 work\* hour\* or "work life balance")
- 58  
59 S46. TI traumatologist\*
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S47. TI urologist\*
- S48. S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR  
S15 OR S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27 OR S28

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3 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR  
4 S42 OR S43 OR S44 OR S45 OR S46 OR S47  
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6 S49. (MH "Circadian Rhythm")  
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8 S50. (MH "Fatigue")  
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10 S51. (MH "Impairment, Health Professional")  
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12 S52. (MH "Mental Fatigue")  
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14 S53. (MH "Occupational Health")  
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16 S54. (MH "Shiftwork")  
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18 S55. (MH "Sleep Deprivation")  
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20 S56. (MH "Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm")  
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22 S57. (MH "Sleep-Wake Transition Disorders")  
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24 S58. (MH "Stress, Occupational+")  
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26 S59. (MH "Stress, Psychological")  
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28 S60. ("24 hour\*" or "24 hr\*" or "twenty four hour\*" or "twentyfour hour\*") N1 rhythm\*  
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30 S61. "biological rhythm\*"  
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32 S62. "burn out\*" or "burned out\*" or "burnt out\*" or burnout\*  
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34 S63. "circadian misalignment"  
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36 S64. (circadian or diurnam or ultradian) N1 rhythm\*  
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38 S65. exhaust\*  
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40 S66. fatigu\*  
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42 S67. sleep\* N3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)  
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44 S68. tired\*  
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46 S69. weariness  
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48 S70. S49 OR S50 OR S51 OR S52 OR S53 OR S54 OR S55 OR S56 OR S57 OR S58 OR S59 OR S60 OR S61 OR  
49 S62 OR S63 OR S64 OR S65 OR S66 OR S67 OR S68 OR S69  
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51 S71. S48 AND S70  
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53 S72. S48 AND S70 Limiters - Published Date: 20000101-20161231; Publication Type: Clinical Trial, Journal  
54 Article, Meta Analysis, Meta Synthesis, Practice Guidelines, Randomized Controlled Trial, Research,  
55 Review, Systematic Review; Language: English, French  
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4 **Date searched:** 14 April 2016

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10 (((("Medical Staff, Hospital"[mh:noexp] OR "Physician Impairment"[mh:noexp] OR "Physicians"[mh] OR  
11 allergist[ti] OR allergists[ti] OR anaesthetist[ti] OR anaesthetists[ti] OR anaesthesiologist[ti] OR  
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13 anesthesiologists[ti] OR cardiologist[ti] OR cardiologists[ti] OR clinician[ti] OR clinicians[ti] OR  
14 ((clinician[tiab] OR clinicians[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR  
15 absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR  
16 burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR  
17 distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR  
18 fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR  
19 impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR  
20 satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR  
21 wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life  
22 balance"[tiab])) OR ((clinician[tiab] OR clinicians[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR community[tiab]  
23 OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR north[tiab] OR  
24 northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR suburban[tiab] OR  
25 urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR dermatologist[ti] OR dermatologists[ti] OR endocrinologist[ti] OR  
26 endocrinologists[ti] OR doctor[ti] OR doctors[ti] OR ((doctor[tiab] OR doctors[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab]  
27 OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn  
28 out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab]  
29 OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR  
30 "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab]  
31 OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR  
32 resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab]  
33 OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working  
34 hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR ((doctor[tiab] OR doctors[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR  
35 city[tiab] OR community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR  
36 frontier[tiab] OR north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR  
37 suburbs[tiab] OR suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR "family practitioner"[ti] OR  
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4 physician"[ti] OR "general practice physicians"[ti] OR "general practitioner"[ti] OR "general  
5 practitioners"[ti] OR geriatrician[ti] OR geriatricians[ti] OR gynaecologist[ti] OR gynaecologists[ti] OR  
6 gynecologist[ti] OR gynecologists[ti] OR haematologist[ti] OR haematologists[ti] OR hematologist[ti] OR  
7 hematologists[ti] OR "health care professional"[ti] OR "health care professionals"[ti] AND "health care  
8 provider"[ti] OR "health care providers" OR "health professional"[ti] OR "health professionals"[ti] OR  
9 "health provider"[ti] OR "health providers"[ti] OR "healthcare professional"[ti] OR "healthcare  
10 professionals"[ti] OR "healthcare provider"[ti] OR "healthcare providers"[ti] OR hospitalist[ti] OR  
11 hospitalists[ti] OR "house staff"[ti] OR "house staffs"[ti] OR housestaff[ti] OR housestaffs[ti] OR  
12 intensivist[ti] OR intensivists[ti] OR internist[ti] OR internists[ti] OR "medical professional"[ti] OR  
13 "medical professionals"[ti] OR obstetrician[ti] OR obstetricians[ti] OR oncologist[ti] OR oncologists[ti] OR  
14 ophthalmologist[ti] OR ophthalmologists[ti] OR orthopaedist[ti] OR orthopaedists[ti] OR orthopedist[ti]  
15 OR orthopedists[ti] OR otolaryngologist[ti] OR otolaryngologists[ti] OR otorhinolaryngologist[ti] OR  
16 otorhinolaryngologists[ti] OR neonatologist[ti] OR neonatologists[ti] OR nephrologist[ti] OR  
17 nephrologists[ti] OR neurologist[ti] OR neurologists[ti] OR neuropsychiatrist[ti] OR neuropsychiatrists[ti]  
18 OR neurosurgeon[ti] OR neurosurgeons[ti] OR paediatrician[ti] OR paediatricians[ti] OR pediatrician[ti]  
19 OR pediatricians[ti] OR perinatologist[ti] OR perinatologists[ti] OR physician[ti] OR physicians[ti] OR  
20 ((physician[tiab] OR physicians[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR  
21 absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR  
22 burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR  
23 distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR  
24 fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR  
25 impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR  
26 satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR  
27 wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life  
28 balance"[tiab])) OR ((physician[tiab] OR physicians[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR  
29 community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR  
30 north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR  
31 suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR "primary care practitioner"[ti] OR "primary care  
32 practitioners"[ti] OR psychiatrist[ti] OR psychiatrists[ti] OR pulmonologist[ti] OR pulmonologists[ti] OR  
33 rheumatologist[ti] OR rheumatologists[ti] OR surgeon[ti] OR surgeons[ti] OR ((surgeon[tiab] OR  
34 surgeons[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR  
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 3 "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR burnouts[tiab] OR  
 4 "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR  
 5 distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR  
 6 fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR  
 7 impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR  
 8 sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR  
 9 wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR  
 10 traumatologist[ti] OR traumatologists[ti] OR urologist[ti] OR urologists[ti] AND ("Burnout,  
 11 Professional"[mh:noexp] OR "Circadian Rhythm"[mh] OR "Fatigue"[mh] OR "Occupational  
 12 Health"[mh:noexp] OR "Rest/physiology"[mh:noexp] OR "Rest/psychology"[mh:noexp] OR "Sleep  
 13 Deprivation"[mh:noexp] OR "Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm"[mh:noexp] OR "Stress,  
 14 Psychological"[mh] OR "Workload/psychology"[mh] OR "Work Schedule Tolerance"[mh:noexp] OR "24  
 15 hour rhythm"[tiab] OR "24 hour rhythms"[tiab] OR "24 hr rhythm"[tiab] OR "24 hr rhythms"[tiab] OR  
 16 alertness[tiab] OR "biological rhythm"[tiab] OR "biological rhythms"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR  
 17 "burned out"[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR "circadian misalignment"[tiab] OR  
 18 "circadian rhythm"[tiab] OR "circadian rhythms"[tiab] OR "diurnal rhythm"[tiab] OR "diurnal  
 19 rhythms"[tiab] OR exhausted[tiab] OR exhaustion[tiab] OR exhausting[tiab] OR exhausts[tiab] OR  
 20 fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR ("Sleep"[mh:noexp] OR  
 21 sleep[tiab] OR sleeping[tiab]) AND (deprivation[tiab] OR deprive[tiab] OR deprived[tiab] OR  
 22 deprives[tiab] OR depriving[tiab] OR disorder[tiab] OR disorders[tiab] OR lack[tiab] OR lacked[tiab] OR  
 23 lacking[tiab] OR lacks[tiab] OR loss[tiab] AND insufficient[tiab] OR problem[tiab] OR problems[tiab])) OR  
 24 tired[tiab] OR tiredness[tiab] OR "twenty four hour rhythm"[tiab] OR "twenty four hour rhythms"[tiab]  
 25 OR weariness[tiab] OR "ultradian rhythm"[tiab] OR "ultradian rhythms"[tiab])) NOT (((Animals[MESH]  
 26 OR Animal Experimentation[MESH] OR "Models, Animal"[MESH] OR Vertebrates[MESH]) NOT  
 27 (Humans[MESH] OR Human experimentation[MESH])) OR (((animals[tiab] OR animal model[tiab] OR  
 28 rat[tiab] OR rats[tiab] OR mouse[tiab] OR mice[tiab] OR rabbit[tiab] OR rabbits[tiab] OR pig[tiab] OR  
 29 pigs[tiab] OR porcine[tiab] OR swine[tiab] OR dog[tiab] OR dogs[tiab] OR hamster[tiab] OR  
 30 hamsters[tiab] OR chicken[tiab] OR chickens[tiab] OR sheep[tiab]) AND (publisher[ti] OR inprocess[ti]  
 31 OR pubmednotmedline[ti])) NOT (human[ti] OR humans[ti] OR people[ti] OR children[ti] OR adults[ti]  
 32 OR seniors[ti] OR patient[ti] OR patients[ti]))) NOT (editorial[pt] OR comment[pt] OR letter[pt] OR  
 33 newspaper article[pt])) AND ((publisher[ti] NOT pubstatusnihms NOT pubstatuspmcsd NOT pmcbook)  
 34 OR (pubstatUSheadofprint))



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Filters activated: Publication date from 2000/01/01 to 2016/12/31, English, French.

For peer review only

**Supplementary table 1.** Descriptive characteristics of the included studies

| Study<br>Country                               | Physician and patient characteristics                           |                                    |  |  | Setting  |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------|---|---|
|  | Type  | n=                                 | Sex (% male)   | Age  | Location   | Urban<br>or<br>rural |   |   |
| <b>Observational (exposure) studies (n=45)</b> |   |                                    |  |  |  |                      |   |   |
| <b>Cohort design</b>                           |   |                                    |  |  |  |                      |   |   |
| Chu, 2011 [32]<br>Canada                       | Surgeons  | 6                                  | NR   | Range: 32-55y  | Tertiary care academic<br>hospital   | Urban                | Sleep restriction due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding surgery                | Length of surgery; patient<br>postoperative mortality,<br>complications, length of<br>stay                        |
|  | Patients: cardiac surgery<br>cases                              | 4,047                              | NR   | NR   |  |                      |   |   |
| Ellman, 2004 [41]<br>US                        | Surgeons  | NR                                 | NR   | NR   | University hospitals   | Urban                | Sleep restriction due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding surgery                | Length of surgery; patient<br>complications, in-hospital<br>mortality, length of stay,<br>need for blood products |
|  | Patients: adult cardiac<br>surgery cases                        | 6,751                              | 70%  | S: 63.4±0.7y<br>C: 63.5±0.1y   |  |                      |   |   |
| Govindarajan,<br>2015 [31]<br>Canada           | Surgeons  | 1,448                              | NR   | 46.3±8.7   | Academic and non-<br>academic hospitals  | Mixed                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding a daytime<br>surgery   | Length of surgery; Patient<br>complications, mortality,<br>readmissions, length of<br>stay                        |
|  | Patients: surgical cases  | 38,978                             | NR   | 56.4±16.6y   |  |                      |   |   |
| Rothschild, 2009<br>[58]<br>US                 | Surgeons<br>Obstetrician/gynecologists                          | 220                                | Surgeons:<br>84%<br>OB/GYNs:<br>28%                    | Surgeons:<br>42.0±7.6y<br>OB/GYNs:<br>42.0±9.0y                                    | Tertiary care academic<br>trauma centre/referral<br>centre for high-risk<br>obstetrics | Urban                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding a daytime<br>procedure | Patient complications,<br>preventable<br>complications  |
|  | Patients: surgical and<br>obstetrics cases                      | Surg.:<br>4,471<br>Obst.:<br>4,902 | Surg.:<br>S: 25%<br>C: 28%<br>Obst.:<br>S: 0%<br>C: 0% | Surg.:<br>S: 49.1±16.3y<br>C: 50.0±16.3y<br>Obst.:<br>S: 32.9±5.2y<br>C: 33.5±5.0y |  |                      |   |   |
|  |   |                                    |  |  |  |                      |   |   |
| Schieman, 2007<br>[63]<br>Canada               | Colorectal surgeons   | NR                                 | NR   | NR   | University teaching<br>hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue due to work<br>on the night preceding<br>surgery                          | Length of surgery; patient<br>operative complications,<br>length of stay, mortality,<br>cancer recurrence         |
|  | Patients: undergoing<br>anterior resection for rectal<br>cancer | 270                                | NR   | S: 64.5y<br>C: 64.4y   |  |                      |   |   |

| Study<br>Country                     | Physician and patient characteristics                       |               |                         |   | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures  | Outcomes   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|-------------------------|---|---|----------------------|--|--|
|                                      | Type  | n=            | Sex (% male)            | Age   | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |  |  |
| Vinden, 2014 [77]<br>Canada          | General surgeons<br>Patients: Elective<br>cholecystectomies | 331<br>10,390 | 83%<br>S: 27%<br>C: 26% | 48±10y<br>S: 49±16y<br>C: 49±16y                      | Community hospitals   | Mixed                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to overnight work<br>preceding daytime<br>surgery | Patient mortality,<br>operative complications                                    |
| <b>Before-after design</b>           |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Amirian, 2014 [34]<br>Denmark        | Surgeons  | 29            | 55%                     | Median: 35y<br>Range: 27-49y                          | Academic hospital   | Urban                | 17-h night shift with<br>sleep deprivation                                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities on<br>a laparoscopic simulation           |
| Gerdes, 2008 [45]<br>US              | Surgeons  | 9             | NR                      | NR  | University Hospital   | Urban                | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation from<br>overnight call shift                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities   |
| Lederer, 2006 [50]<br>Austria        | Senior anesthesiologists                                    | 11            | 82%                     | 49.0±2.0y   | Hospital  | Urban                | Sleep deprivation<br>from 24-h call shift                                  | Concentration ability;<br>reaction time;<br>performance on<br>psychometric tasks |
| <b>Time series design</b>            |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Leichtfried, 2011<br>[51]<br>Austria | Anesthesiologists   | 10            | 100%                    | Mean: 32y<br>Range: 29-35y                            | University Hospital   | Urban                | Sleep deprivation<br>from 24-h shift;<br>sleepiness, sleep<br>hours        | Melatonin metabolite<br>profile  |
| <b>Cross-sectional design</b>        |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Aziz, 2004 [35]<br>US                | Family medicine physicians<br>Various specialties           | 153           | NR                      | NR  | Hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue  | Stress   |
| Beaujouan, 2005<br>[36]<br>France    | Anesthesiologists   | 3,476         | 64%                     | ≤35y: 9%<br>36-45y: 28%<br>46-55y: 49%<br>56-65y: 13% | Public sector<br>General hospitals<br>University hospitals<br>Private hospitals | NR                   | Sleep deprivation  | Substance abuse  |
| Chang, 2013 [37]<br>US               | Anesthesiologists   | 11            | 64%                     | Mean: 38y<br>IQR: 34-48y                              | Level 1 trauma centre   | NR                   | Sleep deprivation due<br>to 15-h overnight call<br>shift; sleepiness       | Cognitive performance;<br>reaction time  |

| Study<br>Country                   | Physician and patient characteristics  |       |              | Setting   |   | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|-------|--------------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
|                                    | Type   | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location  |                               |   | Urban<br>or<br>rural   |
| Chen, 2008 [38]<br>US              | Psychiatrists<br>Internists<br>General practitioners<br>Surgeons<br>Obstetrician-gynecologists<br>Radiologists<br>Pediatricians<br>Other | 180   | 77%          | Academic:<br>79% 36-55y<br>Private<br>practice:<br>73% 36-65y | Medical school<br>Private practices   | Urban                         | Sleep deprivation;<br>sleepiness            | Impact on personal and<br>professional life;<br>perceived risk of errors |
| Doppia, 2011 [39]<br>France        | Anesthesiologists  | 565   | 64%          | <35y: 11%<br>35-54y: 63%<br>>55y: 25%                         | Public hospitals<br>Private hospitals<br>Work-health<br>environments<br>Public health units | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                           | Burnout  |
| Elovaino, 2015<br>[42]<br>Finland  | Physicians in various<br>specialties   | 1,524 | 40%          | Median: 49.7y<br>Range: 24-69y                                | Hospitals<br>Primary care<br>Private practice<br>Other unspecified                          | NR                            | Sleep difficulties                          | Job demands and control  |
| Gander, 2000 [43]<br>New Zealand   | Anesthetists   | 183   | NR           | Mean: 46y   | Combined<br>public/private practice<br>Other unspecified                                    | NR                            | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance           | Risk of fatigue-related<br>errors  |
| Harbeck, 2015 [46]<br>Germany      | Internists   | 20    | 45%          | Median: 32y<br>Range: 26-42y                                  | Hospital  | NR                            | Sleep disturbance due<br>to a 24-call shift | Biochemical and<br>physiological parameters;<br>neurocognitive function  |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br>[47]<br>Finland | Physicians in various<br>specialties<br>Non-specialized physicians   | 1,541 | 40%          | 49.80±9.49y,<br>Range: 24-67y                                 | Hospitals<br>Primary care clinic<br>Private practice<br>Other unspecified                   | NR                            | Sleep difficulties                          | Job satisfaction; work<br>ability; psychological<br>distress             |

| Study<br>Country                | Physician and patient characteristics  |                             |              |  | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures                   | Outcomes                    |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|--|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|                                 | Type   | n=                          | Sex (% male) | Age  | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |   |                             |
| Jackson, 2017 [48]<br>US        | Surgeons in various<br>subspecialties  | 993                         | 61%          | More; less<br>satisfied:<br>30-39y:<br>23%;24%<br>40-49y:<br>32%;36%<br>50-59y:<br>23%;27%<br>≥60y:<br>23%;14% | Academic practice<br>Non-academic practice                                  | NR                   | Not feeling well rested                         | Job satisfaction            |
| Kanieta, 2011 [49]<br>Japan     | Internists<br>Surgeons<br>Orthopedics<br>Pediatricians<br>Obstetrician-gynecologists<br>Psychiatrists<br>Dermatologists<br>Urologists<br>Ophthalmologists<br>Otorhinolaryngologists<br>Other | 3,486                       | 66%          | 20-39y: 11%<br>40-49y: 25%<br>50-59y: 28%<br>60-69y: 16%<br>≥70y: 21%  | Hospitals<br>Clinics<br>Other unspecified                                   | NR                   | Sleep deprivation and<br>difficulties; insomnia | Medical incidents           |
| Lindfors, 2006 [52]<br>Finland  | Anesthetists   | 328                         | 53%          | 47±7.8y<br>Range: 32-69y   | University hospitals<br>Central and district<br>hospitals<br>Private sector | NR                   | Sleep disturbances;<br>sleepiness               | Stress; suicidal tendencies |
| Mahmood, 2016<br>[53]<br>Norway | Generalists<br>Internists<br>Pediatricians<br>Surgical specialties<br>Anesthesiologists  | 450<br>(all time<br>points) | 41%          | 43y±2.8y   | Public health system<br>Private practice                                    | NR                   | Sleep deprivation due<br>to on-call shifts      | Alcohol misuse              |

| Study<br>Country              | Physician and patient characteristics                |       |              | Setting  |  | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes   |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|--------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
|                               | Type   | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age  | Location   |                               |  |
| Nishimura, 2014 [54]<br>Japan | Neurosurgeons and neurologists                       | 2,564 | NR           | NR   | Stroke care centres<br>Teaching hospitals  | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Burnout   |
| Pit, 2014 [55]<br>Australia   | General practitioners                                | 92    | 60%          | 50±10.7y   | NR   | Rural                         | Work-related sleep disturbance<br>Early retirement intentions              |
| Pit, 2016 [56]<br>Australia   | General practitioners                                | 92    | 60%          | 50±10.7y   | Private (solo) practice<br>Group practice  | Rural                         | Work-related sleep disturbance<br>Sickness presenteeism                    |
| Roberts, 2014 [57]<br>US      | General internists<br>Internal medicine hospitalists | 578   | 58%          | Hospitalists:<br>46.9±12.4y<br>Generalists:<br>53.6±10.2y  | Private practice<br>Academic medical centre<br>Veterans hospital<br>Military practice<br>Other | NR                            | Fatigue<br>Falling asleep while driving                                    |
| Saadat, 2016 [60]<br>US       | Anesthesiologists                                    | 21    | 71%          | 30-40y: 57%<br>41-50y: 19%<br>51-55y: 24%<br>Range: 32-56y | Tertiary care academic children's hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 17-h night call shift<br>Mood disturbances        |
| Saadat, 2017 [59]<br>US       | Anesthesiologists                                    | 21    | 65%          | Range: 32-56 years   | Tertiary care academic children's hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 17-h night call shift<br>Reaction time            |
| Sanches, 2015 [61]<br>Spain   | Emergency medicine physicians                        | 18    | 28%          | 29.2±2.6y  | Central hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Cognitive and psychomotor abilities                   |
| Sargent, 2009 [62]<br>US      | Orthopedic surgeons                                  | 264   | 92%          | NR   | Orthopedic surgery training programs   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Burnout; psychological distress; marital satisfaction |
| Sende, 2012 [64]<br>France    | Emergency physicians                                 | 318   | 62%          | 39±8y  | Hospitals<br>Mobile emergency services<br>Other unspecified                                    | NR                            | Fatigue; sleep deprivation<br>Stress                                       |

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| Study<br>Country                                 | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              | Setting                           |   | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                      |  |
|--|---|-------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|  | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age                               | Location  |                               |                               | Urban<br>or<br>rural                     |
| Sexton, 2001 [65]<br>US                          | Consulting physicians:<br>Surgeons<br>Anesthesiologists<br>Pulmonary physicians<br>Cardiologists<br>Pediatricians | 271   | NR           | NR                                | Teaching and non-<br>teaching hospitals   | Urban                         | Fatigue                       | Perceived performance<br>effectiveness   |
| Shanafelt, 2005<br>[67]<br>US, Canada,<br>Mexico | Oncologists   | 241   | 85%          | >50y: 51%                         | Community clinics<br>Hospitals<br>Private practice<br>Academic medical<br>centres   | NR                            | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation | Quality of life/well-being               |
| Shanafelt, 2010<br>[66]<br>US                    | Surgeons  | 7,905 | 87%          | Median: 51y<br>Q1: 43y<br>Q2: 59y | Private practice<br>Academic medical<br>centres Veterans<br>hospital<br>Active military practice<br>Retired or not in<br>practice Other | NR                            | Fatigue                       | Perceived major medical<br>errors        |
| Shanafelt, 2014<br>[68]<br>US                    | Oncologists   | 1,117 | 52%          | Median: 52y                       | Private practice<br>Academic practice<br>Veteran's hospital<br>Industry, other  | NR                            | Fatigue                       | Satisfaction with work-life<br>balance   |
| Shirom, 2006 [69]<br>Israel                      | Ophthalmologists<br>Dermatologists<br>Otolaryngologists<br>Gynecologists<br>General surgeons<br>Cardiologists     | 890   | 80%          | Median: 52y<br>SD: 7.2y           | Community clinics<br>Acute care hospital<br>outpatient clinics  | NR                            | Physical fatigue              | Perception of quality of<br>patient care |

| Study<br>Country                  | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              | Setting                            |  | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
|                                   | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age                                | Location   |                               |   |
| Shirom, 2010 [70]<br>Israel       | Ophthalmologists<br>Dermatologists<br>Otolaryngologists<br>Gynecologists<br>General surgeons<br>Cardiologists   | 890   | 80%          | Median: 52y<br>SD: 7.2y            | Community clinics<br>Acute care hospital<br>outpatient clinics | NR                            | Physical fatigue<br>Burnout   |
| Smith, 2017 [71]<br>UK            | General practitioners<br>Surgeons<br>Other unspecified<br>specialties   | 3,550 | 63%          | NR                                 | NR (varied)  | NR                            | Perceived fatigue,<br>sleep deprivation<br>Physical and mental<br>health; competence                                |
| Starmer, 2016 [72]<br>US          | General pediatricians<br>Pediatric surgeons<br>Pediatric hospitalists<br>Pediatric specialists<br>(unspecified) | 840   | 40%          | NR                                 | NR (some in private<br>practice)                               | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Burnout; balanced<br>personal and professional<br>commitments; life and<br>career satisfaction |
| Tanti, 2017 [73]<br>Malta         | Physicians (unspecified)  | 204   | 62%          | Median: 41y                        | Hospitals<br>Community<br>Office-based                         | NR                            | Fatigue<br>Prescribing errors   |
| Tokuda, 2009 [74]<br>Japan        | Hospital physicians:<br>Generalists<br>Other unspecified<br>specialties   | 236   | 75%          | 40.9±7.8y<br>Range: 26-76y         | Hospitals with ≥20<br>inpatient beds                           | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Burnout; job satisfaction  |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008<br>[76]<br>Spain | Primary care physicians   | 113   | 27%          | 41.4±8.0y                          | Primary care centres   | Urban                         | Sleep problems,<br>insomnia<br>Burnout  |
| Wada, 2010 [78]<br>Japan          | Physicians (unspecified)  | 3,862 | 78%          | M: 75% 30-<br>59y<br>F: 85% 30-59y | Hospitals  | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Depressive symptoms  |



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| Study<br>Country                    | Physician and patient characteristics   |    |              | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes   |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|--------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|                                     | Type  | n= | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location             |                               |  |
| <b>Non-comparative design</b>       |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |
| Gander, 2008 [43]<br>New Zealand    | Anesthetists  | 20 | 85%          | Median: 44y   | Hospitals            | Urban                         | Sleep disturbance from consecutive working days or on-call work<br><br>Psychomotor performance                               |
| <b>Intervention studies (n=2)</b>   |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |
| <b>Randomized controlled trials</b> |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |
| Dutheil, 2013 [40]<br>France        | Emergency physicians  | 17 | 35%          | 39.1y±6.9y  | University hospital  | Urban                         | Fatigue related to 14-h and 24-h shifts; sleep deprivation; low sleep quality;<br><br>Perceived stress; urine interleukine-8 |
| Uchal, 2005 [75]<br>Norway          | Surgeons<br>Gynecologists<br>Orthopedic surgeons<br>Urologists<br>Vascular surgeons | 64 | 67%          | Median:<br>Post-call:<br>33.0y<br>Post-work:<br>38.0y | Government hospitals | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 24-h call shift<br><br>Product quality, procedure effectiveness of a surgical simulation            |

C: control group; F: female; h: hour(s); IQR: interquartile range; M: male; NR: not reported; S: study group; SD: standard deviation; Surg: surgical; Obst: obstetric; Q: quartile; UK: United Kingdom; US: United States of America; y: year(s)

### Supplementary file 3. Risk of bias assessments

Summary of risk of bias assessments for randomized controlled trials (n=2)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author,<br>Year | Random<br>sequence<br>generation | Allocation<br>concealment | Blinding of<br>participants<br>and<br>personnel | Blinding of<br>outcome<br>assessment | Incomplete<br>outcome<br>data | Selective<br>reporting | Other<br>sources of<br>bias | Overall risk<br>of bias <sup>b</sup> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dutheil, 2013         | Low                              | Unclear                   | High  | High                                 | Low                           | Low                    | High                        | High                                 |
| Uchal, 2005           | Low                              | Low                       | Unclear   | Low                                  | Low                           | Low                    | Low                         | Unclear                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Cochrane Collaboration's Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

Summary of quality assessments for cohort studies (n=6)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author,<br>Year | Selection   |   |   |   |             | Comparability                          |             | Outcome                             |  |   | Total<br>Score <sup>b</sup><br>/9 |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|
|                       | Representa-<br>tiveness of<br>exposed<br>cohort<br>/1 | Selection<br>of non-<br>exposed<br>cohort<br>/1 | Ascertain-<br>ment of<br>exposure<br>/1 | Outcome<br>not<br>present at<br>start<br>/1 | Total<br>/4 | Compara-<br>bility of<br>cohorts<br>/2 | Total<br>/2 | Assess-<br>ment of<br>outcome<br>/1 | Adequate<br>length of<br>follow-up<br>/1 | Adequate<br>follow-up<br>of cohorts<br>/1 |                                   |   |
| Chu, 2011             | 1   | 1   | 0                                       | 1   | 3           | 2                                      | 2           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 8 |
| Ellman, 2004          | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 1                                      | 1           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 8 |
| Govindarajan,<br>2015 | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 2                                      | 2           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 9 |
| Rothschild, 2009      | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 2                                      | 2           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 9 |
| Schieman, 2008        | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 1                                      | 1           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 8 |
| Vinden, 2014          | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 1                                      | 1           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 8 |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 7 to 9 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 4 to 6 as unclear risk of bias, and 3 or less as high risk of bias

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Summary of risk of bias assessments for before-after studies (n=3)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Random sequence generation <sup>b</sup> | Allocation concealment <sup>b</sup> | Blinding of participants and personnel | Blinding of outcome assessment | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias <sup>c</sup> | Overall risk of bias <sup>d</sup> |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amirian, 2014      | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |
| Gerdes, 2008       | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |
| Lederer, 2006      | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) Review Group’s criteria for before-after studies, adapted from the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Assessed as ‘not applicable’ (NA) when the studies did not include a control group

<sup>c</sup>Assessed as High due to lack of a control group

<sup>d</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

Summary of risk of bias assessments for time series studies (n=1)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Intervention independent of other changes | Intervention effect pre-specified | Intervention unlikely to affect data collection | Allocation concealment <sup>a</sup> | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias <sup>c</sup> | Overall risk of bias <sup>d</sup> |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Leitchfried, 2011  | Low                                       | High                              | Low   | NA                                  | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) Review Group’s criteria for interrupted time series studies, adapted from the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Assessed as not applicable (NA) when the studies did not include a control group

<sup>c</sup>Assessed as High due to lack of a control group

<sup>d</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

Summary of quality assessments for cross-sectional studies (n=34)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Selection                         |  |          | Outcome                     |  |                     |             | Total Score <sup>b</sup><br>/5 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                    | Adequacy of case definition<br>/1 | Representativeness of the sample<br>/1 | Total /2 | Assessment of outcome<br>/1 | Same method of ascertainment for entire sample<br>/1 | Response rate<br>/1 | Total<br>/3 |                                |
| Aziz, 2004         | 0                                 | 0                                      | 0        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 1                              |
| Beaujouan, 2005    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Chang, 2013        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Chen, 2008         | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Doppia, 2011       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Elovaino, 2015     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Gander, 2000       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Harbeck, 2015      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Heponiemi, 2014    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Jackson, 2017      | 0                                 | 0                                      | 0        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 1                              |
| Kanieta, 2011      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Lindfors, 2006     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Mahmood, 2017      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Nishimura, 2014    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Pit, 2014          | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Pit, 2016          | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Roberts, 2014      | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Saadat, 2016       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Saadat, 2017       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Sanches, 2015      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Sargent, 2009      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |

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| First Author, Year | Selection                         |  |             | Outcome                     |  |                     |             | Total Score <sup>b</sup><br>/5 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                    | Adequacy of case definition<br>/1 | Representativeness of the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Assessment of outcome<br>/1 | Same method of ascertainment for entire sample<br>/1 | Response rate<br>/1 | Total<br>/3 |                                |
| Sende, 2010        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Sexton, 2001       | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Shanafelt, 2005    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Shanafelt, 2010    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Shanafelt, 2014    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Shirom, 2006       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Shirom, 2010       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Smith, 2016        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Starmmer, 2016     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Tanti, 2017        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Tokuda, 2009       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008   | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Wada, 2010         | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, adapted for cross-sectional studies

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 4 to 5 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 3 as unclear risk of bias, and 2 or less as high risk of bias. For response rate, ≥50% was used as the criterion to be awarded a star

Summary of quality assessments for non-comparative studies (n=1)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author,<br>Year | Selection                               |  |             | Exposure                          |             | Outcome                        |  |                            | Total<br>Score <sup>b</sup> |             |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
|                       | Adequacy<br>of case<br>definition<br>/1 | Representat-<br>iveness of<br>the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Ascertain-<br>ment of<br>exposure | Total<br>/1 | Assessment<br>of outcome<br>/1 | Same method<br>of assessment<br>for entire<br>sample<br>/1 | Loss to<br>follow-up<br>/1 |                             | Total<br>/3 |
| Gander, 2008          | 1                                       | 1  | 2           | 0                                 | 0           | 0                              | 1  | 1                          | 2                           | 4           |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, adapted by the authors to be suitable to the non-comparative design

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 5 to 6 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 3 to 4 as unclear risk of bias, and 2 or less as high risk of bias

Supplementary file 4. Detailed study outcomes

Physician health and wellness outcomes and associations with fatigue

| Study                                | Study design | Exposures or interventions  |   | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|--|
|                                      |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and time points  |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                      |              |   |   |   |  |
| Jackson, 2017                        | CS           | Not feeling well rested: self-reported as 'unhealthy'   | 71% healthy, 28% unhealthy in terms of being well rested  | Job satisfaction: Abridged Job in General Scale; grouped into more or less satisfied using the median | Job satisfaction in those more vs. less satisfied: Healthy (well rested): 85% vs. 58%, p<0001; Unhealthy (not well rested): 15% vs. 42%, p<0.001.  |
| RoB: high                            |              | Time points NR  |   | Time points NR  |  |
| Nishimura, 2014                      | CS           | Sleep hours/night: self-reported (continuous)   | Mean±SD sleep: 5.94±1.08h   | Burnout: Japanese MBI (severe: EE >4.0 and either DP >2.6 or PE <4.17)                                | 1) Mean±SD sleep for not burned out vs. mild to moderate vs. severe: 6.07±1.15 vs. 5.88±0.94 vs. 5.63±0.94, p<0.05; 2) Association between sleep and burnout (OR (95% CI)): bivariate 0.67 (0.61-0.73), p<0.001; multivariate including work characteristics and mental health: 0.84 (0.75-0.94), p=0.002. |
| RoB: unclear                         |              | Time points NR  |   | Time points NR  |  |
| Sargent, 2009                        | CS           | Sleep deprivation: self-reported on a 4-point scale (none, a little, quite a bit, a lot)                              | 21% none, 48% a little, 23% quite a bit, 8% a lot   | Burnout: MBI (norms NR); Marital satisfaction: RDAS; Psychological morbidity: GHQ-12 score ≥4         | 1) Positive correlation between sleep deprivation and EE, DP, psychological distress, lower marital satisfaction, all p<0.001. No relationship with PA.  |
| RoB: high                            |              | Time points NR  |   | Time points NR  |  |
| <b>Anesthesiologists<sup>a</sup></b> |              |   |   |   |  |
| Lederer, 2006                        | BA           | 24-h shift with on-call duty; Sleep hours and interruptions: self-reported; Tiredness: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high) | Mean±SD sleep: 4.1±1.7h; Number of interruptions: 0.8±1.1; Tiredness pre- vs. post-duty: 30.9±27.5 vs. 59.5±18.9, p=0.01. | Stress during duty: 4-point scale from 'calm' to 'very demanding'; Assessed post-duty                 | 1) Mean stress score during duty: 2.1.   |
| RoB: high                            |              | Assessed pre- and post-duty   |   |   |  |

| Study                          | Study design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|--|--|--|
|                                |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and time points   |  |
| Leitchfried, 2011<br>RoB: high | TS           | 24-h shift;<br>Sleepiness: ESS (range: 0-24);<br>Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Sleepiness assessed pre-shift, sleep hours pre, during and post-shift | ESS (mean (range)): 7.4 (4-12);<br>Mean±SD sleep hours:<br>1) pre-study: 7.74±1.35h;<br>2) Pre-24-h shift (11h00 on day 1: 0.13±0.35h, 19:00 on day 1: 6.99±0.68h);<br>3) During the 24-h shift (07h00 on day 2: 0.0±0.0h, 19h00 on day 2, 5.49±1.95h);<br>4) Post-24-h shift (11h00 on day 3: 0.5±0.71h, 19h00 on day 3: 7.06±1.18h). | aMT6-s: urinalysis<br><br>Assessed at 4-h intervals from 07:00 to 11:00  | 1) aMT6-s over shift, mean (95% CI): higher at 11:00AM pre- (12.2 (6.3-8.1)) and post-shift (9.3 (3.7-14.9)) vs. during, p=0.016;<br>2) Correlations between sleep and aMT6-s (data NR): mild for sleep duration the night prior with aMT6-s at 3PM the following day; sleep on night 2 with aMT6-s at 3PM the next day; total sleep with aMT6-s at 11AM on third day; moderate for sleep on first night with aMT6-s at 7AM and 11AM pre-shift, 11PM during 24-h shift and 11AM post-shift; total sleep pre-shift and nocturnal sleep during 24-h shift with aMT6-s at 11PM during shift; total sleep with aMT6-s at 3PM on first and second day, 11PM on second day;<br>3) Correlations between ESS and aMT6-s: moderate for aMT6-s at 7AM during shift, 11AM on day off. |
| Beaujouan, 2005<br>RoB: high   | CS           | Sleep deprivation: 4-point scale (always, frequently, rarely, never)<br><br>Time points NR  | 48.8% always or frequently feel sleep deprived   | Substance abuse: 93-item addiction and substance abuse questionnaire<br><br>Time points NR                                     | 1) 60.6% with drug dependence vs. 46.0% of those without reported sleep difficulties, p<0.001.<br>2) OR (95% CI) of addiction for frequently/always vs. rarely/never sleep deprived: tobacco 1.42 (1.04-1.94); tranquilizer/hypnotics 3.26 (2.12-5.02).  |
| Doppia, 2011<br>RoB: low       | CS           | Insufficient sleep: 4-point scale (no, not really, sort of, yes)<br><br>Time points NR  | 28.9% reported insufficient sleep during work time   | Burnout: CBI (mild: 1-2.4, moderate: 2.5-3.5, severe: 3.6-5)<br><br>Time points NR   | 1) Frequency of burnout by response for sleep sufficiency: 47.6% for no/not really, 16.3% for sort of/yes, p<0.001.  |
| Lindfors, 2006<br>RoB: low     | CS           | Sleep hours/day: self-reported to the nearest 0.5h;<br>Adequacy of sleep and rest: self-reported (yes/no)   | Sleep hours (mean (range)): 7 (5-9)  | Stress: MOSQ on a 3-point scale (no, to some extent, clearly);<br>Thoughts of suicide: 4-point scale ('never' to 'have tried') | 1) Sleep sufficiency predicted stress symptoms: bivariate $\beta=-0.362$ , p<0.001; multivariate including gender, sick leave, suicide $\beta=-0.269$ , p<0.001;<br>2) Sleep disturbance associated with thoughts of suicide, p=0.009.   |



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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
|                                |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
|                                |                 | Time points NR   |  | Time points NR   |  |
| Saadat, 2015<br><br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep deprivation (<7h/24-h) due to 17-h overnight shift;<br>Sleepiness and alertness:<br>VAS from 0 (not at all) to 100 (extremely)<br><br>All assessed on a regular day and a post-call day  | Mean±SD sleepiness on a regular day vs. post-call day:<br>2.99±2.18 vs. 6.79±2.30,<br>p<0.001  | Simple cognitive tests: VAS from 0 (not at all) to 100 (extremely);<br>Mood disturbance: PMS (scoring NR)<br><br>All assessed on a regular day and a post-call day | Regular day v. post-call day, mean±SD scores:<br>1) Simple cognitive tests: energetic 6.04±2.27 vs. 2.53±1.87, confident 7.03±1.83 vs. 4.98±2.29, irritable 2.03±1.94 vs. 4.86±2.16, sleepy 2.99±2.18 vs. 6.79±2.30, talkative 4.46±1.74 vs. 2.41±1.97, all p<0.001; jittery 1.44±1.74 vs. 3.12±2.34, p=0.003; anxiousness ns;<br>2) PMS: tension 13.48±2.71 vs. 15.43±4.46, p=0.049; anger 15.24±4.41 vs. 18.14±5.92, p=0.005; fatigue 10.14±2.63 vs. 20.05±6.87, p<0.001; confusion 10.57±1.69 vs. 12.57±4.24, p=0.025; vigor 24.05±6.75 vs. 16.67±5.70, p<0.001; depression: ns; total mood disturbance: 42.57±15.26 vs. 70.90±6.91, p<0.001. |
| <b>ER or ICU physicians</b>    |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Dutheil, 2013<br><br>RoB: high | RCT             | 14-h or 24-h shift;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported sleep and wake time;<br>Sleep quality: VAS from 1 (low) to 100 (high);<br>Mental and physical fatigue: VAS from 1 (low) to 100 (high)<br><br>Assessed on day prior to shift; during shift; each day of protocol (work, off, clerical, control) | 1) Sleep duration and quality lower during shifts (14h and 24h) than any other day, and lower during the 24-h vs. 14-h shift (p<0.05);<br>2) Mental and physical fatigue higher after 14-h and 24-h shift vs. control day (data NR). | Stress: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high);<br>IL-8: urinalysis<br><br>Assessed at 08:30 and 18:30 on each day of protocol   | 1) Stress: higher following 14-h and 24-h shifts vs. the control day, p<0.05 (data NR);<br>2) IL-8: higher following 24-h shift vs. control (p=0.007) and 14-h shift (p=0.015); ns difference between 14-h shift and control day;<br>3) Correlations with IL-8: sleep hours pre-24-h shift, r=-0.627, p=0.007; poor sleep quality during 14-h and 24-h shifts, r=0.452, p=0.031;<br>4) Multivariable regression: 24-h shift increased IL-8 by 1.9ng vs. control day, p=0.007; ns association with 14-h shift, mental or physical fatigue, sleep deprivation, 14-h shift.   |
| Sende, 2012<br><br>RoB: high   | CS              | Fatigue and sleep deprivation as sources of stress   | NR   | Most important sources of stress among 4 categories (work-related, patient-  | 1) 78% indicated that sleep loss and fatigue were sources of stress.   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |   | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
|                                |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
|                                |                 | Time points NR  |   | related, organizational,<br>individual)   |  |
|                                |                 |   |   | Time points NR  |  |
| <b>Generalists<sup>b</sup></b> |                 |   |   |   |  |
| Harbeck, 2015<br>RoB: unclear  | CS              | 24-hours on-call shift with<br>sleep disturbance: self-<br>reported number of sleep<br>disturbances and hours of<br>sleep per night<br><br>Assessed before a normal<br>day shift, and after a 24-h on<br>call shift | 1) Sleep hours on a normal day<br>vs. following a 24-h shift:<br><2 hours: 0 vs. 5.9%; 2-4<br>hours: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 4-6<br>hours: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; >6<br>hours: 82.4% vs. 11.8%<br><br>2) Number of sleep<br>disturbances a normal day vs.<br>following a 24-h shift:<br>0: 82.4% vs. 11.8%; 1: 11.8%<br>vs. 35.3%; 2: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 3:<br>0% vs. 5.9%; 4: 0% vs. 0%; >4:<br>0% vs. 0% | Biochemical (laboratory<br>values) and physiological<br>(heart rate variability, skin<br>resistance, blood pressure)<br>stress parameters<br><br>Assessed before a normal<br>day shift, and after a 24-h<br>on call shift | Before a normal shift vs. after overnight call shift:<br>1) Biochemical parameters: no changes in any<br>parameter except for thyroid stimulating hormone<br>which was higher after the on-call shift (p = 0.049,<br>data NR);<br>2) Physiological parameters: no significant changes<br>in any parameter  |
| Pit, 2014<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance: 7-point scale<br>from 'never' to 'every day'<br><br>Time points NR   | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance: 41% never, 59% a<br>few times a year to every day  | Early retirement (<65 years)<br>intentions (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR   | For sleep disturbance a few times a year to every<br>day vs. never:<br>1) Intention to retire early: 74% vs. 26%, p<0.01;<br>2) Association with intention to retire early (OR<br>(95% CI)): univariate 3.6 (1.47-8.80), p<0.01;<br>multivariate including work, occupational,<br>individual factors 2.91 (1.11-7.6), p<0.05;<br>4) RR (95% CI) for intention to retire early: 2.0<br>(1.18-3.49); attributable fraction: 50.0%;<br>population attributable fraction: 37.1%. |
| Pit, 2016<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance: 7-point scale<br>from 'never' to 'every day'   | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance: 41% never, 59% a<br>few times a year to every day  | Sickness presenteeism: 'yes'<br>response indicated 1 or<br>more days  | For sleep disturbance a few times a year to every<br>day vs. never:<br>1) Sickness presenteeism: 32% vs. 68%, p=0.018;   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)         | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|--|
|                                     |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
|                                     |                 | Time points NR  |  | Assessed for the past 12 months   | 2) Association with sickness presenteeism (OR (95% CI)): 2.92 (1.19-7.16), p=0.02.   |
| Roberts, 2014<br><br>RoB: unclear   | CS              | Fatigue: LAS from 0 (low) to 10 (high)<br><br>Assessed for the past week  | Mean (SD) score: 5.8 (2.4) for hospitalists; 5.9 (2.4) for general internists  | Impact of fatigue on daily activities (falling asleep while driving) (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR | 1) 8.7% of hospitalists and 4.3% of outpatient general internists had fallen asleep while driving due to fatigue.  |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Sleep Quality: PSQI (Spanish): score ≥5 indicates low quality (range; 0 to 21);<br>Insomnia: DSM-IV criteria<br><br>Time points NR; insomnia symptoms in past month | Prevalence (% (95% CI)):<br>1) Sleep-onset latency >30 minutes: 8.4 (4.8-11.9);<br>2) Wake time after sleep onset >30 minutes: 15.4 (10.8-19.9);<br>3) Early morning awakening: 22.5 (19.5-30.4);<br>4) Nonrestorative sleep: 22.5 (17.2-27.7);<br>5) Daytime impairment for ≥5 days in past month: 14.2 (9.7-18.6);<br>6) Insomnia: 18.8 (13.8-23.7). | Burnout: PBM with a 7-point scale from 1 (never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR                | Low vs. high burnout, mean±SD:<br>1) Global PSQI: 2.72±2.22 vs. 7.24±4.17, p<0.001;<br>2) PSQI subscores: sleep quality: 0.54±0.57 vs. 1.40±0.83, p<0.001; sleep latency: 0.51±0.80 vs. 1.38±1.03, p=0.002; sleep duration: 0.45±0.64 vs. 1.16±0.92, p=0.003; sleep efficiency: 0.21±0.57 vs. 0.77±0.98, p=0.018; sleep disturbance: ns; use of medication: 0.14±0.49 vs. 0.57±0.83, p=0.032; daytime dysfunction: 0.52±0.73 vs. 1.57±0.88, p=0.002.<br>3) Prevalence (95% CI) of insomnia symptoms: sleep latency: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 21.1% (10.5-31.6%), p=0.015; wake time >30 min after sleep onset: 9.4% (1.6-17.1%) vs. 25.5% (14.2-37.7%), p=0.029; early awakening: 14.5% (5.1-23.8%) vs. 45.6 (32.7-58.4%), p<0.001; somewhat/very dissatisfied with sleep: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 50% (37.1-62.8%), p<0.001; day impairment: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 38.2% (25.6-50.7%), p<0.001; insomnia: 7.3% (0.4-14%) vs. 39.7% (27.1-52.2%), p<0.001. |
| <b>Oncologists</b>                  |                 |   |  |   |  |
| Shanafelt, 2005<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Fatigue: LASA QOL ≤7;<br>Sleep deprivation: 10-point Likert scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (stressful as can be)   | 75% had a high level of fatigue;<br>Mean±SD sleep score: 4.5±2.65.   | Wellbeing: 10-item LASA QOL, high ≥8 vs. low ≤7<br><br>Time points NR                               | 1) Sleep deprivation for high vs. low overall well-being (mean±SD): 3.9±2.57 vs. 5.1±2.60, p=0.0004;<br>2) Lower fatigue predicted overall wellbeing in a multivariate model including personal and professional characteristics, p=0.002.   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)       | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|---|
|                                   |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
|                                   |                 | Time points NR  |  |  |   |
| Shanafelt, 2014                   | CS              | Fatigue: 10-point LAS (lower scores indicate greater fatigue)                           | Mean±SD fatigue score: 5.7±2.4                               | Satisfaction with WLB: 5-point Likert scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'   | 1) OR (95%CI) of lower satisfaction predicted by high fatigue (vs. not) in multivariate model including personal and work-related factors, and burnout: 0.489 (0.337-0.710), p<0.001.   |
| RoB: unclear                      |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| <b>Mixed groups of physicians</b> |                 |   |  |  |   |
| Aziz, 2004                        | CS              | Working while fatigued: 5-point scale from 'extreme' to 'a little'                      | NR   | Stress: 47-item questionnaire with a 5-point scale from 'extreme' to 'a little'  | 1) Sources of stress: working while fatigued had a mean±SD score of 2.44±1.20, factor loading: 0.653, in factor analysis;<br>2) Inverse correlation between stress and working while fatigued: r=-0.270 (significance level NR).  |
| RoB: high                         |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| Chen, 2008                        | CS              | Sleepiness: ESS score ≥11   | Mean±SD ESS score: 7.8±4.0, range: 0-20, 23% had scores ≥11. | Impact on work and personal life: Impact Questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree)                                  | 1) Impact score correlated with ESS, r=0.31, p<0.05;<br>2) ESS score was higher among physicians who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: worried about having a car accident while driving home post-call: 5.4 vs. 7.0, p<0.001; sleep loss has a major impact on personal life: 8.4 vs. 7.0, p=0.01;<br>3) Higher ESS scores predicted by impact score in multivariate regression including personal and work-related factors: β=0.11, p=0.005. |
| RoB: high                         |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| Elovaino, 2015                    | CS              | Sleeping problems: Jenkins Scale with a 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night) | Mean±SD score: 2006: 2.30 (1.00); 2010: 2.35 (1.05).         | Jobs demands: 5 items scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree);<br>Job control: 3 items derived from the Karasek Job Questionnaire | There was no association between sleeping problems in 2006 and job demands or control in 2010.  |
| RoB: low                          |                 | Assessed in 2006 and 2010   |  |  |   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)     | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|---|
|                                 |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br><br>RoB: low | CS              | Sleeping problems: Jenkins Scale <sup>81</sup> with a 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night)<br><br>Assessed in 2006          | Mean±SD (range) score:<br>2.30±1.00 (1-6)   | Psychological distress: GHQ-12 with a 4-point scale (low to high);<br>Job satisfaction: JDS with a Likert scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)<br><br>Assessed in 2010                           | 1) Sleeping problems associated with job satisfaction, $\beta=-0.12$ , $p<0.001$ , psychological distress, $\beta=0.18$ , $p<0.001$ ;<br>2) Total indirect effect of on-call duty through two mediators (sleeping problems, work interference with family) ( $R^2$ (95% CI)): job satisfaction 0.06 (-0.059, -0.016), $p<0.001$ ; psychological distress 0.16 (0.023, 0.081), $p<0.001$ . |
| Mahmood, 2016<br><br>RoB: high  | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported mean hours of sleep when on call<br><br>Assessed at 4 years, 10 years, and 15 years post-graduation   | Mean±SD hours:<br>4 years: 4.52 (2.79);<br>10 years: 5.38 (6.36);<br>15 years: 6.41 (7.14). | Alcohol use disorders: Modified 9-item version of the Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) $\geq 6$ for men and $\geq 5$ for women.<br><br>Assessed at 4 years, 10 years, and 15 years post-graduation | There was no association between hours of sleep when on call and hazardous drinking behaviours ( $p=0.732$ )  |
| Shirom, 2010<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Tiredness and exhaustion: SMBM Physician Fatigue Subscale on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR | NR  | Burnout: SMBM on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)   | 1) Correlation between physical fatigue subscale and overall burnout: 0.88, $p<0.05$ ;<br>2) In a predictive structural model for burnout, physical fatigue accounted for unique variance in the burnout items, not accounted for by total burnout ( $R^2=0.24$ ).  |
| Smith, 2017<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR   | NR  | Mental and physical illness: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR   | Some physicians reported developing mental illness (e.g., bipolar disorder, alcohol misuse) due to tiredness and stress at work; others developed physical health problems due to sleep deprivation, poor eating habits and lack of exercise.   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB) | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
|                             |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
| Starmer, 2016<br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep deprivation: <7 hours<br>sleep in a typical 24-h period<br>(self-reported)<br><br>Time points NR                  | 27.7% sleep deprived   | Burnout, satisfaction with<br>career and life, balanced<br>personal and professional<br>commitments: Each on a 5-<br>point Likert scale (strongly<br>agree to strongly disagree)<br><br>Time points NR                         | ≥7-h vs. <7-h sleep:<br>1) Burnout (% strongly agree/agree): 26.4% vs.<br>39.6%, p<0.05; career satisfaction (% strongly<br>agree/agree): ns; life satisfaction (%<br>completely/very satisfied): 76.4% vs. 55.9%,<br>p<0.05; balanced personal and professional<br>commitments (% completely/very satisfied): 49.7%<br>vs. 26.1%.<br>2) <7-h sleep (vs. ≥7-h) (OR, 95% CI) associated<br>with life satisfaction 0.44 (0.29-0.67), p<0.05;<br>balanced personal/professional commitments 0.46<br>(0.31-0.71), p≤0.05, in a model including work and<br>personal factors. |
| Tokuda, 2009<br>RoB: low    | CS              | Sleep hours/day: self-<br>reported (continuous)<br><br>Time points NR (included<br>weekday and weekends)                | Mean±SD (range) sleep<br>hours/day: 6±0.9 (3-8)  | Burnout: MBI (Japanese)<br>with a 7-point Likert<br>scale: 0 (none) to 6 (every<br>day);<br>Job satisfaction: JHPSS<br>with a 5-point Likert<br>scale: 1 (strongly<br>disagree) to 5 (strongly<br>agree)<br><br>Time points NR | Maximum likelihood estimates±SE:<br>1) Sleeping time to job satisfaction: group<br>0.990±0.458, p=0.031; ns for men; women<br>1.711±0.805, p=0.034;<br>2) Sleeping time to EE: group -0.219 ±0.070,<br>p=0.002; men -0.215±0.082, p=0.009; ns for<br>women.  |
| Wada, 2010<br>RoB: unclear  | CS              | Sleep hours/day: Self-<br>reported (continuous)<br><br>Assessed for past month<br>when not completing<br>overnight work | <5 hours: 8.7% men, 9.9%<br>women; 5 to <6 hours: 32.3%<br>men, 34.6% women; 6 to <7<br>hours: 46.0% men, 43.7%<br>women; ≥7 hours: 13.0% men,<br>11.8% women. | Depression: QIDS-SR;<br>Japanese score <5 (no<br>symptoms) to >20 (very<br>severe symptoms)<br><br>Assessed for past 7 days  | 1) Sleep hours for those with vs. without<br>depressive symptoms: <5: 18.7% vs. 7.7% men,<br>20.5% vs. 8.7% women; 5 to <6: 33.7% vs. 32.2%<br>men, 38.6% vs. 34.2% women; 6 to <7: 35.1% vs.<br>46.9% men; 31.8% vs. 45.1% women;<br>2) Association between <5h sleep (vs. 6-7h) and<br>depressive symptoms (OR (95% CI)): univariate<br>2.79 (1.96-3.95) for men, 2.65 (1.47-4.78) for<br>women; multivariate (including age and workload  |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB) | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions            |          | Outcomes                              | Associations between exposure and outcome<br>factors) 2.70 (1.82-4.03) for men, 2.38 (1.11-5.10)<br>for women. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|--|
|                             |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points | Baseline | Assessment measure and<br>time points |  |

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies of anesthetists, where these were physicians.

<sup>b</sup>Includes primary care physicians, internal medicine physicians, and general practitioners.

AM: morning; aMT6-s: melatonin metabolite; BA: before-after; CI: confidence interval; CBI: Copenhagen Burnout Inventory; CS: cross-sectional; DP: depersonalization; DSM: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; EE: emotional exhaustion; ER: emergency; ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale; GHQ: General Health Questionnaire; h: hour(s); ICU: intensive care unit; IL-8: interleukin-8; JDS: Job Diagnostic Survey; JHPSS: Japanese Hospital Physicians Satisfaction Scale; LAS: linear analog scale; LASA: linear analog assessment scales; MBI: Maslach Burnout Inventory; MOSQ: Modified Occupational Stress Questionnaire; min: minute(s); NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; ns: not statistically significant; OR: odds ratio; PA: personal achievement; PBM: Pines Burnout Measure; PE: professional efficacy; PM: afternoon; PMS: Profile of Mood States; PSQI: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; QIDS-SR: Quick Inventory Depressive Scale – Self-Reported; QOL: Quality of Life; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RDAS: Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; SMBM: Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; TS: time series; US: United States of America; VAS: visual analog scale; vs.: versus; WLB: work-life balance

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## Performance and safety outcomes related to fatigue or sleep loss among physicians in independent practice

| Study              | Study design | Exposures or intervention  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |  |
|--------------------|--------------|--|---|--|--|
| Risk of Bias (RoB) |              | Assessment measure and time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and time points   |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>    |              |  |   |  |  |
| Uchal, 2005        | RCT          | Sleep deprivation from a 24-h call shift vs. 8-h work; Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous); Sleepiness: ESS (moderate: 10-15, severe: ≥16) | Median (range) sleep hours: 1.5 (0-3) post-call vs. 6.5 (5-9) post-work, p<0.05; Median ESS score: 7.0 post-call vs. 5.5 post-work, ns.         | Surgical performance: laparoscopic surgical simulator (Minimally Invasive Surgical Trainer-Virtual Reality) for product quality, procedure effectiveness | Post call vs. post-work:<br>1) Product quality: no difference in accuracy error, tissue damage, leak rate;<br>2) Procedure effectiveness: no difference in goal-directed actions, non-goal directed actions, operating time. |
| RoB: unclear       |              | Assessed post-call and post-work   |   | Assessed post-call and post-work   |  |
| Chu, 2011          | CO           | Sleep deprivation: self-reported hours, moderate (3-6h) or severe (<3h)  | Of 4,047 procedures, 83 (2.1%) performed by severely sleep-deprived and 1,595 (39.4%) moderately sleep-deprived surgeons                        | Surgical performance: CABG, ACC  | For 0-3 vs. 3-6 vs. >6 hours of sleep: no difference in CABG or ACC.   |
| RoB: low           |              | Assessed the night before surgery  |   | Assessed during surgery  |  |
| Ellman, 2004       | CO           | Sleep deprivation: performed a case starting 22:00 to 05:00, or ending 22:00 to 07:30 and another case in the next 24-h                        | Of 6,751 procedures, 339 (5%) performed by sleep-deprived surgeons  | Surgical performance: CABG, ACC  | Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in CABG or ACC.   |
| RoB: low           |              |  |   | Assessed during surgery  |  |
| Govindarajan, 2015 | CO           | Sleep deprivation: treated patients from midnight to 07:00 and performed a subsequent case on the same day                                     | NR  | Surgical performance: duration of surgery  | Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in duration of surgery, even after stratification by type of procedure.   |
| RoB: low           |              |  |   |  |  |
| Amirian, 2014      | BA           | 17-h night call shift; Sleep hours during the shift: Wrist-mounted Micro-Mini-Motionlogger; Sleepiness: KSS                                    | Naps pre-call: 11 (37%) napped for median (IQR) 90 (58-128) min; Median (IQR) sleep: 91 (62-123) min on the pre-call night vs. 430 (329-449) on | Surgical performance: LapSimGyn laparoscopic simulation for time, blood loss, instrument path; D2 test of attention and concentration                    | Pre- vs. post-call:<br>1) LapSimGyn: no difference in total time, blood loss, instrument path length, instrument angular path; napping did not affect performance;   |
| RoB: high          |              |  |   |  |  |



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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)          | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                      |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
|                                      |                 | Assessed on pre-call and on-call day; sleepiness assessed during shift  | the on-call night, p<0.001; Sleep on-call: 12 (40%) slept for median (IQR) 98 (39-135) min; Significant development of sleepiness during shift (p<0.001), plateau score of 7 at 04:00 to 08:00. | Assessed on pre-call and on-call day   | 2) D2 test: improvement in concentration, p<0.05. No changes in any other parameters; 3) ns difference in laparoscopic simulation time in those who slept during the shift vs. not.  |
| Gerdes, 2008<br>RoB: high            | BA              | On-call shift; Fatigue: questionnaire designed by Behrenz & Monga, 1999; Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Assessed in 3 sessions pre- and post-call | Fatigue differential from pre- to post-call (range): 1-7 (units unclear); Sleep during call (range): 1-5h   | Psychomotor performance: virtual ring transfer task for gesture-level proficiency, hand movement smoothness, tool movement smoothness, elapsed time<br><br>Assessed in 3 sessions pre- and post-call                     | 1) Pre- to post-call: decrease in all measures of psychomotor proficiency (p<0.05, data NR) except elapsed time; no change in number of psychomotor errors; increase cognitive errors (p<0.05, data NR); 2) Cognitive errors increased exponentially as fatigue ratings increased (R <sup>2</sup> =0.9219) and as hours of sleep declined (R <sup>2</sup> =0.933). |
| Shanafelt, 2010<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Degree of fatigue as a contributor to errors (self-reported)<br><br>Assessed for the past 3 months  | NR  | Perceived recent major medical errors (self-reported)<br><br>Assessed for the past 3 months  | 1) Prevalence of perceived recent major medical error: 8.9%; 2) Of those reporting an error, 6.9% listed degree of fatigue as the greatest contributing factor.  |
| <b>Anesthesiologists<sup>a</sup></b> |                 |   |   |  |  |
| Lederer, 2006<br>RoB: high           | BA              | 24-h shift, on-call duty; Sleep hours and interruptions: self-reported; Tiredness: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty              | Mean±SD sleep: 4.1±1.7h; Number of interruptions: 0.8±1.1; Tiredness pre- vs. post-duty: 30.9±27.5 vs. 59.5±18.9, p=0.01.   | Psychomotor performance: reaction time, critical flicker fusion, response measure, peripheral awareness; Concentration ability: scale of 0 (low tiredness) to 100 (maximum tiredness)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty | Pre- vs. post-duty, mean±SD:<br>1) Psychometric testing: recognition reaction time (ms): 439.6±50.8 vs. 480.3±58.9; motor reaction time (ms): 252.8±39.3 vs. 465.4±65.0; total reaction time (ms): 690.8±73.4 vs. 746.5±113.7; critical flicker fusion (Hz): 29.0±2.3 vs. 28.7±3.7; response measure (pixels): 647.8±126.7 vs. 598.3±138.1,                        |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)     | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
|                                 |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
|                                 |                 |   |  |  | peripheral awareness task recognition time:<br>58.9±59.2 vs. 51.6±47.5;<br>2) Concentration ability: 26.4±23.5 vs.<br>56.3±23.0, p=0.007.  |
| Chang, 2013<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | 15-h in-house overnight call;<br>Sleepiness pre-call: ESS ≥9;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported<br>(continuous)<br><br>Sleepiness assessed pre-call,<br>sleep hours during call | Median (IQR) ESS: 9 (9),<br>64% scored ≥9;<br>Median (IQR) hours slept<br>during shift: 1 (0-3). | Psychomotor performance:<br>reaction time; CCPT II; N-<br>back; HVLT (3 trials of 12<br>words)<br><br>Assessed at baseline and pre-<br>and post-call | 1) Afternoon baseline vs. pre-call: no<br>difference in reaction time, CCPT, N-back, of<br>HVLT;<br>Morning baseline vs. post-call:<br>1) No change in auditory or visual reaction<br>time;<br>2) CCPT (t-scores): No change in detectability,<br>response style, hit reaction time,<br>omissions/commissions;<br>3) N-back % accuracy: no change for auditory,<br>visual, or mean N-value;<br>4) HVLT (t-score): mean for trials 1-3: 48.6±7.6<br>vs. 41.5±9.9 (p=0.04); delayed recall: ns;<br>5) No correlation between ESS scores pre-call<br>or sleep during shift and any measure of<br>psychomotor performance. |
| Gander, 2000<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Nights of work-related sleep<br>disturbance: self-reported<br>(continuous)<br><br>Assessed for the past 6<br>months   | NR   | Risk of fatigue-related errors:<br>questionnaire modelled after<br>Gravenstein et al., 1990<br><br>Assessed for the past 6<br>months                 | 1) Risk of fatigue-related errors increased with<br>increasing nights of work-related sleep<br>disturbance: RR: 1.25, 95% CI: 1.06-1.49.   |
| Saadat, 2017<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Sleep deprivation due to an<br>overnight call shift   | NR   | Reaction time: PVT<br><br>Assessed after an overnight<br>call shift and the morning of<br>a regular (non-call) day                                   | Mean (SD) reaction time was slower post-call<br>(297.76 (83.75)) vs. on a regular day (266.58<br>(38.35)), p=0.047.  |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention  |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|--|
|                                  |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
| Gander, 2008<br><br>RoB: unclear | NC              | Sleep loss across consecutive working days or on-call work: Wrist-mounted Actiwatch (Mini Mitter, Bend, Oregon, US), sleep and duty diary<br><br>Assessed over a 2-week period including a weekend of rostered shifts or on-call                 | ≥2 hours sleep <baseline: 8% of 24-h periods that included day work vs. 14% that included day + call; Sleep hours: mean 0.6h less sleep when working day shifts (p=0.014) and 0.8h less sleep when working day shifts + call (p=0.013) vs. off.   | Psychomotor performance: PVT<br><br>Assessed within 2 hours pre- and post-call   | 1) In fixed model analysis for reaction time including sleep, time since waking, work hours: acute sleep loss associated with slower median reaction time, $F_{(1,184)}=5.70$ , $p<0.05$ ; longer time since waking associated with poorer performance on the slowest 10%, $F_{(1,185)}=5.13$ , $p<0.05$ ;<br>2) Reaction time across 12 consecutive work days: no change in pre-duty reaction times but post-duty reaction times slowed linearly, median -3.38, $p<0.001$ ; decline in performance across 10 minutes became progressively steeper both pre- and post-duty, $p=0.020$ .  |
| <b>ER or ICU physicians</b>      |                 |  |   |  |  |
| Sanches, 2015<br><br>RoB: high   | CS              | Acute sleep deprivation (<5h of night sleep after a night shift of 12h)<br>Sleep hours: 7-day Actigraphy via SenseWear® Pro2 Armband;<br>Sleepiness: ESS;<br>Sleep quality: PSQI<br><br>Assessed the week and night before the psychomotor tests | Non-sleep deprived vs. sleep deprived:<br><br>PSQI >5: 0% vs. 33%, ns;<br>ESS≥10: 11% vs. 67%<br>Sleep time (mean±SD) in week before tests: duration and number of naps higher in sleep deprived group, but diurnal sleep hours lower, 428.6±30.1 vs. 375.8±55.9, $p=0.038$ ;<br>Sleep quality (mean±SD): week before tests: 3.3±0.7 vs. 2.6±0.3, $p=0.013$ ;<br>night before tests: 3.1±0.8 vs. 1.9±1.0, $p=0.020$ . | Psychomotor performance via Battery Test Reaction 5 (v1): StimulTest, InstrucTest, MovemTest; TP test of visual attention<br><br>Assessed on morning after night shift 8 | Sleep deprived group vs. non-sleep deprived, mean±SD:<br>1) InstrucTest: correct answers: 169.4 (16.0) vs. 148.3 (28.3), $p=0.070$ ; wrong answers: ns; perfection index (%): 99.6 (0.3) vs. 98.9 (1.3), $p=0.021$ ; response latency (sec/click): ns;<br>2) StimulTest: correct answers: 170.7 (21.9) vs. 145.1 (17.9), $p=0.022$ ; wrong answers: ns; perfection index (%): ns; response latency (sec/click): 1.06 (0.1) vs. 1.24 (0.1), $p=0.022$ ;<br>3) MovemTest: ns for any parameter;<br>4) TP: omitted symbols: 34.2±18.4 vs. 62.7±44.0, $p=0.034$ ; concentration index (%): 14.1±8.9 vs. 30.0±25.9, $p=0.019$ ; quality index (%): 13.8±8.6 vs. 29.2±26.4, $p=0.031$ ;<br>correct/wrong symbols: ns;<br>Correlations between sleep and tests:<br>1) TP for sleep hours nights 1-6: omitted symbols: $r=-0.686$ , $p=0.011$ for non-sleep- |

| Study   | Study design | Exposures or intervention  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|---|--------------|--|--|--|
| Risk of Bias (RoB)                                |              | Assessment measure and time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and time points   |
|   |              |  |  | deprived, ns for sleep-deprived; concentration index (%): $r=-0.359$ , $p=0.037$ for sleep-deprived, ns for non-sleep deprived; $r=-0.359$ , $p=0.037$ for the group; no other significant correlations;<br>2) No correlation between PSQI, ESS and any of the psychomotor tests.  |
| <b>Generalists<sup>b</sup></b>                    |              |  |  |  |
| Harbeck, 2015                                     | CS           | 24-hours on-call shift with sleep disturbance: self-reported number of sleep disturbances and hours of sleep per night<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | 1) Sleep hours on a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: <2 hours: 0 vs. 5.9%; 2-4 hours: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 4-6 hours: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; >6 hours: 82.4% vs. 11.8%<br>2) Number of sleep disturbances a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: 0: 82.4% vs. 11.8%; 1: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; 2: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 3: 0% vs. 5.9%; 4: 0% vs. 0%; >4: 0% vs. 0% | Neurocognitive parameters: computerized attentional test (vigilance, alertness); D2 letter cancellation test (divided attention); Trail Making Test (visual attention, task switching); Digit Span, Digit Symbol Substitution Test, Weschler Memory Scale (memory functions)<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift |
| <b>Mixed specialties or undefined populations</b> |              |  |  |  |
| Chen, 2008  | CS           | Sleepiness: ESS score $\geq 11$  | Mean $\pm$ SD ESS score: 7.8 $\pm$ 4.0, range: 0-20, 23% had scores $\geq 11$ .  | 1) Impact score correlated with ESS, $r=0.31$ , $p<0.05$ ;<br>2) ESS score was higher among physicians who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: written an incorrect order: 8.8 vs. 7.3, $p=0.02$ ; might fall asleep while examining a patient: 13.2 vs. 7.7, $p=0.001$ ; look forward to sleeping at grand rounds: 10.4 vs. 7.4, $p=0.002$ ;     |
| RoB: high   |              | Time points NR   |  | Time points NR   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)   | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|---|
|                               |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
|                               |                 |   |   |  | 3) No difference in ESS score for those who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: work is unaffected by sleep loss and fatigue, thinking is unaffected by sleep loss, sleep loss and fatigue affect my medical decisions, have heard of others making medical errors due to sleep loss and fatigue, never make errors in prescriptions on post-call days, have made medical errors because of sleep loss and fatigue;<br>4) Higher ESS scores predicted by impact score in multivariate regression including personal and work-related factors: $\beta=0.11$ , $p=0.005$ . |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleeping problems: 4-item Jenkins Scale on 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night)<br><br>Assessed in 2006  | Mean±SD (range) score:<br>2.30±1.00 (1-6)   | Work ability: Work Ability Index on scale from 1 (could not work at all) to 10 (best work ability)<br><br>Assessed in 2010 | 1) On-call duty had an indirect effect on work ability ( $R^2=0.11$ , 95% CI: -0.122, -0.031, $p<0.001$ ) through two mediators (work interference with family, sleeping problems);<br>2) Sleeping problems inversely associated with work ability, $\beta=-0.29$ , $p<0.001$ .   |
| Kanieta, 2011<br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br>Sleepiness and sleep difficulties: 5-point scale from 1 (never) to 5 (always);<br>Insomnia: ≥3 sleep difficulties<br><br>Assessed for the past month | Insufficient rest: 32.5%;<br>Daytime sleepiness: 3.5%;<br>Insomnia: 20.0%;<br>Sleep time (mean±SD min):<br>279.8±60.9 | Self-reported medical incidents: 4-point scale from 1 (never) to 4 (often)<br><br>Assessed for the past month              | 1) Prevalence of medical incidents (% (95% CI)): sleep deprived (26.8% (24.2, 29.4)) vs. not (15.2% (13.7, 16.7)), $p<0.01$ ; insomnia (24.8% (21.6, 28.0)) insomnia vs. not (17.6% (16.2, 19.0)), $p<0.01$ ; ≥6h sleep (18.3% (16.8, 19.8)) vs. <6h (21.7% (18.8, 24.6)), $p=0.03$ ;<br>2) Predictors of medical incidents in multivariate model including personal and work-related factors (OR (95% CI)): lacking rest due to sleep deprivation vs. not (1.65 (1.33-2.04)), $p<0.01$ ; insomnia vs. not (1.45 (1.16-1.82), $p<0.01$ ); ns for sleep hours.                 |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |          | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|----------|---|--|
|                                  |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
| Sexton, 2001<br><br>RoB: high    | CS              | Fatigue as a factor<br>impacting performance<br><br>Time points NR  | NR       | Performance effectiveness<br>measured by 1 question:<br>agree, neutral, disagree<br><br>Time points NR  | 1) "When fatigued, I perform effectively during<br>critical phases of operations/patient care":<br>Anesthetic: 47% agree; 15% neutral; 38%<br>disagree;<br>Surgical: 70% agree; 12% neutral; 18%<br>disagree.  |
| Shirom, 2006<br><br>RoB: low     | CS              | Tiredness and exhaustion:<br>SMBM Physician Fatigue<br>Subscale on a 7-point scale<br>from 1 (almost never) to 7<br>(always)<br><br>Time points NR              | NR       | Quality of care: Adapted 15-<br>item SERVQUAL with a 5-<br>point Likert scale from 1<br>(very small extent) to 5 (very<br>large extent)<br><br>Time points NR                 | 1) Quality of care positively predicted by<br>fatigue in a model incorporating several other<br>components of burnout, $\beta=0.17$ , $p<0.05$ .   |
| Smith, 2017<br><br>RoB: moderate | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-<br>reported via open-ended<br>comments<br><br>Time points NR   | NR       | Perceived competence: self-<br>reported via open-ended<br>comments<br><br>Time points NR  | Some physicians indicated that continual<br>tiredness and exhaustion led to concerns that<br>it would affect their competence; some felt<br>that professional performance was<br>compromised at times of physical and mental<br>fatigue.   |
| Tanti, 2017<br><br>RoB: high     | CS              | Fatigue: questionnaire on<br>contributors to prescribing<br>errors, with a 5-point Likert<br>scale (very high to very low<br>association)<br><br>Time points NR | NR       | Prescribing errors:<br>questionnaire on<br>contributors to prescribing<br>errors, with a 5-point Likert<br>scale (very high to very low<br>association)<br><br>Time points NR | Perception of the contribution of fatigue to<br>prescribing errors differed by physician type<br>( $p<0.05$ ): 34% of community doctors, 96%<br>hospital doctors, 8% of office-working doctors<br>perceived a very high or high association<br>between fatigue and prescribing errors. |

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies of anesthesiologists, where these were physicians.

<sup>b</sup>Includes primary care physicians, internal medicine physicians, and general practitioners.

ACC: aortic cross-clamp time; BA: before-after; CABG: cardiopulmonary bypass time; CCPT II: Connor's Continuous Performance Test II; CI: confidence interval; CO: cohort; CS: cross-sectional; ER: emergency; ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale; h: hour(s); HVL: Hopkin's Verbal Learning Task; Hz: Hertz; ICU: intensive care unit; IQR: interquartile range; KSS: Karolinska Sleep Scale; min: minutes; ms: millisecond(s); N-back: Dual N-back test; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; ns: not statistically significant; OR: odds ratio; PSQI: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; PVT: Psychomotor vigilance Performance Task; RR: risk ratio; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; SERVQUAL: Service Quality Measure; SMBM: Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; TP: Toulouse-Pierson test; TS: time series; US: United States of America; vs.: versus

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Patient outcomes related to fatigue or sleep restriction among physicians in independent practice

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)        | Study<br>design | Exposures  |  | Outcome Measures   |  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                                    |                 | Intervention or assessment<br>scale and time points  | Baseline   | Assessment scale and time<br>points  |  |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                    |                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chu, 2011<br><br>RoB: low          | CO              | Sleep deprivation: moderate (3-6 h) or severe (<3-h) sleep deprivation the night before surgery (self-reported hours)                  | Of 4,047 procedures, 83 (2.1%) performed by severely sleep-deprived, 1,595 (39.4%) by moderately sleep-deprived surgeons | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery              |  | 1) 0-3 vs. 3-6 vs. >6 hours of sleep: No difference in incidence of mortality, incidence of 10 major complications (except septicemia, 3.6% vs. 0.9% vs. 0.8%, p=0.03), ICU length of stay; in-hospital length of stay (days): 7.0 vs. 6.0 vs. 7.0, p<0.001.   |
| Ellman, 2004<br><br>RoB: low       | CO              | Sleep deprivation: performed a case starting 22:00 to 05:00, or ending 22:00 to 07:30 and performed a subsequent case in the next 24-h | Of 6,751 procedures, 339 (5%) were performed by sleep deprived surgeons  | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery              |  | 1) Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in mortality, need for blood products, complications (operative, neurologic, renal, infectious, pulmonary), in-hospital length of stay.  |
| Govindarajan, 2015<br><br>RoB: low | CO              | Sleep deprivation: treated patients from midnight to 07:00 and performed a subsequent case on the same day                             | NR   | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, readmission, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery |  | 1) Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in mortality, surgical complications, readmissions within 30 days, or length of stay.  |
| Rothschild, 2009<br><br>RoB: low   | CO              | Sleep deprivation: daytime procedures following an overnight procedure; Sleep opportunity: 0-6h, <6h                                   | NR   | Chart review: frequency of adverse surgical complications<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery                    |  | 1) Post-nighttime vs. control: no difference in number of procedures with complications, total number of complications, preventable complications, type of complications;<br>2) Operating room procedures with complications, OR (95% CI): 8.5% for 0-6h sleep vs. 3.1% for >6h sleep, 2.70 (1.13-6.48), p=0.03;<br>3) All procedures with complications, OR (95% CI): 6.2% for 0-6h sleep vs. 3.4% for >6h sleep, 1.72 (1.02-2.89), p=0.04. |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures   |  | Outcome Measures  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
|                                  |                 | Intervention or assessment<br>scale and time points   | Baseline   | Assessment scale and time<br>points   |   |
| Schieman, 2007<br><br>RoB: low   | CO              | Fatigue: surgeon billed for<br>clinical work after 22:00 the<br>night before surgery                          | Of 270 procedures, 22<br>(8%) were performed by<br>fatigued surgeons                     | Chart review: surgical<br>complications, length of stay,<br>mortality, cancer recurrence<br><br>Assessed during and post-<br>surgery                | 1) Fatigued vs. non-fatigued surgeons: no<br>difference in intra- or post-operative<br>complication rate, length of stay, in-hospital<br>length of stay, cancer recurrence.   |
| Vinden, 2014<br><br>RoB: low     | CO              | Sleep deprivation (at risk):<br>surgeon worked 00:00 to<br>07:00 and performed surgery<br>07:00 to 18:00      | Of 94,183 surgeries,<br>2,078 (2.2%) were<br>performed by surgeons<br>who were 'at risk' | Chart review: conversion to<br>open procedure (from<br>laparoscopic), iatrogenic<br>injuries, mortality<br><br>Assessed during and post-<br>surgery | 1) At risk vs. not at risk surgeon: no difference<br>in incidence of conversion to open procedure,<br>iatrogenic injuries, mortality, in either<br>univariate or multivariate analyses.   |
| <b>Obstetricians</b>             |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Rothschild, 2009<br><br>RoB: low | CO              | Sleep deprivation: daytime<br>procedures following an<br>overnight procedure;<br>Sleep opportunity: 0-6h, <6h | NR   | Chart review: frequency of<br>adverse obstetric complications<br><br>Assessed during and post-<br>delivery  | 1) Post-nighttime vs. control: no difference in<br>number of procedures with complications,<br>total complications, preventable<br>complications, type of complications;<br>2) No association between sleep deprivation<br>and proportion of procedures with<br>complications, nor difference for 0-6h vs. >6h<br>of sleep opportunity. |

CI: confidence interval; CO: cohort; h: hours; NR: not reported; OR: odds ratio; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; US: United States of America; vs.: versus



## Supplementary file 5. Statistical analyses

## Dichotomous outcomes

| Outcome or subgroup                      | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled risk ratio (95% CI) | I <sup>2</sup> |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1.1 Patient mortality</b>             | 5                 | 60,436                 | 0.98 (0.84, 1.15)          | 0%             |
| <b>1.2 Intra-operative complications</b> | 3                 | 19,798                 | 1.35 (0.82, 2.21)          | 82%            |
| 1.2.1 Surgical procedure                 | 3 <sup>a</sup>    | 14,896                 | 1.37 (0.65, 2.87)          | 88%            |
| 1.2.2 Obstetric procedure                | 1 <sup>a</sup>    | 4,902                  | 1.21 (0.83, 1.78)          | NA             |
| <b>1.3 Post-operative complications</b>  | 5                 | 60,201                 | 0.99 (0.95, 1.03)          | 0%             |

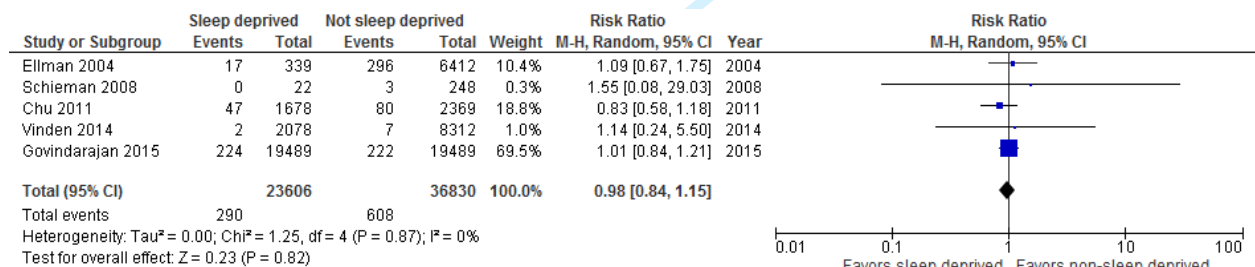
<sup>a</sup> Rothschild, 2009 is represented in both analyses

## Continuous outcomes

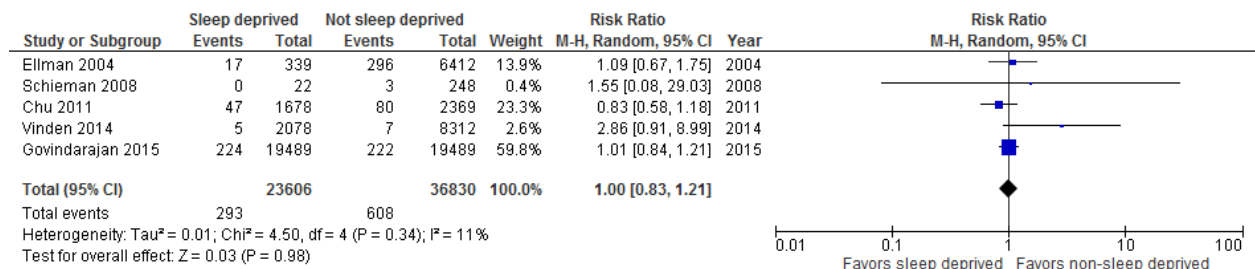
| Outcome or subgroup                       | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled mean difference (95% CI) | I <sup>2</sup> |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1.4 Operating time (minutes)</b>       | 4                 | 50,046                 | -0.14 (-1.60, 1.33)             | 0%             |
| <b>1.5 Length of hospital stay (days)</b> | 4                 | 50,046                 | -0.33 (-1.03, 0.36)             | 86%            |
| 1.5.1 Cardiac surgeries                   | 2                 | 10,798                 | -0.43 (-1.55, 0.69)             | 84%            |
| 1.5.2 Elective surgeries                  | 1                 | 38,978                 | 0.00 (-0.07, 0.07)              | NA             |
| 1.5.3 Anterior resection for anal cancer  | 1                 | 270                    | -2.10 (-5.98, 1.78)             | NA             |

CPBT: cardiopulmonary bypass time; NA: not applicable

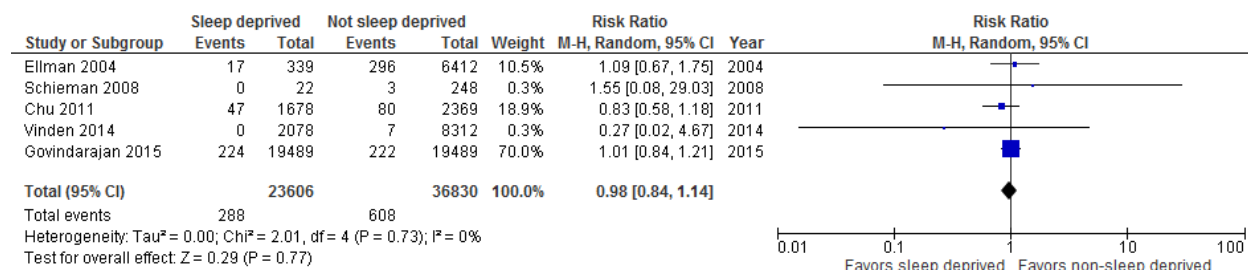
## 1.1 Patient mortality



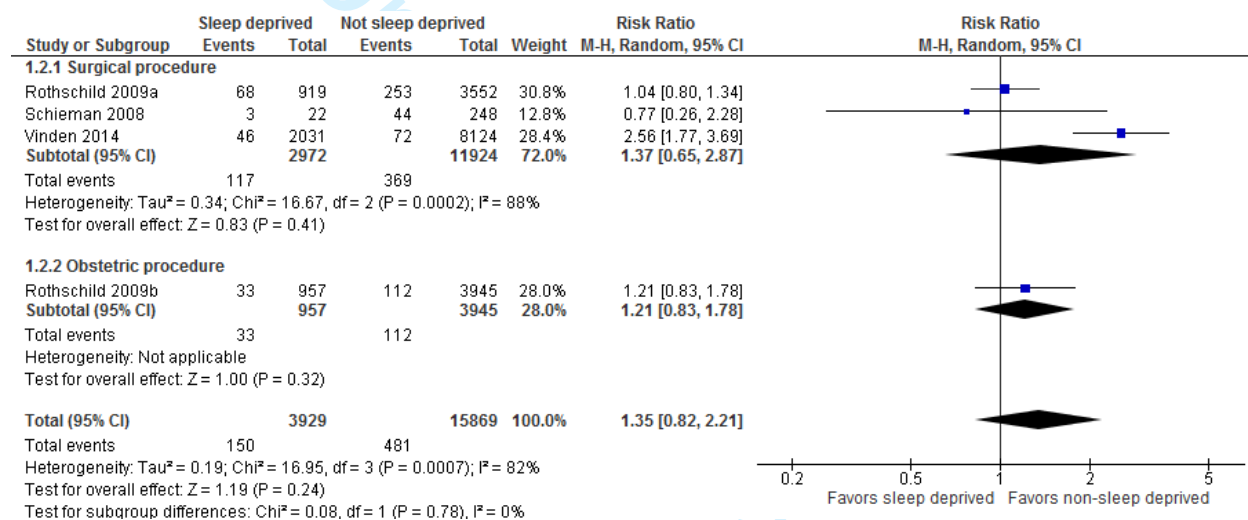
## Sensitivity analysis using highest possible number of events for Vinden 2014



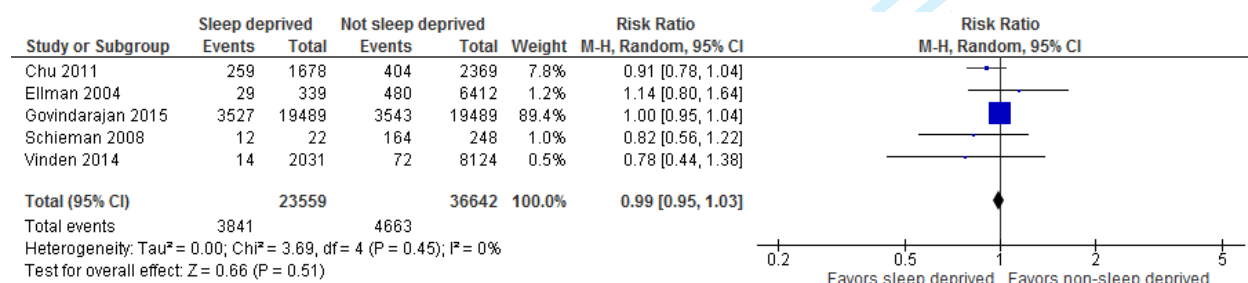
**Sensitivity analysis using lowest possible number of events for Vinden 2014**



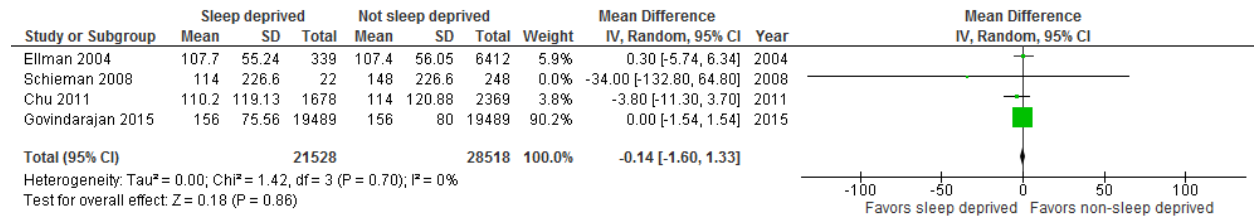
**1.2 Intra-operative complications**



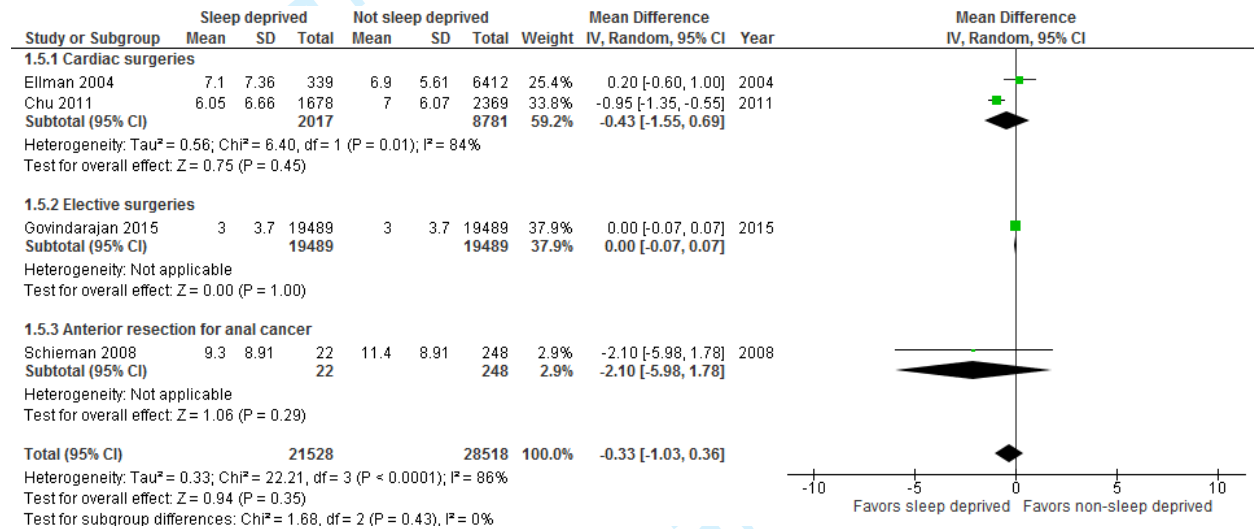
**1.3 Post-operative complications**



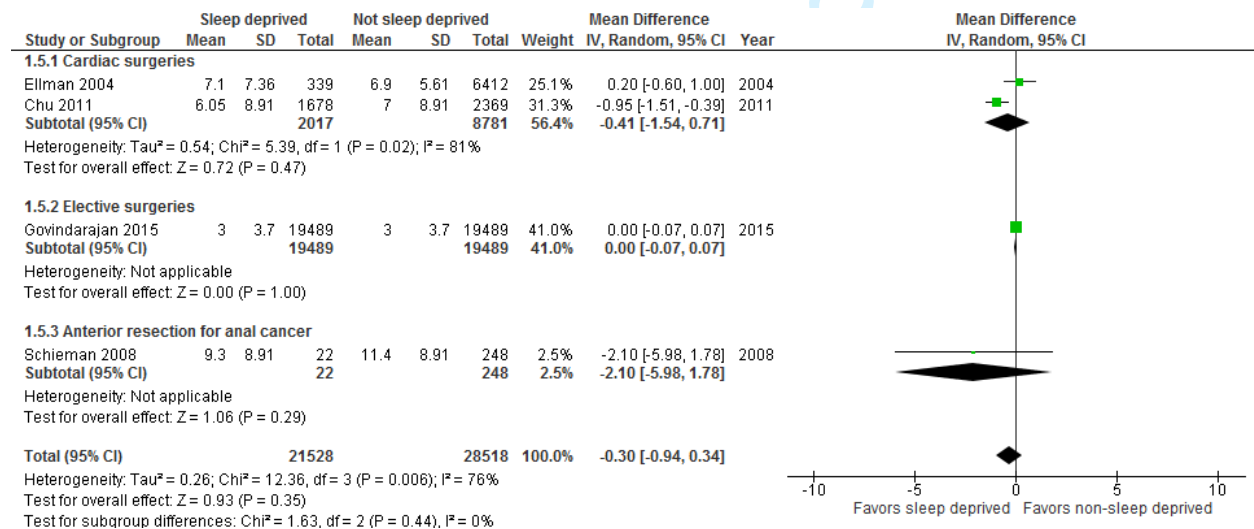
## 1.4 Operating time (minutes)



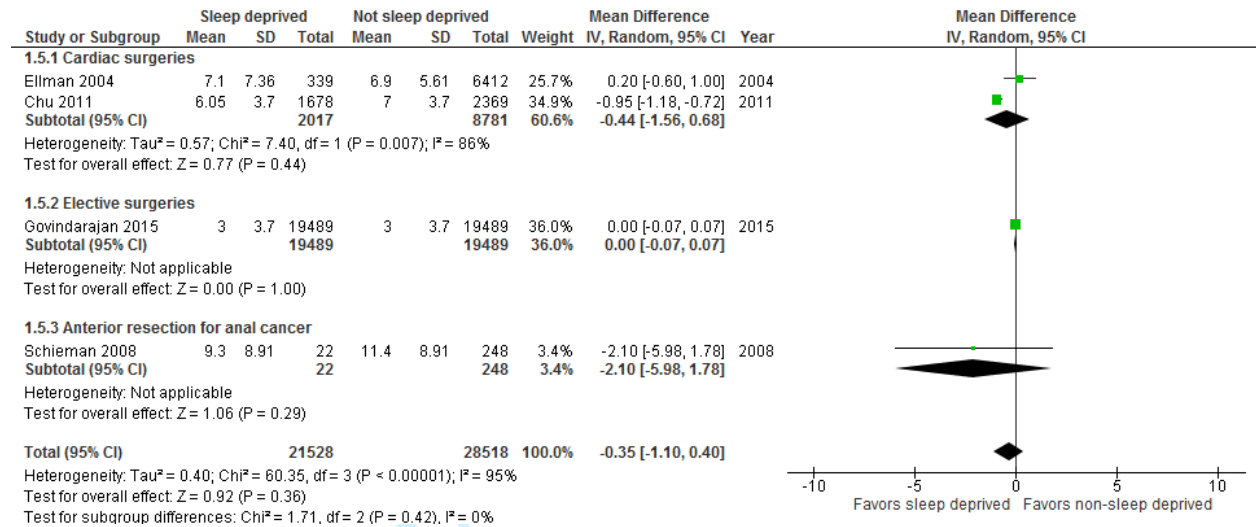
## 1.5 Length of hospital stay (days)



## Sensitivity analysis imputing the highest standard deviation



**Sensitivity analysis imputing the lowest standard deviation**



Peer review only



## Appendix 1. PRISMA checklist

| Section/topic                      | #  | Checklist item  | Reported on page #   |
|------------------------------------|----|---|----------------------|
| <b>TITLE</b>                       |    |   |                      |
| Title                              | 1  | Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.   | 1                    |
| <b>ABSTRACT</b>                    |    |   |                      |
| Structured summary                 | 2  | Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number. | 2                    |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>                |    |   |                      |
| Rationale                          | 3  | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.  | 4-5                  |
| Objectives                         | 4  | Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).  | 5                    |
| <b>METHODS</b>                     |    |   |                      |
| Protocol and registration          | 5  | Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.   | 5                    |
| Eligibility criteria               | 6  | Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.  | 6                    |
| Information sources                | 7  | Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.  | 5-6                  |
| Search                             | 8  | Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.   | Supplementary file 1 |
| Study selection                    | 9  | State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).   | 6-7                  |
| Data collection process            | 10 | Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.  | 7                    |
| Data items                         | 11 | List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.   | 7                    |
| Risk of bias in individual studies | 12 | Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.  | 7                    |
| Summary measures                   | 13 | State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).   | 8                    |
| Synthesis of results               | 14 | Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis.   | 8                    |


**Appendix 1. PRISMA checklist**

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| Section/topic                 | #  | Checklist item   | Reported on page #                          |
|-------------------------------|----|--|---|
| Risk of bias across studies   | 15 | Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).   | 8   |
| Additional analyses           | 16 | Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.   | 8   |
| <b>RESULTS</b>                |    |  |   |
| Study selection               | 17 | Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.  | 8, Figure 1                                 |
| Study characteristics         | 18 | For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.   | 8-11, Table 1, Supplementary file 2         |
| Risk of bias within studies   | 19 | Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).  | 11, Supplementary file 3                    |
| Results of individual studies | 20 | For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot. | p. 12-18; Supplementary file 4; figures 2-6 |
| Synthesis of results          | 21 | Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.  | p. 12-18, figures 2-6                       |
| Risk of bias across studies   | 22 | Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).  | Not applicable                              |
| Additional analysis           | 23 | Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).  | Supplementary file 5                        |
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>             |    |  |   |
| Summary of evidence           | 24 | Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).                     | 18-19                                       |
| Limitations                   | 25 | Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).  | 19-20                                       |
| Conclusions                   | 26 | Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.  | 20  |
| <b>FUNDING</b>                |    |  |   |
| Funding                       | 27 | Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.   | 21  |



**Appendix 1.** PRISMA checklist

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*From:* Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

For more information, visit: [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org). Page 2 of 2

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# BMJ Open

## The impact of fatigue and insufficient sleep on physician and patient outcomes: A systematic review

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Journal:                        | <i>BMJ Open</i>   |
| Manuscript ID                   | bmjopen-2018-021967.R2  |
| Article Type:                   | Research  |
| Date Submitted by the Author:   | 28-Jun-2018   |
| Complete List of Authors:       | Gates, Michelle; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Wingert, Aireen; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Featherstone, Robin; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Samuels, Charles; Centre for Sleep and Human Performance<br>Simon, Christopher; Canadian Medical Association<br>Dyson, Michele; University of Alberta, Pediatrics |
| <b>Primary Subject Heading</b>: | Occupational and environmental medicine   |
| Secondary Subject Heading:      | Evidence based practice, Health services research, Medical education and training, Occupational and environmental medicine  |
| Keywords:                       | Health & safety < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, Risk management < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, SLEEP MEDICINE  |
|                                 |   |

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Manuscripts

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3 **The impact of fatigue and insufficient sleep on physician and patient outcomes: A systematic review**  
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6 Michelle Gates, Aireen Wingert, Robin Featherstone, Charles Samuels, Christopher Simon, Michele P  
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43 **Word count (main text): 5,929**  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** For physicians in independent practice, we synthesized evidence on the (a) impacts of insufficient sleep and fatigue on health and performance, and patient safety; (b) effectiveness of interventions targeting insufficient sleep and fatigue.

**Design:** We systematically reviewed online literature. After piloting, one reviewer selected studies by title and abstract; full texts were then reviewed in duplicate. One reviewer extracted data; another verified a random 10% sample. Two reviewers assessed risk of bias. We pooled findings via meta-analysis when appropriate, or narratively.

**Data sources:** We searched Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL and PubMed for published studies in April 2016; Medline was updated in November 2017. We searched Embase for conference proceedings, and hand-searched meeting abstracts, association and foundation websites.

**Eligibility criteria for selecting studies:** English or French language primary research studies published from 2000-2017 examining the effect of fatigue or sleep-related exposures or interventions on any outcome among physicians in independent practice and their patients.

**Results:** Of 16,154 records identified, we included 47 quantitative studies of variable quality. 28 studies showed associations between fatigue or insufficient sleep and physician health and well-being outcomes. 21 studies showed no association with surgical performance, and mixed findings for psychomotor performance, work performance, and medical errors. We pooled data from six cohort studies for patient outcomes. For sleep deprived versus non-sleep deprived surgeons, we found no difference in patient mortality ( $n = 60,436$ , RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.84 to 1.15,  $p = 0.82$ ,  $I^2 = 0\%$ ) nor postoperative complications ( $n = 60,201$ , RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.95 to 1.03,  $I^2 = 0\%$ ). The findings for intraoperative complications and length of stay were considerably heterogeneous.

**Conclusions:** Fatigue and insufficient sleep may be associated with negative physician health outcomes. Current evidence is inadequate to inform practice recommendations.

**STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY**

- The review was informed by the methods outlined by Cochrane and is reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.
- The review was limited by the quality of the included studies, which was often poor. We could not draw definitive conclusions due to methodological weaknesses and heterogeneous outcome measures in the included studies.
- We have focused on evidence from high income countries; our findings may not be generalizable to other settings.

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## BACKGROUND

The working hours of physicians have been a topic of debate for many years.[1] Beginning in the late 1980s, evidence indicating that medical resident fatigue could negatively impact their cognitive functioning and performance, resulting in an increased risk of medical error, began to accumulate.[2] In response, by the early 2000s physicians' regulatory bodies worldwide began to take action toward restricting the work hours of medical residents and ensuring adequate time for recovery between shifts.[3-5] Since their implementation in the United States by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the impact of work hour regulations has been widely researched. Still, evidence for impacts on patient care, resident training and wellbeing remains equivocal.[6-9] This is likely because work hours are only one of many contributors to fatigue and physician wellbeing. In fact, the ACGME has recently reversed the 2011 changes that limited resident work hours to 16 hours per shift and the requirement for 8 hours of time off between shifts. This decision was made in favour of promoting "flexibility" for residency training program work hours and scheduling.

The focus on medical trainees has left physicians in independent practice as a relatively neglected group in research and policy. In Canada, there is no concrete regulation on the hours or patterns in which physicians choose to work.[10] In the absence of clear policies, physicians trained under traditional systems may find it difficult to work shorter hours or take more frequent breaks.[1] Indeed, more than 40% of practicing physicians in the United States work in excess of 80 hours per week.[11] While long work hours remain a cultural norm in medicine, in comparable high-risk industries (e.g., aviation), work patterns and work hours are tightly regulated.[12] The need for similar evidence-based policies in medicine has become a topic of increased interest. Exemplar of this, an evidence-based guideline for fatigue risk management in emergency medical services,[13] informed by a comprehensive set of systematic reviews, has recently been published. For physicians, it has been argued that there is a need to adapt healthcare systems and provide support in identifying the signs of fatigue and mitigating its risks.[1]

Besides potentially affecting patient outcomes, fatigue can impact the health and wellbeing of physicians themselves. Burnout, just one outcome related to fatigue, has been described as epidemic among physicians[14-16] and ultimately affects recruitment and retention of physicians both in community and acute care settings. While the effect of physician wellbeing on the sustainability of healthcare systems has recently received increased attention,[17] evidence-based solutions to burnout

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3 remain relatively elusive.[18] What is clear, is that comprehensive organisational-level efforts are  
4 necessary to fully address the issue.[19] Research addressing the factors that influence burnout and  
5 overall physician wellness is needed to inform system- and individual-level strategies.[20, 21] To date,  
6 evidence of the effects of fatigue and the role of chronic insufficient sleep on physicians in independent  
7 practice has not been synthesized, making it unclear what gaps in knowledge remain unaddressed.  
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13 Given this void, we undertook a systematic review focusing broadly on primary research relevant to the  
14 Canadian context as a fundamental starting point to examine the effects of fatigue and chronic  
15 insufficient sleep on physicians in independent practice, and on interventions to combat these effects.  
16 Our review was guided by the following research questions: Among physicians in independent practice,  
17 (1) what are the impacts of fatigue and chronic insufficient sleep on physician health, physician  
18 performance, and patient safety; and (2) what is the effectiveness of interventions that target fatigue  
19 and chronic insufficient sleep, in terms of improving physician and patient outcomes?  
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## 26 **METHODS**

### 27 **Review conduct**

28 The conduct of this systematic review was guided by Cochrane standards.[22] The research team  
29 convened to plan the key research questions and methodology but did not register a formal protocol.  
30 The findings are reported in adherence with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and  
31 Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Statement.[23] Ethical approval was not required for this study.  
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### 38 **Patient involvement**

39 Patients were not involved.  
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### 43 **Literature search**

44 An information specialist developed a search strategy that included concepts related to physicians,  
45 fatigue and sleep. On 13 April 2016 we searched the following online databases with coverage in the  
46 biomedical sciences and psychology: Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL and PubMed, limited to  
47 English and French language articles published from 2000 to 2016. We updated the Medline search in  
48 November 2017, as this database offered the highest precision. Though fatigue among physicians is not  
49 a new phenomenon,[2] we limited our search to articles published post-2000 to include studies relevant  
50 to current physician practice. Work hour limitations have existed in European countries since 1993, but  
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3 implementation in the United States (2003)[5] and Canada (2013) for residents is more recent.[24] We  
4 aimed to include studies published in this era of increased awareness about the potential impacts of  
5 long work hours. To locate unpublished studies, we searched Embase for conference proceedings since  
6 2000 and hand-searched meeting abstracts of the Canadian Conference on Physician Health and the  
7 International Conference on Physician Health (2012 to 2016). We also searched the following  
8 association and foundation websites: American Medical Association, Australian Medical Association,  
9 British Medical Association, Canadian Medical Association, European Medical Association, National  
10 Sleep Foundation, Ontario Medical Association and the World Medical Association. The complete search  
11 strategy undertaken is reported in Supplementary file 1.  
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### 20 **Inclusion criteria**

21 Primary studies (quantitative or qualitative) of fatigue- or sleep-related exposures or interventions  
22 among physicians in independent practice were eligible for inclusion. We included physicians practicing  
23 in any medical specialty and in any healthcare setting within a high income country,[25] to identify  
24 practices comparable to the Canadian setting. Studies including physicians-in-training were included  
25 only if data for physicians in independent practice could be isolated. Exposures of interest included  
26 fatigue, insufficient sleep, or sleepiness. We also included studies of any intervention that aimed to  
27 reduce fatigue or sleep loss with any comparator (or no comparator). All reported outcomes, measured  
28 at any time, were eligible for inclusion.  
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37 We excluded commentaries, letters, editorials and dissertations. Systematic reviews, health technology  
38 assessments, economic evaluations and practice guidelines were excluded, although the reference lists  
39 of these as well as the included studies were scanned for potential primary studies. Studies that focused  
40 solely on physicians-in-training (e.g., trainees, residents, fellows, interns, medical students, junior  
41 doctors, registrars) were ineligible. To maintain the focused scope of the review, we excluded work  
42 hours, work load, and any other exposure or intervention that was indirectly related to fatigue or sleep.  
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### 48 **Study selection**

49 The study team piloted the selection criteria, which were then applied by two independent reviewers  
50 following a two-phase process. We first screened titles and abstracts for potential relevance. Then, we  
51 retrieved all records classified as “include” or “unsure” and reviewed their full text for eligibility. Any  
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3 disagreements between reviewers were resolved by discussion or third-reviewer consultation when  
4 necessary.  
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### 8 **Data extraction**

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10 Reviewers used a standardized form to extract data in Microsoft Office Excel (v. 2016, Microsoft  
11 Corporation, Redmond, WA). One reviewer independently extracted data from each included study and  
12 a second reviewer verified a random 10% sample. Since no major errors or omissions were noted, we  
13 did not undertake further verification.  
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18 We extracted the following data: country of publication; funding source; study design; inclusion and  
19 exclusion criteria; population characteristics (i.e., sample size, age and gender distribution, physician  
20 specialty); setting (i.e., physician workplace, urban or rural); exposure or intervention; definition of  
21 fatigue or insufficient sleep; sleep and fatigue scales used and timing of measurement; comparators (if  
22 applicable); and outcomes.  
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### 28 **Risk of bias appraisal**

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30 Two reviewers independently assessed the risk of bias in each included study using standard tools.  
31 Disagreements were resolved via discussion or by consulting a third reviewer. We used the Cochrane  
32 Risk of Bias tool[22] to assess randomised controlled trials. Adapted versions of the tool developed by  
33 the Effective Practice and Organization of Care group[26] were used to assess before-after and time  
34 series studies. We used the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale[27] to appraise cohort studies.  
35 We adapted the scale to assess cross-sectional studies and the one non-comparative study.  
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### 42 **Evidence synthesis**

43 We considered clinical and methodological heterogeneity in our decision on whether to proceed with  
44 meta-analysis for the outcomes identified. For most outcomes, we found high levels of heterogeneity in  
45 study design, populations, exposures or interventions, and outcome measures and chose not pool the  
46 data via meta-analysis. Thus, we have presented the findings for most outcomes narratively and in  
47 summary tables.  
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53 When statistical pooling was appropriate, this was undertaken using Review Manager (RevMan v.5.3,  
54 Copenhagen: The Nordic Cochrane Centre, the Cochrane Collaboration, 2014) via pairwise meta-analysis  
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3 using the DerSimonian and Laird random effects model (given expected heterogeneity).[28] We pooled  
4 dichotomous outcomes using the relative risk (95% confidence interval (CI)) and continuous outcomes  
5 using the mean difference (95% CI) since the units across studies were consistent (i.e., minutes). When  
6 meta-analysis was conducted, we assessed statistical heterogeneity using the chi-square test (using  $P =$   
7  $0.10$  as the threshold for significance), and quantified the extent of heterogeneity using the  $I^2$   
8 statistic.[29] We considered an  $I^2$  value of 0% to 40% to be low (potentially unimportant), 30% to 60% to  
9 be moderate, 50% to 90% to be substantial, and 75% to 100% to be considerable heterogeneity.[22]  
10 Subgroup and sensitivity analyses were conducted when appropriate to explore heterogeneity. We  
11 intended to assess small study bias visually by inspecting funnel plots and statistically using Egger's  
12 regression test, but did not due to the small number (i.e., less than 8) of studies included in the meta-  
13 analyses.[30]  
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23 When data were not presented in the format required for meta-analysis, we estimated means or  
24 standard deviations (SDs) using standard equations. We used the median instead of the mean for one  
25 study[31] for the outcomes of length of stay and operating time. Additionally, for one study[32] in the  
26 length of stay analysis where the SD could not be estimated, we substituted the mean variance of other  
27 studies within the meta-analysis.[33]  
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## 33 RESULTS

34 We identified 16,083 unique records via the database searches, 56 grey literature sources, and 14  
35 additional records in reference lists of systematic reviews. We excluded 15,016 citations by title and  
36 abstract, and another 1,090 by full text. Forty-seven studies[31, 32, 34-78] were eligible for inclusion,  
37 and 6[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] were included in meta-analysis for the outcomes of operating time, intra-  
38 and post-operative complications, patient mortality and length of hospital stay. Figure 1 shows the flow  
39 of studies through the selection process.  
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### 46 Included study characteristics

47 A summary of the study characteristics is provided in Table 1. Supplementary file 2 presents descriptive  
48 information for each included study. There were 45 observational studies[31, 32, 34-39, 41-74, 76-78]  
49 and two intervention studies.[40, 75] All studies were quantitative. Nearly half ( $n = 20/47$ , 43%) of the  
50 studies took place in North America,[31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 41, 45, 48, 57-60, 62, 63, 65-68, 72, 77] and  
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slightly more than one-third (n = 16/47, 34%) in Europe.[34, 36, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 50-53, 61, 64, 73, 75, 76]

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**Table 1.** Summary characteristics of the included studies

| Study characteristics     | n  | %  | Physician characteristics                | n         | %  | Exposures, interventions and outcomes        | n         | %         |
|---------------------------|----|----|--|-----------|----|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Study design</b>       |    |    | <b>Gender</b>                            |           |    | <b>Exposures (observational)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>45</b> | <b>96</b> |
| Cross-sectional           | 34 | 72 | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 38        | 81 | Fatigue-related                              | 15        | 32        |
| Cohort                    | 6  | 13 | >50% male                                | 30        | 79 | Sleep-related                                | 37        | 79        |
| Before-after              | 3  | 6  | <b>Age</b>                               |           |    | Overnight or extended shifts                 | 18        | 38        |
| RCT                       | 2  | 4  | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 38        | 81 | <b>Interventions (experimental)</b>          | <b>2</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| Time series               | 1  | 2  | Range (years)                            | 20 to >70 |    | <b>Outcomes</b>                              |           |           |
| Non-comparative           | 1  | 2  | <b>Specialty area<sup>c</sup></b>        |           |    | Physician health and wellbeing               | 28        | 60        |
| <b>Region and country</b> |    |    | Surgeons                                 | 13        | 28 | Work and life satisfaction                   | 9         | 19        |
| North America             | 20 | 43 | Anesthesiologists                        | 10        | 21 | Burnout                                      | 7         | 15        |
| US                        | 15 | 32 | Generalists                              | 7         | 15 | Stress                                       | 8         | 17        |
| Canada                    | 4  | 9  | ED or ICU physicians                     | 3         | 6  | Mental health and wellbeing                  | 7         | 15        |
| Canada, US & Mexico       | 1  | 2  | Oncologists                              | 2         | 4  | Other health-related outcomes                | 5         | 11        |
| Europe                    | 16 | 34 | Obstetrician-gynecologists               | 1         | 2  | Physician performance, risk of error         | 21        | 45        |
| France                    | 4  | 9  | Mixed groups                             | 14        | 30 | Psychomotor performance                      | 7         | 15        |
| Finland                   | 3  | 6  | <b>Work setting<sup>d</sup></b>          |           |    | Work ability and quality of care             | 5         | 11        |
| Spain                     | 2  | 4  | Hospitals                                | 37        | 79 | Incidence of medical errors                  | 5         | 11        |
| Austria                   | 2  | 4  | Private practice                         | 13        | 28 | Surgical efficiency, effectiveness           | 6         | 13        |
| Norway                    | 2  | 4  | Primary care centres, outpatient clinics | 7         | 15 | Patient outcomes                             | 6         | 13        |
| Denmark                   | 1  | 2  | Academic practice, training programs     | 5         | 11 |  |           |           |
| Germany                   | 1  | 2  | Other (e.g., industry, military)         | 11        | 23 |  |           |           |
| Malta                     | 1  | 2  | Not reported                             | 3         | 6  |  |           |           |
| Japan                     | 4  | 9  | <b>Urban or rural</b>                    |           |    |  |           |           |
| Australia                 | 2  | 4  | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 16        | 34 |  |           |           |
| Israel                    | 2  | 4  | Urban                                    | 12        | 75 |  |           |           |
| New Zealand               | 2  | 4  | Rural                                    | 2         | 13 |  |           |           |
| United Kingdom            | 1  | 2  | Mixed                                    | 2         | 13 |  |           |           |

ED: emergency department; ICU: intensive care unit; RCT: randomised controlled trial; US: United States of America

<sup>a</sup>Exposures that have been directly related to an outcome. Some studies included multiple exposures.

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<sup>b</sup>Percentages presented using the total number of studies where the outcome was reported as the denominator.  
<sup>c</sup>Anesthesiologists include physician anesthetists; generalists include primary care physicians, internists, and general practitioners; mixed groups refers to studies including more than one physician group or specialty (usually large-scale surveys). In some studies, multiple distinct groups were represented.  
<sup>d</sup>As defined by the authors. Values for the settings will exceed 100% because studies may occur in more than one setting.

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3 The 47 studies reported outcomes for 36,190 (range = 6 to 7,905) physicians and 69,809 (range = 270 to  
4 38,978) adult patients. About half reported on surgeons (n = 13/47, 28%),[31, 32, 34, 41, 45, 48, 54, 58,  
5 62, 63, 66, 75, 77] or anesthesiologists/physician anesthetists (n = 10/47, 21%).[36, 37, 39, 43, 44, 50-52,  
6 59, 60] Where it was reported, the samples tended to be predominantly male (n = 30/38, 79%) and  
7 physician age varied widely. Hospitals were the most common setting (n = 37/47, 79%).[31, 32, 34-37,  
8 39-43, 45-47, 49-52, 54, 57-61, 63-70, 73-75, 77, 78] In the studies where it was reported (n = 16/47,  
9 34%),[31, 32, 34, 38, 40, 41, 43, 45, 50, 51, 55, 56, 58, 65, 76, 77] all but four studies[31, 55, 56, 77] took  
10 place in solely an urban setting.  
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18 Fifteen (32%) studies reported on fatigue-related exposures (e.g., as a source of stress, exhaustion,  
19 physical fatigue; hereafter referred to as 'fatigue'),[35, 40, 45, 48, 57, 63-71, 73] while others (n = 37/47,  
20 79%) reported on sleep-related exposures (e.g., sleep hours, insufficient sleep, sleep deprivation, sleep  
21 disruption, sleepiness; hereafter referred to as 'insufficient sleep').[31, 32, 34, 36-47, 49-56, 58-62, 64,  
22 67, 71, 72, 74-78] A few (n = 5/47, 11%) reported on both.[40, 45, 64, 67, 71] In some cases (n = 18/47,  
23 38%), fatigue or insufficient sleep were related to overnight work or long on-call shifts.[31, 32, 34, 37,  
24 40, 41, 43, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, 58-60, 63, 75, 77] Measured outcomes varied widely and were ultimately  
25 organised into physician physical and mental health, physician performance and risk of error, and  
26 patient outcomes.  
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### 35 **Risk of bias appraisal**

36 The overall quality of the body of research was poor; 62% (n = 29/47) of studies were rated at unclear or  
37 high risk of bias. Of the two randomised controlled trials, one was rated as unclear overall risk of  
38 bias[75] and one as high risk.[40] All cohort studies were at low risk of bias (mean score: 8.4/9, range: 8-  
39 9).[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] All of the before-after studies were rated as high risk of bias.[34, 45, 50] The  
40 single time series study was assessed at high risk of bias.[51] The cross-sectional studies varied in  
41 performance (mean score: 3.0/5, range: 1-4); only one-third (n = 12/34, 35%) were at low risk of  
42 bias.[39, 42, 44, 47, 52, 59, 60, 69, 70, 72, 74, 76] The one non-comparative study was at unclear risk of  
43 bias.[43] Detailed assessments of the sources of bias per study are shown in Supplementary file 3.  
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### Physician health and wellbeing outcomes

Twenty-eight studies reported on physician health and wellbeing-related outcomes,[35, 36, 38-40, 42, 46-48, 50-57, 60, 62, 64, 67, 68, 70-72, 74, 76, 78] including burnout (n = 7), stress (n = 8), mental health and wellbeing (n = 7), life and job satisfaction (n = 9) and other markers of health (n = 5) (Supplementary file 4).

Seven cross-sectional studies reported on burnout (5 low[39, 70, 72, 74, 76], 1 unclear[54], 1 high risk of bias[62]) among surgeons,[54, 62] anesthesiologists,[39] generalists,[76] and other mixed groups.[70, 72, 74] Two studies reported on surgeons; the larger (n = 2,564, low risk of bias) study of neurosurgeons showed increased odds of burnout with sleep deprivation (hours of sleep per night; OR 0.84, 95% CI 0.75 to 0.94, P = 0.002).[54] Among anesthesiologists one study (n = 565, low risk of bias) indicated that burnout (measured via Maslach Burnout Inventory) was more prevalent among the sleep-deprived ('lack of sleep' on one question; 47.6% vs. 16.3%, P < 0.001).[39] In one small (n = 11) study of generalists, those with burnout (measured via Pines Burnout Measure) had poorer Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index scores (7.24±4.17 vs. 2.72±2.22, P < 0.001).[76] In the two larger studies of mixed physician groups (low risk of bias), burnout (measured via 5-point scale) was more prevalent among those who were sleep deprived (<7 hours of sleep per 24 hours; 39.6% vs. 26.4%, P < 0.05),[72] and physical fatigue ('feeling tired' on a 7-point scale) was correlated with burnout (Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; r = 0.88, P < 0.05).[70] In summary, evidence from 7 cross-sectional studies (71% at low risk of bias), showed associations between insufficient sleep and burnout.

Six cross-sectional studies (2 low[47, 52], 1 unclear[46], 3 high risk of bias[35, 62, 64]), one uncontrolled before-after study (high risk of bias[50]), and one intervention study (high risk of bias[40]) reported on stress outcomes among surgeons,[62] anesthesiologists,[50, 52] emergency physicians,[40, 64] internal medicine physicians,[46] and mixed groups.[35, 47] In a small sample (n = 20) of internal medicine physicians, insufficient sleep related to a 24-hour call shift showed no association with biochemical or physiological stress parameters, except levels of thyroid stimulating hormone, which was higher post-shift (P = 0.049, data not reported).[46] The remaining observational studies suggested that there was an association between insufficient sleep or fatigue and stress. The one study of orthopedic surgeons (n = 264, high risk of bias) showed that insufficient sleep (measured on a 3-point scale) and psychological distress (measured via General Health Questionnaire-12) were correlated (data not reported, P < 0.001).[62] The two reports on anesthesiologists were of varied quality; the larger (n = 328, low risk of

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3 bias) study showed that stress symptoms (measured via Modified Occupational Stress Questionnaire)  
4 were predicted by sleep sufficiency (self-reported on one question,  $\beta = -0.269$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[52] Among  
5 the two studies reporting on mixed groups of physicians, the larger ( $n = 1,541$ , low risk of bias) study  
6 showed an association between sleep problems (4 questions derived from Jenkins scale) and  
7 psychological distress (General Health Questionnaire-12;  $\beta = 0.18$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[47] One RCT assessed the  
8 impact of insufficient sleep from shift work (14-hour or 24-hour shifts), showing that stress (on a visual  
9 analog scale) among emergency physicians ( $n = 17$ ) was higher following the shift as compared to a  
10 control day (data not reported,  $P < 0.05$ ).[40] In summary, evidence from one intervention study at high  
11 risk of bias and all but one of the 7 observational studies (29% at low risk of bias) identified supported  
12 an inverse association between fatigue or sleep deprivation and stress.  
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21 Seven cross-sectional studies (2 low,[52, 60] 3 unclear,[67, 71, 78] 2 high risk of bias[36, 53]) reported on  
22 aspects of mental health including addiction or substance misuse,[36, 53, 71] depression,[78] thoughts  
23 of suicide,[52] mood disturbance,[60, 71] and overall wellbeing.[67] One study,[53] which was at high  
24 risk of bias, showed no association between hours of sleep when on call and hazardous drinking  
25 behaviours (via Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test). Meanwhile, the six other studies all showed  
26 associations between insufficient sleep and fatigue and reduced mental health. Three studies reported  
27 on anesthetists,[36, 52, 60] with two large surveys showing increased odds of tobacco (OR 1.42, 95% CI  
28 1.04 to 1.94) and tranquilizer/hypnotics (OR 3.26, 95% CI 2.12 to 5.02) dependency being predicted by  
29 sleep deprivation (measured by one question),[36] and sleep disturbance being associated with  
30 thoughts of suicide (using a 4-point scale;  $P = 0.009$ ).[52] A small study ( $n = 21$ ) showed greater mood  
31 disturbance following a 17-hour night shift than a usual day (Profile of Mood States score  $42.57 \pm 15.26$   
32 vs.  $70.90 \pm 6.91$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[60] Among oncologists ( $n = 241$ ), overall wellbeing was predicted by lower  
33 levels of fatigue after controlling for personal and professional characteristics (assessed via linear analog  
34 scale quality of life survey,  $P = 0.002$ ).[67] A large ( $n = 3,862$ , unclear risk of bias) study of physicians  
35 showed that insufficient sleep (lower sleep hours when not at work in the past month) was associated  
36 with increased odds of depression (Quick Inventory Depressive Scale; OR 2.70, 95% CI 1.82 to 4.03 for  
37 men; OR 2.38, 95% CI 1.11 to 5.10 for women).[78] In open-ended questions, senior physicians in one  
38 study (unclear risk of bias) attributed the development of mental illness to tiredness and stress at  
39 work.[71] In summary, 7 cross-sectional studies (29% at low risk of bias) were identified, and of these 6  
40 supported an association between insufficient sleep or fatigue and negative mental health outcomes.  
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3 Nine cross-sectional studies (4 low,[42, 47, 72, 74] 2 unclear,[55, 68] 3 high risk of bias[38, 48, 62])  
4 reported on outcomes related to job satisfaction,[42, 47, 48, 55, 72, 74] life satisfaction,[38, 62, 72] or  
5 work-life balance.[68, 72] The six studies that investigated job satisfaction were all at low risk of bias  
6 and generally included mixed groups of physicians;[47, 72, 74] one study reported on general  
7 practitioners,[55], another on surgeons,[48] and one on mixed specialties.[42] Three studies showed  
8 that reductions in sleep duration and/or quality[47, 48, 74] were associated with reduced job  
9 satisfaction. Meanwhile one showed no association between insufficient sleep (<7 hours per 24-hour  
10 period) and career satisfaction (measured on a 5-point Likert scale),[72] and another showed no  
11 relationship between earlier sleep disturbance (Jenkins Scale) and later job demands or job control  
12 (measured via 5-point scale).[42] A single study (n = 92) reporting on rural general practitioners  
13 indicated that frequent sleep disturbance (measured on a 7-point scale) predicted the intention to retire  
14 early (OR 2.91, 95% CI 1.11 to 7.6, P < 0.05).[55] In summary, 6 cross-sectional studies (all at low risk of  
15 bias) were identified, and all but two[42, 72] of these studies showed that insufficient sleep and fatigue  
16 were associated with reductions in satisfaction.  
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28 The three studies reported on life satisfaction.[38, 62, 72] Of two studies among mixed physician  
29 groups,[38, 72] the one larger (n = 840) study showed that insufficient sleep (< 7 hours per day) was a  
30 predictor of reduced life satisfaction (measured on a 5-point Likert scale; OR 0.44, 95% CI 0.29 to 0.67, P  
31 ≤ 0.05).[72] One study at high risk of bias reported on orthopedic surgeons (n = 264), showing that sleep  
32 deprivation (measured via 3-point scale) was correlated with lower marital satisfaction (Revised Dyadic  
33 Adjustment Scale; data not reported, P < 0.001).[62] Two large studies at low or unclear risk of bias  
34 reported on work-life balance.[68, 72] Among oncologists (n = 1,117), reduced satisfaction with work-  
35 life balance (measured on a 5-point Likert scale) was predicted by high levels of fatigue (measured via  
36 10-point visual analog scale), even when controlling for personal and work-related factors and burnout  
37 (OR 0.489, 95% CI 0.337 to 0.710, P < 0.001).[68] Among a mixed group of physicians (n = 840, low risk of  
38 bias), insufficient sleep (<7 hours in a typical 24-hour period) predicted a reduced perception of having  
39 balanced personal and professional commitments (5-point Likert scale; OR 0.46, 95% CI 0.31 to 0.71, P ≤  
40 0.05).[72] In summary, 3 cross-sectional studies (all unclear or high risk of bias) supported an association  
41 between insufficient sleep or fatigue and reduced life satisfaction, and 2 cross-sectional studies (50%  
42 low risk of bias) supported an association with reduced work-life balance.  
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Four cross sectional studies (3 unclear,[56, 57, 71] 1 high risk of bias[38]) and one time series study (high risk of bias[51]) reported on other health-related outcomes. Among a mixed group of physicians (n = 180), one study at high risk of bias showed that Epworth Sleepiness Scale scores were higher among physicians who worried about having a car accident while driving home (7.0 vs. 5.4,  $P < 0.001$ ).[38] Among generalists (n = 578), almost 1 in 10 (8.7%) admitted to falling asleep while driving due to fatigue.[57] Also among generalists (n = 92), those with frequent work-related sleep disturbance (measured on a 7-point scale) were at increased odds of sickness presenteeism (OR 2.92, 95% CI 1.19 to 7.16,  $P = 0.02$ ).[56] The one time series study concluded that a single 24-h shift did not cause major chronodisruption (based on serum melatonin measurement) among anesthetists (n = 10).[51] Meanwhile, open-ended comments from a large sample (n = 3,550) of senior physicians suggests that they attributed the development of physical health problems to a lifestyle of insufficient sleep, poor eating habits and lack of exercise imposed by their jobs.[71] In summary, 5 cross sectional studies (0% at low risk of bias) supported associations between insufficient sleep and fatigue and varied deleterious health outcomes (i.e., car accidents, sickness presenteeism, physical health problems). One time series study at high risk of bias did not support such a relationship.

### Physician performance and risk of errors

Twenty-one studies reported on physician performance and safety-related outcomes,[31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 41, 43-47, 49, 50, 59, 61, 65, 66, 69, 71, 73, 75] including surgical efficiency and effectiveness (n = 6), psychomotor performance (n = 7), work ability and quality of care (n = 5) and medical errors (n = 5) (Supplementary file 4).

Four cohort studies (all low risk of bias[31, 32, 41, 63]), one before-after study (high risk of bias[34]) and one randomized controlled trial (high risk of bias[75]) examined the effects of insufficient sleep from overnight work or extended shifts, during surgeries[31, 32, 41] or laparoscopic simulations.[34, 75] We pooled the data from these studies[31, 32, 41, 63] via meta-analysis, which showed no difference in operating time (sometimes referred to as surgeon efficiency) between sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons (Figure 2; n = 50,046, MD -0.14, 95% CI -1.60 to 1.33,  $P = 0.86$ ,  $I^2 = 0\%$ ). Of studies not meta-analysed, the small (n = 29) before-after study showed no impact of sleep deprivation from shift-work nor of sleep hours on performance on a laparoscopic simulation (LapSimGyn).[34] One small (n = 64) intervention study compared a 24-hour shift to a usual work day, also finding no detriment to performance on a laparoscopic simulation (Minimally Invasive Surgical Trainer-Virtual Reality) despite



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3 diminished sleep hours while working on-call.[75] In summary, pooled data from 4 cohort studies (100%  
4 low risk of bias) showed no effect of insufficient sleep on surgical efficiency. Additional data from one  
5 RCT (high risk of bias) and one before-after study (high risk of bias) also showed no association between  
6 insufficient sleep and performance on laparoscopic simulations.  
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11 Two before-after studies (high risk of bias[45, 50]) and five cross-sectional studies (2 low,[43, 59] 3  
12 unclear,[37, 46] 1 high risk of bias [61]) reported on psychomotor performance outcomes among  
13 surgeons,[45] anesthesiologists,[37, 43, 50, 59] emergency physicians,[61] and internal medicine  
14 physicians.[46] Among a small group of surgeons (n = 9), performance on a virtual ring transfer task  
15 deteriorated after an on-call shift (data not reported,  $P < 0.05$ ).[45] The four studies among anesthesiologists  
16 reported mixed findings. One small (n = 11) before-after study showed longer reaction times  
17 (690.8±73.4 vs. 746.5±113.7 milliseconds) and reduced concentration ability (26.4±23.5 vs. 56.3±23.0 on  
18 a 100-point scale,  $P = 0.007$ ) following a 24-hour shift with insufficient sleep;[50] Two others found that  
19 insufficient sleep due to overnight shifts was associated with slower reaction times.[43, 59] Conversely,  
20 a small study (n = 11) found no effect of overnight shiftwork with insufficient sleep on any measure of  
21 psychomotor performance except Hopkin's Verbal Learning Test (t-score of 48.6±7.6 vs. 41.5±9.9,  $P =$   
22 0.04).[37] Among emergency physicians (n = 18), one study (high risk of bias) showed that those who  
23 were sleep deprived (<5 hours sleep after a 24-hour shift) had a reduced performance on most but not  
24 all psychomotor tests (Battery Test Reaction 5),[61] while among internal medicine physicians (n = 20,  
25 low risk of bias), neurocognitive parameters did not seem to worsen post-call.[46] In summary, two  
26 before-after (0% low risk of bias) and 5 cross-sectional studies (40% low risk of bias) showed mixed  
27 results for the association between fatigue or insufficient sleep and psychomotor performance.  
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42 Five cross-sectional studies (2 low,[47, 69] 1 unclear,[71] 2 high risk of bias[38, 65]) reported on  
43 associations between sleep deprivation or fatigue and work ability or perceived performance, all among  
44 mixed groups of physicians.[38, 47, 65, 69, 71] The two large studies at low risk of bias showed that  
45 sleep problems and fatigue were inversely associated with physicians' perceived quality of work.[47, 69]  
46 Among 1,541 physicians in Finland, sleeping problems (measured by 4 questions from the Jenkins Scale)  
47 were inversely associated with scores on the Work Ability Index ( $\beta = -0.29$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ),[47] while a study  
48 of 890 physicians from Israel demonstrated that perceived quality of care was predicted by fatigue (1  
49 item on the Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure) even after controlling for components of burnout ( $\beta =$   
50 0.17,  $P < 0.05$ ).[69] Similarly, in one study, comments from senior physicians suggested that continual  
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3 tiredness and exhaustion negatively affected their perceived competence.[71] The two studies[38, 65]  
4 that were at high risk of bias had conflicting findings. In summary, 5 cross-sectional studies (40% at low  
5 risk of bias) reported on perceived work performance; those that were at low risk of bias supported an  
6 association between fatigue or insufficient sleep and reduced performance.  
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11 Five cross-sectional studies (1 low,[44] 2 unclear,[49, 66] 2 high risk of bias[38, 73]) reported on  
12 associations between insufficient sleep or fatigue and self-reported medical errors among surgeons,[66]  
13 anesthesiologists[44] and mixed groups of physicians.[38, 49, 73] A large (n = 7,905) study at unclear risk  
14 of bias showed that only 6.9% of surgeons reported fatigue as the most important contributor to  
15 medical errors.[66] Among anesthesiologists, a smaller study (n = 183) at low risk of bias showed that  
16 the risk of self-reported fatigue-related errors increased with more nights of work-related sleep  
17 disturbance (RR 1.25, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.49).[44] Two of the studies reporting on mixed groups of  
18 physicians had conflicting results,[38, 49] while another reported that physicians' opinions on the  
19 association between fatigue and prescribing errors differed by work setting.[73] One-third (34%) of  
20 community-based, 96% of hospital-based, and 8% of office-based physicians believed that there was a  
21 high or very high association between fatigue and prescribing errors (P < 0.05).[73] In summary, 5 cross-  
22 sectional studies (20% at low risk of bias) reported on self-reported errors, and these showed mixed  
23 findings for associations with fatigue or insufficient sleep.  
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### 34 35 **Patient Outcomes**

36 Six large (n = 270 to 38,978) cohort studies at low risk of bias reported on patient outcomes, all related  
37 to surgical[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] or obstetric[58] procedures (Supplementary file 4). In these studies,  
38 insufficient sleep or fatigue were typically defined as overnight work prior to a daytime procedure[31,  
39 41, 58, 63, 77]; though two studies measured sleep hours[32] or 'sleep opportunity'.[58] We pooled  
40 data for procedures performed by sleep deprived versus non-sleep deprived surgeons (or obstetrician-  
41 gynecologists in one case[58]). Analyses showed no difference in the rate of post-operative  
42 complications (Figure 3; 5 studies,[31, 32, 41, 63, 77] n = 60,201, RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.95 to 1.03, p = 0.51, I<sup>2</sup>  
43 = 0%) nor patient mortality (Figure 4; 5 studies,[31, 32, 41, 63, 77] n = 60,436, RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.84 to  
44 1.15, p = 0.82, I<sup>2</sup> = 0%). One study[77] in the mortality analysis reported the number of deaths only as  
45 ≤5. We assumed 2 events for this study (midpoint between 0 and 5); sensitivity analysis using the lowest  
46 (i.e., 0) and highest (i.e., 5) possible number of events did not change the overall result (Supplementary  
47 file 5). We found considerable between-study heterogeneity in the analyses for intraoperative  
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3 complications ( $I^2 = 82\%$ ) and length of stay ( $I^2 = 86\%$ ), which could not be explained via subgroup  
4 analyses by procedure type, thus we have suppressed the average estimates of effect. For length of stay,  
5 the results of one study on cardiac surgeries favoured sleep deprived surgeons,[32] while the  
6 others[31,41,63] had null results. For intraoperative complications, the findings of one study[63]  
7 favoured non-sleep deprived surgeons, but the others[58,77] had null results.  
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### 13 **DISCUSSION**

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15 Fatigue and chronic insufficient sleep are two potential drivers of reduced physician wellbeing[17, 19]  
16 that have thus far been understudied in physicians in independent practice. Burnout is becoming  
17 increasingly prevalent among physicians,[14-16] and recent research indicates that comprehensive  
18 individual- and system-level strategies are needed to address the problem.[6-9, 19, 21] We have  
19 systematically reviewed evidence from a heterogeneous array of available studies reporting on diverse  
20 outcomes related to physicians in independent practice and their patients. The included studies were  
21 often at high or unclear risk of bias, included small samples of physicians, and inconsistently measured  
22 and reported exposures and outcomes. The key message gleaned from this review is that despite  
23 growing interest in the topic of physician wellness, the robust evidence needed to inform individual and  
24 systems-level fatigue management strategies is lacking.  
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33 Traditionally, much of the fatigue-related research has focused on hazards to patients. The current  
34 review included six cohort studies showing that insufficient sleep and/or fatigue did not seem to result  
35 in increased rates of patient mortality or post-operative complications; findings for length of stay and  
36 intra-operative complications were inconclusive. Evidence for psychomotor performance, surgical skills  
37 and errors suggest that there is indeed a potential for negative outcomes. The included studies, like  
38 many of the others in this and other systematic reviews,[79] employed indirect definitions that make it  
39 difficult to classify sleep deprived physicians with certainty. In recent years there has been a shift away  
40 from the singular focus on patient safety toward a more comprehensive view that also considers the  
41 detrimental effects of fatigue, sleep loss and other occupational hazards on physician wellness.[80]  
42 Evidence from this review supports that fatigue and insufficient sleep may be negatively associated with  
43 physician health and wellbeing. It is now recognized that health systems cannot be sustained by a  
44 workforce that is facing an epidemic of burnout.[19, 81, 82]  
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3 In light of high rates of burnout, the ongoing dialogue about the need for a cultural shift in the practice  
4 of medicine[83, 84] is now more important than ever. Recognition of the potential effects of physician  
5 fatigue on patients, physicians, and healthcare systems as a whole must be emphasized at a systemic  
6 level, encouraging a shift in which the risks are viewed as unacceptable.[1, 20, 80] Likewise, although  
7 research to date has focused largely on individual-level approaches to address burnout, it is now clear  
8 that placing the burden of a system-level problem solely on the individual is unlikely to bring about  
9 significant and lasting change.[85] Recent research has highlighted physician burnout as a system-driven  
10 issue that will require corresponding national-scale multicomponent solutions.[1, 19, 81, 82] As such, in  
11 the past several years both the American and Canadian Medical Associations have developed policies  
12 and programs that address physician health.[81, 86] The Canadian Medical Association's new policy on  
13 physician health calls on broad stakeholder groups (e.g., policymakers, regional health authorities,  
14 governments) to take shared responsibility for the health of physicians and to make meaningful and  
15 concerted efforts towards promoting a healthy and sustainable workforce.[81]

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27 The most salient finding of this review is that the current evidence is insufficient to inform policy and  
28 practice. Correspondingly, a 2016 research summit on physician wellness and burnout outlined the need  
29 for timely, relevant and methodologically robust research to inform practice and policy.[21] The  
30 findings herein may be used as motivation for researchers and practitioners to develop and design  
31 methodologically strong research programs related to physician fatigue, inform successful research  
32 grant proposals, and lobby healthcare organizations to increase the focus on physician fatigue  
33 management programs. It will be important to make use of existing validated measures[87-89]  
34 consistently in future research. Identifying outcomes of importance to physicians and their patients  
35 should be prioritized, such that these may be collected within intervention studies. Reporting these  
36 consistently will allow for the effective synthesis of findings and reduce research waste.[90] Integrated  
37 knowledge translation strategies involving multiple stakeholder groups (e.g., physicians, patients,  
38 medical schools, physicians' associations and governing bodies, policymakers) may help to ensure that  
39 the research is relevant and facilitates decision-making.[91]

### 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 **Strengths and Limitations**

51 Our systematic review is the first to synthesize evidence on the effects of fatigue and insufficient sleep  
52 on physicians in independent practice. The review is timely, given recent calls for research into  
53 individual and organisational solutions for burnout,[20, 21] and an increased focus on physician  
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3 health.[80, 81] While we have identified a diverse body of evidence, we could not draw definitive  
4 conclusions due to methodological weaknesses (e.g., 62% at high risk of bias, reliance primarily on cross-  
5 sectional designs and uncontrolled studies, subjective measurement of exposures and outcomes, small  
6 sample sizes, inclusion of predominantly male physicians within urban settings) and heterogeneous  
7 outcome measures in the included studies. Given that the 2017 update search was limited to one  
8 database, it is possible that a small number of relevant studies could have been missed. We believe that  
9 the likelihood that these might alter the conclusions of the review is low. The findings may have been  
10 influenced by publication bias, and may not be generalized to all settings, given our restriction to high  
11 income countries.  
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## 20 **CONCLUSION**

21 The evidence synthesized in this review suggests that fatigue and insufficient sleep are associated with  
22 some detrimental physician health and wellbeing outcomes; the evidence for potential associations with  
23 performance and safety outcomes was mixed. Meta-analyses for patient outcomes demonstrated that  
24 in many cases, potential relationships with physician sleep deprivation remain unclear. Our overall  
25 confidence in the findings is low, owing to a body of research that is hindered by methodological  
26 weaknesses. Further methodologically robust research that includes consistent outcomes that are of  
27 interest to physicians and their patients is needed to inform strong practice recommendations and  
28 policy decisions.  
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## 37 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

38 We would like to thank Dr. Meghan Sebastianski and Andrea Milne for assistance with screening, and Dr.  
39 Allison Gates for screening, data verification, and quality assessment of the French studies.  
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### 8 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

9  
10 All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf) and  
11 declare: Dr. Christopher Simon is employed by the Canadian Medical Association, who provided financial  
12 support for the research; there are no other relationships or activities that could appear to have  
13 influenced the submitted work.  
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### 17 **CONTRIBUTOR STATEMENT**

18  
19 All authors contributed to the conception and design of the project. MG and AW contributed to the  
20 acquisition, analysis and interpretation of the data, and drafted the manuscript. RF contributed to  
21 acquisition of data. CSa, CSi and MPD contributed to interpretation of data and revised the manuscript  
22 for important intellectual content. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript as  
23 submitted.  
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### 30 **FUNDING STATEMENT**

31 This research was supported by the Canadian Medical Association. The funder had no role in the study  
32 design; collection, analysis and interpretation of data; the writing of the report; and the decision to  
33 submit the article for publication.  
34  
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### 38 **ROLE OF FUNDERS**

39  
40 Dr. Christopher Simon is employed by the Canadian Medical Association. The remaining authors are  
41 independent from the funders. The funders had no role in the study design; in the collection, analysis,  
42 and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; or in the decision to submit the article for  
43 publication.  
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### 48 **TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION**

49  
50 The lead author (MG) affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the  
51 study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and all discrepancies from  
52 the study as planned have been explained.  
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#### DATA ACCESS STATEMENT

All authors, external and internal, had full access to all of the data in the study and can take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the interpretation.

#### DATA SHARING STATEMENT

The data pertaining to this systematic review are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

#### FIGURE CAPTIONS

**Figure 1.** Flow of records through the selection process

**Figure 2.** Forest plot for operating time among sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

**Figure 3.** Forest plot for post-operative complications among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

**Legend:** Vinden 2013 reported iatrogenic injuries; Schieman 2008, Govindarajan 2015, and Chu 2011 reported post-operative complication rate; Ellman 2004 reported post-operative complications (other types of complications reported not included in the analysis)

**Figure 4.** Forest plot for patient mortality among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

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For peer review only

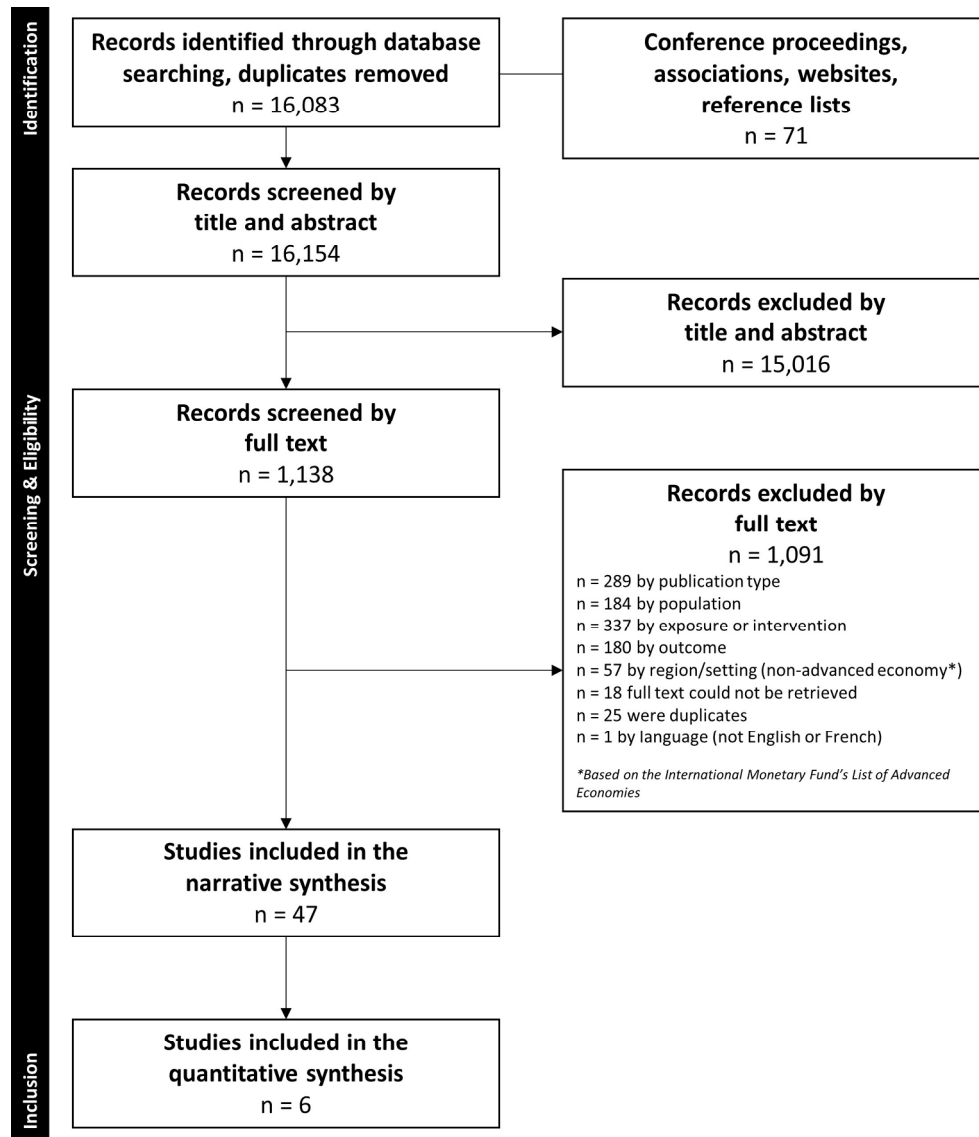


Figure 1. Flow of records through the selection process

190x215mm (300 x 300 DPI)



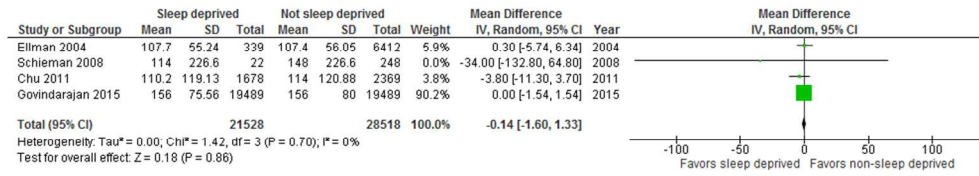


Figure 2. Forest plot for operating time among sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

381x101mm (300 x 300 DPI)

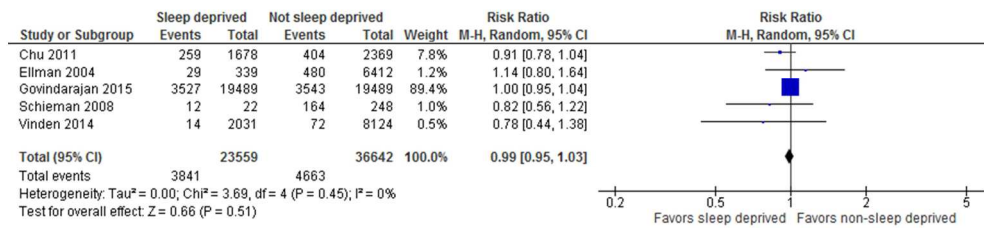


Figure 3. Forest plot for post-operative complications among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

Legend: Vinden 2013 reported iatrogenic injuries; Schieman 2008, Govindarajan 2015, and Chu 2011 reported post-operative complication rate; Ellman 2004 reported post-operative complications (other types of complications reported not included in the analysis)

381x101mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Peer review only

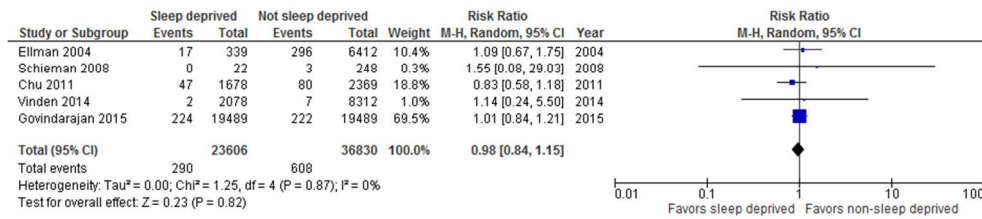


Figure 4. Forest plot for patient mortality among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

381x101mm (300 x 300 DPI)

**Supplementary file 1. Search Strategy****Database:** In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present**Date searched:** 13 April 2016, updated 7 November 2017**Records retrieved:** 5068 and 1442 in the update (removed duplicates retrieved in previous search)

1. Medical Staff, Hospital/
2. Physician Impairment/
3. exp Physicians/
4. allergist\*.ti.
5. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.
6. cardiologist\*.ti.
7. clinician\*.ti.
8. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
9. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
10. dermatologist\*.ti.
11. endocrinologist\*.ti.
12. doctor\*.ti.
13. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
14. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
15. family practitioner\*.ti.
16. gastroenterologist\*.ti.
17. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.
18. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.
19. geriatrician\*.ti.
20. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.

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- 2
- 3 21. h?ematologist\*.ti.
- 4
- 5 22. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
- 6
- 7 23. hospitalist\*.ti.
- 8
- 9 24. (house staff\* or housestaff\*).ti.
- 10
- 11 25. intensivist\*.ti.
- 12
- 13 26. internist\*.ti.
- 14
- 15 27. medical professional\*.ti.
- 16
- 17 28. obstetrician\*.ti.
- 18
- 19 29. oncologist\*.ti.
- 20
- 21 30. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
- 22
- 23 31. orthop?edist\*.ti.
- 24
- 25 32. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
- 26
- 27 33. neonatologist\*.ti.
- 28
- 29 34. nephrologist\*.ti.
- 30
- 31 35. neurologist\*.ti.
- 32
- 33 36. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
- 34
- 35 37. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
- 36
- 37 38. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
- 38
- 39 39. perinatologist\*.ti.
- 40
- 41 40. physician\*.ti.
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- 43 41. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 44 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 45 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
- 46
- 47 42. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or
- 48 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
- 49
- 50 43. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
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- 52 44. psychiatrist\*.ti.
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- 54 45. pulmonologist\*.ti.
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- 56 46. rheumatologist\*.ti.
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- 58 47. surgeon\*.ti.
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- 3 48. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
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- 7
- 8 49. traumatologist\*.ti.
- 9
- 10 50. urologist\*.ti.
- 11
- 12 51. or/1-50 [Combined MeSH, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13 52. Burnout, Professional/
- 14 53. exp Circadian Rhythm/
- 15 54. exp Fatigue/
- 16 55. Occupational Health/
- 17 56. Rest/ph, px [Physiology, Psychology]
- 18 57. Sleep Deprivation/
- 19 58. Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm/
- 20 59. Sleep Wake Disorders/
- 21 60. exp Stress, Psychological/
- 22 61. Workload/px [Psychology]
- 23 62. Work Schedule Tolerance/
- 24 63. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw,kf.
- 25 64. biological rhythm\*.tw,kf.
- 26 65. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw,kf.
- 27 66. circadian misalignment.tw,kf.
- 28 67. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw,kf.
- 29 68. exhaust\*.tw,kf.
- 30 69. fatigu\*.tw,kf.
- 31 70. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw,kf.
- 32 71. tired\*.tw,kf.
- 33 72. weariness.tw,kf.
- 34 73. or/52-72 [Combined MeSH and text words for fatigue]
- 35 74. and/51,73 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
- 36 75. animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
- 37 76. 74 not 75
- 38 77. (comment or editorial or letter).pt.
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3 78. 76 not 77

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5 79. limit 78 to yr="2000-Current"

6  
7 80. limit 79 to (english or french)

8  
9 81. remove duplicates from 80

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11 **Database: Ovid Embase 1996 to 2016 Week 15**

12  
13 **Date searched: 13 April 2016**

14  
15 **Records retrieved: 8859**

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18 1. medical staff/

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20 2. exp physician/

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22 3. allergist\*.ti.

23  
24 4. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.

25  
26 5. cardiologist\*.ti.

27  
28 6. clinician\*.ti.

29  
30 7. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
31 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
32 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

33  
34 8. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
35 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.

36  
37 9. dermatologist\*.ti.

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39 10. endocrinologist\*.ti.

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41 11. doctor\*.ti.

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43 12. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
44 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
45 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

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47 13. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
48 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.

49  
50 14. family practitioner\*.ti.

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52 15. gastroenterologist\*.ti.

53  
54 16. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.

55  
56 17. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.

18. geriatrician\*.ti.
19. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.
20. h?ematologist\*.ti.
21. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
22. hospitalist\*.ti.
23. (house staff\* or housestaff\*).ti.
24. intensivist\*.ti.
25. internist\*.ti.
26. medical professional\*.ti.
27. obstetrician\*.ti.
28. oncologist\*.ti.
29. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
30. orthop?edist\*.ti.
31. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
32. neonatologist\*.ti.
33. nephrologist\*.ti.
34. neurologist\*.ti.
35. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
36. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
37. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
38. perinatologist\*.ti.
39. physician\*.ti.
40. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
41. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.
42. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
43. psychiatrist\*.ti.
44. pulmonologist\*.ti.
45. rheumatologist\*.ti.
46. surgeon\*.ti.



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- 3 47. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
- 6
- 7
- 8 48. traumatologist\*.ti.
- 9
- 10 49. urologist\*.ti.
- 11
- 12 50. or/1-49 [Combined Emtree, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13
- 14 51. burnout/
- 15
- 16 52. circadian rhythm/
- 17
- 18 53. circadian rhythm sleep disorder/
- 19
- 20 54. fatigue/
- 21
- 22 55. mental stress/
- 23
- 24 56. occupational health/
- 25
- 26 57. sleep deprivation/
- 27
- 28 58. sleep waking cycle/
- 29
- 30 59. work capacity/
- 31
- 32 60. work schedule/
- 33
- 34 61. working time/
- 35
- 36 62. workload/
- 37
- 38 63. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw.
- 39
- 40 64. biological rhythm\*.tw.
- 41
- 42 65. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw.
- 43
- 44 66. circadian misalignment.tw.
- 45
- 46 67. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw.
- 47
- 48 68. exhaust\*.tw.
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- 50 69. fatigu\*.tw.
- 51
- 52 70. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw.
- 53
- 54 71. tired\*.tw.
- 55
- 56 72. weariness.tw.
- 57
- 58 73. or/51-72 [Combined Emtree and text words for fatigue]
- 59
- 60 74. and/50,73 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
75. animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
76. 74 not 75

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3 77. (conference\* or editorial or letter or proceeding).pt.  
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6 79. limit 78 to yr="2000-Current"  
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8 80. limit 79 to (english or french)  
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13 **Database: Ovid PsycINFO 1987 to April Week 1 2016**

14 **Date searched:** 13 April 2016

15 **Records retrieved:** 2094  
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20 1. exp Physicians/  
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22 2. allergist\*.ti.  
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24 3. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.  
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26 4. cardiologist\*.ti.  
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28 5. clinician\*.ti.  
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30 6. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
31 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
32 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

33 7. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
34 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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36 8. dermatologist\*.ti.  
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38 9. endocrinologist\*.ti.  
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40 10. doctor\*.ti.  
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42 11. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
43 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
44 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.  
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46 12. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
47 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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49 13. family practitioner\*.ti.  
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51 14. gastroenterologist\*.ti.  
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53 15. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.  
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55 16. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.  
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17. geriatrician\*.ti.
18. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.
19. h?ematologist\*.ti.
20. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
21. hospitalist\*.ti.
22. intensivist\*.ti.
23. internist\*.ti.
24. medical professional\*.ti.
25. obstetrician\*.ti.
26. oncologist\*.ti.
27. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
28. orthop?edist\*.ti.
29. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
30. neonatologist\*.ti.
31. nephrologist\*.ti.
32. neurologist\*.ti.
33. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
34. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
35. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
36. perinatologist\*.ti.
37. physician\*.ti.
38. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
39. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.
40. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
41. psychiatrist\*.ti.
42. pulmonologist\*.ti.
43. rheumatologist\*.ti.
44. surgeon\*.ti.

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4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.  
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8 46. traumatologist\*.ti.  
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10 47. urologist\*.ti.  
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12 48. or/1-47 [Combined thesaurus, title, and text word searches for physicians]  
13  
14 49. Compassion Fatigue/  
15 50. Fatigue/  
16 51. Human Biological Rhythms/  
17 52. Occupational Health/  
18 53. Occupational Stress/  
19 54. Sleep/  
20 55. Sleepiness/  
21 56. Working Conditions/  
22 57. Work Rest Cycles/  
23 58. Work Week Length/  
24 59. Work Scheduling/  
25 60. Workday Shifts/  
26  
27 61. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw.  
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29 62. biological rhythm\*.tw.  
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31 63. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw.  
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33 64. circadian misalignment.tw.  
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35 65. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw.  
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37 66. exhaust\*.tw.  
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39 67. fatigu\*.tw.  
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41 68. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw.  
42  
43 69. tired\*.tw.  
44  
45 70. weariness.tw.  
46  
47 71. or/49-70 [Combined thesaurus and text words for fatigue]  
48  
49 72. and/48,71 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]  
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51 73. limit 72 to yr="2000-Current"  
52  
53 74. limit 73 to (english or french)  
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3 **Database: CINAHL Plus with Full Text (1937 to the present) via EBSCOhost**

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5 **Date searched:** 14 April 2016

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7 **Records retrieved:** 3378

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10 S1. (MH "Medical Staff, Hospital+")

11 S2. (MH "Physicians+")

12 S3. TI allertist\*

13 S4. TI (anesthetist\* or anaesthetist\* or anesthesiologist\* or anaesthesiologist\*)

14 S5. TI cardiologist\*

15 S6. TI clinician\*

16 S7. clinician\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
17 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
18 "work\* hour\*" or "work life balance")

19 S8. clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
20 suburb\* or urban\*)

21 S9. TI dermatologist\*

22 S10. TI endocrinologist\*

23 S11. TI doctor\*

24 S12. doctor\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue or  
25 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
26 work\* hour\* or "work life balance")

27 S13. doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
28 suburb\* or urban\*)

29 S14. TI "family practitioner\*"

30 S15. TI gastroenterologist\*

31 S16. TI ("general practitioner\*" or GP\*)

32 S17. TI (general N2 physician\*)

33 S18. TI geriatrician\*

34 S19. TI (gynaecologist\* or gynecologist\*)

35 S20. TI (haematologist\* or hematologist\*)

36 S21. TI hospitalist\*

37 S22. TI ("house staff\*" or housestaff\*)

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3 S23. TI intensivist\*  
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5 S24. TI internist\*  
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7 S25. TI obstetrician\*  
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9 S26. TI oncologist\*  
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11 S27. TI ophthalmologist\*  
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13 S28. TI (orthopaedist\* or orthopedist\*)  
14  
15 S29. TI (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*)  
16  
17 S30. TI neonatologist\*  
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19 S31. TI nephrologist\*  
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21 S32. TI neurologist\*  
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23 S33. TI neuropsychiatrist\*  
24  
25 S34. TI neurosurgeon\*  
26  
27 S35. TI (paediatrician\* OR pediatrician\*)  
28  
29 S36. TI perinatologist\*  
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31 S37. TI physician\*  
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33 S38. physician\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
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35 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
36  
37 "work\* hour\*" or "work life balance")  
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39 S39. physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\*  
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41 or suburb\* or urban\*)  
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43 S40. TI "primary care practitioner\*"  
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45 S41. TI psychiatrist\*  
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47 S42. TI pulmonologist\*  
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49 S43. TI rheumatologist\*  
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51 S44. TI surgeon\*  
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53 S45. surgeon\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
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55 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
56  
57 work\* hour\* or "work life balance")  
58  
59 S46. TI traumatologist\*  
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61 S47. TI urologist\*  
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63 S48. S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR  
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65 S15 OR S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27 OR S28  
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3 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR  
4 S42 OR S43 OR S44 OR S45 OR S46 OR S47  
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6 S49. (MH "Circadian Rhythm")  
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8 S50. (MH "Fatigue")  
9  
10 S51. (MH "Impairment, Health Professional")  
11  
12 S52. (MH "Mental Fatigue")  
13  
14 S53. (MH "Occupational Health")  
15  
16 S54. (MH "Shiftwork")  
17  
18 S55. (MH "Sleep Deprivation")  
19  
20 S56. (MH "Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm")  
21  
22 S57. (MH "Sleep-Wake Transition Disorders")  
23  
24 S58. (MH "Stress, Occupational+")  
25  
26 S59. (MH "Stress, Psychological")  
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28 S60. ("24 hour\*" or "24 hr\*" or "twenty four hour\*" or "twentyfour hour\*") N1 rhythm\*  
29  
30 S61. "biological rhythm\*"  
31  
32 S62. "burn out\*" or "burned out\*" or "burnt out\*" or burnout\*  
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34 S63. "circadian misalignment"  
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36 S64. (circadian or diurnam or ultradian) N1 rhythm\*  
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38 S65. exhaust\*  
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40 S66. fatigu\*  
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42 S67. sleep\* N3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)  
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44 S68. tired\*  
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46 S69. weariness  
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48 S70. S49 OR S50 OR S51 OR S52 OR S53 OR S54 OR S55 OR S56 OR S57 OR S58 OR S59 OR S60 OR S61 OR  
49 S62 OR S63 OR S64 OR S65 OR S66 OR S67 OR S68 OR S69  
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51 S71. S48 AND S70  
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53 S72. S48 AND S70 Limiters - Published Date: 20000101-20161231; Publication Type: Clinical Trial, Journal  
54 Article, Meta Analysis, Meta Synthesis, Practice Guidelines, Randomized Controlled Trial, Research,  
55 Review, Systematic Review; Language: English, French  
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3 **Database: PubMed via NCBI Entrez**

4 **Date searched:** 14 April 2016

5 **Records retrieved:** 92

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10 (((("Medical Staff, Hospital"[mh:noexp] OR "Physician Impairment"[mh:noexp] OR "Physicians"[mh] OR  
11 allergist[ti] OR allergists[ti] OR anaesthetist[ti] OR anaesthetists[ti] OR anaesthesiologist[ti] OR  
12 anaesthesiologists[ti] OR anesthetist[ti] OR anesthetists[ti] OR anesthesiologist[ti] OR  
13 anesthesiologists[ti] OR cardiologist[ti] OR cardiologists[ti] OR clinician[ti] OR clinicians[ti] OR  
14 ((clinician[tiab] OR clinicians[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR  
15 absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR  
16 burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR  
17 distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR  
18 fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR  
19 impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR  
20 satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR  
21 wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life  
22 balance"[tiab])) OR ((clinician[tiab] OR clinicians[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR community[tiab]  
23 OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR north[tiab] OR  
24 northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR suburban[tiab] OR  
25 urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR dermatologist[ti] OR dermatologists[ti] OR endocrinologist[ti] OR  
26 endocrinologists[ti] OR doctor[ti] OR doctors[ti] OR ((doctor[tiab] OR doctors[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab]  
27 OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn  
28 out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab]  
29 OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR  
30 "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab]  
31 OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR  
32 resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab]  
33 OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working  
34 hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR ((doctor[tiab] OR doctors[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR  
35 city[tiab] OR community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR  
36 frontier[tiab] OR north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR  
37 suburbs[tiab] OR suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR "family practitioner"[ti] OR  
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3 "family practitioners"[ti] OR gastroenterologist[ti] OR gastroenterologists[ti] OR "general practice  
4 physician"[ti] OR "general practice physicians"[ti] OR "general practitioner"[ti] OR "general  
5 practitioners"[ti] OR geriatrician[ti] OR geriatricians[ti] OR gynaecologist[ti] OR gynaecologists[ti] OR  
6 gynecologist[ti] OR gynecologists[ti] OR haematologist[ti] OR haematologists[ti] OR hematologist[ti] OR  
7 hematologists[ti] OR "health care professional"[ti] OR "health care professionals"[ti] AND "health care  
8 provider"[ti] OR "health care providers" OR "health professional"[ti] OR "health professionals"[ti] OR  
9 "health provider"[ti] OR "health providers"[ti] OR "healthcare professional"[ti] OR "healthcare  
10 professionals"[ti] OR "healthcare provider"[ti] OR "healthcare providers"[ti] OR hospitalist[ti] OR  
11 hospitalists[ti] OR "house staff"[ti] OR "house staffs"[ti] OR housestaff[ti] OR housestaffs[ti] OR  
12 intensivist[ti] OR intensivists[ti] OR internist[ti] OR internists[ti] OR "medical professional"[ti] OR  
13 "medical professionals"[ti] OR obstetrician[ti] OR obstetricians[ti] OR oncologist[ti] OR oncologists[ti] OR  
14 ophthalmologist[ti] OR ophthalmologists[ti] OR orthopaedist[ti] OR orthopaedists[ti] OR orthopedist[ti]  
15 OR orthopedists[ti] OR otolaryngologist[ti] OR otolaryngologists[ti] OR otorhinolaryngologist[ti] OR  
16 otorhinolaryngologists[ti] OR neonatologist[ti] OR neonatologists[ti] OR nephrologist[ti] OR  
17 nephrologists[ti] OR neurologist[ti] OR neurologists[ti] OR neuropsychiatrist[ti] OR neuropsychiatrists[ti]  
18 OR neurosurgeon[ti] OR neurosurgeons[ti] OR paediatrician[ti] OR paediatricians[ti] OR pediatrician[ti]  
19 OR pediatricians[ti] OR perinatologist[ti] OR perinatologists[ti] OR physician[ti] OR physicians[ti] OR  
20 ((physician[tiab] OR physicians[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR  
21 absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR  
22 burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR  
23 distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR  
24 fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR  
25 impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR  
26 satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR  
27 wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life  
28 balance"[tiab])) OR ((physician[tiab] OR physicians[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR  
29 community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR  
30 north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR  
31 suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR "primary care practitioner"[ti] OR "primary care  
32 practitioners"[ti] OR psychiatrist[ti] OR psychiatrists[ti] OR pulmonologist[ti] OR pulmonologists[ti] OR  
33 rheumatologist[ti] OR rheumatologists[ti] OR surgeon[ti] OR surgeons[ti] OR ((surgeon[tiab] OR  
34 surgeons[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR  
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 4 "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR  
 5 distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR  
 6 fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR  
 7 impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR  
 8 sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR  
 9 wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR  
 10 traumatologist[ti] OR traumatologists[ti] OR urologist[ti] OR urologists[ti] AND ("Burnout,  
 11 Professional"[mh:noexp] OR "Circadian Rhythm"[mh] OR "Fatigue"[mh] OR "Occupational  
 12 Health"[mh:noexp] OR "Rest/physiology"[mh:noexp] OR "Rest/psychology"[mh:noexp] OR "Sleep  
 13 Deprivation"[mh:noexp] OR "Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm"[mh:noexp] OR "Stress,  
 14 Psychological"[mh] OR "Workload/psychology"[mh] OR "Work Schedule Tolerance"[mh:noexp] OR "24  
 15 hour rhythm"[tiab] OR "24 hour rhythms"[tiab] OR "24 hr rhythm"[tiab] OR "24 hr rhythms"[tiab] OR  
 16 alertness[tiab] OR "biological rhythm"[tiab] OR "biological rhythms"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR  
 17 "burned out"[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR "circadian misalignment"[tiab] OR  
 18 "circadian rhythm"[tiab] OR "circadian rhythms"[tiab] OR "diurnal rhythm"[tiab] OR "diurnal  
 19 rhythms"[tiab] OR exhausted[tiab] OR exhaustion[tiab] OR exhausting[tiab] OR exhausts[tiab] OR  
 20 fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR ("Sleep"[mh:noexp] OR  
 21 sleep[tiab] OR sleeping[tiab]) AND (deprivation[tiab] OR deprive[tiab] OR deprived[tiab] OR  
 22 deprives[tiab] OR depriving[tiab] OR disorder[tiab] OR disorders[tiab] OR lack[tiab] OR lacked[tiab] OR  
 23 lacking[tiab] OR lacks[tiab] OR loss[tiab] AND insufficient[tiab] OR problem[tiab] OR problems[tiab])) OR  
 24 tired[tiab] OR tiredness[tiab] OR "twenty four hour rhythm"[tiab] OR "twenty four hour rhythms"[tiab]  
 25 OR weariness[tiab] OR "ultradian rhythm"[tiab] OR "ultradian rhythms"[tiab])) NOT (((Animals[MESH]  
 26 OR Animal Experimentation[MESH] OR "Models, Animal"[MESH] OR Vertebrates[MESH]) NOT  
 27 (Humans[MESH] OR Human experimentation[MESH])) OR (((animals[tiab] OR animal model[tiab] OR  
 28 rat[tiab] OR rats[tiab] OR mouse[tiab] OR mice[tiab] OR rabbit[tiab] OR rabbits[tiab] OR pig[tiab] OR  
 29 pigs[tiab] OR porcine[tiab] OR swine[tiab] OR dog[tiab] OR dogs[tiab] OR hamster[tiab] OR  
 30 hamsters[tiab] OR chicken[tiab] OR chickens[tiab] OR sheep[tiab]) AND (publisher[ti] OR inprocess[ti]  
 31 OR pubmednotmedline[ti])) NOT (human[ti] OR humans[ti] OR people[ti] OR children[ti] OR adults[ti]  
 32 OR seniors[ti] OR patient[ti] OR patients[ti])))) NOT (editorial[pt] OR comment[pt] OR letter[pt] OR  
 33 newspaper article[pt])) AND ((publisher[ti] NOT pubstatusnihms NOT pubstatuspmcsd NOT pmcbook)  
 34 OR (pubstatUSheadofprint))

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Filters activated: Publication date from 2000/01/01 to 2016/12/31, English, French.

For peer review only

**Supplementary table 1.** Descriptive characteristics of the included studies

| Study<br>Country                               | Physician and patient characteristics                           |                                    |  |  | Setting  |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------|---|---|
|  | Type  | n=                                 | Sex (% male)   | Age  | Location   | Urban<br>or<br>rural |   |   |
| <b>Observational (exposure) studies (n=45)</b> |   |                                    |  |  |  |                      |   |   |
| <b>Cohort design</b>                           |   |                                    |  |  |  |                      |   |   |
| Chu, 2011 [32]<br>Canada                       | Surgeons  | 6                                  | NR   | Range: 32-55y  | Tertiary care academic<br>hospital   | Urban                | Insufficient sleep due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding surgery               | Length of surgery; patient<br>postoperative mortality,<br>complications, length of<br>stay                        |
|  | Patients: cardiac surgery<br>cases                              | 4,047                              | NR   | NR   |  |                      |   |   |
| Ellman, 2004 [41]<br>US                        | Surgeons  | NR                                 | NR   | NR   | University hospitals   | Urban                | Insufficient sleep due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding surgery               | Length of surgery; patient<br>complications, in-hospital<br>mortality, length of stay,<br>need for blood products |
|  | Patients: adult cardiac<br>surgery cases                        | 6,751                              | 70%  | S: 63.4±0.7y<br>C: 63.5±0.1y   |  |                      |   |   |
| Govindarajan,<br>2015 [31]<br>Canada           | Surgeons  | 1,448                              | NR   | 46.3±8.7   | Academic and non-<br>academic hospitals  | Mixed                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding a daytime<br>surgery   | Length of surgery; Patient<br>complications, mortality,<br>readmissions, length of<br>stay                        |
|  | Patients: surgical cases  | 38,978                             | NR   | 56.4±16.6y   |  |                      |   |   |
| Rothschild, 2009<br>[58]<br>US                 | Surgeons<br>Obstetrician/gynecologists                          | 220                                | Surgeons:<br>84%<br>OB/GYNs:<br>28%                    | Surgeons:<br>42.0±7.6y<br>OB/GYNs:<br>42.0±9.0y                                    | Tertiary care academic<br>trauma centre/referral<br>centre for high-risk<br>obstetrics | Urban                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding a daytime<br>procedure | Patient complications,<br>preventable<br>complications  |
|  | Patients: surgical and<br>obstetrics cases                      | Surg.:<br>4,471<br>Obst.:<br>4,902 | Surg.:<br>S: 25%<br>C: 28%<br>Obst.:<br>S: 0%<br>C: 0% | Surg.:<br>S: 49.1±16.3y<br>C: 50.0±16.3y<br>Obst.:<br>S: 32.9±5.2y<br>C: 33.5±5.0y |  |                      |   |   |
|  |   |                                    |  |  |  |                      |   |   |
| Schieman, 2007<br>[63]<br>Canada               | Colorectal surgeons   | NR                                 | NR   | NR   | University teaching<br>hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue due to work<br>on the night preceding<br>surgery                          | Length of surgery; patient<br>operative complications,<br>length of stay, mortality,<br>cancer recurrence         |
|  | Patients: undergoing<br>anterior resection for rectal<br>cancer | 270                                | NR   | S: 64.5y<br>C: 64.4y   |  |                      |   |   |

| Study<br>Country                     | Physician and patient characteristics                       |               |                         |   | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures  | Outcomes   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|-------------------------|---|---|----------------------|--|--|
|                                      | Type  | n=            | Sex (% male)            | Age   | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |  |  |
| Vinden, 2014 [77]<br>Canada          | General surgeons<br>Patients: Elective<br>cholecystectomies | 331<br>10,390 | 83%<br>S: 27%<br>C: 26% | 48±10y<br>S: 49±16y<br>C: 49±16y                      | Community hospitals   | Mixed                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to overnight work<br>preceding daytime<br>surgery | Patient mortality,<br>operative complications                                    |
| <b>Before-after design</b>           |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Amirian, 2014 [34]<br>Denmark        | Surgeons  | 29            | 55%                     | Median: 35y<br>Range: 27-49y                          | Academic hospital   | Urban                | 17-h night shift with<br>sleep deprivation                                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities on<br>a laparoscopic simulation           |
| Gerdes, 2008 [45]<br>US              | Surgeons  | 9             | NR                      | NR  | University Hospital   | Urban                | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation from<br>overnight call shift                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities   |
| Lederer, 2006 [50]<br>Austria        | Senior anesthesiologists                                    | 11            | 82%                     | 49.0±2.0y   | Hospital  | Urban                | Sleep deprivation<br>from 24-h call shift                                  | Concentration ability;<br>reaction time;<br>performance on<br>psychometric tasks |
| <b>Time series design</b>            |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Leichtfried, 2011<br>[51]<br>Austria | Anesthesiologists   | 10            | 100%                    | Mean: 32y<br>Range: 29-35y                            | University Hospital   | Urban                | Sleep deprivation<br>from 24-h shift;<br>sleepiness, sleep<br>hours        | Melatonin metabolite<br>profile  |
| <b>Cross-sectional design</b>        |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Aziz, 2004 [35]<br>US                | Family medicine physicians<br>Various specialties           | 153           | NR                      | NR  | Hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue  | Stress   |
| Beaujouan, 2005<br>[36]<br>France    | Anesthesiologists   | 3,476         | 64%                     | ≤35y: 9%<br>36-45y: 28%<br>46-55y: 49%<br>56-65y: 13% | Public sector<br>General hospitals<br>University hospitals<br>Private hospitals | NR                   | Sleep deprivation  | Substance abuse  |
| Chang, 2013 [37]<br>US               | Anesthesiologists   | 11            | 64%                     | Mean: 38y<br>IQR: 34-48y                              | Level 1 trauma centre   | NR                   | Sleep deprivation due<br>to 15-h overnight call<br>shift; sleepiness       | Cognitive performance;<br>reaction time  |

| Study<br>Country                   | Physician and patient characteristics  |       |              | Setting   |   | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|-------|--------------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
|                                    | Type   | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location  |                               |   | Urban<br>or<br>rural   |
| Chen, 2008 [38]<br>US              | Psychiatrists<br>Internists<br>General practitioners<br>Surgeons<br>Obstetrician-gynecologists<br>Radiologists<br>Pediatricians<br>Other | 180   | 77%          | Academic:<br>79% 36-55y<br>Private<br>practice:<br>73% 36-65y | Medical school<br>Private practices   | Urban                         | Sleep deprivation;<br>sleepiness            | Impact on personal and<br>professional life;<br>perceived risk of errors |
| Doppia, 2011 [39]<br>France        | Anesthesiologists  | 565   | 64%          | <35y: 11%<br>35-54y: 63%<br>>55y: 25%                         | Public hospitals<br>Private hospitals<br>Work-health<br>environments<br>Public health units | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                           | Burnout  |
| Elovaino, 2015<br>[42]<br>Finland  | Physicians in various<br>specialties   | 1,524 | 40%          | Median: 49.7y<br>Range: 24-69y                                | Hospitals<br>Primary care<br>Private practice<br>Other unspecified                          | NR                            | Sleep difficulties                          | Job demands and control  |
| Gander, 2000 [43]<br>New Zealand   | Anesthetists   | 183   | NR           | Mean: 46y   | Combined<br>public/private practice<br>Other unspecified                                    | NR                            | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance           | Risk of fatigue-related<br>errors  |
| Harbeck, 2015 [46]<br>Germany      | Internists   | 20    | 45%          | Median: 32y<br>Range: 26-42y                                  | Hospital  | NR                            | Sleep disturbance due<br>to a 24-call shift | Biochemical and<br>physiological parameters;<br>neurocognitive function  |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br>[47]<br>Finland | Physicians in various<br>specialties<br>Non-specialized physicians   | 1,541 | 40%          | 49.80±9.49y,<br>Range: 24-67y                                 | Hospitals<br>Primary care clinic<br>Private practice<br>Other unspecified                   | NR                            | Sleep difficulties                          | Job satisfaction; work<br>ability; psychological<br>distress             |

| Study<br>Country                | Physician and patient characteristics  |                             |              |  | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures                   | Outcomes                    |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|--|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|                                 | Type   | n=                          | Sex (% male) | Age  | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |   |                             |
| Jackson, 2017 [48]<br>US        | Surgeons in various<br>subspecialties  | 993                         | 61%          | More; less<br>satisfied:<br>30-39y:<br>23%;24%<br>40-49y:<br>32%;36%<br>50-59y:<br>23%;27%<br>≥60y:<br>23%;14% | Academic practice<br>Non-academic practice                                  | NR                   | Not feeling well rested                         | Job satisfaction            |
| Kanieta, 2011 [49]<br>Japan     | Internists<br>Surgeons<br>Orthopedics<br>Pediatricians<br>Obstetrician-gynecologists<br>Psychiatrists<br>Dermatologists<br>Urologists<br>Ophthalmologists<br>Otorhinolaryngologists<br>Other | 3,486                       | 66%          | 20-39y: 11%<br>40-49y: 25%<br>50-59y: 28%<br>60-69y: 16%<br>≥70y: 21%  | Hospitals<br>Clinics<br>Other unspecified                                   | NR                   | Sleep deprivation and<br>difficulties; insomnia | Medical incidents           |
| Lindfors, 2006 [52]<br>Finland  | Anesthetists   | 328                         | 53%          | 47±7.8y<br>Range: 32-69y   | University hospitals<br>Central and district<br>hospitals<br>Private sector | NR                   | Sleep disturbances;<br>sleepiness               | Stress; suicidal tendencies |
| Mahmood, 2016<br>[53]<br>Norway | Generalists<br>Internists<br>Pediatricians<br>Surgical specialties<br>Anesthesiologists  | 450<br>(all time<br>points) | 41%          | 43y±2.8y   | Public health system<br>Private practice                                    | NR                   | Sleep deprivation due<br>to on-call shifts      | Alcohol misuse              |

| Study<br>Country              | Physician and patient characteristics                |       |              | Setting  |  | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes   |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|--------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
|                               | Type   | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age  | Location   |                               |  |
| Nishimura, 2014 [54]<br>Japan | Neurosurgeons and neurologists                       | 2,564 | NR           | NR   | Stroke care centres<br>Teaching hospitals  | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Burnout   |
| Pit, 2014 [55]<br>Australia   | General practitioners                                | 92    | 60%          | 50±10.7y   | NR   | Rural                         | Work-related sleep disturbance<br>Early retirement intentions              |
| Pit, 2016 [56]<br>Australia   | General practitioners                                | 92    | 60%          | 50±10.7y   | Private (solo) practice<br>Group practice  | Rural                         | Work-related sleep disturbance<br>Sickness presenteeism                    |
| Roberts, 2014 [57]<br>US      | General internists<br>Internal medicine hospitalists | 578   | 58%          | Hospitalists:<br>46.9±12.4y<br>Generalists:<br>53.6±10.2y  | Private practice<br>Academic medical centre<br>Veterans hospital<br>Military practice<br>Other | NR                            | Fatigue<br>Falling asleep while driving                                    |
| Saadat, 2016 [60]<br>US       | Anesthesiologists                                    | 21    | 71%          | 30-40y: 57%<br>41-50y: 19%<br>51-55y: 24%<br>Range: 32-56y | Tertiary care academic children's hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 17-h night call shift<br>Mood disturbances        |
| Saadat, 2017 [59]<br>US       | Anesthesiologists                                    | 21    | 65%          | Range: 32-56 years   | Tertiary care academic children's hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 17-h night call shift<br>Reaction time            |
| Sanches, 2015 [61]<br>Spain   | Emergency medicine physicians                        | 18    | 28%          | 29.2±2.6y  | Central hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Cognitive and psychomotor abilities                   |
| Sargent, 2009 [62]<br>US      | Orthopedic surgeons                                  | 264   | 92%          | NR   | Orthopedic surgery training programs   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation<br>Burnout; psychological distress; marital satisfaction |
| Sende, 2012 [64]<br>France    | Emergency physicians                                 | 318   | 62%          | 39±8y  | Hospitals<br>Mobile emergency services<br>Other unspecified                                    | NR                            | Fatigue; sleep deprivation<br>Stress                                       |



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| Study<br>Country                                 | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              | Setting                           |   | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                      |  |
|--|---|-------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|  | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age                               | Location  |                               |                               | Urban<br>or<br>rural                     |
| Sexton, 2001 [65]<br>US                          | Consulting physicians:<br>Surgeons<br>Anesthesiologists<br>Pulmonary physicians<br>Cardiologists<br>Pediatricians | 271   | NR           | NR                                | Teaching and non-<br>teaching hospitals   | Urban                         | Fatigue                       | Perceived performance<br>effectiveness   |
| Shanafelt, 2005<br>[67]<br>US, Canada,<br>Mexico | Oncologists   | 241   | 85%          | >50y: 51%                         | Community clinics<br>Hospitals<br>Private practice<br>Academic medical<br>centres   | NR                            | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation | Quality of life/well-being               |
| Shanafelt, 2010<br>[66]<br>US                    | Surgeons  | 7,905 | 87%          | Median: 51y<br>Q1: 43y<br>Q2: 59y | Private practice<br>Academic medical<br>centres Veterans<br>hospital<br>Active military practice<br>Retired or not in<br>practice Other | NR                            | Fatigue                       | Perceived major medical<br>errors        |
| Shanafelt, 2014<br>[68]<br>US                    | Oncologists   | 1,117 | 52%          | Median: 52y                       | Private practice<br>Academic practice<br>Veteran's hospital<br>Industry, other  | NR                            | Fatigue                       | Satisfaction with work-life<br>balance   |
| Shirom, 2006 [69]<br>Israel                      | Ophthalmologists<br>Dermatologists<br>Otolaryngologists<br>Gynecologists<br>General surgeons<br>Cardiologists     | 890   | 80%          | Median: 52y<br>SD: 7.2y           | Community clinics<br>Acute care hospital<br>outpatient clinics  | NR                            | Physical fatigue              | Perception of quality of<br>patient care |

| Study<br>Country                  | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              | Setting                            |  | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                                |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
|                                   | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age                                | Location   |                               |   | Urban<br>or<br>rural   |
| Shirom, 2010 [70]<br>Israel       | Ophthalmologists<br>Dermatologists<br>Otolaryngologists<br>Gynecologists<br>General surgeons<br>Cardiologists   | 890   | 80%          | Median: 52y<br>SD: 7.2y            | Community clinics<br>Acute care hospital<br>outpatient clinics | NR                            | Physical fatigue                        | Burnout  |
| Smith, 2017 [71]<br>UK            | General practitioners<br>Surgeons<br>Other unspecified<br>specialties   | 3,550 | 63%          | NR                                 | NR (varied)  | NR                            | Perceived fatigue,<br>sleep deprivation | Physical and mental<br>health; competence  |
| Starmer, 2016 [72]<br>US          | General pediatricians<br>Pediatric surgeons<br>Pediatric hospitalists<br>Pediatric specialists<br>(unspecified) | 840   | 40%          | NR                                 | NR (some in private<br>practice)                               | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                       | Burnout; balanced<br>personal and professional<br>commitments; life and<br>career satisfaction |
| Tanti, 2017 [73]<br>Malta         | Physicians (unspecified)  | 204   | 62%          | Median: 41y                        | Hospitals<br>Community<br>Office-based                         | NR                            | Fatigue                                 | Prescribing errors   |
| Tokuda, 2009 [74]<br>Japan        | Hospital physicians:<br>Generalists<br>Other unspecified<br>specialties   | 236   | 75%          | 40.9±7.8y<br>Range: 26-76y         | Hospitals with ≥20<br>inpatient beds                           | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                       | Burnout; job satisfaction  |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008<br>[76]<br>Spain | Primary care physicians   | 113   | 27%          | 41.4±8.0y                          | Primary care centres   | Urban                         | Sleep problems,<br>insomnia             | Burnout  |
| Wada, 2010 [78]<br>Japan          | Physicians (unspecified)  | 3,862 | 78%          | M: 75% 30-<br>59y<br>F: 85% 30-59y | Hospitals  | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                       | Depressive symptoms  |

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| Study<br>Country                    | Physician and patient characteristics   |    |              | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes   |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|--------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|                                     | Type  | n= | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location             |                               |  |
| <b>Non-comparative design</b>       |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |
| Gander, 2008 [43]<br>New Zealand    | Anesthetists  | 20 | 85%          | Median: 44y   | Hospitals            | Urban                         | Sleep disturbance from consecutive working days or on-call work<br><br>Psychomotor performance                               |
| <b>Intervention studies (n=2)</b>   |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |
| <b>Randomized controlled trials</b> |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |
| Dutheil, 2013 [40]<br>France        | Emergency physicians  | 17 | 35%          | 39.1y±6.9y  | University hospital  | Urban                         | Fatigue related to 14-h and 24-h shifts; sleep deprivation; low sleep quality;<br><br>Perceived stress; urine interleukine-8 |
| Uchal, 2005 [75]<br>Norway          | Surgeons<br>Gynecologists<br>Orthopedic surgeons<br>Urologists<br>Vascular surgeons | 64 | 67%          | Median:<br>Post-call:<br>33.0y<br>Post-work:<br>38.0y | Government hospitals | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 24-h call shift<br><br>Product quality, procedure effectiveness of a surgical simulation            |

C: control group; F: female; h: hour(s); IQR: interquartile range; M: male; NR: not reported; S: study group; SD: standard deviation; Surg: surgical; Obst: obstetric; Q: quartile; UK: United Kingdom; US: United States of America; y: year(s)

### Supplementary file 3. Risk of bias assessments

Summary of risk of bias assessments for randomized controlled trials (n=2)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author,<br>Year | Random<br>sequence<br>generation | Allocation<br>concealment | Blinding of<br>participants<br>and<br>personnel | Blinding of<br>outcome<br>assessment | Incomplete<br>outcome<br>data | Selective<br>reporting | Other<br>sources of<br>bias | Overall risk<br>of bias <sup>b</sup> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dutheil, 2013         | Low                              | Unclear                   | High  | High                                 | Low                           | Low                    | High                        | High                                 |
| Uchal, 2005           | Low                              | Low                       | Unclear   | Low                                  | Low                           | Low                    | Low                         | Unclear                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Cochrane Collaboration's Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

Summary of quality assessments for cohort studies (n=6)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author,<br>Year | Selection   |   |   |   |             | Comparability                          |             | Outcome                             |  |   | Total<br>Score <sup>b</sup><br>/9 |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|-------------|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|
|                       | Representa-<br>tiveness of<br>exposed<br>cohort<br>/1 | Selection<br>of non-<br>exposed<br>cohort<br>/1 | Ascertain-<br>ment of<br>exposure<br>/1 | Outcome<br>not<br>present at<br>start<br>/1 | Total<br>/4 | Compara-<br>bility of<br>cohorts<br>/2 | Total<br>/2 | Assess-<br>ment of<br>outcome<br>/1 | Adequate<br>length of<br>follow-up<br>/1 | Adequate<br>follow-up<br>of cohorts<br>/1 |                                   |   |
| Chu, 2011             | 1   | 1   | 0                                       | 1   | 3           | 2                                      | 2           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 8 |
| Ellman, 2004          | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 1                                      | 1           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 8 |
| Govindarajan,<br>2015 | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 2                                      | 2           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 9 |
| Rothschild, 2009      | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 2                                      | 2           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 9 |
| Schieman, 2008        | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 1                                      | 1           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 8 |
| Vinden, 2014          | 1   | 1   | 1                                       | 1   | 4           | 1                                      | 1           | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 3                                 | 8 |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 7 to 9 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 4 to 6 as unclear risk of bias, and 3 or less as high risk of bias

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Summary of risk of bias assessments for before-after studies (n=3)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Random sequence generation <sup>b</sup> | Allocation concealment <sup>b</sup> | Blinding of participants and personnel | Blinding of outcome assessment | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias <sup>c</sup> | Overall risk of bias <sup>d</sup> |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amirian, 2014      | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |
| Gerdes, 2008       | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |
| Lederer, 2006      | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) Review Group’s criteria for before-after studies, adapted from the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Assessed as ‘not applicable’ (NA) when the studies did not include a control group

<sup>c</sup>Assessed as High due to lack of a control group

<sup>d</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

Summary of risk of bias assessments for time series studies (n=1)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Intervention independent of other changes | Intervention effect pre-specified | Intervention unlikely to affect data collection | Allocation concealment <sup>a</sup> | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias <sup>c</sup> | Overall risk of bias <sup>d</sup> |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Leitchfried, 2011  | Low                                       | High                              | Low   | NA                                  | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) Review Group’s criteria for interrupted time series studies, adapted from the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Assessed as not applicable (NA) when the studies did not include a control group

<sup>c</sup>Assessed as High due to lack of a control group

<sup>d</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

Summary of quality assessments for cross-sectional studies (n=34)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Selection                         |  |          | Outcome                     |  |                     |             | Total Score <sup>b</sup><br>/5 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                    | Adequacy of case definition<br>/1 | Representativeness of the sample<br>/1 | Total /2 | Assessment of outcome<br>/1 | Same method of ascertainment for entire sample<br>/1 | Response rate<br>/1 | Total<br>/3 |                                |
| Aziz, 2004         | 0                                 | 0                                      | 0        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 1                              |
| Beaujouan, 2005    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Chang, 2013        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Chen, 2008         | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Doppia, 2011       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Elovaino, 2015     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Gander, 2000       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Harbeck, 2015      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Heponiemi, 2014    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Jackson, 2017      | 0                                 | 0                                      | 0        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 1                              |
| Kanieta, 2011      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Lindfors, 2006     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Mahmood, 2017      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Nishimura, 2014    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Pit, 2014          | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Pit, 2016          | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Roberts, 2014      | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Saadat, 2016       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Saadat, 2017       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2        | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Sanches, 2015      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Sargent, 2009      | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1        | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |

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| First Author, Year | Selection                         |  |             | Outcome                     |  |                     |             | Total Score <sup>b</sup><br>/5 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                    | Adequacy of case definition<br>/1 | Representativeness of the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Assessment of outcome<br>/1 | Same method of ascertainment for entire sample<br>/1 | Response rate<br>/1 | Total<br>/3 |                                |
| Sende, 2010        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Sexton, 2001       | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Shanafelt, 2005    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Shanafelt, 2010    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Shanafelt, 2014    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Shirom, 2006       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Shirom, 2010       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Smith, 2016        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Starmmer, 2016     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Tanti, 2017        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Tokuda, 2009       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008   | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Wada, 2010         | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, adapted for cross-sectional studies

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 4 to 5 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 3 as unclear risk of bias, and 2 or less as high risk of bias. For response rate, ≥50% was used as the criterion to be awarded a star

Summary of quality assessments for non-comparative studies (n=1)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author,<br>Year | Selection                               |  |             | Exposure                          |             | Outcome                        |  |                            | Total<br>Score <sup>b</sup> |             |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
|                       | Adequacy<br>of case<br>definition<br>/1 | Representat-<br>iveness of<br>the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Ascertain-<br>ment of<br>exposure | Total<br>/1 | Assessment<br>of outcome<br>/1 | Same method<br>of assessment<br>for entire<br>sample<br>/1 | Loss to<br>follow-up<br>/1 |                             | Total<br>/3 |
| Gander, 2008          | 1                                       | 1  | 2           | 0                                 | 0           | 0                              | 1  | 1                          | 2                           | 4           |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, adapted by the authors to be suitable to the non-comparative design

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 5 to 6 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 3 to 4 as unclear risk of bias, and 2 or less as high risk of bias



#### Supplementary file 4. Detailed study outcomes

##### Physician health and wellness outcomes and associations with fatigue

| Study                                | Study design | Exposures or interventions  |   | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|
|                                      |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and time points  |   |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                      |              |   |   |   |   |
| Jackson, 2017                        | CS           | Not feeling well rested: self-reported as 'unhealthy'   | 71% healthy, 28% unhealthy in terms of being well rested  | Job satisfaction: Abridged Job in General Scale; grouped into more or less satisfied using the median | Job satisfaction in those more vs. less satisfied: Healthy (well rested): 85% vs. 58%, p<0001; Unhealthy (not well rested): 15% vs. 42%, p<0.001.   |
| RoB: high                            |              | Time points NR  |   | Time points NR  |   |
| Nishimura, 2014                      | CS           | Sleep hours/night: self-reported (continuous)   | Mean±SD sleep: 5.94±1.08h   | Burnout: Japanese MBI (severe: EE >4.0 and either DP >2.6 or PE <4.17)                                | 1) Mean±SD sleep for not burned out vs. mild to moderate vs. severe: 6.07±1.15 vs. 5.88±0.94 vs. 5.63±0.94, p<0.05;<br>2) Association between sleep and burnout (OR (95% CI)): bivariate 0.67 (0.61-0.73), p<0.001; multivariate including work characteristics and mental health: 0.84 (0.75-0.94), p=0.002. |
| RoB: unclear                         |              | Time points NR  |   | Time points NR  |   |
| Sargent, 2009                        | CS           | Sleep deprivation: self-reported on a 4-point scale (none, a little, quite a bit, a lot)                              | 21% none, 48% a little, 23% quite a bit, 8% a lot   | Burnout: MBI (norms NR); Marital satisfaction: RDAS; Psychological morbidity: GHQ-12 score ≥4         | 1) Positive correlation between sleep deprivation and EE, DP, psychological distress, lower marital satisfaction, all p<0.001. No relationship with PA.   |
| RoB: high                            |              | Time points NR  |   | Time points NR  |   |
| <b>Anesthesiologists<sup>a</sup></b> |              |   |   |   |   |
| Lederer, 2006                        | BA           | 24-h shift with on-call duty; Sleep hours and interruptions: self-reported; Tiredness: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high) | Mean±SD sleep: 4.1±1.7h; Number of interruptions: 0.8±1.1; Tiredness pre- vs. post-duty: 30.9±27.5 vs. 59.5±18.9, p=0.01. | Stress during duty: 4-point scale from 'calm' to 'very demanding'<br>Assessed post-duty               | 1) Mean stress score during duty: 2.1.  |
| RoB: high                            |              | Assessed pre- and post-duty   |   |   |   |

| Study             | Study design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|-------------------|--------------|---|--|--|--|
|                   |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and time points   |  |
| Leitchfried, 2011 | TS           | 24-h shift;<br>Sleepiness: ESS (range: 0-24);<br>Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Sleepiness assessed pre-shift, sleep hours pre, during and post-shift | ESS (mean (range)): 7.4 (4-12);<br>Mean±SD sleep hours:<br>1) pre-study: 7.74±1.35h;<br>2) Pre-24-h shift (11h00 on day 1: 0.13±0.35h, 19:00 on day 1: 6.99±0.68h);<br>3) During the 24-h shift (07h00 on day 2: 0.0±0.0h, 19h00 on day 2, 5.49±1.95h);<br>4) Post-24-h shift (11h00 on day 3: 0.5±0.71h, 19h00 on day 3: 7.06±1.18h). | aMT6-s: urinalysis<br><br>Assessed at 4-h intervals from 07:00 to 11:00  | 1) aMT6-s over shift, mean (95% CI): higher at 11:00AM pre- (12.2 (6.3-8.1)) and post-shift (9.3 (3.7-14.9)) vs. during, p=0.016;<br>2) Correlations between sleep and aMT6-s (data NR): mild for sleep duration the night prior with aMT6-s at 3PM the following day; sleep on night 2 with aMT6-s at 3PM the next day; total sleep with aMT6-s at 11AM on third day; moderate for sleep on first night with aMT6-s at 7AM and 11AM pre-shift, 11PM during 24-h shift and 11AM post-shift; total sleep pre-shift and nocturnal sleep during 24-h shift with aMT6-s at 11PM during shift; total sleep with aMT6-s at 3PM on first and second day, 11PM on second day;<br>3) Correlations between ESS and aMT6-s: moderate for aMT6-s at 7AM during shift, 11AM on day off. |
| Beaujouan, 2005   | CS           | Sleep deprivation: 4-point scale (always, frequently, rarely, never)<br><br>Time points NR  | 48.8% always or frequently feel sleep deprived   | Substance abuse: 93-item addiction and substance abuse questionnaire<br><br>Time points NR                                     | 1) 60.6% with drug dependence vs. 46.0% of those without reported sleep difficulties, p<0.001.<br>2) OR (95% CI) of addiction for frequently/always vs. rarely/never sleep deprived: tobacco 1.42 (1.04-1.94); tranquilizer/hypnotics 3.26 (2.12-5.02).  |
| Doppia, 2011      | CS           | Insufficient sleep: 4-point scale (no, not really, sort of, yes)<br><br>Time points NR  | 28.9% reported insufficient sleep during work time   | Burnout: CBI (mild: 1-2.4, moderate: 2.5-3.5, severe: 3.6-5)<br><br>Time points NR   | 1) Frequency of burnout by response for sleep sufficiency: 47.6% for no/not really, 16.3% for sort of/yes, p<0.001.  |
| Lindfors, 2006    | CS           | Sleep hours/day: self-reported to the nearest 0.5h;<br>Adequacy of sleep and rest: self-reported (yes/no)   | Sleep hours (mean (range)): 7 (5-9)  | Stress: MOSQ on a 3-point scale (no, to some extent, clearly);<br>Thoughts of suicide: 4-point scale ('never' to 'have tried') | 1) Sleep sufficiency predicted stress symptoms: bivariate $\beta=-0.362$ , p<0.001; multivariate including gender, sick leave, suicide $\beta=-0.269$ , p<0.001;<br>2) Sleep disturbance associated with thoughts of suicide, p=0.009.   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
|                                |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
|                                |                 | Time points NR   |  | Time points NR   |  |
| Saadat, 2015<br><br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep deprivation (<7h/24-h) due to 17-h overnight shift;<br>Sleepiness and alertness:<br>VAS from 0 (not at all) to 100 (extremely)<br><br>All assessed on a regular day and a post-call day  | Mean±SD sleepiness on a regular day vs. post-call day:<br>2.99±2.18 vs. 6.79±2.30,<br>p<0.001  | Simple cognitive tests: VAS from 0 (not at all) to 100 (extremely);<br>Mood disturbance: PMS (scoring NR)<br><br>All assessed on a regular day and a post-call day | Regular day v. post-call day, mean±SD scores:<br>1) Simple cognitive tests: energetic 6.04±2.27 vs. 2.53±1.87, confident 7.03±1.83 vs. 4.98±2.29, irritable 2.03±1.94 vs. 4.86±2.16, sleepy 2.99±2.18 vs. 6.79±2.30, talkative 4.46±1.74 vs. 2.41±1.97, all p<0.001; jittery 1.44±1.74 vs. 3.12±2.34, p=0.003; anxiousness ns;<br>2) PMS: tension 13.48±2.71 vs. 15.43±4.46, p=0.049; anger 15.24±4.41 vs. 18.14±5.92, p=0.005; fatigue 10.14±2.63 vs. 20.05±6.87, p<0.001; confusion 10.57±1.69 vs. 12.57±4.24, p=0.025; vigor 24.05±6.75 vs. 16.67±5.70, p<0.001; depression: ns; total mood disturbance: 42.57±15.26 vs. 70.90±6.91, p<0.001. |
| <b>ER or ICU physicians</b>    |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Dutheil, 2013<br><br>RoB: high | RCT             | 14-h or 24-h shift;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported sleep and wake time;<br>Sleep quality: VAS from 1 (low) to 100 (high);<br>Mental and physical fatigue: VAS from 1 (low) to 100 (high)<br><br>Assessed on day prior to shift; during shift; each day of protocol (work, off, clerical, control) | 1) Sleep duration and quality lower during shifts (14h and 24h) than any other day, and lower during the 24-h vs. 14-h shift (p<0.05);<br>2) Mental and physical fatigue higher after 14-h and 24-h shift vs. control day (data NR). | Stress: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high);<br>IL-8: urinalysis<br><br>Assessed at 08:30 and 18:30 on each day of protocol   | 1) Stress: higher following 14-h and 24-h shifts vs. the control day, p<0.05 (data NR);<br>2) IL-8: higher following 24-h shift vs. control (p=0.007) and 14-h shift (p=0.015); ns difference between 14-h shift and control day;<br>3) Correlations with IL-8: sleep hours pre-24-h shift, r=-0.627, p=0.007; poor sleep quality during 14-h and 24-h shifts, r=0.452, p=0.031;<br>4) Multivariable regression: 24-h shift increased IL-8 by 1.9ng vs. control day, p=0.007; ns association with 14-h shift, mental or physical fatigue, sleep deprivation, 14-h shift.   |
| Sende, 2012<br><br>RoB: high   | CS              | Fatigue and sleep deprivation as sources of stress   | NR   | Most important sources of stress among 4 categories (work-related, patient-  | 1) 78% indicated that sleep loss and fatigue were sources of stress.   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|---|--|
|                                |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
|                                |                 | Time points NR   |  | related, organizational,<br>individual)   |  |
|                                |                 |  |  | Time points NR  |  |
| <b>Generalists<sup>b</sup></b> |                 |  |  |   |  |
| Harbeck, 2015<br>RoB: unclear  | CS              | 24-hours on-call shift with sleep disturbance: self-reported number of sleep disturbances and hours of sleep per night<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | 1) Sleep hours on a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: <2 hours: 0 vs. 5.9%; 2-4 hours: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 4-6 hours: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; >6 hours: 82.4% vs. 11.8%<br><br>2) Number of sleep disturbances a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: 0: 82.4% vs. 11.8%; 1: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; 2: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 3: 0% vs. 5.9%; 4: 0% vs. 0%; >4: 0% vs. 0% | Biochemical (laboratory values) and physiological (heart rate variability, skin resistance, blood pressure) stress parameters<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | Before a normal shift vs. after overnight call shift:<br>1) Biochemical parameters: no changes in any parameter except for thyroid stimulating hormone which was higher after the on-call shift (p = 0.049, data NR);<br>2) Physiological parameters: no significant changes in any parameter  |
| Pit, 2014<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Work-related sleep disturbance: 7-point scale from 'never' to 'every day'<br><br>Time points NR  | Work-related sleep disturbance: 41% never, 59% a few times a year to every day   | Early retirement (<65 years) intentions (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR  | For sleep disturbance a few times a year to every day vs. never:<br>1) Intention to retire early: 74% vs. 26%, p<0.01;<br>2) Association with intention to retire early (OR (95% CI)): univariate 3.6 (1.47-8.80), p<0.01; multivariate including work, occupational, individual factors 2.91 (1.11-7.6), p<0.05;<br>4) RR (95% CI) for intention to retire early: 2.0 (1.18-3.49); attributable fraction: 50.0%; population attributable fraction: 37.1%. |
| Pit, 2016<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Work-related sleep disturbance: 7-point scale from 'never' to 'every day'  | Work-related sleep disturbance: 41% never, 59% a few times a year to every day   | Sickness presenteeism: 'yes' response indicated 1 or more days  | For sleep disturbance a few times a year to every day vs. never:<br>1) Sickness presenteeism: 32% vs. 68%, p=0.018;  |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)     | Study design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---|--|---|--|
|                                 |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and time points  |  |
|                                 |              | Time points NR  |  | Assessed for the past 12 months   | 2) Association with sickness presenteeism (OR (95% CI)): 2.92 (1.19-7.16), p=0.02.   |
| Roberts, 2014<br>RoB: unclear   | CS           | Fatigue: LAS from 0 (low) to 10 (high)<br><br>Assessed for the past week  | Mean (SD) score: 5.8 (2.4) for hospitalists; 5.9 (2.4) for general internists  | Impact of fatigue on daily activities (falling asleep while driving) (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR | 1) 8.7% of hospitalists and 4.3% of outpatient general internists had fallen asleep while driving due to fatigue.  |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008<br>RoB: low    | CS           | Sleep Quality: PSQI (Spanish): score ≥5 indicates low quality (range; 0 to 21);<br>Insomnia: DSM-IV criteria<br><br>Time points NR; insomnia symptoms in past month | Prevalence (% (95% CI)):<br>1) Sleep-onset latency >30 minutes: 8.4 (4.8-11.9);<br>2) Wake time after sleep onset >30 minutes: 15.4 (10.8-19.9);<br>3) Early morning awakening: 22.5 (19.5-30.4);<br>4) Nonrestorative sleep: 22.5 (17.2-27.7);<br>5) Daytime impairment for ≥5 days in past month: 14.2 (9.7-18.6);<br>6) Insomnia: 18.8 (13.8-23.7). | Burnout: PBM with a 7-point scale from 1 (never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR                | Low vs. high burnout, mean±SD:<br>1) Global PSQI: 2.72±2.22 vs. 7.24±4.17, p<0.001;<br>2) PSQI subscores: sleep quality: 0.54±0.57 vs. 1.40±0.83, p<0.001; sleep latency: 0.51±0.80 vs. 1.38±1.03, p=0.002; sleep duration: 0.45±0.64 vs. 1.16±0.92, p=0.003; sleep efficiency: 0.21±0.57 vs. 0.77±0.98, p=0.018; sleep disturbance: ns; use of medication: 0.14±0.49 vs. 0.57±0.83, p=0.032; daytime dysfunction: 0.52±0.73 vs. 1.57±0.88, p=0.002.<br>3) Prevalence (95% CI) of insomnia symptoms: sleep latency: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 21.1% (10.5-31.6%), p=0.015; wake time >30 min after sleep onset: 9.4% (1.6-17.1%) vs. 25.5% (14.2-37.7%), p=0.029; early awakening: 14.5% (5.1-23.8%) vs. 45.6 (32.7-58.4%), p<0.001; somewhat/very dissatisfied with sleep: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 50% (37.1-62.8%), p<0.001; day impairment: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 38.2% (25.6-50.7%), p<0.001; insomnia: 7.3% (0.4-14%) vs. 39.7% (27.1-52.2%), p<0.001. |
| <b>Oncologists</b>              |              |   |  |   |  |
| Shanafelt, 2005<br>RoB: unclear | CS           | Fatigue: LASA QOL ≤7;<br>Sleep deprivation: 10-point Likert scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (stressful as can be)   | 75% had a high level of fatigue;<br>Mean±SD sleep score: 4.5±2.65.   | Wellbeing: 10-item LASA QOL, high ≥8 vs. low ≤7<br><br>Time points NR                               | 1) Sleep deprivation for high vs. low overall well-being (mean±SD): 3.9±2.57 vs. 5.1±2.60, p=0.0004;<br>2) Lower fatigue predicted overall wellbeing in a multivariate model including personal and professional characteristics, p=0.002.   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)       | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|---|
|                                   |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
|                                   |                 | Time points NR  |  |  |   |
| Shanafelt, 2014                   | CS              | Fatigue: 10-point LAS (lower scores indicate greater fatigue)                           | Mean±SD fatigue score: 5.7±2.4                               | Satisfaction with WLB: 5-point Likert scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'   | 1) OR (95%CI) of lower satisfaction predicted by high fatigue (vs. not) in multivariate model including personal and work-related factors, and burnout: 0.489 (0.337-0.710), p<0.001.   |
| RoB: unclear                      |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| <b>Mixed groups of physicians</b> |                 |   |  |  |   |
| Aziz, 2004                        | CS              | Working while fatigued: 5-point scale from 'extreme' to 'a little'                      | NR   | Stress: 47-item questionnaire with a 5-point scale from 'extreme' to 'a little'  | 1) Sources of stress: working while fatigued had a mean±SD score of 2.44±1.20, factor loading: 0.653, in factor analysis;<br>2) Inverse correlation between stress and working while fatigued: r=-0.270 (significance level NR).  |
| RoB: high                         |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| Chen, 2008                        | CS              | Sleepiness: ESS score ≥11   | Mean±SD ESS score: 7.8±4.0, range: 0-20, 23% had scores ≥11. | Impact on work and personal life: Impact Questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree)                                  | 1) Impact score correlated with ESS, r=0.31, p<0.05;<br>2) ESS score was higher among physicians who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: worried about having a car accident while driving home post-call: 5.4 vs. 7.0, p<0.001; sleep loss has a major impact on personal life: 8.4 vs. 7.0, p=0.01;<br>3) Higher ESS scores predicted by impact score in multivariate regression including personal and work-related factors: β=0.11, p=0.005. |
| RoB: high                         |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| Elovaino, 2015                    | CS              | Sleeping problems: Jenkins Scale with a 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night) | Mean±SD score: 2006: 2.30 (1.00); 2010: 2.35 (1.05).         | Jobs demands: 5 items scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree);<br>Job control: 3 items derived from the Karasek Job Questionnaire | There was no association between sleeping problems in 2006 and job demands or control in 2010.  |
| RoB: low                          |                 | Assessed in 2006 and 2010   |  |  |   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)     | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|---|
|                                 |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br><br>RoB: low | CS              | Sleeping problems: Jenkins Scale <sup>81</sup> with a 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night)<br><br>Assessed in 2006          | Mean±SD (range) score:<br>2.30±1.00 (1-6)   | Psychological distress: GHQ-12 with a 4-point scale (low to high);<br>Job satisfaction: JDS with a Likert scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)<br><br>Assessed in 2010                           | 1) Sleeping problems associated with job satisfaction, $\beta=-0.12$ , $p<0.001$ , psychological distress, $\beta=0.18$ , $p<0.001$ ;<br>2) Total indirect effect of on-call duty through two mediators (sleeping problems, work interference with family) ( $R^2$ (95% CI)): job satisfaction 0.06 (-0.059, -0.016), $p<0.001$ ; psychological distress 0.16 (0.023, 0.081), $p<0.001$ . |
| Mahmood, 2016<br><br>RoB: high  | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported mean hours of sleep when on call<br><br>Assessed at 4 years, 10 years, and 15 years post-graduation   | Mean±SD hours:<br>4 years: 4.52 (2.79);<br>10 years: 5.38 (6.36);<br>15 years: 6.41 (7.14). | Alcohol use disorders: Modified 9-item version of the Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) $\geq 6$ for men and $\geq 5$ for women.<br><br>Assessed at 4 years, 10 years, and 15 years post-graduation | There was no association between hours of sleep when on call and hazardous drinking behaviours ( $p=0.732$ )  |
| Shirom, 2010<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Tiredness and exhaustion: SMBM Physician Fatigue Subscale on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR | NR  | Burnout: SMBM on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)   | 1) Correlation between physical fatigue subscale and overall burnout: 0.88, $p<0.05$ ;<br>2) In a predictive structural model for burnout, physical fatigue accounted for unique variance in the burnout items, not accounted for by total burnout ( $R^2=0.24$ ).  |
| Smith, 2017<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR   | NR  | Mental and physical illness: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR   | Some physicians reported developing mental illness (e.g., bipolar disorder, alcohol misuse) due to tiredness and stress at work; others developed physical health problems due to sleep deprivation, poor eating habits and lack of exercise.   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB) | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |   | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
|                             |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
| Starmer, 2016<br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep deprivation: <7 hours sleep in a typical 24-h period (self-reported)<br><br>Time points NR              | 27.7% sleep deprived  | Burnout, satisfaction with career and life, balanced personal and professional commitments: Each on a 5-point Likert scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree)<br><br>Time points NR                    | ≥7-h vs. <7-h sleep:<br>1) Burnout (% strongly agree/agree): 26.4% vs. 39.6%, p<0.05; career satisfaction (% strongly agree/agree): ns; life satisfaction (% completely/very satisfied): 76.4% vs. 55.9%, p<0.05; balanced personal and professional commitments (% completely/very satisfied): 49.7% vs. 26.1%.<br>2) <7-h sleep (vs. ≥7-h) (OR, 95% CI) associated with life satisfaction 0.44 (0.29-0.67), p<0.05; balanced personal/professional commitments 0.46 (0.31-0.71), p≤0.05, in a model including work and personal factors. |
| Tokuda, 2009<br>RoB: low    | CS              | Sleep hours/day: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Time points NR (included weekday and weekends)             | Mean±SD (range) sleep hours/day: 6±0.9 (3-8)  | Burnout: MBI (Japanese) with a 7-point Likert scale: 0 (none) to 6 (every day);<br>Job satisfaction: JHPSS with a 5-point Likert scale: 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)<br><br>Time points NR | Maximum likelihood estimates±SE:<br>1) Sleeping time to job satisfaction: group 0.990±0.458, p=0.031; ns for men; women 1.711±0.805, p=0.034;<br>2) Sleeping time to EE: group -0.219 ±0.070, p=0.002; men -0.215±0.082, p=0.009; ns for women.  |
| Wada, 2010<br>RoB: unclear  | CS              | Sleep hours/day: Self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Assessed for past month when not completing overnight work | <5 hours: 8.7% men, 9.9% women; 5 to <6 hours: 32.3% men, 34.6% women; 6 to <7 hours: 46.0% men, 43.7% women; ≥7 hours: 13.0% men, 11.8% women. | Depression: QIDS-SR; Japanese score <5 (no symptoms) to >20 (very severe symptoms)<br><br>Assessed for past 7 days  | 1) Sleep hours for those with vs. without depressive symptoms: <5: 18.7% vs. 7.7% men, 20.5% vs. 8.7% women; 5 to <6: 33.7% vs. 32.2% men, 38.6% vs. 34.2% women; 6 to <7: 35.1% vs. 46.9% men; 31.8% vs. 45.1% women;<br>2) Association between <5h sleep (vs. 6-7h) and depressive symptoms (OR (95% CI)): univariate 2.79 (1.96-3.95) for men, 2.65 (1.47-4.78) for women; multivariate (including age and workload   |



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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB) | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions            |          | Outcomes                              | Associations between exposure and outcome<br>factors) 2.70 (1.82-4.03) for men, 2.38 (1.11-5.10)<br>for women. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|--|
|                             |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points | Baseline | Assessment measure and<br>time points |  |

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies of anesthetists, where these were physicians.

<sup>b</sup>Includes primary care physicians, internal medicine physicians, and general practitioners.

AM: morning; aMT6-s: melatonin metabolite; BA: before-after; CI: confidence interval; CBI: Copenhagen Burnout Inventory; CS: cross-sectional; DP: depersonalization; DSM: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; EE: emotional exhaustion; ER: emergency; ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale; GHQ: General Health Questionnaire; h: hour(s); ICU: intensive care unit; IL-8: interleukin-8; JDS: Job Diagnostic Survey; JHPSS: Japanese Hospital Physicians Satisfaction Scale; LAS: linear analog scale; LASA: linear analog assessment scales; MBI: Maslach Burnout Inventory; MOSQ: Modified Occupational Stress Questionnaire; min: minute(s); NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; ns: not statistically significant; OR: odds ratio; PA: personal achievement; PBM: Pines Burnout Measure; PE: professional efficacy; PM: afternoon; PMS: Profile of Mood States; PSQI: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; QIDS-SR: Quick Inventory Depressive Scale – Self-Reported; QOL: Quality of Life; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RDAS: Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; SMBM: Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; TS: time series; US: United States of America; VAS: visual analog scale; vs.: versus; WLB: work-life balance

## Performance and safety outcomes related to fatigue or sleep loss among physicians in independent practice

| Study              | Study design | Exposures or intervention  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |  |
|--------------------|--------------|--|---|--|--|
| Risk of Bias (RoB) |              | Assessment measure and time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and time points   |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>    |              |  |   |  |  |
| Uchal, 2005        | RCT          | Sleep deprivation from a 24-h call shift vs. 8-h work; Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous); Sleepiness: ESS (moderate: 10-15, severe: ≥16) | Median (range) sleep hours: 1.5 (0-3) post-call vs. 6.5 (5-9) post-work, p<0.05; Median ESS score: 7.0 post-call vs. 5.5 post-work, ns.         | Surgical performance: laparoscopic surgical simulator (Minimally Invasive Surgical Trainer-Virtual Reality) for product quality, procedure effectiveness | Post call vs. post-work:<br>1) Product quality: no difference in accuracy error, tissue damage, leak rate;<br>2) Procedure effectiveness: no difference in goal-directed actions, non-goal directed actions, operating time. |
| RoB: unclear       |              | Assessed post-call and post-work   |   | Assessed post-call and post-work   |  |
| Chu, 2011          | CO           | Sleep deprivation: self-reported hours, moderate (3-6h) or severe (<3h)  | Of 4,047 procedures, 83 (2.1%) performed by severely sleep-deprived and 1,595 (39.4%) moderately sleep-deprived surgeons                        | Surgical performance: CABG, ACC  | For 0-3 vs. 3-6 vs. >6 hours of sleep: no difference in CABG or ACC.   |
| RoB: low           |              | Assessed the night before surgery  |   | Assessed during surgery  |  |
| Ellman, 2004       | CO           | Sleep deprivation: performed a case starting 22:00 to 05:00, or ending 22:00 to 07:30 and another case in the next 24-h                        | Of 6,751 procedures, 339 (5%) performed by sleep-deprived surgeons  | Surgical performance: CABG, ACC  | Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in CABG or ACC.   |
| RoB: low           |              |  |   | Assessed during surgery  |  |
| Govindarajan, 2015 | CO           | Sleep deprivation: treated patients from midnight to 07:00 and performed a subsequent case on the same day                                     | NR  | Surgical performance: duration of surgery  | Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in duration of surgery, even after stratification by type of procedure.   |
| RoB: low           |              |  |   |  |  |
| Amirian, 2014      | BA           | 17-h night call shift; Sleep hours during the shift: Wrist-mounted Micro-Mini-Motionlogger; Sleepiness: KSS                                    | Naps pre-call: 11 (37%) napped for median (IQR) 90 (58-128) min; Median (IQR) sleep: 91 (62-123) min on the pre-call night vs. 430 (329-449) on | Surgical performance: LapSimGyn laparoscopic simulation for time, blood loss, instrument path; D2 test of attention and concentration                    | Pre- vs. post-call:<br>1) LapSimGyn: no difference in total time, blood loss, instrument path length, instrument angular path; napping did not affect performance;   |
| RoB: high          |              |  |   |  |  |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)          | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
|                                      |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |   |
|                                      |                 | Assessed on pre-call and on-call day; sleepiness assessed during shift  | the on-call night, $p<0.001$ ;<br>Sleep on-call: 12 (40%) slept for median (IQR) 98 (39-135) min;<br>Significant development of sleepiness during shift ( $p<0.001$ ), plateau score of 7 at 04:00 to 08:00. | Assessed on pre-call and on-call day  | 2) D2 test: improvement in concentration, $p<0.05$ . No changes in any other parameters;<br>3) ns difference in laparoscopic simulation time in those who slept during the shift vs. not.   |
| Gerdes, 2008<br>RoB: high            | BA              | On-call shift;<br>Fatigue: questionnaire designed by Behrenz & Monga, 1999;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Assessed in 3 sessions pre- and post-call | Fatigue differential from pre- to post-call (range): 1-7 (units unclear);<br>Sleep during call (range): 1-5h   | Psychomotor performance: virtual ring transfer task for gesture-level proficiency, hand movement smoothness, tool movement smoothness, elapsed time<br><br>Assessed in 3 sessions pre- and post-call                        | 1) Pre- to post-call: decrease in all measures of psychomotor proficiency ( $p<0.05$ , data NR) except elapsed time; no change in number of psychomotor errors; increase cognitive errors ( $p<0.05$ , data NR);<br>2) Cognitive errors increased exponentially as fatigue ratings increased ( $R^2=0.9219$ ) and as hours of sleep declined ( $R^2=0.933$ ).   |
| Shanafelt, 2010<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Degree of fatigue as a contributor to errors (self-reported)<br><br>Assessed for the past 3 months  | NR   | Perceived recent major medical errors (self-reported)<br><br>Assessed for the past 3 months   | 1) Prevalence of perceived recent major medical error: 8.9%;<br>2) Of those reporting an error, 6.9% listed degree of fatigue as the greatest contributing factor.  |
| <b>Anesthesiologists<sup>a</sup></b> |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Lederer, 2006<br>RoB: high           | BA              | 24-h shift, on-call duty;<br>Sleep hours and interruptions: self-reported;<br>Tiredness: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty              | Mean $\pm$ SD sleep: 4.1 $\pm$ 1.7h;<br>Number of interruptions: 0.8 $\pm$ 1.1;<br>Tiredness pre- vs. post-duty: 30.9 $\pm$ 27.5 vs. 59.5 $\pm$ 18.9, $p=0.01$ .   | Psychomotor performance: reaction time, critical flicker fusion, response measure, peripheral awareness;<br>Concentration ability: scale of 0 (low tiredness) to 100 (maximum tiredness)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty | Pre- vs. post-duty, mean $\pm$ SD:<br>1) Psychometric testing: recognition reaction time (ms): 439.6 $\pm$ 50.8 vs. 480.3 $\pm$ 58.9; motor reaction time (ms): 252.8 $\pm$ 39.3 vs. 465.4 $\pm$ 65.0; total reaction time (ms): 690.8 $\pm$ 73.4 vs. 746.5 $\pm$ 113.7; critical flicker fusion (Hz): 29.0 $\pm$ 2.3 vs. 28.7 $\pm$ 3.7; response measure (pixels): 647.8 $\pm$ 126.7 vs. 598.3 $\pm$ 138.1, |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)     | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
|                                 |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
|                                 |                 |   |  |  | peripheral awareness task recognition time:<br>58.9±59.2 vs. 51.6±47.5;<br>2) Concentration ability: 26.4±23.5 vs.<br>56.3±23.0, p=0.007.  |
| Chang, 2013<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | 15-h in-house overnight call;<br>Sleepiness pre-call: ESS ≥9;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported<br>(continuous)<br><br>Sleepiness assessed pre-call,<br>sleep hours during call | Median (IQR) ESS: 9 (9),<br>64% scored ≥9;<br>Median (IQR) hours slept<br>during shift: 1 (0-3). | Psychomotor performance:<br>reaction time; CCPT II; N-<br>back; HVLT (3 trials of 12<br>words)<br><br>Assessed at baseline and pre-<br>and post-call | 1) Afternoon baseline vs. pre-call: no<br>difference in reaction time, CCPT, N-back, of<br>HVLT;<br>Morning baseline vs. post-call:<br>1) No change in auditory or visual reaction<br>time;<br>2) CCPT (t-scores): No change in detectability,<br>response style, hit reaction time,<br>omissions/commissions;<br>3) N-back % accuracy: no change for auditory,<br>visual, or mean N-value;<br>4) HVLT (t-score): mean for trials 1-3: 48.6±7.6<br>vs. 41.5±9.9 (p=0.04); delayed recall: ns;<br>5) No correlation between ESS scores pre-call<br>or sleep during shift and any measure of<br>psychomotor performance. |
| Gander, 2000<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Nights of work-related sleep<br>disturbance: self-reported<br>(continuous)<br><br>Assessed for the past 6<br>months   | NR   | Risk of fatigue-related errors:<br>questionnaire modelled after<br>Gravenstein et al., 1990<br><br>Assessed for the past 6<br>months                 | 1) Risk of fatigue-related errors increased with<br>increasing nights of work-related sleep<br>disturbance: RR: 1.25, 95% CI: 1.06-1.49.   |
| Saadat, 2017<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Sleep deprivation due to an<br>overnight call shift   | NR   | Reaction time: PVT<br><br>Assessed after an overnight<br>call shift and the morning of<br>a regular (non-call) day                                   | Mean (SD) reaction time was slower post-call<br>(297.76 (83.75)) vs. on a regular day (266.58<br>(38.35)), p=0.047.  |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention  |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|--|
|                                  |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
| Gander, 2008<br><br>RoB: unclear | NC              | Sleep loss across consecutive working days or on-call work: Wrist-mounted Actiwatch (Mini Mitter, Bend, Oregon, US), sleep and duty diary<br><br>Assessed over a 2-week period including a weekend of rostered shifts or on-call                 | ≥2 hours sleep <baseline: 8% of 24-h periods that included day work vs. 14% that included day + call; Sleep hours: mean 0.6h less sleep when working day shifts (p=0.014) and 0.8h less sleep when working day shifts + call (p=0.013) vs. off.   | Psychomotor performance: PVT<br><br>Assessed within 2 hours pre- and post-call   | 1) In fixed model analysis for reaction time including sleep, time since waking, work hours: acute sleep loss associated with slower median reaction time, $F_{(1,184)}=5.70$ , $p<0.05$ ; longer time since waking associated with poorer performance on the slowest 10%, $F_{(1,185)}=5.13$ , $p<0.05$ ;<br>2) Reaction time across 12 consecutive work days: no change in pre-duty reaction times but post-duty reaction times slowed linearly, median -3.38, $p<0.001$ ; decline in performance across 10 minutes became progressively steeper both pre- and post-duty, $p=0.020$ .  |
| <b>ER or ICU physicians</b>      |                 |  |   |  |  |
| Sanches, 2015<br><br>RoB: high   | CS              | Acute sleep deprivation (<5h of night sleep after a night shift of 12h)<br>Sleep hours: 7-day Actigraphy via SenseWear® Pro2 Armband;<br>Sleepiness: ESS;<br>Sleep quality: PSQI<br><br>Assessed the week and night before the psychomotor tests | Non-sleep deprived vs. sleep deprived:<br><br>PSQI >5: 0% vs. 33%, ns;<br>ESS≥10: 11% vs. 67%<br>Sleep time (mean±SD) in week before tests: duration and number of naps higher in sleep deprived group, but diurnal sleep hours lower, 428.6±30.1 vs. 375.8±55.9, $p=0.038$ ;<br>Sleep quality (mean±SD): week before tests: 3.3±0.7 vs. 2.6±0.3, $p=0.013$ ;<br>night before tests: 3.1±0.8 vs. 1.9±1.0, $p=0.020$ . | Psychomotor performance via Battery Test Reaction 5 (v1): StimulTest, InstrucTest, MovemTest; TP test of visual attention<br><br>Assessed on morning after night shift 8 | Sleep deprived group vs. non-sleep deprived, mean±SD:<br>1) InstrucTest: correct answers: 169.4 (16.0) vs. 148.3 (28.3), $p=0.070$ ; wrong answers: ns; perfection index (%): 99.6 (0.3) vs. 98.9 (1.3), $p=0.021$ ; response latency (sec/click): ns;<br>2) StimulTest: correct answers: 170.7 (21.9) vs. 145.1 (17.9), $p=0.022$ ; wrong answers: ns; perfection index (%): ns; response latency (sec/click): 1.06 (0.1) vs. 1.24 (0.1), $p=0.022$ ;<br>3) MovemTest: ns for any parameter;<br>4) TP: omitted symbols: 34.2±18.4 vs. 62.7±44.0, $p=0.034$ ; concentration index (%): 14.1±8.9 vs. 30.0±25.9, $p=0.019$ ; quality index (%): 13.8±8.6 vs. 29.2±26.4, $p=0.031$ ;<br>correct/wrong symbols: ns;<br>Correlations between sleep and tests:<br>1) TP for sleep hours nights 1-6: omitted symbols: $r=-0.686$ , $p=0.011$ for non-sleep- |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)   | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention<br>Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Outcomes<br>Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|---|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
| <p>deprived, ns for sleep-deprived; concentration index (%): <math>r=-0.359</math>, <math>p=0.037</math> for sleep-deprived, ns for non-sleep deprived; <math>r=-0.359</math>, <math>p=0.037</math> for the group; no other significant correlations;<br/>2) No correlation between PSQI, ESS and any of the psychomotor tests.</p> |                 |   |  |   |   |
| <b>Generalists<sup>b</sup></b>  |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Harbeck, 2015   | CS              | <p>24-hours on-call shift with sleep disturbance: self-reported number of sleep disturbances and hours of sleep per night</p> <p>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift</p> | <p>1) Sleep hours on a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: &lt;2 hours: 0 vs. 5.9%; 2-4 hours: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 4-6 hours: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; &gt;6 hours: 82.4% vs. 11.8%</p> <p>2) Number of sleep disturbances a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: 0: 82.4% vs. 11.8%; 1: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; 2: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 3: 0% vs. 5.9%; 4: 0% vs. 0%; &gt;4: 0% vs. 0%</p> | <p>Neurocognitive parameters: computerized attentional test (vigilance, alertness); D2 letter cancellation test (divided attention); Trail Making Test (visual attention, task switching); Digit Span, Digit Symbol Substitution Test, Weschler Memory Scale (memory functions)</p> <p>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift</p> | <p>Intrinsic alertness, focused attention and vigilance were similar on both occasions; Phasic alertness improved following the on-call shift: mean (SD) 24.8 (15.6) vs. 38.3 (21.5), <math>p = 0.022</math>.</p>   |
| <b>Mixed specialties or undefined populations</b>   |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Chen, 2008  | CS              | <p>Sleepiness: ESS score <math>\geq 11</math></p> <p>Time points NR</p>   | <p>Mean<math>\pm</math>SD ESS score: 7.8<math>\pm</math>4.0, range: 0-20, 23% had scores <math>\geq 11</math>.</p>   | <p>Impact on work and personal life: Impact Questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree)</p> <p>Time points NR</p>  | <p>1) Impact score correlated with ESS, <math>r=0.31</math>, <math>p&lt;0.05</math>;<br/>2) ESS score was higher among physicians who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: written an incorrect order: 8.8 vs. 7.3, <math>p=0.02</math>; might fall asleep while examining a patient: 13.2 vs. 7.7, <math>p=0.001</math>; look forward to sleeping at grand rounds: 10.4 vs. 7.4, <math>p=0.002</math>;</p> |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)   | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|---|
|                               |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
|                               |                 |   |   |  | 3) No difference in ESS score for those who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: work is unaffected by sleep loss and fatigue, thinking is unaffected by sleep loss, sleep loss and fatigue affect my medical decisions, have heard of others making medical errors due to sleep loss and fatigue, never make errors in prescriptions on post-call days, have made medical errors because of sleep loss and fatigue;<br>4) Higher ESS scores predicted by impact score in multivariate regression including personal and work-related factors: $\beta=0.11$ , $p=0.005$ . |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleeping problems: 4-item Jenkins Scale on 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night)<br><br>Assessed in 2006  | Mean±SD (range) score:<br>2.30±1.00 (1-6)   | Work ability: Work Ability Index on scale from 1 (could not work at all) to 10 (best work ability)<br><br>Assessed in 2010 | 1) On-call duty had an indirect effect on work ability ( $R^2=0.11$ , 95% CI: -0.122, -0.031, $p<0.001$ ) through two mediators (work interference with family, sleeping problems);<br>2) Sleeping problems inversely associated with work ability, $\beta=-0.29$ , $p<0.001$ .   |
| Kanieta, 2011<br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br>Sleepiness and sleep difficulties: 5-point scale from 1 (never) to 5 (always);<br>Insomnia: ≥3 sleep difficulties<br><br>Assessed for the past month | Insufficient rest: 32.5%;<br>Daytime sleepiness: 3.5%;<br>Insomnia: 20.0%;<br>Sleep time (mean±SD min):<br>279.8±60.9 | Self-reported medical incidents: 4-point scale from 1 (never) to 4 (often)<br><br>Assessed for the past month              | 1) Prevalence of medical incidents (% (95% CI)): sleep deprived (26.8% (24.2, 29.4)) vs. not (15.2% (13.7, 16.7)), $p<0.01$ ; insomnia (24.8% (21.6, 28.0)) insomnia vs. not (17.6% (16.2, 19.0)), $p<0.01$ ; ≥6h sleep (18.3% (16.8, 19.8)) vs. <6h (21.7% (18.8, 24.6)), $p=0.03$ ;<br>2) Predictors of medical incidents in multivariate model including personal and work-related factors (OR (95% CI)): lacking rest due to sleep deprivation vs. not (1.65 (1.33-2.04)), $p<0.01$ ; insomnia vs. not (1.45 (1.16-1.82), $p<0.01$ ); ns for sleep hours.                 |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |          | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|----------|---|--|
|                                  |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
| Sexton, 2001<br><br>RoB: high    | CS              | Fatigue as a factor<br>impacting performance<br><br>Time points NR  | NR       | Performance effectiveness<br>measured by 1 question:<br>agree, neutral, disagree<br><br>Time points NR  | 1) "When fatigued, I perform effectively during<br>critical phases of operations/patient care":<br>Anesthetic: 47% agree; 15% neutral; 38%<br>disagree;<br>Surgical: 70% agree; 12% neutral; 18%<br>disagree.  |
| Shirom, 2006<br><br>RoB: low     | CS              | Tiredness and exhaustion:<br>SMBM Physician Fatigue<br>Subscale on a 7-point scale<br>from 1 (almost never) to 7<br>(always)<br><br>Time points NR              | NR       | Quality of care: Adapted 15-<br>item SERVQUAL with a 5-<br>point Likert scale from 1<br>(very small extent) to 5 (very<br>large extent)<br><br>Time points NR                 | 1) Quality of care positively predicted by<br>fatigue in a model incorporating several other<br>components of burnout, $\beta=0.17$ , $p<0.05$ .   |
| Smith, 2017<br><br>RoB: moderate | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-<br>reported via open-ended<br>comments<br><br>Time points NR   | NR       | Perceived competence: self-<br>reported via open-ended<br>comments<br><br>Time points NR  | Some physicians indicated that continual<br>tiredness and exhaustion led to concerns that<br>it would affect their competence; some felt<br>that professional performance was<br>compromised at times of physical and mental<br>fatigue.   |
| Tanti, 2017<br><br>RoB: high     | CS              | Fatigue: questionnaire on<br>contributors to prescribing<br>errors, with a 5-point Likert<br>scale (very high to very low<br>association)<br><br>Time points NR | NR       | Prescribing errors:<br>questionnaire on<br>contributors to prescribing<br>errors, with a 5-point Likert<br>scale (very high to very low<br>association)<br><br>Time points NR | Perception of the contribution of fatigue to<br>prescribing errors differed by physician type<br>( $p<0.05$ ): 34% of community doctors, 96%<br>hospital doctors, 8% of office-working doctors<br>perceived a very high or high association<br>between fatigue and prescribing errors. |

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies of anesthesiologists, where these were physicians.

<sup>b</sup>Includes primary care physicians, internal medicine physicians, and general practitioners.

ACC: aortic cross-clamp time; BA: before-after; CABG: cardiopulmonary bypass time; CCPT II: Connor's Continuous Performance Test II; CI: confidence interval; CO: cohort; CS: cross-sectional; ER: emergency; ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale; h: hour(s); HVL: Hopkin's Verbal Learning Task; Hz: Hertz; ICU: intensive care unit; IQR: interquartile range; KSS: Karolinska Sleep Scale; min: minutes; ms: millisecond(s); N-back: Dual N-back test; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; ns: not statistically significant; OR: odds ratio; PSQI: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; PVT: Psychomotor vigilance Performance Task; RR: risk ratio; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; SERVQUAL: Service Quality Measure; SMBM: Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; TP: Toulouse-Piéron test; TS: time series; US: United States of America; vs.: versus



## Patient outcomes related to fatigue or sleep restriction among physicians in independent practice

| Study              | Study design | Exposures  |  | Outcome Measures   |                                  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------|--------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
|                    |              | Intervention or assessment scale and time points   | Baseline   | Assessment scale and time points   |                                  |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>    |              |  |  |  |                                  |  |
| Chu, 2011          | CO           | Sleep deprivation: moderate (3-6 h) or severe (<3-h) sleep deprivation the night before surgery (self-reported hours)                  | Of 4,047 procedures, 83 (2.1%) performed by severely sleep-deprived, 1,595 (39.4%) by moderately sleep-deprived surgeons | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, length of stay              | Assessed during and post-surgery | 1) 0-3 vs. 3-6 vs. >6 hours of sleep: No difference in incidence of mortality, incidence of 10 major complications (except septicemia, 3.6% vs. 0.9% vs. 0.8%, p=0.03), ICU length of stay; in-hospital length of stay (days): 7.0 vs. 6.0 vs. 7.0, p<0.001.   |
| RoB: low           |              |  |  |  |                                  |  |
| Ellman, 2004       | CO           | Sleep deprivation: performed a case starting 22:00 to 05:00, or ending 22:00 to 07:30 and performed a subsequent case in the next 24-h | Of 6,751 procedures, 339 (5%) were performed by sleep deprived surgeons  | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, length of stay              | Assessed during and post-surgery | 1) Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in mortality, need for blood products, complications (operative, neurologic, renal, infectious, pulmonary), in-hospital length of stay.  |
| RoB: low           |              |  |  |  |                                  |  |
| Govindarajan, 2015 | CO           | Sleep deprivation: treated patients from midnight to 07:00 and performed a subsequent case on the same day                             | NR   | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, readmission, length of stay | Assessed during and post-surgery | 1) Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in mortality, surgical complications, readmissions within 30 days, or length of stay.  |
| RoB: low           |              |  |  |  |                                  |  |
| Rothschild, 2009   | CO           | Sleep deprivation: daytime procedures following an overnight procedure; Sleep opportunity: 0-6h, <6h                                   | NR   | Chart review: frequency of adverse surgical complications                    | Assessed during and post-surgery | 1) Post-nighttime vs. control: no difference in number of procedures with complications, total number of complications, preventable complications, type of complications;<br>2) Operating room procedures with complications, OR (95% CI): 8.5% for 0-6h sleep vs. 3.1% for >6h sleep, 2.70 (1.13-6.48), p=0.03;<br>3) All procedures with complications, OR (95% CI): 6.2% for 0-6h sleep vs. 3.4% for >6h sleep, 1.72 (1.02-2.89), p=0.04. |
| RoB: low           |              |  |  |  |                                  |  |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures   |  | Outcome Measures  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
|                                  |                 | Intervention or assessment<br>scale and time points   | Baseline   | Assessment scale and time<br>points   |   |
| Schieman, 2007<br><br>RoB: low   | CO              | Fatigue: surgeon billed for<br>clinical work after 22:00 the<br>night before surgery                          | Of 270 procedures, 22<br>(8%) were performed by<br>fatigued surgeons                     | Chart review: surgical<br>complications, length of stay,<br>mortality, cancer recurrence<br><br>Assessed during and post-<br>surgery                | 1) Fatigued vs. non-fatigued surgeons: no<br>difference in intra- or post-operative<br>complication rate, length of stay, in-hospital<br>length of stay, cancer recurrence.   |
| Vinden, 2014<br><br>RoB: low     | CO              | Sleep deprivation (at risk):<br>surgeon worked 00:00 to<br>07:00 and performed surgery<br>07:00 to 18:00      | Of 94,183 surgeries,<br>2,078 (2.2%) were<br>performed by surgeons<br>who were 'at risk' | Chart review: conversion to<br>open procedure (from<br>laparoscopic), iatrogenic<br>injuries, mortality<br><br>Assessed during and post-<br>surgery | 1) At risk vs. not at risk surgeon: no difference<br>in incidence of conversion to open procedure,<br>iatrogenic injuries, mortality, in either<br>univariate or multivariate analyses.   |
| <b>Obstetricians</b>             |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Rothschild, 2009<br><br>RoB: low | CO              | Sleep deprivation: daytime<br>procedures following an<br>overnight procedure;<br>Sleep opportunity: 0-6h, <6h | NR   | Chart review: frequency of<br>adverse obstetric complications<br><br>Assessed during and post-<br>delivery  | 1) Post-nighttime vs. control: no difference in<br>number of procedures with complications,<br>total complications, preventable<br>complications, type of complications;<br>2) No association between sleep deprivation<br>and proportion of procedures with<br>complications, nor difference for 0-6h vs. >6h<br>of sleep opportunity. |

CI: confidence interval; CO: cohort; h: hours; NR: not reported; OR: odds ratio; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; US: United States of America; vs.: versus

## Supplementary file 5. Statistical analyses

## Dichotomous outcomes

| Outcome or subgroup                      | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled risk ratio (95% CI) | Heterogeneity |                |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
|  |                   |                        |                            | P             | I <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>1.1 Patient mortality</b>             | 5                 | 60,436                 | 0.98 (0.84, 1.15)          | 0.73          | 0%             |
| <b>1.2 Intra-operative complications</b> | 3                 | 19,798                 | suppressed                 | 0.007         | 82%            |
| 1.2.1 Surgical procedure                 | 3 <sup>a</sup>    | 14,896                 | suppressed                 | <0.001        | 88%            |
| 1.2.2 Obstetric procedure                | 1 <sup>a</sup>    | 4,902                  | suppressed                 | NA            | NA             |
| <b>1.3 Post-operative complications</b>  | 5                 | 60,201                 | 0.99 (0.95, 1.03)          | 0.45          | 0%             |

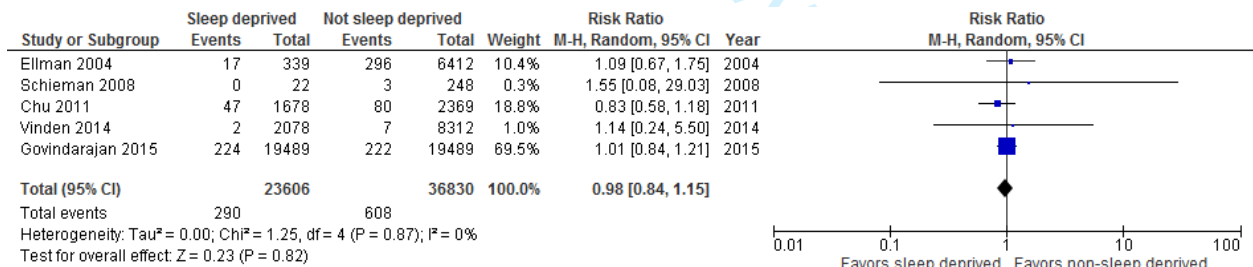
<sup>a</sup> Rothschild, 2009 is represented in both analyses

## Continuous outcomes

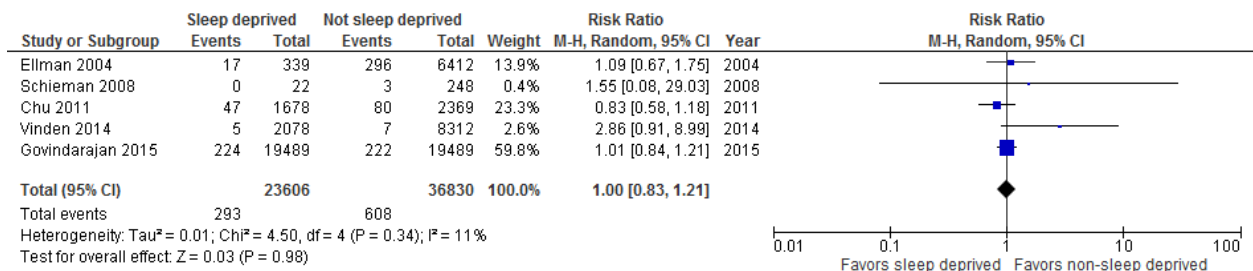
| Outcome or subgroup                       | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled mean difference (95% CI) | Heterogeneity |                |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
|   |                   |                        |                                 | P             | I <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>1.4 Operating time (minutes)</b>       | 4                 | 50,046                 | -0.14 (-1.60, 1.33)             | 0.70          | 0%             |
| <b>1.5 Length of hospital stay (days)</b> | 4                 | 50,046                 | suppressed                      | <0.001        | 86%            |
| 1.5.1 Cardiac surgeries                   | 2                 | 10,798                 | suppressed                      | 0.01          | 84%            |
| 1.5.2 Elective surgeries                  | 1                 | 38,978                 | suppressed                      | NA            | NA             |
| 1.5.3 Anterior resection for anal cancer  | 1                 | 270                    | suppressed                      | NA            | NA             |

CPBT: cardiopulmonary bypass time; NA: not applicable

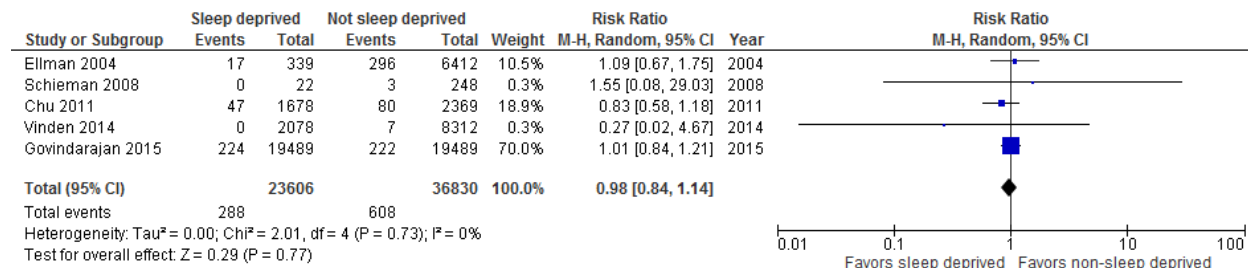
## 1.1 Patient mortality



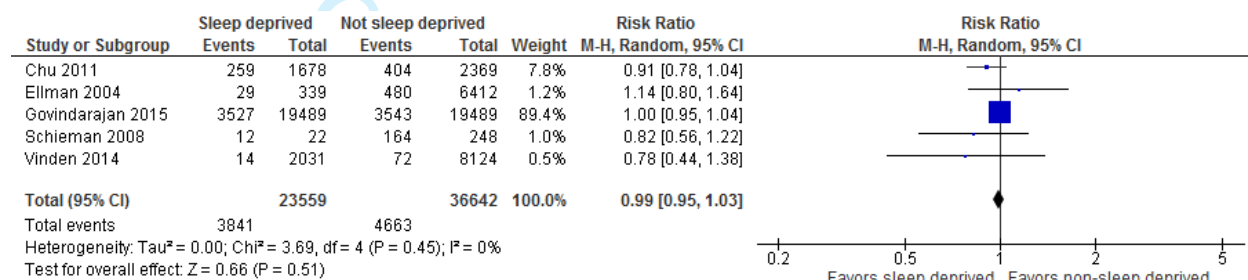
## Sensitivity analysis using highest possible number of events for Vinden 2014



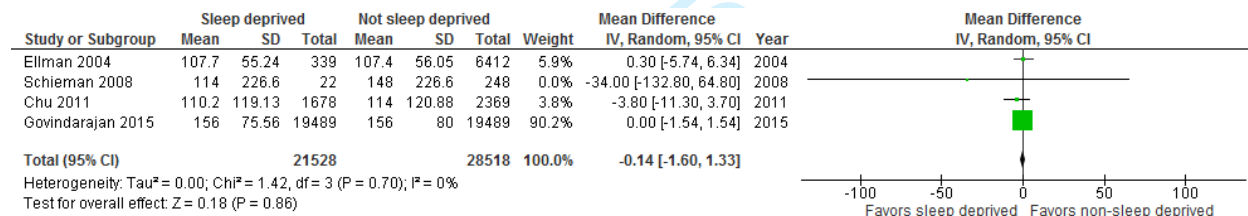
Sensitivity analysis using lowest possible number of events for Vinden 2014



1.3 Post-operative complications



1.4 Operating time (minutes)





## Appendix 1. PRISMA checklist

| Section/topic                      | #  | Checklist item  | Reported on page #   |
|------------------------------------|----|---|----------------------|
| <b>TITLE</b>                       |    |   |                      |
| Title                              | 1  | Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.   | 1                    |
| <b>ABSTRACT</b>                    |    |   |                      |
| Structured summary                 | 2  | Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number. | 2                    |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>                |    |   |                      |
| Rationale                          | 3  | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.  | 4-5                  |
| Objectives                         | 4  | Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).  | 5                    |
| <b>METHODS</b>                     |    |   |                      |
| Protocol and registration          | 5  | Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.   | 5                    |
| Eligibility criteria               | 6  | Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.  | 6                    |
| Information sources                | 7  | Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.  | 5-6                  |
| Search                             | 8  | Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.   | Supplementary file 1 |
| Study selection                    | 9  | State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).   | 6-7                  |
| Data collection process            | 10 | Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.  | 7                    |
| Data items                         | 11 | List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.   | 7                    |
| Risk of bias in individual studies | 12 | Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.  | 7                    |
| Summary measures                   | 13 | State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).   | 8                    |
| Synthesis of results               | 14 | Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis.   | 8                    |


**Appendix 1. PRISMA checklist**

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| Section/topic                 | #  | Checklist item   | Reported on page #                          |
|-------------------------------|----|--|---|
| Risk of bias across studies   | 15 | Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).   | 8   |
| Additional analyses           | 16 | Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.   | 8   |
| <b>RESULTS</b>                |    |  |   |
| Study selection               | 17 | Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.  | 8, Figure 1                                 |
| Study characteristics         | 18 | For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.   | 8-11, Table 1, Supplementary file 2         |
| Risk of bias within studies   | 19 | Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).  | 11, Supplementary file 3                    |
| Results of individual studies | 20 | For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot. | p. 12-18; Supplementary file 4; figures 2-4 |
| Synthesis of results          | 21 | Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.  | p. 12-18, figures 2-4                       |
| Risk of bias across studies   | 22 | Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).  | Not applicable                              |
| Additional analysis           | 23 | Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).  | Supplementary file 5                        |
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>             |    |  |   |
| Summary of evidence           | 24 | Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).                     | 18-19                                       |
| Limitations                   | 25 | Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).  | 19-20                                       |
| Conclusions                   | 26 | Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.  | 20  |
| <b>FUNDING</b>                |    |  |   |
| Funding                       | 27 | Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.   | 21  |



**Appendix 1.** PRISMA checklist

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*From:* Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

For more information, visit: [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org). Page 2 of 2

For peer review only

# BMJ Open

## The impact of fatigue and insufficient sleep on physician and patient outcomes: A systematic review

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Journal:                        | <i>BMJ Open</i>   |
| Manuscript ID                   | bmjopen-2018-021967.R3  |
| Article Type:                   | Research  |
| Date Submitted by the Author:   | 07-Aug-2018   |
| Complete List of Authors:       | Gates, Michelle; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Wingert, Aireen; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Featherstone, Robin; University of Alberta, Pediatrics<br>Samuels, Charles; Centre for Sleep and Human Performance<br>Simon, Christopher; Canadian Medical Association<br>Dyson, Michele; University of Alberta, Pediatrics |
| <b>Primary Subject Heading</b>: | Occupational and environmental medicine   |
| Secondary Subject Heading:      | Evidence based practice, Health services research, Medical education and training, Occupational and environmental medicine  |
| Keywords:                       | Health & safety < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, Risk management < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, SLEEP MEDICINE  |
|                                 |   |

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Manuscripts

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3 **The impact of fatigue and insufficient sleep on physician and patient outcomes: A systematic review**  
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6 Michelle Gates, Aileen Wingert, Robin Featherstone, Charles Samuels, Christopher Simon, Michele P  
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43 **Word count (main text): 5,929**  
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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** For physicians in independent practice, we synthesized evidence on the (a) impacts of insufficient sleep and fatigue on health and performance, and patient safety; (b) effectiveness of interventions targeting insufficient sleep and fatigue.

**Design:** We systematically reviewed online literature. After piloting, one reviewer selected studies by title and abstract; full texts were then reviewed in duplicate. One reviewer extracted data; another verified a random 10% sample. Two reviewers assessed risk of bias. We pooled findings via meta-analysis when appropriate, or narratively.

**Data sources:** We searched Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL and PubMed for published studies in April 2016; Medline was updated in November 2017. We searched Embase for conference proceedings, and hand-searched meeting abstracts, association and foundation websites.

**Eligibility criteria for selecting studies:** English or French language primary research studies published from 2000-2017 examining the effect of fatigue or sleep-related exposures or interventions on any outcome among physicians in independent practice and their patients.

**Results:** Of 16,154 records identified, we included 47 quantitative studies of variable quality. 28 studies showed associations between fatigue or insufficient sleep and physician health and well-being outcomes. 21 studies showed no association with surgical performance, and mixed findings for psychomotor performance, work performance, and medical errors. We pooled data from six cohort studies for patient outcomes. For sleep deprived versus non-sleep deprived surgeons, we found no difference in patient mortality ( $n = 60,436$ , RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.84 to 1.15,  $I^2 = 0\%$  ( $P = 0.73$ )) nor postoperative complications ( $n = 60,201$ , RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.95 to 1.03,  $I^2 = 0\%$  ( $P = 0.45$ )). The findings for intraoperative complications and length of stay were considerably heterogeneous.

**Conclusions:** Fatigue and insufficient sleep may be associated with negative physician health outcomes. Current evidence is inadequate to inform practice recommendations.

**STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY**

- The review was informed by the methods outlined by Cochrane and is reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.
- The review was limited by the quality of the included studies, which was often poor. Confidence in our conclusions may be weakened due to multiple comparisons.
- We have focused on evidence from high income countries; our findings may not be generalizable to other settings.

For peer review only

## BACKGROUND

The working hours of physicians have been a topic of debate for many years.[1] Beginning in the late 1980s, evidence indicating that medical resident fatigue could negatively impact their cognitive functioning and performance, resulting in an increased risk of medical error, began to accumulate.[2] In response, by the early 2000s physicians' regulatory bodies worldwide began to take action toward restricting the work hours of medical residents and ensuring adequate time for recovery between shifts.[3-5] Since their implementation in the United States by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the impact of work hour regulations has been widely researched. Still, evidence for impacts on patient care, resident training and wellbeing remains equivocal.[6-9] This is likely because work hours are only one of many contributors to fatigue and physician wellbeing. In fact, the ACGME has recently reversed the 2011 changes that limited resident work hours to 16 hours per shift and the requirement for 8 hours of time off between shifts. This decision was made in favour of promoting "flexibility" for residency training program work hours and scheduling.

The focus on medical trainees has left physicians in independent practice as a relatively neglected group in research and policy. In Canada, there is no concrete regulation on the hours or patterns in which physicians choose to work.[10] In the absence of clear policies, physicians trained under traditional systems may find it difficult to work shorter hours or take more frequent breaks.[1] Indeed, more than 40% of practicing physicians in the United States work in excess of 80 hours per week.[11] While long work hours remain a cultural norm in medicine, in comparable high-risk industries (e.g., aviation), work patterns and work hours are tightly regulated.[12] The need for similar evidence-based policies in medicine has become a topic of increased interest. Exemplar of this, an evidence-based guideline for fatigue risk management in emergency medical services,[13] informed by a comprehensive set of systematic reviews, has recently been published. For physicians, it has been argued that there is a need to adapt healthcare systems and provide support in identifying the signs of fatigue and mitigating its risks.[1]

Besides potentially affecting patient outcomes, fatigue can impact the health and wellbeing of physicians themselves. Burnout, just one outcome related to fatigue, has been described as epidemic among physicians[14-16] and ultimately affects recruitment and retention of physicians both in community and acute care settings. While the effect of physician wellbeing on the sustainability of healthcare systems has recently received increased attention,[17] evidence-based solutions to burnout

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3 remain relatively elusive.[18] What is clear, is that comprehensive organisational-level efforts are  
4 necessary to fully address the issue.[19] Research addressing the factors that influence burnout and  
5 overall physician wellness is needed to inform system- and individual-level strategies.[20, 21] To date,  
6 evidence of the effects of fatigue and the role of chronic insufficient sleep on physicians in independent  
7 practice has not been synthesized, making it unclear what gaps in knowledge remain unaddressed.  
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13 Given this void, we undertook a systematic review focusing broadly on primary research relevant to the  
14 Canadian context as a fundamental starting point to examine the effects of fatigue and chronic  
15 insufficient sleep on physicians in independent practice, and on interventions to combat these effects.  
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17 Our review was guided by the following research questions: Among physicians in independent practice,  
18 (1) what are the impacts of fatigue and chronic insufficient sleep on physician health, physician  
19 performance, and patient safety; and (2) what is the effectiveness of interventions that target fatigue  
20 and chronic insufficient sleep, in terms of improving physician and patient outcomes?  
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## 26 **METHODS**

### 27 **Review conduct**

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29 The conduct of this systematic review was guided by Cochrane standards.[22] The research team  
30 convened to plan the key research questions and methodology but did not register a formal protocol.  
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32 The findings are reported in adherence with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and  
33 Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Statement.[23] Ethical approval was not required for this study.  
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### 38 **Patient involvement**

39 Patients were not involved.  
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### 43 **Literature search**

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45 An information specialist developed a search strategy that included concepts related to physicians,  
46 fatigue and sleep. On 13 April 2016 we searched the following online databases with coverage in the  
47 biomedical sciences and psychology: Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL and PubMed, limited to  
48 English and French language articles published from 2000 to 2016. We updated the Medline search in  
49 November 2017, as this database offered the highest precision. Though fatigue among physicians is not  
50 a new phenomenon,[2] we limited our search to articles published post-2000 to include studies relevant  
51 to current physician practice. Work hour limitations have existed in European countries since 1993, but  
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3 implementation in the United States (2003)[5] and Canada (2013) for residents is more recent.[24] We  
4 aimed to include studies published in this era of increased awareness about the potential impacts of  
5 long work hours. To locate unpublished studies, we searched Embase for conference proceedings since  
6 2000 and hand-searched meeting abstracts of the Canadian Conference on Physician Health and the  
7 International Conference on Physician Health (2012 to 2016). We also searched the following  
8 association and foundation websites: American Medical Association, Australian Medical Association,  
9 British Medical Association, Canadian Medical Association, European Medical Association, National  
10 Sleep Foundation, Ontario Medical Association and the World Medical Association. The complete search  
11 strategy undertaken is reported in Supplementary file 1.  
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### 20 **Inclusion criteria**

21 Primary studies (quantitative or qualitative) of fatigue- or sleep-related exposures or interventions  
22 among physicians in independent practice were eligible for inclusion. We included physicians practicing  
23 in any medical specialty and in any healthcare setting within a high income country,[25] to identify  
24 practices comparable to the Canadian setting. Studies including physicians-in-training were included  
25 only if data for physicians in independent practice could be isolated. Exposures of interest included  
26 fatigue, insufficient sleep, or sleepiness. We also included studies of any intervention that aimed to  
27 reduce fatigue or sleep loss with any comparator (or no comparator). All reported outcomes, measured  
28 at any time, were eligible for inclusion.  
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37 We excluded commentaries, letters, editorials and dissertations. Systematic reviews, health technology  
38 assessments, economic evaluations and practice guidelines were excluded, although the reference lists  
39 of these as well as the included studies were scanned for potential primary studies. Studies that focused  
40 solely on physicians-in-training (e.g., trainees, residents, fellows, interns, medical students, junior  
41 doctors, registrars) were ineligible. To maintain the focused scope of the review, we excluded work  
42 hours, work load, and any other exposure or intervention that was indirectly related to fatigue or sleep.  
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### 48 **Study selection**

49 The study team piloted the selection criteria, which were then applied by two independent reviewers  
50 following a two-phase process. We first screened titles and abstracts for potential relevance. Then, we  
51 retrieved all records classified as “include” or “unsure” and reviewed their full text for eligibility. Any  
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3 disagreements between reviewers were resolved by discussion or third-reviewer consultation when  
4 necessary.  
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### 8 **Data extraction**

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10 Reviewers used a standardized form to extract data in Microsoft Office Excel (v. 2016, Microsoft  
11 Corporation, Redmond, WA). One reviewer independently extracted data from each included study and  
12 a second reviewer verified a random 10% sample. Since no major errors or omissions were noted, we  
13 did not undertake further verification.  
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18 We extracted the following data: country of publication; funding source; study design; inclusion and  
19 exclusion criteria; population characteristics (i.e., sample size, age and gender distribution, physician  
20 specialty); setting (i.e., physician workplace, urban or rural); exposure or intervention; definition of  
21 fatigue or insufficient sleep; sleep and fatigue scales used and timing of measurement; comparators (if  
22 applicable); and outcomes.  
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### 28 **Risk of bias appraisal**

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30 Two reviewers independently assessed the risk of bias in each included study using standard tools.  
31 Disagreements were resolved via discussion or by consulting a third reviewer. We used the Cochrane  
32 Risk of Bias tool[22] to assess randomised controlled trials. Adapted versions of the tool developed by  
33 the Effective Practice and Organization of Care group[26] were used to assess before-after and time  
34 series studies. We used the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale[27] to appraise cohort studies.  
35 We adapted the scale to assess cross-sectional studies and the one non-comparative study.  
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### 42 **Evidence synthesis**

43 We considered clinical and methodological heterogeneity in our decision on whether to proceed with  
44 meta-analysis for the outcomes identified. For most outcomes, we found high levels of heterogeneity in  
45 study design, populations, exposures or interventions, and outcome measures and chose not pool the  
46 data via meta-analysis. Thus, we have presented the findings for most outcomes narratively and in  
47 summary tables.  
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53 When statistical pooling was appropriate, this was undertaken using Review Manager (RevMan v.5.3,  
54 Copenhagen: The Nordic Cochrane Centre, the Cochrane Collaboration, 2014) via pairwise meta-analysis  
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3 using the DerSimonian and Laird random effects model (given expected heterogeneity).[28] We pooled  
4 dichotomous outcomes using the relative risk (95% confidence interval (CI)) and continuous outcomes  
5 using the mean difference (95% CI) since the units across studies were consistent (i.e., minutes). When  
6 meta-analysis was conducted, we assessed statistical heterogeneity using the chi-square test (using  $P =$   
7  $0.10$  as the threshold for significance), and quantified the extent of heterogeneity using the  $I^2$   
8 statistic.[29] We considered an  $I^2$  value of 0% to 40% to be low (potentially unimportant), 30% to 60% to  
9 be moderate, 50% to 90% to be substantial, and 75% to 100% to be considerable heterogeneity.[22]  
10 Subgroup and sensitivity analyses were conducted when appropriate to explore heterogeneity. We  
11 intended to assess small study bias visually by inspecting funnel plots and statistically using Egger's  
12 regression test, but did not due to the small number (i.e., less than 8) of studies included in the meta-  
13 analyses.[30]  
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23 When data were not presented in the format required for meta-analysis, we estimated means or  
24 standard deviations (SDs) using standard equations. We used the median instead of the mean for one  
25 study[31] for the outcomes of length of stay and operating time. Additionally, for one study[32] in the  
26 length of stay analysis where the SD could not be estimated, we substituted the mean variance of other  
27 studies within the meta-analysis.[33]  
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## 33 RESULTS

34 We identified 16,083 unique records via the database searches, 56 grey literature sources, and 14  
35 additional records in reference lists of systematic reviews. We excluded 15,016 citations by title and  
36 abstract, and another 1,090 by full text. Forty-seven studies[31, 32, 34-78] were eligible for inclusion,  
37 and 6[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] were included in meta-analysis for the outcomes of operating time, intra-  
38 and post-operative complications, patient mortality and length of hospital stay. Figure 1 shows the flow  
39 of studies through the selection process.  
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### 47 Included study characteristics

48 A summary of the study characteristics is provided in Table 1. Supplementary file 2 presents descriptive  
49 information for each included study. There were 45 observational studies[31, 32, 34-39, 41-74, 76-78]  
50 and two intervention studies.[40, 75] All studies were quantitative. Nearly half ( $n = 20/47$ , 43%) of the  
51 studies took place in North America,[31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 41, 45, 48, 57-60, 62, 63, 65-68, 72, 77] and  
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slightly more than one-third (n = 16/47, 34%) in Europe.[34, 36, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 50-53, 61, 64, 73, 75, 76]

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**Table 1.** Summary characteristics of the included studies

| Study characteristics     | n  | %  | Physician characteristics                | n         | %  | Exposures, interventions and outcomes        | n         | %         |
|---------------------------|----|----|--|-----------|----|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Study design</b>       |    |    | <b>Gender</b>                            |           |    | <b>Exposures (observational)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>45</b> | <b>96</b> |
| Cross-sectional           | 34 | 72 | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 38        | 81 | Fatigue-related                              | 15        | 32        |
| Cohort                    | 6  | 13 | >50% male                                | 30        | 79 | Sleep-related                                | 37        | 79        |
| Before-after              | 3  | 6  | <b>Age</b>                               |           |    | Overnight or extended shifts                 | 18        | 38        |
| RCT                       | 2  | 4  | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 38        | 81 | <b>Interventions (experimental)</b>          | <b>2</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| Time series               | 1  | 2  | Range (years)                            | 20 to >70 |    | <b>Outcomes</b>                              |           |           |
| Non-comparative           | 1  | 2  | <b>Specialty area<sup>c</sup></b>        |           |    | Physician health and wellbeing               | 28        | 60        |
| <b>Region and country</b> |    |    | Surgeons                                 | 13        | 28 | Work and life satisfaction                   | 9         | 19        |
| North America             | 20 | 43 | Anesthesiologists                        | 10        | 21 | Burnout                                      | 7         | 15        |
| US                        | 15 | 32 | Generalists                              | 7         | 15 | Stress                                       | 8         | 17        |
| Canada                    | 4  | 9  | ED or ICU physicians                     | 3         | 6  | Mental health and wellbeing                  | 7         | 15        |
| Canada, US & Mexico       | 1  | 2  | Oncologists                              | 2         | 4  | Other health-related outcomes                | 5         | 11        |
| Europe                    | 16 | 34 | Obstetrician-gynecologists               | 1         | 2  | Physician performance, risk of error         | 21        | 45        |
| France                    | 4  | 9  | Mixed groups                             | 14        | 30 | Psychomotor performance                      | 7         | 15        |
| Finland                   | 3  | 6  | <b>Work setting<sup>d</sup></b>          |           |    | Work ability and quality of care             | 5         | 11        |
| Spain                     | 2  | 4  | Hospitals                                | 37        | 79 | Incidence of medical errors                  | 5         | 11        |
| Austria                   | 2  | 4  | Private practice                         | 13        | 28 | Surgical efficiency, effectiveness           | 6         | 13        |
| Norway                    | 2  | 4  | Primary care centres, outpatient clinics | 7         | 15 | Patient outcomes                             | 6         | 13        |
| Denmark                   | 1  | 2  | Academic practice, training programs     | 5         | 11 |  |           |           |
| Germany                   | 1  | 2  | Other (e.g., industry, military)         | 11        | 23 |  |           |           |
| Malta                     | 1  | 2  | Not reported                             | 3         | 6  |  |           |           |
| Japan                     | 4  | 9  | <b>Urban or rural</b>                    |           |    |  |           |           |
| Australia                 | 2  | 4  | Reported <sup>b</sup>                    | 16        | 34 |  |           |           |
| Israel                    | 2  | 4  | Urban                                    | 12        | 75 |  |           |           |
| New Zealand               | 2  | 4  | Rural                                    | 2         | 13 |  |           |           |
| United Kingdom            | 1  | 2  | Mixed                                    | 2         | 13 |  |           |           |

ED: emergency department; ICU: intensive care unit; RCT: randomised controlled trial; US: United States of America

<sup>a</sup>Exposures that have been directly related to an outcome. Some studies included multiple exposures.

<sup>b</sup>Percentages presented using the total number of studies where the outcome was reported as the denominator.

<sup>c</sup>Anesthesiologists include physician anesthetists; generalists include primary care physicians, internists, and general practitioners; mixed groups refers to studies including more than one physician group or specialty (usually large-scale surveys). In some studies, multiple distinct groups were represented.

<sup>d</sup>As defined by the authors. Values for the settings will exceed 100% because studies may occur in more than one setting.

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3 The 47 studies reported outcomes for 36,190 (range = 6 to 7,905) physicians and 69,809 (range = 270 to  
4 38,978) adult patients. About half reported on surgeons (n = 13/47, 28%),[31, 32, 34, 41, 45, 48, 54, 58,  
5 62, 63, 66, 75, 77] or anesthesiologists/physician anesthetists (n = 10/47, 21%).[36, 37, 39, 43, 44, 50-52,  
6 59, 60] Where it was reported, the samples tended to be predominantly male (n = 30/38, 79%) and  
7 physician age varied widely. Hospitals were the most common setting (n = 37/47, 79%).[31, 32, 34-37,  
8 39-43, 45-47, 49-52, 54, 57-61, 63-70, 73-75, 77, 78] In the studies where it was reported (n = 16/47,  
9 34%),[31, 32, 34, 38, 40, 41, 43, 45, 50, 51, 55, 56, 58, 65, 76, 77] all but four studies[31, 55, 56, 77] took  
10 place in solely an urban setting.  
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18 Fifteen (32%) studies reported on fatigue-related exposures (e.g., as a source of stress, exhaustion,  
19 physical fatigue; hereafter referred to as 'fatigue'),[35, 40, 45, 48, 57, 63-71, 73] while others (n = 37/47,  
20 79%) reported on sleep-related exposures (e.g., sleep hours, insufficient sleep, sleep deprivation, sleep  
21 disruption, sleepiness; hereafter referred to as 'insufficient sleep').[31, 32, 34, 36-47, 49-56, 58-62, 64,  
22 67, 71, 72, 74-78] A few (n = 5/47, 11%) reported on both.[40, 45, 64, 67, 71] In some cases (n = 18/47,  
23 38%), fatigue or insufficient sleep were related to overnight work or long on-call shifts.[31, 32, 34, 37,  
24 40, 41, 43, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, 58-60, 63, 75, 77] Measured outcomes varied widely and were ultimately  
25 organised into physician physical and mental health, physician performance and risk of error, and  
26 patient outcomes.  
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### 35 **Risk of bias appraisal**

36 The overall quality of the body of research was poor; 62% (n = 29/47) of studies were rated at unclear or  
37 high risk of bias. Of the two randomised controlled trials, one was rated as unclear overall risk of  
38 bias[75] and one as high risk.[40] All cohort studies were at low risk of bias (mean score: 8.4/9, range: 8-  
39 9).[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] All of the before-after studies were rated as high risk of bias.[34, 45, 50] The  
40 single time series study was assessed at high risk of bias.[51] The cross-sectional studies varied in  
41 performance (mean score: 3.0/5, range: 1-4); only one-third (n = 12/34, 35%) were at low risk of  
42 bias.[39, 42, 44, 47, 52, 59, 60, 69, 70, 72, 74, 76] The one non-comparative study was at unclear risk of  
43 bias.[43] Detailed assessments of the sources of bias per study are shown in Supplementary file 3.  
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### Physician health and wellbeing outcomes

Twenty-eight studies reported on physician health and wellbeing-related outcomes,[35, 36, 38-40, 42, 46-48, 50-57, 60, 62, 64, 67, 68, 70-72, 74, 76, 78] including burnout (n = 7), stress (n = 8), mental health and wellbeing (n = 7), life and job satisfaction (n = 9) and other markers of health (n = 5) (Supplementary file 4).

Seven cross-sectional studies reported on burnout (5 low[39, 70, 72, 74, 76], 1 unclear[54], 1 high risk of bias[62]) among surgeons,[54, 62] anesthesiologists,[39] generalists,[76] and other mixed groups.[70, 72, 74] Two studies reported on surgeons; the larger (n = 2,564, low risk of bias) study of neurosurgeons showed increased odds of burnout with sleep deprivation (hours of sleep per night; OR 0.84, 95% CI 0.75 to 0.94, P = 0.002).[54] Among anesthesiologists one study (n = 565, low risk of bias) indicated that burnout (measured via Maslach Burnout Inventory) was more prevalent among the sleep-deprived ('lack of sleep' on one question; 47.6% vs. 16.3%, P < 0.001).[39] In one small (n = 11) study of generalists, those with burnout (measured via Pines Burnout Measure) had poorer Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index scores (7.24±4.17 vs. 2.72±2.22, P < 0.001).[76] In the two larger studies of mixed physician groups (low risk of bias), burnout (measured via 5-point scale) was more prevalent among those who were sleep deprived (<7 hours of sleep per 24 hours; 39.6% vs. 26.4%, P < 0.05),[72] and physical fatigue ('feeling tired' on a 7-point scale) was correlated with burnout (Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; r = 0.88, P < 0.05).[70] In summary, evidence from 7 cross-sectional studies (71% at low risk of bias), showed associations between insufficient sleep and burnout.

Six cross-sectional studies (2 low[47, 52], 1 unclear[46], 3 high risk of bias[35, 62, 64]), one uncontrolled before-after study (high risk of bias[50]), and one intervention study (high risk of bias[40]) reported on stress outcomes among surgeons,[62] anesthesiologists,[50, 52] emergency physicians,[40, 64] internal medicine physicians,[46] and mixed groups.[35, 47] In a small sample (n = 20) of internal medicine physicians, insufficient sleep related to a 24-hour call shift showed no association with biochemical or physiological stress parameters, except levels of thyroid stimulating hormone, which was higher post-shift (P = 0.049, data not reported).[46] The remaining observational studies suggested that there was an association between insufficient sleep or fatigue and stress. The one study of orthopedic surgeons (n = 264, high risk of bias) showed that insufficient sleep (measured on a 3-point scale) and psychological distress (measured via General Health Questionnaire-12) were correlated (data not reported, P < 0.001).[62] The two reports on anesthesiologists were of varied quality; the larger (n = 328, low risk of

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3 bias) study showed that stress symptoms (measured via Modified Occupational Stress Questionnaire)  
4 were predicted by sleep sufficiency (self-reported on one question,  $\beta = -0.269$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[52] Among  
5 the two studies reporting on mixed groups of physicians, the larger ( $n = 1,541$ , low risk of bias) study  
6 showed an association between sleep problems (4 questions derived from Jenkins scale) and  
7 psychological distress (General Health Questionnaire-12;  $\beta = 0.18$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[47] One RCT assessed the  
8 impact of insufficient sleep from shift work (14-hour or 24-hour shifts), showing that stress (on a visual  
9 analog scale) among emergency physicians ( $n = 17$ ) was higher following the shift as compared to a  
10 control day (data not reported,  $P < 0.05$ ).[40] In summary, evidence from one intervention study at high  
11 risk of bias and all but one of the 7 observational studies (29% at low risk of bias) identified supported  
12 an inverse association between fatigue or sleep deprivation and stress.  
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21 Seven cross-sectional studies (2 low,[52, 60] 3 unclear,[67, 71, 78] 2 high risk of bias[36, 53]) reported on  
22 aspects of mental health including addiction or substance misuse,[36, 53, 71] depression,[78] thoughts  
23 of suicide,[52] mood disturbance,[60, 71] and overall wellbeing.[67] One study,[53] which was at high  
24 risk of bias, showed no association between hours of sleep when on call and hazardous drinking  
25 behaviours (via Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test). Meanwhile, the six other studies all showed  
26 associations between insufficient sleep and fatigue and reduced mental health. Three studies reported  
27 on anesthetists,[36, 52, 60] with two large surveys showing increased odds of tobacco (OR 1.42, 95% CI  
28 1.04 to 1.94) and tranquilizer/hypnotics (OR 3.26, 95% CI 2.12 to 5.02) dependency being predicted by  
29 sleep deprivation (measured by one question),[36] and sleep disturbance being associated with  
30 thoughts of suicide (using a 4-point scale;  $P = 0.009$ ).[52] A small study ( $n = 21$ ) showed greater mood  
31 disturbance following a 17-hour night shift than a usual day (Profile of Mood States score  $42.57 \pm 15.26$   
32 vs.  $70.90 \pm 6.91$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).[60] Among oncologists ( $n = 241$ ), overall wellbeing was predicted by lower  
33 levels of fatigue after controlling for personal and professional characteristics (assessed via linear analog  
34 scale quality of life survey,  $P = 0.002$ ).[67] A large ( $n = 3,862$ , unclear risk of bias) study of physicians  
35 showed that insufficient sleep (lower sleep hours when not at work in the past month) was associated  
36 with increased odds of depression (Quick Inventory Depressive Scale; OR 2.70, 95% CI 1.82 to 4.03 for  
37 men; OR 2.38, 95% CI 1.11 to 5.10 for women).[78] In open-ended questions, senior physicians in one  
38 study (unclear risk of bias) attributed the development of mental illness to tiredness and stress at  
39 work.[71] In summary, 7 cross-sectional studies (29% at low risk of bias) were identified, and of these 6  
40 supported an association between insufficient sleep or fatigue and negative mental health outcomes.  
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3 Nine cross-sectional studies (4 low,[42, 47, 72, 74] 2 unclear,[55, 68] 3 high risk of bias[38, 48, 62])  
4 reported on outcomes related to job satisfaction,[42, 47, 48, 55, 72, 74] life satisfaction,[38, 62, 72] or  
5 work-life balance.[68, 72] The six studies that investigated job satisfaction were all at low risk of bias  
6 and generally included mixed groups of physicians;[47, 72, 74] one study reported on general  
7 practitioners,[55], another on surgeons,[48] and one on mixed specialties.[42] Three studies showed  
8 that reductions in sleep duration and/or quality[47, 48, 74] were associated with reduced job  
9 satisfaction. Meanwhile one showed no association between insufficient sleep (<7 hours per 24-hour  
10 period) and career satisfaction (measured on a 5-point Likert scale),[72] and another showed no  
11 relationship between earlier sleep disturbance (Jenkins Scale) and later job demands or job control  
12 (measured via 5-point scale).[42] A single study (n = 92) reporting on rural general practitioners  
13 indicated that frequent sleep disturbance (measured on a 7-point scale) predicted the intention to retire  
14 early (OR 2.91, 95% CI 1.11 to 7.6, P < 0.05).[55] In summary, 6 cross-sectional studies (all at low risk of  
15 bias) were identified, and all but two[42, 72] of these studies showed that insufficient sleep and fatigue  
16 were associated with reductions in satisfaction.  
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28 The three studies reported on life satisfaction.[38, 62, 72] Of two studies among mixed physician  
29 groups,[38, 72] the one larger (n = 840) study showed that insufficient sleep (< 7 hours per day) was a  
30 predictor of reduced life satisfaction (measured on a 5-point Likert scale; OR 0.44, 95% CI 0.29 to 0.67, P  
31 ≤ 0.05).[72] One study at high risk of bias reported on orthopedic surgeons (n = 264), showing that sleep  
32 deprivation (measured via 3-point scale) was correlated with lower marital satisfaction (Revised Dyadic  
33 Adjustment Scale; data not reported, P < 0.001).[62] Two large studies at low or unclear risk of bias  
34 reported on work-life balance.[68, 72] Among oncologists (n = 1,117), reduced satisfaction with work-  
35 life balance (measured on a 5-point Likert scale) was predicted by high levels of fatigue (measured via  
36 10-point visual analog scale), even when controlling for personal and work-related factors and burnout  
37 (OR 0.489, 95% CI 0.337 to 0.710, P < 0.001).[68] Among a mixed group of physicians (n = 840, low risk of  
38 bias), insufficient sleep (<7 hours in a typical 24-hour period) predicted a reduced perception of having  
39 balanced personal and professional commitments (5-point Likert scale; OR 0.46, 95% CI 0.31 to 0.71, P ≤  
40 0.05).[72] In summary, 3 cross-sectional studies (all unclear or high risk of bias) supported an association  
41 between insufficient sleep or fatigue and reduced life satisfaction, and 2 cross-sectional studies (50%  
42 low risk of bias) supported an association with reduced work-life balance.  
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3 Four cross sectional studies (3 unclear,[56, 57, 71] 1 high risk of bias[38]) and one time series study (high  
4 risk of bias[51]) reported on other health-related outcomes. Among a mixed group of physicians (n =  
5 180), one study at high risk of bias showed that Epworth Sleepiness Scale scores were higher among  
6 physicians who worried about having a car accident while driving home (7.0 vs. 5.4,  $P < 0.001$ ).[38]  
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8 Among generalists (n = 578), almost 1 in 10 (8.7%) admitted to falling asleep while driving due to  
9 fatigue.[57] Also among generalists (n = 92), those with frequent work-related sleep disturbance  
10 (measured on a 7-point scale) were at increased odds of sickness presenteeism (OR 2.92, 95% CI 1.19 to  
11 7.16,  $P = 0.02$ ).[56] The one time series study concluded that a single 24-h shift did not cause major  
12 chronodisruption (based on serum melatonin measurement) among anesthetists (n = 10).[51]  
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14 Meanwhile, open-ended comments from a large sample (n = 3,550) of senior physicians suggests that  
15 they attributed the development of physical health problems to a lifestyle of insufficient sleep, poor  
16 eating habits and lack of exercise imposed by their jobs.[71] In summary, 5 cross sectional studies (0% at  
17 low risk of bias) supported associations between insufficient sleep and fatigue and varied deleterious  
18 health outcomes (i.e., car accidents, sickness presenteeism, physical health problems). One time series  
19 study at high risk of bias did not support such a relationship.  
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### 30 **Physician performance and risk of errors**

31 Twenty-one studies reported on physician performance and safety-related outcomes,[31, 32, 34, 37, 38,  
32 41, 43-47, 49, 50, 59, 61, 65, 66, 69, 71, 73, 75] including surgical efficiency and effectiveness (n = 6),  
33 psychomotor performance (n = 7), work ability and quality of care (n = 5) and medical errors (n = 5)  
34 (Supplementary file 4).  
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40 Four cohort studies (all low risk of bias[31, 32, 41, 63]), one before-after study (high risk of bias[34]) and  
41 one randomized controlled trial (high risk of bias[75]) examined the effects of insufficient sleep from  
42 overnight work or extended shifts, during surgeries[31, 32, 41] or laparoscopic simulations.[34, 75] We  
43 pooled the data from these studies[31, 32, 41, 63] via meta-analysis, which showed no difference in  
44 operating time (sometimes referred to as surgeon efficiency) between sleep deprived and non-sleep  
45 deprived surgeons (Figure 2; n = 50,046, MD -0.14, 95% CI -1.60 to 1.33,  $I^2 = 0\%$  ( $P = 0.70$ )). Of studies  
46 not meta-analysed, the small (n = 29) before-after study showed no impact of sleep deprivation from  
47 shift-work nor of sleep hours on performance on a laparoscopic simulation (LapSimGyn).[34] One small  
48 (n = 64) intervention study compared a 24-hour shift to a usual work day, also finding no detriment to  
49 performance on a laparoscopic simulation (Minimally Invasive Surgical Trainer-Virtual Reality) despite  
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3 diminished sleep hours while working on-call.[75] In summary, pooled data from 4 cohort studies (100%  
4 low risk of bias) showed no effect of insufficient sleep on surgical efficiency. Additional data from one  
5 RCT (high risk of bias) and one before-after study (high risk of bias) also showed no association between  
6 insufficient sleep and performance on laparoscopic simulations.  
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11 Two before-after studies (high risk of bias[45, 50]) and five cross-sectional studies (2 low,[43, 59] 3  
12 unclear,[37, 46] 1 high risk of bias [61]) reported on psychomotor performance outcomes among  
13 surgeons,[45] anesthesiologists,[37, 43, 50, 59] emergency physicians,[61] and internal medicine  
14 physicians.[46] Among a small group of surgeons (n = 9), performance on a virtual ring transfer task  
15 deteriorated after an on-call shift (data not reported,  $P < 0.05$ ).[45] The four studies among anesthesiologists  
16 reported mixed findings. One small (n = 11) before-after study showed longer reaction times  
17 (690.8±73.4 vs. 746.5±113.7 milliseconds) and reduced concentration ability (26.4±23.5 vs. 56.3±23.0 on  
18 a 100-point scale,  $P = 0.007$ ) following a 24-hour shift with insufficient sleep;[50] Two others found that  
19 insufficient sleep due to overnight shifts was associated with slower reaction times.[43, 59] Conversely,  
20 a small study (n = 11) found no effect of overnight shiftwork with insufficient sleep on any measure of  
21 psychomotor performance except Hopkin's Verbal Learning Test (t-score of 48.6±7.6 vs. 41.5±9.9,  $P =$   
22 0.04).[37] Among emergency physicians (n = 18), one study (high risk of bias) showed that those who  
23 were sleep deprived (<5 hours sleep after a 24-hour shift) had a reduced performance on most but not  
24 all psychomotor tests (Battery Test Reaction 5),[61] while among internal medicine physicians (n = 20,  
25 low risk of bias), neurocognitive parameters did not seem to worsen post-call.[46] In summary, two  
26 before-after (0% low risk of bias) and 5 cross-sectional studies (40% low risk of bias) showed mixed  
27 results for the association between fatigue or insufficient sleep and psychomotor performance.  
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42 Five cross-sectional studies (2 low,[47, 69] 1 unclear,[71] 2 high risk of bias[38, 65]) reported on  
43 associations between sleep deprivation or fatigue and work ability or perceived performance, all among  
44 mixed groups of physicians.[38, 47, 65, 69, 71] The two large studies at low risk of bias showed that  
45 sleep problems and fatigue were inversely associated with physicians' perceived quality of work.[47, 69]  
46 Among 1,541 physicians in Finland, sleeping problems (measured by 4 questions from the Jenkins Scale)  
47 were inversely associated with scores on the Work Ability Index ( $\beta = -0.29$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ),[47] while a study  
48 of 890 physicians from Israel demonstrated that perceived quality of care was predicted by fatigue (1  
49 item on the Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure) even after controlling for components of burnout ( $\beta =$   
50 0.17,  $P < 0.05$ ).[69] Similarly, in one study, comments from senior physicians suggested that continual  
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3 tiredness and exhaustion negatively affected their perceived competence.[71] The two studies[38, 65]  
4 that were at high risk of bias had conflicting findings. In summary, 5 cross-sectional studies (40% at low  
5 risk of bias) reported on perceived work performance; those that were at low risk of bias supported an  
6 association between fatigue or insufficient sleep and reduced performance.  
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11 Five cross-sectional studies (1 low,[44] 2 unclear,[49, 66] 2 high risk of bias[38, 73]) reported on  
12 associations between insufficient sleep or fatigue and self-reported medical errors among surgeons,[66]  
13 anesthesiologists[44] and mixed groups of physicians.[38, 49, 73] A large (n = 7,905) study at unclear risk  
14 of bias showed that only 6.9% of surgeons reported fatigue as the most important contributor to  
15 medical errors.[66] Among anesthesiologists, a smaller study (n = 183) at low risk of bias showed that  
16 the risk of self-reported fatigue-related errors increased with more nights of work-related sleep  
17 disturbance (RR 1.25, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.49).[44] Two of the studies reporting on mixed groups of  
18 physicians had conflicting results,[38, 49] while another reported that physicians' opinions on the  
19 association between fatigue and prescribing errors differed by work setting.[73] One-third (34%) of  
20 community-based, 96% of hospital-based, and 8% of office-based physicians believed that there was a  
21 high or very high association between fatigue and prescribing errors (P < 0.05).[73] In summary, 5 cross-  
22 sectional studies (20% at low risk of bias) reported on self-reported errors, and these showed mixed  
23 findings for associations with fatigue or insufficient sleep.  
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### 35 **Patient Outcomes**

36 Six large (n = 270 to 38,978) cohort studies at low risk of bias reported on patient outcomes, all related  
37 to surgical[31, 32, 41, 58, 63, 77] or obstetric[58] procedures (Supplementary file 4). In these studies,  
38 insufficient sleep or fatigue were typically defined as overnight work prior to a daytime procedure[31,  
39 41, 58, 63, 77]; though two studies measured sleep hours[32] or 'sleep opportunity'.[58] We pooled  
40 data for procedures performed by sleep deprived versus non-sleep deprived surgeons (or obstetrician-  
41 gynecologists in one case[58]). Analyses showed no difference in the rate of post-operative  
42 complications (Figure 3; 5 studies,[31, 32, 41, 63, 77] n = 60,201, RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.95 to 1.03, I<sup>2</sup> = 0% (P  
43 = 0.45) nor patient mortality (Figure 4; 5 studies,[31, 32, 41, 63, 77] n = 60,436, RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.84 to  
44 1.15, I<sup>2</sup> = 0% (P = 0.73)). One study[77] in the mortality analysis reported the number of deaths only as  
45 ≤5. We assumed 2 events for this study (midpoint between 0 and 5); sensitivity analysis using the lowest  
46 (i.e., 0) and highest (i.e., 5) possible number of events did not change the overall result (Supplementary  
47 file 5). We found considerable between-study heterogeneity in the analyses for intraoperative  
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3 complications ( $I^2 = 82\%$ ) and length of stay ( $I^2 = 86\%$ ), which could not be explained via subgroup  
4 analyses by procedure type, thus we have suppressed the average estimates of effect. For length of stay,  
5 the results of one study on cardiac surgeries favoured sleep deprived surgeons,[32] while the  
6 others[31,41,63] had null results. For intraoperative complications, the findings of one study[63]  
7 favoured non-sleep deprived surgeons, but the others[58,77] had null results.  
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## 13 **DISCUSSION**

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15 Fatigue and chronic insufficient sleep are two potential drivers of reduced physician wellbeing[17, 19]  
16 that have thus far been understudied in physicians in independent practice. Burnout is becoming  
17 increasingly prevalent among physicians,[14-16] and recent research indicates that comprehensive  
18 individual- and system-level strategies are needed to address the problem.[6-9, 19, 21] We have  
19 systematically reviewed evidence from a heterogeneous array of available studies reporting on diverse  
20 outcomes related to physicians in independent practice and their patients. The included studies were  
21 often at high or unclear risk of bias, included small samples of physicians, and inconsistently measured  
22 and reported exposures and outcomes. The key message gleaned from this review is that despite  
23 growing interest in the topic of physician wellness, the robust evidence needed to inform individual and  
24 systems-level fatigue management strategies is lacking.  
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33 Traditionally, much of the fatigue-related research has focused on hazards to patients. The current  
34 review included six cohort studies showing that insufficient sleep and/or fatigue did not seem to result  
35 in increased rates of patient mortality or post-operative complications; findings for length of stay and  
36 intra-operative complications were inconclusive. Evidence for psychomotor performance, surgical skills  
37 and errors suggest that there is indeed a potential for negative outcomes. The included studies, like  
38 many of the others in this and other systematic reviews,[79] employed indirect definitions that make it  
39 difficult to classify sleep deprived physicians with certainty. In recent years there has been a shift away  
40 from the singular focus on patient safety toward a more comprehensive view that also considers the  
41 detrimental effects of fatigue, sleep loss and other occupational hazards on physician wellness.[80]  
42 Evidence from this review supports that fatigue and insufficient sleep may be negatively associated with  
43 physician health and wellbeing. It is now recognized that health systems cannot be sustained by a  
44 workforce that is facing an epidemic of burnout.[19, 81, 82]  
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3 In light of high rates of burnout, the ongoing dialogue about the need for a cultural shift in the practice  
4 of medicine[83, 84] is now more important than ever. Recognition of the potential effects of physician  
5 fatigue on patients, physicians, and healthcare systems as a whole must be emphasized at a systemic  
6 level, encouraging a shift in which the risks are viewed as unacceptable.[1, 20, 80] Likewise, although  
7 research to date has focused largely on individual-level approaches to address burnout, it is now clear  
8 that placing the burden of a system-level problem solely on the individual is unlikely to bring about  
9 significant and lasting change.[85] Recent research has highlighted physician burnout as a system-driven  
10 issue that will require corresponding national-scale multicomponent solutions.[1, 19, 81, 82] As such, in  
11 the past several years both the American and Canadian Medical Associations have developed policies  
12 and programs that address physician health.[81, 86] The Canadian Medical Association's new policy on  
13 physician health calls on broad stakeholder groups (e.g., policymakers, regional health authorities,  
14 governments) to take shared responsibility for the health of physicians and to make meaningful and  
15 concerted efforts towards promoting a healthy and sustainable workforce.[81]

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27 The most salient finding of this review is that the current evidence is insufficient to inform policy and  
28 practice. Correspondingly, a 2016 research summit on physician wellness and burnout outlined the need  
29 for timely, relevant and methodologically robust research to inform practice and policy.[21] The  
30 findings herein may be used as motivation for researchers and practitioners to develop and design  
31 methodologically strong research programs related to physician fatigue, inform successful research  
32 grant proposals, and lobby healthcare organizations to increase the focus on physician fatigue  
33 management programs. It will be important to make use of existing validated measures[87-89]  
34 consistently in future research. Identifying outcomes of importance to physicians and their patients  
35 should be prioritized, such that these may be collected within intervention studies. Reporting these  
36 consistently will allow for the effective synthesis of findings and reduce research waste.[90] Integrated  
37 knowledge translation strategies involving multiple stakeholder groups (e.g., physicians, patients,  
38 medical schools, physicians' associations and governing bodies, policymakers) may help to ensure that  
39 the research is relevant and facilitates decision-making.[91]

### 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 **Strengths and Limitations**

51 Our systematic review is the first to synthesize evidence on the effects of fatigue and insufficient sleep  
52 on physicians in independent practice. The review is timely, given recent calls for research into  
53 individual and organisational solutions for burnout,[20, 21] and an increased focus on physician  
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3 health.[80, 81] While we have identified a diverse body of evidence, we could not draw definitive  
4 conclusions due to methodological weaknesses (e.g., 62% at high risk of bias, reliance primarily on cross-  
5 sectional designs and uncontrolled studies, subjective measurement of exposures and outcomes, small  
6 sample sizes, inclusion of predominantly male physicians within urban settings) and heterogeneous  
7 outcome measures in the included studies. Given that the 2017 update search was limited to one  
8 database, it is possible that a small number of relevant studies could have been missed. We believe that  
9 the likelihood that these might alter the conclusions of the review is low. The findings may have been  
10 influenced by publication bias, and may not be generalized to all settings, given our restriction to high  
11 income countries. Confidence in the conclusions is limited due to multiple comparisons.  
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## 20 **CONCLUSION**

21 The evidence synthesized in this review suggests that fatigue and insufficient sleep are associated with  
22 some detrimental physician health and wellbeing outcomes; the evidence for potential associations with  
23 performance and safety outcomes was mixed. Meta-analyses for patient outcomes demonstrated that  
24 in many cases, potential relationships with physician sleep deprivation remain unclear. Our overall  
25 confidence in the findings is low, owing to multiple comparisons and a body of research that is hindered  
26 by methodological weaknesses. Further methodologically robust research that includes consistent  
27 outcomes that are of interest to physicians and their patients is needed to inform strong practice  
28 recommendations and policy decisions.  
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## 37 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

38 We would like to thank Dr. Meghan Sebastianski and Andrea Milne for assistance with screening, and Dr.  
39 Allison Gates for screening, data verification, and quality assessment of the French studies.  
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### 8 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

9  
10 All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form at [www.icmje.org/coi\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf) and  
11 declare: Dr. Christopher Simon is employed by the Canadian Medical Association, who provided financial  
12 support for the research; there are no other relationships or activities that could appear to have  
13 influenced the submitted work.  
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### 17 **CONTRIBUTOR STATEMENT**

18  
19 All authors contributed to the conception and design of the project. MG and AW contributed to the  
20 acquisition, analysis and interpretation of the data, and drafted the manuscript. RF contributed to  
21 acquisition of data. CSa, CSi and MPD contributed to interpretation of data and revised the manuscript  
22 for important intellectual content. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript as  
23 submitted.  
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### 30 **FUNDING STATEMENT**

31 This research was supported by the Canadian Medical Association. The funder had no role in the study  
32 design; collection, analysis and interpretation of data; the writing of the report; and the decision to  
33 submit the article for publication.  
34  
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### 38 **ROLE OF FUNDERS**

39  
40 Dr. Christopher Simon is employed by the Canadian Medical Association. The remaining authors are  
41 independent from the funders. The funders had no role in the study design; in the collection, analysis,  
42 and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; or in the decision to submit the article for  
43 publication.  
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### 48 **TRANSPARENCY DECLARATION**

49  
50 The lead author (MG) affirms that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the  
51 study being reported; no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and all discrepancies from  
52 the study as planned have been explained.  
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#### DATA ACCESS STATEMENT

All authors, external and internal, had full access to all of the data in the study and can take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the interpretation.

#### DATA SHARING STATEMENT

The data pertaining to this systematic review are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

#### FIGURE CAPTIONS

**Figure 1.** Flow of records through the selection process

**Figure 2.** Forest plot for operating time among sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

**Figure 3.** Forest plot for post-operative complications among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

**Legend:** Vinden 2013 reported iatrogenic injuries; Schieman 2008, Govindarajan 2015, and Chu 2011 reported post-operative complication rate; Ellman 2004 reported post-operative complications (other types of complications reported not included in the analysis)

**Figure 4.** Forest plot for patient mortality among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

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4 the number of off duty and on-call, and sleep hours among physicians working in Japanese hospitals:  
5 a cross sectional study. *BMC Public Health* 2010;10:127. doi: 10.1186/1471-2458-10-127  
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33 10.1093/occmed/kqu168  
34  
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37  
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40  
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42 conduct, and analysis. *Lancet* 2014;383(9912):166-75.  
43  
44 91. Gagliardi AR, Berta W, Kothari A, Boyko J, Urquhart R. Integrated knowledge translation (IKT) in  
45 health care: a scoping review. *Implement Sci* 2016;11:38. [https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-016-0399-](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-016-0399-1)  
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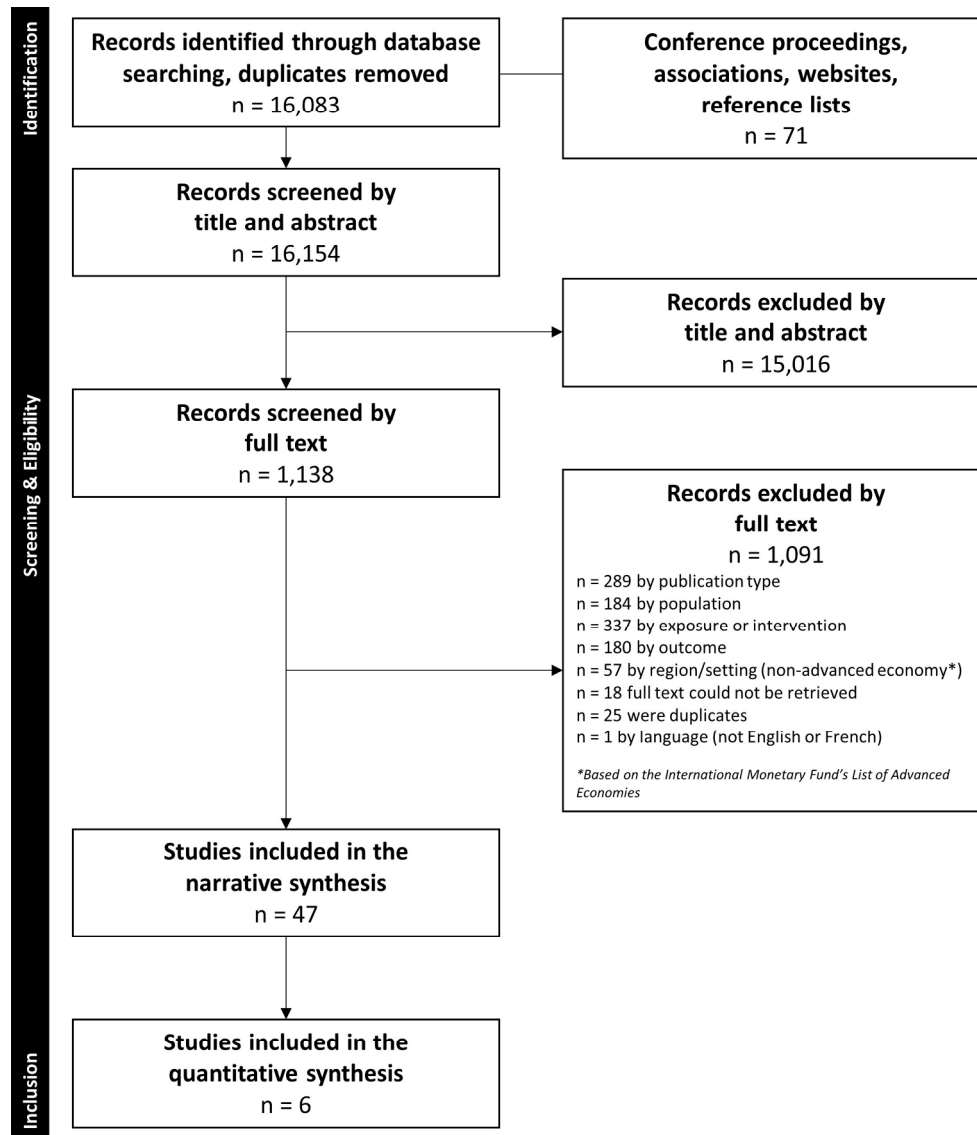


Figure 1. Flow of records through the selection process

190x215mm (300 x 300 DPI)

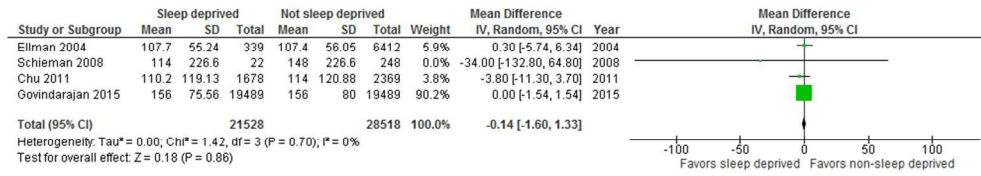


Figure 2. Forest plot for operating time among sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

381x101mm (300 x 300 DPI)



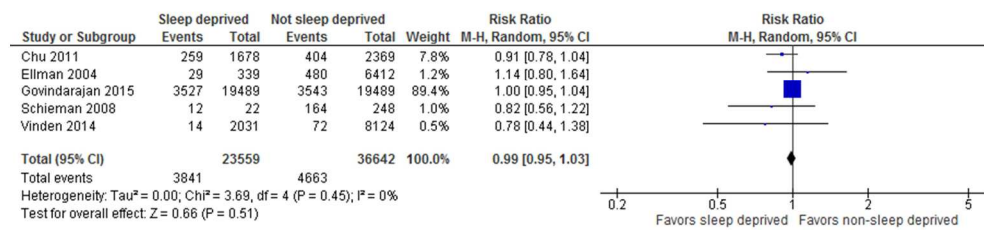


Figure 3. Forest plot for post-operative complications among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

Legend: Vinden 2013 reported iatrogenic injuries; Schieman 2008, Govindarajan 2015, and Chu 2011 reported post-operative complication rate; Ellman 2004 reported post-operative complications (other types of complications reported not included in the analysis)

381x101mm (300 x 300 DPI)



Figure 4. Forest plot for patient mortality among surgeries performed by sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived surgeons

381x101mm (300 x 300 DPI)

peer review only

**Supplementary file 1.** Search Strategy**Database:** In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present**Date searched:** 13 April 2016, updated 7 November 2017**Records retrieved:** 5068 and 1442 in the update (removed duplicates retrieved in previous search)

1. Medical Staff, Hospital/
2. Physician Impairment/
3. exp Physicians/
4. allergist\*.ti.
5. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.
6. cardiologist\*.ti.
7. clinician\*.ti.
8. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
9. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
10. dermatologist\*.ti.
11. endocrinologist\*.ti.
12. doctor\*.ti.
13. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
14. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
15. family practitioner\*.ti.
16. gastroenterologist\*.ti.
17. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.
18. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.
19. geriatrician\*.ti.
20. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.

- 1
- 2
- 3 21. h?ematologist\*.ti.
- 4
- 5 22. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
- 6
- 7 23. hospitalist\*.ti.
- 8
- 9 24. (house staff\* or housestaff\*).ti.
- 10
- 11 25. intensivist\*.ti.
- 12
- 13 26. internist\*.ti.
- 14
- 15 27. medical professional\*.ti.
- 16
- 17 28. obstetrician\*.ti.
- 18
- 19 29. oncologist\*.ti.
- 20
- 21 30. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
- 22
- 23 31. orthop?edist\*.ti.
- 24
- 25 32. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
- 26
- 27 33. neonatologist\*.ti.
- 28
- 29 34. nephrologist\*.ti.
- 30
- 31 35. neurologist\*.ti.
- 32
- 33 36. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
- 34
- 35 37. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
- 36
- 37 38. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
- 38
- 39 39. perinatologist\*.ti.
- 40
- 41 40. physician\*.ti.
- 42
- 43 41. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 44 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 45 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
- 46
- 47 42. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or
- 48 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw,kf.
- 49
- 50 43. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
- 51
- 52 44. psychiatrist\*.ti.
- 53
- 54 45. pulmonologist\*.ti.
- 55
- 56 46. rheumatologist\*.ti.
- 57
- 58 47. surgeon\*.ti.
- 59
- 60

- 1
- 2
- 3 48. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw,kf.
- 6
- 7
- 8 49. traumatologist\*.ti.
- 9
- 10 50. urologist\*.ti.
- 11
- 12 51. or/1-50 [Combined MeSH, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13 52. Burnout, Professional/
- 14
- 15 53. exp Circadian Rhythm/
- 16
- 17 54. exp Fatigue/
- 18
- 19 55. Occupational Health/
- 20 56. Rest/ph, px [Physiology, Psychology]
- 21
- 22 57. Sleep Deprivation/
- 23 58. Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm/
- 24
- 25 59. Sleep Wake Disorders/
- 26
- 27 60. exp Stress, Psychological/
- 28 61. Workload/px [Psychology]
- 29
- 30 62. Work Schedule Tolerance/
- 31
- 32 63. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw,kf.
- 33 64. biological rhythm\*.tw,kf.
- 34
- 35 65. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw,kf.
- 36
- 37 66. circadian misalignment.tw,kf.
- 38 67. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw,kf.
- 39
- 40 68. exhaust\*.tw,kf.
- 41
- 42 69. fatigu\*.tw,kf.
- 43 70. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw,kf.
- 44
- 45 71. tired\*.tw,kf.
- 46
- 47 72. weariness.tw,kf.
- 48 73. or/52-72 [Combined MeSH and text words for fatigue]
- 49
- 50 74. and/51,73 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
- 51
- 52 75. animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
- 53
- 54 76. 74 not 75
- 55 77. (comment or editorial or letter).pt.
- 56
- 57
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1  
2  
3 78. 76 not 77

4  
5 79. limit 78 to yr="2000-Current"

6  
7 80. limit 79 to (english or french)

8  
9 81. remove duplicates from 80

10  
11 **Database: Ovid Embase 1996 to 2016 Week 15**

12  
13 **Date searched: 13 April 2016**

14  
15 **Records retrieved: 8859**

16  
17  
18 1. medical staff/

19  
20 2. exp physician/

21  
22 3. allergist\*.ti.

23  
24 4. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.

25  
26 5. cardiologist\*.ti.

27  
28 6. clinician\*.ti.

29  
30 7. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
31 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
32 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

33  
34 8. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
35 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.

36  
37 9. dermatologist\*.ti.

38  
39 10. endocrinologist\*.ti.

40  
41 11. doctor\*.ti.

42  
43 12. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
44 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
45 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

46  
47 13. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
48 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.

49  
50 14. family practitioner\*.ti.

51  
52 15. gastroenterologist\*.ti.

53  
54 16. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.

55  
56 17. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.

18. geriatrician\*.ti.
19. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.
20. h?ematologist\*.ti.
21. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
22. hospitalist\*.ti.
23. (house staff\* or housestaff\*).ti.
24. intensivist\*.ti.
25. internist\*.ti.
26. medical professional\*.ti.
27. obstetrician\*.ti.
28. oncologist\*.ti.
29. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
30. orthop?edist\*.ti.
31. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
32. neonatologist\*.ti.
33. nephrologist\*.ti.
34. neurologist\*.ti.
35. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
36. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
37. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
38. perinatologist\*.ti.
39. physician\*.ti.
40. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
41. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.
42. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
43. psychiatrist\*.ti.
44. pulmonologist\*.ti.
45. rheumatologist\*.ti.
46. surgeon\*.ti.

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- 3 47. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or
- 4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or
- 5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
- 6
- 7
- 8 48. traumatologist\*.ti.
- 9
- 10 49. urologist\*.ti.
- 11
- 12 50. or/1-49 [Combined Emtree, title, and text word searches for physicians]
- 13
- 14 51. burnout/
- 15
- 16 52. circadian rhythm/
- 17
- 18 53. circadian rhythm sleep disorder/
- 19
- 20 54. fatigue/
- 21
- 22 55. mental stress/
- 23
- 24 56. occupational health/
- 25
- 26 57. sleep deprivation/
- 27
- 28 58. sleep waking cycle/
- 29
- 30 59. work capacity/
- 31
- 32 60. work schedule/
- 33
- 34 61. working time/
- 35
- 36 62. workload/
- 37
- 38 63. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw.
- 39
- 40 64. biological rhythm\*.tw.
- 41
- 42 65. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw.
- 43
- 44 66. circadian misalignment.tw.
- 45
- 46 67. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw.
- 47
- 48 68. exhaust\*.tw.
- 49
- 50 69. fatigu\*.tw.
- 51
- 52 70. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw.
- 53
- 54 71. tired\*.tw.
- 55
- 56 72. weariness.tw.
- 57
- 58 73. or/51-72 [Combined Emtree and text words for fatigue]
- 59
- 60 74. and/50,73 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]
75. animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
76. 74 not 75



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3 77. (conference\* or editorial or letter or proceeding).pt.  
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5 78. 76 not 77

6 79. limit 78 to yr="2000-Current"  
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8 80. limit 79 to (english or french)  
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10 81. limit 80 to embase  
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13 **Database: Ovid PsycINFO 1987 to April Week 1 2016**

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15 **Date searched: 13 April 2016**

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17 **Records retrieved: 2094**  
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19  
20 1. exp Physicians/  
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22 2. allergist\*.ti.  
23

24 3. (an?esthetist\* or an?esthesiologist\*).ti.  
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26 4. cardiologist\*.ti.  
27

28 5. clinician\*.ti.  
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30 6. (clinician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
31 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
32 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.

33 7. (clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
34 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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36 8. dermatologist\*.ti.  
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38 9. endocrinologist\*.ti.  
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40 10. doctor\*.ti.  
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42 11. (doctor\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
43 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
44 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.  
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46 12. (doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
47 suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.  
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49 13. family practitioner\*.ti.  
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51 14. gastroenterologist\*.ti.  
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53 15. (general practitioner\* or GP\*).ti.  
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55 16. (general adj2 physician\*).ti.  
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17. geriatrician\*.ti.
18. gyn?ecologist\*.ti.
19. h?ematologist\*.ti.
20. (health\* adj2 (professional\* or provider\*)).ti.
21. hospitalist\*.ti.
22. intensivist\*.ti.
23. internist\*.ti.
24. medical professional\*.ti.
25. obstetrician\*.ti.
26. oncologist\*.ti.
27. ophthalmologist\*.ti.
28. orthop?edist\*.ti.
29. (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*).ti.
30. neonatologist\*.ti.
31. nephrologist\*.ti.
32. neurologist\*.ti.
33. neuropsychiatrist\*.ti.
34. neurosurgeon\*.ti.
35. p?ediatrician\*.ti.
36. perinatologist\*.ti.
37. physician\*.ti.
38. (physician\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.
39. (physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or suburb\* or urban\*)).tw.
40. primary care practitioner\*.ti.
41. psychiatrist\*.ti.
42. pulmonologist\*.ti.
43. rheumatologist\*.ti.
44. surgeon\*.ti.

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3 45. (surgeon\* adj2 (absent\* or burn out\* or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or duty hour\* or fatigue or  
4 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or well being\* or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
5 work\* hour\* or work life balance)).tw.  
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8 46. traumatologist\*.ti.  
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10 47. urologist\*.ti.  
11  
12 48. or/1-47 [Combined thesaurus, title, and text word searches for physicians]  
13  
14 49. Compassion Fatigue/  
15 50. Fatigue/  
16 51. Human Biological Rhythms/  
17 52. Occupational Health/  
18 53. Occupational Stress/  
19 54. Sleep/  
20 55. Sleepiness/  
21 56. Working Conditions/  
22 57. Work Rest Cycles/  
23 58. Work Week Length/  
24 59. Work Scheduling/  
25 60. Workday Shifts/  
26  
27 61. ((24 hour\* or 24 hr\* or twenty four hour\* or twentyfour hour\*) adj rhythm\*).tw.  
28  
29 62. biological rhythm\*.tw.  
30  
31 63. (burn out\* or burned out\* or burnt out\* or burnout\*).tw.  
32  
33 64. circadian misalignment.tw.  
34  
35 65. ((circadian or diurnam or ultradian) adj rhythm\*).tw.  
36  
37 66. exhaust\*.tw.  
38  
39 67. fatigu\*.tw.  
40  
41 68. (sleep\* adj3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)).tw.  
42  
43 69. tired\*.tw.  
44  
45 70. weariness.tw.  
46  
47 71. or/49-70 [Combined thesaurus and text words for fatigue]  
48  
49 72. and/48,71 [Combined concepts for physicians and fatigue]  
50  
51 73. limit 72 to yr="2000-Current"  
52  
53 74. limit 73 to (english or french)  
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3 **Database: CINAHL Plus with Full Text (1937 to the present) via EBSCOhost**

4  
5 **Date searched:** 14 April 2016

6  
7 **Records retrieved:** 3378

8  
9  
10 S1. (MH "Medical Staff, Hospital+")

11 S2. (MH "Physicians+")

12 S3. TI allertist\*

13 S4. TI (anesthetist\* or anaesthetist\* or anesthesiologist\* or anaesthesiologist\*)

14 S5. TI cardiologist\*

15 S6. TI clinician\*

16 S7. clinician\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
17 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
18 "work\* hour\*" or "work life balance")

19 S8. clinician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
20 suburb\* or urban\*)

21 S9. TI dermatologist\*

22 S10. TI endocrinologist\*

23 S11. TI doctor\*

24 S12. doctor\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue or  
25 health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
26 work\* hour\* or "work life balance")

27 S13. doctor\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\* or  
28 suburb\* or urban\*)

29 S14. TI "family practitioner\*"

30 S15. TI gastroenterologist\*

31 S16. TI ("general practitioner\*" or GP\*)

32 S17. TI (general N2 physician\*)

33 S18. TI geriatrician\*

34 S19. TI (gynaecologist\* or gynecologist\*)

35 S20. TI (haematologist\* or hematologist\*)

36 S21. TI hospitalist\*

37 S22. TI ("house staff\*" or housestaff\*)

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3 S23. TI intensivist\*
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5 S24. TI internist\*
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7 S25. TI obstetrician\*
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9 S26. TI oncologist\*
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11 S27. TI ophthalmologist\*
- 12  
13 S28. TI (orthopaedist\* or orthopedist\*)
- 14  
15 S29. TI (otolaryngologist\* or otorhinolaryngologist\*)
- 16  
17 S30. TI neonatologist\*
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19 S31. TI nephrologist\*
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21 S32. TI neurologist\*
- 22  
23 S33. TI neuropsychiatrist\*
- 24  
25 S34. TI neurosurgeon\*
- 26  
27 S35. TI (paediatrician\* OR pediatrician\*)
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29 S36. TI perinatologist\*
- 30  
31 S37. TI physician\*
- 32  
33 S38. physician\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
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35 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
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37 "work\* hour\*" or "work life balance")
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39 S39. physician\* and (cities or city or communit\* or country\* or frontier\* or north\* or remote or rural\*  
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41 or suburb\* or urban\*)
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43 S40. TI "primary care practitioner\*"
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45 S41. TI psychiatrist\*
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47 S42. TI pulmonologist\*
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49 S43. TI rheumatologist\*
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51 S44. TI surgeon\*
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53 S45. surgeon\* N2 (absent\* or "burn out\*" or burnout\* or coping or distress\* or "duty hour\*" or fatigue  
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55 or health\* or impair\* or resilien\* or satisfaction or sleep\* or "well being\*" or wellbeing\* or wellness\* or  
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57 work\* hour\* or "work life balance")
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59 S46. TI traumatologist\*
- 60  
S47. TI urologist\*
- S48. S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR  
S15 OR S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26 OR S27 OR S28

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3 OR S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38 OR S39 OR S40 OR S41 OR  
4 S42 OR S43 OR S44 OR S45 OR S46 OR S47

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6 S49. (MH "Circadian Rhythm")

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8 S50. (MH "Fatigue")

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10 S51. (MH "Impairment, Health Professional")

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12 S52. (MH "Mental Fatigue")

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14 S53. (MH "Occupational Health")

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16 S54. (MH "Shiftwork")

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18 S55. (MH "Sleep Deprivation")

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20 S56. (MH "Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm")

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22 S57. (MH "Sleep-Wake Transition Disorders")

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24 S58. (MH "Stress, Occupational+")

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26 S59. (MH "Stress, Psychological")

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28 S60. ("24 hour\*" or "24 hr\*" or "twenty four hour\*" or "twentyfour hour\*") N1 rhythm\*

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30 S61. "biological rhythm\*"

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32 S62. "burn out\*" or "burned out\*" or "burnt out\*" or burnout\*

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34 S63. "circadian misalignment"

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36 S64. (circadian or diurnam or ultradian) N1 rhythm\*

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38 S65. exhaust\*

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40 S66. fatigu\*

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42 S67. sleep\* N3 (depriv\* or disorder\* or disrupt\* or lack\* or loss or insufficien\* or problem\*)

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44 S68. tired\*

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46 S69. weariness

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48 S70. S49 OR S50 OR S51 OR S52 OR S53 OR S54 OR S55 OR S56 OR S57 OR S58 OR S59 OR S60 OR S61 OR  
49 S62 OR S63 OR S64 OR S65 OR S66 OR S67 OR S68 OR S69

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51 S71. S48 AND S70

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53 S72. S48 AND S70 Limiters - Published Date: 20000101-20161231; Publication Type: Clinical Trial, Journal  
54 Article, Meta Analysis, Meta Synthesis, Practice Guidelines, Randomized Controlled Trial, Research,  
55 Review, Systematic Review; Language: English, French  
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5 **Records retrieved:** 92

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10 (((("Medical Staff, Hospital"[mh:noexp] OR "Physician Impairment"[mh:noexp] OR "Physicians"[mh] OR  
11 allergist[ti] OR allergists[ti] OR anaesthetist[ti] OR anaesthetists[ti] OR anaesthesiologist[ti] OR  
12 anaesthesiologists[ti] OR anesthetist[ti] OR anesthetists[ti] OR anesthesiologist[ti] OR  
13 anesthesiologists[ti] OR cardiologist[ti] OR cardiologists[ti] OR clinician[ti] OR clinicians[ti] OR  
14 ((clinician[tiab] OR clinicians[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR  
15 absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR  
16 burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR  
17 distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR  
18 fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR  
19 impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR  
20 satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR  
21 wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life  
22 balance"[tiab])) OR ((clinician[tiab] OR clinicians[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR community[tiab]  
23 OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR north[tiab] OR  
24 northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR suburban[tiab] OR  
25 urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR dermatologist[ti] OR dermatologists[ti] OR endocrinologist[ti] OR  
26 endocrinologists[ti] OR doctor[ti] OR doctors[ti] OR ((doctor[tiab] OR doctors[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab]  
27 OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn  
28 out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab]  
29 OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR  
30 "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab]  
31 OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR  
32 resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab]  
33 OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working  
34 hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR ((doctor[tiab] OR doctors[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR  
35 city[tiab] OR community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR  
36 frontier[tiab] OR north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR  
37 suburbs[tiab] OR suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR "family practitioner"[ti] OR  
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4 physician"[ti] OR "general practice physicians"[ti] OR "general practitioner"[ti] OR "general  
5 practitioners"[ti] OR geriatrician[ti] OR geriatricians[ti] OR gynaecologist[ti] OR gynaecologists[ti] OR  
6 gynecologist[ti] OR gynecologists[ti] OR haematologist[ti] OR haematologists[ti] OR hematologist[ti] OR  
7 hematologists[ti] OR "health care professional"[ti] OR "health care professionals"[ti] AND "health care  
8 provider"[ti] OR "health care providers" OR "health professional"[ti] OR "health professionals"[ti] OR  
9 "health provider"[ti] OR "health providers"[ti] OR "healthcare professional"[ti] OR "healthcare  
10 professionals"[ti] OR "healthcare provider"[ti] OR "healthcare providers"[ti] OR hospitalist[ti] OR  
11 hospitalists[ti] OR "house staff"[ti] OR "house staffs"[ti] OR housestaff[ti] OR housestaffs[ti] OR  
12 intensivist[ti] OR intensivists[ti] OR internist[ti] OR internists[ti] OR "medical professional"[ti] OR  
13 "medical professionals"[ti] OR obstetrician[ti] OR obstetricians[ti] OR oncologist[ti] OR oncologists[ti] OR  
14 ophthalmologist[ti] OR ophthalmologists[ti] OR orthopaedist[ti] OR orthopaedists[ti] OR orthopedist[ti]  
15 OR orthopedists[ti] OR otolaryngologist[ti] OR otolaryngologists[ti] OR otorhinolaryngologist[ti] OR  
16 otorhinolaryngologists[ti] OR neonatologist[ti] OR neonatologists[ti] OR nephrologist[ti] OR  
17 nephrologists[ti] OR neurologist[ti] OR neurologists[ti] OR neuropsychiatrist[ti] OR neuropsychiatrists[ti]  
18 OR neurosurgeon[ti] OR neurosurgeons[ti] OR paediatrician[ti] OR paediatricians[ti] OR pediatrician[ti]  
19 OR pediatricians[ti] OR perinatologist[ti] OR perinatologists[ti] OR physician[ti] OR physicians[ti] OR  
20 ((physician[tiab] OR physicians[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR  
21 absenteeisms[tiab] OR "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR  
22 burnouts[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR  
23 distresses[tiab] OR distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR  
24 fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR  
25 impaired[tiab] OR impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR  
26 satisfaction[tiab] OR sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR  
27 wellbeing[tiab] OR wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life  
28 balance"[tiab])) OR ((physician[tiab] OR physicians[tiab]) AND (cities[tiab] OR city[tiab] OR  
29 community[tiab] OR communities[tiab] OR country[tiab] OR countryside[tiab] OR frontier[tiab] OR  
30 north[tiab] OR northern[tiab] OR remote[tiab] OR rural[tiab] OR suburb[tiab] OR suburbs[tiab] OR  
31 suburban[tiab] OR urban[tiab] OR urbanite[tiab])) OR "primary care practitioner"[ti] OR "primary care  
32 practitioners"[ti] OR psychiatrist[ti] OR psychiatrists[ti] OR pulmonologist[ti] OR pulmonologists[ti] OR  
33 rheumatologist[ti] OR rheumatologists[ti] OR surgeon[ti] OR surgeons[ti] OR ((surgeon[tiab] OR  
34 surgeons[tiab]) AND (absent[tiab] OR absentee[tiab] OR absenteeism[tiab] OR absenteeisms[tiab] OR  
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 3 "burned out"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR "burn outs"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR burnouts[tiab] OR  
 4 "burnt out"[tiab] OR coping[tiab] OR distress[tiab] OR distressed[tiab] OR distresses[tiab] OR  
 5 distressing[tiab] OR "duty hour"[tiab] OR "duty hours"[tiab] OR fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR  
 6 fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR health[tiab] OR healthy[tiab] OR impair[tiab] OR impaired[tiab] OR  
 7 impairment[tiab] OR resilience[tiab] OR resiliency[tiab] OR resilient[tiab] OR satisfaction[tiab] OR  
 8 sleep[tiab] OR sleepiness[tiab] OR sleeps[tiab] OR "well being"[tiab] OR wellbeing[tiab] OR  
 9 wellness[tiab] OR "work hours"[tiab] OR "working hours"[tiab] OR "work life balance"[tiab])) OR  
 10 traumatologist[ti] OR traumatologists[ti] OR urologist[ti] OR urologists[ti]) AND ("Burnout,  
 11 Professional"[mh:noexp] OR "Circadian Rhythm"[mh] OR "Fatigue"[mh] OR "Occupational  
 12 Health"[mh:noexp] OR "Rest/physiology"[mh:noexp] OR "Rest/psychology"[mh:noexp] OR "Sleep  
 13 Deprivation"[mh:noexp] OR "Sleep Disorders, Circadian Rhythm"[mh:noexp] OR "Stress,  
 14 Psychological"[mh] OR "Workload/psychology"[mh] OR "Work Schedule Tolerance"[mh:noexp] OR "24  
 15 hour rhythm"[tiab] OR "24 hour rhythms"[tiab] OR "24 hr rhythm"[tiab] OR "24 hr rhythms"[tiab] OR  
 16 alertness[tiab] OR "biological rhythm"[tiab] OR "biological rhythms"[tiab] OR "burn out"[tiab] OR  
 17 "burned out"[tiab] OR "burnt out"[tiab] OR burnout[tiab] OR "circadian misalignment"[tiab] OR  
 18 "circadian rhythm"[tiab] OR "circadian rhythms"[tiab] OR "diurnal rhythm"[tiab] OR "diurnal  
 19 rhythms"[tiab] OR exhausted[tiab] OR exhaustion[tiab] OR exhausting[tiab] OR exhausts[tiab] OR  
 20 fatigue[tiab] OR fatigued[tiab] OR fatigues[tiab] OR fatiguing[tiab] OR ("Sleep"[mh:noexp] OR  
 21 sleep[tiab] OR sleeping[tiab]) AND (deprivation[tiab] OR deprive[tiab] OR deprived[tiab] OR  
 22 deprives[tiab] OR depriving[tiab] OR disorder[tiab] OR disorders[tiab] OR lack[tiab] OR lacked[tiab] OR  
 23 lacking[tiab] OR lacks[tiab] OR loss[tiab] AND insufficient[tiab] OR problem[tiab] OR problems[tiab])) OR  
 24 tired[tiab] OR tiredness[tiab] OR "twenty four hour rhythm"[tiab] OR "twenty four hour rhythms"[tiab]  
 25 OR weariness[tiab] OR "ultradian rhythm"[tiab] OR "ultradian rhythms"[tiab])) NOT (((Animals[MESH]  
 26 OR Animal Experimentation[MESH] OR "Models, Animal"[MESH] OR Vertebrates[MESH]) NOT  
 27 (Humans[MESH] OR Human experimentation[MESH])) OR (((animals[tiab] OR animal model[tiab] OR  
 28 rat[tiab] OR rats[tiab] OR mouse[tiab] OR mice[tiab] OR rabbit[tiab] OR rabbits[tiab] OR pig[tiab] OR  
 29 pigs[tiab] OR porcine[tiab] OR swine[tiab] OR dog[tiab] OR dogs[tiab] OR hamster[tiab] OR  
 30 hamsters[tiab] OR chicken[tiab] OR chickens[tiab] OR sheep[tiab]) AND (publisher[sb] OR inprocess[sb]  
 31 OR pubmednotmedline[sb])) NOT (human[ti] OR humans[ti] OR people[ti] OR children[ti] OR adults[ti]  
 32 OR seniors[ti] OR patient[ti] OR patients[ti]))) NOT (editorial[pt] OR comment[pt] OR letter[pt] OR  
 33 newspaper article[pt])) AND ((publisher[sb] NOT pubstatusnihms NOT pubstatuspmcsd NOT pmcbook)  
 34 OR (pubstatUSheadofprint))

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**Supplementary table 1.** Descriptive characteristics of the included studies

| Study<br>Country                               | Physician and patient characteristics                           |                                    |   |   | Setting  |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures   | Outcomes  |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------|---|---|
|  | Type  | n=                                 | Sex (% male)  | Age   | Location   | Urban<br>or<br>rural |   |   |
| <b>Observational (exposure) studies (n=45)</b> |   |                                    |   |   |  |                      |   |   |
| <b>Cohort design</b>                           |   |                                    |   |   |  |                      |   |   |
| Chu, 2011 [32]<br>Canada                       | Surgeons  | 6                                  | NR  | Range: 32-55y   | Tertiary care academic<br>hospital   | Urban                | Insufficient sleep due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding surgery               | Length of surgery; patient<br>postoperative mortality,<br>complications, length of<br>stay                        |
|  | Patients: cardiac surgery<br>cases                              | 4,047                              | NR  | NR  |  |                      |   |   |
| Ellman, 2004 [41]<br>US                        | Surgeons  | NR                                 | NR  | NR  | University hospitals   | Urban                | Insufficient sleep due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding surgery               | Length of surgery; patient<br>complications, in-hospital<br>mortality, length of stay,<br>need for blood products |
|  | Patients: adult cardiac<br>surgery cases                        | 6,751                              | 70%   | S: 63.4±0.7y<br>C: 63.5±0.1y  |  |                      |   |   |
| Govindarajan,<br>2015 [31]<br>Canada           | Surgeons  | 1,448                              | NR  | 46.3±8.7  | Academic and non-<br>academic hospitals  | Mixed                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding a daytime<br>surgery   | Length of surgery; Patient<br>complications, mortality,<br>readmissions, length of<br>stay                        |
|  | Patients: surgical cases  | 38,978                             | NR  | 56.4±16.6y  |  |                      |   |   |
| Rothschild, 2009<br>[58]<br>US                 | Surgeons<br>Obstetrician/gynecologists                          | 220                                | Surgeons:<br>84%<br>OB/GYNs:<br>28%                   | Surgeons:<br>42.0±7.6y<br>OB/GYNs:<br>42.0±9.0y                                   | Tertiary care academic<br>trauma centre/referral<br>centre for high-risk<br>obstetrics | Urban                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to work on the night<br>preceding a daytime<br>procedure | Patient complications,<br>preventable<br>complications  |
|  | Patients: surgical and<br>obstetrics cases                      | Surg.:<br>4,471<br>Obst.:<br>4,902 | Surg:<br>S: 25%<br>C: 28%<br>Obst.:<br>S: 0%<br>C: 0% | Surg:<br>S: 49.1±16.3y<br>C: 50.0±16.3y<br>Obst.:<br>S: 32.9±5.2y<br>C: 33.5±5.0y |  |                      |   |   |
|  |   |                                    |   |   |  |                      |   |   |
| Schieman, 2007<br>[63]<br>Canada               | Colorectal surgeons   | NR                                 | NR  | NR  | University teaching<br>hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue due to work<br>on the night preceding<br>surgery                          | Length of surgery; patient<br>operative complications,<br>length of stay, mortality,<br>cancer recurrence         |
|  | Patients: undergoing<br>anterior resection for rectal<br>cancer | 270                                | NR  | S: 64.5y<br>C: 64.4y  |  |                      |   |   |

| Study<br>Country                     | Physician and patient characteristics                       |               |                         |   | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures  | Outcomes   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|-------------------------|---|---|----------------------|--|--|
|                                      | Type  | n=            | Sex (% male)            | Age   | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |  |  |
| Vinden, 2014 [77]<br>Canada          | General surgeons<br>Patients: Elective<br>cholecystectomies | 331<br>10,390 | 83%<br>S: 27%<br>C: 26% | 48±10y<br>S: 49±16y<br>C: 49±16y                      | Community hospitals   | Mixed                | Sleep deprivation due<br>to overnight work<br>preceding daytime<br>surgery | Patient mortality,<br>operative complications                                    |
| <b>Before-after design</b>           |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Amirian, 2014 [34]<br>Denmark        | Surgeons  | 29            | 55%                     | Median: 35y<br>Range: 27-49y                          | Academic hospital   | Urban                | 17-h night shift with<br>sleep deprivation                                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities on<br>a laparoscopic simulation           |
| Gerdes, 2008 [45]<br>US              | Surgeons  | 9             | NR                      | NR  | University Hospital   | Urban                | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation from<br>overnight call shift                 | Cognitive and<br>psychomotor abilities   |
| Lederer, 2006 [50]<br>Austria        | Senior anesthesiologists                                    | 11            | 82%                     | 49.0±2.0y   | Hospital  | Urban                | Sleep deprivation<br>from 24-h call shift                                  | Concentration ability;<br>reaction time;<br>performance on<br>psychometric tasks |
| <b>Time series design</b>            |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Leichtfried, 2011<br>[51]<br>Austria | Anesthesiologists   | 10            | 100%                    | Mean: 32y<br>Range: 29-35y                            | University Hospital   | Urban                | Sleep deprivation<br>from 24-h shift;<br>sleepiness, sleep<br>hours        | Melatonin metabolite<br>profile  |
| <b>Cross-sectional design</b>        |   |               |                         |   |   |                      |  |  |
| Aziz, 2004 [35]<br>US                | Family medicine physicians<br>Various specialties           | 153           | NR                      | NR  | Hospitals   | NR                   | Fatigue  | Stress   |
| Beaujouan, 2005<br>[36]<br>France    | Anesthesiologists   | 3,476         | 64%                     | ≤35y: 9%<br>36-45y: 28%<br>46-55y: 49%<br>56-65y: 13% | Public sector<br>General hospitals<br>University hospitals<br>Private hospitals | NR                   | Sleep deprivation  | Substance abuse  |
| Chang, 2013 [37]<br>US               | Anesthesiologists   | 11            | 64%                     | Mean: 38y<br>IQR: 34-48y                              | Level 1 trauma centre   | NR                   | Sleep deprivation due<br>to 15-h overnight call<br>shift; sleepiness       | Cognitive performance;<br>reaction time  |

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| Study<br>Country                   | Physician and patient characteristics  |       |              | Setting   |   | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|-------|--------------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
|                                    | Type   | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location  |                               |   | Urban<br>or<br>rural   |
| Chen, 2008 [38]<br>US              | Psychiatrists<br>Internists<br>General practitioners<br>Surgeons<br>Obstetrician-gynecologists<br>Radiologists<br>Pediatricians<br>Other | 180   | 77%          | Academic:<br>79% 36-55y<br>Private<br>practice:<br>73% 36-65y | Medical school<br>Private practices   | Urban                         | Sleep deprivation;<br>sleepiness            | Impact on personal and<br>professional life;<br>perceived risk of errors |
| Doppia, 2011 [39]<br>France        | Anesthesiologists  | 565   | 64%          | <35y: 11%<br>35-54y: 63%<br>>55y: 25%                         | Public hospitals<br>Private hospitals<br>Work-health<br>environments<br>Public health units | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                           | Burnout  |
| Elovaino, 2015<br>[42]<br>Finland  | Physicians in various<br>specialties   | 1,524 | 40%          | Median: 49.7y<br>Range: 24-69y                                | Hospitals<br>Primary care<br>Private practice<br>Other unspecified                          | NR                            | Sleep difficulties                          | Job demands and control  |
| Gander, 2000 [43]<br>New Zealand   | Anesthetists   | 183   | NR           | Mean: 46y   | Combined<br>public/private practice<br>Other unspecified                                    | NR                            | Work-related sleep<br>disturbance           | Risk of fatigue-related<br>errors  |
| Harbeck, 2015 [46]<br>Germany      | Internists   | 20    | 45%          | Median: 32y<br>Range: 26-42y                                  | Hospital  | NR                            | Sleep disturbance due<br>to a 24-call shift | Biochemical and<br>physiological parameters;<br>neurocognitive function  |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br>[47]<br>Finland | Physicians in various<br>specialties<br>Non-specialized physicians   | 1,541 | 40%          | 49.80±9.49y,<br>Range: 24-67y                                 | Hospitals<br>Primary care clinic<br>Private practice<br>Other unspecified                   | NR                            | Sleep difficulties                          | Job satisfaction; work<br>ability; psychological<br>distress             |

| Study<br>Country                | Physician and patient characteristics  |                             |              | Setting  |   | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes   |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
|                                 | Type   | n=                          | Sex (% male) | Age  | Location  |                               |  |
| Jackson, 2017 [48]<br>US        | Surgeons in various<br>subspecialties  | 993                         | 61%          | More; less<br>satisfied:<br>30-39y:<br>23%;24%<br>40-49y:<br>32%;36%<br>50-59y:<br>23%;27%<br>≥60y:<br>23%;14% | Academic practice<br>Non-academic practice                                  | NR                            | Not feeling well rested<br>Job satisfaction                          |
| Kanieta, 2011 [49]<br>Japan     | Internists<br>Surgeons<br>Orthopedics<br>Pediatricians<br>Obstetrician-gynecologists<br>Psychiatrists<br>Dermatologists<br>Urologists<br>Ophthalmologists<br>Otorhinolaryngologists<br>Other | 3,486                       | 66%          | 20-39y: 11%<br>40-49y: 25%<br>50-59y: 28%<br>60-69y: 16%<br>≥70y: 21%  | Hospitals<br>Clinics<br>Other unspecified                                   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation and<br>difficulties; insomnia<br>Medical incidents |
| Lindfors, 2006 [52]<br>Finland  | Anesthetists   | 328                         | 53%          | 47±7.8y<br>Range: 32-69y   | University hospitals<br>Central and district<br>hospitals<br>Private sector | NR                            | Sleep disturbances;<br>sleepiness<br>Stress; suicidal tendencies     |
| Mahmood, 2016<br>[53]<br>Norway | Generalists<br>Internists<br>Pediatricians<br>Surgical specialties<br>Anesthesiologists  | 450<br>(all time<br>points) | 41%          | 43y±2.8y   | Public health system<br>Private practice                                    | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due<br>to on-call shifts<br>Alcohol misuse         |

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| Study<br>Country              | Physician and patient characteristics                |       |              | Setting  |  | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                                       |   |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|--------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|---|
|                               | Type   | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age  | Location   |                               |  | Urban<br>or<br>rural                                  |
| Nishimura, 2014 [54]<br>Japan | Neurosurgeons and neurologists                       | 2,564 | NR           | NR   | Stroke care centres<br>Teaching hospitals  | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                              | Burnout   |
| Pit, 2014 [55]<br>Australia   | General practitioners                                | 92    | 60%          | 50±10.7y   | NR   | Rural                         | Work-related sleep disturbance                 | Early retirement intentions                           |
| Pit, 2016 [56]<br>Australia   | General practitioners                                | 92    | 60%          | 50±10.7y   | Private (solo) practice<br>Group practice  | Rural                         | Work-related sleep disturbance                 | Sickness presenteeism                                 |
| Roberts, 2014 [57]<br>US      | General internists<br>Internal medicine hospitalists | 578   | 58%          | Hospitalists:<br>46.9±12.4y<br>Generalists:<br>53.6±10.2y  | Private practice<br>Academic medical centre<br>Veterans hospital<br>Military practice<br>Other | NR                            | Fatigue  | Falling asleep while driving                          |
| Saadat, 2016 [60]<br>US       | Anesthesiologists                                    | 21    | 71%          | 30-40y: 57%<br>41-50y: 19%<br>51-55y: 24%<br>Range: 32-56y | Tertiary care academic children's hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 17-h night call shift | Mood disturbances                                     |
| Saadat, 2017 [59]<br>US       | Anesthesiologists                                    | 21    | 65%          | Range: 32-56 years   | Tertiary care academic children's hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 17-h night call shift | Reaction time   |
| Sanches, 2015 [61]<br>Spain   | Emergency medicine physicians                        | 18    | 28%          | 29.2±2.6y  | Central hospital   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                              | Cognitive and psychomotor abilities                   |
| Sargent, 2009 [62]<br>US      | Orthopedic surgeons                                  | 264   | 92%          | NR   | Orthopedic surgery training programs   | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                              | Burnout; psychological distress; marital satisfaction |
| Sende, 2012 [64]<br>France    | Emergency physicians                                 | 318   | 62%          | 39±8y  | Hospitals<br>Mobile emergency services<br>Other unspecified                                    | NR                            | Fatigue; sleep deprivation                     | Stress  |

| Study<br>Country                                 | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              |                                   | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                                 |
|--|---|-------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|  | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age                               | Location  | Urban<br>or<br>rural |                               |  |
| Sexton, 2001 [65]<br>US                          | Consulting physicians:<br>Surgeons<br>Anesthesiologists<br>Pulmonary physicians<br>Cardiologists<br>Pediatricians | 271   | NR           | NR                                | Teaching and non-<br>teaching hospitals   | Urban                | Fatigue                       | Perceived performance<br>effectiveness   |
| Shanafelt, 2005<br>[67]<br>US, Canada,<br>Mexico | Oncologists   | 241   | 85%          | >50y: 51%                         | Community clinics<br>Hospitals<br>Private practice<br>Academic medical<br>centres   | NR                   | Fatigue; sleep<br>deprivation | Quality of life/well-being               |
| Shanafelt, 2010<br>[66]<br>US                    | Surgeons  | 7,905 | 87%          | Median: 51y<br>Q1: 43y<br>Q2: 59y | Private practice<br>Academic medical<br>centres Veterans<br>hospital<br>Active military practice<br>Retired or not in<br>practice Other | NR                   | Fatigue                       | Perceived major medical<br>errors        |
| Shanafelt, 2014<br>[68]<br>US                    | Oncologists   | 1,117 | 52%          | Median: 52y                       | Private practice<br>Academic practice<br>Veteran's hospital<br>Industry, other  | NR                   | Fatigue                       | Satisfaction with work-life<br>balance   |
| Shirom, 2006 [69]<br>Israel                      | Ophthalmologists<br>Dermatologists<br>Otolaryngologists<br>Gynecologists<br>General surgeons<br>Cardiologists     | 890   | 80%          | Median: 52y<br>SD: 7.2y           | Community clinics<br>Acute care hospital<br>outpatient clinics  | NR                   | Physical fatigue              | Perception of quality of<br>patient care |



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| Study<br>Country                  | Physician and patient characteristics   |       |              | Setting                            |  | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes                                |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
|                                   | Type  | n=    | Sex (% male) | Age                                | Location   |                               |   | Urban<br>or<br>rural   |
| Shirom, 2010 [70]<br>Israel       | Ophthalmologists<br>Dermatologists<br>Otolaryngologists<br>Gynecologists<br>General surgeons<br>Cardiologists   | 890   | 80%          | Median: 52y<br>SD: 7.2y            | Community clinics<br>Acute care hospital<br>outpatient clinics | NR                            | Physical fatigue                        | Burnout  |
| Smith, 2017 [71]<br>UK            | General practitioners<br>Surgeons<br>Other unspecified<br>specialties   | 3,550 | 63%          | NR                                 | NR (varied)  | NR                            | Perceived fatigue,<br>sleep deprivation | Physical and mental<br>health; competence  |
| Starmer, 2016 [72]<br>US          | General pediatricians<br>Pediatric surgeons<br>Pediatric hospitalists<br>Pediatric specialists<br>(unspecified) | 840   | 40%          | NR                                 | NR (some in private<br>practice)                               | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                       | Burnout; balanced<br>personal and professional<br>commitments; life and<br>career satisfaction |
| Tanti, 2017 [73]<br>Malta         | Physicians (unspecified)  | 204   | 62%          | Median: 41y                        | Hospitals<br>Community<br>Office-based                         | NR                            | Fatigue                                 | Prescribing errors   |
| Tokuda, 2009 [74]<br>Japan        | Hospital physicians:<br>Generalists<br>Other unspecified<br>specialties   | 236   | 75%          | 40.9±7.8y<br>Range: 26-76y         | Hospitals with ≥20<br>inpatient beds                           | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                       | Burnout; job satisfaction  |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008<br>[76]<br>Spain | Primary care physicians   | 113   | 27%          | 41.4±8.0y                          | Primary care centres   | Urban                         | Sleep problems,<br>insomnia             | Burnout  |
| Wada, 2010 [78]<br>Japan          | Physicians (unspecified)  | 3,862 | 78%          | M: 75% 30-<br>59y<br>F: 85% 30-59y | Hospitals  | NR                            | Sleep deprivation                       | Depressive symptoms  |

| Study<br>Country                    | Physician and patient characteristics   |    |              | Setting   |                      | Interventions or<br>exposures | Outcomes   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|--------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
|                                     | Type  | n= | Sex (% male) | Age   | Location             |                               |  | Urban<br>or<br>rural  |
| <b>Non-comparative design</b>       |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |   |
| Gander, 2008 [43]<br>New Zealand    | Anesthetists  | 20 | 85%          | Median: 44y   | Hospitals            | Urban                         | Sleep disturbance from consecutive working days or on-call work                | Psychomotor performance   |
| <b>Intervention studies (n=2)</b>   |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |   |
| <b>Randomized controlled trials</b> |   |    |              |   |                      |                               |  |   |
| Dutheil, 2013 [40]<br>France        | Emergency physicians  | 17 | 35%          | 39.1y±6.9y  | University hospital  | Urban                         | Fatigue related to 14-h and 24-h shifts; sleep deprivation; low sleep quality; | Perceived stress; urine interleukine-8                            |
| Uchal, 2005 [75]<br>Norway          | Surgeons<br>Gynecologists<br>Orthopedic surgeons<br>Urologists<br>Vascular surgeons | 64 | 67%          | Median:<br>Post-call:<br>33.0y<br>Post-work:<br>38.0y | Government hospitals | NR                            | Sleep deprivation due to 24-h call shift                                       | Product quality, procedure effectiveness of a surgical simulation |

C: control group; F: female; h: hour(s); IQR: interquartile range; M: male; NR: not reported; S: study group; SD: standard deviation; Surg: surgical; Obst: obstetric; Q: quartile; UK: United Kingdom; US: United States of America; y: year(s)

Supplementary file 3. Risk of bias assessments

Summary of risk of bias assessments for randomized controlled trials (n=2)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Random sequence generation | Allocation concealment | Blinding of participants and personnel | Blinding of outcome assessment | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias | Overall risk of bias <sup>b</sup> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dutheil, 2013      | Low                        | Unclear                | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                  | High                              |
| Uchal, 2005        | Low                        | Low                    | Unclear                                | Low                            | Low                     | Low                 | Low                   | Unclear                           |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Cochrane Collaboration’s Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

Summary of quality assessments for cohort studies (n=6)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Selection                               |                                    |                              |                                 |          | Comparability               |          | Outcome                  |                                 |                                  | Total Score <sup>b</sup> |          |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
|                    | Representativeness of exposed cohort /1 | Selection of non-exposed cohort /1 | Ascertainment of exposure /1 | Outcome not present at start /1 | Total /4 | Comparability of cohorts /2 | Total /2 | Assessment of outcome /1 | Adequate length of follow-up /1 | Adequate follow-up of cohorts /1 |                          | Total /1 |
| Chu, 2011          | 1                                       | 1                                  | 0                            | 1                               | 3        | 2                           | 2        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                        | 8        |
| Ellman, 2004       | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 1                           | 1        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                        | 8        |
| Govindarajan, 2015 | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 2                           | 2        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                        | 9        |
| Rothschild, 2009   | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 2                           | 2        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                        | 9        |
| Schieman, 2008     | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 1                           | 1        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                        | 8        |
| Vinden, 2014       | 1                                       | 1                                  | 1                            | 1                               | 4        | 1                           | 1        | 1                        | 1                               | 1                                | 3                        | 8        |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 7 to 9 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 4 to 6 as unclear risk of bias, and 3 or less as high risk of bias

Summary of risk of bias assessments for before-after studies (n=3)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Random sequence generation <sup>b</sup> | Allocation concealment <sup>b</sup> | Blinding of participants and personnel | Blinding of outcome assessment | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias <sup>c</sup> | Overall risk of bias <sup>d</sup> |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amirian, 2014      | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |
| Gerdes, 2008       | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |
| Lederer, 2006      | NA                                      | NA                                  | High                                   | High                           | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) Review Group's criteria for before-after studies, adapted from the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Assessed as 'not applicable' (NA) when the studies did not include a control group

<sup>c</sup>Assessed as High due to lack of a control group

<sup>d</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

Summary of risk of bias assessments for time series studies (n=1)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Intervention independent of other changes | Intervention effect pre-specified | Intervention unlikely to affect data collection | Allocation concealment <sup>a</sup> | Incomplete outcome data | Selective reporting | Other sources of bias <sup>c</sup> | Overall risk of bias <sup>d</sup> |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Leitchfried, 2011  | Low                                       | High                              | Low   | NA                                  | Low                     | Low                 | High                               | High                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using Cochrane Effective Practice and Organization of Care (EPOC) Review Group's criteria for interrupted time series studies, adapted from the Cochrane Collaboration Risk of Bias Tool

<sup>b</sup>Assessed as not applicable (NA) when the studies did not include a control group

<sup>c</sup>Assessed as High due to lack of a control group

<sup>d</sup>Overall risk of bias is Low if all domains are rated as low, High if at least one domain is assessed as high, and Unclear if at least one domain is assessed as unclear and no domains are assessed as high

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Summary of quality assessments for cross-sectional studies (n=34)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author, Year | Selection                      |                                     |          | Outcome                  |   |                  |          | Total Score <sup>b</sup> /5 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|---|------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
|                    | Adequacy of case definition /1 | Representativeness of the sample /1 | Total /2 | Assessment of outcome /1 | Same method of ascertainment for entire sample /1 | Response rate /1 | Total /3 |                             |
| Aziz, 2004         | 0                              | 0                                   | 0        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 1                           |
| Beaujouan, 2005    | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 2                           |
| Chang, 2013        | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 3                           |
| Chen, 2008         | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 2                           |
| Doppia, 2011       | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 4                           |
| Elovaino, 2015     | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 4                           |
| Gander, 2000       | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 4                           |
| Harbeck, 2015      | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 3                           |
| Heponiemi, 2014    | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 4                           |
| Jackson, 2017      | 0                              | 0                                   | 0        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 1                           |
| Kanieta, 2011      | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 3                           |
| Lindfors, 2006     | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 4                           |
| Mahmood, 2017      | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 2                           |
| Nishimura, 2014    | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 3                           |
| Pit, 2014          | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 3                           |
| Pit, 2016          | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 3                           |
| Roberts, 2014      | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 3                           |
| Saadat, 2016       | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 4                           |
| Saadat, 2017       | 1                              | 1                                   | 2        | 0                        | 1   | 1                | 2        | 4                           |
| Sanches, 2015      | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 2                           |
| Sargent, 2009      | 1                              | 0                                   | 1        | 0                        | 1   | 0                | 1        | 2                           |

| First Author, Year | Selection                         |  |             | Outcome                     |  |                     |             | Total Score <sup>b</sup><br>/5 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                    | Adequacy of case definition<br>/1 | Representativeness of the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Assessment of outcome<br>/1 | Same method of ascertainment for entire sample<br>/1 | Response rate<br>/1 | Total<br>/3 |                                |
| Sende, 2010        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Sexton, 2001       | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Shanafelt, 2005    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Shanafelt, 2010    | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |
| Shanafelt, 2014    | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Shirom, 2006       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Shirom, 2010       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Smith, 2016        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 3                              |
| Starmmer, 2016     | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Tanti, 2017        | 1                                 | 0                                      | 1           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 2                              |
| Tokuda, 2009       | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008   | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 1                   | 2           | 4                              |
| Wada, 2010         | 1                                 | 1                                      | 2           | 0                           | 1  | 0                   | 1           | 3                              |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, adapted for cross-sectional studies

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 4 to 5 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 3 as unclear risk of bias, and 2 or less as high risk of bias. For response rate, ≥50% was used as the criterion to be awarded a star

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Summary of quality assessments for non-comparative studies (n=1)<sup>a</sup>

| First Author,<br>Year | Selection                               |  |             | Exposure                          |             | Outcome                        |  |                            | Total<br>Score <sup>b</sup> |             |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
|                       | Adequacy<br>of case<br>definition<br>/1 | Representat-<br>iveness of<br>the sample<br>/1 | Total<br>/2 | Ascertain-<br>ment of<br>exposure | Total<br>/1 | Assessment<br>of outcome<br>/1 | Same method<br>of assessment<br>for entire<br>sample<br>/1 | Loss to<br>follow-up<br>/1 |                             | Total<br>/3 |
| Gander, 2008          | 1                                       | 1  | 2           | 0                                 | 0           | 0                              | 1  | 1                          | 2                           | 4           |

<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale, adapted by the authors to be suitable to the non-comparative design

<sup>b</sup>An overall score of 5 to 6 stars is considered as low risk of bias, 3 to 4 as unclear risk of bias, and 2 or less as high risk of bias

Peer review only

#### Supplementary file 4. Detailed study outcomes

##### Physician health and wellness outcomes and associations with fatigue

| Study                                | Study design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|--|---|--|
|                                      |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and time points  |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                      |              |   |  |   |  |
| Jackson, 2017                        | CS           | Not feeling well rested: self-reported as 'unhealthy'   | 71% healthy, 28% unhealthy in terms of being well rested   | Job satisfaction: Abridged Job in General Scale; grouped into more or less satisfied using the median | Job satisfaction in those more vs. less satisfied: Healthy (well rested): 85% vs. 58%, $p<0.001$ ; Unhealthy (not well rested): 15% vs. 42%, $p<0.001$ .   |
| RoB: high                            |              | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR  |  |
| Nishimura, 2014                      | CS           | Sleep hours/night: self-reported (continuous)   | Mean±SD sleep: 5.94±1.08h  | Burnout: Japanese MBI (severe: EE >4.0 and either DP >2.6 or PE <4.17)                                | 1) Mean±SD sleep for not burned out vs. mild to moderate vs. severe: 6.07±1.15 vs. 5.88±0.94 vs. 5.63±0.94, $p<0.05$ ;<br>2) Association between sleep and burnout (OR (95% CI)): bivariate 0.67 (0.61-0.73), $p<0.001$ ; multivariate including work characteristics and mental health: 0.84 (0.75-0.94), $p=0.002$ . |
| RoB: unclear                         |              | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR  |  |
| Sargent, 2009                        | CS           | Sleep deprivation: self-reported on a 4-point scale (none, a little, quite a bit, a lot)                              | 21% none, 48% a little, 23% quite a bit, 8% a lot  | Burnout: MBI (norms NR); Marital satisfaction: RDAS; Psychological morbidity: GHQ-12 score ≥4         | 1) Positive correlation between sleep deprivation and EE, DP, psychological distress, lower marital satisfaction, all $p<0.001$ . No relationship with PA.   |
| RoB: high                            |              | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR  |  |
| <b>Anesthesiologists<sup>a</sup></b> |              |   |  |   |  |
| Lederer, 2006                        | BA           | 24-h shift with on-call duty; Sleep hours and interruptions: self-reported; Tiredness: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high) | Mean±SD sleep: 4.1±1.7h; Number of interruptions: 0.8±1.1; Tiredness pre- vs. post-duty: 30.9±27.5 vs. 59.5±18.9, $p=0.01$ . | Stress during duty: 4-point scale from 'calm' to 'very demanding'; Assessed post-duty                 | 1) Mean stress score during duty: 2.1.   |
| RoB: high                            |              | Assessed pre- and post-duty   |  |   |  |



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| Study                          | Study design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|--|--|--|
|                                |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and time points   |  |
| Leitchfried, 2011<br>RoB: high | TS           | 24-h shift;<br>Sleepiness: ESS (range: 0-24);<br>Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Sleepiness assessed pre-shift, sleep hours pre, during and post-shift | ESS (mean (range)): 7.4 (4-12);<br>Mean±SD sleep hours:<br>1) pre-study: 7.74±1.35h;<br>2) Pre-24-h shift (11h00 on day 1: 0.13±0.35h, 19:00 on day 1: 6.99±0.68h);<br>3) During the 24-h shift (07h00 on day 2: 0.0±0.0h, 19h00 on day 2, 5.49±1.95h);<br>4) Post-24-h shift (11h00 on day 3: 0.5±0.71h, 19h00 on day 3: 7.06±1.18h). | aMT6-s: urinalysis<br><br>Assessed at 4-h intervals from 07:00 to 11:00  | 1) aMT6-s over shift, mean (95% CI): higher at 11:00AM pre- (12.2 (6.3-8.1)) and post-shift (9.3 (3.7-14.9)) vs. during, p=0.016;<br>2) Correlations between sleep and aMT6-s (data NR): mild for sleep duration the night prior with aMT6-s at 3PM the following day; sleep on night 2 with aMT6-s at 3PM the next day; total sleep with aMT6-s at 11AM on third day; moderate for sleep on first night with aMT6-s at 7AM and 11AM pre-shift, 11PM during 24-h shift and 11AM post-shift; total sleep pre-shift and nocturnal sleep during 24-h shift with aMT6-s at 11PM during shift; total sleep with aMT6-s at 3PM on first and second day, 11PM on second day;<br>3) Correlations between ESS and aMT6-s: moderate for aMT6-s at 7AM during shift, 11AM on day off. |
| Beaujouan, 2005<br>RoB: high   | CS           | Sleep deprivation: 4-point scale (always, frequently, rarely, never)<br><br>Time points NR  | 48.8% always or frequently feel sleep deprived   | Substance abuse: 93-item addiction and substance abuse questionnaire<br><br>Time points NR                                     | 1) 60.6% with drug dependence vs. 46.0% of those without reported sleep difficulties, p<0.001.<br>2) OR (95% CI) of addiction for frequently/always vs. rarely/never sleep deprived: tobacco 1.42 (1.04-1.94); tranquilizer/hypnotics 3.26 (2.12-5.02).  |
| Doppia, 2011<br>RoB: low       | CS           | Insufficient sleep: 4-point scale (no, not really, sort of, yes)<br><br>Time points NR  | 28.9% reported insufficient sleep during work time   | Burnout: CBI (mild: 1-2.4, moderate: 2.5-3.5, severe: 3.6-5)<br><br>Time points NR   | 1) Frequency of burnout by response for sleep sufficiency: 47.6% for no/not really, 16.3% for sort of/yes, p<0.001.  |
| Lindfors, 2006<br>RoB: low     | CS           | Sleep hours/day: self-reported to the nearest 0.5h;<br>Adequacy of sleep and rest: self-reported (yes/no)   | Sleep hours (mean (range)): 7 (5-9)  | Stress: MOSQ on a 3-point scale (no, to some extent, clearly);<br>Thoughts of suicide: 4-point scale ('never' to 'have tried') | 1) Sleep sufficiency predicted stress symptoms: bivariate $\beta=-0.362$ , p<0.001; multivariate including gender, sick leave, suicide $\beta=-0.269$ , p<0.001;<br>2) Sleep disturbance associated with thoughts of suicide, p=0.009.   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|--|
|                                |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
|                                |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR  |  |
| Saadat, 2015<br><br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep deprivation (<7h/24-h) due to 17-h overnight shift; Sleepiness and alertness: VAS from 0 (not at all) to 100 (extremely)<br><br>All assessed on a regular day and a post-call day   | Mean±SD sleepiness on a regular day vs. post-call day: 2.99±2.18 vs. 6.79±2.30, p<0.001  | Simple cognitive tests: VAS from 0 (not at all) to 100 (extremely); Mood disturbance: PMS (scoring NR)<br><br>All assessed on a regular day and a post-call day | Regular day v. post-call day, mean±SD scores:<br>1) Simple cognitive tests: energetic 6.04±2.27 vs. 2.53±1.87, confident 7.03±1.83 vs. 4.98±2.29, irritable 2.03±1.94 vs. 4.86±2.16, sleepy 2.99±2.18 vs. 6.79±2.30, talkative 4.46±1.74 vs. 2.41±1.97, all p<0.001; jittery 1.44±1.74 vs. 3.12±2.34, p=0.003; anxiousness ns;<br>2) PMS: tension 13.48±2.71 vs. 15.43±4.46, p=0.049; anger 15.24±4.41 vs. 18.14±5.92, p=0.005; fatigue 10.14±2.63 vs. 20.05±6.87, p<0.001; confusion 10.57±1.69 vs. 12.57±4.24, p=0.025; vigor 24.05±6.75 vs. 16.67±5.70, p<0.001; depression: ns; total mood disturbance: 42.57±15.26 vs. 70.90±6.91, p<0.001. |
| <b>ER or ICU physicians</b>    |                 |   |  |   |  |
| Dutheil, 2013<br><br>RoB: high | RCT             | 14-h or 24-h shift; Sleep hours: self-reported sleep and wake time; Sleep quality: VAS from 1 (low) to 100 (high); Mental and physical fatigue: VAS from 1 (low) to 100 (high)<br><br>Assessed on day prior to shift; during shift; each day of protocol (work, off, clerical, control) | 1) Sleep duration and quality lower during shifts (14h and 24h) than any other day, and lower during the 24-h vs. 14-h shift (p<0.05);<br>2) Mental and physical fatigue higher after 14-h and 24-h shift vs. control day (data NR). | Stress: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high); IL-8: urinalysis<br><br>Assessed at 08:30 and 18:30 on each day of protocol   | 1) Stress: higher following 14-h and 24-h shifts vs. the control day, p<0.05 (data NR);<br>2) IL-8: higher following 24-h shift vs. control (p=0.007) and 14-h shift (p=0.015); ns difference between 14-h shift and control day;<br>3) Correlations with IL-8: sleep hours pre-24-h shift, r=-0.627, p=0.007; poor sleep quality during 14-h and 24-h shifts, r=0.452, p=0.031;<br>4) Multivariable regression: 24-h shift increased IL-8 by 1.9ng vs. control day, p=0.007; ns association with 14-h shift, mental or physical fatigue, sleep deprivation, 14-h shift.   |
| Sende, 2012<br><br>RoB: high   | CS              | Fatigue and sleep deprivation as sources of stress  | NR   | Most important sources of stress among 4 categories (work-related, patient-   | 1) 78% indicated that sleep loss and fatigue were sources of stress.   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|---|--|
|                                |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
|                                |                 | Time points NR   |  | related, organizational,<br>individual)   |  |
|                                |                 |  |  | Time points NR  |  |
| <b>Generalists<sup>b</sup></b> |                 |  |  |   |  |
| Harbeck, 2015<br>RoB: unclear  | CS              | 24-hours on-call shift with sleep disturbance: self-reported number of sleep disturbances and hours of sleep per night<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | 1) Sleep hours on a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: <2 hours: 0 vs. 5.9%; 2-4 hours: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 4-6 hours: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; >6 hours: 82.4% vs. 11.8%<br><br>2) Number of sleep disturbances a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: 0: 82.4% vs. 11.8%; 1: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; 2: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 3: 0% vs. 5.9%; 4: 0% vs. 0%; >4: 0% vs. 0% | Biochemical (laboratory values) and physiological (heart rate variability, skin resistance, blood pressure) stress parameters<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | Before a normal shift vs. after overnight call shift:<br>1) Biochemical parameters: no changes in any parameter except for thyroid stimulating hormone which was higher after the on-call shift (p = 0.049, data NR);<br>2) Physiological parameters: no significant changes in any parameter  |
| Pit, 2014<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Work-related sleep disturbance: 7-point scale from 'never' to 'every day'<br><br>Time points NR  | Work-related sleep disturbance: 41% never, 59% a few times a year to every day   | Early retirement (<65 years) intentions (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR  | For sleep disturbance a few times a year to every day vs. never:<br>1) Intention to retire early: 74% vs. 26%, p<0.01;<br>2) Association with intention to retire early (OR (95% CI)): univariate 3.6 (1.47-8.80), p<0.01; multivariate including work, occupational, individual factors 2.91 (1.11-7.6), p<0.05;<br>4) RR (95% CI) for intention to retire early: 2.0 (1.18-3.49); attributable fraction: 50.0%; population attributable fraction: 37.1%. |
| Pit, 2016<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Work-related sleep disturbance: 7-point scale from 'never' to 'every day'  | Work-related sleep disturbance: 41% never, 59% a few times a year to every day   | Sickness presenteeism: 'yes' response indicated 1 or more days  | For sleep disturbance a few times a year to every day vs. never:<br>1) Sickness presenteeism: 32% vs. 68%, p=0.018;  |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)     | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|--|
|                                 |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
|                                 |                 | Time points NR  |  | Assessed for the past 12 months   | 2) Association with sickness presenteeism (OR (95% CI)): 2.92 (1.19-7.16), p=0.02.   |
| Roberts, 2014<br>RoB: unclear   | CS              | Fatigue: LAS from 0 (low) to 10 (high)<br><br>Assessed for the past week  | Mean (SD) score: 5.8 (2.4) for hospitalists; 5.9 (2.4) for general internists  | Impact of fatigue on daily activities (falling asleep while driving) (yes/no)<br><br>Time points NR | 1) 8.7% of hospitalists and 4.3% of outpatient general internists had fallen asleep while driving due to fatigue.  |
| Vela-Bueno, 2008<br>RoB: low    | CS              | Sleep Quality: PSQI (Spanish): score $\geq 5$ indicates low quality (range; 0 to 21);<br>Insomnia: DSM-IV criteria<br><br>Time points NR; insomnia symptoms in past month | Prevalence (% (95% CI)):<br>1) Sleep-onset latency $>30$ minutes: 8.4 (4.8-11.9);<br>2) Wake time after sleep onset $>30$ minutes: 15.4 (10.8-19.9);<br>3) Early morning awakening: 22.5 (19.5-30.4);<br>4) Nonrestorative sleep: 22.5 (17.2-27.7);<br>5) Daytime impairment for $\geq 5$ days in past month: 14.2 (9.7-18.6);<br>6) Insomnia: 18.8 (13.8-23.7). | Burnout: PBM with a 7-point scale from 1 (never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR                | Low vs. high burnout, mean $\pm$ SD:<br>1) Global PSQI: 2.72 $\pm$ 2.22 vs. 7.24 $\pm$ 4.17, p<0.001;<br>2) PSQI subscores: sleep quality: 0.54 $\pm$ 0.57 vs. 1.40 $\pm$ 0.83, p<0.001; sleep latency: 0.51 $\pm$ 0.80 vs. 1.38 $\pm$ 1.03, p=0.002; sleep duration: 0.45 $\pm$ 0.64 vs. 1.16 $\pm$ 0.92, p=0.003; sleep efficiency: 0.21 $\pm$ 0.57 vs. 0.77 $\pm$ 0.98, p=0.018; sleep disturbance: ns; use of medication: 0.14 $\pm$ 0.49 vs. 0.57 $\pm$ 0.83, p=0.032; daytime dysfunction: 0.52 $\pm$ 0.73 vs. 1.57 $\pm$ 0.88, p=0.002.<br>3) Prevalence (95% CI) of insomnia symptoms: sleep latency: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 21.1% (10.5-31.6%), p=0.015; wake time $>30$ min after sleep onset: 9.4% (1.6-17.1%) vs. 25.5% (14.2-37.7%), p=0.029; early awakening: 14.5% (5.1-23.8%) vs. 45.6 (32.7-58.4%), p<0.001; somewhat/very dissatisfied with sleep: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 50% (37.1-62.8%), p<0.001; day impairment: 5.5% (2.5-11.5%) vs. 38.2% (25.6-50.7%), p<0.001; insomnia: 7.3% (0.4-14%) vs. 39.7% (27.1-52.2%), p<0.001. |
| <b>Oncologists</b>              |                 |   |  |   |  |
| Shanafelt, 2005<br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Fatigue: LASA QOL $\leq 7$ ;<br>Sleep deprivation: 10-point Likert scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (stressful as can be)  | 75% had a high level of fatigue;<br>Mean $\pm$ SD sleep score: 4.5 $\pm$ 2.65.   | Wellbeing: 10-item LASA QOL, high $\geq 8$ vs. low $\leq 7$<br><br>Time points NR                   | 1) Sleep deprivation for high vs. low overall well-being (mean $\pm$ SD): 3.9 $\pm$ 2.57 vs. 5.1 $\pm$ 2.60, p=0.0004;<br>2) Lower fatigue predicted overall wellbeing in a multivariate model including personal and professional characteristics, p=0.002.   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)       | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|---|
|                                   |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
|                                   |                 | Time points NR  |  |  |   |
| Shanafelt, 2014                   | CS              | Fatigue: 10-point LAS (lower scores indicate greater fatigue)                           | Mean±SD fatigue score: 5.7±2.4                               | Satisfaction with WLB: 5-point Likert scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'   | 1) OR (95%CI) of lower satisfaction predicted by high fatigue (vs. not) in multivariate model including personal and work-related factors, and burnout: 0.489 (0.337-0.710), p<0.001.   |
| RoB: unclear                      |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| <b>Mixed groups of physicians</b> |                 |   |  |  |   |
| Aziz, 2004                        | CS              | Working while fatigued: 5-point scale from 'extreme' to 'a little'                      | NR   | Stress: 47-item questionnaire with a 5-point scale from 'extreme' to 'a little'  | 1) Sources of stress: working while fatigued had a mean±SD score of 2.44±1.20, factor loading: 0.653, in factor analysis;<br>2) Inverse correlation between stress and working while fatigued: r=-0.270 (significance level NR).  |
| RoB: high                         |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| Chen, 2008                        | CS              | Sleepiness: ESS score ≥11   | Mean±SD ESS score: 7.8±4.0, range: 0-20, 23% had scores ≥11. | Impact on work and personal life: Impact Questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree)                                  | 1) Impact score correlated with ESS, r=0.31, p<0.05;<br>2) ESS score was higher among physicians who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: worried about having a car accident while driving home post-call: 5.4 vs. 7.0, p<0.001; sleep loss has a major impact on personal life: 8.4 vs. 7.0, p=0.01;<br>3) Higher ESS scores predicted by impact score in multivariate regression including personal and work-related factors: β=0.11, p=0.005. |
| RoB: high                         |                 | Time points NR  |  | Time points NR   |   |
| Elovaino, 2015                    | CS              | Sleeping problems: Jenkins Scale with a 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night) | Mean±SD score: 2006: 2.30 (1.00); 2010: 2.35 (1.05).         | Jobs demands: 5 items scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree);<br>Job control: 3 items derived from the Karasek Job Questionnaire | There was no association between sleeping problems in 2006 and job demands or control in 2010.  |
| RoB: low                          |                 | Assessed in 2006 and 2010   |  |  |   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB) | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions   |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|---|
|                             |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |   |
| Heponiemi, 2014<br>RoB: low | CS              | Sleeping problems: Jenkins Scale <sup>81</sup> with a 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night)<br><br>Assessed in 2006          | Mean±SD (range) score:<br>2.30±1.00 (1-6)   | Psychological distress: GHQ-12 with a 4-point scale (low to high);<br>Job satisfaction: JDS with a Likert scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)<br><br>Assessed in 2010                           | 1) Sleeping problems associated with job satisfaction, $\beta=-0.12$ , $p<0.001$ , psychological distress, $\beta=0.18$ , $p<0.001$ ;<br>2) Total indirect effect of on-call duty through two mediators (sleeping problems, work interference with family) ( $R^2$ (95% CI)): job satisfaction 0.06 (-0.059, -0.016), $p<0.001$ ; psychological distress 0.16 (0.023, 0.081), $p<0.001$ . |
| Mahmood, 2016<br>RoB: high  | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported mean hours of sleep when on call<br><br>Assessed at 4 years, 10 years, and 15 years post-graduation   | Mean±SD hours:<br>4 years: 4.52 (2.79);<br>10 years: 5.38 (6.36);<br>15 years: 6.41 (7.14). | Alcohol use disorders: Modified 9-item version of the Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) $\geq 6$ for men and $\geq 5$ for women.<br><br>Assessed at 4 years, 10 years, and 15 years post-graduation | There was no association between hours of sleep when on call and hazardous drinking behaviours ( $p=0.732$ )  |
| Shirom, 2010<br>RoB: low    | CS              | Tiredness and exhaustion: SMBM Physician Fatigue Subscale on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR | NR  | Burnout: SMBM on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)   | 1) Correlation between physical fatigue subscale and overall burnout: 0.88, $p<0.05$ ;<br>2) In a predictive structural model for burnout, physical fatigue accounted for unique variance in the burnout items, not accounted for by total burnout ( $R^2=0.24$ ).  |
| Smith, 2017<br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR   | NR  | Mental and physical illness: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR   | Some physicians reported developing mental illness (e.g., bipolar disorder, alcohol misuse) due to tiredness and stress at work; others developed physical health problems due to sleep deprivation, poor eating habits and lack of exercise.   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures or interventions  |   | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
|                                |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |  |
| Starmer, 2016<br><br>RoB: low  | CS              | Sleep deprivation: <7 hours sleep in a typical 24-h period (self-reported)<br><br>Time points NR              | 27.7% sleep deprived  | Burnout, satisfaction with career and life, balanced personal and professional commitments: Each on a 5-point Likert scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree)<br><br>Time points NR                    | ≥7-h vs. <7-h sleep:<br>1) Burnout (% strongly agree/agree): 26.4% vs. 39.6%, p<0.05; career satisfaction (% strongly agree/agree): ns; life satisfaction (% completely/very satisfied): 76.4% vs. 55.9%, p<0.05; balanced personal and professional commitments (% completely/very satisfied): 49.7% vs. 26.1%.<br>2) <7-h sleep (vs. ≥7-h) (OR, 95% CI) associated with life satisfaction 0.44 (0.29-0.67), p<0.05; balanced personal/professional commitments 0.46 (0.31-0.71), p≤0.05, in a model including work and personal factors. |
| Tokuda, 2009<br><br>RoB: low   | CS              | Sleep hours/day: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Time points NR (included weekday and weekends)             | Mean±SD (range) sleep hours/day: 6±0.9 (3-8)  | Burnout: MBI (Japanese) with a 7-point Likert scale: 0 (none) to 6 (every day);<br>Job satisfaction: JHPSS with a 5-point Likert scale: 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)<br><br>Time points NR | Maximum likelihood estimates±SE:<br>1) Sleeping time to job satisfaction: group 0.990±0.458, p=0.031; ns for men; women 1.711±0.805, p=0.034;<br>2) Sleeping time to EE: group -0.219 ±0.070, p=0.002; men -0.215±0.082, p=0.009; ns for women.  |
| Wada, 2010<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | Sleep hours/day: Self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Assessed for past month when not completing overnight work | <5 hours: 8.7% men, 9.9% women; 5 to <6 hours: 32.3% men, 34.6% women; 6 to <7 hours: 46.0% men, 43.7% women; ≥7 hours: 13.0% men, 11.8% women. | Depression: QIDS-SR; Japanese score <5 (no symptoms) to >20 (very severe symptoms)<br><br>Assessed for past 7 days  | 1) Sleep hours for those with vs. without depressive symptoms: <5: 18.7% vs. 7.7% men, 20.5% vs. 8.7% women; 5 to <6: 33.7% vs. 32.2% men, 38.6% vs. 34.2% women; 6 to <7: 35.1% vs. 46.9% men; 31.8% vs. 45.1% women;<br>2) Association between <5h sleep (vs. 6-7h) and depressive symptoms (OR (95% CI)): univariate 2.79 (1.96-3.95) for men, 2.65 (1.47-4.78) for women; multivariate (including age and workload   |

| Study              | Study  | Exposures or interventions         |          | Outcomes                           | Associations between exposure and outcome                      |
|--------------------|--------|------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|--|
| Risk of Bias (RoB) | design | Assessment measure and time points | Baseline | Assessment measure and time points |  |
|                    |        |                                    |          |                                    | factors) 2.70 (1.82-4.03) for men, 2.38 (1.11-5.10) for women. |

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies of anesthetists, where these were physicians.

<sup>b</sup>Includes primary care physicians, internal medicine physicians, and general practitioners.

AM: morning; aMT6-s: melatonin metabolite; BA: before-after; CI: confidence interval; CBI: Copenhagen Burnout Inventory; CS: cross-sectional; DP: depersonalization; DSM: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; EE: emotional exhaustion; ER: emergency; ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale; GHQ: General Health Questionnaire; h: hour(s); ICU: intensive care unit; IL-8: interleukin-8; JDS: Job Diagnostic Survey; JHPSS: Japanese Hospital Physicians Satisfaction Scale; LAS: linear analog scale; LASA: linear analog assessment scales; MBI: Maslach Burnout Inventory; MOSQ: Modified Occupational Stress Questionnaire; min: minute(s); NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; ns: not statistically significant; OR: odds ratio; PA: personal achievement; PBM: Pines Burnout Measure; PE: professional efficacy; PM: afternoon; PMS: Profile of Mood States; PSQI: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; QIDS-SR: Quick Inventory Depressive Scale – Self-Reported; QOL: Quality of Life; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RDAS: Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; SMBM: Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; TS: time series; US: United States of America; VAS: visual analog scale; vs.: versus; WLB: work-life balance

Peer review only



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Performance and safety outcomes related to fatigue or sleep loss among physicians in independent practice

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)        | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention  |   | Outcomes   |                                  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
|                                    |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |                                  |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                    |                 |  |   |  |                                  |  |
| Uchal, 2005<br><br>RoB: unclear    | RCT             | Sleep deprivation from a 24-h call shift vs. 8-h work; Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous); Sleepiness: ESS (moderate: 10-15, severe: ≥16) | Median (range) sleep hours: 1.5 (0-3) post-call vs. 6.5 (5-9) post-work, p<0.05; Median ESS score: 7.0 post-call vs. 5.5 post-work, ns.         | Surgical performance: laparoscopic surgical simulator (Minimally Invasive Surgical Trainer-Virtual Reality) for product quality, procedure effectiveness | Assessed post-call and post-work | Post call vs. post-work:<br>1) Product quality: no difference in accuracy error, tissue damage, leak rate;<br>2) Procedure effectiveness: no difference in goal-directed actions, non-goal directed actions, operating time. |
| Chu, 2011<br><br>RoB: low          | CO              | Sleep deprivation: self-reported hours, moderate (3-6h) or severe (<3h)  | Of 4,047 procedures, 83 (2.1%) performed by severely sleep-deprived and 1,595 (39.4%) moderately sleep-deprived surgeons                        | Surgical performance: CABG, ACC  | Assessed during surgery          | For 0-3 vs. 3-6 vs. >6 hours of sleep: no difference in CABG or ACC.   |
| Ellman, 2004<br><br>RoB: low       | CO              | Sleep deprivation: performed a case starting 22:00 to 05:00, or ending 22:00 to 07:30 and another case in the next 24-h                        | Of 6,751 procedures, 339 (5%) performed by sleep-deprived surgeons  | Surgical performance: CABG, ACC  | Assessed during surgery          | Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in CABG or ACC.   |
| Govindarajan, 2015<br><br>RoB: low | CO              | Sleep deprivation: treated patients from midnight to 07:00 and performed a subsequent case on the same day                                     | NR  | Surgical performance: duration of surgery  |                                  | Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in duration of surgery, even after stratification by type of procedure.   |
| Amirian, 2014<br><br>RoB: high     | BA              | 17-h night call shift; Sleep hours during the shift: Wrist-mounted Micro-Mini-Motionlogger; Sleepiness: KSS                                    | Naps pre-call: 11 (37%) napped for median (IQR) 90 (58-128) min; Median (IQR) sleep: 91 (62-123) min on the pre-call night vs. 430 (329-449) on | Surgical performance: LapSimGyn laparoscopic simulation for time, blood loss, instrument path; D2 test of attention and concentration                    |                                  | Pre- vs. post-call:<br>1) LapSimGyn: no difference in total time, blood loss, instrument path length, instrument angular path; napping did not affect performance;   |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)          | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |  | Outcomes  | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|
|                                      |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and<br>time points   |   |
|                                      |                 | Assessed on pre-call and on-call day; sleepiness assessed during shift  | the on-call night, $p<0.001$ ;<br>Sleep on-call: 12 (40%) slept for median (IQR) 98 (39-135) min;<br>Significant development of sleepiness during shift ( $p<0.001$ ), plateau score of 7 at 04:00 to 08:00. | Assessed on pre-call and on-call day  | 2) D2 test: improvement in concentration, $p<0.05$ . No changes in any other parameters;<br>3) ns difference in laparoscopic simulation time in those who slept during the shift vs. not.   |
| Gerdes, 2008<br>RoB: high            | BA              | On-call shift;<br>Fatigue: questionnaire designed by Behrenz & Monga, 1999;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br><br>Assessed in 3 sessions pre- and post-call | Fatigue differential from pre- to post-call (range): 1-7 (units unclear);<br>Sleep during call (range): 1-5h   | Psychomotor performance: virtual ring transfer task for gesture-level proficiency, hand movement smoothness, tool movement smoothness, elapsed time<br><br>Assessed in 3 sessions pre- and post-call                        | 1) Pre- to post-call: decrease in all measures of psychomotor proficiency ( $p<0.05$ , data NR) except elapsed time; no change in number of psychomotor errors; increase cognitive errors ( $p<0.05$ , data NR);<br>2) Cognitive errors increased exponentially as fatigue ratings increased ( $R^2=0.9219$ ) and as hours of sleep declined ( $R^2=0.933$ ).   |
| Shanafelt, 2010<br>RoB: unclear      | CS              | Degree of fatigue as a contributor to errors (self-reported)<br><br>Assessed for the past 3 months  | NR   | Perceived recent major medical errors (self-reported)<br><br>Assessed for the past 3 months   | 1) Prevalence of perceived recent major medical error: 8.9%;<br>2) Of those reporting an error, 6.9% listed degree of fatigue as the greatest contributing factor.  |
| <b>Anesthesiologists<sup>a</sup></b> |                 |   |  |   |   |
| Lederer, 2006<br>RoB: high           | BA              | 24-h shift, on-call duty;<br>Sleep hours and interruptions: self-reported;<br>Tiredness: VAS from 0 (low) to 100 (high)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty              | Mean $\pm$ SD sleep: 4.1 $\pm$ 1.7h;<br>Number of interruptions: 0.8 $\pm$ 1.1;<br>Tiredness pre- vs. post-duty: 30.9 $\pm$ 27.5 vs. 59.5 $\pm$ 18.9, $p=0.01$ .   | Psychomotor performance: reaction time, critical flicker fusion, response measure, peripheral awareness;<br>Concentration ability: scale of 0 (low tiredness) to 100 (maximum tiredness)<br><br>Assessed pre- and post-duty | Pre- vs. post-duty, mean $\pm$ SD:<br>1) Psychometric testing: recognition reaction time (ms): 439.6 $\pm$ 50.8 vs. 480.3 $\pm$ 58.9; motor reaction time (ms): 252.8 $\pm$ 39.3 vs. 465.4 $\pm$ 65.0; total reaction time (ms): 690.8 $\pm$ 73.4 vs. 746.5 $\pm$ 113.7; critical flicker fusion (Hz): 29.0 $\pm$ 2.3 vs. 28.7 $\pm$ 3.7; response measure (pixels): 647.8 $\pm$ 126.7 vs. 598.3 $\pm$ 138.1, |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)     | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention   |  | Outcomes<br>Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
|                                 |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points   | Baseline   |  |  |
|                                 |                 |   |  |  | peripheral awareness task recognition time:<br>58.9±59.2 vs. 51.6±47.5;<br>2) Concentration ability: 26.4±23.5 vs.<br>56.3±23.0, p=0.007.  |
| Chang, 2013<br><br>RoB: unclear | CS              | 15-h in-house overnight call;<br>Sleepiness pre-call: ESS ≥9;<br>Sleep hours: self-reported<br>(continuous)<br><br>Sleepiness assessed pre-call,<br>sleep hours during call | Median (IQR) ESS: 9 (9),<br>64% scored ≥9;<br>Median (IQR) hours slept<br>during shift: 1 (0-3). | Psychomotor performance:<br>reaction time; CCPT II; N-<br>back; HVLT (3 trials of 12<br>words)<br><br>Assessed at baseline and pre-<br>and post-call | 1) Afternoon baseline vs. pre-call: no<br>difference in reaction time, CCPT, N-back, of<br>HVLT;<br>Morning baseline vs. post-call:<br>1) No change in auditory or visual reaction<br>time;<br>2) CCPT (t-scores): No change in detectability,<br>response style, hit reaction time,<br>omissions/commissions;<br>3) N-back % accuracy: no change for auditory,<br>visual, or mean N-value;<br>4) HVLT (t-score): mean for trials 1-3: 48.6±7.6<br>vs. 41.5±9.9 (p=0.04); delayed recall: ns;<br>5) No correlation between ESS scores pre-call<br>or sleep during shift and any measure of<br>psychomotor performance. |
| Gander, 2000<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Nights of work-related sleep<br>disturbance: self-reported<br>(continuous)<br><br>Assessed for the past 6<br>months   | NR   | Risk of fatigue-related errors:<br>questionnaire modelled after<br>Gravenstein et al., 1990<br><br>Assessed for the past 6<br>months                 | 1) Risk of fatigue-related errors increased with<br>increasing nights of work-related sleep<br>disturbance: RR: 1.25, 95% CI: 1.06-1.49.   |
| Saadat, 2017<br><br>RoB: low    | CS              | Sleep deprivation due to an<br>overnight call shift   | NR   | Reaction time: PVT<br><br>Assessed after an overnight<br>call shift and the morning of<br>a regular (non-call) day                                   | Mean (SD) reaction time was slower post-call<br>(297.76 (83.75)) vs. on a regular day (266.58<br>(38.35)), p=0.047.  |

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention  |   | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|--|
|                                  |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline  | Assessment measure and<br>time points  |  |
| Gander, 2008<br><br>RoB: unclear | NC              | Sleep loss across consecutive working days or on-call work: Wrist-mounted Actiwatch (Mini Mitter, Bend, Oregon, US), sleep and duty diary<br><br>Assessed over a 2-week period including a weekend of rostered shifts or on-call                 | ≥2 hours sleep <baseline: 8% of 24-h periods that included day work vs. 14% that included day + call; Sleep hours: mean 0.6h less sleep when working day shifts (p=0.014) and 0.8h less sleep when working day shifts + call (p=0.013) vs. off.   | Psychomotor performance: PVT<br><br>Assessed within 2 hours pre- and post-call   | 1) In fixed model analysis for reaction time including sleep, time since waking, work hours: acute sleep loss associated with slower median reaction time, $F_{(1,184)}=5.70$ , $p<0.05$ ; longer time since waking associated with poorer performance on the slowest 10%, $F_{(1,185)}=5.13$ , $p<0.05$ ;<br>2) Reaction time across 12 consecutive work days: no change in pre-duty reaction times but post-duty reaction times slowed linearly, median -3.38, $p<0.001$ ; decline in performance across 10 minutes became progressively steeper both pre- and post-duty, $p=0.020$ .  |
| <b>ER or ICU physicians</b>      |                 |  |   |  |  |
| Sanches, 2015<br><br>RoB: high   | CS              | Acute sleep deprivation (<5h of night sleep after a night shift of 12h)<br>Sleep hours: 7-day Actigraphy via SenseWear® Pro2 Armband;<br>Sleepiness: ESS;<br>Sleep quality: PSQI<br><br>Assessed the week and night before the psychomotor tests | Non-sleep deprived vs. sleep deprived:<br><br>PSQI >5: 0% vs. 33%, ns;<br>ESS≥10: 11% vs. 67%<br>Sleep time (mean±SD) in week before tests: duration and number of naps higher in sleep deprived group, but diurnal sleep hours lower, 428.6±30.1 vs. 375.8±55.9, $p=0.038$ ;<br>Sleep quality (mean±SD): week before tests: 3.3±0.7 vs. 2.6±0.3, $p=0.013$ ;<br>night before tests: 3.1±0.8 vs. 1.9±1.0, $p=0.020$ . | Psychomotor performance via Battery Test Reaction 5 (v1): StimulTest, InstrucTest, MovemTest; TP test of visual attention<br><br>Assessed on morning after night shift 8 | Sleep deprived group vs. non-sleep deprived, mean±SD:<br>1) InstrucTest: correct answers: 169.4 (16.0) vs. 148.3 (28.3), $p=0.070$ ; wrong answers: ns; perfection index (%): 99.6 (0.3) vs. 98.9 (1.3), $p=0.021$ ; response latency (sec/click): ns;<br>2) StimulTest: correct answers: 170.7 (21.9) vs. 145.1 (17.9), $p=0.022$ ; wrong answers: ns; perfection index (%): ns; response latency (sec/click): 1.06 (0.1) vs. 1.24 (0.1), $p=0.022$ ;<br>3) MovemTest: ns for any parameter;<br>4) TP: omitted symbols: 34.2±18.4 vs. 62.7±44.0, $p=0.034$ ; concentration index (%): 14.1±8.9 vs. 30.0±25.9, $p=0.019$ ; quality index (%): 13.8±8.6 vs. 29.2±26.4, $p=0.031$ ;<br>correct/wrong symbols: ns;<br>Correlations between sleep and tests:<br>1) TP for sleep hours nights 1-6: omitted symbols: $r=-0.686$ , $p=0.011$ for non-sleep- |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)                       | Study<br>design | Exposures or intervention  |  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|---|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
|   |                 | Assessment measure and<br>time points  | Baseline   |  |  |
| <b>Generalists<sup>b</sup></b>                    |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Harbeck, 2015                                     | CS              | 24-hours on-call shift with sleep disturbance: self-reported number of sleep disturbances and hours of sleep per night<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | 1) Sleep hours on a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: <2 hours: 0 vs. 5.9%; 2-4 hours: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 4-6 hours: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; >6 hours: 82.4% vs. 11.8%<br>2) Number of sleep disturbances a normal day vs. following a 24-h shift: 0: 82.4% vs. 11.8%; 1: 11.8% vs. 35.3%; 2: 5.9% vs. 47.1%; 3: 0% vs. 5.9%; 4: 0% vs. 0%; >4: 0% vs. 0% | Neurocognitive parameters: computerized attentional test (vigilance, alertness); D2 letter cancellation test (divided attention); Trail Making Test (visual attention, task switching); Digit Span, Digit Symbol Substitution Test, Weschler Memory Scale (memory functions)<br><br>Assessed before a normal day shift, and after a 24-h on call shift | deprived, ns for sleep-deprived; concentration index (%): r=-0.359, p=0.037 for sleep-deprived, ns for non-sleep deprived; r=-0.359, p=0.037 for the group; no other significant correlations;<br>2) No correlation between PSQI, ESS and any of the psychomotor tests.<br><br>Intrinsic alertness, focused attention and vigilance were similar on both occasions; Phasic alertness improved following the on-call shift: mean (SD) 24.8 (15.6) vs. 38.3 (21.5), p = 0.022. |
| <b>Mixed specialties or undefined populations</b> |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Chen, 2008  | CS              | Sleepiness: ESS score ≥11<br><br>Time points NR  | Mean±SD ESS score: 7.8±4.0, range: 0-20, 23% had scores ≥11.   | Impact on work and personal life: Impact Questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree)<br><br>Time points NR  | 1) Impact score correlated with ESS, r=0.31, p<0.05;<br>2) ESS score was higher among physicians who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: written an incorrect order: 8.8 vs. 7.3, p=0.02; might fall asleep while examining a patient: 13.2 vs. 7.7, p=0.001; look forward to sleeping at grand rounds: 10.4 vs. 7.4, p=0.002;  |

| Study              | Study design | Exposures or intervention  | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |   |
|--------------------|--------------|--|--|---|---|
| Risk of Bias (RoB) | design       | Assessment measure and time points   | Baseline   | Assessment measure and time points  |   |
| Heponiemi, 2014    | CS           | Sleeping problems: 4-item Jenkins Scale on 6-point scale from 1 (never) to 6 (every night)   | Mean±SD (range) score: 2.30±1.00 (1-6)   | Work ability: Work Ability Index on scale from 1 (could not work at all) to 10 (best work ability)            | <p>3) No difference in ESS score for those who agree/strongly agree vs. other response: work is unaffected by sleep loss and fatigue, thinking is unaffected by sleep loss, sleep loss and fatigue affect my medical decisions, have heard of others making medical errors due to sleep loss and fatigue, never make errors in prescriptions on post-call days, have made medical errors because of sleep loss and fatigue;</p> <p>4) Higher ESS scores predicted by impact score in multivariate regression including personal and work-related factors: <math>\beta=0.11</math>, <math>p=0.005</math>.</p>  |
| RoB: low           |              | Assessed in 2006   |  | Assessed in 2010  | <p>1) On-call duty had an indirect effect on work ability (<math>R^2=0.11</math>, 95% CI: -0.122, -0.031, <math>p&lt;0.001</math>) through two mediators (work interference with family, sleeping problems);</p> <p>2) Sleeping problems inversely associated with work ability, <math>\beta=-0.29</math>, <math>p&lt;0.001</math>.</p>   |
| Kanieta, 2011      | CS           | Sleep hours: self-reported (continuous)<br>Sleepiness and sleep difficulties: 5-point scale from 1 (never) to 5 (always);<br>Insomnia: $\geq 3$ sleep difficulties | Insufficient rest: 32.5%;<br>Daytime sleepiness: 3.5%;<br>Insomnia: 20.0%;<br>Sleep time (mean±SD min): 279.8±60.9 | Self-reported medical incidents: 4-point scale from 1 (never) to 4 (often)<br><br>Assessed for the past month | <p>1) Prevalence of medical incidents (% (95% CI)): sleep deprived (26.8% (24.2, 29.4)) vs. not (15.2% (13.7, 16.7)), <math>p&lt;0.01</math>; insomnia (24.8% (21.6, 28.0)) insomnia vs. not (17.6% (16.2, 19.0)), <math>p&lt;0.01</math>; <math>\geq 6</math>h sleep (18.3% (16.8, 19.8)) vs. <math>&lt;6</math>h (21.7% (18.8, 24.6)), <math>p=0.03</math>;</p> <p>2) Predictors of medical incidents in multivariate model including personal and work-related factors (OR (95% CI)): lacking rest due to sleep deprivation vs. not (1.65 (1.33-2.04)), <math>p&lt;0.01</math>; insomnia vs. not (1.45 (1.16-1.82), <math>p&lt;0.01</math>); ns for sleep hours.</p> |
| RoB: unclear       |              | Assessed for the past month  |  |   |   |

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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study design | Exposures or intervention   |          | Outcomes   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---|----------|--|---|
|                                  |              | Assessment measure and time points  | Baseline |  |   |
| Sexton, 2001<br><br>RoB: high    | CS           | Fatigue as a factor impacting performance<br><br>Time points NR   | NR       | Performance effectiveness measured by 1 question: agree, neutral, disagree<br><br>Time points NR   | 1) "When fatigued, I perform effectively during critical phases of operations/patient care": Anesthetic: 47% agree; 15% neutral; 38% disagree; Surgical: 70% agree; 12% neutral; 18% disagree.  |
| Shirom, 2006<br><br>RoB: low     | CS           | Tiredness and exhaustion: SMBM Physician Fatigue Subscale on a 7-point scale from 1 (almost never) to 7 (always)<br><br>Time points NR              | NR       | Quality of care: Adapted 15-item SERVQUAL with a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (very small extent) to 5 (very large extent)<br><br>Time points NR                | 1) Quality of care positively predicted by fatigue in a model incorporating several other components of burnout, $\beta=0.17$ , $p<0.05$ .  |
| Smith, 2017<br><br>RoB: moderate | CS           | Sleep deprivation: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR  | NR       | Perceived competence: self-reported via open-ended comments<br><br>Time points NR  | Some physicians indicated that continual tiredness and exhaustion led to concerns that it would affect their competence; some felt that professional performance was compromised at times of physical and mental fatigue.   |
| Tanti, 2017<br><br>RoB: high     | CS           | Fatigue: questionnaire on contributors to prescribing errors, with a 5-point Likert scale (very high to very low association)<br><br>Time points NR | NR       | Prescribing errors: questionnaire on contributors to prescribing errors, with a 5-point Likert scale (very high to very low association)<br><br>Time points NR | Perception of the contribution of fatigue to prescribing errors differed by physician type ( $p<0.05$ ): 34% of community doctors, 96% hospital doctors, 8% of office-working doctors perceived a very high or high association between fatigue and prescribing errors. |

<sup>a</sup>Includes studies of anesthesiologists, where these were physicians.  
<sup>b</sup>Includes primary care physicians, internal medicine physicians, and general practitioners.  
ACC: aortic cross-clamp time; BA: before-after; CABG: cardiopulmonary bypass time; CCPT II: Connor’s Continuous Performance Test II; CI: confidence interval; CO: cohort; CS: cross-sectional; ER: emergency; ESS: Epworth Sleepiness Scale; h: hour(s); HVL: Hopkin’s Verbal Learning Task; Hz: Hertz; ICU: intensive care unit; IQR: interquartile range; KSS: Karolinska Sleep Scale; min: minutes; ms: millisecond(s); N-back: Dual N-back test; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; ns: not statistically significant; OR: odds ratio; PSQI: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; PVT: Psychomotor vigilance Performance Task; RR: risk ratio; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; SE: standard error; SERVQUAL: Service Quality Measure; SMBM: Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure; TP: Toulouse-Piéron test; TS: time series; US: United States of America; vs.: versus

## Patient outcomes related to fatigue or sleep restriction among physicians in independent practice

| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)    | Study<br>design | Exposures  |  | Outcome Measures   | Associations between exposure and outcome  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
|                                |                 | Intervention or assessment<br>scale and time points  | Baseline   | Assessment scale and time<br>points  |  |
| <b>Surgeons</b>                |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Chu, 2011<br>RoB: low          | CO              | Sleep deprivation: moderate (3-6 h) or severe (<3-h) sleep deprivation the night before surgery (self-reported hours)                  | Of 4,047 procedures, 83 (2.1%) performed by severely sleep-deprived, 1,595 (39.4%) by moderately sleep-deprived surgeons | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery              | 1) 0-3 vs. 3-6 vs. >6 hours of sleep: No difference in incidence of mortality, incidence of 10 major complications (except septicemia, 3.6% vs. 0.9% vs. 0.8%, p=0.03), ICU length of stay; in-hospital length of stay (days): 7.0 vs. 6.0 vs. 7.0, p<0.001.   |
| Ellman, 2004<br>RoB: low       | CO              | Sleep deprivation: performed a case starting 22:00 to 05:00, or ending 22:00 to 07:30 and performed a subsequent case in the next 24-h | Of 6,751 procedures, 339 (5%) were performed by sleep deprived surgeons  | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery              | 1) Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in mortality, need for blood products, complications (operative, neurologic, renal, infectious, pulmonary), in-hospital length of stay.  |
| Govindarajan, 2015<br>RoB: low | CO              | Sleep deprivation: treated patients from midnight to 07:00 and performed a subsequent case on the same day                             | NR   | Chart review: mortality, surgical complications, readmission, length of stay<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery | 1) Sleep deprived vs. non-sleep deprived: no difference in mortality, surgical complications, readmissions within 30 days, or length of stay.  |
| Rothschild, 2009<br>RoB: low   | CO              | Sleep deprivation: daytime procedures following an overnight procedure; Sleep opportunity: 0-6h, <6h                                   | NR   | Chart review: frequency of adverse surgical complications<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery                    | 1) Post-nighttime vs. control: no difference in number of procedures with complications, total number of complications, preventable complications, type of complications;<br>2) Operating room procedures with complications, OR (95% CI): 8.5% for 0-6h sleep vs. 3.1% for >6h sleep, 2.70 (1.13-6.48), p=0.03;<br>3) All procedures with complications, OR (95% CI): 6.2% for 0-6h sleep vs. 3.4% for >6h sleep, 1.72 (1.02-2.89), p=0.04. |



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| Study<br>Risk of Bias (RoB)      | Study design | Exposures   |   | Outcome Measures   | Associations between exposure and outcome   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                  |              | Intervention or assessment scale and time points  | Baseline  | Assessment scale and time points   |   |
| Schieman, 2007<br><br>RoB: low   | CO           | Fatigue: surgeon billed for clinical work after 22:00 the night before surgery                          | Of 270 procedures, 22 (8%) were performed by fatigued surgeons                  | Chart review: surgical complications, length of stay, mortality, cancer recurrence<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery             | 1) Fatigued vs. non-fatigued surgeons: no difference in intra- or post-operative complication rate, length of stay, in-hospital length of stay, cancer recurrence.  |
| Vinden, 2014<br><br>RoB: low     | CO           | Sleep deprivation (at risk): surgeon worked 00:00 to 07:00 and performed surgery 07:00 to 18:00         | Of 94,183 surgeries, 2,078 (2.2%) were performed by surgeons who were 'at risk' | Chart review: conversion to open procedure (from laparoscopic), iatrogenic injuries, mortality<br><br>Assessed during and post-surgery | 1) At risk vs. not at risk surgeon: no difference in incidence of conversion to open procedure, iatrogenic injuries, mortality, in either univariate or multivariate analyses.  |
| <b>Obstetricians</b>             |              |   |   |  |   |
| Rothschild, 2009<br><br>RoB: low | CO           | Sleep deprivation: daytime procedures following an overnight procedure;<br>Sleep opportunity: 0-6h, <6h | NR  | Chart review: frequency of adverse obstetric complications<br><br>Assessed during and post-delivery                                    | 1) Post-nighttime vs. control: no difference in number of procedures with complications, total complications, preventable complications, type of complications;<br>2) No association between sleep deprivation and proportion of procedures with complications, nor difference for 0-6h vs. >6h of sleep opportunity. |

CI: confidence interval; CO: cohort; h: hours; NR: not reported; OR: odds ratio; RoB: Risk of Bias; SD: standard deviation; US: United States of America; vs.: versus

Supplementary file 5. Statistical analyses

Dichotomous outcomes

| Outcome or subgroup                      | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled risk ratio (95% CI) | Heterogeneity |                |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
|  |                   |                        |                            | P             | I <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>1.1 Patient mortality</b>             | 5                 | 60,436                 | 0.98 (0.84, 1.15)          | 0.73          | 0%             |
| <b>1.2 Intra-operative complications</b> | 3                 | 19,798                 | suppressed                 | 0.007         | 82%            |
| 1.2.1 Surgical procedure                 | 3 <sup>a</sup>    | 14,896                 | suppressed                 | <0.001        | 88%            |
| 1.2.2 Obstetric procedure                | 1 <sup>a</sup>    | 4,902                  | suppressed                 | NA            | NA             |
| <b>1.3 Post-operative complications</b>  | 5                 | 60,201                 | 0.99 (0.95, 1.03)          | 0.45          | 0%             |

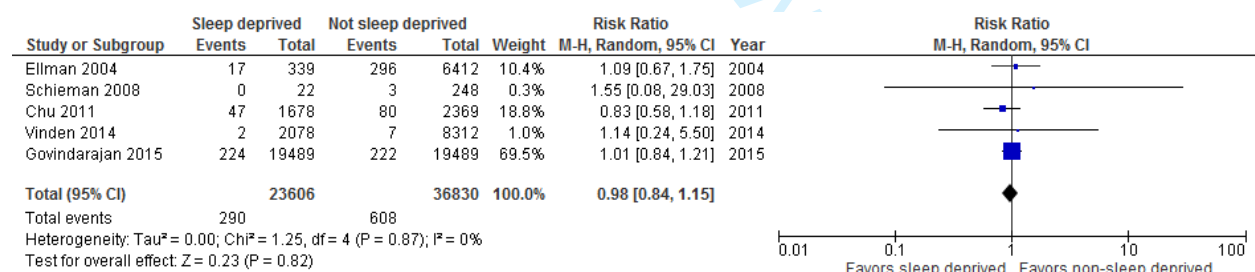
<sup>a</sup> Rothschild, 2009 is represented in both analyses

Continuous outcomes

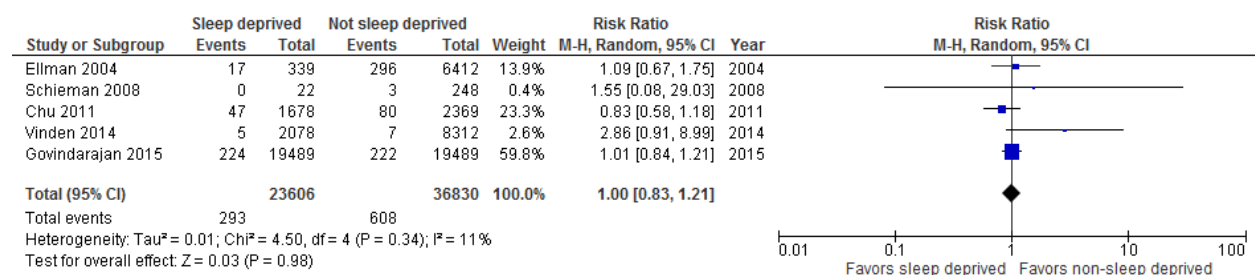
| Outcome or subgroup                       | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled mean difference (95% CI) | Heterogeneity |                |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
|   |                   |                        |                                 | P             | I <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>1.4 Operating time (minutes)</b>       | 4                 | 50,046                 | -0.14 (-1.60, 1.33)             | 0.70          | 0%             |
| <b>1.5 Length of hospital stay (days)</b> | 4                 | 50,046                 | suppressed                      | <0.001        | 86%            |
| 1.5.1 Cardiac surgeries                   | 2                 | 10,798                 | suppressed                      | 0.01          | 84%            |
| 1.5.2 Elective surgeries                  | 1                 | 38,978                 | suppressed                      | NA            | NA             |
| 1.5.3 Anterior resection for anal cancer  | 1                 | 270                    | suppressed                      | NA            | NA             |

CPBT: cardiopulmonary bypass time; NA: not applicable

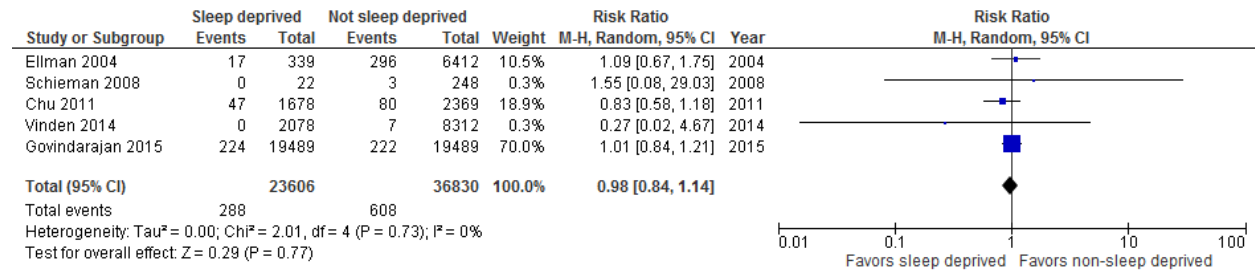
1.1 Patient mortality



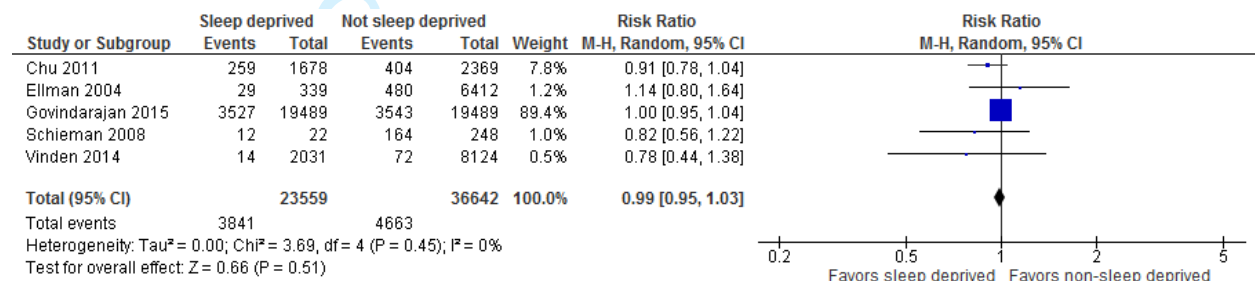
Sensitivity analysis using highest possible number of events for Vinden 2014



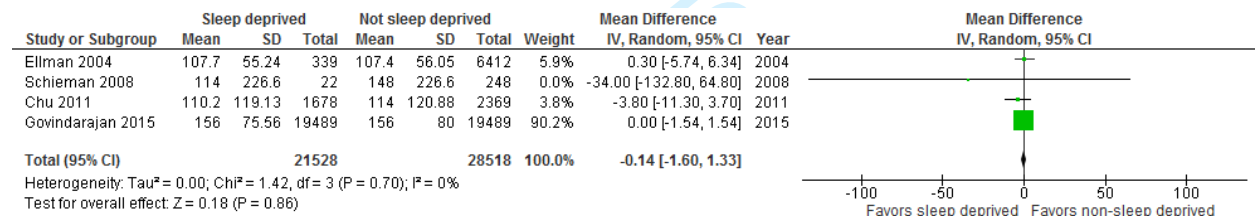
### Sensitivity analysis using lowest possible number of events for Vinden 2014



### 1.3 Post-operative complications



### 1.4 Operating time (minutes)





## Appendix 1. PRISMA checklist

| Section/topic                      | #  | Checklist item  | Reported on page #   |
|------------------------------------|----|---|----------------------|
| <b>TITLE</b>                       |    |   |                      |
| Title                              | 1  | Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.   | 1                    |
| <b>ABSTRACT</b>                    |    |   |                      |
| Structured summary                 | 2  | Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number. | 2                    |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>                |    |   |                      |
| Rationale                          | 3  | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.  | 4-5                  |
| Objectives                         | 4  | Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).  | 5                    |
| <b>METHODS</b>                     |    |   |                      |
| Protocol and registration          | 5  | Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.   | 5                    |
| Eligibility criteria               | 6  | Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.  | 6                    |
| Information sources                | 7  | Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.  | 5-6                  |
| Search                             | 8  | Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.   | Supplementary file 1 |
| Study selection                    | 9  | State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).   | 6-7                  |
| Data collection process            | 10 | Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.  | 7                    |
| Data items                         | 11 | List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.   | 7                    |
| Risk of bias in individual studies | 12 | Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.  | 7                    |
| Summary measures                   | 13 | State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).   | 8                    |
| Synthesis of results               | 14 | Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis.   | 8                    |


**Appendix 1. PRISMA checklist**

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| Section/topic                 | #  | Checklist item   | Reported on page #                          |
|-------------------------------|----|--|---|
| Risk of bias across studies   | 15 | Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).   | 8   |
| Additional analyses           | 16 | Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.   | 8   |
| <b>RESULTS</b>                |    |  |   |
| Study selection               | 17 | Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.  | 8, Figure 1                                 |
| Study characteristics         | 18 | For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.   | 8-11, Table 1, Supplementary file 2         |
| Risk of bias within studies   | 19 | Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).  | 11, Supplementary file 3                    |
| Results of individual studies | 20 | For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot. | p. 12-18; Supplementary file 4; figures 2-4 |
| Synthesis of results          | 21 | Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.  | p. 12-18, figures 2-4                       |
| Risk of bias across studies   | 22 | Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).  | Not applicable                              |
| Additional analysis           | 23 | Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).  | Supplementary file 5                        |
| <b>DISCUSSION</b>             |    |  |   |
| Summary of evidence           | 24 | Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).                     | 18-19                                       |
| Limitations                   | 25 | Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).  | 19-20                                       |
| Conclusions                   | 26 | Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.  | 20  |
| <b>FUNDING</b>                |    |  |   |
| Funding                       | 27 | Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.   | 21  |



**Appendix 1.** PRISMA checklist

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From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

For more information, visit: [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org). Page 2 of 2

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